



The "Footsteps of Our Ancestors" cultural immersion program encompasses the lifestyle, culture and tradition of the Jawoyn people by providing hands-on insight into the traditional ways of the Jawoyn people.

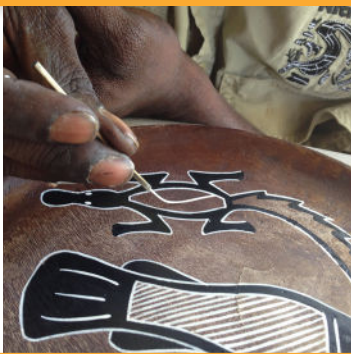
**Itineraries can be tailor made to suite your groups needs.*



EXPLORE

7:45am - Arrive at Nitmiluk Gorge Boat Jetty

Be welcomed by your local Indigenous Guide who will give you a brief "Cultural Awareness" talk to increase your understanding of Indigenous Tourism, and what to expect on your tour.



DISCOVER

8:00am – Embark on a 2 Gorge Cruise (Approx. 2 hours)

The guided cruise will include discussion of ancient rock art at the end of the first gorge during the crossover where students will be allowed to take photos and ask questions. The students will then board a second boat that will take them on a tour through the second gorge where the guide will provide fun historical and geographical facts about the area and sandstone walls.

10:30am – Morning tea @Maud Creek

Morning tea will include traditional damper with jam and cream.



11am – Bush Walk @Maud Creek

This will be a small walk around Maud Creek where the guide will discuss the local plants and wildlife. Students will experience a bush medicine demonstration.

12:30pm – BBQ Lunch

Lunch will consist of sausages and steaks, and kangaroo tail cooked traditionally in a ground oven. A range of fresh salads will be on offer including garden salad, pasta salad, potato salad and coleslaw. Students will be entertained by the guides as they tell of ancient dream time stories over lunch.

Please ensure the Group Leader informs staff when confirming numbers of any dietary requirements.

1:00 - 3pm - Interactive Activities.

The afternoon activities will include fire lighting, spear throwing, basket weaving and painting. A selection of authentic Aboriginal artwork and other artifacts will also be available for purchase after lunch.

**See attachment for a more detailed description of each activity.*



JAWOYN COUNTRY



EXPLORE

Bush Tucker Walk:

The Jawoyn people recognise 5 seasons in their annual calendar. Each season brings a different array of bush foods.

The Jawoyn seasons are:

Jiyowk: January, February and sometimes into March

Pankarrang (or Banggarrang): March, April and towards May.

Malapparr: May, June, July and sometimes into August

Jungalk: August, October and sometimes into November

Kuran (or Guran): November, December and sometimes into January.



DISCOVER

Basket Weaving:

A favourite pastime for Indigenous women is weaving baskets and mats from pandanus. Traditionally weaving was done to create mats for warmth and comfort. Coloured roots are collected and boiled and the dried pandanus is soaked in the coloured water for dyeing.

Didgeridoo Playing:

The Didgeridoo was traditionally used in ceremonial performances, to imitate wildlife and to share stories. Didgeridoo is predominately "Men's Business"



EXPERIENCE

Spear Throwing:

Spears are traditionally made from bamboo or thin branches from hardwood trees. "Green" branches are collected and straightened over the fire. Spear tips are usually made from sharpened stone. The Jawoyn people often hunted wallaby, emu and bush turkey. Bondoks (spear throwers, sometimes called woomeras) are made from ironwood, an extremely hard timbered tree. Because of the arduous process of making bondoks, they are a prized possession, and often used for other purposes, such as musical instruments and as a fighting tool.

Fire Lighting:

Fire is essential for warmth during the cooler months and cooking year round. Fire sticks are made in pairs (mother and son). Fire sticks are made using "green" branches from the hardwood trees and straightened over the fire.

A groove is fashioned in the "mother" stick and "son" was rubbed into it to create friction, and in turn, fire!

Painting:

Painting is traditionally done on rock using different coloured ochres (red, yellow and white). Paintings are done to tell stories, or pass information. Aboriginal people had no written language, so through painting they were able to communicate with each other and pass on knowledge.



JAWOYN COUNTRY