



# Garma 2019

Friday 2 – Monday 5 August

## INFORMATION GUIDE

**YOTHU YINDI**  
FOUNDATION

## ABOUT GARMA

Each year an estimated 2500 visitors gather & camp at Gulkula, a traditional ceremonial meeting ground, historically significant to the Yolngu people of the north east Arnhem Land. Its location is remote, forty kilometres on a dusty unsealed road from the township of Nhulunbuy.

Here, guests from all persuasions gather to experience 4 days of the Garma Festival, Australia's largest indigenous led, indigenous programmed cultural exchange. In its 21st year, guests will share ideas and learn from array of indigenous and non-indigenous speakers. They will also witness a spectacular culturally unique dance, arts & song scene, specific to the Arnhem region & the rich Arnhem Land lifestyle. Garma sets a high benchmark as we pride ourselves on showcasing the treasures of the northern territory's mighty Yolngu clans.

Garma proudly provides guests with an extensive & unique display of dance (bunggul), song (manikay), craft, art (miny'tji) & traditional indigenous knowledge. Yolngu families speak a yolngu matha dialect, & the preservation & maintenance of the local indigenous language is prominent; English being the second language for many.

Garma was included in 2014 the Best of Australian arts by the October Arts issue of the monthly magazine. The Garma bunggul is hailed as an example of one of the world's oldest musical traditions and we must do everything to recognise its enormous value to our lives as Australians.

The Garma experience is simply unique. Programming enables guests to choose from over 26 cultural activities per day over the course of this 4 day event, often you will need to choose your selection ahead of time in order to plan out your day.

Categories include music, art, dance, song, youth, language workshops, fireside chats, bush crafts, guided bush walks, astronomy, women's healing, cinema, creative writing, yolngu ceremonies, nightly lectures, poetry recitals, & a fancy dinner under the stars.

Leading our attractions is the Garma Key Forum policy discussions, a contemporary account of indigenous affairs in Australia. Garma provides pleasant cultural awareness workshops & wonderful networking opportunities where you will meet some amazing people outside the city boardrooms.

Garma is now considered Australia's equivalent of Switzerland's davos – a place for shaping policy and developing indigenous business. Garma has also become the venue for discussion and engagement on the matter for Constitutional reform, and too reconciling, educating and healing the nation's reconciliation journey. Garma's

impact on the nation is highly significant, and you will leave feeling challenged by thought.

It is a rare privilege to attend Garma & the Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF) is fiercely proud of our reputation as providing, staging & hosting one of Australia's premier Indigenous attractions. Garma has operated successfully for over 20 years, and 2019 brings a groundswell of change to provoke your thoughts and challenge your thinking.

Garma has the remarkable ability to transcend colour, creed and race, many of our supporters recognise how remarkable this unique ingredient is to shape our nation's future. Our programming will explore difficult conversations in order to find solutions to better manage a brighter future for our nation. You will not be disappointed with the dialogue, you're guaranteed to finish your day with a new perspective or often some feel inspired by keynote addresses and motivational speakers.

This is the melting pot of Australia's indigenous leaders, where the concept of time challenges you to contemplate a different line of thought. This, gathering builds momentum from within the Indigenous space unlike any other - completely determined by Indigenous people themselves.

Garma proves that indigenous Australia is vibrant, where we lead by example & use the powerful Garma platform to share with you some of the complexities that are often fraught inside communities across this nation. Our guests arrive with a mindset to absorb as much as they can through the Garma opportunity.

### [Ticketing Structure and Pricing](#)

Our ticketing structure is designed as an all-inclusive package deal. Discounts will not be issued to those who choose to attend only a portion of the event.

#### **Garma Individual Adult Tickets: \$2,503.00**

Entitles each guest access for entirety of the 4 day Garma event, inclusive of airport transfers, all meals, basic tea and coffee facilities, camping accommodation (assembled tent, sleeping bag and air mattress).

