

What will you discover with City of Darwin Cruises?

1. Qantas Empire Airways Terminal



In 1938, QANTAS began to operate a 10 day service between Sydney and Europe. A ticket cost more than the average yearly wage. Upon landing in Darwin Harbour, clients could be disembarked within the terminal within several minutes of landing. They would land around 2 am on the harbour.

2. Early Stokes Hill wharf



The first jetty in Port Darwin was constructed from sandstone near Fort Hill. It was called Gulnare Wharf. In 1885-6 the Railway Jetty was completed, connecting the Port to the Palmerston and Pine Creek Railway. Within a few years, the timber wharf succumbed to the ravages of teredo worms and termites and it was closed in 1898.

3. Fort Hill



In 1868 the South Australian Government, harassed by land buyers who had no title to their northern properties, appointed Goyder to survey land in the Northern Territory. He recommended Palmerston (Darwin) as the site for the capital and selected land suitable for growing tropical produce. On 21 January 1870, 60 men, women, and children stepped ashore at Fort Hill (Palmerston), pitching tents and occupying huts left by the survey. This new town, the fifth to be established in the Territory, but the only one to attain permanency, was named Palmerston.

4. Overland Telegraph



At daylight on Tuesday, 7th November 1871, several hundred men from the expedition commenced landing the shore-end from the Hibernia. The huge cable was carried to the shore in bights held up by boats, the men on shore pulling the end by means of tackle. What is believed to be the long lost 1871 undersea cable has been found by Mike Owen - the cable was landed here to meet the 2,000 mile Overland Telegraph Line to Adelaide.

5. Administrator's Residence



Built between 1870 and 1878 - office and official residence of the Administrator of the Northern Territory. It is the oldest building in the Northern Territory and still exists.

6. Knight's Folly



John George Knight was one of the most popular figures in the Territory's history. He was a successful architect in Victoria before gold lured him to the Territory in 1873. In 1884 Knight designed and had built a novel two storey residence in Moorish style, built of rammed earth. It's location, part way up the escarpment gave it a fine view over the port. The building became known as 'Knight's Folly'.

7. Lameroo Baths



The first public baths were built near Fort Hill in 1880 to give protection from sharks & crocodiles and 'stingers' in the Wet. The baths were damaged by a cyclone & in 1922 the council build new baths on Lameroo Beach. The baths were a popular amenity until the opening of the Parap pool in the 1950s.

8. WWII fuel tanks, Esplanade



After the first raids in February 1942 a dispersed network of concrete skinned fuel tanks was established along the foreshore as a more testing target for Japanese bombers. Two Oil tanks and a pump house were installed at the back of Doctor's Gully in 1943 as part of Darwin's strategic naval fuel supplies and to support the Catalina Flying Boat Base and RAAF Marine Section. 20 Squadron, 42 Squadron and 43 Squadron were all based at Doctor's Gully during the war.

9. Doctor's Gully



Named after Dr Robert Peel, surgeon with Surveyor General GW Goyder's first survey team in 1869 who found water '...in a gully between Fort Point and Point Emery', thus the name Doctor's Gully. There is a natural freshwater spring directly behind Aquascene in amongst the rainforest that was once known as Peel's Well.

10. Moo Tai Mue Chinese Fishermen's Temple



According to Alister M. Bowen 'Archaeology of the Chinese Fishing Industry in Colonial Victoria' this is the only known image of a Chinese Fishermen's Temple in Australia - it was taken before 1900 at Fishermen's Beach Palmerston. It is reported that soldiers bombed and destroyed the Fishermen's Temple - this could be a confusion of the events & temples - despite being fellow victims of Japanese aggression and atrocities there was anti-Chinese sentiment. Perhaps it was just stupidity. For whatever reasons the area was totally cleared for the Catalina Base.

11. Shou Lao Statue



Discovered in 1879 by a team of road workers removing a large Banyan tree, half way up the hill from Doctors Gully. In 1928 it was identified as an image of the Taoist immortal Shou Lao, God of Longevity. Theory that early visiting Chinese sailors deliberately placed the symbol under the Banyan tree as a gesture of sacrificial offering.

