

WEEKEND IN BROOME

Sultry days, tangerine sunsets...hit Broome for some tropical relief from the winter grind

WHEN that winter chill bites, there is only one direction to go. North.

Everything seems to move a bit slower in the Kimberley...or so we thought. Broome has a surprisingly busy social calendar to whip even the most party-hardened into a frenzy.

While the rest of us are hibernating in our Uggs, this is the time of year when Broome *really* heats up.

TO REV UP THE ITINERARY

Broome's racing carnival is a calendar fave: frock up for Ladies Day on August 11 or Broome Cup Day August 14. Next, if you can extend your stay, book a seat for Opera Under The Stars on August 28. This year tenor Aldo Di Toro completes the classical line-up. Heading up sooner rather than later? Don't miss a one-off concert by INXS at The Mangrove Resort Hotel on July 16.

TO CRUISE BY CAMEL

You can't have a true Broome experience without seeing Cable Beach by camelback. Red Sun Camels offers daily rides along the beach. www.redsuncamels.com.au

TO DRINK A DROP

Matso's is one of the coolest places in town, quite literally. This microbrewery specialises in beer with a twist and, dare we say it, beer for the ladies. Not a traditional beer drinker? Try these incredible concoctions – Matso's famous alcoholic Ginger Beer and the ultra-tropical Mango Beer. www.matsosbroomebrewery.com.au

TO CATCH A FILM OUTDOORS

Love an open-air cinema. Sun Pictures, opened in 1916, holds a special place in Broome's history (and our hearts). It's the world's oldest-operating outdoor cinema. www.broomemovies.com.au

TO SNAG A GIFT (TO SELF)

With its incredible pearling history, the streets of Broome are lined with big-name merchants including Kailis, Paspaley, Linneys and dozens of others. Take a tour of Cygnet Bay, Australia's oldest pearl farm. What's not to shop? www.chomleystours.com.au

TO STAY AWHILE...

Choose from caravan park to five-star luxury. Of course there's the famous Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa, but if you're travelling with a group, hire out the historic five-bedroom Captain Kennedy House. It's attached to the small boutique hotel McAlpine House, and you can wander around the gorgeous gardens and dine alfresco at its restaurant. Both are owned by Marilynne Paspaley of the pearling family. Lush. www.mcalpinehouse.com.au

LET'S GET SPIRITUAL

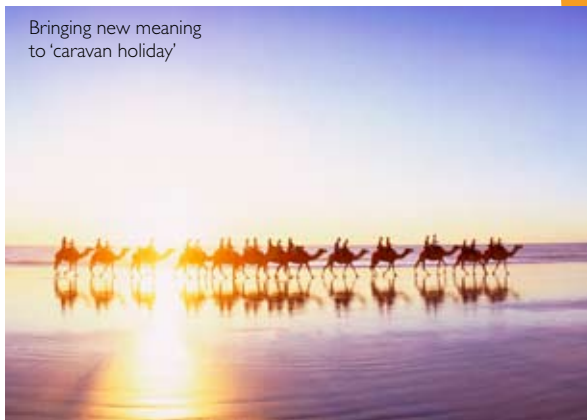
The Kimberley is a spiritual sanctuary alive with Dreamtime stories. Make Broome your base then rent a 4WD, hop on a plane or take to the water to experience a unique detour through this ruggedly beautiful and sacred region.

One Arm Point is a laid-back remote Aboriginal community three hours' drive north of Broome. Discover its incredible coastline and massive tidal flows.

Fly to the geographically stunning Buccaneer Archipelago with its thousand-odd rocky islands and sandy beaches. The impressive Horizontal Falls are at the heart of the archipelago. Explore the islands and find all kinds of treasures, including Aboriginal rock art.

Boat charter companies operate a great variety of cruises. Take a day trip aboard an authentic pearl lugger or splash out and take a catamaran on a leisurely five-day trip to Yampi Sound. www.kimberleytravel.com.au

Bringing new meaning to 'caravan holiday'



Sun Pictures cinema

