



# Aboriginal Art Connections

Taking you to the soul of Aboriginal art

Welcome to your tailor made Aboriginal art tour, designed to help you connect with the land and culture that influences the art you admire. We have developed an itinerary that features an interesting selection of remote Indigenous art centres combined with some fabulous sight seeing opportunities along the way. We hope you enjoy the experience of travelling through this spectacular country and meeting some of the local people who help make this unique part of Australia so special. We believe this experience will be a wonderful opportunity for you to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal art and culture, truly enhancing your relationship with your current and future collection and leaving you with memories to last a lifetime.

## **Day one (No meals)**

On arrival at Darwin Airport, you will be met and transferred to your Darwin accommodation.

Meet up with the rest of the group in the foyer of the hotel for a transfer to Stokes Hill Wharf. Enjoy a private sunset cruise on Darwin Harbour on the sailing catamaran Daymirri 2. What a fabulous way to start our adventure! Kick off your shoes and relax in comfort on the deck or in the cabin and enjoy a few drinks and canapés whilst watching a spectacular Top End sunset. After the cruise we can head to one of Darwin's city restaurants for dinner (own expense) or choose to have a quiet night in the hotel.

Overnight Darwin



## **Day two (Breakfast, lunch, dinner)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transfer to the Darwin Airport.

Depart on a regular Air North flight to Kununurra.

On arrival we'll be met by a representative of the hotel for our transfer to the Kimberley Grande Hotel.

After check in we'll head into town to visit **Red Rock Arts**.

Red Rock is situated in the township of Kununurra and supports both indigenous and non indigenous artists painting with Kimberley ochres collected and ground by hand. The gallery specialises in East Kimberley art and carries extensive stock.





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After lunch in down town Kununurra we'll visit **Waringarri Arts in Kununurra**.

Waringarri Aboriginal Arts is a wholly Aboriginal owned art centre specialising in contemporary collectable indigenous art of the East Kimberley region. The art centre was established in the early 1980's by senior artists of the region and is located in the heart of Miriwoong Country at Kununurra in the east Kimberley.

Waringarri ochre paintings present a powerful contemporary aesthetic interpreting the grandeur of the Kimberley region and the importance of each individual artist's country and traditional knowledge. Artists relate images of country, traditional stories and stories of station life and contemporary events. Painting only with ochre pigments Waringarri artists comment on the importance of maintaining traditional links to land and culture while exploring a celebration of colour, composition and individualism.



*Daisy Bitting – Gooyi, Nap Spring*

Waringarri Aboriginal Arts supports almost 50 artists, proudly employs indigenous staff and supports ethical trade practice. The Centre is wholly owned and managed by the Waringarri artist group, with 100% of income from sales returned back to the community.

Late afternoon we return to the Kimberley Grande Hotel for dinner and our overnight accommodation. The Kimberley Grande is a new property with the beauty and grandeur of the Kimberley reflected throughout. Experience a style of service and hospitality as warm as the glow of a spectacular East Kimberley sunset. The rooms reflect the character of an outback homestead whilst boasting contemporary style and comfort.

Kimberley Grande Hotel  
20 Victoria Highway, Kununurra  
[www.thekimberleygrande.com.au](http://www.thekimberleygrande.com.au)

## Day three

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

We've got an early start today, with pick up from the hotel at 0630. Check out is required and we'll be taking our luggage with us.



There will be a stop along the way for a picnic breakfast and coffee, before making our way to Warmun and Turkey Creek.

Arriving at Warmun at around 0900, we'll be met by the managers at **Warmun Arts** where we may have the chance to catch some artists at work.

Warmun art is unique. Each canvas is painted using traditional ochre and natural pigments hand collected in the Kimberley. Artists are adept at making their own paints and mixing ochres into a full range of colours.

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The work draws on traditional Ngarrangkarni (Dreaming) stories as well as contemporary events and artists' life experiences.

Warmun Art Centre was established in 1998 by leading artists of the Warmun (Turkey Creek) community. The Centre is wholly owned and managed by the Warmun artist group, and 100% of income from sales is returned to the community.

Warmun Community was home to leading indigenous artists Rover Thomas, Queenie McKenzie, Jack Britten and Hector Jandany, who passed on many of the traditional stories and painting techniques. Now internationally renowned ochre painters **Lena Nyadbi**, Patrick Mung Mung, **Mabel Juli**, Shirley Purdie, **Madigan Thomas**, Gordon Barney, **Phyllis Thomas**, Churchill Cann and **Betty Carrington** lead the way for a group of more than sixty emerging and younger artists currently painting for the art centre.

After lunch at the Warmun Roadhouse we'll bid goodbye to our hosts and travel to **El Questro Wilderness Park**.

El Questro Wilderness Park is without doubt, one of the world's unique holiday destinations. A working cattle station with a herd of approximately 5,000 head of crossbred Brahman and Shorthorn cattle, El Questro was developed in 1991 to provide a truly Australian holiday experience.