12. Chinese Market Gardens



The fresh water spring attracted Chinese brothers named Ah Cheong who became growers of Darwin's first market garden. The brothers operated the garden and supplied vegetables to Darwin residents and the hospital. They returned to China in 1920 and transferred the lease of the property to George and Stella Carroll until they were evacuated after the Japanese bombing of Darwin in 1942.

13. WWII - Catalina FBB Doctor's Gully



Between 1942 and 1943, Darwin was attacked 65 times by Japanese aeroplanes. Many vessels and over 50% of Darwin's buildings were destroyed. On February 19 1942, approx 188 attack aircraft and 54 carrier-based bombers were involved in the two raids, killing 243 people and destroying 20 military aircraft, 8 ships at anchor and numerous civil and military facilities. The Catalina air crews depended upon the RAAF Marine Section boats and crews operating in a multitude of roles.

14. Darwin's first Hospital



The cliff top above and to the west of Doctor's Gully is the site of Darwin's first hospital. The first hospital of the settlement of Palmerston (later Darwin) was built in 1874. Construction of an 89-bed hospital fronting Lambell Terrace above Cullen Bay commenced in 1941 to cater for the Darwin area population of 4,000. The new hospital opened 2 February 1942 and was bombed just 17 days later during the Bombing of Darwin.

15. Larrakeyah Baths



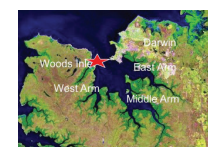
There were swimming baths below the Larrakeyah army barracks. "The Barracks swimming baths are always popular. All ranks take every opportunity to indulge in the splendid exercise of swimming and health-giving and luxurious sun-bathing." Northern Standard, Friday 27 September 1940.

16. Emery Point - HMS Beagle anchorage



In 1839, after discovering the Adelaide River, Captain Wickham anchored the Beagle in Hope Inlet at Shoal Bay - Lieutenant John Lort Stokes exploring in a small boat discovered Port Darwin which was named for their former shipmate Charles Darwin. Stokes' journal - 12th Sept. 1839 - "We moved the ship into Port Darwin anchoring just within the eastern cliffy head, which, to commemorate Lieutenant Emery's success in finding water by digging we named after him". Aboriginal name for the point is Goondal.

17. Darwin's unique harbour



Darwin Harbour - catchment of approximately 450 square kilometres (five times bigger than Sydney Harbour), including 23 square kilometres of inter-tidal mangrove and saltmarsh communities that are the most species-rich (thirty eight species) and extensive of any Northern Territory embayment.

18. Cullen Bay



Cullen Beach first appears on plans in 1913; the origin of the name is unclear as both Cullen Beach & Kahlin Beach appeared on maps. Cullen is possibly a corruption of 'Kahlin' as the name appears on plans in the Gilruth period when the Kahlin (aboriginal) compound was built. The beach could also be named after the senior partner in the firm of solicitors, Cullen and Wigley, who were based in Pine Creek during the Mining period of the 1870s.

19. Aboriginal Burial Grounds



In 1981, human remains were found during the construction of the Casino, and again in later works in 1992. Oral histories of long term residents, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal supported the findings of a coronial inquest to establish that the Mindil beach area was an Aboriginal burial ground. (Source: National Museum of Australia 2008). Aboriginal cemetery at Mindil Beach. Picture shows Tutini poles of the Pukamani ceremony erected by Tiwi people from Bathurst and Melville Islands.

20. Naming the Bays



Frances Bay is believed to be named for Frances Mary Goyder, the wife of Palmerston's (Darwin) founder - George Woodroffe Goyder. Cullen Bay empties into the wider Fannie Bay, named after Fanny Carandini, a popular opera singer of the time by members of Goyder's expedition who surveyed the present day City of Darwin in 1869.

21. Indicator Loops



With tensions between Germany and her neighbours making war seem a possibility, the Admiralty sent Commander Bannister RN - an expert on harbour defences - to Australia to advise the Naval Board on necessary defence procedures. In late 1939 an Indicator Loop system consisting of two loops was laid at Port Darwin between West Point and Dudley Point requiring some 276,000 feet of cable supplied by Cable and Wireless Ltd, Victoria Embankment, London. An anti-submarine boom was also recommended but did not begin until the end of 1940 and was not finished until the end of 1942.