#### **Garma Individual Child & Student Tickets: \$1,513.00**

A discounted student rate is available for children, full time school and university students who hold a valid student ID. Your student ID will need to be presented upon arrival at the ticket office (N/A for children).

Entitles each guest access for entirety of the 4 day Garma event, inclusive of airport transfers, all meals, basic tea and coffee facilities, camping accommodation (assembled tent, sleeping bag and air mattress) included.

#### **Garma Corporate Tickets (Groups of 10): \$4,128.00 per person**

Corporate tickets are designed for and restricted to be purchased as for a group of ten guests in total. Corporate groups are allocated their own deluxe camping area - an environment to encourage team interaction and discussion. Additionally, all our corporate guests are invited to attend a corporate dinner function hosted by a special guest, held under the stars.

If you would like to come to Garma on a corporate pass but don't have the numbers, we are happy for you to buddy up with other organisations to make a group of 10, however this is your responsibility, and we ask you to keep the YYF Administrator informed of the details of your ultimate group make up. **We are strict with the figure of ten due to the hard bauxite foundation onsite which significantly restricts our team when placing tents.**

Entitles ticket holders to site access for entirety of the 4 day Garma event, inclusive of airport transfers, all meals, basic tea and coffee facilities, camping accommodation (assembled tent, sleeping bag and air mattress) included.

**Garma Community Ticket:** Please contact the Yothu Yindi Foundation, via email [admin@garmafestival.com.au](mailto:admin@garmafestival.com.au) for further information.

**Garma Media Ticket:** please contact the Yothu Yindi Foundation, via email [admin@garmafestival.com.au](mailto:admin@garmafestival.com.au) for further information.

See our [ticket prices](#) page for pricing, for further descriptions and instructions on how to book for Garma 2019.

## When

Garma 2019 will span for 4 days from 2 – 5 August.

The programming will extend from early Friday until late on Monday night. It is suggested that you arrive on Thursday night and leave on Tuesday morning to avoid missing out on some special programming editions unique to 2019.

## Location

The Gulkula site where Garma is held is located about 30 minutes from the township of Nhulunbuy on the Central Arnhem Highway.



## Transport

Flights into and departing Gove (Nhulunbuy) are the responsibility of each guest. You can book your flights directly through Airnorth or Qantas. However, we do recommend that you book through our official Garma Festival travel agent who is more than happy to assist you with your travel arrangements.

Brad Thomas

Entertainment Travel Partners

PO Box 439 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

T: +61 (0)2 9280 3767

F: +61 (0)2 9212 6524

E: [bradt@travelpartners.com.au](mailto:bradt@travelpartners.com.au)

W: <https://www.travelpartners.com.au/agent/brad-thomas>

Guests are encouraged to search for early bird flights to book your flights well ahead of time, to avoid last minute price hikes as Garma draws closer.

## Airport Transfers

We will provide you with airport transfers to and from Gulkula for any commercial flights arriving between the morning of Thursday 1st August and the morning of Tuesday 6 August, on the condition that you must provide your flight details within your online registration. Any additional transport required to and from the Garma site (into town or for flights outside the Garma open to public period) is not the responsibility of the Garma team. Please see below for options

## Taxis

T: 131 008 for 12-passenger mini bus taxi or 4-passenger taxi operating between the Garma site at Gulkula and the Nhulunbuy (Gove) township.

## Hire Cars

Thrifty	Kansas	Gove Rentals	Manny's Car Rental
T: 08 89 240 000	T: 08 8987 2872	T: 08 8987 1700	T: 08 89 872 300

## Road Safety

If you plan to commute to Gove via the central Arnhem highway from please take care. **A high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is essential for guests travelling this route.** Be sure to engage 4WD on all dirt roads.

Garma guests increase traffic on the Central Arnhem Highway (which is an unsealed road), reducing visibility considerably. Roads are unsealed and there are some difficult river crossings, large corrugations and roads are prone to washouts. Do not swim at the river crossings as salt water crocodiles inhabit these areas. Be particularly careful at night – buffaloes and other animals can stray on to the road.

