



ACADEMY  
TRAVEL

TAILORED  
SMALL GROUP  
JOURNEYS

# DARWIN & TIWI ISLANDS

ABORIGINAL ART FAIR  
& INDIGENOUS FASHION AWARDS



## OVERVIEW

Discover a different side of Australia's Top End, experiencing the rich diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, design and culture at the 18th Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF), including VIP attendance to the iconic *Country to Couture* Indigenous Fashion Parade.

Built upon the traditional lands of the Larrakia people, Darwin is the perfect place to be inspired by the diverse art, music, performances, and fashion of our First Nations peoples. Together we enjoy immersive private tours, museum and gallery visits, and attend Australia's most prestigious Indigenous art awards.

This new six-day tour is led by fashion and design historian Dr Peter McNeil and will be accompanied by Dr Treena Clark, an Aboriginal Kokatha and Wirangu woman and Chancellor's Postdoctoral Indigenous Research Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney. The tour is highlighted by an unforgettable cultural experience on the beautiful Tiwi Islands, where we will be welcomed by members of the Tiwi community and learn more about their ancient customs and art practices.



## TOUR LEADER

### Distinguished Professor Peter McNeil

is an award-winning design historian. Peter has a BA Hons, Research Masters and PhD in art and design with a focus on Australian and European art from the 18th century to the present day.

## TOUR DATES

**August 6-11, 2024** | 6 Days

## TOUR PRICE

**\$5,320** per person, twin share  
**\$550** single supplement

## TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$500** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

## ITINERARY

Darwin (5 nights)

## INCLUSIONS

**5** nights' accommodation in a centrally located 4-star hotel. All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Start & Finish

The tour starts at 4.00pm on Tuesday 6 August, at the Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin Waterfront. The tour ends after breakfast on Sunday 11 August, at the Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin Waterfront.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

### Tuesday 6 August

#### Arrival | Country to Couture

We gather this afternoon at our hotel with tour leader Dr Peter McNeil for introductions, before an early light dinner at Snapper Rocks overlooking the harbour. We then kick off our events this evening at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF), enjoying VIP access to the iconic *Country to Couture* fashion runway. An annual showcase of First Nations textiles and fashion design, the event builds on the growing textile design movement in remote Indigenous communities and has been presented alongside the DAAF since 2016. This high-energy runway session will present innovative collections from Indigenous designers and artists across Australia, as well as unique collaborations between Indigenous communities and well-known Australian labels. Overnight Darwin (D)

### Wednesday 7 August

#### History, Art & Culture | NIFA

We begin our day with a tour through the Northern Territory's Parliament House, admiring its magnificent blend of tropical and postmodern architectural features. Built overlooking Darwin Harbour, Australia's newest parliament house sits near the site of the former Post Office and Telegraph Station, which were bombed during a raid in 1942. From Parliament House, we undertake a walking tour of Darwin's award-winning street art with a local guide, learning more about the artists behind the murals and concluding our tour at the sensational Hanuman Restaurant, where we enjoy a menu of Thai and Indian cuisine. The afternoon is spent at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), the NT's premier cultural organisation. This evening we return to the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair for the prestigious *National Indigenous Fashion Awards*. Recognising and showcasing excellence across six categories, the award ceremony is a unique opportunity for the Australian and international fashion community to connect to the world's oldest living cultures. Overnight Darwin (B, L)

### Thursday 8 August

#### Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair | DAAF Opening Night

Darwin has seen its fair share of devastation, from the raid of 1942 to Cyclone Tracy in 1974, and only a small handful of the original colonial structures have since survived. After wandering the informative displays at Darwin's Military

## FOUR UNIQUE EVENTS

Celebrate our First Nations Artists across four events unique to Darwin.

### Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair

Experience the rich diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and design at the 18th Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF), and take the opportunity to hear directly from artists about our First Nations' cultures.

### Country to Couture Fashion Runway

Enjoy VIP access to the iconic *Country to Couture* fashion runway, exhibiting a series of over 20 contemporary collections from Indigenous designers and artists across Australia.

### National Indigenous Fashion Awards

Applaud the high achievers at the vibrant National Indigenous Fashion Awards (NIFA), celebrate the innovation, diversity and ethical practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and fashion designers.

### National Indigenous Music Awards

Attend the 20th National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs), with an amazing line up of some of the country's leading musicians to celebrate the achievements of Australia's First Nation.

## HOTEL

### **Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin Waterfront**

(5 nights)

Set in the midst of luxury waterfront residences, Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin is surrounded by seafront promenades, boutiques and restaurants. Guests can relax in the spa, take a dip in the swimming pool or use the fitness centre in the hotel. Free WiFi is provided throughout. The hotel is a stone's throw from the Darwin Convention Centre and within walking distance of Darwin's CBD.

[www.adinahotels.com](http://www.adinahotels.com)

## WEATHER

August is the dry season in Darwin, with lower humidity than other parts of the year, offering the most comfortable time to visit. You should experience warm, dry sunny days and cooler nights, with temperatures around 32°C in the day, and dropping to 20°C at night. Rain in Darwin is unusual in August.

## FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

### **Grade Two**

This tour is designed for people who lead active lives. You should be able to:

- comfortably participate in up to five hours of physical activity per day, including walking at an easy to regular pace with short breaks
- keep up with the group at all times
- negotiate challenging archaeological sites, which are often uneven and unstable
- climb stairs and bridges
- stand for one to two hours in galleries and museums at a time
- get on and off a coach, train, ferry or boat with steep stairs unassisted



Museum this morning, we visit one of the few surviving buildings at the unique Burnett House, originally constructed in 1939. Today a National Trust property, our visit includes a tour of the gardens and its clever tropical design features. Lunch is then enjoyed overlooking Darwin Harbour at Yots Greek Taverna, before an afternoon at leisure on return to our hotel. Tonight we return to the Darwin Convention Centre to attend the Welcoming Ceremony of the *18th Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair*, showcasing the work of emerging and established Indigenous artists from over 70 Indigenous-owned Art Centres located in Australia's most remote regions. Overnight Darwin (B, L)

### **Friday 9 August Tiwi Islands**

A far-flung northern sanctuary, the Tiwi Islands are home to incredible Aboriginal culture, and today we take the scenic ferry journey to Bathurst Island. After disembarking in the Aboriginal community of Wurrumiyanga, we make our way to the Tiwi Design Art Centre where local artists and dancers will perform a *Welcome to Country* with a traditional smoking ceremony. We then immerse ourselves in the unique culture of the Tiwi community, as our guide takes us through the historic mission precinct and Patakijiyali Museum before participating in an exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' screen printing workshop with a local artist. There will be some free time to browse the works for sale before returning to Darwin by ferry, with the evening at leisure. Overnight Darwin (B, MT, PL)

### **Saturday 10 August Exploring the Art Centres | NIMAs**

The day is at leisure to return to the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, only a short walk from our hotel. There is the option to purchase artwork direct at the show, meet many of the artists in person and enjoy a program of material demonstrations, workshops and artists talks. You may also wish to spend the afternoon by the hotel pool! This evening we meet for an early farewell dinner before attending our final event – the *20th National Indigenous Music Awards*, held under the stars at Darwin's historic Amphitheatre. The Awards bring together acts who are yet to make their mark on the world alongside those who have achieved international acclaim, such as Gurrumul and Jessica Mauboy. Overnight Darwin (B, D)

### **Sunday 11 August Departure**

The tour concludes after breakfast this morning. There are numerous options for returning to your home city. (B)



## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Lucy Yeates** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email: [lucy@academytravel.com.au](mailto:lucy@academytravel.com.au)