



Family Adventure



Make your first destination the Alice Springs Desert Park. Situated on Larapinta Drive, the Desert Park is a 'must see' for every visitor to the Red Centre. Spot rare and endangered animals in the low light of the nocturnal house and dodge the star attractions at the 'free-flying birds of prey' show. Here you will see the desert come to life! Walk along the 1.6 kilometre trail and experience 3 separate habitat areas within the park. There are also informative talks throughout the day, including a presentation on Aboriginal Survival. Enjoy the park at your leisure, and then relax with some refreshments at the onsite café.

Make your way to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and get your body moving on a mountain bike tour, leaving from the Trail Station. Tours leave at 2:30pm daily and are led by an experienced local rider, all gear provided.

Join a sunset camel tour at Pyndan Camel Tracks for tonight's adventure. A camel ride will be an experience you will want to tell your friends about. The camel ride starts at Pyndan Camel Tracks yard, through White Gums Station and follows an avenue of Iron Bark and Mulga trees across a clay pan flat and climbs a slight incline to get sweeping views across the MacDonnell Ranges. You will be led on your ride by one of Pyndan's camel experts who will tell you more about these iconic animals.





Today, visit the Alice Springs School of the Air Visitor Centre. The centre showcases the fascinating innovations of this uniquely Australian school. Known colloquially as the 'world's largest classroom', Alice Springs School of the Air has delivered education to remote Australia since 1951 and services an area of over 1.3 million square kilometres. The visitor experience includes a film and guided presentations that reveal stories about the school, its students and their distinctive outback lifestyles.

Next stop is the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Get amongst the interactive displays and step inside a full-sized replica on a modern PC-12 airplane, part of the exciting new collection. Here, you will gain an insight into the iconic Australian outback service established by pioneers in 1928.

It is now time to get up close and personal with some of the Northern Territory's favourite wildlife at the Reptile Centre, which is home to the largest reptile display in Central Australia. Here you will get to meet Terry the Saltwater Crocodile, see huge perentie goannas, thorny devils, frill-neck lizards and some of the world's most venomous snakes. Join one of the daily shows to learn more about some lizards and pythons, which is followed by a supervised handling session.

To finish off the day, make the most of the clear skies in the Red Centre and gaze at the thousands of stars overhead at the Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre. Learn how to navigate and identify the zodiac and constellations in the night sky and hear ancient aboriginal stories of creation.

Today, get to know the outskirts of Alice Springs and hit the road heading west. Drive 18 kilometres west of Alice Springs along Larapinta Road to Simpsons Gap, which is an impressive opening between the towering cliffs of the West MacDonnell Ranges. The area is also an important spiritual site to the Arrernte Aboriginal people, where several dreaming trails and stories cross. Continue along Larapinta Drive, turning right at Namatjira Drive.

Approximately 80km along the Drive you will arrive at Glen Helen Homestead Lodge. The landscape around Glen Helen is truly spectacular with towering sandstone walls greeting you as you arrive. Enjoy your lunch teamed with a cold drink as you relax on the back verandah of the restored homestead overlooking the majestic Glen Helen Gorge.

Return 10km to Ormiston Gorge and Pound. This is a great place for a cool dip in the near permanent waterhole surrounded by the towering red walls of the gorge. Take in the beautiful local birdlife and admire the amazing Central Australian landscapes. Enjoy a short walk with the 20-minute trek to the Ghost Gum Lookout. This is a must-do and is most popular with visitors, the view across the Gorge and down into the waterhole is a sight to behold. Enjoy some light refreshments at the on-site kiosk before making your way back east towards Alice Springs.

Stop over at Ellery Creek Big Hole where you can enjoy a refreshing swim. This location is one of the most popular and picturesque camping, swimming and picnic spots in the region, and you will understand why when you set eyes on the spectacular waterhole surrounded by high red cliffs and the sandy creek.





A visit to the top of Anzac Hill is a must-do for a panoramic view of the town. Sunrise is the perfect time to do this, as you watch the sun slowly rise to light up the MacDonnell Ranges and beautiful desert town below. You can drive your car to the top, or if you are feeling active, you can walk to the top via the 'Lions Walk'.

You've experienced the west and now it's time to check out the East MacDonnell Ranges. Don't forget to pack some lunch! See Aboriginal rock paintings at Emily Gap, an Aboriginal sacred site 14 km from Alice Springs. The paintings tell the local Arrernte people's story of the caterpillar dreaming, which describes how Alice Springs was formed. A further 10 minutes along the Ross Highway is Jessie Gap another Aboriginal rock art site. Take the five-minute walk into the gap along a shady creek to see the sacred paintings on the gap wall. Interpretive signage explains the stories of the paintings.

Further along the Ross Highway turn off at Trepina Gorge Nature Park. It's known for its walking trails, Aboriginal rock art, dramatic ridges and bluffs, and its two excellent, shady campgrounds. Take the easy 500-metre return stroll down to the gorge and its semi-permanent waterhole or the 20-minute walk to the lookout for views of the dramatic gorgeous country.

Head back to Alice Springs and enjoy some dinner at one of the many restaurants the town has on offer.