



True Talking, Forward Walking

The 7th National Mediation Conference
Darwin NT
30 June - 2 July 2004

General Darwin Information



Darwin

The scenic modern town of Darwin and its huge harbor take visitors by surprise. The unexpected lushness of the tropical city surrounded by blue water and sandy beaches make it an ideal place to stay whilst visiting the many beautiful natural attractions of the Top End.

Darwin offers all the sophistication of an international city with restaurants, hotels, museums, art galleries, as well as nightlife. Yet Darwin's tropical boundaries are the glittering allure of the Timor Sea and the luxuriant greens of the tropical wetlands.

The history of Darwin and the Top End is also on display with many historical reserves, museums and attractions charting the progress of the region. From the pioneering days of early settlement, the mining boom times, the war years of WWII, and the impact of cyclones and the natural environment. The endeavors of the spirited pioneers that made Darwin what it is today.

Local attractions include the Mindil Beach, crocodile farms, George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, the Aviation Heritage Centre, Casuarina Coastal Reserve, NT Art Gallery, and the East Point Military Museum.

Australia's only tropical capital city boasts a population of 77,000 with about 20,000 more in the combined satellite city of Palmerston and the surrounding rural area. Approximately half the Northern Territory population lives within a 40km radius of Darwin and like the city itself, on average they are younger than the rest of Australia.

It may be the city's relaxed lifestyle, the magnet of its attractions, the haunting majesty of the monsoonal storms, or the smell of the tropics, but people who experience Darwin never forget it.



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Conference Venue

Darwin Entertainment Centre/Holiday Inn Esplanade

93 Mitchell Street Darwin

The Esplanade Darwin



The Conference will be held at the Darwin Entertainment Centre (DEC) and the Holiday Inn Esplanade. This complex houses both DEC and the Holiday Inn Esplanade. It has magnificent views overlooking tropical parklands, foreshore of the Esplanade and is ideally located within the central business district.

The DEC is the premier Entertainment and Convention venue in the Top End of the Northern Territory of Australia. The Darwin Entertainment Centre hosts major national and international acts as well as local theatre concerts and Darwin based artists.

For those delegates that have chosen accommodation from the wide variety offered for the conference, most of these hotels are nearby and well within walking distance of the DEC.

Registration Desk

The registration desk and a tour desk will operate from 1st Floor of the Holiday Inn Esplanade Darwin for the duration of the conference.

OPERATING TIMES

Tuesday, 29 June

1700 - 1830 - Welcome Reception/Pre-Registration (**Parliament House**)

Wednesday, 30 June

0730 - 1730 - Day One

Thursday, 1 July

0730 - 1700 - Day Two

Friday, 2 July

0745 - 1700 - Day Three

ATM

The nearest Automatic teller machine is in the National Australia Bank located opposite the Darwin Entertainment Centre on the corner of Mitchell Street and Mc Lachlan Streets Darwin.



Weather and Dress Standard

In Darwin the weather is tropical – always warm, sometimes humid and with lots of sunshine. With temperatures in June/July ranging from 19°C to 30°C it is a time when the locals feel the cold and the visitors embrace the warmth!

Territorians believe they have the best lifestyle in Australia, and with good reason. The lifestyle in Darwin is casual and this is reflected in what people wear. Neat casual wear is appropriate for both Conference sessions and most social functions.

Conference sessions will be held in an air-conditioned venue, therefore you may consider bringing a light pullover or jacket in case you get cool.

The Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner are both more formal occasions. This calls for what you may hear referred to as “Darwin Rig” or “Territory Rig”. This means for women, casual but elegant, and for men long trousers and collared shirt, ties and Jackets are not necessary.

Transport & Transfers

The Cost: of taxis or private hire cars to and from the airport to the city centre is approximately A\$22.00 one way.

An alternative to this is the airport shuttle bus. This bus operates from the front of the airport and Cost: A\$7.50 one way or A\$13.00 return.

Within the City Centre and for the budget minded there are cheaper alternatives for transport, such as mini buses, that operate within Darwin City Centre and Cost: approximately A\$2.50 per person.

Tour Desk

Throughout the duration of the conference, there will be a fully operational tour desk available to take bookings for post forum tours. Below you will find a sample of touring options available, however if you would like any additional information on the wide range of tours available in the Top End and Australia in general, please contact The Best Conference and Events Company on ph: 08 89811875 or info@thebestevents.com.au.