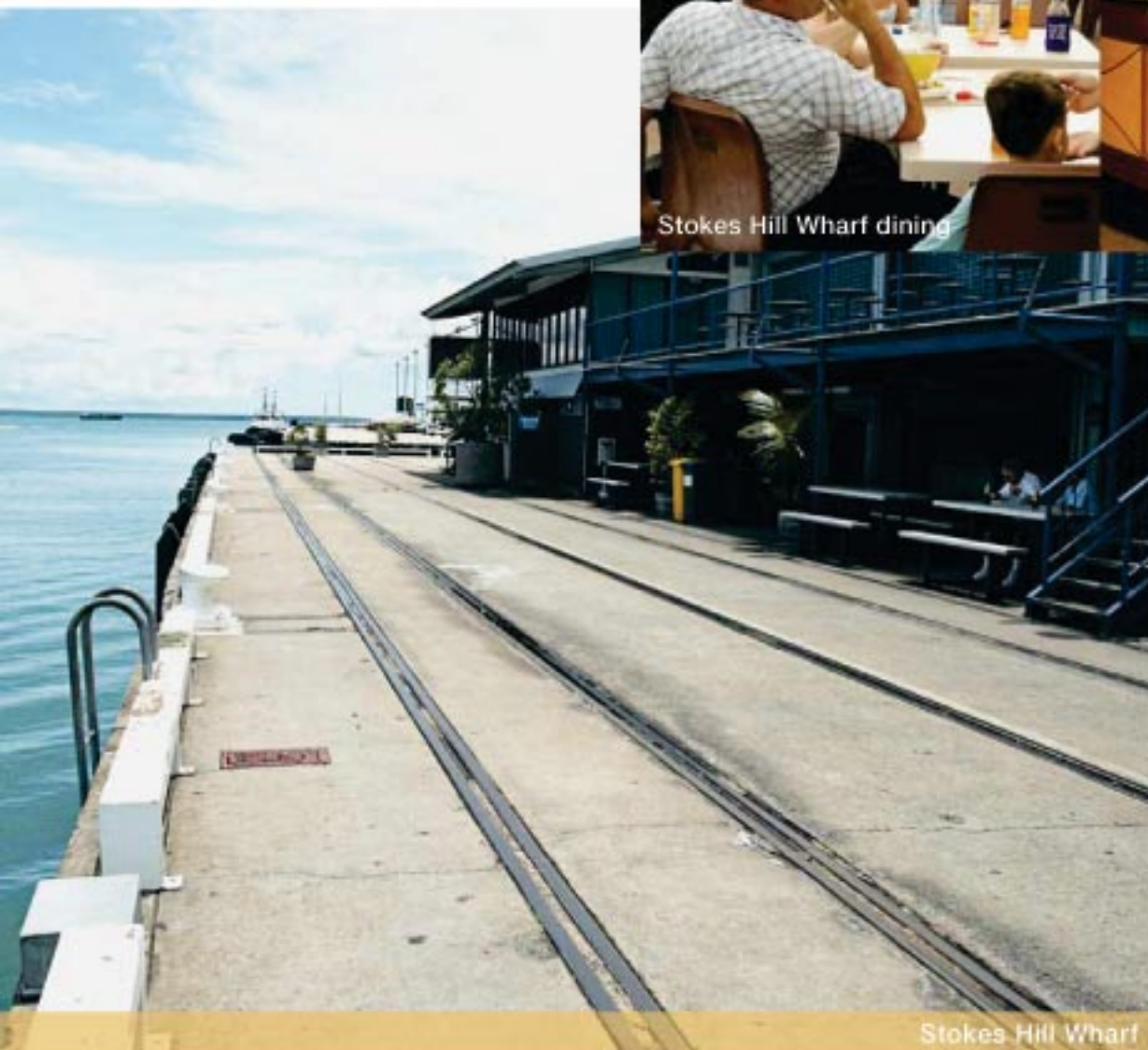


A large boat with a restaurant deck is shown on the water. The boat has a curved metal railing and several tall, thin poles. People are seated at tables on the deck, and a waiter is visible. The background shows a body of water and a distant shoreline with trees under a cloudy sky.

harbour HANGOUT

Discover the tropical true-blue pleasures of Darwin, the city on the edge of the outback.

