

Discover Darwin city's history, parks, shops, public art, cafes and restaurants, interesting buildings, art galleries, walks and more. Here are just a few ideas for eating, discovering, shopping, and playing in Darwin city. It's time to get out there and enjoy Darwin city!

1. Get a few friends or workmates together and have a half-hour game of **soccer, football** or **volleyball** on the Esplanade.

2. Take the opportunity to wander through the **Aboriginal art galleries** in the city, to talk with the artists about their work, compare different styles, and perhaps splash out and buy some art for your walls. There are several Aboriginal art galleries all within walking distance, which feature various styles of artwork.



3. Treat yourself and a friend to a **long lunch at a restaurant** you've been meaning to go to for ages.

4. Follow the footsteps of the early seafarers from Stokes Hill Wharf, up **Travellers' Walk** with its fascinating mural, to Harry Chan Avenue. It's not only a good opportunity to learn about the historic significance of this walk, but it's also great exercise walking up the stairs to the top of the hill!



5. Hire a bike (or take your own) and go for a **leisurely ride along the Esplanade**, stopping at historical points along the way. Visit the Cenotaph – Darwin's official war memorial, appreciate the architecture of Government House, also referred to as The House of Seven Gables, and visit the *USS Peary Memorial*, dedicated to Officers and Crew of the *USS Peary*, which was attacked and sunk during the first air attack on Darwin by the Japanese during WWII.



6. Get a few friends together and **try your hand at golf** – hire a set of golf clubs and play 9 holes at the Gardens Park Golf Links golf club. If you are not keen on walking, hire a golf cart and zip around the course, or try mini-golf instead.

7. Dress up in your finest and make a night of it - Enjoy dinner in a classy restaurant, go to the theatre to see a show, and finish off the night with a cocktail in one of the stylish city bars.

8. Become a Legal Eagle and sit in on a court case at the **Supreme Court** one day during the week. Court cases are open to the public, so everyone is welcome. Or you could go to the fourth floor to get an excellent "bird's-eye"



view of the Milky Way Dreaming, a 55 square metre floor mosaic based on the painting by Nora Napaltjari Nelson. An interesting series of photographs showing the construction of the 700,000 piece Venetian glass mosaic is located at the entrance to the coffee shop on level 2, and the painting itself hangs on the western wall of Level 4.

9. Buy a good book and sit in one of the shady parks for an afternoon. **Bicentennial Park** on the Esplanade is a great place to relax under a tree and enjoy the views of Darwin Harbour, (which, if you didn't know, is twice the size of Sydney Harbour).

10. Meet your friends in a café for breakfast or lunch and watch the world go by. The **al fresco style cafes** in the city offer a chance to relax, eat and drink while you watch the activity on the streets. Make it a regular morning or lunchtime routine, and try all the cafes – it will take a year to get through them all!

11. Indulge yourself - pop out at lunch time for a quick facial or manicure. You might even have time for a luxurious massage!

12. Wander through **Parliament House**. Learn the history of the building, and marvel at the fine timbers and design features of the interior. Either join a free tour or explore at your own leisure. Public tours of Parliament House take place every Wednesday at 10.30am and Saturday at 9.00am and 11.00am. Bookings are required. Tours commence in the foyer of Parliament House.



13. Become a tourist for a day - Grab a map and follow the historic trails through the city, stopping for a cool drink along the way. Visit Lyons Cottage on the Esplanade, which was the first stone residence constructed in Darwin. The design of the cottage echoes the distinctive architectural style of British colonial dwellings in India, Malaysia and Singapore. Lyons Cottage is open from 10am – 4.30pm daily, and entry is free.

14. Buy yourself some fishing gear, and go down to the wharf and **fish for your dinner**. If you're not successful, you won't go hungry as there are plenty of restaurants in the city where you can have a delicious seafood dinner.

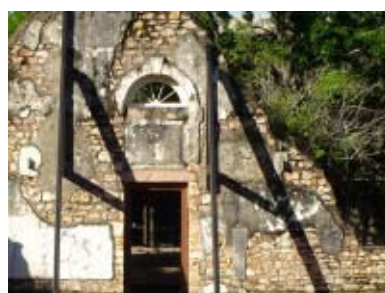
15. Take a free tour of the **NT Library in Parliament House**. It's a perfect opportunity to read the gossip column in The Times of London from 1785, or to view the beautiful facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible first published in 1455. Tours start from the Library Information desk.

16. Splash out and buy something special just for yourself – you're worth it! The shops in Darwin city offer specialist, boutique shopping, so if you're going to treat yourself, this is the best place!



17. Get a taste of culture and wander through the **NT Chinese Museum and Chung Wah temple** on Woods Street. The museum features a fascinating display of photos, stories and history of the Bombing of Darwin, Chinatown, Market Gardens the temple, and more. The museum is open every day except Tuesday, from 10am – 2pm. The sacred Bodhi tree in the grounds of the Temple is believed to be a direct descendant of the tree under which Buddha is said to have gained enlightenment.

