



22- 28 JUNE 2026

**DARWIN**

AUSTRALIAN POLOCROSSE NATIONALS



**ROAD TO NATIONALS: TRAVELLERS GUIDE  
SEE YOU IN DARWIN!**





# WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travelling through the Northern Territory with horses is a unique journey involving long distances, remote highways and changing conditions. This guide has been developed to help competitors plan a safe, well-supported drive to Darwin for the [2026 Australian Polocrosse Nationals](#).

The map highlights the four highways into the Territory, showing indicative distances and known horse-friendly stopping points to assist with travel planning. Where possible, travellers are encouraged to pre-book accommodation and carry sufficient supplies for their travelling party.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Plan your route in advance and allow additional time for rest, weather and horse care.
- Check Northern Territory road conditions daily, as conditions can change quickly.
- Confirm opening hours, availability and facilities at horse-friendly stops before arrival.
- Let someone know your travel plans and expected arrival times.

## DRIVING & TRAVEL SAFETY

Road travel in the Northern Territory follows Australian road rules. Observe posted speed limits, wear seatbelts at all times and drive with care and consideration for other road users. Major highways are generally well maintained and suitable for most vehicles. However, conditions may vary.

Large road trains operate regularly on Territory highways. Allow extra distance when overtaking or being overtaken, and be prepared for strong wind movement as they pass.

When travelling remotely, ensure you have adequate fuel, water and supplies, along with any recovery equipment appropriate to the route and conditions.

Avoid travelling at night where possible, and plan shorter driving days to reduce fatigue for both drivers and horses.

For current road safety information, visit [nt.gov.au/driving/safety](http://nt.gov.au/driving/safety).

## REMOTE TRAVEL & COMMUNICATIONS

Large sections of the Northern Territory are remote, with limited services and mobile phone coverage outside major towns. If travelling long distances or off major routes, consider carrying or hiring a satellite phone or personal locator beacon (PLB/EPIRB).

Wi-Fi may be available at some remote visitor sites, however availability can vary and should not be relied upon for safety.

Starlink satellite internet is widely used by travellers and generally offers reliable coverage across much of the Northern Territory, providing an additional option for remote connectivity.

If you experience a breakdown, stay with your vehicle and use emergency communications if required.

## TRAVELLING WITH HORSES

- Be alert for cattle, wildlife and road trains, particularly at dawn and dusk.
- Use rest stops to check horse hydration, injuries, float condition and ventilation.
- Allow extra space and time when overtaking or being overtaken by large vehicles.

## WEATHER & ROAD CONDITIONS

Conditions can change quickly across the Territory due to cold, heat, storms or flooding. Never attempt to cross flooded roads and always follow official advice.

The event is being held in June, typically part of the Territory's dry season. While conditions are generally favourable for travel, temperatures can vary significantly between regions.

## AVERAGE JUNE TEMPERATURES

### Top End (Darwin & surrounds)

Day: 30–32 °C | Night: 19–21 °C

Dry season, low humidity, warm days and comfortable evenings. Darwin, Adelaide River, Livingstone.

### Big Rivers Region

Day: 28–31 °C | Night: 14–18 °C

Dry, warm days with cooler nights. Katherine, Mataranka, Victoria River.

### Barkly Region

Day: 25–28 °C | Night: 10–13 °C

Clear days with noticeably cooler nights. Tennant Creek, Barkly Homestead.

### Central Australia

Day: 20–24 °C | Night: 4–8 °C

Mild days with cold nights and early mornings. Alice Springs, Ti-Tree, Eralunda.



# WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## HORSE HEALTH CERTIFICATES AND WAYBILL

All horses entering the NT must have a Health Certificate and NT Polocrosse Association will sight them at the gate.

If entering from Western Australia, Queensland or New South Wales, the Certificate must be endorsed by an inspector of livestock.

Here are the details for Fred's Pass Reserve to use on the paperwork:

- Property Identification code : TKDG0562
- Address : Fred's Pass Reserve, 20 & 20A Bees Creek Road, Fred's Pass, Darwin NT.

## FIRST AID & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

When travelling long distances with horses, carry well-stocked first aid kits for both people and animals. Your horse kit should include basic wound care supplies, bandaging materials, electrolytes and any medications required for individual horses. It is recommended to speak with your veterinarian prior to departure about carrying appropriate medications for potential injuries or colic while travelling. A human first aid kit should include essential medical supplies suitable for remote travel. In isolated areas, immediate assistance may not be readily available, so being prepared to manage minor injuries or stabilise more serious situations is essential.

