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9 July 2024

HELLO



Tourism Australia acknowledges the Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Owners of the land, sea and waters of the Australian continent, and recognises their custodianship of culture and Country for over 65,000 years.

CELEBRATING CULTURE

Travel + Leisure doesn't give out awards lightly. Which is why we were thrilled to learn Discover Aboriginal Experiences was one of only 26 global companies, individuals, destinations and non-profit organisations recently recognised by the applauded travel magazine as leading the way in developing a more sustainable travel industry.

Among the operators noted for their outstanding work was [Budj Bim Cultural Landscape](#), Australia's newest World Heritage Site and the only one of its kind listed for Aboriginal significance. The site, along Victoria's Great Ocean Road, spotlights one of the world's oldest and most ingenious aquaculture systems. Also noted in the article was [Narlijia Experiences](#) in Western Australia's Broome region, where charismatic Bart Pigram leads foraging tours around mangroves.

But truth be told, any number of our operators could have been listed in the piece – Discover Aboriginal Experiences has always been committed to showcasing Australian culture, Country and people in a thoughtful, sustainable and inspiring way. And will continue to do so throughout 2024 with our new members (stay tuned) and well into the future.

With sustainability in mind, we have since created four amazing stories spotlighting how our DAE members are working to preserve culture, the environment and community in the experiences they offer. Read more [here](#).

You can also keep up to date on experiences via our [website](#), as well as our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) social media channels.

We hope you find inspiration in this newsletter (and via our digital channels) to continue your deep dive into this extraordinary collective in 2024.

Many thanks Nicole & Liz

WHAT'S NEW



**KEEP THE FIRE
BURNING!
BLAK, LOUD
AND PROUD**
7-14 JULY 2024



NAIDOC Week in full swing

Want to be part of Australia's largest celebration of First Nations culture? It's on right now.

[NAIDOC week](#) runs until 14 July across the country, with events ranging from Indigenous art exhibitions to workshops with notable Aboriginal Elders.

NAIDOC stands for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee, which was the name of the organisation that was originally responsible for hosting the national NAIDOC Week activities. Over time, the acronym has become synonymous with the entire annual festival. This year's theme is 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud!', celebrating the unyielding spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Check out the full list of events [here](#).

Connect to Country Issue 7

We're delighted to announce that [Issue 7](#) of our *Connect to Country* e-magazine is now live, with incredible features on Discover Aboriginal Experiences operators written by some of the country's most talented journalists.

Read about the film locations that you can visit when you're on a DAE Tour, from Kakadu National Park to the Tiwi Islands, Kununurra and Sydney / Warrane. Take the plunge and discover some of Australia's most special hidden waterholes, perfect for cooling off in after a day of touring. Immerse yourself in the different Indigenous seasons that define various parts of the country. See Aboriginal art, both within and outside of major galleries. And take a cultural tonic on DAE tours that are all about healing and wellness, whether that's by 'forest bathing' or discovering bush medicine.



Easier access to Uluru

If you live in Melbourne / Narm or Brisbane / Meeanjin, you'll likely know that from June, Virgin Australia began operating direct flights from the two cities to Uluru, for the first time ever. The new flights add more than 62,000 seats to the Red Centre annually, giving you easier access to a number of Discover Aboriginal Experiences operators, including [Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia](#) (which operates Ayers Rock Resort), [Maruku Arts](#) and [SEIT - Patji](#).

Flights between Brisbane / Meeanjin and Uluru run three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Meanwhile, flights between Melbourne / Narm and Uluru operate up to four times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.



Kakadu in a day

Time short, but want to experience one of Australia's World Heritage Sites? In partnership with Kakadu Air, [Davidsons Arnhemland Safaris](#) now offers full-day experiences that take in the majesty of Kakadu.

Departing Darwin, the 'Kakadu in a Day' itinerary ticks off a number of 'must-dos' in Australia's largest national park, including 1.5 hours of spectacular scenic flying, a cruise on the Yellow Water Billabong, a visit to the Warradjan Cultural Centre and more. It's the ultimate way to get a feel for the immensity of Kakadu's vast landscapes, and plot a course for the places to visit next time you're visiting the Top End.



Sunrise journeys

From 1 August 2024, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia will operate [Sunrise Journeys](#), a light and sound spectacle that uses the desert as a canvas, as dawn breaks at Uluru. The experience was created in collaboration with three Anangu artists: Selina Kulitja (Maruku Arts), Denise Brady (Kaltukatjara Art) and Valerie Brumby (Walkatjara Art). It also unites Anangu musician and composer, Jeremy Whiskey, and expert visual experience creator, Mandylights.

