

SAVANNAH GUIDES



Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback

Savannah Guides School: Nitmiluk National Park 1-4 November 2012

“Working Together – Savannah Guides Partnerships”

Savannah Guides invites you to our next Savannah Guides School, based at Nitmiluk National Park, 29kms from Katherine. This four day workshop will focus on how Savannah Guides works with its partners to train “Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback”. Our field trips will explore the magnificent Katherine Gorge, including on the wonderful Nabilill Dreaming Sunset Dinner Cruise, plus Edith Falls and The Jatbula Trail’s Northern Rockhole.

Our participants and presenters will include NT Parks & Wildlife Service, our Indigenous Business Partners, Tourism NT and a host of industry and land management professionals.

WHO ARE SAVANNAH GUIDES?

Savannah Guides Limited is a non-profit member based organisation comprising a network of professional tour guides and operators with collective in-depth knowledge of the natural and cultural environments across Australia’s vast tropical savannahs.



Savannah Guides Limited began in 1988 and has won numerous tourism awards for training and tourism services. Our activities aim to build sustainable tourism for regional community benefit, expand career opportunities for Tour Guides and enhance visitor experiences in the savannahs. Our members include accredited guides and enterprises as well as “Friends” who like to assist in our Mission or just have a good time with like-minded people. Please ask if you’d like to receive Savannah Guides membership information.

WHAT IS A SAVANNAH GUIDES SCHOOL?

A Savannah Guides “School” is not a course with a qualification for completion. It’s simply our organisation’s name for its professional development conferences. These are held at various locations across the Tropical Savannahs of Northern Australia twice each year. They are a part of our Tour Guide accreditation process, although most attendees come for the combination of knowledge gathering, networking with ecotourism and community leaders and simply enjoying a fascinating part of the country in a little more detail.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Members and non-members are very welcome. The School will be a great opportunity for any Tour Guide, tourism industry member, community representative or nature lover to gain a real insight into quality tourism operation. Our participants will include tourism businesses, tour guides, environmental specialists, traditional owners, local government representatives and land managers. The professional development opportunity provided at these Schools is unparalleled and the renowned Savannah Guides camaraderie is often the basis for valuable ongoing business and personal relationships. Please take this unique opportunity to join us and build your knowledge and links with Savannah Guides.

WHY NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK?

Members and guests will learn a great deal from the innovative management of the park and related tours we will investigate at this school. Land Managers, Aboriginal Community groups and Tour Operator partnerships will be featured in our interactive presentations. The school will provide many opportunities for us to learn together and have some fun. We hope you can join us!

SCHOOL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The partnerships at the heart of Nitmiluk National Park's sustainable development are a model for many regions. Savannah Guides Limited's partnerships with indigenous businesses are also breaking new ground. The Nitmiluk School's program will be of great interest and benefit to tour guides and operators, industry planners and community members. We'll enjoy learning from each other.

Arrival and Accommodation

Many participants will arrive on Wednesday 31 October for an informal evening with old and new friends. We suggest drinks and dinner at Knott's Crossing Resort (own expense). Accommodation and Thursday breakfast are available but are not included in your Registration Fee – see the Registration Form for details.

Thursday 1 November 2012

The School Begins & Keynote Speakers

- 7:30am School Registration
- 8:30am School Opening and Welcomes from Traditional Owners, Katherine Mayor Fay Miller and Savannah Guides President Ben Humphries
- Guides School Twitchathon – join our fun bird spotting competition across the school to build your birding skills
- Keynote Presentation: Development through Partnerships - Wes Miller, Jawoyn Association
- Partnership presentations from NT Parks & Wildlife, Tourism NT and other Industry Partners
- Savannah Guides Indigenous Business Partnerships Project featuring Mimbi Caves (WA), Kakadu 4WD Safaris (NT) and Townsville Cultural Centre (QLD)
- Fire in the Savannah – Friend, Enemy and Opportunity: Bushfires NT
- Expert presentations on the meaning of bird names and Jawoyn Rock Art
- Welcome Dinner at Nitmiluk Visitor Centre

Friday 2 November 2012

Field Trip sponsored by NT Parks & Wildlife

- Depart Nitmiluk to examine how NT Parks and Wildlife have managed Edith Falls after devastating floods. Walk and swim time!
- Visit Katherine's exciting new Godinymayin Cultural Centre
- Savannah Guides Limited General Meeting
- Savannah Guides Limited Annual General Meeting and election of 2012-13 Board
- Nitmiluk Plant Identification Walk
- Learn about Nitmiluk Tours training and employment programs and inspect the luxurious Cicada Lodge, under construction.

- Barbecue dinner by the pool.
- Campfire yarns and songs – bring your guitar, didge or voice!

Saturday 3 November 2012

Workshops and Field Trips

- Optional Birdwatching Walk to enjoy the morning and build your skills
- Cross the gorge and walk to the Jatbula Trail's Northern Rockhole. Learn about walking tour best practice and track infrastructure and enjoy a swim
- The Footsteps of our Ancestors Showcase, an interactive cultural tourism product
- Workshop Integrating Culture into Tours to develop your tour interpretation and content
- Protecting the Katherine River's Biodiversity presentation by Katherine Landcare Group
- Nabilill Dreaming Sunset Dinner Cruise on two gorges, with Jawoyn stories and candlelit dinner of Australian cuisine
- Star Stories – bring your night sky interpretation to share at the campfire.

Sunday 4 November 2012

- Optional Birdwatching Walk
- Valuable professional development sessions in concurrent Tour Guiding Workshops and Enterprise Members Forum
- We'll announce the results of the Savannah Guides School Twitchathon and award some fun prizes. "Take Home Messages" summary and farewell
- Transfers leave for Darwin.



