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Tourists mustering up to Home Valley Station in droves

Travellers to Australia's far North West are discovering a new destination for luxury outback adventure in 2009.

Home Valley Station, owned by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), is a working cattle station and premium tourism operation on the Gibb River Road in the East Kimberley.

The station has completed extensive renovations to provide high quality tourist facilities, placing the operation at the pinnacle of Australian outback experiences.

Combining a pastoral enterprise with world-class tourism facilities, wilderness adventures, fishing and eco-tourism packages, quality accommodation, dining and camping facilities, the completion of the significant upgrade at Home Valley Station marks a new era in pastoral based tourism in the area.

As well as all-new accommodation options, Home Valley Station enjoys a new Dusty Bar & Grill, two lagoon style pools, new reception and station store, conference facilities and a purpose built learning centre for the on-site TAFE program.

Since the completion of the works, Home Valley Station has enjoyed outstanding visitor numbers, with guests travelling from all over the world to enjoy an authentic Australian outback experience.

The station's involvement in Baz Luhrmann's epic *Australia* has also been a keen point of interest for many travellers keen to visit locations made famous by the film.

Accommodation across the station provides options for travellers of all preferences - from those who prefer their rugged outback adventure with a twist of luxury to those seeking a more intimate experience with the country.

The premium level of accommodation, the spacious Grass Castles on idyllic Bindoola Creek are lavishly appointed, providing guests with the ultimate in outback lodging (\$420 per room per night including two full Australian Breakfasts).

Homestead Guesthouse Rooms are a contemporary take on stockman's quarters which provide a comfortable retreat perfect for couples and families (\$230 per room per night).

The safari-style Eco Tents, located in a quiet bush setting, will impress those seeking to connect with nature (\$190 per room per night).

Those wishing to roll out a swag under the stars are invited to enjoy the Gibb River Road's best camping facilities at the Homestead and the picture perfect Bindoola River Bush Camp. Camping is \$15 per adult.

Home Valley Station offers an all-inclusive 3 night/4 day itinerary, called the Bindoola Experience. This luxury outback experience includes scenic air transfers from Kununurra, all touring, accommodation in a beautiful Grass Castle, and all meals for \$2950 (per person per itinerary).

Home Valley Station is a 615,000 acre outback oasis set at the base of the majestic Cockburn Range with access to several river systems and waterholes making it the perfect location for barramundi fishing, boating, canoeing and ancient gorge walks, as well as a wealth of other activities such as cattle mustering, horse riding and bird watching. It is 120km from Kununurra along the famous Gibb River Road.

The Indigenous Land Corporation acquired the pastoral lease for Home Valley Station on behalf of the traditional owner group the Balangarra people in 1997.

Part of the comprehensive development of the station has included the construction of a purpose-built learning centre for our onsite TAFE program. Home Valley Station hosts a TAFE campus for Indigenous men and women who are studying Tourism and Hospitality, as well as a range of pastoral operations. These young trainees are crucial to the daily operation of Home Valley Station, contributing to both the tourism and pastoral operations in very tangible ways. When they are not studying in the classroom, they are assisting with tours, in the Dusty Bar & Grill, in reception, looking after the stables, cattle and much more.

The charter of the ILC is to provide a sustainable project via the pastoral and tourism enterprises as well as education and employment opportunities for Indigenous men and women of the region.

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