The three artists created a painting entitled *Ngura Nganampa Wiru Mulapa*, translated from Pitjantjatjara as 'Our Country is truly beautiful', and depicts their deep shared connection to culture and Country.

As Ayers Rock Resort, Uluru, celebrates its 40th birthday, this immersive experience promises to deepen your connection to the heart of Australia. Witness the desert come



Western Australia calling

[Kingfisher Tours](#) has long been a leader in Indigenous experiences exploring the vast landscapes of Western Australia's Kimberley region and the Top End of the Northern Territory. And now the operator has launched a new way to immerse yourself in Aboriginal culture.

The 'Marralam Cultural Day' offers exclusive touring on the NT's Legune Station, an immense cattle station near the West Australian border, close to Kununurra. The experience was co-created with the Djarrany Djarrany Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Custodians of Country, and departs Kununurra across the mighty Keep River into the NT. Explore ancient rock sites, hear Dreaming stories, visit an ochre mine and try your hand at throw-net fishing. The new tour is also offered from Bullo River station, for guests to heli in.

alive through Indigenous art, music and narration.



Spotlight on Koorie Heritage Trust

Located at Federation Square in Melbourne / Narm, the [Koorie Heritage Trust](#) is launching fresh exhibitions spotlighting key Indigenous artists. From 23 July to 24 November 2024, the leading cultural centre will host *Let's Shake*, a moving tribute to the late, internationally recognised artist and palawa woman Karen Casey.

Let's Shake was a project committed to peace and reconciliation through the act of a handshake – an ongoing public event in which participants of different cultural backgrounds and ages shook hands with wet plaster held between their palms. The installation will feature over 200 plaster casts from the series (of which there are 476).



Yellow Water Alhohgarrng Night Tours

There's nothing quite like the night sky to remind you how insignificant you are in the world – in the best possible way. Kakadu Tourism's new [Alhohgarrng Night Tours](#) feature a jaw-dropping stargazing journey aboard a Yellow Water vessel equipped with a retractable roof. This setup provides exceptional views of the night sky, showcasing stars, planets, and constellations above Kakadu National Park.

Guides blend astronomical knowledge with the cultural stories of the Gagudju people and Greco-Roman mythology, offering insights into the solar system, moon phases and distant galaxies. Each tour presents a unique celestial display, including events like meteor showers and planetary alignments, alongside the

Another exhibition, *Spirit of the Animals* will open Saturday 27 July until Sunday 24 November 2024.

Fifty works will be on display representing animals through a range of 2D and 3D works, paintings, animation, drawings, sculpture, tools, cultural belongings and adornment.

stories behind constellations such as Orion and Scorpius.

With no light pollution in this part of the world, you just know that the heavens above are going to dazzle.

Image: Leonard Tregonning (Gunai Kurnai), 'CD (Camp Dog)

INSPIRING STORIES



MEET CLARK WEBB...

Have you met the talented Clark Webb? A proud Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung man, Clark owns [Wajaana Yaam Adventure Tours](#), taking visitors on an immersive stand-up paddleboarding tours along three idyllic waterways within the Solitary Islands Marine Park on NSW's Central Coast: the Coffs, Moonee and

Red Rock Creeks. While paddling, you can admire the fish darting through crystal clear waters as your Aboriginal guide brings the Dreaming to life, and introduces you to some coastal bush tucker.

Clark and his crew have also a pivotal role in the revitalisation of the local Gumbaynggirr language in the Coffs Harbour area. You'll learn a couple of words during your experience – don't forget to ask Clark about the [Giingana Gumbaynggirr Freedom School](#), the first bilingual school in NSW of an Aboriginal Language.



DID YOU KNOW...?

Taking the time to acknowledge Country, or incorporating a Welcome to Country at an event, reminds us that every day we live, work, and dream on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. A Welcome to Country is delivered by Traditional Owners or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have been granted permission by Traditional Owners to welcome visitors to their Country.

Many Discover Aboriginal Experiences operators offer this welcome at the start of their tours. Including [Burrawa – Aboriginal Climb Experience](#), which sees you scale the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the company of a First Nations storyteller.

Now, you can begin the experience with tourism legend Aunty Margret Campbell from [Dreamtime Southern X](#), who hosts an [Indigenous smoking ceremony](#) under the bridge, to deepen your understanding of the ceremony origins, purpose and significance to modern Aboriginal people. Learn how to walk on Country with respect, feel the ancient connection to the land as you receive a blessing and hear ancient Dreamtime stories before you suit up and climb one of the country's most recognisable landmarks.

TOURISM AUSTRALIA



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