



Litchfield National Park

Litchfield National Park, approximately 1500 kilometres² (square), is near the township of Batchelor and just 100 kilometres (1.5 hours drive) south-west of Darwin, in the Northern Territory. Each year this stunning park attracts over 260,000 visitors. Litchfield National Park is characterised by lush tropical rainforests, towering red termite mounds, unique rock formations, and spectacular cascading waterfalls.

Most of the major attractions in the park are linked by a sealed road, easily accessible by 2-wheel drive car or campervan. However, some of the more remote attractions do require a 4-wheel drive to access them. Litchfield is a great place to visit for just the day or for a few days longer. There are several camping locations throughout Litchfield and camping fees do apply at most. Travellers can also stay in the town of Batchelor, located nearby, in either budget accommodation or a caravan park. There are also a number of fantastic tours departing from Darwin to Litchfield National Park; Travel Forever can help you choose the one that best suits your budget and time frame.

Sights & Attractions

The main attractions for visitors are the waterfalls (such as Florence, Tolmer, Wangi, Tjaetaba, Tjaynera, and Surprise Creek Falls), the cascades at Buley Rockhole, the magnetic termite mounds, and the grand Reynolds River. Litchfield Park incorporates much of the magnificent Tabletop Range, a wide sandstone plateau surrounded by cliffs. During the wet season (October to May), waterfalls roar from the top of the cliffs into the rock pools below. Many of the most popular waterfalls are easily accessible and are open all year round; however swimming is not always possible due to water levels from heavy rain and the saltwater crocodiles that roam the park when the rivers are full. During the dry season the waterfalls do flow more gently ensuring that the waterholes are perfect for a refreshing swim and the crocodiles are captured and moved before people are allowed in.

Visit the famous magnetic termite mounds, built by thousands of termites, and wonder at how the mounds were built standing with a precise north to south orientation, effectively controlling the temperature inside the red mounds. For the more adventurous take a hike along one of the many interesting walking trails in Litchfield National Park such as Tabletop Track, Florence Creek walk, Greenant Creek, Wangi Falls walk, Walker Creek walk, and the Lost City. You will weave your way through rocky outcrops and ridges, past trickling creeks, crystal clear pools, rainforest, waterfalls, bizarre limestone formations, and an abundance of native Australian flora and fauna.

Within the Litchfield parameters there is also a stark reminder of the tough conditions faced by early European settlers, Blyth Homestead (built in 1929), an attraction accessible by 4-wheel drive only. The Park's traditional owners are the Wagait Aboriginal people, and there are several Aboriginal sacred sites to be found within Litchfield.

Throughout Litchfield National Park there are a large number of designated lookouts and viewing platforms that provide visitors with panoramic views of the sensational landscape.

Climate

Litchfield National Park is located in the tropics with a monsoonal climate that has just two main seasons: the dry season and the wet season. There is also a 'build up' time period for the transition between the dry and the wet season. The peak tourism time to visit this region is during the dry season.

During the dry season (from April/May to September), there are dry winds, humidity is relatively low, and rain is unusual. The average maximum temperature for June to July is a warm 32 °C (Degrees Celsius). During the 'build up' period (October to December) conditions are very uncomfortable with high temperatures and high humidity. However the 'build up' storms feature regular, spectacular lightening strikes. The average maximum temperature for October is 37.5 °C. The wet season (January to March/April) has hot temperatures, high humidity, and lots of rain.

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