

**FREE**

# 4WD GUIDE

## CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



Hema Maps • Day Trips & Multi Day Trips • Tips & Information



# CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Journey to a part of Australia where blue skies and breathtaking landscapes make driving a pleasure and have a true outback adventure.

Traverse some of the country's most iconic touring routes, bringing together a world of ancient art and culture, pioneering history, rare wildlife and stunning sunsets.

Experience the Red Centre at your own pace with accommodation options dotted along the highways and hundreds of picturesque campsites waiting to welcome you. With a go-anywhere four-wheel drive, the region is yours to explore.

This guide showcases a range of the four-wheel-drive experiences in Central Australia and contains important safety information.

You'll also find maps of the regions, though these are basic guides only. It is strongly advised that you pack a

reliable and detailed road atlas, GPS or App.

Before setting off, be sure to read the safety and driving tips and prepare thoroughly. Once on the road, be sure to leave the landscape as you found it. As the saying goes "Take only photos, leave only footprints."

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## APPS AND WEBSITES FOR REFERENCE

### Hema Maps, Guides and Digital Navigation

Visit [hemamaps.com](http://hemamaps.com)  
Download from the App Store of Google Play.



#### Hema Explorer

Plan, navigate and share your 4WD adventures.



#### Hema 4WD Maps App

Hema Australia offline map collection.



#### ExploreOz Traveller

A navigation, mapping and tracking App.



#### WikiCamps Australia

User generated database of campgrounds.



#### Memory-Map

Provides free access to 1:250,000 scale topographic maps.



#### Outback 4WD Club

The Outback 4WD Club welcomes guests and new members. Contact them by visiting [outback4wdclub.com.au](http://outback4wdclub.com.au) or check out their Facebook page [facebook.com/Outback4WDClub/](https://www.facebook.com/Outback4WDClub/)



#### Territory Parks

Activities and events in the NT National Parks download the Territory Parks Alive brochure at: [nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/activities-and-events-in-parks/wild-time-alice-springs-region](http://nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/activities-and-events-in-parks/wild-time-alice-springs-region)



#### Festivals and Events

A wide and varied range of festivals and events are held in Central Australia.

Visit [northernterritory.com/things-to-do/festivals-and-events](http://northernterritory.com/things-to-do/festivals-and-events) to find an event that will suit you.



#### Red Centre Art Trails

To experience the art of the region the Red Centre Art Trails highlights the amazing art attractions and events.

Visit [discovercentralaustralia.com/experience-attractions/art-galleries](http://discovercentralaustralia.com/experience-attractions/art-galleries) to download the free booklet or collect a copy from the Alice Springs Visitor Centre.

Download the free App from the App Store of Google Play.

## DRIVING TIPS & INFO

- Enhance vehicle handling on the gravel by reducing the tyre pressures. Drive 4WD vehicles at reduced speeds on unsealed roads. Dust will limit your visibility; take care when overtaking especially road trains. Do not travel on four-wheel drive tracks in a two-wheel drive vehicle.

- The default speed limit on open roads in the Northern Territory is 110 km/hour unless otherwise signposted. On the Stuart, Victoria, Barkly and Arnhem Highways the speed limit is 130 km/hour where signposted. Take care when driving and drive to your capabilities and the prevailing conditions.

- The legal blood alcohol level for drivers holding a standard vehicle licence is 0.05 blood alcohol concentration, however the safest level is zero.

- If you're not used to driving long distances in high temperatures, you could be affected by driver fatigue. Ensure you stop for 15 minute breaks every two hours, change drivers, take a walk and drink plenty of water. Rest stops are located at regular intervals on highways.

- Seatbelts save lives and reduce injury to you and others in your

vehicle. Drivers are responsible for ensuring everyone in the vehicle wears their seatbelt.

- Avoid driving at dawn or dusk as stock and wildlife cross many Territory roads at these times. Driving at night is also dangerous, and often voids any car hire insurance. If an animal crosses in front of you, reduce your speed safely and do not swerve suddenly.

- Road trains up to 53m long are common on Territory roads and it can take at least 2.5 kilometres to overtake one at 100 km/h. Ensure you can see sufficient clear road ahead before overtaking and take care not to veer off the road.

- Drivers towing caravans must leave at least 200m between vehicles to allow others, including road trains, to overtake safely.

- Temperatures through the Northern Territory can be very warm to hot. When bushwalking carry enough water to allow for consumption of 1 litre per hour to avoid dehydration.

- If you are not travelling through a National Park then you are likely to be travelling through a pastoral property, someone else's backyard.

- Please consider the land owner and your actions.

- Stay on the tracks.

- Camp only in designated areas or with the permission of the land owner.

- Use public toilet facilities if you can. If a public toilet is not available please dig a deep hole away from any waterline and burn any toilet paper and fill in the hole.

- Take all rubbish to the nearest town to dispose of.

- Do not use any soap or detergents in or near waterholes, stock watering points or artesian springs.

- Certain areas of the Northern Territory are designated Aboriginal land and a permit is required before entering. The permit system is designed to help protect the privacy of Aboriginal communities, preserve Aboriginal culture, safeguard the natural environment and promote visitor safety. Permits are issued through land councils that act on behalf of traditional owners. A minimum of 10 working days must be allowed for processing of a permit. See the contacts page for full details for Central Land Council.

## THEMED TOURIST DRIVES

The iconic drives of the Northern Territory showcase the natural diversity and ancient culture of this vast and spectacular region. These roads explore routes made famous by explorers and stockmen, uncover Aboriginal rock art and rare wildlife.

Enjoy some of the themed tourist drives that travel through Central Australia.

### EXPLORERS WAY

Follow in the footsteps of one of Australia's most famous explorer, John McDouall Stuart, on a trail first blazed in the 1860s. Explorers Way



passes through a veritable showcase of the Northern Territory's diverse landscapes and rich indigenous culture.

Explorers Way is 3000 km of sealed highway between Adelaide and Darwin.

### RED CENTRE WAY

Explore a veritable roll call of stunning locations from Alice Springs and the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell Ranges, to Watarrka/Kings Canyon and majestic Uluru/Ayers Rock and Kata Tjuta/The Olgas.

Kick things off in Alice Springs, a thriving, spirited outback centre, famous for the personality of its locals along with contemporary and traditional art and culture. Then load up and hit the road stopping by the West MacDonnell Ranges for a walk in ancient gorges and a swim in one of the permanent waterholes.

Journey south by four-wheel drive to the mighty Kings Canyon in Watarrka National Park. Walk through soaring



red cliffs and discover lush forests buried deep in the folds of the canyon.

The Red Centre Way sealed road option takes you via the Stuart Highway south of Alice Springs. Travel the Lasseters Highway and Luritja Roads to Kings Canyon.

Driving south the anticipation builds as you approach one of the world's great wonders, Uluru/Ayers Rock. See the famous monolith appear on the horizon, its spectacular colours changing as another day closes on this epic drive.

Spend some time learning about the Anangu people, custodians of this

World Heritage-listed national park, and take one of the guided walks on offer. Witness ancient rock art and hear the Dreamtime stories of this spiritual land.

Not to be outdone, Kata Tjuta/The Olgas will astound you with breathtaking sunsets and photographic opportunities. Swap the car for a helicopter and take a scenic flight over these ochre-coloured rock domes.

### BINNS TRACK

Traverse the spectacular nature reserves of the Australian Outback on a drive that ventures off the beaten track.



The Binns Track, named after legendary park ranger Bill Binns, is a rugged and rewarding drive covering 2190 km through Central Australia and beyond.

Embark on an epic journey that rates as one of the top four-wheel drive experiences in the country. Starting at Mt Dare, adjacent to the Northern Territory and South Australian border, the track weaves north through the Red Centre towards the Top End tropics and Timber Creek.

Tackle the first leg through the rolling sand dunes of the Simpson Desert, stop in for some pioneering history at Old Andado, and learn the well-kept secrets of the East

MacDonnell Ranges. Then head along the highway towards Gemtree to try your luck fossicking for semi-precious stones.

From here you are treated to off-road driving through cattle country tracks linking the rugged folds of the stunning Davenport Ranges for camping and swimming. Visit the Aboriginal sacred site of Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve - rare and wonderful rock formations that provide unforgettable sunsets.

Journey north from Tennant Creek, following Explorers Way, before branching off west to Judbarra/Gregory National Park. The park has a range of four-wheel drive tracks including the Humbert River, Wickham and Gibbie Tracks and is renowned for its sandstone escarpments and plunging gorges. Check with the Parks and Wildlife Service about access due to seasonal flooding from November to May.

Branch off at Top Springs for a sensational side trip to Kalkarindji, the famous Wave Hill walk off site. The Binns Track finishes at Timber Creek, a perfect spot to unwind with a boat cruise or a spot of fishing on the Victoria River.



## OUTBACK WAY

The Outback Way is Australia's longest shortcut and the world's longest geocache trail linking Perth to Cairns, crossing through the Red Centre. The Outback Way is an adventure of the greatest kind, passing through remote regions with unsealed roads that are best travelled in high-clearance four-wheel drives. The route can be challenging, but the landscapes, colours and night skies are legendary.

In the NT, the Outback Way comes in west of Kata Tjuta/The Olgas, entering Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and from the Queensland border just east of Tobermory on the Plenty Highway. The drive is an alternative route around central Australia, taking in Uluru/Ayers Rock and Mt Conner and passing through Alice Springs before turning off onto the Plenty Highway where you can enjoy fossicking at Gemtree. Here it links with the Binns Track and Sandover Highway. Stop at Atitjere/Harts Range community, and marvel at the landscape as you travel east to the Queensland border.

## OVERLANDERS WAY

Mount up and prepare to experience the incredible cattle country of Outback Australia. Traversing the Barkly Tablelands from Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory to Townsville on the Queensland coast, this iconic drive takes in the vast horizons of the Barkly and Flinders Highways.

Journeying into the Barkly Tablelands is a great way to comprehend the vastness and beauty of the Australian Outback. This mighty grazing region is still considered the heart of the Northern Territory's cattle country, with some cattle stations the size of small European countries.

This part of the world presents a canvas of changing colours and never-ending horizons and is the driving opportunity of a lifetime. Drink 'billy tea' by the roadside and wave to passing road trains as you slowly unwind and immerse yourself in the land of the stockmen.

The Overlanders Way follows a sealed highway and covers 1550 km. Note: the Barkly Homestead is one of few fuel outlets on the drive and high winds may dramatically affect fuel consumption.

## CHECKLIST

It is essential your vehicle is mechanically sound. Ensure you know how to check your vehicle over and how to use the equipment.

### VEHICLE

- Recovery kit including long handle shovel, snatch strap (properly rated for the vehicle) with load-rated shackles and preferably a winch
- Two spare tyres with wheel brace, jack including jack plate etc
- Tyre repair kit with spare tyre valves and caps
- Air compressor including air pressure gauge
- Tool kit
- Spare parts (hoses, belts, fuses etc)
- Fire extinguisher
- Comprehensive 'remote area' first-aid kit (Do an accredited first aid course prior to travelling)
- Recovery treds / tracks
- Electric or hand-operated winch
- Bull bar
- Driving lights
- Dual battery system
- Long-range fuel tank/jerry cans
- Water tank / containers

### OPTIONAL

- Tyre deflator
- Modified suspension
- Underbody protection
- Cargo barrier/drawer system
- Snorkel
- Diff breathers

### COMMUNICATIONS

- UHF radio
- HF radio
- Satellite phone
- Distress / Emergency beacon / EPIRB (Optional if have satellite phone)
- Mobile phone

### NAVIGATION

- Road atlas / 4X4 maps / Topographic maps
- Compass/ruler

### Optional

- GPS receiver
- Satnav device
- Mapping software



## Looking for off-road supplies?

Receive a **\$20 discount** off any product in store at **TJM Alice Springs / Central Comms - Alice Springs**

Present this voucher at:

TJM Alice Springs / Central Comms  
5 Whittaker Street  
Alice Springs NT 0870  
Tel: 08 8952 2388

Discount Voucher conditions:

Excludes satellite phone airtime. Valid until 1 July 2020. Original document must be presented and surrendered. Only one voucher per purchase. Valid at TJM Alice Springs / Central Comms - Alice Springs store only. Your post code or country of origin will be collected on redeeming the voucher.



## Looking for off road supplies?

Present this voucher to score **10% off any product** purchased at **ARB Alice Springs!**

Present this voucher at:

ARB Alice Springs  
30 Stuart Highway  
Alice Springs NT 0870  
Tel: 08 8953 0572

Discount Voucher Conditions:

Valid for retail purchasers only – no account customers. Does not apply to fitting/labour/colour coding charges etc. Not valid at any other ARB store or stockist. Original document must be presented and surrendered at time of order. Only one voucher per purchase. Not valid in combination with any other promotion or sale/clearance items. Valid for orders placed before COB Tuesday 30th of June, 2020. Your post code or country of origin will be collected on redeeming the voucher.



Simpson Gap

# 4WD ROUTES BY REGION

## THE 5 REGIONS

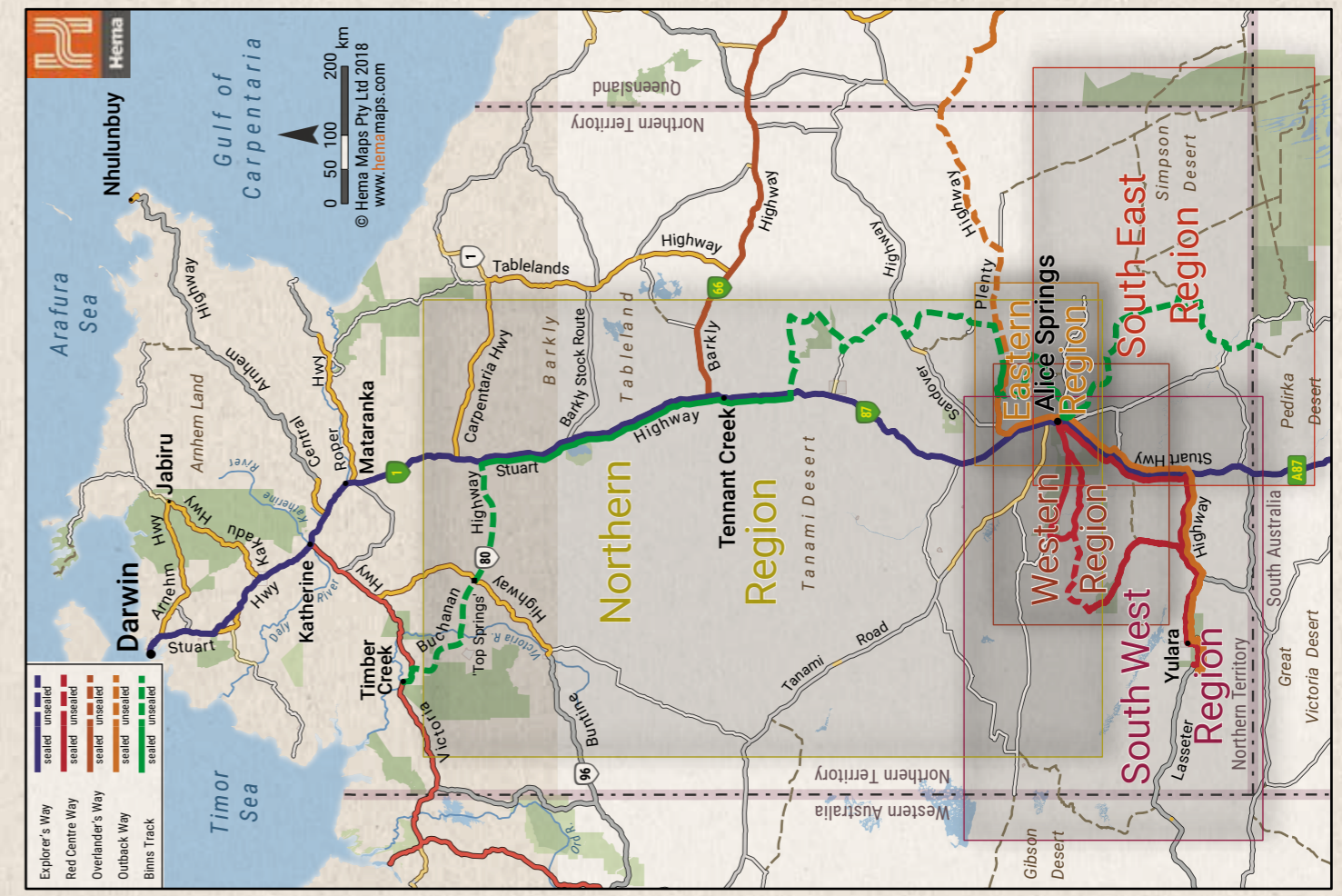
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**NORTHERN**  
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# WESTERN REGION

West of Alice Springs is a region bursting with colour, ancient and exotic landscapes and where lush forests survive deep in the folds of mighty rock formations. Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park offers great camping adventures with swimming holes and world-class hiking trails. Tackle the remote scenery of the Finke Gorge National Park and visit Hermannsburg Historic Precinct, home of the famous Aboriginal watercolourist Albert Namatjira.