Northern Territory



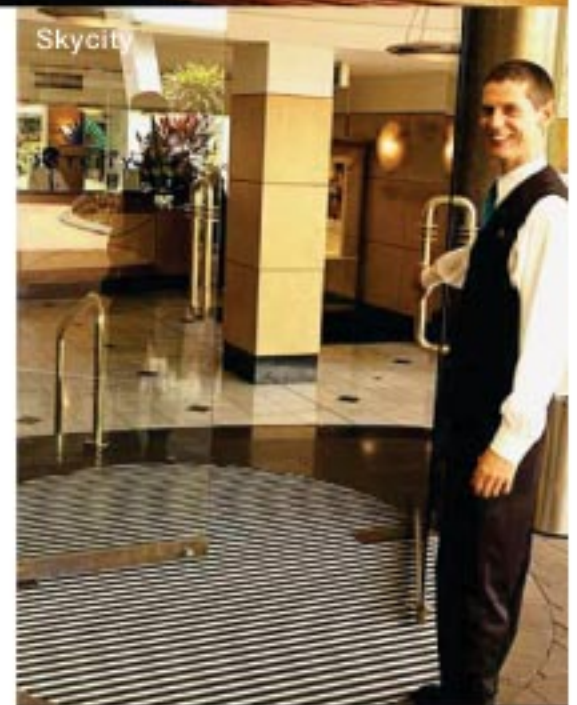
Stokes Hill Wharf



Stokes Hill Wharf dining



Skycity



Skycity

Darwin has a harbour? Overseas visitors – and many Australians – are often surprised to learn that this Top End town has a harbour twice the size of Sydney's, with waterfront restaurants, sandy beaches and sunset cruises on luxury yachts.

Darwin serves its harbour with a ridgy-didge, Northern Territory flavour. Stokes Hill Wharf where the action takes place is no Circular Quay. Parking is free and easy, the dress code is casual and the best seats for tucking into your takeaway barramundi and chips are outside by the water.

"Stokes" shines at night and on weekends. Its friendly mix of families, locals, couples and backpackers has an atmosphere almost as electric as Darwin's legendary thunderstorms.

Arrive in time to watch a famous Northern Territory sunset as a jazz band plays and people dance under the lights, under the stars and on the edge of the wharf.

Harbourside restaurants offer some of the freshest fish in the country – and a welcome side serve of air-conditioning. Try the seafood platters at the popular Crustaceans On The Wharf or Jetty Restaurant.

The nearby Deckchair Cinema screens outdoor movies from April to November. Or glam it up at Cullen Bay with its marina full of yachts, waterfront cafes, a day spa and the city's most beautiful homes. This is also the place to book a fishing charter in your bid to catch a "barra" in the Arafura Sea.

As a truly outback harbour, Darwin does cruising differently. Cape Adieu Harbour >

STAY

Novotel Atrium overlooks Darwin Harbour. If you go fishing, the chefs at the downstairs Zest Restaurant will cook your catch for dinner. (08) 8941 0755.

www.novoteldarwin.com.au

Skycity is Darwin's only five-star resort on the beach, with a casino, golf course, tennis courts, pool, three restaurants, five bars, two cafes and refurbished rooms. Next door, Mindil Beach Sunset Markets are a must. 1800 891 118.

www.skycitydarwin.com.au

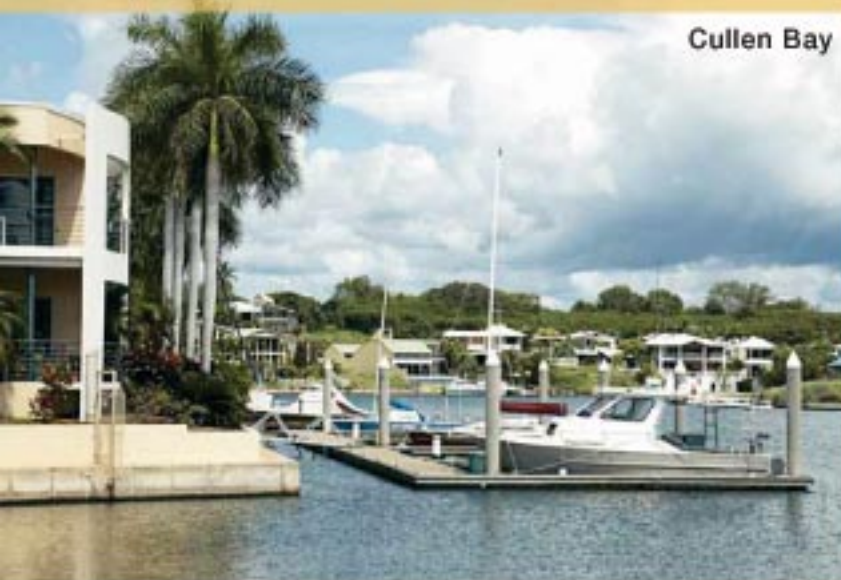
Quality Hotel Frontier is more affordable and its Rooftop Restaurant has arguably the best views of Darwin. (08) 8981 5333.

