



A DAY IN

Trephina Gorge

THE EAST MACDONNELL RANGES



The East MacDonnell Ranges or the “East Macs” is one of the most beautiful, yet understated areas of the Red Centre. The East Macs offer a variety of interesting sites to rival the West Macs, including multiple ancient Aboriginal rock art sites, cattle station homesteads with dining and accommodation options, and the historical ghost town of Arltunga.

1 & 2 EMILY AND JESSIE GAP

Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps should be your first stop on a journey to the East MacDonnell Ranges. This area will introduce you to the landscapes you're yet to see and show you the significance of the land to the Eastern Arrernte people. The ranges are part of the caterpillar dreaming story, which tells the tale of how Alice Springs was formed. You can see rock art of this dreaming at Emily Gap. *You should respect the site and not touch or photograph the Aboriginal art.* The Yeperenye Trail is a 7.2km one-way walking/cycling path that connects the two gaps and is a perfect way to immerse yourself in the landscape.

Park Access Emily Gap 15km / Jessie Gap 22km from Alice Springs. Sealed road. Suitable to all vehicles including caravans.

Facilities Toilets, picnic area. Camping not permitted. Fire pits only at Jessie Gap.

3 CORROBOREE ROCK

The impressive dolomite structure of Corrobooree Rock Conservation Reserve is of great importance to the local Arrernte Aboriginal people. Formed more than 800 million years ago by salt lakes, it is a sacred men's site that plays a significant role in culture today. *The reserve is a registered sacred site and traditional owners ask that you stay on the marked track to protect this special place.* On the walks you'll be able to get great photos of spinifex and senna against a milky blue sky when the light is low.

Park Access 42km from Alice Springs. Unsealed road. Suitable to all vehicles.

Facilities Picnic area. Camping not permitted.



Ruby Gap



Jessie Gap

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



4 TREPHINA GORGE

Trephina Gorge is noted for its sheer quartzite cliffs and River Red Gum lined watercourses. Two gorges dissect the range: Trephina, with its wide views and sandy creekbed, and John Hayes Rockhole with steep, narrow rock walls. Waterholes in this area attract much wildlife, including wallabies and a diverse range of birds. While beautiful to look at, the water in John Hayes Rockhole can be very cold, even in summer. If it hasn't rained in a long time the waterholes may have dried up. There are a number of short and long walks on offer in the nature park, as well as 4 different campgrounds. The park also has the largest Ghost Gum (*Corymbia aparreninja*) in Australia.

Park Access 77km from Alice Springs, last 9km off the Ross Highway is gravel road, suitable to all vehicles.

Facilities Picnic tables, firepits, drinking water, toilets, campsites (camping fees apply).

5 ROSS RIVER RESORT

Ross River Resort is based around the original 1890's Loves Creek Homestead. Situated at the end of the sealed Ross Highway, you'll find a piece of Australian outback pioneering history. Come here for a variety of accommodation options, a drink or a delicious meal, and a lesson into the homestead's history.



Access 83km from Alice Springs. Sealed road. Suitable to all vehicles.

Facilities Full Facilities: Campground, Cabins, Pub Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), Licensed Bar. Check opening hours.

6 N'DHALA GORGE

N'Dhala Gorge is a cultural treasure with 6,000 individual petroglyphs, or rock carvings, found in 438 engraved sites along the main gorge and 240 engraved sites in the side gorge. It is suggested that engraving occurred over two time periods. The first was around 10,000 years ago and the second started about 3,000 years ago. Anyone with an interest in Aboriginal art should visit the park. *The traditional owners, the local Arrernte people, ask that you respect the park and its artefacts.* There is a 1.5km, about a one hour return, walk through the gorge where you can see rare plants such as the Hayes wattle (*Acacia undoolyana*).

Park Access 91km from Alice Springs. 11km 4WD track past Ross River Resort, suitable to 4WD vehicles only.

Facilities Toilets, picnic area, firepits, bush campsite (camping fees apply).

7 ARLTUNGA

Arltunga Historical Reserve was the site of hope, struggle and mateship for many fortune hunters who came here on foot to find gold. Born out of a goldrush in 1887, Arltunga was officially Central Australia's first town and once supported up to 300 people. At the visitor centre you will be introduced to Arltunga's colourful past and wild characters. Walks at the reserve take you through the Government Battery, Cyanide Works, Old Police Station, Joker Gorge, mines and homes.

Park Access 110km from Alice Springs. 77km along the Ross Highway (sealed), then north east for 33km to Arltunga (unsealed gravel road). Gravel roads provide access to the major attractions within the reserve. Check road conditions before you leave.

Facilities Information centre, toilets, free BBQ's, picnic tables. Camping not permitted. Fossicking permitted in the adjoining Fossicking Reserve.



8 HALE RIVER HOMESTEAD AT OLD AMBALINDUM

Escape the hustle and bustle of city life and visit Hale River Homestead's tranquil surroundings. Boasting some of the most breathtaking views Central Australia has to offer and close to many historical sites, Hale River Homestead has something to offer everyone, from the day tripper to camping and caravanners to families looking for an exciting adventure or couples looking for a romantic getaway. Hale River Homestead offers meals, snacks and drinks from "The Workshop".

Access 120km from Alice Springs. Unsealed road. Accessible via the Arltunga Historical Reserve (the Binns Track) or the Arltunga Tourist Drive (also known as the Garden Road) from the Stuart Highway.

Facilities Full Facilities: Campground, Accommodation, Kiosk (breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and snacks). Check opening hours before setting on your drive.

9 RUBY GAP

Ruby Gap is a park with a chequered history and was the site of the first mining rush in Central Australia. In the late 1880s David Lindsay thought he discovered rubies in the bed of the Hale River and hundreds flocked to the site to cash in on European buyers. Two years later it was found that the gems were high grade garnets and not nearly as valuable as rubies. Now Ruby Gap is a remote wilderness. Much of the rugged terrain is not to be underestimated and walking tracks are only suitable for experienced walkers. There are no marked tracks but exploring up the river bed to Glen Annie Gorge and Fox's Grave is very rewarding.

Park Access 143km from Alice Springs, access via Arltunga Historical Reserve. Suitable only to experienced 4-wheel drivers, with high clearance 4WD vehicle and full recovery equipment. Check road conditions before you leave.

Facilities Bush camping (camping fees apply).



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