Katherine Attractions

While its star attraction is undoubtedly the famous Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge), Katherine and its surrounds include great fishing and boating opportunities and a rich indigenous and pastoral history. The region stretches from the Gulf of Carpentaria to the Western Australia border. Around 317 kilometres south of Darwin, Katherine is set on the banks of the Katherine River. Katherine was named by explorer John McDouall Stuart in the late 1800s after the daughter of one of his expedition sponsors. The area was renamed ‘Nitmiluk’ - meaning ‘cicada country’ - in 1989 when traditional owners, the Jawoyn Aboriginal people, gained title to the land.

Arts, Culture and Indigenous Experiences
Discover the wealth of Aboriginal arts and crafts from the region, with galleries such as Gallop-Thru-Time, Katherine Museum, Djilpin Arts, Mite Aboriginal Arts and Crafts, and Top Dji & Art Gallery specialising in original carvings, paintings, and investment pieces. See visual arts, music, theatre and dance performances at Godlymayn Yijard Arts & Culture Centre.

Top Dji Cultural Experience & Art Gallery
Discover a genuine Aboriginal Cultural Experience with Manual Pamkal, who will guide you through the fine art of Rarrk Painting using the Jalk brush, and will pass on his traditions from tribal life and language after playing a traditional welcoming tune on the didgeridoo. Participate in lighting a fire the traditional way with two sticks, throwing a spear using a woomera and hold or feed a dingo. Participate in lighting a fire the traditional way with two sticks, throwing a spear using a woomera and hold or feed a dingo. Participate in lighting a fire the traditional way with two sticks, throwing a spear using a woomera and hold or feed a dingo. Participate in lighting a fire the traditional way with two sticks, throwing a spear using a woomera and hold or feed a dingo.

Katherine Hot Springs
Located just five minutes drive from the centre of Katherine, Katherine Hot Springs is a stunning creation of stalactites and stalagmites home to five species of bats, including the rare ghost and horsehead bats. Guided tours are conducted daily. 27km south of Katherine. Admission fee applies.

Mataranka Attractions
Mataranka township sits on the upper reaches of the Roper River, an hour’s drive southeast of Katherine. Known as the ‘Capital of the Never Never’, the area was home to Jeannie Gunn who wrote the famous book about Elsey Station titled ‘We of the Never Never’. A visit to the station cemetery and homestead replica capture the sense of isolation and hardship confronting early settlers. Today, Mataranka is a modern town servicing outlying cattle stations and communities, and is renowned for its sandy-bottomed thermal pools. A full range of accommodation, facilities and attractions means a two or three day stay is needed.

Katherine and Mataranka Attractions

For more information or to make a booking call 1300 146 743 | E reservations@nitmiluktours.com.au | Visit nitmiluktours.com.au