TOP END WILDERNESS, CULTURE & FOOD SAFARI
WITH CHRISTINE MANFIELD
26-30 APR 2020
Distinctive Top End flavours, untamed wilderness and ancient Australian culture come together on this Wild Bush Luxury safari with one of Australia’s most celebrated chefs, Christine Manfield.

Be treated to a culinary adventure drawing inspiration from both the Top End’s native bush pantry and South-East Asian flavour profiles from just across the Arafura Sea. Expert field guiding ensures swift immersion to the discovery of the remote and beautiful wilderness at the Luxury Lodge of Australia property in the Top End, Bamurru Plains.
Christine Manfield is one of Australia’s most celebrated chefs - a curious cook, a perfectionist inspired by the culinary melting pot of global flavours and textures, and a writer whose successful, award winning books – *Tasting India, A Personal Guide to India and Bhutan, Dessert Divas, Fire, Spice, Stir, Paramount Cooking* and *Paramount Desserts* have spiced up the lives of keen cooks everywhere. As one of Australia’s leading culinary ambassadors, her professional culinary life as restaurateur culminated in three award winning restaurants: Paramount in Sydney 1993 to 2000, East@West in London 2003 to 2005 and Universal 2007 to 2013. She continues to collaborate with chefs and industry colleagues hosting pop up restaurant events in Australia and overseas.

An inveterate traveller, Christine hosts bespoke culinary adventures to exotic destinations including India, Italy, South America, Mexico, Bhutan, France, South-East Asia, Spain, Morocco and New Zealand.

Christine hosts regular pop up events in Australia and overseas, is a national judge for Delicious Produce Awards, a mentor for Women In Hospitality (WOHO) and consulting food director to Pearl Catering.
DAY ONE
26 APRIL 2020

DARWIN
Arrive into Darwin, the balmy Northern Australian tropical outpost and enjoy your day at leisure. Meet at Darwin’s Sandbar at 5pm for a welcome drink with Christine before an optional stroll to the Mindil Beach Markets for an evening meal of street food from one (of many!) of the stall vendors.

DAY TWO
27 APRIL 2020

DARWIN TO BAMURRU PLAINS
Board your 30 minute scenic flight soaring over the twists and turns of the Adelaide River landing at the private airstrip at Bamurru Plains. Enjoy a bush-inspired Wild Bush Luxury welcome lunch ahead of your guided safari this afternoon.

DAY THREE
28 APRIL 2020

BAMURRU PLAINS
Experience the staggering beauty of tens of thousands of magpie geese as they mingle with whistling kites, egrets, herons, crocodile and buffalo on the floodplain, while Blue-winged Kookaburras, parrots, cockatoos and Agile wallabies inhabit the fringing woodlands.

DAY FOUR
29 APRIL 2020

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK
Immerse yourself in the stone country of Kakadu and one of Australia’s strongholds of Aboriginal rock art and culture. You’ll travel one-way by air returning overland in time for sundowner drinks, canapes and the comfort of the safari lodge as the sun sets over twisting pandanus.

DAY FIVE
30 APRIL 2020

BAMURRU PLAINS TO DARWIN
Morning wilderness safari before spotting moving buffalo (or crocodiles if you’re lucky!) on the scenic flight to Darwin departing Bamurru Plains at 11am, arriving into Darwin 11:30am with connecting road transfers to Darwin commercial airport or Darwin city.
Arrive into Darwin, the balmy Northern Australian tropical outpost and make your way to your chosen accommodation for the evening. You will find some of our favourite places to stay, eat and explore towards the end of this itinerary if you're looking for ideas. The journey from the airport is usually about 20 minutes by taxi. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure before meeting Christine at the Sandbar at Mindil Beach Resort at 5pm for a welcome sunset cocktail and optional dinner sampling some of the best local street food at Darwin's iconic Mindil Beach Markets, a short stroll away. Every Thursday and Sunday over 200 speciality stalls and food vendors appear along the beach providing locals and tourists alike the chance to savour Top End bounty, sample some of the best south-east Asian culinary imports and enjoy live music as the sun sets over the azure blue Arafura Sea.
Meet in the lobby of the Mindil Beach Resort at 9:30am for a group transfer to Chartair for check-in procedures (1 Murphy Road, Darwin International Airport General Aviation Terminal). If staying elsewhere you are welcome to make your own way and join the group there. The charter flight to Bamurru Plains departs at 10:30 landing at the private airstrip at Bamurru Plains at 11:00. From the sensation of lift-off, to the excitement of soaring above the twists and turns of the Adelaide River, your charter flight to Bamurru Plains is a unique and spectacular 30 minute experience. A field guide will be waiting to drive you 20 minutes to the safari lodge where a native-inspired tonic and a Wild Bush Luxury welcome lunch will have you settled in and nourished for your afternoon safari exploring Bamurru’s wild and remote wilderness. Share stories on your hosted dinner in front of the open kitchen where the resident chef conjures up tasty and thoughtful Top End fare.
Wake to the morning chorus of birdsong, agile wallabies bouncing outside your safari bungalow and buffaloes heading out to splash through the wetlands in front of the lodge. Your morning wilderness safari may see you gliding over the floodplains and through enchanting forests on an airboat safari stopping for morning tea with Kingfishers chirping as the dappled, aureate light emanates through the paperbarks.