Tjoritja / West MacDonnell Ranges

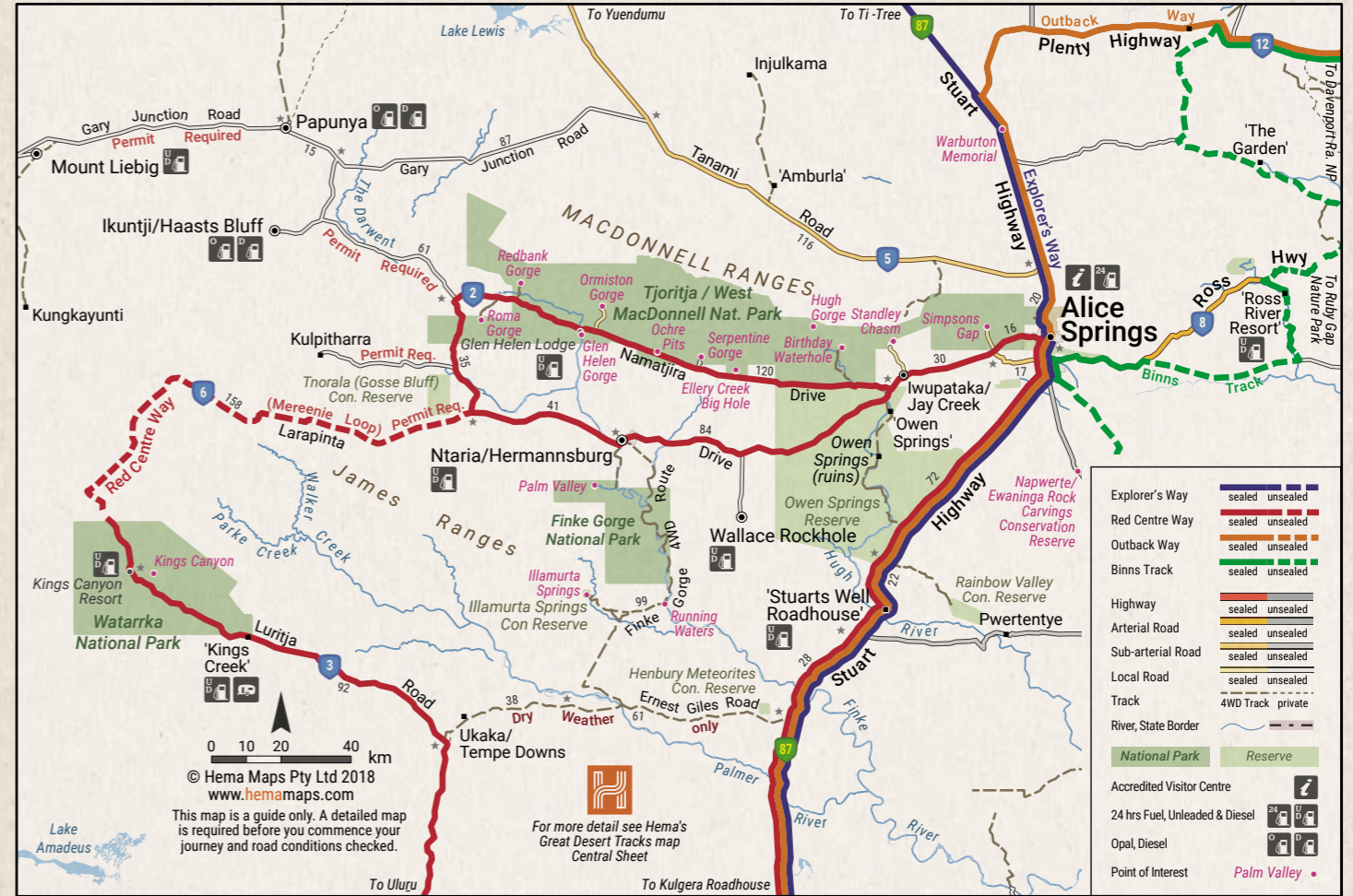
## REGION CONTENTS

### DAY TRIPS

- 1 Palm Valley inside Finke Gorge National Park and Hermannsburg Historic Precinct
- 2 Owen Springs Reserve
- 3 Birthday Waterhole and Hugh Gorge inside Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park

### MULTI-DAY

- 4 Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) and Palm Valley
- 5 Finke Gorge National Park, Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve and Henbury Meteorites Conservation Reserve



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### Palm Valley and Hermannsburg Historic Precinct

The Palm Valley Track is located in Finke Gorge National Park, 138 km (2 hours) west of Alice Springs. Access to Palm Valley is just west of the Finke River bridge at Hermannsburg.

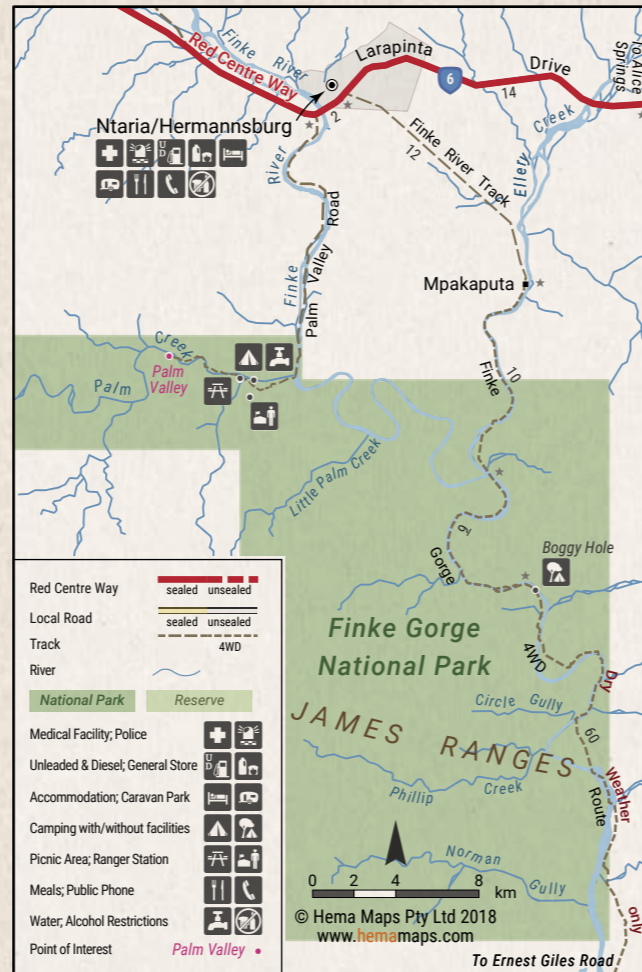
The 22 km access track is gravel with sandy and rocky sections following the Finke riverbed, and may be impassable after rain. A high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is required. Note: The track from the picnic area is not suitable for trailers. For day access there is a separate trailer parking area just past the campground.

Palm Valley is home to a diverse range of plant species, many of which are rare and unique to the area, including the Red Cabbage Palm. In Palm Valley, the Arankaia Walk (2 km, 1 hour return) and the longer Mpulungkinya Walk (5 km, 2 hours return) meander among a lush oasis of slender palms.



Palm Valley

The Hermannsburg Historic Precinct is located in Ntaria / Hermannsburg en route on Larapinta Drive, 126 km west of Alice Springs. The Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission was the first Aboriginal mission in Central Australia established in 1877. The mission and the land were handed back to the Aboriginal people in 1982. Hermannsburg was also the home of famous Aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira. Today you will find the old mission's buildings restored to their 19th century condition and showcase a museum, tearooms and art gallery that houses some of Namatjira's original work.



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### Owen Springs Reserve

Owen Springs Reserve, south-west of Alice Springs, can be accessed via two routes. It is a 40 minute drive from Alice Springs to the entrance of each route; Larapinta Drive, 50 km west or the Stuart Highway, 66 km south.

The track covers 47 km from the Larapinta Drive entrance to the Stuart Highway and takes about 90 minutes. A four-wheel drive is essential. Some sections of the track follow the sandy riverbed and can be impassable after rain. Vehicles must keep to the main track, except to access camp sites. **Camping is permitted in Lawrence Gorge and at Redbank Waterhole. No camping facilities are provided and no fees apply.**

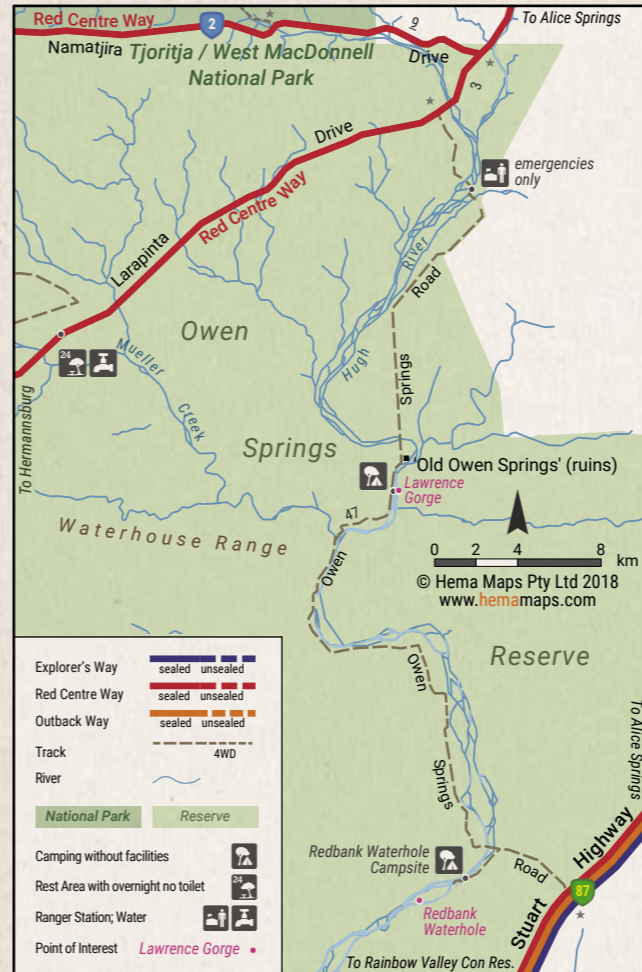
Owen Springs Reserve was formerly a cattle station and the area is steeped in Territory history. It is possible to walk around the historic Old Owen Springs Homestead ruins.

The main access track through the reserve closely follows explorer John McDouall Stuart's route through the MacDonnell Ranges.

Turn off the Stuart Highway 75 km south of Alice Springs, to access Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve. The valley track is gravel and sandy in patches and is recommended for four-wheel drive vehicles only. The only access is from the Stuart Highway.

Late afternoon is the best time to view the rainbow bands embedded within the valley ridge. The bands glow vibrantly when struck by the golden rays of the sun. Rainbow Valley's free-standing cliffs form part of the James Range. A marked walking trail takes you to Mushroom Rock, an interesting sandstone formation with Fairy Martin nests attached to the upper walls. **Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**

Extend your journey into the late afternoon by visiting Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve - see page 40.





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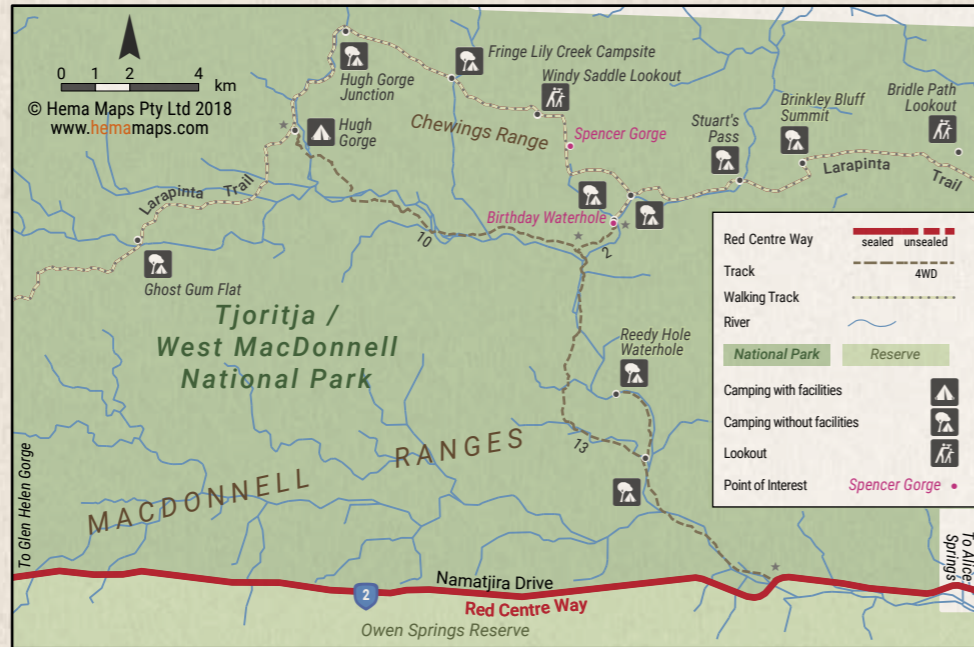
### 3 Birthday Waterhole and Hugh Gorge inside Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park

Located 56 km west of Alice Springs on Namatjira Drive inside Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park. 9.6 km from the Larapinta Drive turn off, no formal signage is provided on the road. A safety and pre-visit entry information sign is located at the start of the track. The access track follows and crosses the Hugh River with soft sandy and rocky sections. A high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is required.

The access track to Birthday Waterhole is 15 km from Namatjira Drive. Large River Red Gums fringe Birthday Waterhole, a semi-permanent pool that is rarely suitable for swimming, but is a true oasis to the wildlife and birds of the area.

Travel back 2 km then turn west, to Hugh Gorge. This 10 km track is a very scenic drive.

Birthday Waterhole and Hugh Gorge are trailheads of sections of the Larapinta Trail, a 210 km walking



trail through the Park. Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 can be walked from here. Visit [nt.gov.au/leisure/recreation/bushwalking-hiking/larapinta-trail](http://nt.gov.au/leisure/recreation/bushwalking-hiking/larapinta-trail) for more information. **Camping is permitted. No camping facilities are provided and no fees apply.**

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### 4 Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, Tnorala (Goose Bluff) and Palm Valley

#### Day 1

#### Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park

Simpsons Gap is 18 km west of Alice Springs on Larapinta Drive. Visit early morning or late afternoon to see the rare Black-footed Rock-wallabies. There are also numerous walking opportunities. **Day access only no camping is permitted.**

Kathleen Buzzacott Art Studio is located close to Simpsons Gap, 20 km from Alice Springs. An excellent stop for Aboriginal artworks and her handcrafted jewellery art tour.

