

Katherine Attractions

While its star attraction is undoubtedly the famous Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge), Katherine and its surrounds include great fishing, hidden natural wonders and a rich indigenous and pioneering 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, Mimi Aboriginal Arts and Crafts, and Top Didj & Art Gallery specialising in original artworks, didgeridoos, carvings and investment pieces.

See visual arts, music, theatre and dance performances at Godinyamayin Yijard Rivers Arts & Culture Centre.

Top Didj Cultural Experience & Art Galley

Experience a genuine Aboriginal Cultural Experience with Manual Pamkal, who will guide you in 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 baby wallaby. Session times are at 9.30am and 2.30pm daily, May - October and bookings are essential.



Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park

The park covers an area of 1499 hectares of karst limestone landscape. The main feature is the caves - a stunning creation of stalactites and stalagmites home to five species of bats, including the rare ghost and horseshoe bats. Guided tours are conducted daily. 27km south of Katherine. Admission fee applies.

Katherine Hot Springs

Located just five minutes drive from the centre of Katherine, crystal clear pools wind through the trees at a constant temperature of 32°C. The grassy, shaded banks make this an ideal picnic spot with a barbecue area adjacent to the car park. Access is from the Victoria Highway or Riverbank Drive. Wheelchair access is available via Crocker Street.

Katherine Museum

Housing Aboriginal artefacts and Overland Telegraph, rural, WWII and aviation history displays - including Dr Clyde Fenton's original Flying Doctor plane. Picnic facilities are free to visitors. Entry fee applies for visiting exhibits. Open daily 9am - 4pm.



Katherine Outback Experience

Meet local singer/songwriter Tom Curtain, as he provides an authentic and unique insight into the training of stock-horses and working dogs for Northern Territory cattle stations. Seasonal opening times.

Leliyn (Edith Falls)

Part of Nitmiluk National Park, the area offers a variety of walking trails and swimming opportunities. A picnic area, campground and kiosk are provided near the base of the falls. Leliyn can be reached by following the Stuart Highway north from Katherine for 42km then following a sealed road for another 20km. No pets, fishing or generators.

Marksie's Stockmans Camp Tucker Night

Dine under the stars around the campfire on the grounds of Top Digj Cultural Experience and Art Gallery and be entertained with great Aussie humour. This is a great meal and fun night to remember in the Australian outback. Five nights a week. Bookings essential.



Nitmiluk National Park - Gorge Tours

Nitmiluk Tours offer you many ways to explore the park, including the gorge - a series of 13 magnificent gorges sculpted from the sandstone bedrock over the millennia by the Katherine River. Choose from a variety of tours including culturally based cruises, on-board dining and canoeing.

Nitmiluk National Park - Bushwalking

There are numerous walking tracks in the park offering a variety of experiences, ranging from strolls along the riverbanks, overnight walks and the Jatbula Trail - a five day walk from Nitmiluk Gorge to Leliyn (Edith Falls). Overnight walkers are required to register with the Parks and Wildlife NT at the Nitmiluk Visitor Centre.

Nitmiluk National Park and Katherine River - Canoeing

Explore the gorges at your own pace by canoe with time to marvel at the scenery. Overnight canoe hire is available with camping. Canoes may be hired from Nitmiluk Tours at 8am and 12.30pm. Subject to weather conditions and operates in the dry season only.

Scenic Flights

To truly take in the magnificence of the Nitmiluk National Park and the gorge system, take a scenic flight. Whether you choose a two hour flight over Nitmiluk, Arnhem Land and Kakadu by light plane, or a trip deep into the heart of Nitmiluk National Park in a helicopter, it will be an experience to last a lifetime. North Australian Helicopters (Coolibah Air), Helispirit and Nitmiluk Helicopter tours offer helicopter tours, while Katherine Aviation provides light plane tours.



Air travel to Katherine

Airnorth is a major aviation operator in Northern Australia. The company operates over 300 scheduled rpt (regular passenger transport) and charter departures weekly, including three regular services per week from Darwin to Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and return. For Bookings contact Airnorth on 1800 627 474.

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.



Bitter Springs Thermal Pools

This tropical spring-fed thermal pool is located just 3km from Mataranka township. Set among palms and tropical woodland, it is ideal for bushwalking, swimming or a shady location for somewhere to simply relax. Toilet facilities, picnic benches and barbeques are available. Open daily, free entry.

