



# Heading North

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Your first stop along the way on your journey North, is the Tropic of Capricorn, just 30 kilometres north of Alice Springs. Be sure to get a photo taken next to the unique marker which was designed by a local Alice Springs man to mark Australia's bicentenary.

Stop in next at Gemtree Caravan Park & Gemstone Fossicking. Gemtree is a true oasis in the mulga country and the gateway to the Central Australia gem fields. Join in on a fossicking tour and try your luck at finding your own gems.

Jump back on the Stuart Hwy for another 138kms until reaching the mighty Anmatjere man, woman and child, an absolute must see on your trip. The impressive sculptures stand at 17 metres high and weigh up to 8 tonnes. The sculptures represent the Aboriginal people overlooking Aileron, a welcome rest stop offering meals, accommodation and fuel.

Back on the road again, take in the beautiful desert scenery as you travel north. Your next rest stop is the Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve. Stop awhile and stretch your legs – you are standing in the dead centre of Australia! Visit the historical reserve that commemorates John McDouall Stuart's discovery of the Centre of Australia.

Continue onto Wycliffe Well, a very unique outback town well worth the pit stop. Known as the UFO Capital of Australia for its hundreds of reported UFO sightings - look to the skies to see if you can spot anything unusual. Hang out in the roadhouse and enjoy some refreshments as you read about the details of paranormal sightings across the shop walls and from the Wycliffe Well Guest book, where many visitors document their encounters. It is the perfect place to pick up a souvenir or two.

Drive on to the Wauchope Hotel, where you will stay tonight. Just before sundown tonight make your way to the Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve to witness a spectacular Central Australian sunset over the mysterious giant boulders. These ancient rock formations seem to have dropped from the skies, appearing to defy gravity. They hold a great significance for the Aboriginal people and are the subject of many Dreamtime stories. Head back to the Wauchope Hotel tonight to enjoy an excellent meal at their restaurant. Be sure to check out their extensive wine cellar and indulge in night cap before bed.



Wake early, to spend your morning exploring Tennant Creek just 105 kilometres north of the Devils Marbles.

Check out the Battery Hill Mining Centre, where you can noodle for your own gold! Learn all about the outback gold rush of the 1930's and get a glimpse of what it was like living in Tennant Creek during that era. Check out the world class minerals display and the museum display 'Freedom, Fortitude and Flies, which looks at social life at the goldfields throughout that time.

Check out one of the local bakeries or cafés for a snack before making your way to the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station. The historic building played a significant role in the late 1800's when the Overland Telegraph Line was being constructed and provided a refuge for linesman and travelers alike from the harsh surrounds. If you want to explore inside the historic buildings make sure you ask for the key from the Battery Hill Mining Centre.

Relax with lunch today down at the popular man-made lake, Tingkarli/ Lake Mary Ann. This spot is a cool oasis just 5 kilometres north of Tennant Creek and provides a great area for swimming or canoeing. If you are feeling active, check out one of the walking paths around the lake, one of which winds its way through the beautiful Honeymoon Ranges.

This afternoon you will embark on a bush camping adventure to Longreach Waterhole near Elliott, just 3 hours north of Tennant Creek. The town itself is smack bang in the middle of the Northern Territory. To get to Longreach Waterhole, turn south west of Stuart Highway 1 kilometre north of Elliott, and then drive 12 kilometres to find the camping area on the bank of Newcastle Waters. Have your camera handy today as the area is a birdwatcher's paradise with thousands of birds of many different varieties calling this glorious location home.

Set up your camp ready for the evening, before perching yourself lakeside with a rod and reel and try your luck at catching dinner for tonight. Enjoy your packed dinner tonight while watching a stunning sunset across the glassy waters of the waterhole and raising your glass to a great week of outback adventures.



After an amazing night of camping in the bush, pack up your car and jump back onto the Stuart Highway. Your next suggested stop is the small township of Daly Waters. With amazing character, a great pub with meals and a swimming pool, and a large camping area, you are set for a relaxing day as you start to feel the weather change from dry to humid.

From Daly Waters head to Mataranka, your freshwater haven with stunning thermal pools. Visit the Cutta Cutta Limestone Cave, swim in Bitter Springs and Thermal Pools, pop into the Museum and Art gallery.

From Mataranka, drive 1 hour and reach the town of Katherine. Here you will find the Nitmiluk National Park which extends north to Kakadu National Park and is part of the magnificent Arnhem Land escarpment. Katherine Gorge consists of 13 ancient sandstone gorges carved out by the Katherine River and it's only half an hours' drive from Katherine. There are many ways to view the Gorge; boat cruises, canoe hire, hiking, plane and helicopter. The best choice in our view is to see the Gorge change colour during sunset while partaking in fine dining on the Dinner Cruise.

After spending the night in Katherine, jump back on the road heading for the old gold rush mining town of Pine Creek. Spend the night and next day visiting the historic railway heritage museum and take in the stunning views from the lookout. Stop in for a swim at Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park, an isolated gorge with steep red cliffs. Drop into the natural springs of Douglas Daly Hot Springs. Take a shaded riverine walk along Butterfly Gorge Nature Park (seasonal & 4WD only). See the amazing natural formation at 'The Arches' and the waterhole.

From here, there are many choices to visit: Kakadu National Park, Darwin city and surrounds, and Litchfield and surrounds. Enjoy your onward journey throughout the Top End!