Angkerle Atwatye Standley Chasm is Aboriginal owned and operated, entry fee applies. The chasm walls are spectacular and truly glow when the sun is above the chasm (an hour either side of noon on a sunny day). Enjoy the 20 minute one way walk into the chasm. Food and drinks are available at the kiosk café. **Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**

Ellery Creek Big Hole's high red cliffs, large waterhole and a sandy creek fringed by gums make this one of the most popular and picturesque picnicking and swimming spots in the West MacDonnell Ranges. It is 92 km west of Alice Springs on Namatjira Drive. **Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**

Serpentine Chalet Dam is a trailhead for Sections 8 and 9 of the Larapinta Trail. Access track is four-wheel-drive only. The ruins of the chalet are from one of the first tourism buildings built in 1958 and still offers a quiet, out of the way camping spot. **Camping is permitted. No camping facilities are provided and no fees apply.**

The Ochre Pits have been used by the Aboriginal people for many generations as a mine for the rich



Angkerle Atwatye Standley Chasm



Redbank Gorge

Day 2

Redbank Gorge, Roma Gorge, Tnorola (Gosse Bluff), camp in Palm Valley campground

The turn-off to Redbank Gorge is 20 km past Glen Helen Gorge and the car park a further 5 km on a gravel access road, a high-clearance vehicle is recommended. It is then a 20 minute rocky and sandy walk along the river to the gorge. The gorge is fantastic to swim in during the warmer months; the water is deep and cold due to the rock walls towering above, so swimmers should use a flotation device and wear a wetsuit. Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.

Roma Gorge is accessed from Namatjira Drive, west of Glen Helen, and is 5 km past the Redbank Gorge turnoff. The road follows a sandy and stony river bed for about 8 km. A high clearance four-wheel-drive is required. The Gorge itself has beautiful scenery and features ancient Aboriginal rock carvings (petroglyphs). Day access only no camping is permitted.

Enjoy the 360 degree views from Tylers Pass lookout including views of Tnorola (Gosse Bluff).

mineral ochre. View this stunning rock formation that looks almost like a painting with the earthy colours of the ochre spilling out of it. Day access only no camping is permitted.

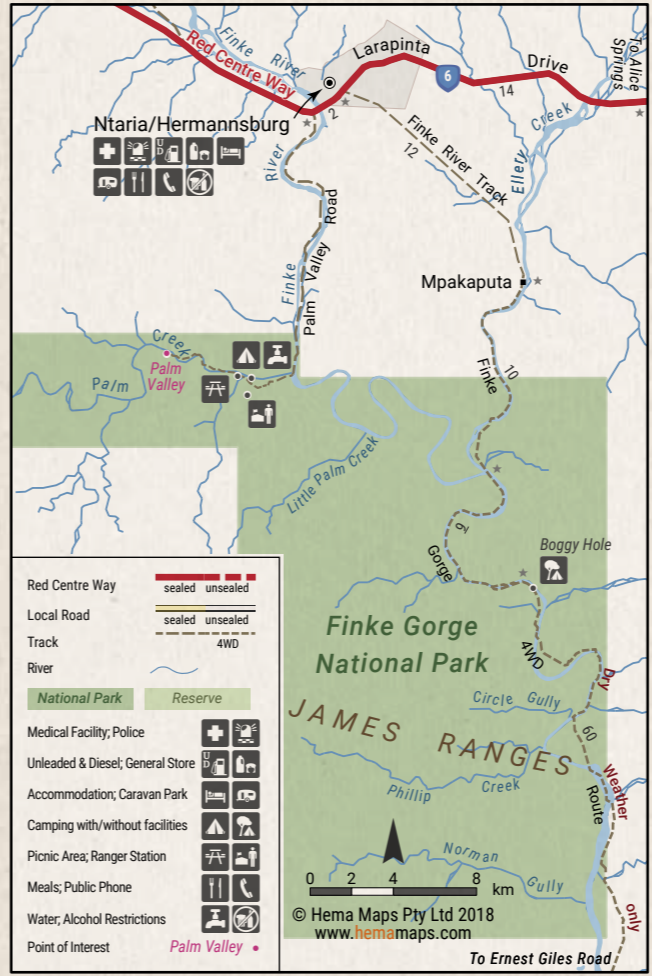
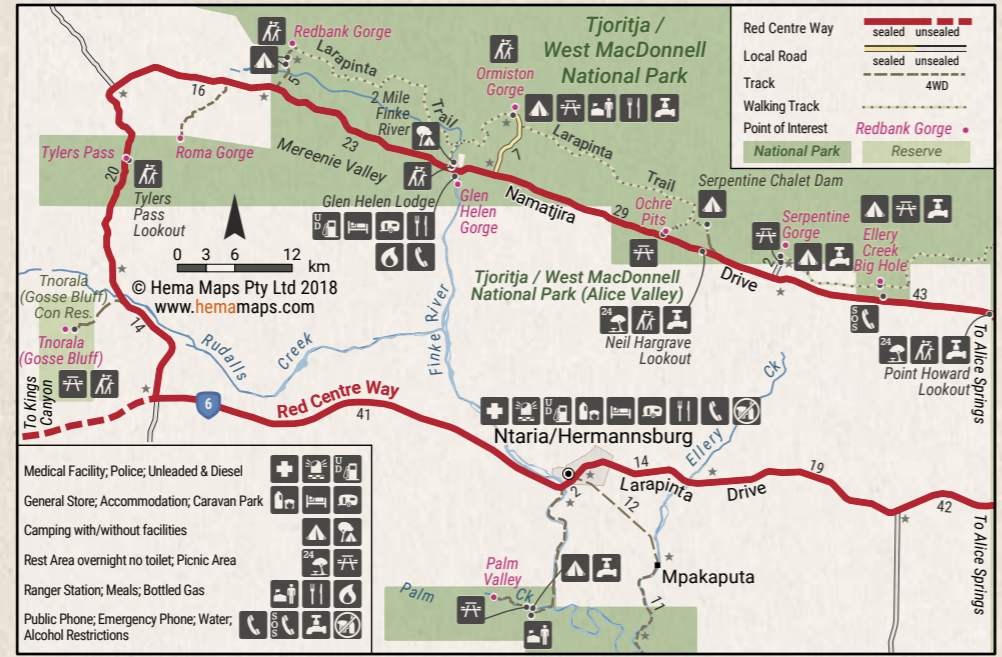
Located 135 km west of Alice Springs on Namatjira Drive, you will find the towering red walls of Ormiston Gorge. Within the gorge is a permanent waterhole, which provides a refreshing swim. Please remember the water can be very cold in the waterholes. Take the Ghost Gum lookout walk (20 minutes one way) to give you a great view of Ormiston Gorge. For the more adventurous take the Ormiston Pound walk 3 - 4 hours to complete the circuit. A kiosk is available for food and drinks. Campground has showers and flushing toilets, camping fees apply and are payable onsite.

Glen Helen Gorge is located 132 km west of Alice Springs on Namatjira Drive, where the Finke River cuts through the ranges and continues towards the Simpson Desert. Glen Helen Gorge is one of six permanent waterholes along the Finke River and is a beautiful spot for swimming, with the towering gorge walls set as a striking backdrop.

Enjoy some outback hospitality at Glen Helen Lodge, meals, accommodation, camping and fuel are available.

2-Mile is located in the Finke River, just past the Glen Helen Lodge turn off. As the track is along the sandy riverbed a high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is required. Water is

usually found at 2-Mile and the reeds are a haven for a wide range of birds. Camping is permitted. No camping facilities are provided and no fees apply.





Thorala Gosses Bluff, Tylers Pass

Travel on to Thorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve, a place of great cultural significance to the Western Arrernte Aboriginal people and one of international scientific interest. Located 175 km from Alice Springs, the last 10 km of the access track requires a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Enjoy the short walks for views of the crater's interior.

**Day access only no camping is permitted.**

Continue around Namatjira Drive, turning east at the Larapinta Drive intersection. Travel into the Finke Gorge National Park, the 22 km Palm Valley access track is gravel with sections along and across the Finke River riverbed which are sandy and rocky; may be impassable after rain.

A high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is required.

Palm Valley is home to the rare and unique Red Cabbage Palm along with a diverse range of other plant species. **The campground offers toilets showers and gas barbecues, camp fees are payable on site.**

### Day 3

#### Cycad Gorge, Hermannsburg, return to Alice Springs

There are four walking trails to explore Palm Valley. The Kalarranga Lookout (1.5 km, 45 minutes return) is an easy 20 minute climb with spectacular views. A longer walk with great views of the amphitheatre

is the Mpaara Walk (5 km, 2 hours return). The Arankaia Walk (2 km, 1 hour return) and the longer Mpulungkinya Walk (5 km, 2 hours return) meander among a lush oasis of slender palms. Note: The track from the picnic area is not suitable for trailers. For day access there is a separate trailer parking area just past the campground.

As you travel back to Alice Springs, stop for fuel or supplies from Hermannsburg. Visit the Hermannsburg Historical Precinct, the Lutheran Mission established in 1877. The old mission's buildings showcase a museum, art gallery and tearooms

Consider adding another day and returning via Boggy Hole. See the next page for more information.



## 5

### Finke Gorge National Park including Boggy Hole, Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve and Henbury Meteorites Conservation Reserve

#### Day 1

#### Alice Springs to Hermannsburg camp at Boggy Hole

The Hermannsburg Historical Precinct is located on Namatjira Drive, 126 km west of Alice Springs. Hermannsburg was the home of famous Aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira. Today you will find a museum, tearooms and art gallery housing some of Namatjira's original work.

The turn off to Finke Gorge 4WD Route opposite the Hermannsburg / Larapinta Drive intersection. The Finke Gorge 4WD Route through Boggy Hole is recommended for experienced four-wheel drivers only. Due to the remote nature of the route and infrequent traffic, there is a high risk of becoming stuck or suffering vehicle damage, making travelling with another vehicle essential. Road conditions are variable, subject to severe flooding and should always be checked prior to departure.

**Bush camping is permitted within the Finke Gorge National Park. No camping facilities are provided and no fees apply.**

The Finke Gorge 4WD Route takes approximately 5.5 hours to drive from Hermannsburg to the Ernest Giles Road, passing through the permanent waterhole at Boggy Hole. The drive amongst the River Red Gums is an excellent opportunity to observe wildlife, especially the waterbirds.

The drive from Larapinta Drive to Ernest Giles Road is 120 km. Although this track appears to be a shortcut between Finke Gorge National Park and Watarrka National Park, the Mereenie Loop is the quicker route. Note: A permit is required to travel the Mereenie Loop and can be purchased from, Alice

Springs Visitor Information Centre, Hermannsburg/Ntaria Store, Glen Helen Lodge or Kings Canyon Resort.

## Day 2

### Illamurta Springs, Henbury Meteorites Conservation Reserve

Continue south along the Finke Gorge four-wheel drive track. A side trip into Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve (10 km approximately 1 hour) is worthwhile as this reserve is one of the most peaceful and isolated. The reserve provides a moist habitat for several relict aquatic plant species, and also protects the ruins of the Illamurta Springs Police Camp that was in operation between 1893 and 1912.



Simpson Gap, Alice Springs

The Ernest Giles Road is a gravel and an alternative route to Watarrka National Park from Alice Springs and travels for 99 km between the Stuart Highway and Luritja Road.

Visit the Henbury Meteorite Craters located 8 km from the Stuart Highway end. The twelve craters were formed when a meteor hit the Earth's surface 4,700 years ago. There is a self-guided walking track around the craters, three or four of the craters can be seen very clearly and inspected at close range.



Ellery Creek Big Hole

## FUEL LOCATIONS

### Glen Helen Homestead

Namatjira Drive  
Tel: 08 8956 7489  
Daily 7am-7pm



### Ntaria (Hermannsburg) Store

Larapinta Drive  
Tel: 08 8956 7480  
Mon - Fri 8.30am-5.30pm  
Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 9am-3pm.  
Fuel available for self-serve on card  
daily 6am-8pm



### Stuarts Well Stuart Hwy

Tel: 08 8956 0808  
Daily 6am-10pm



## KEY TO FACILITIES

Facilities are correct at time of printing. Please phone directly for further facility information.

**AG** Autogas

**AR** Auto repairs

**D** Diesel

**O** Opal fuel

**PU** Premium unleaded

**S** Store

**U** Unleaded

**F** Food

# EASTERN REGION

The East MacDonnell Ranges are one of the Central Australia's jewels. Journey back in time to witness prehistoric Aboriginal rock carvings and art and the gold rush ghost town of Aritunga. Treat yourself to true outback hospitality while travelling the Binns Track.



