



Arnhem Weavers Workshop

Mapuru, North-East Arnhem Land, NT

Trip 1: 3rd June —12th June, 2011

Trip 2: 22nd July —31st July, 2011

This 5-day workshop offers participants expert tuition in the skill of basket making. Our group will live with the people of Mapuru in their traditional country. We will travel to collect materials, share in bush foods, learn language, play with the children and share in their day-to-day life. This trip is a unique opportunity to connect with a community of Indigenous Australians who have remained in their country. The strength, love and dignity of the Mapuru people will deeply touch you as they guide us in learning these ancient crafts.

\$1775 Project Fee (Please see below for break down of costs)



Trip Information

Trip participants will travel to Darwin independently and meet at the YHA in Mitchell Street, Darwin . We will load everyone's gear onto our 4WD vehicle and head to John's place for a group meeting. John Greatorex is the Language Tutor for the Yolngu language Studies Program at Darwin University. John has spent the last 25 years of his life learning from and helping the people of Mapuru to maintain their culture and independence. He is a highly regarded and respected member of the Mapuru community. He will give us all a brief cultural introduction and be our guide as we travel to the community.

By early afternoon we will have our 4WD packed and begin to drive into some of the remotest parts of Arnhem Land. The scenery is amazing and it might be possible to drive through Kakadu National Park either on the way there or back. That night we will camp at one of the many beautiful sites along the way.

Late on the following day we will arrive in Mapuru and be warmly greeted by Roslyn Maljumba, who is one of the senior female weavers. That night we set up our camp (cooking, tents, camp fire) and have a good night's rest. Our workshop starts the following day - from the moment the Mapuru women gather under our weaving shelter.

The teaching is conducted as it has been for thousands of years in traditional Aboriginal communities. So we sit, we observe the techniques they use and we weave under the watchful eyes of the women. Through out the following ten days we will all share much laughter and fun with both the women and their children. Everyone on the trip will be, through cultural necessity, adopted into a Yolngu family. It will be this family that then starts to look after you as if you had been their yapa (sister) or nandi (mother) relation for years. They will guide and teach you. During the five-day workshop we can stay in camp to weave or travel away from camp to visit special places on the land and gather bush food, weaving materials, dyes for the baskets, shelter materials etc... every day will be negotiated between the balanda (white) women and the Mapuru women.

Everyone will have the chance to make at least one baskets – one a coil technique and one using a woven technique. You will also go home with materials to continue your weaving with. Extra materials, expertly made baskets and mats are also available to buy directly from the women. We will also all gain experience harvesting basket materials, collecting plant dyes and preparing the pandanas to weave.

When it is time to leave our group all gather with the women and give our money directly to Linda (Marathuwarr) who is the female elder in charge of the weaving business. All of the money we pay for our workshop goes directly to the people of Mapuru. It is the women of Mapuru who run the weaving workshops. The money we give them is then given to members of the community who need it for things such as clothes, education, food, dental work and other medical needs.

Once we have packed our camp and said our goodbyes our group then travels back in our 4WD to Darwin. We arrive back in Darwin late in the afternoon .

Key Dates

- 9th Dec 2010- TRIP INFORMTION EVENING
CERES Van Raay Centre. 6.30—8.30PM.
- 16th Dec 2010 - Deposit of fully refundable \$200 is due for those on priority list
- 23rd Dec 2010— Deposit of fully refundable \$200 is due for those contacted on the waiting list
- 1st March 2011 - Deposit of \$375 (non-refundable) to John Greaterox for Weaving Workshop
- 1st April 2011 - Payment of \$825 for food, admin, fuel and car hire is due (please pay CERES)
- On the trip 2011- Final payment of \$375 to be brought in cash to Mapuru to give directly to the women.
- April 2011 - Preparation and Briefing Sessions

** We recommend booking flights as soon as possible as they are quite cheap at the moment.

Group & Individual Expenses

\$750 per person paid to Mapuru elders (\$150 per day for expert tuition)

\$340 per person for car hire

\$685 per person for food, fuel, trailer hire, first aid, equipment, group facilitator transportation to and from Darwin, and CERES administration.