18. Take a stroll down to the **George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens**, and wander through the Aboriginal plant use trails and the rainforest gully, view the Baobab collection, and visit the former Wesleyan Methodist Church, the oldest church building in the Northern Territory.



19. Enjoy dining in a different country every night – Darwin city offers cuisine from Thailand, Italy, India, Spain, Morocco, Japan, Greece, China, Philippines, Indonesia and France, not to mention Australia.

20. Visit the **NT Archives** on Cavenagh Street, and research your family history, or some of Darwin's colourful history. The NT Archives Service provide access to archives in a public search room, and offers information sessions and tours.

21. Fish Feeding at Doctors Gully is just a short walk from the Esplanade. What an experience to have milkfish, mullet, catfish, bream and batfish tickle your fingers as they take bread from your hand! The area was named Doctors Gully after surgeon Robert Peel sank a fresh water well in the valley in 1869. The settlement's first market garden was planted there a year later.

22. Enjoy a **Sunday session** at one of the many bars, beer gardens and outdoor venues in the city. Darwin city boasts some of the best bars to relax with friends, enjoy live music and a cool drink.

23. Expand your knowledge of Darwin City by visiting the **Tree of Knowledge** beside the Darwin City Council Civic Centre. The ancient banyan tree, originally outside the Terminus Hotel on Cavenagh Street, was a meeting place for travellers, wise old-timers and free-thinking young people.



24. Catch a movie at one of two great cinemas. The Birch Carroll and Coyle City Cinema offers air-conditioned comfort. Tuesdays is cheap movie day. Deckchair Cinema is a majestic open air cinema situated on Darwin Harbour which operates 7 nights a week from mid April to mid November, screening a diverse range of Australian, foreign, popular, classic and family friendly films.

25. A great way to spend a Saturday or Sunday morning is to tuck into some authentic **Yum Cha** with friends. You might need to be early to get a table but the number of Chinese Territorians dining there will tell you it's great Chinese tucker! And it's a good alternative for brunch with friends.



26. Laze around in the shade on an afternoon picnic, set up your own volleyball game, or have a game of cricket with friends. **Frog Hollow**, the open parkland between Lindsay, McMinn and Woods Streets, is an ideal place. Frog Hollow was originally used as worker camps in the early years of Commonwealth control over the Northern Territory.

27. Visit **Sandfly**, the historic steam locomotive at Stokes Hill Wharf. *Sandfly* arrived by ship in Darwin in 1886 and was put to work hauling loads of rail and sleepers until it was decommissioned in 1950. After being saved from the scrap heap to sit for years at the Port Augusta Railway Station and then the Adelaide Rail Passenger Terminal, *Sandfly* now rests in Darwin.

28. Splurge on **fresh seafood** in one of the many city restaurants. Tuck into chilli mudcrab, prawns and barramundi, fresh from the Northern Territory's own waters.

29. Follow the historical **information plaques** up the Smith Street Mall, and learn some interesting facts about the "Great hurricane" that struck Darwin in 1897, the arrival of the first Chinese people in 1874, and the discovery of pearl shell in Darwin harbour in 1884.



30. Icecream is perfect in Darwin's hot weather, if you can eat it fast enough! Try different combinations of **icecream flavours**, from Cold Rock in the Mitchell Centre, New Zealand Natural in Darwin Central, or the Dolce Gelati bar in the Mall, to create your own taste sensation. Take the opportunity to do some window shopping while you slurp!

31. Visit the **WWII Oil Storage tunnels** in your lunch break. Built to protect Darwin's oil supplies from bombardment during WWII, the tunnels extend from the escarpment on Kitchener Drive, towards the city. The Tunnels now house an excellent photographic display of historic images of wartime activity in the Top End.

32. Visit a different city bar each week and try all the **International** and **boutique beers** available. You'll not only have a great time and become an expert on beer, but you'll also know all the best bars to go in the city.



33. Enjoy a lazy Sunday afternoon with High Tea at Burnett House, **Myilly Point Heritage Precinct**. Every Sunday from 3.30pm to 6pm the National Trust hosts a High Tea in the verdant tropical gardens of Burnett House. Burnett House is a rare example of Darwin's early tropical architecture, having survived both the Japanese bombings in 1942 and Cyclone Tracy in 1974.

34. Drop into the shady, tropical **Star Village Arcade** off the Mall to get a great curry laksa, delicious handmade chocolates, a healthy salad and drink, or just browse. Star Village was built before the war as one of Darwin's early cinemas. The original cinema entrance and projection bridge now provides access to the Star Village shopping arcade.