Be sure to drive to the conditions at all times. **DO NOT SPEED!** Carry plentiful food, fuel and water, spare tyre(s) and a puncture repair kit, and a mobile phone that you can use in remote areas. A special arrangement with the Northern Land Council has been made so that your Garma ticket will also be your valid permit to drive this route. Please have your ticket on hand at all times for presentation to local authorities. Be sure to check road conditions before departure <http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/roadreport/>

**Fact - Speed limits are heavily enforced during the Garma period, last year 59 guests came home with a speeding ticket!**

## Permits

### **Northern Land Council Permits to Enter Aboriginal Land**

The Yolngu are the traditional owners of north east Arnhem Land. They are also recognised as owners of this land under Australian law through the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976. Permits are required to enter Aboriginal land.

Through a unique arrangement with the Northern Land Council who administers the permit system for this region has granted the use of your Official Garma Ticket as your permit to enter Aboriginal land.

If you intend to drive to Garma, your Official Garma Ticket only permits you to drive via the Central Arnhem Highway directly to the Gulkla festival site via the township of Nhulunbuy only, if you go beyond these points you will have to apply for a separate permit application for entry.

### **NO SIDE TRIPS ARE PERMITTED**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Northern Land Council has advised that permission will NOT be granted to travel via the Ramingining Road in 2019.

Gulkula and surrounding areas is an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), managed by Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation. Declared in March 2001 as the first IPA in the Northern Territory, the Dhimurru IPA is a part of the Australian National Reserve System of protected areas.

If you wish to visit other sites in the area, permits are required. Inquiries should be made to the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation in Nhulunbuy.

T: 08 8987 3992

F: 08 8987 3224

E: [permits@dhimurru.com.au](mailto:permits@dhimurru.com.au)

Please take care when driving, as many roads are unsealed and there are some difficult river crossings. A 4WD drive vehicle is highly recommended.

## Alcohol

### **Alcohol and other drugs**

Garma is an alcohol and drug free event. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted at the Gulkula site where Garma is held. Alcohol is also banned at Gunyangara, Birritjimi and Yirrkala communities. Penalties for taking alcohol and other drugs into restricted areas can be severe. The Yothu Yindi Foundation prides itself on delivering our event in an alcohol and drug free environment. Police sniffer dogs are on regular patrol during Garma.

## [Protocols and Conduct](#)

### **Behaviour protocols**

At Garma, you are requested to observe and work within Yolngu protocols.

- Remember you are on Yolngu land and entering Yolngu time. Yolngu perceptions, priorities and preoccupations are different from those of mainstream Australia. Be patient, and try to leave at home your expectations of how things are learnt, and how events should run. Traditionally Yolngu learn by observation, by looking and listening. Asking too many questions can be inappropriate. So, when you have questions, choose them carefully and thoughtfully.
- Respect Yolngu people's personal space, particularly in the camping areas and each individual guest's tent. Sticking to the walking paths provided is important to ensure you're not stumbling across cultural space.
- Avoid strolling around and visiting Yolngu campsites unless specifically invited and accompanied by Yolngu.
- Please exercise courtesy and sensitivity when taking photographs – seek the permission of the subjects if taking close-ups, or photographs of small groups, particularly in the women's programs and men's programs cultural and health sessions.
- Visitors should NOT leave the Gulkula site on their own and should only walk along specifically marked Festival trails. This is about showing respect for land and is also a safety issue. Wild buffalo wander this country and organisers spend considerable effort in monitoring their trails prior to Garma each year. Please ensure someone knows your travel plans.
- Treat the old people with the greatest of respect – they hold the knowledge and the power.
- Please be conscious that dress standards may often vary from what is considered acceptable at your home. By dressing conservatively, you will avoid the possibility of causing offence. Too much skin on display draws inadvertent attention and is not appropriate for this event. Schools attending the festival should advise their students of this policy. Our dress standards also protect our participants from sunburn, sunstroke and dehydration. Plan a sensible wardrobe comfortable covered shoes are a must and more so important don't forget a hat, all of these items are highly recommended for protection against our hot weather climate in the NT.

