



A DAY IN

ALICE SPRINGS

One of the most asked questions that we get in the Information Centre is “what should we do in Alice Springs?” and the hardest part about answering this question is it depends on your interests. So we’ve put together this guide of things you could do in Alice Springs to suit you.

1 ART CENTRES & GALLERIES

With more than 15 art centres and galleries in Alice Springs, art lovers will be able to spend plenty of time gallery hopping and looking at wonderful local artworks. Time your gallery visits right and you might get the chance to watch artists at work while they tell you about the stories behind their painting.

Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Gallery is home to the descendants of Albert Namatjira and his watercolour legacy. Visit **Tjanpi Desert Weavers** and see the amazing weaved creations, made from native tjanpi (grass). **Araluen Arts Centre** has a number of exhibitions on throughout the year, and **Yubu Napa** is one of the most popular Aboriginal art galleries within the CBD.

2 REACH THE SKIES

If you want to try something a little unique or action packed, there’s plenty to suit your adventurous spirit. Get the aerial perspective over Alice Springs and the MacDonnell Ranges region as you take to the skies in a helicopter, hot air balloon, or glider. The options are endless.

3 HISTORY

Alice Springs has a rich history; from the megafauna that once roamed the earth, and ancient Aboriginal culture, to early European explorers and Afghan cameleers. Visit the **Alice Springs Telegraph Station**, the first site for the township of Alice Springs. The history of Alice Springs has many different categories; if you like vehicles you should checkout the **National Road Transport & Museum** home to pioneering road transport trucks, trains, buses and cars. If aviation is more your thing, the **Central Australian Aviation Museum** should be on your itinerary, with 2 indoor hangers and an undercover area full of airplanes and aviation history.

For an insight into the medical history of the outback, the **Royal Flying Doctor Service** tourist facility is a great place to learn about early medicine being provided to rural areas. Or for a demonstration into education in remote places, the **School of the Air Experience** is a great place to visit. To dive into true ancient history, **Megafauna Central** will take you back in time to show the creatures that used to roam the Central Australian earth.



Araluen Arts Centre



Hot Air Balloon

Bookings and information:
Alice Springs Visitor Information Centre
41 Todd Mall, Alice Springs | 1800 645 199



4 ASTRONOMY

Here in the outback, you'll be treated to some sensational desert night skies. Once the sun has set, the stars, milky way, and even some planets will be visible by the naked eye. The best way to experience and learn about the night sky is at the **Earth Sanctuary**. Here you'll get the opportunity to look through deep sky telescopes, hear about stars and how people have used them for navigation, as well as learn about the Indigenous people's beliefs and stories about the night sky.



5 WALKING

There's no better way to get familiar with a small town like Alice Springs then seeing the sights by foot. With galleries and local attractions scattered around the CBD it's easy to pick up the street map and go for a wander. If you want a guided tour of the historical sites in Alice Springs, you can jump on an **Alice Springs Walking Tour**. If you want a destination at the other end of your walk, you can walk alongside the (usually dry) Todd River till you make it to the Telegraph Station (Riverside Walk is 3.5km one-way), or along Larapinta Drive and Blain Street bike path 8.2km to make it to the **Alice Springs Desert Park**. Alternatively, the **Olive Pink Botanic Garden** is another great spot for tourists to visit with a variety of walks and sights to see.

6 MOUNTAIN BIKING OR CYCLING

Did you know Central Australia is home to over 200 kilometres of mountain biking trails? Or if you like two wheels but not so much the mountain biking, there is still plenty you can see by bicycle. If you've brought your own bike, be sure to pick up our MTB trail pocket guide to get you started on the adventure. And if you don't have your own bike, don't worry you can hire one from **Red Centre Adventures** or **MyRide**



for wherever the adventure takes you.

7 WILDLIFE

Whether you're looking for a family-friendly activity or are just intrigued by native animals, there are a few places we recommend visiting. The **Alice Springs Desert Park** is a must visit when you're in Alice Springs. Here, you will have a chance to experience the desert come to life. You can see live animals such as kangaroos, dingoes, reptiles, nocturnal animals, and learn about how people have survived in the desert for so long. And if you time your visit right, you can also catch the free-flying bird show. The Desert Park also offers an after dark nocturnal tour that takes you through the enclosure to spot the nocturnal animals in their natural habitat.



Additionally, you can pop into the **Alice Springs Reptile Centre** to see all sorts of reptiles including lizards, goannas, geckos, snakes and even a crocodile. There are three reptile shows on daily (11am, 1pm & 3:30pm) where you will learn about the animals and includes a handling session at the end.



8 DAY TRIPS

If you want to use Alice Springs as a base for a little longer, there is plenty in the surrounding region that you can visit in a day or overnight trip.

WEST MACS: The West MacDonnell Ranges stretch 161km west of Alice Springs and is filled with a range of gaps, gorges and chasms. From the closest Simpsons Gap (only 24km out of town), to the popular Standley Chasm, Ellery Creek Big Hole and Ormiston Gorge, you'll find cafes, walking trails, swimming spots and campsites to enjoy. Drive yourself or book a guided day tour to learn on the go.

HERMANNSBURG & FINKE GORGE NATIONAL PARK:

Located West of Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive, you'll reach the small community of Ntaria (Hermannsburg), where you will find the **Hermannsburg Potters** and famous colourful terracotta pots. If you are equipped with a 4WD and have experience, you could head south from the town into the Finke Gorge National Park to Palm Valley or Boggy Hole.

EAST MACS: The other half to the West MacDonnell, the East MacDonnell Ranges include Emily & Jessie Gap, Trepkina Gorge, and Arltunga. There are plenty of beautiful walking trails, cultural spots and even a fossicking field to try out.

GEMTREE: Perfect for an overnight trip, Gemtree is home to a roadhouse/caravan park, campfire dinners and garnet or zircon fossicking tours. Try your hand at fossicking and get your gems appraised to possibly get them cut into jewellery as a memento for your holiday, as you get to take home what you find.

IF YOU'VE GOT A 4WD, there are a number of places you can add to your itinerary within a day trip from Alice Springs. Look up Owen Springs Reserve, Rainbow Valley or Chambers Pillar to get you off track in just the right way.



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