Binns Track

## REGION CONTENTS

### DAY TRIPS

1

**Aritunga Historical Reserve**

2

**N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park**

3

**Trephina Gorge Nature Park including John Hayes Rockhole**

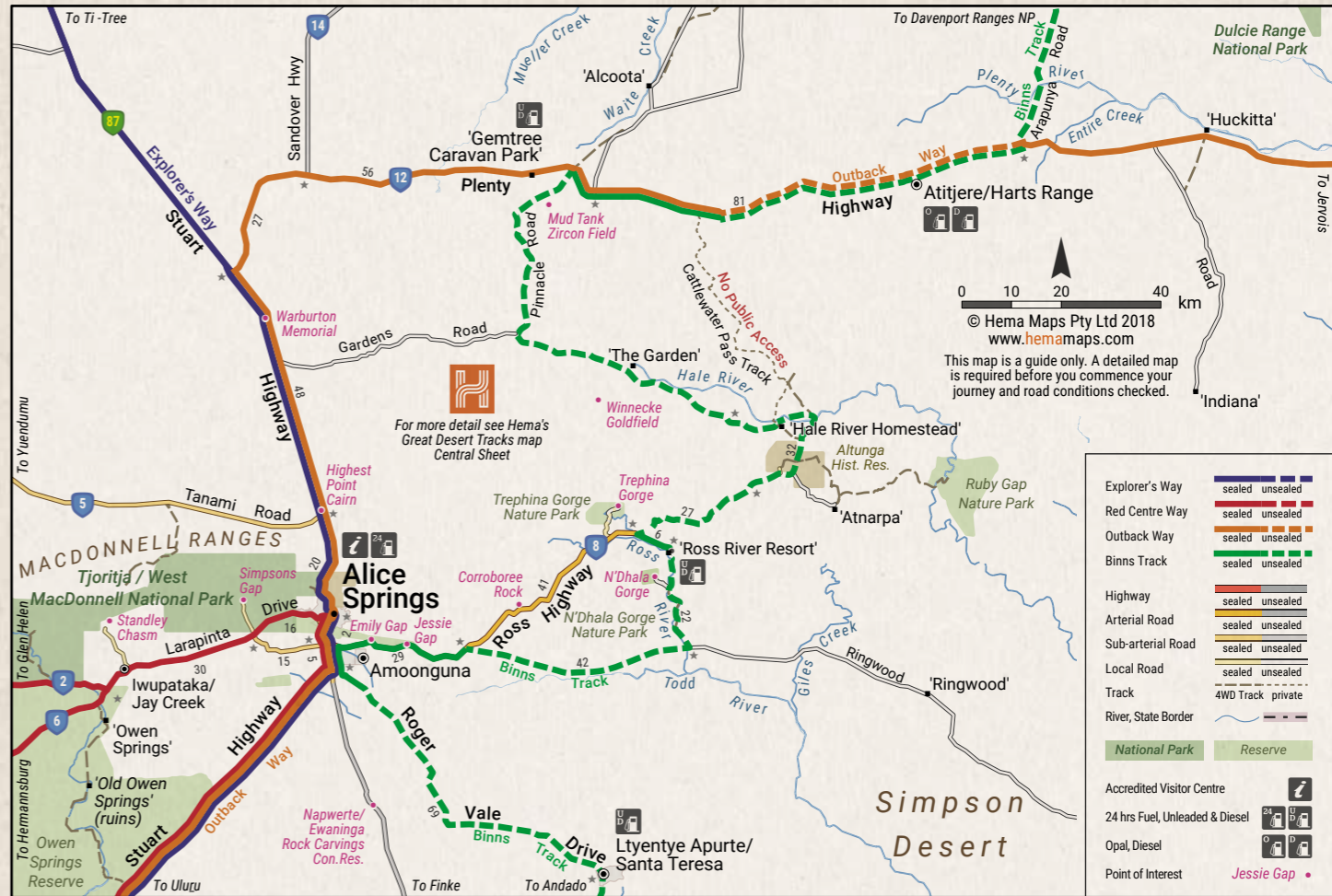
### MULTI-DAY

4

**Ruby Gap Nature Park, Aritunga Historical Reserve and East MacDonnell Ranges**

5

**East MacDonnell Ranges, N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, Binns Track, Gemtree**





Ruby Gap

1

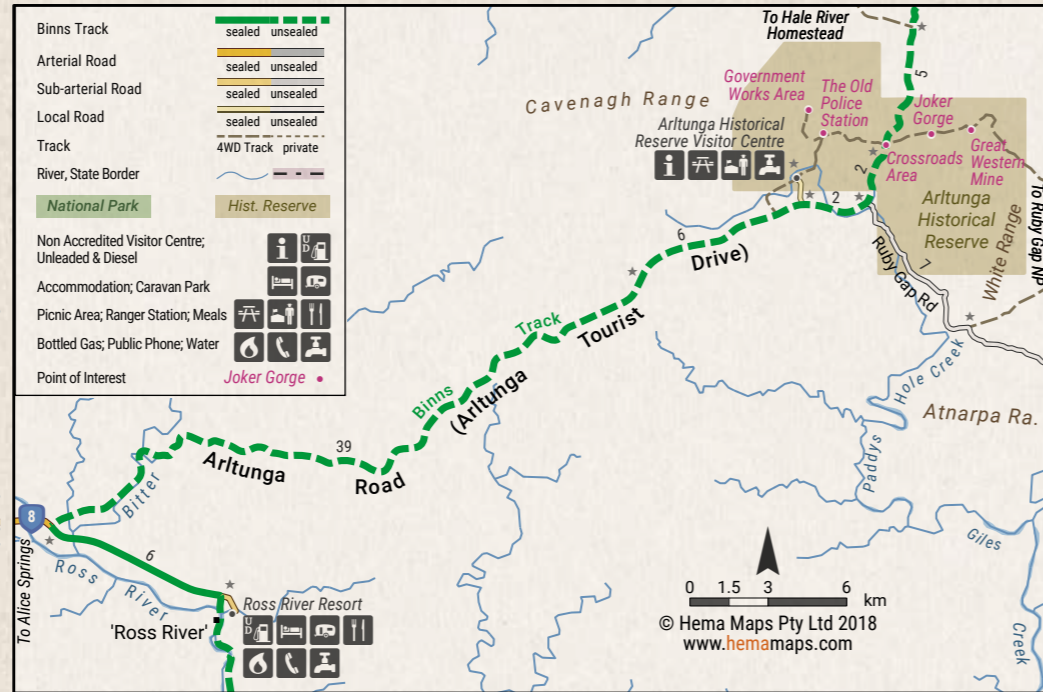
### Arltunga Historical Reserve

Arltunga Historical Reserve is located 110 km east of Alice Springs. 77 km of sealed road along the Ross Highway then 33 km of gravel road. Gravel road surface conditions vary and roads may be impassable when wet.

Arltunga was officially Central Australia's first town, born out of a gold rush in 1887. At the time, Alice Springs was little more than an outpost used as a supply base. Now a ghost town, there are many reminders of Arltunga's prime, including numerous old buildings and the Old Police Station to take you

back in time. The reserve's visitor centre, open 8am to 5pm, displays artefacts and details the history of the area.

Fossicking, including the use of metal detectors is not permitted in Arltunga Historical Reserve. **Day access only, no camping is permitted.**



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© Hema Maps Pty Ltd 2018 www.hemamaps.com

2

### N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park

N'Dhala Gorge is 90 km east of Alice Springs. You'll reach the turn off to N'Dhala Gorge, 500 metres before Ross River Resort on the Ross Highway. Stop in at Ross River Resort for some outback hospitality. Meals, accommodation, camping and fuel are available.

The 11 km four-wheel drive track follows the sandy Ross River riverbed. The route can be impassable after rain. N'Dhala Gorge features fascinating Aboriginal rock carvings (petroglyphs) the oldest of which are believed to date back

10,000 years. **Camping permitted. Camping fees payable on site.**

The park can also be accessed via the Binns Track. This route enters N'Dhala Gorge from the south via Numery Road. This road turns south off the Ross Highway 35 km from Alice Springs.



Perentie Goanna



Trepghina Gorge

3

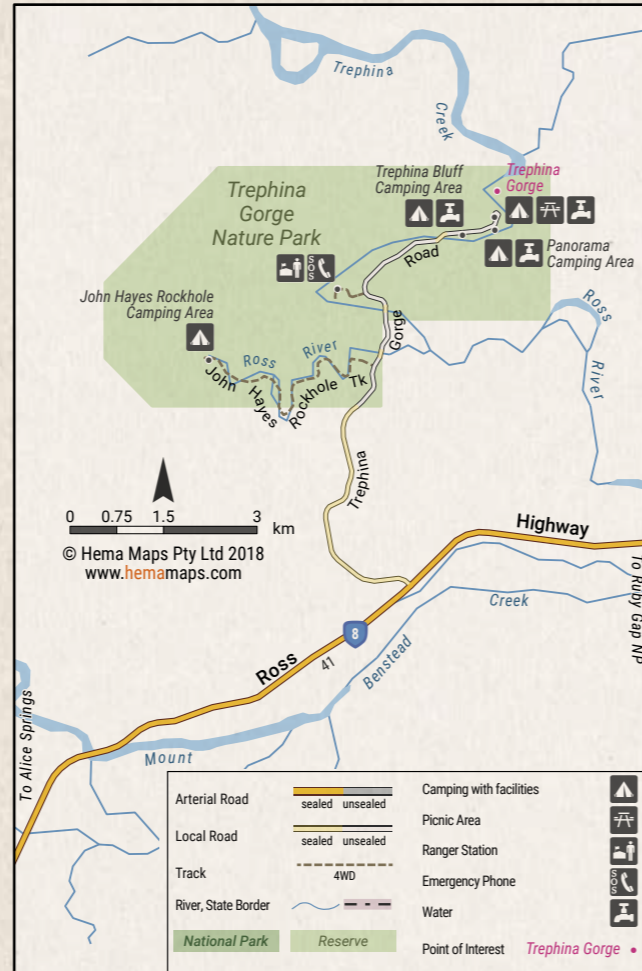
**Trepghina Gorge Nature Park including John Hayes Rockhole**

Trepghina Gorge 85 km east of Alice Springs and notable for its sheer quartzite cliffs, River Red Gums and sandy creek bed. Once part of Garden Station, Trepghina Gorge Nature Park has strong historic links with the early settlement of Central Australia. The 9 km access road into Trepghina Gorge is easily accessible with the last 5 km being gravel road.

Enjoy the Trepghina Gorge walk, 1 hour return and the Panorama Walk, 1 hour return. Experienced walkers can take the Trepghina Ridge Top Walk through to John Hayes Rockhole,

which takes 4 to 5 hours one way, and features panoramic views of the surrounding ranges.

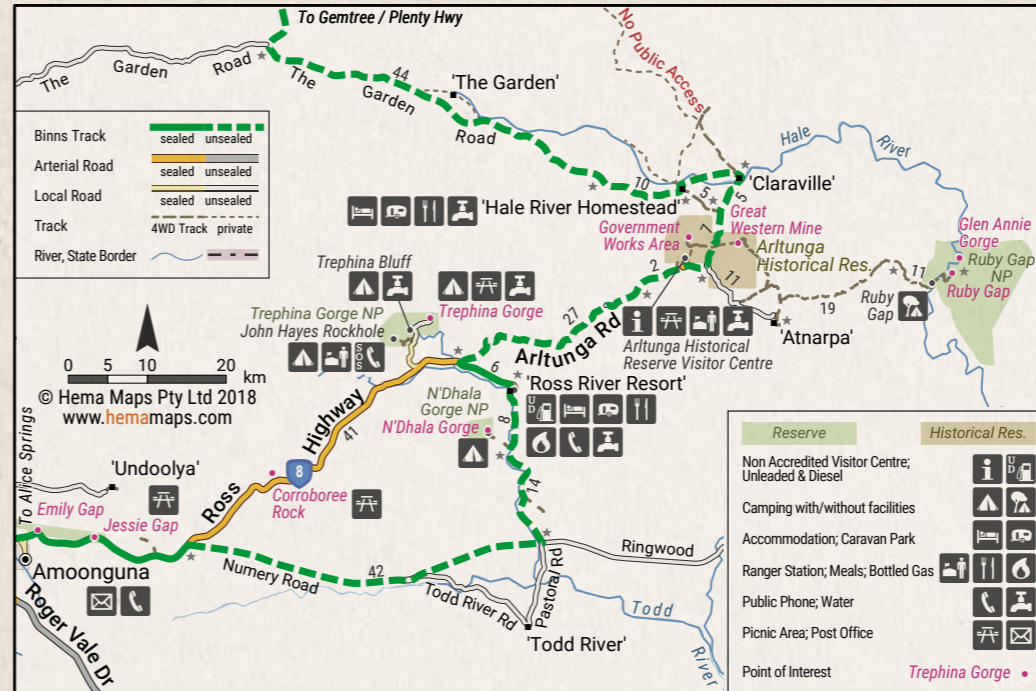
The 4 km John Hayes Rockhole track, located within Trepghina Gorge Nature Park, is recommended for high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles only. The semi-permanent rock hole is a popular swimming location during warmer months. The Chain of Ponds walk takes approximately 90 minutes return from the carpark.



4

**Ruby Gap Nature Park, Arltunga Historical Reserve and East MacDonnell Ranges**

**Day 1**  
Arltunga Tourist Drive, Hale River Homestead, overnight at Ruby Gap



Ruby Gap Nature Park is 150 km east of Alice Springs. Ruby Gap is linked to the first mining rush in Central Australia. In March 1886, explorer David Lindsay found what he thought were rubies in the bed of the Hale River. But in June 1888, it was found that the stones were merely high grade garnets and Central Australia's ruby boom quickly collapsed.

Due to its remote location and sandy driving, the best time to visit is from April to September. Visiting in the summer is not advised. A high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is essential and have suitable recovery gear. Ensure you bring your own water supplies.

From the park entrance there is a 5 km drive along the sandy riverbed

5

## East MacDonnell Ranges, N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, Binns Track, Gemtree

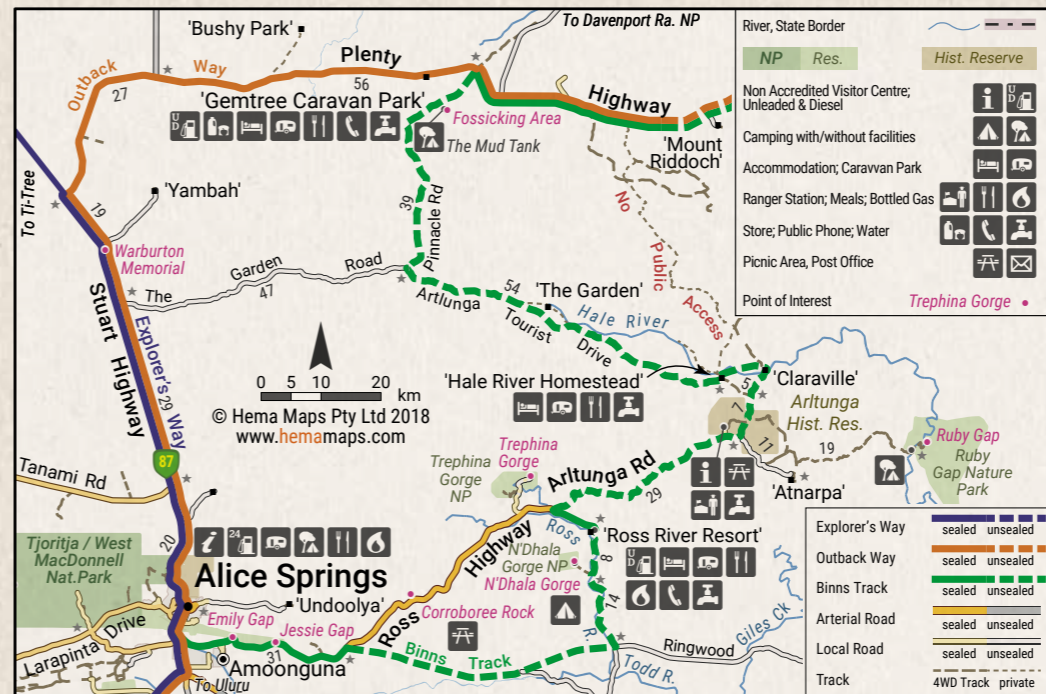
Day 1

Emily and Jessie Gap, N'Dhala Gorge, Ross River, overnight at John Hayes Rockhole

Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park are located 10 km from Alice Springs, and home to Aboriginal paintings of great significance to the Eastern Arrernte Aboriginal people. Download the Anthwerrike Interactive Experience app from [sitesandtrails.com.au](http://sitesandtrails.com.au) or the app store.

Turn south off the Ross Highway 35 km from Alice Springs, travel along the gravel Numery Road, part of the Binns Track to enter N'Dhala Gorge from the south. N'Dhala Gorge features fascinating Aboriginal rock carvings (petroglyphs).

Continue to Ross River Resort along the 11 km of four-wheel drive track which follows the sandy Ross River riverbed. The route can



Emily Gap

and then a 2 km, 30 minute walk to the spectacular Glen Annie Gorge. **Camping is permitted: no camping facilities are provided. Camping fees payable on site**

Day 2

Arltunga Historical Reserve, Corroboree Rock, Emily and Jessie Gap, return to Alice Springs

Explore Arltunga Historical Reserve Central Australia's first town, born out of a gold rush in 1887. Now a ghost town, explore the old buildings and the Old Police Station to take you back in time.

Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve is a sacred site to the Eastern Arrernte Aboriginal people. The significance of the area is not well known. It was probably not used as a corroboree site, due to the lack of water in the area. Corroboree Rock is an easy stop-off for your trip through the East MacDonnell Ranges and located 47 km east of Alice Springs.

Only 10 km east of Alice Springs on the Ross Highway, Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park, home to Aboriginal paintings of great

significance to the Eastern Arrernte Aboriginal people. Download the Anthwerrike interactive experience app which features the traditional owners talking about the significance of the site. Anthwerrike Interactive Experience app is available at [sitesandtrails.com.au](http://sitesandtrails.com.au) or the app store. **Day access only, no camping is permitted.**



be impassable after rain. Stop in at Ross River Resort for meals, accommodation, camping and fuel.

Travel on the Ross Highway 12 km to Trepina Gorge Nature Park. The 4 km John Hayes Rockhole Track is recommended for high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles only. John Hayes Rockhole offers walks and a swim in the semi-permanent rockhole. **Camping permitted. Camping fees payable on site.**

#### Day 2

**Arltunga Historical Reserve, Hale River Homestead, overnight at Gemtree**

On leaving Trepina Gorge Nature Park, travel 5 km east then take the gravel road that leads north-east for 33 km to Arltunga. Gravel roads surface conditions vary and roads may be impassable when wet. Explore Arltunga Historical Reserve Central Australia's first town, born out of a gold rush in 1887.