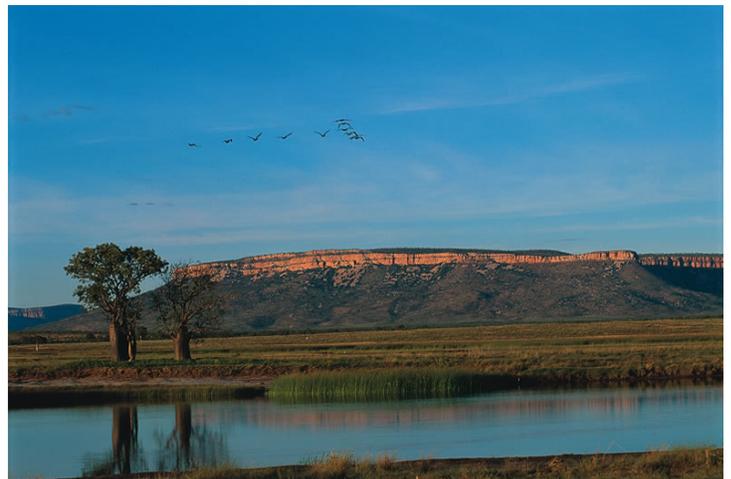
Overnight El Questro Station Bungalows

## Day Four (Breakfast, dinner)

Today is free to enjoy the spectacular surroundings of El Questro Wilderness Park. There are a range of optional activities to choose from, or you can take the opportunity to kick back and relax by the banks of the Pentacost River.

Optional tours are subject to availability and include boating on the Chamberlain Gorge, or the visiting the relaxing thermal pools of Zebedee Springs. Horse trekking is a fabulous way to observe all kinds of Kimberley wildlife. Accompanied by your El Questro Ranger, you will be introduced to a wide variety of animals, birds and maybe even a saltwater crocodile! A scenic helicopter flight through canyons and gorges, past waterfalls, caves offers unrivalled views of this awesome country.

Overnight El Questro Station Bungalows



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## Day five

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

After breakfast and check out we will be transferred to the airstrip to meet our private aircraft for the next two days of adventure.

We'll fly south for approximately 2 hours to Balgo where we'll visit the **Warlayirti Artists**.

Warlayirti Artists is located in the community of Wirrimanu, Balgo Hills. It's situated at the edge of the Great Sandy Desert, 300kms south of Halls Creek along the Tanami Track. From its beginnings in the mid 1980s, Warlayirti Artists has become one of Australia's premier Aboriginal Art Centres with an established national and international reputation for acrylic paintings returning substantial social, cultural and financial benefits to artists across four communities in the region. The recently opened Culture Centre complements and expands on the activities of the Art Centre providing a focus for a broad range of research and cultural exchange programmes as well as an outlet for silks, baskets, jewellery and carvings produced by community members. The Centre also showcases the exquisite works in coloured glass produced in the new glass workshop.



*Helicopter, Karrulyan*

Late this afternoon we'll take a 1.5 hour flight to Fitzroy Crossing for our overnight accommodation.

Overnight Fitzroy River Lodge in motel rooms

## Day six

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll make our way to **Mangkaja Arts** in Fitzroy Crossing. Mangkaja Arts began its operation in Fitzroy Crossing WA in the mid 1980s in a modest concrete and tin structure with no windows. It took on the name Mangkaja, a Walmajarri word for the wet weather shelters, which the artists built in the desert. In 1987 the centre was re-established in a shop space in the supermarket complex, where it is still located today. In October 1993 the organisation became incorporated and known officially as Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency Aboriginal Corporation. It provides an exchange for the purchase and sale of art and artefacts from artists throughout the Fitzroy Valley. They specialise in acrylic on paper and canvas and limited edition prints and a selection of handcrafted artefacts.



*Daisy Andrews, Big Mona Springs*

After lunch and a quick look around Fitzroy Crossing, we'll board our aircraft and travel on to the **Bungle Bungles in Purnululu National Park**. We'll land here and transfer to helicopters to enjoy a spectacular 30 minute flight over the striking sandstone domes that make up this fascinating range.

Following the helicopter flight, we'll board our aircraft again for the final journey to Kununurra.

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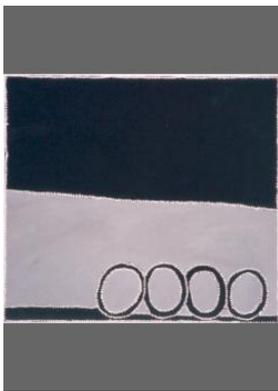
Overnight Kimberley Grande Hotel

## Day seven (Breakfast, dinner)

Please check out of the rooms prior to pick up, but you may leave your luggage here for the day.

We'll be picked up for an early morning road trip north to Wyndham. Visit the Five Rivers Lookout which offers spectacular 360 degree views of the five rivers that flow into the Cambridge Gulf.

Next we'll head to the Wyndham community and the **Jirrawun Arts centre**.



Meaning "One", the Jirrawun Aboriginal Art Corporation was formed by a group of Kimberley artists in the mid 1990s, with Freddie Timms as Chairperson.

The work of this group is in the distinctive Kimberley style made famous by Rover Thomas and Queenie McKenzie: sparse, flat expanses of natural ochres and minimal dotting to form bold, imposing images of country.

Paintings depicting the often violent relations between white settlers and the local peoples are common; interestingly, many of the Jirrawun artists originally worked as stockmen for white-owned stations.

Members of the group include: Freddie Timms, Paddy Bedford, Rusty Peters, Phyllis Thomas, Goody Barrett

*Paddy Bedford, Jack Flood*

Return to Kununurra in the early afternoon to freshen up before catching our return flight to Darwin with Air North. On arrival at Darwin Airport we'll be transferred to our Darwin accommodation for our final night together.

Dinner is at the famous **Hanuman Restaurant**, Darwin's best, featuring fabulous Thai, Nonya and Indian food.

Overnight Darwin  
Hotel room

## Day eight (Breakfast)

Breakfast at the hotel is included today. It may be the last chance for the group to get together and relive the adventure of the last week before heading off back into the 'real world'.

You'll be picked up from the hotel for transfer to the Darwin Airport for your departure flight.

## *End of touring*

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