



NORTHERN TERRITORY

THE CENTRE

**PLAN AHEAD AND BOOK YOUR
TRIP TO THE CENTRE NOW!!**

Central Australia is an experience in itself.

From the Red Centre of Ayers Rock (Uluru), to the rugged cliffs of Kings Canyon, or taking a camel to dinner, exploring the Palm Valley oasis in the middle of the desert, or even visiting the Royal Flying Doctor Service base in Alice Springs - there are so many incredible places to explore and experience in this unique wilderness.

The weather in Central Australia varies quite a bit between seasons.

The best time to visit is between April and September, when maximum temperature are between 20°C and 30°C. The cool weather means it is safer

and much more pleasant to walk, and there is very little rain. Overnight temperatures can be very cold during winter, so be sure to bring some warm clothing with you. While the period from October to March can get extremely hot, with daytime temperatures regularly exceeding 35°C. However, the hot weather also brings storms and rain, which fill the waterholes and can start Uluru's waterfalls flowing – a truly spectacular sight! Summer also brings large numbers of flies to the desert, so you might want to consider wearing a protective head net.

Whatever time of year you choose - we are here to help you work it out and make your journey as comfortable as possible.



ULURU FALLS

Not everyone gets to see this!

Due to the climate of the area, it only rains a few times per year in Uluru. However, when it does start raining, those who are lucky enough to watch the show are amazed by its beauty. After each storm, the large quantities of water run off from the top of the rock, creating the illusion of small waterfalls.

Furthermore, once the rock gets wet by the rain, its color turns from grey to

various shades of red, dark red and brown. While rain can fall at any time, heavy rains are most likely between November and March, although very heavy downpours have also occurred in May.



LONGITUDE 131'

No Contest!

The best way to stay in Uluru!

Stay in your own glamorous five-star perch in the dunes with an unparalleled view of Uluru from the foot of your bed. All this plus private tours and excellent food. A real bucket list experience. This is glamping at its finest. Each self-contained double room is like a little treehouse perched up on stilts (for maximum viewing potential). The tented rooftops add romance and create structures that sit gently in the landscape. The main Dune Pavillion, with dining room, lounge, library, bar and boutique, is a giant tented space with great views over Uluru. Beside the magnificent views of Uluru, the other reason to stay at Longitude 131 are the free small group tours. Guests can choose two out of the four daily options, which include the chance to see Uluru close up at sunset, walk around a small part of the base, visit a watering hole, or hike a small part

of Kata Tjuta. If you stay three nights, there is an option for a full 10km Uluru base walk.



SAILS IN THE DESERT

Red Centre Luxury

Sails in the Desert is the plushiest pick within the Ayers Rock Resort. Contemporary, airy rooms arc around a heated, shaded pool, while other facilities comprise a tennis court, day spa, and several restaurants. Sails is so-called because of the white, sail-shaped awnings that line the property's outdoor spaces. These add to the breezy, open feel of the hotel, which has an abundance of natural light. Carpets bearing modern indigenous colours and prints run through the hotel – a nice, artful touch. Dining areas are also sun-drenched; woven straw light-shades hang from ceilings, providing another nod to the area's Aboriginal culture. Sails staff are the most cheerful and helpful in the resort and go out of their way to assist guests and provide a convivial atmosphere. Hotel facilities include a gumtree-lined swimming pool heated to 26 degrees. A stay in the outback in comfort!



SUNRISE CAMELS

See the spectacular sunrise over Uluru

Take a stunning sunrise camel ride over the big red sand dunes to watch the magnificent sight of the sun rising over Ayers Rock and the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. A unique way to experience the beauty of this outback phenomenon, this one hour tour is accompanied by experience guides who take you along a trail for flora and fauna, ending with fresh baked beer bread and billy tea.



SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Dine under the sparkling outback Uluru sky

Your Sounds of Silence experience begins with canapes and chilled sparkling wine upon a dune top overlooking the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. As the sun sets and darkness falls, listen to the sound of a didgeridoo and join your table of fellow travelers for an unforgettable dining experience. Attentive staff will offer a selection of Australian wine and beer while the first course is served at your table. As the night sky twinkles to life, you will be welcomed to an interactive chef's station where you will be served your choice from our freshly prepared, bush tucker inspired menu incorporating native bush ingredients. Settle back and listen to the resident star talker decode the southern night sky. Locate the Southern Cross, the signs of the zodiac, the

Milky Way, as well as planets and galaxies that are visible due to the exceptional clarity of the atmosphere.



KATA TJUTA

The Olgas

For many years, the domes of Kata Tjuta were referred to as 'Mount Olga' or simply 'the Olgas'. Kata Tjuta is the landmark's original name. It might not be as instantly recognisable as Uluru, but Kata Tjuta is just as if not more impressive as its famous neighbour. The 36 domes of Kata Tjuta cover more than 20 square kilometres and soar up to 546 metres above the surrounding plain. Nature-lovers will want to experience Walpa Gorge, a narrow creek valley between two of Kata Tjuta's largest domes. The gorge is a sanctuary for numerous plants and animals including wallabies and gorgeous wildflowers. Or take a 3-4 hour long walk through the Valley of the Winds, which features unparalleled views of the spectacular Mars-like landscape surrounding the rock formations.



FIELD OF LIGHTS

Art instillation in the desert

As darkness falls and Uluru is thrown into silhouette, Field of Light illuminates.

As far as the eye can see gentle rhythms of colour light up the desert. The critically acclaimed Field of Light Uluru by the internationally celebrated artist Bruce Munro is on display and due to popular demand, has now been extended indefinitely. The exhibition, aptly named Tili Wiru Tjuta Nyakutjaku or 'looking at lots of beautiful lights' in local Pitjantjatjara is Munro's largest work to date.

Overwhelming in size, covering more than seven football fields, it invites immersion in its fantasy garden of 50,000 spindles of light, the stems breathing and swaying through a sympathetic desert spectrum of ochre, deep violet, blue and gentle white.





KINGS CANYON

Walk the rim of the canyon

Situated 3.5 hours drive from Uluru, Kings Canyon serves as a great overnight stopover at the Kings Canyon Lodge if driving between Alice Springs and Uluru. The iconic hike to the top of Kings Canyon is known as the spellbinding Rim Walk. The Rim Walk will take you on a 6 kilometre circuit transcending down into the Garden of Eden and back to the top to wonder at the 360 views.

Depending on what pace you take to absorb the humbling scenery, the walk can take around 3-4 hours. The start of the walk is the most difficult, with around 500 steep steps to climb – once you are up there it will be one of the most magical experiences of your life. After you take in the views from the top of the stairs, continue your journey through Priscilla's Crack made famous by the classic Australian movie Priscilla Queen of the Desert and to the first lookout across the canyon. From there you will see the marvelous sandstone domes (a mini-Purnululu) known as the Lost City due to it resembling an ancient city. Next up is your choice to continue exploring the top or take the stairs down to the picturesque Garden of Eden filled with lush greenery where you can cross a secured bridge over the sacred watering hole. The best time to take on

this experience is during sunrise as the sun slowly reflections onto the sandstone turning a stunning array of oranges and reds.



THE ALICE

Second largest town in NT!

Alice Springs is the centre of the centre, so to speak. It takes roughly 2-3 hours to fly from one of the coastal cities to Alice, or 2-3 days to drive it, or an overnight from Adelaide via the legendary Ghan train. Alice Springs is the ideal base for a long weekend adventure. Set against the backdrop of the magnificent MacDonnell Ranges, you will be drawn into the rich history of the town and the ancient and prominent Aboriginal art and culture. Discover the abundance of desert life at the Alice Springs Desert Park, learn the history of the town at the Telegraph Station, watch the sun rise over Central Australia with Outback Ballooning, get amongst the interactive displays at the Royal Flying Doctor Service, take a tour led by an Aboriginal guide, immerse yourself in Aboriginal culture, or explore and swim in the many gorges and waterholes along the West MacDonnell Ranges. The choice is yours!



