What to do at Wildman Wilderness Lodge

Here are a bunch of fun activities that will help you learn about nature and the environment in the Northern Territory:

1. Can You Match the Animal Tracks?
2. Create a Leaf or Bark Rubbing
3. Find Direction Without a Compass
4. Nighttime Star Method
5. Create a Nature Collage
6. Listen to Nature
7. Find-a-Word
Can You Match the Animal Tracks?

Walk around the Lodge and look around for animal tracks. Muddy or damp ground near water, or dry and sandy ground is especially good because it leaves a clear imprint of the animals track. Think about where animals get their food and water, and where they live. See if you can recognise the tracks on the list and check the boxes when you find them.

Try drawing the tracks yourself!
Create a Leaf or Bark Rubbing

Trees provide food and shelter for animals and humans. They’re also a great way to make art! Go outside and collect some leaves. Get out your crayons, coloured pencils of pens and turn place a leaf on a clipboard or table. Put a piece of paper over it, and rub the crayon, pencil or pen across the paper. You will see the pattern of the leaf or object you placed under the paper come through to create a beautiful piece of art.

Things You’ll Need:

- Paper
- Crayons, pens, or coloured pencils
- Leaves
- Hard surface

You’ll begin to see the form of the leaf. You can try different leaves and colours to make a real piece of art. You could also put a piece of paper on the side of a tree to make a rubbing of the bark.
Find Direction Without a Compass

The Earth has a magnetic field that allows the needle of a compass to point north so you can always find your direction. But what if you don’t have a compass? Here is a way to find your direction without one.

Things You’ll Need:
- Analog Watch (One with both hour and minute hands)
- Sun

Put the watch on the ground or on a flat surface. Point the 12 o’clock marking at the sun and imagine there is a line down the middle of the angle between the 12 o’clock mark and the hour hand. The line down the middle of the angle is pointing North; once you have found North you can work out where East, South, and West is.
Nighttime Star Finding

In the night sky we can see lots of stars and some of them make up constellations. Australia’s most famous constellation is called the ‘Southern Cross’, it’s the group of stars on the Australian flag.

See if you can spot it!
Create a Nature Collage

One thing you can do to make your day at Wildman Wilderness Lodge memorable is to create a nature collage out of things you gather while you’re outdoors exploring!

Go for a walk outside and as you go, find nice looking things that you can glue onto your paper. These can be anything you might find and like such as leaves, twigs, feathers, shells, small rocks. When you get back, lay down a piece of paper and glue the items in a way that you think looks good. You can also draw or make rubbings of things to add to your collage!

**Things you’ll need:**

- **Basket or plastic bag for collecting materials**
- **Construction paper or cardboard**
- **Glue**

Stick a sample of something you’ve collected in the box below!
Listen To Nature

Nature can be very noisy, but in a different way than the sounds of humans. Birds and other animals use their calls to communicate with one another. Some animals make deep, growling or barking sounds to warn you to stay away, while others make loud sounds to let you know you’re in their territory. Some animals cry out when danger approaches. Even though you mean them no harm they will presume you are a danger to them because you are often bigger than them. Some other animals sing and make happy sounds to attract friends.

You can have an interesting experience by just listening to nature. Go outside and find a spot to stand or sit. Sit quietly for 5 or 10 minutes and listen for the sounds of nature. You’ll probably hear the wind in the trees even if you can’t feel it, as well as birds, insects and other animals. Tune out any man-made sounds like talking and walking and keep notes on what you hear. Try to identify what makes each sound, then compare your notes with a friend.

There is space on the next page to make a list of what sounds you heard and what you think made the sound.
List the sounds and what you think made them:

1. ___________________________________________
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