The 104 km long Gardens Road, connects the Arltunga Historical Reserve to the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs. A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. Please keep

to all designated roads and tracks. Leave all gates as you find them.

Hale River Homestead originally dates back to the early 1900s. Recently renovated, Hale River Homestead provides comfortable accommodation with true outback hospitality. Meals, drinks, camping sites, van sites and bunkhouse quarters are also available. Hale River Homestead is located on the Binns Track approx 135 km north east of Alice Springs.

The Pinnacle Road connects the Gardens Road and the Plenty Highway, covering 39 km, it also forms part of the Binns Track, and four-wheel drive is recommended.

Gemtree Caravan Park is a great overnight stay, just west of the Plenty Highway and Pinnacle Track junction at Mud Tank. Powered and non-powered sites and cabins are available.

#### Day 3

**Gemtree fossicking tour, return to Alice Springs**

Gemtree offers guided tagalong fossicking tours to the zircon and

garnet fields from March to October and generally commences at 8.30am. Times adjust depending on the weather, so remember to check when booking.

Travel into Alice Springs via the Plenty and Stuart Highway or consider re-joining the Gardens Road for some more four-wheel driving. Leave all gates as you find them.

If continuing north on the Binns Track refer to the section commencing page 48.



## FUEL LOCATIONS

**Ross River Resort** Ross Highway  
Tel: 08 8956 9711  
Daily 8.30am-4.30pm



**Gemtree Caravan Park** Plenty Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 9855  
Daily 8am-5pm



## KEY TO FACILITIES

Facilities are correct at time of printing. Please phone directly for further facility information.

**AG** Autogas

**AR** Auto repairs

**D** Diesel

**O** Opal fuel

**PU** Premium unleaded

**S** Store

**U** Unleaded

**F** Food

# SOUTH WEST REGION



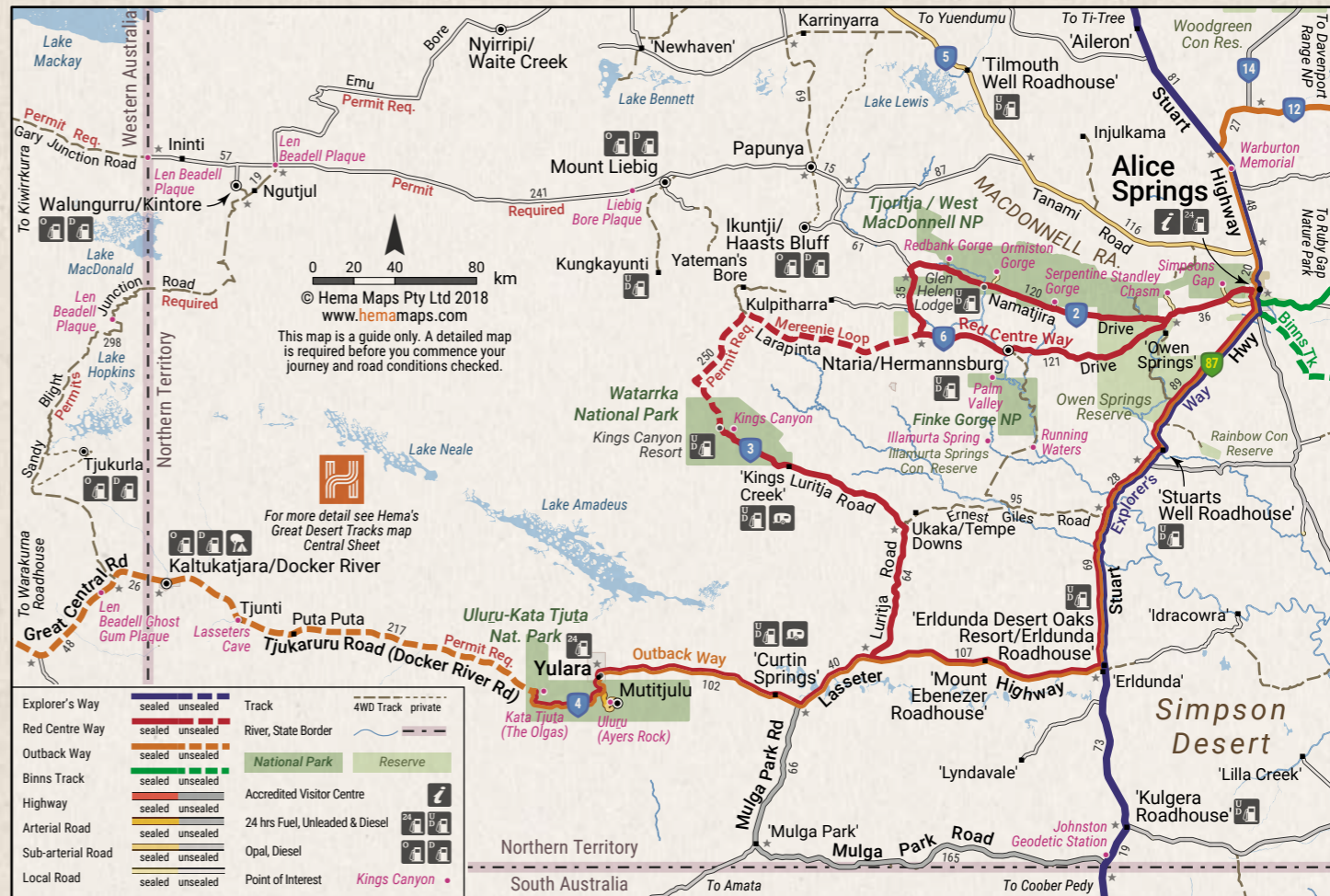
The spiritual heart of Australia is showcased at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Truly unique experiences are wide and varied topped off with stunning sunrises and sunsets. A visit to this region must include Watarrka National Park, the mighty Kings Canyon.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

## REGION CONTENTS

### MULTI-DAY

- 1 **Watarrka National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park**
- 2 **Sandy Blight Junction Road**



There are various options to travel from Alice Springs to Watarrka National Park. These include:

#### OPTION A

Via the Larapinta Drive and the Mereenie Loop. Note: A permit is required to travel the Mereenie Loop and can be purchased from the Alice Springs Visitor Information Centre, Glen Helen Lodge, Kings Canyon Resort or Hermannsburg / Ntaria Store.

#### OPTION B

Via Finke Gorge National Park (Boggy Hole). Refer to page 19.

#### OPTION C

Via the Ernest Giles Road. The Ernest Giles Road is a 99 km gravel road between the Stuart Highway and Luritja Road.

#### OPTION D

Via the fully sealed route 450 km one way, Stuart Highway, Lasseter Highway and Luritja Road.

1

### Watarrka National Park

Watarrka National Park is best known for its famous landmark, Kings Canyon. The park encompasses the western end of the George Gill Range and is an important conservation area. Rock holes and gorges provide refuge for more than 600 species of plants and many native animals. The area has been home to the Matutjara Aboriginal people for the last 20,000 years.

Kings Canyon itself has 270 metre high walls that rise above Kings Creek. The breath-taking Rim Walk is the most popular and takes you along the rim of the canyon itself. It's a 3 to 4 hour walk, 6 km long with a moderate to difficult rating. The walk offers spectacular views over the canyon, passing through the tropical pools of the Garden of Eden.

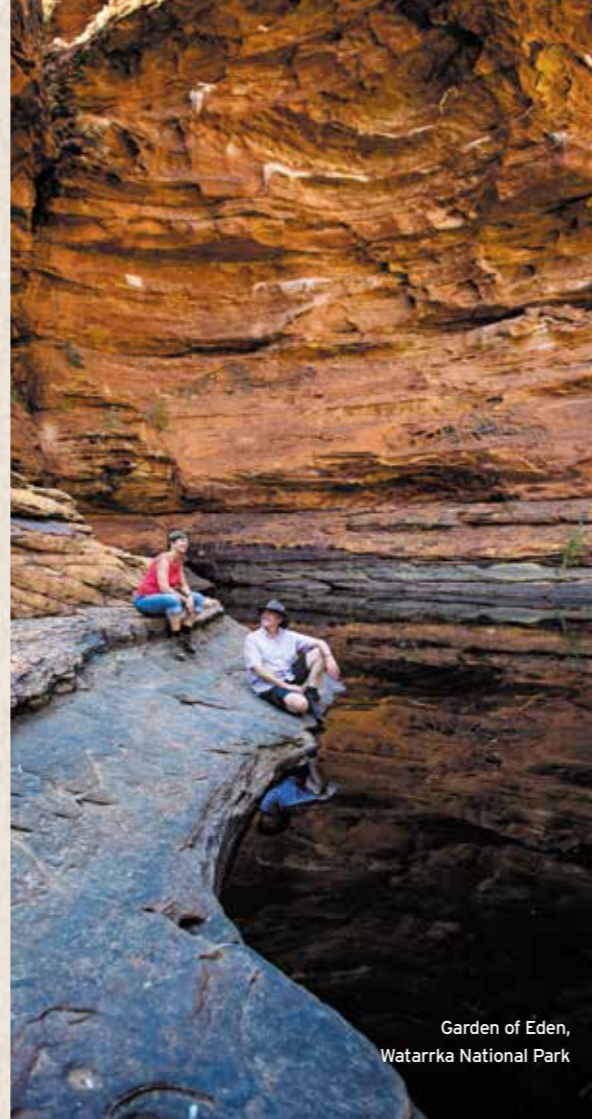
An easier alternative is the Kings Creek Walk. It is a 2 km walk, 1 hour in duration. This walk offers stunning views of the canyon walls looking upwards. **No camping is permitted.**

Kings Canyon Resort located 6 km west from Kings Canyon offers a range of accommodation types including lodge rooms to deluxe rooms, camping and caravan sites. Meal options, a convenience store and fuel are all available.

Kings Creek Station is situated 36 km south-east of Kings Canyon among majestic desert oaks. This is a working cattle and camel station with facilities for camping, meals and fuel. They have safari cabins and luxury secluded glamping packages at the Dreamtime Escarpment. Take a different view of the station on a quad bike tour.

Immerse yourself in a 1 hour Aboriginal cultural tour at Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Tour, located opposite Kings Creek Station, and operating Wednesday to Sunday.

Travel the sealed route of Luritja Road and Lasseter Highway to the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.



Garden of Eden,  
Watarrka National Park

The third of the great rock formations of the Red Centre is Mt Conner (Atila) a 700 million-year-old sand and rock table-top mountain or mesa. Great views of Mt Conner, often mistaken for Uluru, can be seen from a lookout just 11 km east of Curtin Springs.

Curtin Springs Station is located on the Lasseter Highway 85 km east of the entrance of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Curtin Springs is a working cattle station owned and operated by the Severin family. Meals, accommodation, camping, fuel and tourism activities are available.

### Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Located 461 km south-west of Alice Springs, the iconic park is a must-do for visitors. Witness the stunning colours of two of the world's great wonders, centrepieces to this World Heritage-listed national park. Uluru and Kata Tjuta rise from the landscape to enthral travellers and unlock the secrets of an ancient culture.

Standing 348 metres high, Uluru's mass is like an iceberg, with most of the rock's bulk hidden beneath the earth. Archaeological research

suggests that Aboriginal people have been in the area for at least 22,000 years. The Anangu people are Uluru's traditional custodians.

50 km to the west of Uluru is Kata Tjuta, a massive pile of 36 weathered rock domes, estimated to be around 500 million years old.

Yulara is a small township that has been purpose-built to service travellers to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Services available include restaurants, supermarket, post office, bank, service station and auto repairs.

There is a range of accommodation available, from campsites and budget rooms to five star hotel rooms at Voyages Ayers Rock Resort.

There are many tours and experiences on offer from scenic flights, camel rides, astronomy tours, unique dining experiences, Segway tours and bicycle hire.



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

## Sandy Blight Junction Road

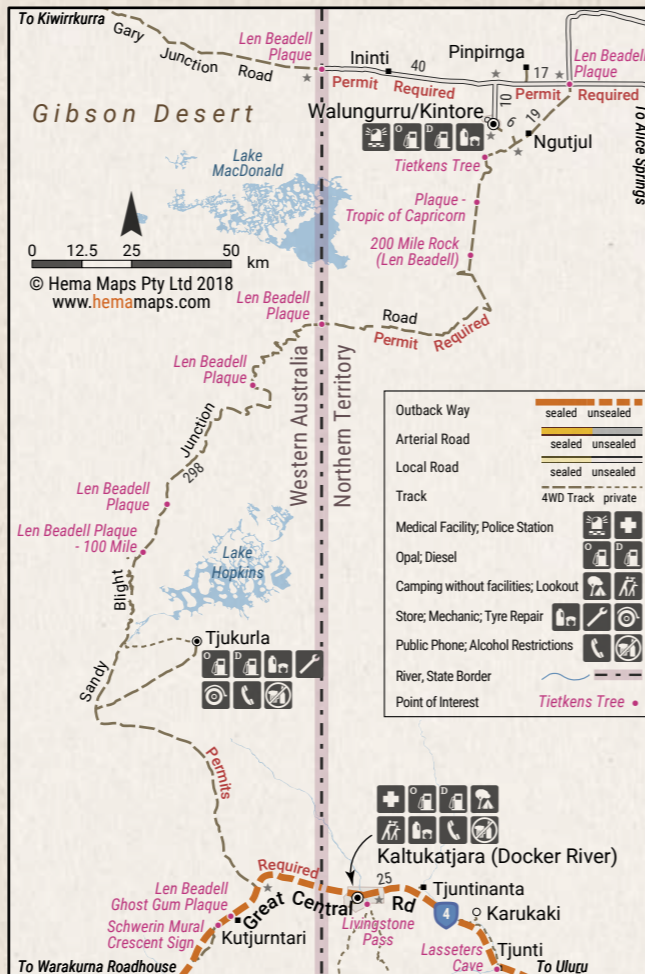
The Sandy Blight Junction Road stretches 330 km and links the Gary Junction Road, to the Outback Way / Great Central Road. This track was cut by the legendary Len Beadell in 1960 and known as one of his favourite tracks. The story of the naming of the track was due to Len Beadell contracting the eye disease "Sandy Blight" (now known as trachoma) while constructing the track.

This often challenging and remote track should only be attempted by experienced and well equipped four-wheel drivers. Due to the remoteness of this track and infrequent traffic it is highly recommended for multiple vehicles to travel together with the necessary emergency equipment. Minimum communication requirements are a HF Radio and/or satellite phone and a GPS. An EPIRB / distress beacon is also recommended.

This road connects Kintore and Kaltukatjara (Docke River) with the road crossing between the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The route traverses some of the Northern Territory's most dramatic landscapes, ranging from red sand dunes, sweeping grassy plains, desert rivers (normally dry) and ancient mountain ranges. **Camping is not permitted in the NT along this road.**

Docke River Campground (bush camp) is located 1km west of Kaltukatjara (Docke River) community.

Transit and camping permits are required and can be obtained through the Central Land Council (NT) and Nyangatjara Council (WA) offices in Alice Springs Monday - Friday. Permits are also available online. Allow approximately two weeks to receive your online permit. For opening hours and contact details refer to page 56.



