



Heading South



After an amazing time spent in Alice Springs, it's time to hit the road and head down south!

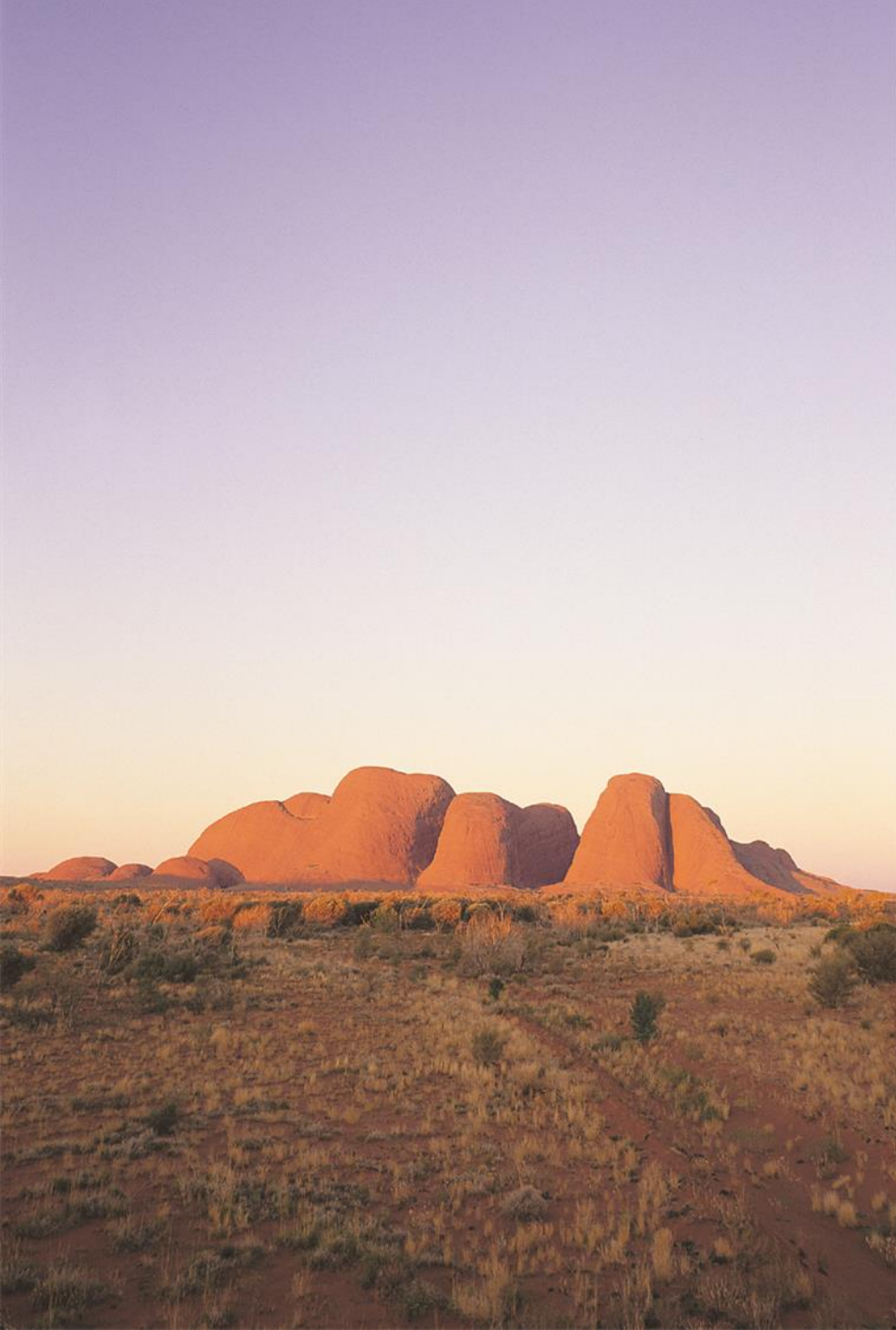
Jump on the Stuart Highway and make your way towards Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Along the way make rest stops at Stuarts Well, Erldunda Roadhouse and Curtin Springs – all fully equipped with fuel, food and drinks, facilities and stunning views. The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre is a great place to start your exploration of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. At the Centre you will find lots of information about activities in the park as well as an introduction to Anangu culture.

The Anangu people are Uluru's traditional custodians and have lived in the area for at least 22,000 years. At the Centre you can purchase Anangu art, watch craft demonstrations, or join a bush tucker session and guided walk.

There are many ways to see Uluru. Check out The Mala Walk, which is wheelchair-friendly, and takes you to the caves of the Mala people and to the sacred Kantju Gorge, a quiet waterhole at the base of a dramatic rock face. Only 90 minutes (return), along the way you will also see examples of Anangu rock art and learn about their creation beliefs.

Places to stay are all within the Ayers Rock Resort. Choose from self-contained apartments, hotels, a five-star luxury wilderness camp, backpacker rooms or a campground with sites and cabins. Try a new dining option every night, such as the open-air barbecue where you can buy and cook your own steak.





Wake up early the next day and make your way to the impressive Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), meaning 'many heads' and is a series of enormous rock domes that date back 500 million years. Find out just how ancient and imposing the domes are by tackling one of the two popular walking tracks. The Walpa Gorge Walk is an easy walk which takes approximately an hour return and follows a stream to a grove of flourishing spearwood. The famed Valley of the Winds walk is a moderately difficult 7.4-kilometre circuit which weaves through the immense domes and treats you to spectacular views over the desert plains from its two lookout points. Spend the rest of the day partaking in the various activities on offer including camel rides, Segway tours, cultural tours, skydiving, motorcycle tours, cycling, helicopter tours and scenic flights.

Finish off the evening at the Sunset viewing area at either Uluru or Kata Tjuta and observe the sun go down over the spectacular Central Australian landscape.



It's time to continue down south. This means jumping back on the Lasseters Hwy and continuing on to reach the Stuart Hwy again. Today is a massive day with 734km to cover to reach your next destination: Coober Pedy.

Your stops along the way include Kulgera where the first and last pub, the Kulgera Roadhouse with all your needs is at the ready and Marla where you can stop in at the Marla Travellers Rest to fill up on fuel, grab a bite to eat and stretch the legs.

Congratulations! You've made it to the unique town of Coober Pedy. In the mining outpost of Coober Pedy, half the population lives in underground dugouts to escape high temperatures, especially in summer. Be ready to find underground hotels, restaurants, bars, an underground church, and a golf course without a blade of grass. We recommend spending the night in one of the underground hotels.

Spend the day exploring all that Coober Pedy has to offer. Try your luck at "noodling" (fossicking) at various spots around town; get a great insight into the history of Coober Pedy at the Old Timers Mine and Museum or Umoona Opal Mine and Museum. Jump in on a town tour and check out the underground homes, opal mines, art gallery and pottery. There's also a host of awesome natural landscapes, including the Painted Desert, the Moon Plain and the Breakaways. The Breakaways is located just half an hour north of Coober Pedy.

From Coober Pedy you are spoilt with destinations to visit including the likes of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park, Mount Remarkable National Park and Innamincka Regional Reserve to name a few.