

# Transformational Tours

## EARTH TREASURE VASE AUSTRALIA PILGRIMAGE

*Return to Our Mother's Land*

### TRAVEL INFORMATION DOCUMENT



We are travelling to the Northern tip of Australia, flying into Darwin and then driving over land (see bigger map below) through Litchfield National Park and onto Katherine where we will meet Auntie Margaret and attend the Walking with Spirits Festival before travelling East onto Margaret's private family land on the South Western tip of Arnhem Land. We are journeying into the heart of Aboriginal country, least affected by the European intrusion and some of the most remote land in Australia. It is an absolute privilege to have this opportunity to sit with Auntie Margaret on her sacred land; please approach this pilgrimage with an attitude of sacredness and reverence.

#### TYPICAL CLIMATE FOR JULY:

	Temperature	Rain
<b>Darwin</b>	20-31 C / 68-88 F	3% rainy days
<b>Katherine</b>	13-30 C / 55-87 F	1% rainy days

Whilst the nights are normally warm it is a good idea to bring gloves, beanie and fleece jacket for when the sun goes down.

## HOTELS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

The tour is for 11 nights in total, we will sleep 2 nights a Darwin hotel and 9 camping under the stars under the land.

Darwin 22 July & 1 August (2 nights)  
DoubleTree Hilton Darwin Esplanade (formerly Holiday Inn)  
116 Esplanade, Darwin, NT 0801  
Telephone + 61 8 8980 0800

Camping at Litchfield, around Katherine and Margaret's land 23 - 31 July (9 nights)

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

**Transformational Tours office: +61 2 6684 9182**  
(Office at home so can be contacted 24 hours in an EMERGENCY)

**Jeremy Ball mobile: +61 417 064 976**  
(We will be out of mobile range for the nights on Margaret's land)

## MONEY: (for our guests from overseas)

The currency in Australia is Australian dollars. As of 1 January 2013: \$1.00 USD = \$1.10 AUD US dollars a little stronger. US dollars are readily exchanged on arrival at Darwin airport and in the town centre. The most convenient way to obtain Australian dollars is by using your bankcards at ATMs. We will have access to ATMs in Darwin and Katherine.

## EXPENSES:

**Meals:** breakfast every day is included whether at the hotel or camping, all meals whilst camping and a final farewell dinner are also included. The only meals not included are a couple of lunches and snacks whilst driving to and from Katherine and dinner on the first night where we will take an inexpensive meal near the beach at Darwin. \$10-20 per person will cover each of these meals.

**Tips:** in Australia tipping is optional and generally only given at higher quality restaurants, although in the bigger cities and tourist areas it is becoming more common.

## LUGGAGE:

It is a good idea to pack light for the trip and a bag that is easy to carry and pack in the bush. A tough fabric duffel or sports bag is ideal. Some soft fabric wheel cases are also good.

Most airlines will allow 23kg of checked baggage but it would be good for you to carry less especially when we head to the bush. You can leave a change of clothes at the hotel for our return.

## CLOTHING:

Comfortable simple clothing is ideal trousers / shorts with cotton shirts and fleece layers for the evening, swimming togs. Cool clothing for the day that provides sun protection (long sleeves and collar) and warm clothing for night. During our 9 nights camping we will have proper shower and toilets on only a few occasions and for several nights no shower and just a bush toilet. Our main washing will be a dip in a water hole (no detergent to be used).

## PACKING LIST:

- Comfortable covered toes walking boots / shoes
- Long socks
- Trousers and shorts
- Sandals (for around town and camp)
- Wide brimmed sun hat
- Gloves and beanie
- Fleece jackets
- Light waterproof coat (rain is unlikely)
- Sleeping bag
- Small towel
- Toiletries – please use natural products to limit impact on nature
- Fly net / insect repellent (if desired)
- Torch
- Water bottle
- Pillow / cushion for extra comfort
- Walking stick if required
- Swimming costume (for waterholes and hotel pool)

## DARWIN TO KATHERINE MAP



Our journey commences in Darwin. We drive South from Darwin, through Litchfield National Park and down to Katherine and Nitmiluk National Park, from there we head East to Jawoyn Country, Auntie Margaret's ancestral land.

Our return journey takes us back through Katherine and North to Darwin.

Darwin to Katherine via Litchfield is approximately 350km on hard top roads. The return direct journey is about 320km or 4 hours steady driving. East from Katherine we travel several hundred kilometers on dirt roads.