www.flagchoice.com

Northern Territory



Fish and chips
by the harbour



Cullen Bay



Parliament House (1994)
near Darwin Harbour

DO

Cape Adieu Harbour Cruises

(08) 8942 2011.
www.capeadieu.com.au

City Of Darwin Cruises

(08) 8980 5093.
cityofdarwincruises.com.au

Pearling Lugger Cruise

(08) 8941 4000.
australianharbourcruises.com.au

Deckchair Cinema (08) 8981 0700

www.deckchaircinema.com

Northern Territory Tourist

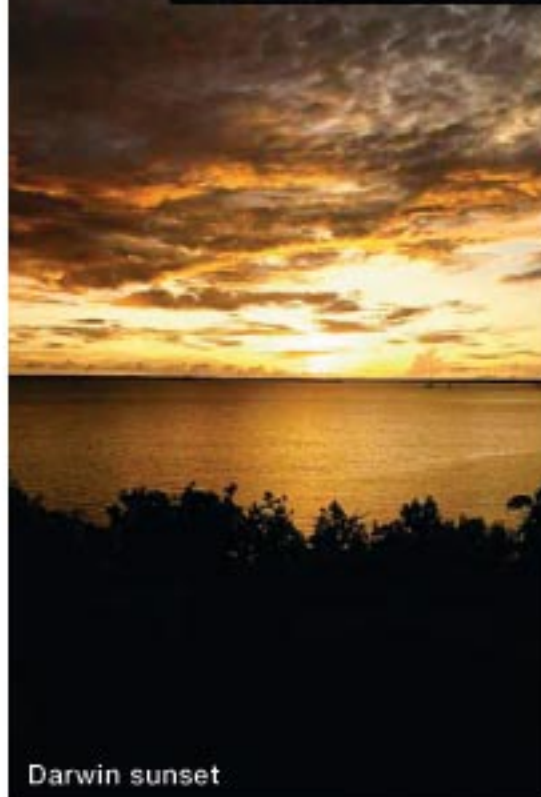
Commission 13 61 10. nttc.com.au

EAT

Crustaceans On The Wharf

(08) 8981 8658. www.crustys.com.au

Jetty Restaurant (08) 8942 1500.



Darwin sunset

Cruises encourages BYO beer and wine, providing an esky to keep your drinks icy cold. Points of interest include the naval base, Frances Bay fishing facilities and confiscated Indonesian fishing boats.

City of Darwin Cruises keeps it real with no commentary and simple snacks of cheese and crackers. Overnight adventures include sailing out to a sheltered anchorage to go fishing or spot turtles; crabbing at Bynoe Harbour; or a cruise on the historic pearling lugger *Anniki*, drinking bubbly, sampling pearl meat and listening to stories of the old Torres Strait pearling days. Then, if the history bug has bitten, check out the Fannie Bay Gaol Museum, back on shore.