After lunch enjoy some time at leisure in nature. You might like to plunge into the pool overlooking the floodplain (and agile wallabies), learn about the history of the area with a book from the library or wander back to your safari bungalow for a siesta.

Your afternoon safari may take you deep into Bamurru’s wilderness by open top 4WD admiring birdlife of the tropical savannah enroute to the Sampan Creek spotting crocodiles on the Mary River System that forms the western boundary of Bamurru Plains. Enjoy your canapés out on location and retire to the main lodge for your three-course hosted dinner with matching wine and Christine’s worldly tales.
World-heritage listed Kakadu National Park is one of Australia’s greatest strongholds of Aboriginal culture and Bamurru Plains is ideally placed just outside it. Your day starts with a 30 minute scenic flight to Jabiru in the heart of Kakadu, flying over breathtaking escarpments and floodplains adjoining the East Alligator River. A Bamurru field guide and expedition vehicle will greet you for the 45 minute drive through Kakadu’s stone country to Ubirr Rock, where sacred rock art adorns the walls preserved under sheltered escarpments. Time with an indigenous guide cruising along the East Alligator River tunes into the rich landscape (and its creatures!) before returning overland in impeccable time for your farewell celebration dinner with a big-hearted serving of local indulgence and a bounteous side of sunset.
Enjoy a bird-walk around the main lodge spotting the Honey Eater, Forest Kingfisher, Mistletoebird, Blue Winged Kookaburra and the stunning Rainbow Bee-Eater before heading out to Bamurru’s bird hide. Raised six metres above the ground in the tree canopy overlooking the Mary River floodplain, the hide is the ultimate eyrie from which birdlife and other wildlife can be observed undisturbed in their natural habitat.

Transfer to the airstrip and marvel at the wild waters of the Adelaide River twisting its way through Top End country on the scenic flight back to Darwin departing Bamurru Plains at 11:00am, arriving into Darwin 11:30am. Connecting road transfers to meet onward flights departing Darwin from 2pm or departure transfer to your Darwin city hotel included.
Bamurru Plains is an exclusive safari lodge built on the edge of the Mary River floodplain only a short distance from Kakadu National Park in the Top End of Australia.

Surrounded by an exotic landscape of wild palms and twisting trees Bamurru Plains is the perfect spot from which to explore the mysteries and magnificence of this ancient land. The ‘Wild Bush Luxury’ concept brings a uniquely Australian style to your stay – a down to earth yet attentive level of service; an appreciation of the finer details; and above all a team of hosts and guides who are passionate about the area and its wildlife.

The lodge is the perfect place to relax in a comfortable chair and a well stocked library offers a collection of reference books. During the heat of the day the cooling waters of the wet edge swimming pool beckon and later the lounging deck is the ideal place to watch wildlife graze through the lodge. Christine joins forces with Bamurru’s chefs to weave the Top End’s distinctive flavour into an exciting food journey peppered with local ingredients. Any time of the day you can help yourself to a cold drink from the bar – be it a crisp white wine, a gin and tonic or sparkling water.
A style of accommodation more akin to some of the safari camps in Africa, Bamurru Plains’ attraction lies in the birdlife and wildlife of the surrounding floodplains and savannah woodland. Mesh screen ceiling to floor walls on all three sides around the bed provides an experience in which you hear, see and almost touch the wildlife and wilderness around you. The alarm clock in the morning is the call of Magpie Geese, after whom the property is named, all audible and visible without having to leave your bed!

