

Major Events in the Northern Territory

Whether you're into cars or cricket, mosh-pits or mountain bikes, there's plenty to do and see in the Northern Territory.

V8 Supercars

The Darwin round of the V8 Supercars Championship is held every year at Hidden Valley Raceway. Thousands of locals and tourists flock to the raceway to see this event, usually held in early July.

BassintheGrass and BassintheDust

Thousands of young and young-at-heart Territorians rock to the sounds of national and local acts at the Territory's day-long rock festivals, BassintheGrass in the Top End and Central Australia's BassintheDust. BassintheGrass is held every dry season and BassintheDust is usually staged in September each year.

Finke Desert Race

The Finke Desert Race is Australia's fastest desert race for bikes, cars and buggies. Spectators in their thousand camp along the 235km of track from Alice Springs to Finke (Aputula Community) during the Queen's Birthday weekend celebrations on the second weekend of June.

World Solar Car Challenge

Held every two years, the World Solar Car Challenge sees a fleet of unique cars from all over the world travel the 3000 kilometres from Darwin to Adelaide – powered by the sun. The next event will be held from 21 to 28 October 2007.

Central Australian Mountain Bike Challenge

Mountain bike riders from all over Australia converge on Alice Springs every year for the Central Australian Mountain Bike Challenge. The challenge is run in seven stages over about 250 km of tough, beautiful and ever-changing terrain. Each stage finishes close to Alice Springs or nearby tourist accommodation. The 2006 event was held in May, attracting a strong field including international riders.

International Cricket

Current and future cricket stars take to the pitch at Marrara Cricket Ground every year for international cricket. International teams have included Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and, in 2006, New Zealand, India and Pakistan.

Tiwi Islands Grand Final

The Tiwi Islands Grand Final is held every March in Nguiu, the main settlement on Bathurst Island. The football is fast and skilful, and many players choose to play barefoot. An art sale is held on the island in the morning before the festivities start on the football field at around noon.

Arafura Games

Held every two years in Darwin, the Arafura Games is billed as a meeting of sporting neighbours and attracts developing athletes from the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The next event will be held from 12 to 19 May 2007 and will incorporate the Oceania Paralympic Championships.

Alice Springs Masters Games

The Alice Springs Masters Games are held every two years (even years), usually in October. Thousands of mature aged people converge on Alice Springs to take part in more than 30 sports. The Games have earned a reputation as being Australia's friendliest masters competition.

For further information, contact:

Northern Territory Major Events

GPO Box 4396 Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8999 5256
Facsimile: 08 8941 4628
Email: major.events@nt.gov.au
Website: www.majorevents.nt.gov.au

Sport and Recreation

GPO Box 1448 Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8982 2358
Facsimile: 08 8982 2306
Email: sportandrec@nt.gov.au
Website: www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au