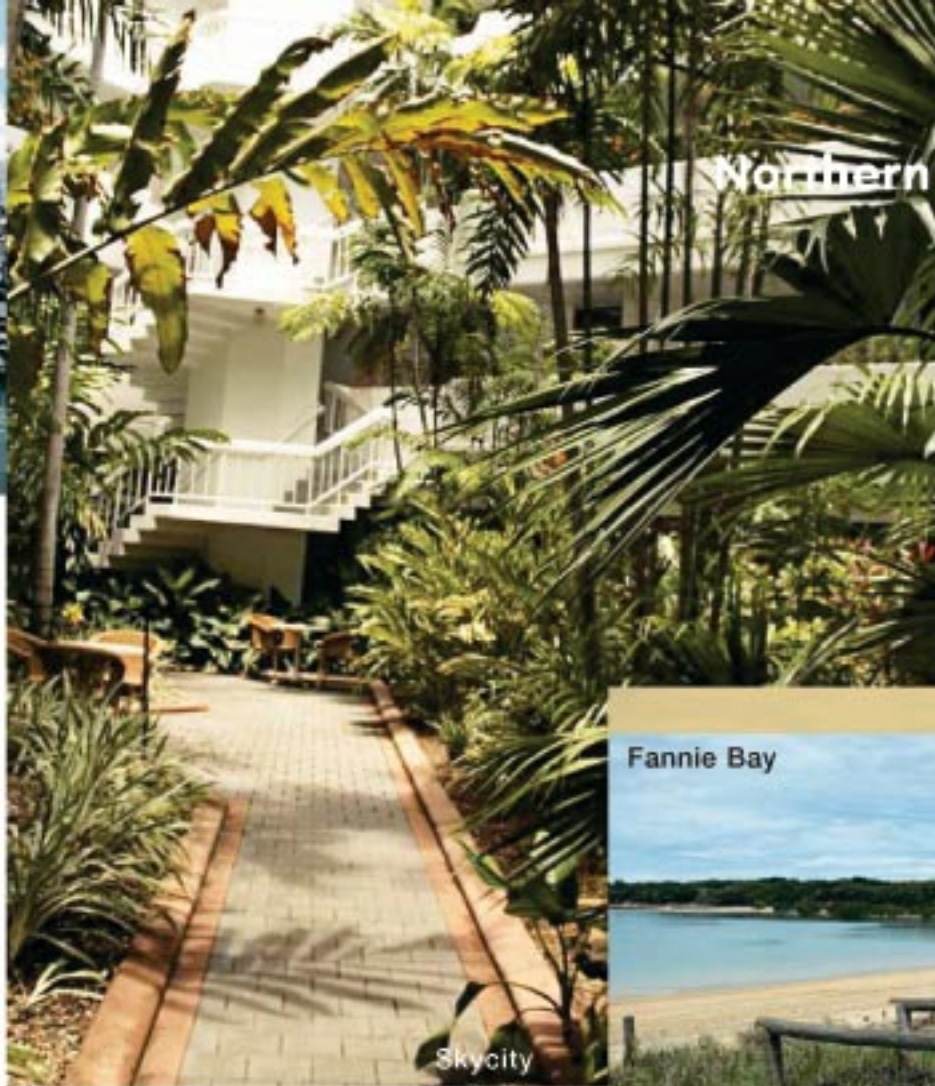
Diving is also fascinating, as much of the harbour's history is hidden underwater. >



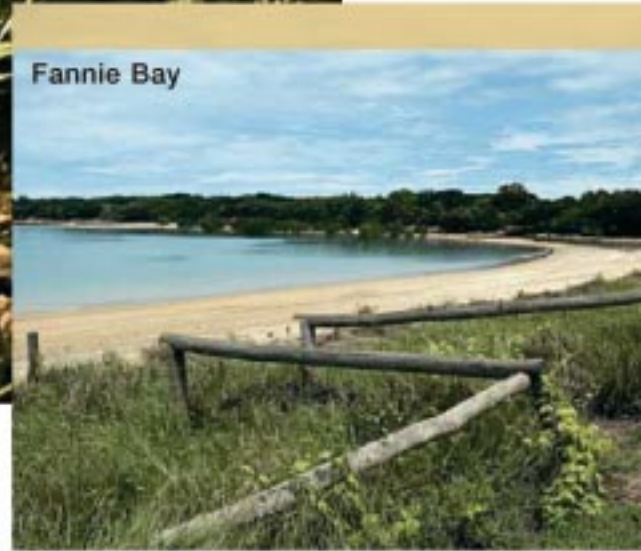
Cullen Bay

Scuba divers can explore shipwrecks from World War II and Cyclone Tracy (including the ferry *Mandorah Queen*), sunken refugee boats, coral reefs and sponge gardens.

This quiet, remote harbour was raided in 1942 by the same Japanese fleet of warplanes that attacked Pearl Harbor, but more bombs were dropped on Darwin. Older Australians will remember Darwin Harbour for the air raids of WWII, but today this hot spot buzzes with the sound of people enjoying the laid-back lifestyle of Australia's northernmost harbour-side haven, on the doorstep of the outback.



Skycity



Fannie Bay

For airfares call Qantas on 13 13 13 or visit qantas.com.

For holiday packages to Darwin call Qantas Holidays on 13 14 15.

Jetstar begins services to Darwin from next month. For more information visit jetstar.com