## FEES & BOOKING ENQUIRIES

Fees and charges may apply at horse-friendly stops, including yard or paddock use, powered sites, stabling and additional facilities. Travellers are strongly encouraged to contact each location directly prior to arrival to confirm availability, applicable charges and any specific requirements. Pre-booking is strongly recommended at all locations.

## TICK & PEST AWARENESS

The Territory includes cattle tick-affected regions and maintains strict controls around pest movement. All horses entering the Territory must be free from ticks and any declared diseases. Competitors should thoroughly inspect horses prior to departure and again when leaving overnight stops. Floats, trucks, tack and equipment should be cleaned before entering the NT to remove soil, manure and plant material that may carry pests or weed seeds. Maintaining good hygiene and inspection practices helps protect local livestock industries and event venues.

## WEED & FODDER RESTRICTIONS

The Northern Territory has strong biosecurity measures in place to prevent the spread of weeds and other pests. Before arriving in the NT, all hay and other fodder must have a permit and be free of contaminants. Avoid transporting loose fodder that may contain seeds or plant material, and store feed securely during travel. Any leftover fodder should be disposed of responsibly in designated areas to prevent contamination of surrounding land.

Weed management is taken seriously across the NT, and all travellers share responsibility in protecting local environments.

For current permit and biosecurity information, including contact details, visit:

[nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture](http://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture)



## EVENT-LEVEL BIOSECURITY

At a national event, simple biosecurity practices play an important role in protecting all horses on site. Competitors should avoid sharing water buckets, feed bins or equipment between teams. Any horse showing signs of illness should be isolated immediately and reported to event officials. All participants must follow the directions of event organisers and designated biosecurity officers while on the grounds. These measures are in place to safeguard animal welfare and ensure the smooth running of the Championships.



			FAMILY FACILITIES					HORSE			OTHER INFO.		
			Cabins / Rooms	Powered	Unpowered	Toilet/Shower	Food/Shop	Yard/Paddock	Water	Stables	Fuel	Pre-booking recommended	Phone coverage
<b>Roadhouse</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Region</b>											
<a href="#"><u>Darwin Horse and Pony Club</u></a>	0477 338 420	Top End	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Darwin Boomerang Motel &amp; Caravan Park</u></a>	0477 568 990	Top End	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Robbie Robbins Reserve Van Park</u></a>	0407 413 314	Top End	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Livingstone Reserve</u></a>	0400 272 414	Top End	Nil	-	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Adelaide River Show Society / Caravan Park</u></a>	(08) 8976 7032	Top End	Nil	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Adelaide River Tourist Park</u></a>	(08) 8976 7047	Top End	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	Y	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Katherine Showgrounds</u></a>	(08) 8972 1746	Big Rivers	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Victoria River Roadhouse</u></a>	(08) 8975 0744	Big Rivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Mataranka Homestead</u></a>	(08) 8975 4544	Big Rivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	-	Nil	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Mataranka Showgrounds</u></a>	<b>Roper Gulf Council</b> (08) 8972 9000	Big Rivers	Nil	Nil	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Territory Manor Motel &amp; Caravan Park</u></a>	(08) 8975 4516	Big Rivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Daly Waters Hi-Way Inn</u></a>	(08) 8975 9925	Barkly	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	Y	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Daly Waters Pub</u></a>	(08) 8975 9927	Barkly	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Midland Caravan Park</u></a>	(08) 8969 2037	Barkly	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Banka Banka</u></a>	(08) 8964 4511	Barkly	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Nil	Nil	Y	Nil
<a href="#"><u>Threeways Roadhouse</u></a>	(08) 8964 4539	Barkly	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Barkly Homestead</u></a>	(08) 8964 4549	Barkly	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Nil	-	Y	Limited
<a href="#"><u>Tennant Creek Turf Club</u></a>	0428 564 142	Barkly	Nil	-	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Ti-Tree Roadhouse</u></a>	(08) 8956 9741	Central	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Aileron Roadhouse</u></a>	(08) 8956 9703	Central	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Tel
<a href="#"><u>Blatherskite Park</u></a>	0439 998 381	Central	Nil	Nil	Nil	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y	Tel / Op
<a href="#"><u>Erlunda Desert Oaks</u></a>	(08) 8956 0984	Central	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	Y	Tel / Op

LEGEND: [Y] = Yes [-] = Unknown/Unconfirmed Tel = Telstra Op = Optus



All care has been taken in the preparation of this travel guide. The information provided is indicative only and is subject to change. Travellers are responsible for making their own enquiries and decisions, including checking current road conditions, weather, safety advice and facility availability prior to and during travel.