## Accommodation & Facilities



### **Camping**

Garma is intended to be bush camping experience. Camping with us onsite at Gulkula enables guests a greater opportunity to experience Garma, and its special character, purpose and essence.

Guests will be supplied their own tent, sleeping bag and single air mattress. We don't supply sheets and pillows therefore please remember to pack these items to enable a more comfortable stay.

**Note:** Although the Garma team do their best to keep guests comfortable, Garma is a “camping” experience. However, if you are not accustomed to camping in the bush you may want to consider offsite accommodation options, however please note if you elect to stay offsite, there will be no discounts given on your ticket purchase for guests who forego their camping entitlements.

### **Offsite accommodation**

Hotel/motel style accommodation is not available onsite. The nearest hotel/motel sites are located 40kms from Garma, guests who wish to stay offsite will have to arrange their own transportation to and from the festival for the duration of the event.

Accommodation facilities in Nhulunbuy are very limited.

Gove Peninsula

Walkabout Lodge

T: 08 8987 0700  
F: 08 8987 0770

T:08 8939 2000  
F: 08 8997 2322

## **Toilets and Showers**

There are operational toilets and hot showers on site.

## **Laundry**

There are no clothes washing facilities onsite. If you are adverse to dust and dirt ensure that you pack enough clothing to last you the 4 days.

Essential items to pack

- Towel (microfibre camping towels are recommended as they are quick drying)
- pillow and sheets
- torch and batteries
- toiletries
- sunscreen
- Hat (wide brimmed is recommended)
- mosquito repellent
- covered shoes
- thongs or similar
- small backpack
- drink bottle
- mobile power bank
- pen and notepad

## **Meals**

For registered guests Garma is fully catered, with three main meals a day. Please check notice boards for kitchen schedules.

The Garma team will calculate catering needs based on the registered number of guests and personnel in attendance. Vegetarians will also be catered for.

Our Caterers will make every attempt to identify ingredients that may cause allergic reactions for those with food allergies. Every effort is made to instruct our food production staff on the severity of food allergies; however, there is always a risk of contamination. There is also a possibility that manufacturers of the commercial foods we use could change the formulation at any time, without notice. Customers concerned with food allergies need to be aware of this risk. The Yothu Yindi Foundation will not assume any liability for adverse reactions to foods consumed, or items one may come in contact with while eating catered meals.

## [Garma Site Access](#)

Gulkula is the ceremonial site upon which Garma is held. The Gulkula site sits within an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). For safety reasons and permit reasons, guests are not permitted in areas outside of the marked festival site and car park.

When making your travel arrangements please note:

- Garma the event officially commences on Friday, 2 August and ends on the night of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019. So not to miss out, guests should take note that programming will extend from Friday morning well into Monday night
- Site opens to public on Thursday 1 August at 8:30 am.
- Site closure to public on Tuesday 6 August at 10:30 am.
- Guests are welcome to arrive onsite from 8:30am on Thursday 1 August until 10:30am Tuesday 6 August. All meals will be catered for during this period.

## [Disabled Access](#)

Garma is held in a remote bush location. Unfortunately, we do not have full facilities that cater for disabled guests. We do have one wheelchair access toilet and shower facility. We are currently planning to better enable and accommodate guests with special requirements in the future.

## [Accompanied Children](#)

While the organisers will do everything in their power to make the site child-friendly, the responsibility for the care and wellbeing of children lies entirely with parent/s or guardian.

Supervision responsibility sits with parents and guardians.

## [Cancellation Policy](#)

- Registrants cancelling before 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 will receive a 50% refund.
- Registrants cancelling after 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 will not receive a refund.
- Registrants cancelling with appropriate medical documentation will receive a full refund. Administration fees may be applicable.

## [Mobile Phones](#)

Telstra enables guests of Garma to remain connected over the Garma event. The site will be equipped with a Telstra charging station and a supply of prepaid Telstra SIMS cards at the Garma ticketing office.