The focus is on a supremely comfortable bed and a spacious bathroom with high pressure showers. The décor reflects the region’s earlier indigenous, hunting and pastoral history, with explorer’s maps, Aboriginal art work and fish traps providing a sense of the human heritage of the area. Each room has a cold water thermos, local flora and fauna reading materials, species list and binoculars. There is no internet access, no television or mobile phone coverage. A true escape to your immediate environment.
WHAT'S INCLUDED

3 nights in a fan-cooled Safari Bungalow
All meals and beverages from a generous open bar
Full-day private group adventure to Kakadu, one-way by air returning overland
Return flights from Darwin to Bamurru Plains as per the scheduled group flight times
Transfers between Mindil Beach Resort and General Aviation Terminal and onwards to Darwin airport or city
3 day guided safari program accompanied by celebrated chef Christine Manfield. Wilderness activities may include airboat safaris, 4WD safari drives, quad bike adventures, foot safaris or crocodile spotting river cruise. Activities will be carefully planned by Bamurru’s expert field guides to maximise wildlife viewing and enjoyment on the day

WHAT TO BRING

- Sense of adventure!
- Healthy appetite
- Camera
- Comfortable covered walking shoes
- Light wicking shirts or light cotton shirts, preferably long sleeved
- Light long pants
- Fleece for evenings
- Insect repellent

YOUR FIELD GUIDE WILL CARRY

- Satellite phone & navigation aid
- Binoculars for wildlife viewing
- First aid kit
- Flora & fauna identification guides
- Expert knowledge & passion!
WHERE TO STAY IN DARWIN

Mindil Beach Casino Resort
Just moments from Mindil Beach and the CBD, set among tropical beachside gardens.

Adina Apartment Hotel
When you stay in the same precinct Darwin locals come to enjoy you know you’re getting to the true heart of a place.

Vibe Darwin Waterfront
Perfectly positioned in the entertainment and dining hub of Darwin’s seafront promenade.

WHERE TO EAT IN DARWIN

Hanuman
Immerse yourself in a truly exotic experience with the colour, variety and tastes of south-east Asia.

Pee Wee’s on the Point
One of Darwin’s finest restaurants, it is well worth shelling out a little extra for the experience.

Little Miss Korea
Down a graffiti filled lane you’ll find the hottest joint in Darwin serving up Kimchi and Korean BBQ as well as an exciting a la carte menu.
http://littlemisskorea.com/

Aboriginal Bush Traders Café
In historic Lyons Cottage, this little café serves tasty dishes inspired by Aboriginal bush tucker.
https://aboriginal-bush-traders.myshopify.com/pages/cafe-new

Snapper Rocks
Using only locally caught seafood, snapper rocks was born from a love of the ocean and Aussie beach culture.
https://snapper.rocks/

WHAT TO DO IN DARWIN

Museum and Art Gallery of the NT
The Aboriginal art collection is a highlight with carvings from the Tiwi Islands, bark paintings from Arnhem Land and dot paintings from the desert.
https://www.magnt.net.au/

Royal Flying Doctors Museum
Relive in vivid detail the 1942 Japanese bombing raid on Darwin Harbour with virtual-reality glasses.

Crocosaurus Cove
Yes it may be very touristy, but the size of the crocs at Crocosaurus Cove are worth averting your eyes from the crocodile hats in the gift store.
http://www.crocosauruscove.com/
RATES
$4,195 per person twin-share.
$750 optional single supplement.
All rates are in Australian dollars and inclusive of GST.

SECURING YOUR PLACE
A non-refundable deposit of 20% is required within 7 days of making a reservation with your balance at 30 days prior to arrival on or before 26 March 2020. For bookings made within 30 days, full payment must be made within 48 hours of booking.

PAYMENT DETAILS
Please make payments to Cavendra Pty Ltd (for Bamurru Plains)
Bank: Westpac
BSB: 032002
Account: 458492
Reference: Please use your booking folio number for payment reconciliation

A 1.2% credit card merchant fee applies to credit card payments at bamurruplains.com/pay.

RESERVATIONS
Australia: 1300 790 561
International: +61 2 9571 6399
Email: bamurru@wildbushluxury.com
GROUP SIZE
Your Top End Wilderness, Culture & Food Safari with Christine Manfield will operate as a private departure with a minimum of 8 and maximum of 15 guests.

ITINERARY
Please use the schedule listed in this itinerary as a good(!) guide only. The day and time of specific wilderness safaris may vary according to our recommendation and local conditions for utmost enjoyment and wildlife viewing on the day.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
We recommend that all guests obtain travel insurance including a cancellation policy and emergency medical care. Travel insurance is available from travel agents, general insurance companies and some medical funds. We are happy to direct you further if needed.

AIR CONDITIONING
As the majority of our power is solar generated, air-conditioning requires additional generator capacity and a surcharge applies. Air-conditioning is available in three Safari Bungalows at a surcharge of $120 per room, per night.

CANCELLATION POLICY
For cancellations outside of 30 days your 20% non-refundable deposit will forfeited. For cancellations within 30 days of arrival all monies will be forfeited. In case of unscheduled lodge closure (such as, but not limited to, the case of cyclone, fire or flood) full monies will be refunded subject to third party cancellation charges (namely charter flights between Darwin, Bamurru Plains and Kakadu National Park).