GETTING INVOLVED

We welcome your contributions to the School! Please help make it an even greater success by:

- ❖ Bringing your colleagues – the training and team building opportunity at Savannah Guides Schools is legendary!
- ❖ Joining the School Twitchathon! Register a team of 3-4 participants and tally your confirmed sightings over the school for fun and very modest prizes!
- ❖ Considering Membership – Savannah Guides welcomes Tour Guides and like minded people and organisations.



GETTING THERE

- Nitmiluk National Park is 29km from Katherine, NT. Limited transfers will be available from Darwin on Wednesday 31 October (3pm), returning on Sunday evening. See Registration Form.
- Seats on flights between Cairns and Darwin are already limited over the school period. Please book any flights as soon as possible.
- If you are seeking a lift from the east or west please advise us on your registration form and we will pass on any availability we know of. If you are driving and have spare seats please also let us know.

ACCOMMODATION

- ❖ Cabins, Lodge Accommodation and Camp Sites are available (see Registration Form).
- ❖ Participants are asked to stay at the accommodation listed on the Registration form to engage with the group and keep our transfers coordinated.
- ❖ Accommodation and Camp Sites must be booked directly with the suppliers – Nitmiluk Tours and Shady Lane (see Registration Form). Please pre-arrange any share partners if you can, and advise when booking. Nitmiluk Tours will coordinate share arrangements for Gorge accommodation if requested.

WHAT TO BRING

- ❖ Water Bottle and Small Backpack / Day Pack
- ❖ Swimwear and Towel
- ❖ Walking Shoes / Boots / Sandals
- ❖ Hat, Sunscreen, Insect Repellent, Torch
- ❖ Notepad and Pens/Pencils
- ❖ Bird Field Guides and Binoculars



PAYMENT

Savannah Guides Limited offers two methods of payment:

- a) **Direct Deposit:** BSB: 034 167 Account No: 814 167
Account Name: Savannah Guides Ltd

To help identify your deposit please complete the reference/notes field on your transfer with your surname or company name. Please also email on info@savannah-guides.com.au to advise us of your payment.

- b) **Cheque/Money Order:** Please make your cheque or money order payable to Savannah Guides Ltd and mail with your registration form to Savannah Guides, PO Box 2312 CAIRNS QLD 4870.

Savannah Guides Ltd is not able to accept credit card payments.

Savannah Guides invites you to join us for this memorable and informative School!

Please pass this information on through your networks.

For more information please contact: Russell Boswell

Email: info@savannah-guides.com.au Phone: 0408 772 513



REGISTRATION FORM – Nitmiluk National Park 1-4 November 2012

Please send your Registration Form and pay by the methods below. Registration closes Friday 19 October.

Name of Individual attending: _____

From – Enterprise/Organisation: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Postal Address: _____

Dietary or Medical Requirements: _____

____ Please do not distribute my contact details to other participants after the School

REGISTRATION

Your Registration Fee includes participation in all School presentations and activities; transport to field activities and participant kit and all meals from Morning Tea on Thursday 1 November to Lunch on Sunday 4 November 2012. The Registration Fee does not include accommodation.

Full School Registration – Non-Members	(Thu / Fri / Sat / Sun)	\$475
Full School Registration – Members	(Thu / Fri / Sat / Sun)	\$350
Single Day Rate – Non-Members		\$175
Single Day Rate – Members		\$130

If Single Day Rate please indicate which day/s and approximate arrival and departure times:

REGISTRATION TOTAL \$ _____

EXTRA MEAL

Will you require Thursday breakfast @ \$16?

THURSDAY BREAKFAST \$ _____

PROMOTIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Tourism operators, Government agencies and regional businesses can promote their activities and services to the Savannah Guides network. Please contact us for more details.

Non-Member brochure / Merchandise in the Participant Kit	\$ 50
Half Page Advertisement in the School Program	\$100
Morning or Afternoon Tea / Lunch / Dinner Sponsorship	\$250-\$1500

PARTNERSHIP TOTAL \$ _____

I have paid by:

____ Direct Deposit on ___/___/2012

____ Cheque/Money Order enclosed

____ My enterprise will be paying. Authorising name and signature: _____

PAYMENT TOTAL \$ _____

A Tax Invoice will be issued upon receipt of payment.

Cancellations: A \$50 per person administration fee is applicable for all cancellations.

Program Disclaimer: The speakers, topics and schedule are correct at time of printing. Savannah Guides Ltd reserves the right to change the schedule without notice should unforeseen circumstances arise.

Signed (Attendee): _____

Please send your completed form to info@savannah-guides.com.au or by fax (07) 4031 3340 or post to PO Box 2312 CAIRNS QLD 4870

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

At the Gorge: Limited Accommodation is available. Please book direct with Nitmiluk Tours. Tel: 1300 146 743

Queen Bed Chalet (aircon) single	\$117.00 per room per night
Two Bedroom Chalet (aircon) twin-share	\$ 72.50 per person per night.
Tent Village (unpowered) single	\$ 62.00 per tent per night
Tent Village (unpowered) twin	\$ 37.50 per person per night
Camping / Van site - Powered	\$ 28.00 per site per night
Camping / Van site - Unpowered	\$ 12.60 per person per night

a) At Shady Lane Tourist Park: Please book direct. Tel: 1800 043 043

Cabin – single (aircon) \$115.00 per room per night

Cabins for 2-5 guests are available. Please call for details.

If staying at Shady Lane you must have your own transport to join the group at the Gorge each day.

TRANSFERS

Please advise if you require transfers from/to Darwin, if you are looking for a lift from further afield, or if you have a spare seat to help with either of these. Thank you!