



Art Expedition with Idris Murphy Eastern MacDonnell Ranges, NT

Join artist Idris Murphy for a 7 day painting adventure and wilderness experience in the Remote Northern Territory (July 11 - 17, 2024)

NORTHERN TERRITORY

A land of stark beauty, sacred Aboriginal sites and remote wilderness areas, the Northern Territory has always stood apart from the rest of Australia. Vast deserts, wetlands, monsoonal rains, red-rock gorges, and raging rivers spark the spirit of adventure in those who visit. These same natural features enabled the local Aboriginal people to preserve their traditional way of life. Today, travellers flock here from around the world to see these spectacular sites and learn about the fascinating culture of the tribes who have thrived on this rugged land for thousands of years.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leading Australian contemporary landscape painter, Idris Murphy, is one of the most individual and highly respected artists working in Australia. Recently, he was one of the featured artists in the SBS documentary *Two Thirds Sky Artists in Desert Country*.



Murphy is a respected educator and artist who has been the driving force behind the promotion and building of a series of accommodation and studios for both Australian and International artists in the outback of NSW. Idris Murphy's work is held in the public collections of the National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, Federal Parliament House Art Collection and the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of New South Wales and the State Library of Queensland. Idris is represented by King Street Gallery, Sydney.



THE LANGUAGE OF LANDSCAPE

Idris has a deep connection with the wild, empty spaces of the Australian landscape. In his work he aims to capture its spirit rather than its physicality. Bridging the gap between figurative and abstraction, and inspired by indigenous painting and storytelling, his paintings are dreamlike, expressionistic and raw.

LANDSCAPE PAINTING WORKSHOP

The 6 day workshop focuses on painting and drawing directly from nature. Participants will improve their skills under the guidance of artist and experienced educator, Idris Murphy. During the workshop, Idris will expose the students to a variety of ideas and approaches with a mix of teaching, demonstrations and informal discussions on composition, colour, content, influences and the illusion of space, over meals in the evenings. Learn a new skill or develop new ones in a beautiful and relaxed environment. Non painting partners are very welcome.

EASTERN MACDONNELL RANGES

The MacDonnell Ranges stretch out for hundreds of kilometres on both sides of Alice Springs, like a long, craggy spine, twisting through the countryside. The traditional owners, the Arrernte people, believed giant caterpillars called the Yeperenye formed the Ranges. The area is known for its spectacular natural features, ancient petroglyphs and rugged countryside.

ACCOMMODATION | ROSS RIVER STATION

Ross River Homestead is situated 83km east of Alice Springs. Based around the original 1890's Loves Creek Homestead, this unique resort offers a variety of accommodation options for your outback experience. It was first established as an outstation of Undoolya Station and it is thought that the foreman at the nearby Arltunga Gold town built the homestead in 1898. Accommodation includes individual freestanding cabins with ensuite, reverse cycle air-conditioning, bar fridge and tea and coffee facilities. Each cabin sleeps two. There is a choice of twin share or a combination of queen and single. Meals are fully catered with dining in the historic homestead.

7 DAY LANDSCAPE PAINTING RETREAT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (JULY 11 - 17, 2024)

PRE TRIP COMMENCEMENT: WEDNESDAY JULY 10 - ARRIVE ALICE SPRINGS

Arrange to arrive the day before the workshop commencement, so you can meet with the group early the following morning. This allows for more time spent with Idris to explore the landscape.

DAY 1: THURSDAY JULY 11 - ALICE SPRINGS TO ROSS RIVER STATION

Workshop guests will meet in the carpark at the Diplomat Motel in Alice Springs at 10.30am. We will then drive in a convoy of three vehicles to Ross River Station, in the East MacDonnell Ranges. On the way we will explore some interesting landmarks, arriving at the property at 1.30pm for lunch. Just before sunset, we will drive to a spectacular lookout overlooking a striking rock formation called The Sphinx for Sundowners. Followed by dinner and drinks back at the Homestead in front of an open fire where Idris will outline the workshop content over the next 6 days.

DAY 2: FRIDAY JULY 12 - ROSS RIVER STATION

After breakfast, we travel to N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park for a full day of painting. This ruggedly beautiful landscape provides a variety of wonderful subjects to paint. It is an important archaeological and heritage site, home to thousands of prehistoric rock carvings and rare plants. Artist, Idris Murphy will walk you through the bush to find suitable painting locations and assist workshop members individually throughout the day. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided on location. Dinner and drinks in front of the fire back at the Homestead.

DAY 3: SATURDAY JULY 13 - ROSS RIVER STATION

Today we travel to Trephina Gorge Nature Park, where expansive views and a sandy creek bed can be explored via a network of short walking tracks. The largest Ghost Gum (300 years old) in Central Australia sits in the park, alone on a saltbush flat. This park has strong historic links with the early settlement of Central Australia and is a perfect painting location. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided on location. Relax in the evenings in front of the fire, over a drink and informal discussions on art with Idris.

DAY 4: SUNDAY JULY 14 - ROSS RIVER STATION

Today after breakfast Idris will give a painting demonstration, after which we will explore the landscape in and around the property. The afternoon will be spent painting in and around Bloomfield's Bluff on the property, where we will stay until sunset to capture the radiant glow of the the ranges as they change colour. In the evening enjoy a drink at the bar with Idris for informal discussions about painting.

DAY 5: MONDAY JULY 15 - ROSS RIVER STATION

Another very dramatic landscape known as The Ampitheatre will be explored this morning where there is a wide variety of things to paint and draw. Lunch is back at the homestead. And the afternoon is spent going out on site to paint with Idris.

DAY 6: TUESDAY JULY 16 - ROSS RIVER STATION

On our last day of painting, we will travel to the spectacular Seven Sisters on the Ross River property for a day of painting. Lunch will be provided on location. In the afternoon we return to the homestead for a group showing of our work. This is the perfect opportunity to ask questions and get feedback on your work. Tonight will be our last dinner together celebrating a shared creative experience and new friendships.

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY JULY 17 - ROSS RIVER STATION TO ALICE SPRINGS

After a relaxing breakfast, we will head back to Alice Springs where our guests will be transferred to the airport to meet their departing flights.

TWIN SHARE PRICE	AUD \$3,960.00
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$4,640.00
NON PARTICIPATING PARTNER	AUD \$3,340.00

INCLUSIONS:

- INDIVIDUAL TUITION BY RENOWNED LANDSCAPE ARTIST & TUTOR, IDRIS MURPHY
- TRANSFER FROM THE DIPLOMAT MOTEL, ALICE SPRINGS TO ROSS RIVER STATION & RETURN VIA THE AIRPORT
- 6 X NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION AT ROSS RIVER RESORT
- ALL MEALS INCLUDED - BREAKFAST & DINNER AT THE OLD HOMESTEAD, LUNCHESES ON LOCATION
- TRANSPORT IN 4WD VEHICLES X 7 DAYS TO PAINTING LOCATIONS
- PAINTING DEMONSTRATION & ARTIST'S CRITIQUE
- WORKSHOP HOSTED BY KERRI AINSWORTH (ART TRAVEL ADVENTURES FOUNDER)

EXCLUSIONS:

- AIRFARES & TRAVEL INSURANCE
- ALCOHOLIC & SOFT DRINKS
- ART MATERIALS

PLEASE NOTE: This workshop is not suitable for anyone with mobility issues. There is quite a bit of walking on very uneven and rocky ground.

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$500 IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING



Art Travel Adventures

Phone: +61 (0) 417 033233

info@arttraveladventures.com.au

www.arttraveladventures.com.au