HENLEY ON TODD REGATTA

The infamous Alice Boat Race

This year, a viral wave washed out the Alice Springs Rotary Henley on Todd! In its 59 year history, the event has only been cancelled once before, when the river had the audacity to flood! Next year's event has been set for 21 August 2021, and will yet again prove to be the best (non water!) boating event ever! The Rotary Henley on Todd Regatta is a fun, quirky and eclectic 'boat' racing festival held annually on the dry sandy bed of the Todd River in downtown Alice Springs. This is the only dry river boating regatta in the world. Attendees compete in 'boat' races Flintstones-style, holding a metal frame and running for the finish line. The day's finale is a 'battle' of three motorised battleships with flour bombs and water cannons.



STANDLEY CHASM

Sacred to women's dreaming

Known traditionally as Angkerle Atwatye, meaning “Gap of Water”, Standley Chasm is a ~3-metre-wide, 80-metre-high gorge in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Once a narrow tributary of the Finke River system, persistent rainfall and flooding of a lush bygone era has intricately carved the sandstone slopes. Either side bears the jagged, craggy impressions created over untold millions’ of years to dramatic and picturesque effect. The magnificent display of bold red and orange hues glow deepest under the midday sun, though morning and afternoon visitors are more likely to catch a glimpse of the native wildlife which abound. A natural spring nearby brings out an unlikely abundance of life to the arid-climate area. The walking trail to the Chasm and those in its surrounds offer chance encounters with a variety of inhabitants, including diverse bird species, lizards, wallabies, as well as native flowering plants and ancient cycad palms.



WESTERN MACDONNELL RANGES

Known as the 'West Macs'

Tjoritja West MacDonnell National Park stretches for 161 kilometres west of Alice Springs. Explore and appreciate the scenic beauty and history of the area on foot, swim in a waterhole, or pitch a tent for a longer stay. Take a dip in the cold waters of one of the park's permanent water holes. The larger water holes include Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge, Redbank Gorge and Glen Helen Gorge. There are numerous marked walking tracks ranging from leisurely to adventurous. The 223 kilometre Larapinta Trail stretches through the park and offers extended and overnight bushwalks for fit, experienced and well-prepared walkers. The park encompasses an ancient landscape sculpted over time by climatic elements. It is also a refuge for rare and threatened plants as well as wildlife, including the uncommon bird species such as the Peregrine Falcon.



EASTERN MACDONNELL RANGES

Known as the 'East Macs'

Like its westerly twin, the East MacDonnell Ranges stretch 150km east of Alice Springs and hide some of Central Australia's most famous outback landscapes – gaps, gorges, bush walks, Aboriginal art and amazing geological formations. Join a tour or drive yourself east from Alice Springs to uncover the jewels of the 'East Macs'. The road is sealed for the first 75km (to Trepina Gorge - pictured), so you can pack a picnic and take a day trip to see some of the East's attractions in a normal car. Some excellent attractions lie beyond that point if you have a four-wheel-drive vehicle.



PALM VALLEY & HERMANSBURG

Birthplace of Albert Namatjira

Take a 4WD trip to Palm Valley and experience this extraordinary oasis in the desert. Then travel to the Aboriginal settlement of Hermannsburg, an historical settlement who's community was first established as a Lutheran mission in the 1880s and was one of Central Australia's first settlements. Hermannsburg is best known as the birthplace of artist Albert Namatjira. He painted the local landscape in Western-style watercolours, a style that became known as the Hermannsburg School of painting. Queen Elizabeth became one of his most notable fans, and awarded Namitjira the Queen's Coronation Medal in 1953. Today Namatjira's house, three kilometres west of the town, is open to visitors.

Another point of interest and place to visit is the Hermannsburg Potters are renowned for their unique hand-built terracotta pots. The lids of these stunning works support colourful sculpted animals, birds and bush and the pot centres are painted with imagery inspired by the surrounding landscapes.



AABE is ready to help you!

We are experts in Northern Territory holidays.

Whether you want to stay at a magnificent lodge, take part in a private outback safari, climb beautiful escarpments or take a camel to dinner, we are happy to help you plan your journey!

Ask us for suggestions!

Call us now to plan and discuss your future adventure!

Orley and the Team

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