35. Wander around **Brown's Mart**, the "old-looking building" at the top end of Smith Street. Brown's Mart was opened in 1885 by a local businessman as Solomon's Emporium. Built of local stone, largely by Chinese labourers, it played many roles in Darwin's history, and in the late 19th and early 20th century was owned by the Brown family and used at times as a market; hence Brown's Market, Old Man Brown's Building or Brown's Mart. These days, Brown's Mart is a regularly used theatre for presentation of community and cultural events and performances.



36. Spend a Saturday morning exploring all the **clothing shops** in the city – you might just be surprised at what you discover! There are some lovely boutique shops, stylish day and evening wear, lingerie, jewellery, shoes, hats and sunglasses – entire outfits can be created from the shops in Darwin City.

37. Take a short walk down to **Lameroo Beach** on your lunch break one day. Lameroo Beach was once home to popular swimming baths and was a recreational spot for the armed services and the hippies of the 60's.

38. Exercise your vocal cords in public at one of the many places in the city offering **karaoke** on different nights of the week. You could become the next unearthed star from Darwin!



39. Visit **Christ Church Cathedral** on the corner of Smith Street and Harry Chan Avenue to get a glimpse of the original church built in 1902. The church was largely destroyed by Cyclone Tracy, with only the front porch and walls left standing, which are incorporated into the new structure.



40. Jump on one of the many **sunset cruises** around Darwin harbour, leaving from Cullen Bay and Stokes Hill Wharf. You can enjoy a bottle of bubbly, good food and great company in the perfect setting...what a life!

41. If you don't have sea legs, enjoy the views of Darwin Harbour from the **Daly Street Lookout**, on the Esplanade at the bottom of Daly Street. Perched over the edge of the cliff, it offers superb views across the harbour. Interpretive signs provide information on the plant life of the area as well as the regular ships that can be seen in the harbour. Did you know that 20 000 hectares of mangrove forest fringes Darwin harbour? This is the largest single stand of mangroves in the Northern Territory. Almost 30 different species of mangrove grow here, some of which are visible from the lookout.



42. Visit the Air Raid Arcade between Smith and Cavenagh Streets and view the **Bombing of Darwin photographic display**, including photos of the area, the police barracks, buildings and oil tanks after the bombings.

Excerpts from "*Australia's Frontline*", a book by Frank Alcorta, tells the story of the war. One photo shows some dark humour from the Darwin Hotel, depicting signs out the front of the hotel that read "Counter lunch between air raids", "Hotel de Blitz 16/ per night", "Menu - Soup, Alert, Joints, Alarm, Sweets, All clear".

43. Learn about the fascinating but dangerous business of pearling, at the **Australian Pearling Exhibition** at Stokes Hill Wharf. From the history of pearling in the days of luggers and diving, to modern techniques, a visit to this exhibition will give you a vivid picture of an industry now synonymous with Paspaley Pearls.

44. See how many names you can find on the **Aviator's Wall**, on display opposite the Vic Hotel, where Aviators arriving in Darwin in the 1900's took to writing their names. The signatures were revealed when the Vic Hotel was renovated and the tobacco shop moved.



The signatures are now in a glass case and form part of the wall-length water feature.

45. Visit the site, marked with a plaque in Parliament House, where the **old post office** stood before it was destroyed during an air raid in 1942. Part of the wall of the old post office has been preserved in the historic lobby next to the Northern Territory Library entrance.

46. Stay healthy by signing up at one of the **gyms** in the city, or join a **Yoga** centre. Make it a regular event and drop in for some exercise at lunch time, after work or on a weekend.

47. If you've ever been interested to know what goes on inside **Parliament**, go along during sittings and listen in on the **debates and question time**. For information on sitting times, visit the website and follow the links to Parliament (www.nt.gov.au/lant), or see the time sheet in the foyer of Parliament House. The public is welcome to sit in the gallery and listen.



48. Throw a **special party or celebration with a difference** – hire out a hotel suite with a view and a balcony overlooking Darwin harbour, organise catering and perhaps even a string quartet to serenade the guests! Living the life of the rich and famous is possible and affordable in Darwin City!

49. Go for a wander around **Damoe-Ra Park**, located below the escarpment on the coastal side of Parliament House. The park is easiest to find via the steps on the corner of Herbert Street and the Esplanade. This delightful park is situated amongst lush, tropical rainforest on the fringe of the city overlooking Darwin harbour. The paved walkway and steps from the corner of Herbert Street and the Esplanade take you down through the rainforest to the Women's Commemorative Park, and out to the Deckchair Cinema.

50. Many people probably haven't seen the **Stuart Memorial** at the bottom of Daly Street and the Esplanade – take a wander early morning or late afternoon to look at the Eye of the Explorer memorial to John McDouall Stuart, marking the end of the Stuart Highway. The memorial, by Darwin artist Roland Koch Laurie, incorporates excerpts from Stuart's journal, colourful ceramics, flowing water and interesting historical snippets.