## FUEL LOCATIONS

### Ayers Rock (Shell) Service Station

Yulara Drive  
Tel: 08 8957 7377  
Daily 6am-9pm

AG D O P U S U

### Curtin Springs Lasseter Hwy

Tel: 08 8956 2906  
Daily 7am-9.30pm

D O S U U

### Erlunda Roadhouse

Corner of Stuart & Lasseter Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 0984  
Daily 6am-9.30pm

AG D O P U S U U

### Kaltukatjara (Docke River) Store

Tel: 08 8956 7373  
Mon - Fri 9am-5pm  
Sat 9am-1pm, Sun 12pm-3pm

D O S U

### Kings Canyon Resort

Luritja Road  
Tel: 08 8956 7442  
Daily 7am-7pm

AG D S U U

### Kings Creek Station

Luritja Road  
Tel: 08 8956 7474  
Daily 7am-7pm

D P U S U U

### Kintore Store

Kintore Road  
Tel: 08 8956 8575  
Mon - Fri 9am-11.30am & 2pm-4.30pm,  
Sat 9am-11.30am, Sun 1pm-3pm.

D O S U

### Stuarts Well Stuart Hwy

Tel: 08 8956 0808  
Daily 6am-10pm

D O P U S U U

### Warakurna (Giles) Roadhouse

Great Central Road  
Tel: 08 8956 7344 (WA)  
Mon - Fri 8.30am-5pm  
Sat - Sun 9am-3pm (CST)  
Public Holidays 9am-12pm

D O S

## KEY TO FACILITIES

Facilities are correct at time of printing. Please phone directly for further facility information.

AG Autogas

AR Auto repairs

D Diesel

O Opal fuel

PU Premium unleaded

S Store

U Unleaded

U Food

# SOUTH EAST REGION



Venture into one of Australia's most rugged and spectacular desert regions. Experience a genuine four-wheel adventure complete with high rolling sand dunes, rare flora and wildlife and magic sunsets.

Rainbow Valley

## REGION CONTENTS

### DAY TRIPS

1

**Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve**

2

**Napworte /Ewanninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve and Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve**

### MULTI-DAY

3

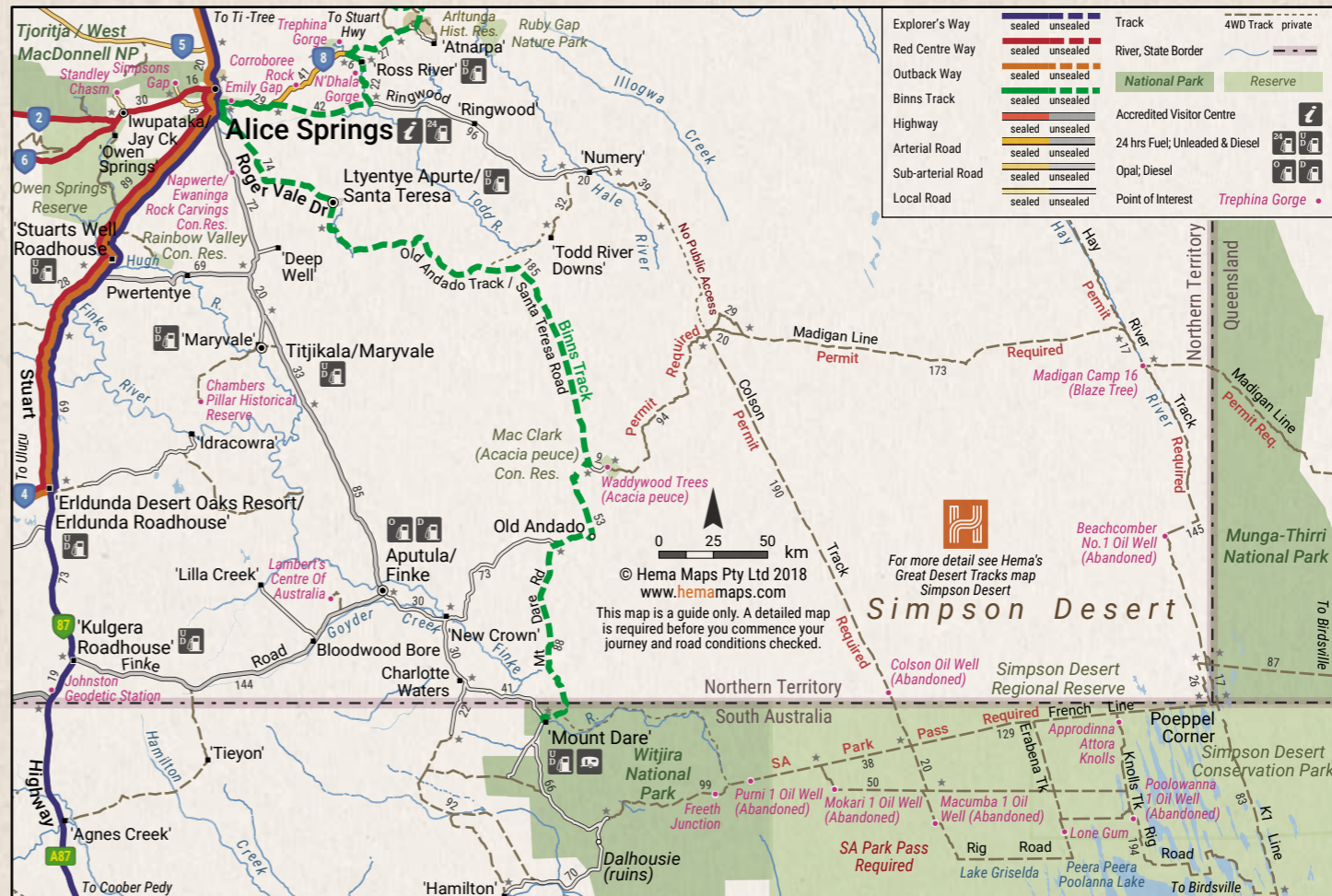
**Ewanninga Rock Carvings, Chambers Pillar with Rainbow Valley OR Lambert Centre (geographical centre)**

4

**Old Andado Track, Mac Clark (Acacia Peuce) Conservation Reserve, Mt Dare, Witjira-Dalhousie Springs**

5

**Hay River Track and Madigan Line**





Rainbow Valley

1

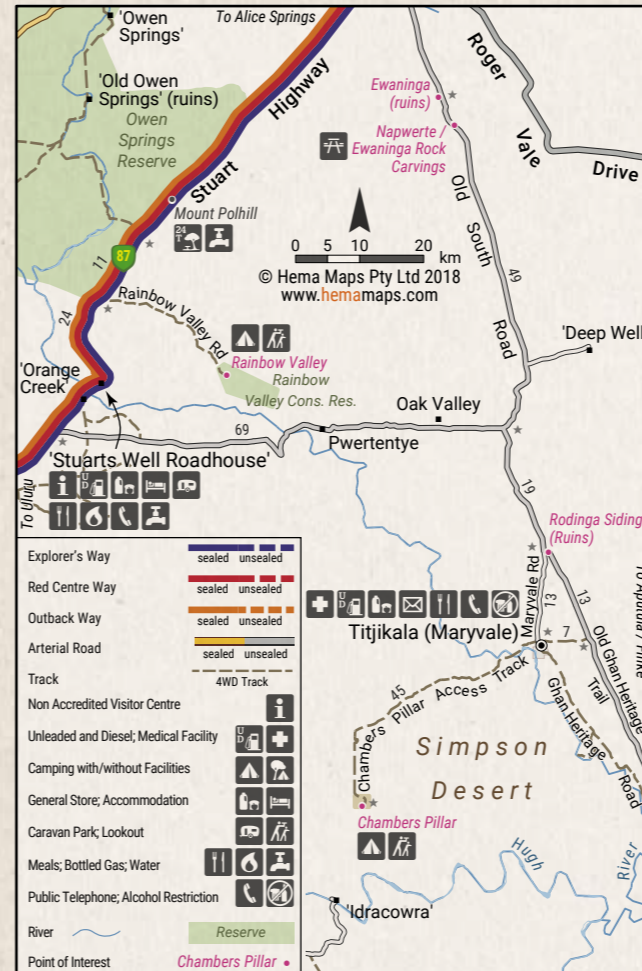
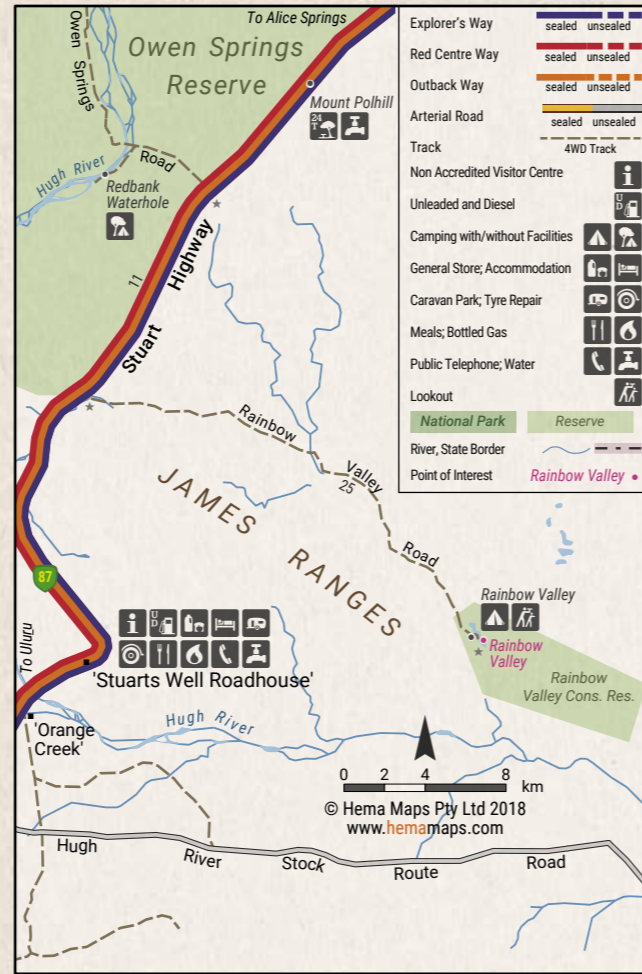
### Rainbow Valley

Turn off the Stuart Highway 75 km south of Alice Springs to access Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve. The 25 km valley track is gravel and sandy in patches and is recommended for four-wheel drive vehicles only. The only access is from the Stuart Highway.

Late afternoon is the best time to view the rainbow bands embedded within the valley ridge. The bands glow vibrantly when struck by the golden rays of the sun. Rainbow Valley's free-standing cliffs form part of the James Range. A marked

walking trail takes you to Mushroom Rock, an interesting sandstone formation with Fairy Martin nests attached to the upper walls. **Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**

Extend your journey by starting earlier and explore Owen Springs Reserve - see page 13 before continuing onto Rainbow Valley.



2

### Napwerte /Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve and Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve

Napwerte /Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve is 35 km south of Alice on the gravel Old South Road. The rock engravings (petroglyphs) are a valuable link to the activities of early Arrernte Aboriginal people. A marked 680 metre walking track will help you view the best petroglyph sites. **Camping is not permitted.**

Turn onto the Maryvale Road 101 km south of Alice Springs. At Titjikala (Maryvale) turn west onto the Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve access track. The track is gravel and sandy in patches and suitable only for four-wheel drive vehicles. Use extreme caution when driving over single lane sand dunes.

Located 164 km south of Alice Springs, Chambers Pillar is a 50 metre high red and yellow sandstone column. Rising out of the vast red plains and is carved with the names of 19th-century explorers. The site is of Aboriginal significance for the Gecko ancestor Itirkawara. Take the walking paths around the

base of Chambers Pillar and nearby Castle Rock. **Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**



Chambers Pillar

### Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings, Chambers Pillar, Hugh River Stock Route, Rainbow Valley OR Aputula Community and Lambert Centre

#### Day 1

Travel south of Alice Springs on the gravel Old South Road. Explore Napwerte /Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve. **Camping is not permitted.**

Make your way south before turning south west onto the Maryvale Road, travel through (Maryvale) to the Chambers Pillar access track. The track is gravel and sandy in patches and suitable only for four-wheel drive vehicles. Use extreme caution when driving over single lane sand dunes.

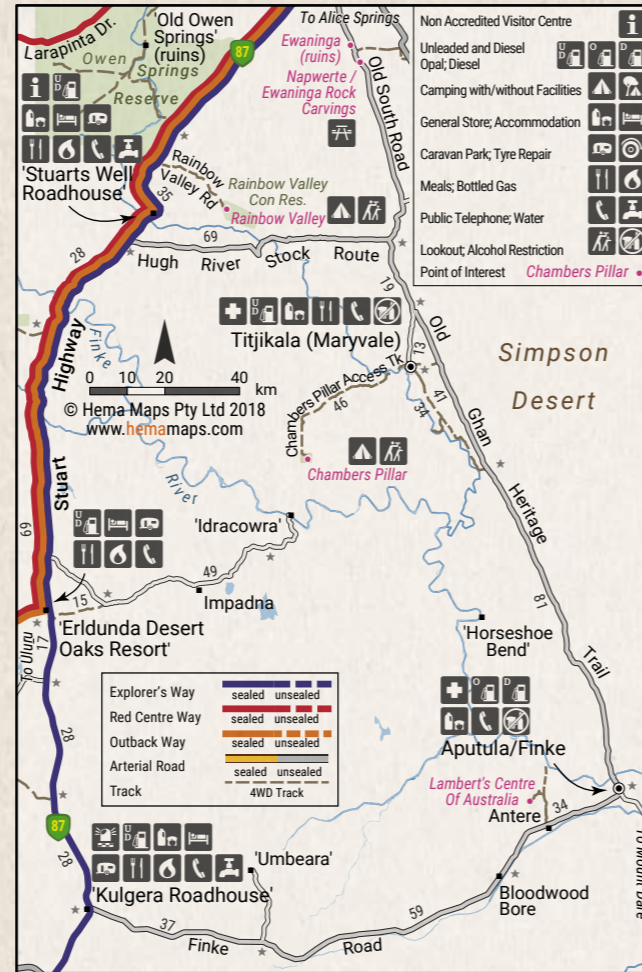
Chambers Pillar is a 50 metre high red and yellow sandstone column and is of Aboriginal significance of the Gecko ancestor Itirkawara. Take the walking paths around the base of Chambers Pillar and nearby Castle Rock. **Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**

#### Day 2 - OPTION A

##### Hugh River Stock Route / Rainbow Valley

Travel back along the Chambers Pillar access track to Titjikala (Maryvale). Turn north 33 km then turn west onto the Hugh River Stock Route. This route provides access to the Stuart Highway and is 69 km in length, 90 minutes, depending on road conditions. Please keep to all designated roads and tracks. Leave all gates as you find them.

Upon reaching the Stuart highway, head 25 km north to the turn off to Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve. The only access is from the Stuart Highway. Late afternoon is the best time to view the rainbow bands embedded within the valley ridge. A marked walking trail takes you to Mushroom Rock, an interesting sandstone formation. **Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**



#### Day 2 - OPTION B

##### Aputula Community, Lambert Centre, Kulgera Roadhouse

Travel back along the Chambers Pillar access track to Titjikala (Maryvale). Turn south on the Old South Road / Old Ghan Heritage Trail to Aputula / Finke community. Stop in at the Aputula store and art gallery for local Aboriginal art. Explore the heritage listed railway buildings, school and police station.

Travel west along the Finke Road towards Kulgera, 36 km turn north onto the Lambert Centre track. This track is 12 km and very sandy, allow at least an hour to return to the Finke Road.

In 1988 the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia determined the geographical centre of Australia at 25°36'36."4S and 134°21'17."3E, approximately 200 km south of Alice Springs. A plaque was erected to mark the location and named in honour of Dr Bruce P Lambert OBE for his achievements in surveying and mapping within Australia and the United Nations.

Kulgera Roadhouse, the most Central Pub in Australia sells fuel, supplies, meals and accommodation. Kulgera is 280 km south of Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway.



Bug in red sand

### Old Andado Track, Mac Clark (Acacia Peuce) Conservation Reserve, Mt Dare, Witjira-Dalhousie Springs

Note: This is a multi-day route, with a minimum of 2 nights.