Total = \$1775

Food & Accommodation

There is **camping accommodation only** on this trip. Participants will need to bring their own tent or mosquito dome to sleep in. There are showers and enclosed pit toilets at Mapuru as well as a traditional shelter for our group to use. There is also a creek where we can swim.

Dietary requirements can be catered for. You will need to notify the trip organisers of these prior to the trip. Please note that there is no refrigeration for food.

Bookings

Deposits and payments to CERES can be made in the following ways:

Cheques: can be made to CERES (Cnr Roberts and Stewart Sts Brunswick East)

Direct Debit: If you prefer you can use a direct debit transfer. CERES' bank details are as follows:

BSB: 063 111

Account No.: 10089737

Please include your full name and Mapuru in the transfer details so that accounts knows where the money belongs.

Cash: Cash can be given to reception.

Deposits to John Greatorex can be made in the following ways:

John's bank details are:

Name - John Greatorex

BSB - 083 352

Acc no - 515 524 604

Please email Vanessa and John when you make any payments so that we know who has paid. John's email is YolnguStudies@cdu.edu.au . Vanessa—ceresglobal@ceres.org.au

We will be driving to Mapuru in two A/C Landcruiser Troop Carriers so our trip will be comfortable and safe. We will also use these vehicles to travel away from camp with the women during the workshop.

What to bring

It is important that you bring clothing that is modest and protects you from the sun and biting insects. To make the travelling to and from Mapuru as comfortable as possible, participants need to minimise the amount of personal belongings they bring so that we have enough space in and on top of the Land Cruiser Troop Carrier.

Essential gear includes:

- Mosquito dome or small tent
- Sleeping mat or swag
- Sleeping bag (summer)
- Long sleeved shirts
- Loose sleeveless tops
- Cotton pants or long skirts (Mapuru women are very modest)
- Warm top for nights
- Sandals or thongs
- Basic sneakers
- Personal first aid kit (mostly to deal with insect bites, cuts, abrasions, splinters, headaches and menstrual craps)
- Head torch and spare batteries
- Notepad and pen (for learning language)
- Day-pack or bag for when we are away from camp
- Water bottle
- Broad rimmed hat
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Toiletries, toilet paper hand sanitiser
- Adequate prescription medications
- Plenty of large darning needles (9cm) and pair of pointed scissors (put into checked in baggage)
- Personal cutlery, plate, bowl and mug
- Towel
- Board shorts and t-shirt to swim in (bathers and bikinis are not recommended)
- Small and low to the ground camping chair or back rest. Also a small pillow could be used for comfort while sitting down.
- A card to write a thank you in on the day we leave.
- You can also bring some photos of your family to give away at the end of our stay.
- The remainder of your \$375 payment for the workshop in CASH only please. This and the deposit money will be given to the women at the end of our stay.

Participants may wish to bring some extra cash to buy the women's baskets or mats. These beautiful baskets and mats range from approx \$80 - \$360 for baskets and approx \$300 - \$800 for the circular mats. It is best to bring some extra is you can afford this just in case you also fall in love with one of the baskets.

CERES will be bringing along a wilderness first aid kit and your trip will be accompanied by a CERES staff member who is trained in Wilderness First Aid, including CPR. It is advised that you notify CERES of any serious medical issues prior to going on this trip to make sure that you are supported.

Please remember that we will need to fit all of our gear on top of two 4WDs only. This will also include all of our food for the 9-day trip. PLEASE pack wisely and as lightly as possible.

Also we will be stopping the first night and camping out under the stars, so be prepared for this i.e. easy access to your sleeping gear, cutlery, toiletries, extra clothes etc.