Elsey Homestead Replica

The Homestead, an authentic replica of the original, was constructed for the film 'We of the Never Never' with every detail lovingly duplicated, down to the hand-hewn local cypress pine. Visitors can appreciate how life was on the station in those early years of the last century. Open daily, free entry.

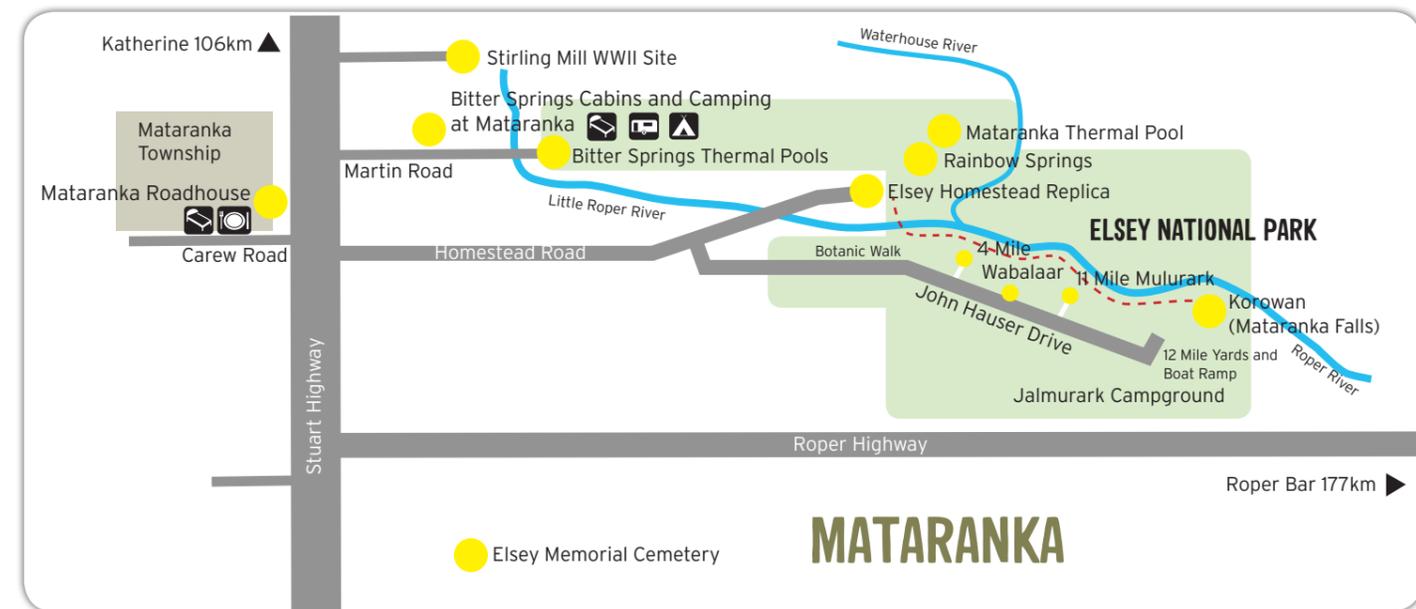
Korowan (Mataranka Falls)

Access to the falls is via a moderate 8km return walk of around four hours. Follow the Roper River down to the tufa dams that traverse it forming gentle rapids. These tufa dams are created by lime build-up, on rocks and vegetation, from the spring water gradually forming a lip or dam across the path of the river. Building up over the years the dams redirect the water flow into waterfalls. Enjoy a leisurely canoe trip on the Waterhouse River at Mataranka or the Roper River. Concrete boat ramps are located at 4 Mile and 12 Mile Yards for canoes and boats (maximum 15 hp).



Mataranka Thermal Pools

Mataranka Thermal Pool was dedicated as a reserve in 1967 to ensure the preservation of the thermal spring and surrounding palm forest. The pool is at a constant 34°C and flows from Rainbow Springs at an amazing 30.5 million litres a day. Pets must be restrained in the private pet parking bay outside the park and the camping area. Open daily, free entry.



KATHERINE AND MATARANKA ATTRACTIONS



Nitmiluk Your Nitmiluk adventure 30km from Katherine

- ✓ Helicopter Tours
- ✓ Canoe Hire
- ✓ Boat Tours
- ✓ Camping & Chalet
- ✓ Cicada Lodge
- ✓ Cutta Cutta Caves

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