



1 FINKE GORGE NATIONAL PARK - BOGGY HOLE & PALM VALLEY

Finke Gorge National Park is 46,000 hectares that is accessible all year round, except when the Finke River is in flood. The drive to the national park begins with an easy drive west out of Alice Springs along the sealed Larapinta Drive and has two main tracks to be explored.

1. From Larapinta Drive, turn left onto the Palm Valley track. This track is 22km long and is gravel with sandy and rock sections following the Finke Riverbed. Palm Valley is home to beautiful gorges, filled with rare and unique plant species including the red cabbage palm from which it gets its name.

2. Boggy Hole is only 32km from Hermannsburg but can take several hours to reach via the 4WD track. Once reached, you are greeted by a stunning permanent waterhole, as well as a historic police camp that operated from 1893 to 1912. The track continues for another 90km through to the Ernest Giles Road, going past Running Waters and the Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve.

2 CHAMBERS PILLAR

Chambers Pillar was first discovered by John McDouall Stuart and named after his sponsor James Chamber. Here you will find 3 rock formations, all sites of Aboriginal significance for the Gecko ancestor Itirkawara. It is accessible by driving south from Alice Springs down the Old South Road/Maryvale Road and then west onto the Chambers Pillar Access Road. This track is gravel and sandy in patches and will require a 4WD to access, use extreme caution when driving over single lane sand dunes.

3 TANAMI ROAD

The Tanami Road is a 1,097km track that traverses through the Tanami Desert from just 20km north of Alice Springs to 17kms south west of Halls Creek in WA. The road provides a great shortcut between the Red Centre and the Kimberley. The road is sealed from the Stuart Highway for 186km to Yuendumu and is unsealed thereafter. Along the way you can stop at Tilmouth Well and the art cultural centres of Yuendumu, Balgo and Billiluna. You could also take the short detours to visit Lake Gregory, an inland wetland renowned for its birdlife, or Wolfe Creek Crater National Park.

Please note that there is no fuel available for 600km between Yuendumu and Balgo so you will need to carry enough to get you between these two places.

4WD TRACKS



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Bookings and information:

Alice Springs, Yulara and Tennant Creek Visitor Information Centres
www.discovercentralaustralia.com | 1800 645 199



4 LAMBERT CENTRE

Located 200km south of Alice Springs, the Lambert Centre is recognised as the geographical centre of Australia. Access can be found by either driving south along the Stuart Highway to Kulgera or along the Old Ghan Heritage Trail and then turning onto the Finke Road. The track to Lambert Centre is off this road and is 11km long. Look out for heavy corrugations along the Old Ghan Heritage Trail and the track into Lambert Centre will consist of soft sands. You will need to have intermediate 4WD experience and carry sufficient provisions and recovery gear.

5 HAY RIVER TRACK AND MADIGAN LINE

The Hay River Track runs for 370km between the Plenty Highway and Poeppl Corner (the junction of NT, SA and QLD borders). The Madigan Line is 720km long between Mt Dare, SA traversing through the Simpson Desert, NT and Birdsville, QLD. Both these tracks require high clearance 4WD with experience in remote travel and driving through desert country over rough roads and sand dunes. Adequate communication abilities are essential such as HF Radio and/or satellite phones.

Permits Hay River Track permits are available at direct4WD.com.au; Madigan Line permits are available from the Central Land Council.

6 IYTWELEPENTY/ DAVENPORT RANGES NATIONAL PARK

Located in the Barkly Region, this park protects the environment and cultural landscape that overlays the Davenport and Murchison Ranges. It can be accessed either via Stuart Highway, turn off at Bonney Well along Kurundi/ Epenarra Road; at Taylor Creek along Murray Downs/Hatches Creek Road; or via the 422km route from Gemtree along the Binns Track. Coming from this direction, you can take the gravel track to the Old Police Station Waterhole, or take the more challenging Frew River Loop Track, which is suitable for experienced 4WDers only. You can then continue through to Whistleduck Creek along the



challenging and often narrow route.

7 RAINBOW VALLEY

Rainbow Valley sits within the James Ranges south of Alice Springs. There you will find the free-standing cliffs and a walk to Mushroom rock, a sandstone formation with Fairy Martin nests attached to the walls. Rainbow Valley is at its peak beauty in the early morning or late afternoon when the sun's rays light up the rock. To get there you will need to drive south along the Stuart Highway for 75km before turning onto the 22km access road into the reserve. This road is gravel with patches of soft sand which can get severely corrugated so a 4WD is recommended.



8 BINNS TRACK

Named after the legendary park ranger Bill Binns, the Binns track rates as one of the top 4WD tracks in the country. Beginning at Mt Dare just over the border into SA, the track heads north for 2,192km all the way into the tropics at Timber Creek. Along the way you will encounter the sand dunes of the Simpson Desert, the pioneering history of Old Andado and Arltunga, fossicking at Gemtree and the stunning Davenport Ranges of the Barkly region.

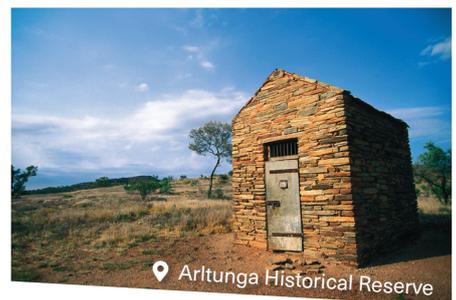


9 OWEN SPRINGS

Once a prominent cattle station, access to Owen Springs Reserve is from either Larapinta Drive or the Stuart Highway and can be driven in either direction for 50km, taking about 90 minutes to complete. A 4WD is essential as some sections of the track follow the sandy riverbed of the Hugh River. You will travel through the pastoral heritage of the area, passing the old Aboriginal quarters and homestead ruins, and you can camp at either Lawrence Gorge or Redbank Waterhole.

10 ARLTUNGA AND RUBY GAP

Arltunga Historical Reserve was born out of the gold rush in 1887 and was Central Australia's first town. It is located 110km east of Alice Springs, 77km of which is sealed with the remaining 33km on gravel road, the conditions of which vary and can be impassable after rain. Ruby Gap, a further 40km east, also linked to the mining rush, was thought to have rubies in the bed of the Hale River, but later found to be high grade garnets. The track takes about 1.5 hours to complete and is suitable only to high clearance 4WDs. It involves a lot of dry, sandy creek beds so decent 4WD experience is necessary and you must have suitable recovery gear.



NT PARKS PASS

A Parks Pass is required if you are visiting parks and reserves in the Northern Territory.

Purchase your Parks Pass and book campsites at nt.gov.au/parks



Road conditions and access to parks in the Northern Territory (NT) can change at short notice. Always check the road conditions before you leave. General road conditions can be accessed at roadreport.nt.gov.au/. For specific information on national park access, please visit nt.gov.au/parks.

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GET OUT THERE IN THE RED CENTRE