Those wishing to use electronic devices during Garma should be aware that:

- Telstra mobile coverage will be available

- We encourage guests to switch their devices to flight mode whilst at Garma to extend battery life or bring their own portable charging power bank.
- Other power outlets are located at the ticketing office /reception and guests are encouraged to remain at reception while their device charges, as Garma staff cannot assume responsibility for any devices left unattended.
- As power outlets are always in high demand at Garma, we predict that guests will sometimes need to wait for an outlet to become available. To avoid missing out on the days' events we encourage guests charge during quiet periods such as early morning and later in the evening.

## Photography

ALL registered Garma participants agree to the conditions outlined in the [Deed of Agreement to Make a Record at Garma](#). This is a legally binding document which prevents the Garma product from being used for commercial profit for purposes not aligned with the values and priorities of the Yothu Yindi Foundation. This policy has been developed out of respect for the Yolngu clans and their families and it enables them to maintain control, for protocol and cultural sensitivity reasons, of the public use of images, e.g. not publishing images of deceased persons. This policy sets out all terms and conditions prior to participants arriving on site at Gulkula. Our Garma ticketing office will request guests sign an acknowledgement that you have read, understand and will abide by the terms of this document. Formal individual requests to use recordings and images are to be approved by the Yothu Yindi Foundation in written form and emailed to [admin@garmafestival.com.au](mailto:admin@garmafestival.com.au) stating the nature of the request.

## Climate & Wildlife

### **Climate**

The Garma festival is usually held in the Dry season month. The days can be quite warm around 31°C, evenings and early mornings can get down to around 15°C or even cooler. We have previously experienced heavy dew and fog in the mornings at the camp site. It is advisable to bring a jumper or light jacket. It is essential to keep up a high fluid intake (plain water is best) to avoid dehydration (particularly important if you are coming from the southern states) and it is recommended to wear a broad-brimmed hat to guard against sunburn. As Gulkula is near the coast, it has been known to experience occasional rain showers.

Remember to close your tent properly when leaving it, to avoid your belongings getting wet.

### **Wildlife**

Like most bushland in Australia, Gulkula has a healthy population of venomous snakes. If you see a snake, first of all do not panic, secondly do not touch or try and remove the snake yourself. Notify a Garma crew member and we will have it relocated by a qualified ranger, away from the site for our guests and the snakes'

safety.

To avoid mosquitoes, wear repellents and cover up at dusk. Generally speaking, there are not many mosquitoes but you may wish to bring a mosquito net, as individual reactions to bites vary.

Crocodiles (baru) inhabit the waters of Arnhem Land. They are not a threat at the Gulkula site which is atop an escarpment 100 metres above sea level. Caution should always be considered if venturing near water.

Sea wasps (box jelly fish) and other stingers exist in the ocean. It is highly recommended that you only enter the sea in the company and supervision of local guides. Note that there is a public swimming pool in Nhulunbuy where you will not have to worry about baru (crocodile), jellyfish or stingers.

There is also a local population of wild buffalo. If seen, do not approach under any circumstances. Buffalo are known for their short tempers and are not appreciative of being interrupted. If you see a buffalo, retreat quietly and quickly. Please let staff know immediately if you spot a buffalo so that a qualified ranger can assist the buffalo in finding a safer place for it to go about its' daily business.

## [Cash & Eftpos](#)

THERE ARE NO ATMS AT GARMA OR GOVE AIRPORT and very limited EFTPOS facilities may be available. Whilst we may have limited EFTPOS facilities for credit card transactions, we strongly urge guests to pre-empt their spending habits and bring cash to suffice. General goods (water, soft drinks, and some toiletry items), art, Garma merchandise and espresso coffee will be available for sale onsite at the Garma Shop. Nhulunbuy has supermarkets and a variety of shops and facilities.

## [First Aid](#)

A first aid service is available onsite. Any serious conditions will need to be taken to Nhulunbuy Hospital. Please advise the organisers if you have special needs or conditions.



FOUNDATION

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