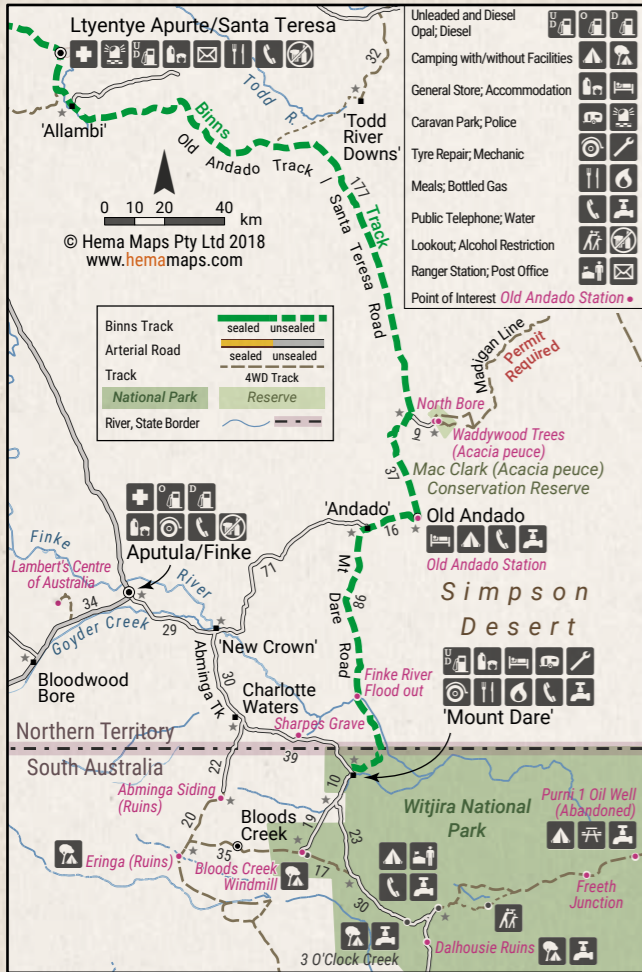
The Old Andado Track is for the experienced four-wheel driver. Take plenty of fuel, food and water and have HF Radio and/or satellite phone and a GPS. An EPIRB is also recommended.

Stop en route at Santa Teresa visit the Keringke Arts, which is open Monday to Thursday. Well known for bright colours in their work on canvas, silk, ceramics and other items.

Please keep to all designated roads and tracks. Leave all gates as you find them.

294 km along the Old Andado Track (Binns Track) from Alice Springs is the Mac Clark (Acacia Peuce) Conservation Reserve. The reserve is 9 km east of the Binns Track. Acacia Peuce, or Waddywood is one of the rarest and most striking trees of the Australian arid zone. **No camping is permitted.**

Continue along the Old Andado Track (Binns Track) for 37 km.



Stop at the Old Andado Station for true pioneering cattle station history. Old Andado Station pioneer Molly Clark passed away in 2012 and passed the station onto her five grandchildren to continue the legacy. **Camping is permitted.**

Travel onto Witjira-Dalhousie Springs stopping at Mt Dare Hotel to refuel and purchase your Park Pass. Mt Dare sells fuel and other automotive fluids and offers a workshop and recovery service. Meals, camping and accommodation are available.

Witjira-Dalhousie Springs are situated 250 km south east of Alice Springs. It is a complex of 'mound' springs. Take a swim in the warm water (34 - 36 degrees Celsius) enjoy the walks around the springs and the abundant bird life. Campground requires booking and payment prior at [environment.sa.gov.au/parks/booking](http://environment.sa.gov.au/parks/booking)

Travel north-west 161 km to Aputula (Finke) Community. Restock at the Aputula Store including fuel.

**OPTION A**  
Travel west along the Finke Road to the Stuart Highway. Refer page 43 for details of the Lambert Centre.

**OPTION B**  
Continue north on the Old South Road to Alice Springs. Refer to page 41 for details on Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve.



**5**

**Hay River Track and Madigan Line**

The Hay River Track runs for 370 km between the Plenty Highway and Poeppels Corner; the border junction of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Queensland.

The Hay River track is suitable only for four-wheel drivers with experience in remote desert travel. Take plenty of fuel, food and water as there are no supplies available between Birdsville and Jervois Station. Minimum communication requirements are a HF Radio and/or satellite phone and a GPS. An EPIRB / distress beacon is also recommended.

The Bookie family, Aboriginal custodians of the Northern Simpson welcome visitors to their land. A permit is required and a stipulation is to pay the transit fee and camp at least one night at the Batton Hill Camp. Tours of the Batton Hill area are available upon request.

Permits for the Hay River track are available through JoI Fleming on (08) 8952 3359 or at [direct4WD.com.au](http://direct4WD.com.au)

For access to Witjira National Park you will also require the Desert Parks



Pass and to access the Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park, you will need a Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service camping permit. Refer to page 56 for contact details. Permits can take several weeks to process, so prepare well in advance.

The Hay River track can also be accessed via the Old Andado track, through the Mac Clark (Acacia Peuce) Conservation Reserve along the Madigan Line. The Madigan Line is not a trip to be taken lightly as the track is vague in many sections, crossing sand dunes. Good GPS reading skills are required. This route is for multi vehicles travelling together with extensive remote travelling experience, equipment and supplies.

The Madigan Line was named after explorer and geologist Cecil Madigan., who in 1939 led a party across the North Simpson Desert. Small plaques (on yellow star pickets) mark Madigan's camp sites; installed in 1994 by Owen Correa Outback Expeditions.

A permit is required and can be obtained through the Central Land Council in Alice Springs Monday - Friday or online. Allow approximately two weeks to receive your online permit. For opening hours and contact details refer to page 56.



Chambers Pillar

## FUEL LOCATIONS

### Eridunda Roadhouse

Corner of Stuart & Lasseter Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 0984  
Daily 6am-9.30pm



### Aputula (Finke) Store

Old South Road  
Tel: 08 8956 0966  
Mon - Sat 8am-12pm & 2pm-4pm  
Sun Closed



### Kulgera Roadhouse Stuart Hwy

Tel: 08 8956 0973  
Daily 7am-10pm



### Mt Dare Hotel

Oodnadatta Track  
Tel: 08 8670 7835  
Daily 8am-9pm, fuel until 6pm



### Santa Teresa Store

Santa Teresa Road  
Tel: 08 8956 0805  
Mon - Fri 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm  
Sat 9am-12pm  
Sun & Public Hols Closed



### Stuarts Well Stuart Hwy

Tel: 08 8956 0808  
Daily 6am-10pm



## KEY TO FACILITIES

Facilities are correct at time of printing. Please phone directly for further facility information.

**AG** Autogas

**AR** Auto repairs

**D** Diesel

**O** Opal fuel

**PU** Premium unleaded

**S** Store

**U** Unleaded

**🍴** Food

# NORTHERN REGION

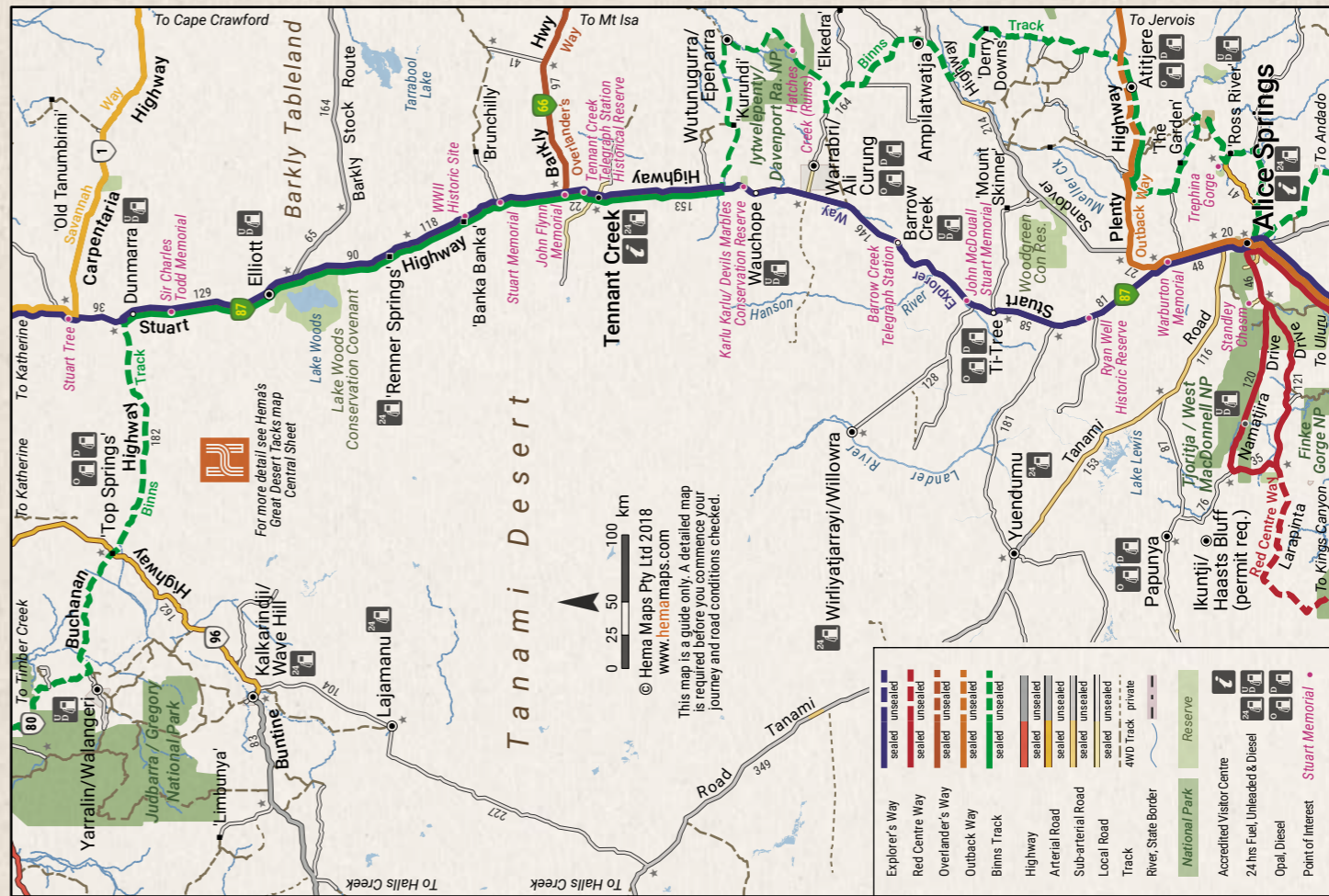
North of Alice Springs, weave your way through iconic ranges and rock formations and unlock the explorer within. Take a four-wheel adventure along the Binns Track through the Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park to Tennant Creek. Traverse the Tanami Desert, by taking the Tanami Road.

Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles

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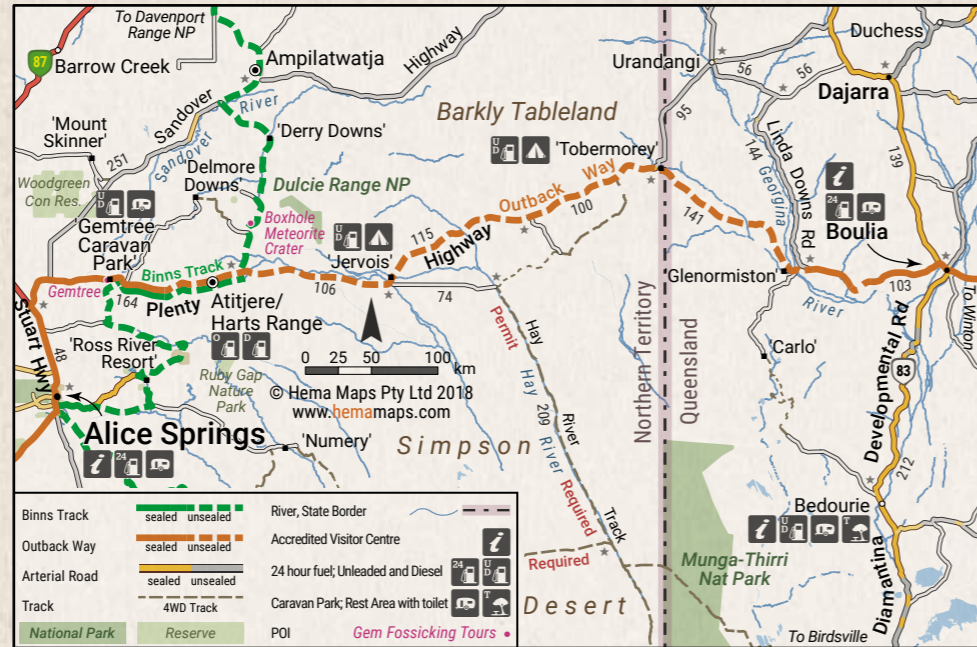
Sunset

1

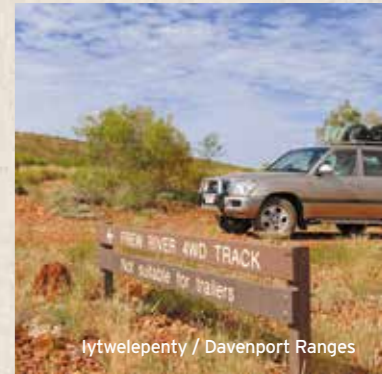
Plenty Highway section of the Outback Way

This is the most direct route from Alice Springs to Boulia in Western Queensland. The Plenty Highway is bitumen to just past Gemtree and is then a gravel road to the Queensland border where it changes to the Donohue Highway. It is sandy in parts and can be impassable when wet. It is recommended for four-wheel drive vehicles only.

To explore the eastern region of Alice Springs before joining the Plenty Highway refer to the section commencing page 22.



Plan your trip along the Outback Way visit [outbackway.org.au](http://outbackway.org.au)



Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges

2

Binns Track and Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park

Travel north from the Plenty Highway along the Binns Track, Arapunya Road. The gravel road travels through several cattle stations and is 422 km from Gemtree to the Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park.

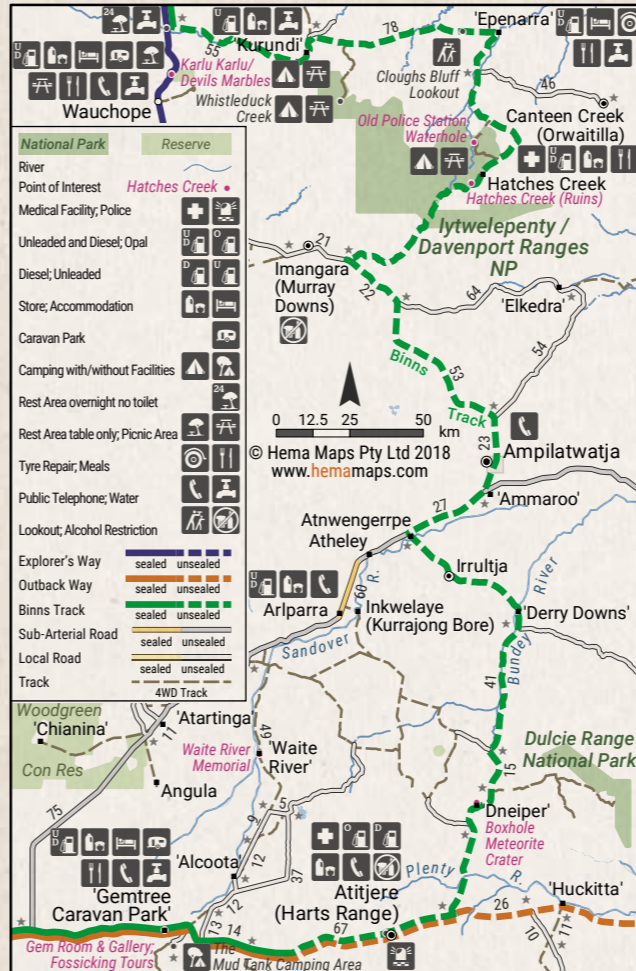
Please keep to all designated roads and tracks. Importantly, please leave all gates as you find them. Ensure you have sufficient supplies of fuel, water and food for this section. Minimum communication requirements are a HF Radio and/or satellite phone and a GPS. An EPIRB is also recommended.

The Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park overlays a rich living cultural landscape of the Alyawarr, Wakaya, Kaytetye and Warumungu traditional owners. Many local language groups retain traditional associations with the land through their stories and songs. This is an arid landscape that is criss-crossed with watercourses, rocky hills, barren outcrops and valleys. When the land receives significant

rain it transforms into a vibrant escarpment, set against the hues of trees, rocks and hills.

The Binns Track turns north at the Hatches Creek Road, 14 km south east of Murray Downs. Take the gravel route to Old Police Station Waterhole via the abandoned Bull River Bore. The alternative 17 km, 90 minutes Frew River Loop Road to Old Police Station Waterhole is suitable for experienced four-wheel drivers only and not for towing.

Old Police Station Waterhole is an ideal place for swimming in the warmer months, but beware of submerged logs and rocks. **Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**





Barn Owl

Travel north 104 km to Kalkarindji. Visit the Wave Hill walk-off route, which was listed as a National Heritage Place in 2007. The self-guided interpretation route tells the story of the 1966 walk-off from Wave Hill Station by Aboriginal pastoral workers.

Stay at the Kalkarindji Caravan Park and Campground. Continue your trip north to the Judbarra / Gregory National Park or continue west along the Buntine Highway to Halls Creek.

Warlukurlangu means 'belonging to fire' in Warlpiri. All purchases from this Aboriginal-owned art centre supports the local community.

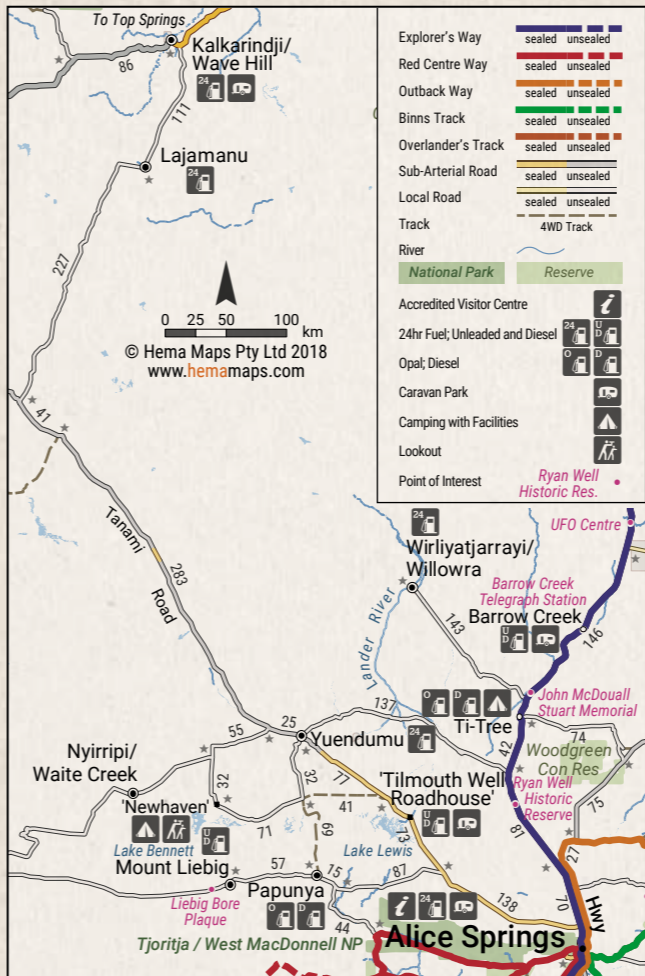
**NOTE: Ensure you have enough fuel for the 560 km section between Yuendumu and Balgo Community (Balgo is located 34 km off the Tanami Road in Western Australia)**

The Tanami and Granites Mines found just off the track are among the largest gold producing mines in Australia.

Turn north off the Tanami Road 340 km north west of Yuendumu to Kalkarindji (Wave Hill) via Lajamanu.

**NOTE: Ensure you have enough fuel for the 570 km section between Yuendumu and Lajamanu**

Visit the impressive Warnayaka Art centre at Lajamanu, where traditional stories are told by Warlpiri people. Lajamanu has a small campground with no facilities on the outskirts of community. A permit to stay overnight or longer is required and can be purchased through Central Lands Council in Alice Springs or online. Refer to page 56 for contact details.



3

### Tanami Road and up to Kalkarindji

Traversing the Tanami Desert, this track is a great short-cut linking the Red Centre to the Kimberley. It runs over 1097 km from Alice Springs to Halls Creek. The Tanami is sealed from Stuart Highway turnoff for 186 km and unsealed thereafter. Check road conditions before departing.

Tilmouth Well is located 195 km from Alice Springs, and is known as the oasis on the Tanami. Stop and refresh they have cabins, campground with green lawns, meals, swimming pool and fuel.

Bird watchers should make a detour to enjoy what is on offer at Newhaven Station, owned by Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Visitors are welcome at their campground in the cooler months (April to September) for more information visit [australianwildlife.org/sanctuaries/newhaven-sanctuary.aspx](http://australianwildlife.org/sanctuaries/newhaven-sanctuary.aspx) Bookings are essential phone 08 8964 6000, email [newhaven@australianwildlife.org](mailto:newhaven@australianwildlife.org)

Stop and spend some time at Warlukurlangu Artists of Yuendumu.

Continue your adventure through the Davenport and Murchison Ranges, head around to the smaller waterhole at Whistleduck Creek. This route is challenging (narrow with some extended overgrown tree branches) and whilst picturesque is winding and slow going in parts. There are two gates to open and shut. Epenarra Station are happy for tourists to use the track on their property, but have asked that travellers stop in and buy something from their shop.

Whistleduck Creek is located in the north - west section Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park. The waterhole provides an important refuge for wildlife, particularly a large variety of bird species. **Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**

Restock your supplies at Kurundi Station and join the Stuart Highway 27 km north of Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve.

Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve is 106 km south of Tennant Creek. The site of Karlu Karlu is of great significance to a number of Aboriginal language groups in the area. Made of granite,

these massive boulders change colour throughout the day glowing at their most spectacular at early sunrise or sunset. **Camping permitted. Camping fees apply and are payable onsite.**

Explore Tennant Creek a genuine outback Territorian town. Experience life in the 1930s gold rush at Battery Hill Mining and Visitor Centre. Enjoy an Underground Mine tour and watch the Gold Stamp Battery machinery at work. It is home of three unique museum exhibits and the Visitor Information Centre.

Picnic or swim at Tingkarli / Lake Mary Ann, a man-made lake 5 km north of Tennant Creek. Take a self-guided tour of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station. Collect an access key from the Visitors Centre at Battery Hill. Finish the day with a sunset experience from Kunjerra / The Pebbles located 11 km (6 km unsealed) north of Tennant Creek.

## FUEL LOCATIONS

**Aileron Roadhouse** Stuart Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 9703  
Daily 6am-9.30pm



**Barrow Creek** Stuart Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 9753  
Daily 7am-10pm



**Devils Marbles Hotel** Stuart Hwy  
Wauchope  
Tel: 08 8964 1963  
Daily 6am-10pm



**Epenarra Station**  
Epenarra / Murray Downs Road  
Tel: 08 8964 1511  
Mon - Fri 7am-4pm  
Sat 7.30am-1pm, Sun 8am-1pm



**Gemtree** Plenty Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 9855  
Daily 8am-5pm



**Harts Range Store** Plenty Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 9773  
Mon - Fri 9am-12pm & 2pm-5pm  
Sat 9am-1pm, Sun Closed



**Jervois Station** Plenty Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 6307  
Daily 7:30am-6pm



**Kurundi Station** Kurundi Road  
Tel: 08 8964 1964  
Daily 9am-5pm



**Ti-Tree Roadhouse** Stuart Hwy  
Tel: 08 8956 9741  
Daily 6am-10pm



**Tobermorey Station** Plenty Hwy  
Tel: 07 4748 3280  
Mon - Fri 7am-6pm  
Sat - Sun 8am-5pm



**Wycliffe Well** Stuart Hwy  
Tel: 08 8964 1966  
Daily 6.30am-8.30pm



## TANAMI / NORTH WEST REGION

**Kalkarindji Service Station & Store**  
Buntine Hwy  
Tel: 08 8975 0788



**Larjamanu Service Station & Store**  
Lajamanu  
Tel: 08 8975 0644



**Tilmonth Well Roadhouse**  
Tel: 08 8956 8777  
Daily 7am-8.30pm



**Yuendumu Mining**  
Yuendumu  
Tel: 08 8956 4040  
Daily 9am-5pm



## KEY TO FACILITIES

Facilities are correct at time of printing. Please phone directly for further facility information.

**AG** Autogas

**AR** Auto repairs

**D** Diesel

**O** Opal fuel

**PU** Premium unleaded

**S** Store

**U** Unleaded

**F** Food

## SAFETY

The Northern Territory is a big place and there are long distances to be travelled between different iconic locations, but good planning prior to departure can help you to break up the long stints and make each day behind the wheel a relaxing and enjoyable experience.

Always phone and check road conditions before departure. The NT Government provides a 24-hour recorded message service on 1800 246 199 or visit [roadreport.nt.gov.au](http://roadreport.nt.gov.au). Roads may become flooded following rain. Avoid fast moving waters, and don't cross flooded roads. Do not access closed roads.

Always advise someone of your travel plans and times just in case you run into trouble.

If you break down, do not leave your vehicle. A missing vehicle is easier to locate than missing people

### Safety Communication

Confirm you know how to use all safety communication equipment and that they suit your critical personal communications needs.

When buying or renting a satellite phone ensure it has reliable coverage to the network and an adequate airtime plan has been purchased. Make sure the phones battery is charged at all times.

If you don't have a satellite telephone a distress beacon is another way to ensure safety along with an UHF or HF radio. For further information or to register a distress beacon visit [beacons.amsa.gov.au](http://beacons.amsa.gov.au).

HF Radios require a licence from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) visit [acma.gov.au/theACMA/amateur-licensing](http://acma.gov.au/theACMA/amateur-licensing). You may elect to join a network that carries inbuilt licencing for their own frequencies. Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc.(VKS737) prime role is to provide safety to travellers in remote areas. To join the Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc. (VKS737) visit [vks737.radio](http://vks737.radio).

### Water

It is essential to always carry adequate supplies of water, plus a 3-4 day reserve supply. During mild weather estimate 6 litres per person per day. During the warmer weather estimate 10 litres of water per person per day.

### Fuel

There may be many kilometres between petrol stations. Check that you have enough fuel to reach your next stop.

Your fuel economy will vary greatly on the tracks you take. Make sure you plan ahead and carry enough fuel between all stops. Be aware that heavy track conditions such as soft sand, muddy tracks and slow hilly terrains will increase fuel consumption.

Fuel location contact details are provided in each section of this guide.

### 4WD Tracks

If the track is mostly sandy, ensure your hubs are locked in and four-wheel drive is engaged.

Deflate tyres to 30psi (200kpa) to increase their surface area. Further deflation may be required in softer sections.

Drive in the existing wheel ruts to avoid getting bogged or cause erosion.

## CONTACTS

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Call 000 (triple zero) for emergency fire, police and ambulance assistance throughout Australia or if a crime is in progress. Call 112 from mobile phone.

#### In not able to access 000:

**The Royal Flying Doctor Service**  
Tel: 1800 630 784 or 08 86489501  
[flyingdoctor.org.au](http://flyingdoctor.org.au)

Hire appropriate emergency communication equipment e.g. satellite phones, High Frequency (HF) radio.

#### In an emergency, stay with your vehicle.

Non-emergency Police attendance  
Tel: 131 444

### ROAD REPORTS

Get advice on the terrain, condition and safety requirements of all NT Government controlled roads.  
[roadreport.nt.gov.au](http://roadreport.nt.gov.au)

24-hour recorded message service  
Tel: 1800 246 199

### TOURIST INFORMATION

For more information on the many experiences available in the Northern Territory, visit: [northernterritory.com](http://northernterritory.com)



#### Tourism Central Australia Visitor Information Centre

Cnr Todd Mall & Parsons Street  
Alice Springs NT 0870

Tel: 1800 645 199  
[discovercentralaustralia.com](http://discovercentralaustralia.com)



#### Tennant Creek Visitor Information Centre

Peko Road  
Tennant Creek NT 0860

Tel: 08 8962 1281  
[barklytourism.com.au](http://barklytourism.com.au)

### VEHICLE RECOVERY

#### Outback Vehicle Recovery

24 hour service 7 days a week  
AANT agent and contractor

Tel: 08 8952 1087

58 Sargent Street  
Alice Springs NT 0870

#### Jett Towing

24 hour service 7 days a week

Tel: 0419 809 540

31b George Crescent  
Alice Springs NT 0870

Towing and mechanical assistance is also available from other locations across Central Australia and other businesses in Alice Springs. Call the local Visitor Information Centre for their contact details.

### PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION NT

[nt.gov.au/find-a-park](http://nt.gov.au/find-a-park)

[nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/check-park-open-alice-springs](http://nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/check-park-open-alice-springs)

Tel: 08 8951 8250

### ABORIGINAL LAND & COMMUNITY ACCESS PERMITS

#### The Mereenie Loop Road permit can be purchased at:

Alice Springs Visitor Information Centre, Glen Helen Homestead, Ntaria / Hermannsburg Ntaria Store and Kings Canyon Resort.

#### Central Land Council

27 North Stuart Highway  
Alice Springs NT 0870  
Mon - Fri 8am-5pm

Tel: 08 8951 6211  
Email: [permits@clc.org.au](mailto:permits@clc.org.au)  
[www.clc.org.au](http://www.clc.org.au)

Permit requirement map for transit roads, visit [clc.org.au/files/pdf/Roads\\_Map.pdf](http://clc.org.au/files/pdf/Roads_Map.pdf)

#### Ngaanyatjarra Council for WA sections of the Sandy Blight Junction Road

[ngaanyatjarra.org.au/ngaanyatjarra-council/permits](http://ngaanyatjarra.org.au/ngaanyatjarra-council/permits)

Tel: 08 8950 1711  
Email: [reception@ngaanyatjarra.org.au](mailto:reception@ngaanyatjarra.org.au)

#### Direct 4WD Awareness for Hay River Track transit permit and Batton Hill Camping

[direct4wd.com.au/hay-river-batton-hill](http://direct4wd.com.au/hay-river-batton-hill)  
Tel: 0408 485 641

#### National Parks South Australia - Desert Parks Pass

[environment.sa.gov.au/parks/entry-fees/parks-passes/desert-parks-pass](http://environment.sa.gov.au/parks/entry-fees/parks-passes/desert-parks-pass)  
Tel: 08 8648 5328

#### Queensland National Parks - Munga-Thirri (Simpsons Desert) National Park

[qpws.usedirect.com/QPWS/Default.aspx](http://qpws.usedirect.com/QPWS/Default.aspx)

[npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/munga-thirri/camping.html](http://npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/munga-thirri/camping.html)



An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road stretching horizontally across a vast, arid landscape. The terrain is characterized by reddish-brown soil and sparse, low-lying vegetation. A single white car is visible on the road, moving from left to right. The overall scene conveys a sense of isolation and the rugged beauty of a remote region.

[northernterritory.com](http://northernterritory.com)

Find your arts.culture.experience here [redhotarts.com.au](http://redhotarts.com.au)