

# Red Centre Drive Famil

August 2025



*Different in every sense*



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## Important information

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the below important information prior to your arrival into the Northern Territory (NT).

### Accommodation

It is routine for hotels in Australia to ask for a credit card imprint on check-in as a security deposit. Please check as times differ between accommodation operators but generally check-in time is 14:00 on the day of arrival and check-out time is 10:00 on the day of departure. Guests may be permitted to check in earlier or check out later subject to room availability at operator's discretion.

## Water

Please ensure you drink approximately 1 litre of water per person per hour for every hour you are in the sun. At certain times of the year, the Northern Territory can get very hot especially during the summer months with the Red Centre reaching dry temperatures well over 40 degrees Celsius and the Top End being extremely humid. Heat stroke and general dehydration is very common but can also be easily avoided. It is recommended that if you are travelling in a remote area, to be well equipped and ensuring you are carrying plenty of spare water.

## Communications and Mobile Coverage

Large sections of the Northern Territory are without mobile phone coverage. You will have full coverage in most areas in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, Jabiru and Yulara (Ayers Rock).

If travelling for extended periods in remote areas, hiring a satellite phone is worthwhile. For a normal holiday this is usually not necessary.

If calling overseas from Australia, you will need to dial 0011 then the country code. In many countries 00 is sufficient and this has caused confusion in the past.

In an emergency, please dial 000 or 112 from your mobile phone. Please note that this number will connect through to the operator even when you do not have telephone or internet coverage.

## Clothing

When traveling through the Red Centre, it is always advisable to bring layers of clothing, as temperatures can vary significantly throughout the day. During the winter months, make sure to pack warm clothes such as winter jackets, long pants and closed-toe shoes. While the evenings and early mornings are often very cold, the days can become quite warm. It is therefore also useful to include a few lighter clothing items in your packing.

## Climate

The climate in the Red Centre is an arid desert climate with four seasons. In winter, daytime temperatures can be pleasant around 20 °C but clear nights can see the temperature drop below 0. In summer on the other hand, the temperature can get very hot peaking as high as 45 °C. Normally its around 30 - 35°C. We recommend checking a weather app closer to departure to see what temperatures you can expect during your visit.

## Packing List

- Warm clothes (warm jacket, long pants, jersey) especially for the evenings/early mornings
- Lighter clothes (T-shirts, lighter pants or shorts/dresses)
- Active wear / comfortable clothes for active tours
- Closed walking shoes / trainers
- Hat and / or beanie
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Swimmers (if you dare)
- Please bring your valid drivers license!

# Acknowledgement

Tourism and Events NT respectfully acknowledges the First Nations people of this country and recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters, and communities. We pay our respects to the Aboriginal cultures, and their leaders past, present and emerging.

## First Nations Culture in the Northern Territory

Australia's Northern Territory offers a rich and genuine experience and a journey to the heart and soul of Australia.

Aboriginal Australians are the oldest living culture in the world which includes more than 250 nations, each with their own languages that have survived more than 65,000-years that includes a rich history of life, love, adversity, and countless challenges. They are bonded through a shared connection to their ancestral lands and communities that crisscross across the wide Australian landscape. Each clan has its own cultural practices, protocols, language, law, ceremonial songs, and dances.

Aboriginal knowledge, law and spirituality are framed by the philosophy that everyone and everything – the land, people, past, present and the future – are interconnected, creating a complex system of cultural and familial responsibilities, obligations, and kinship.

The Northern Territory is a place of rich Aboriginal traditions and cultures – where old stories continue to be re-told as new stories emerge.

From 65,000-year-old rock art to the fresh sounds of rapper, Baker Boy, and the exciting new art practices that have emerged in recent years – Aboriginal people and culture is the backbone of the Northern Territory. It will always be here.

## Respecting culture, laws, and protocol

- Don't be shy, say hello.
- Be curious, ask and listen to language and culture; it shows appreciation and willingness to learn.
- Seek permission from the Aboriginal Traditional Owners before going anywhere 'off track'.
- Don't be shy to ask where you should not go.
- Dress respectfully and appropriately.
- Ask for the consent of the person/people before taking their photo.

## Whose country are you on?

First Nations refer to their homelands as 'Country' including the trees, the animals, waterways and seas to which they are connected. A person's Country is their identity and includes complex laws that govern all things from your birth to your death; your extended family and cultural/familial relationships, your place in the universe, your songs and ceremonial responsibilities, your Dreaming tracks and stories, and language.

## Whose Country am I on?

The Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) provides a map of Indigenous Australian language groups and is a good starting point for identifying the Traditional Owners of a particular Country. It's important to note the map provides general boundaries of larger groupings of people and is a guide only; further research into specific Traditional Owner groups is recommended in addition to the AIATSIS map. Some land council websites contain additional information about Traditional Owner groups and Language groups:

- Tiwi Land Council: [tiwilandcouncil.com](http://tiwilandcouncil.com)
- Central Land Council: [clc.org.au/aboriginal-languages-of-central-australia](http://clc.org.au/aboriginal-languages-of-central-australia)

The map is available at: [aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia](http://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia)

## Referring to Aboriginal Peoples in writing

- Aboriginal peoples
- Aboriginal man/woman/child
- Aboriginal Elder
- First Nations
- First Australians

# Your itinerary

## Day 1: Arrival in Alice Springs

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### Welcome to Australia's Northern Territory!

Depending on your arrival time - typically around midday - you may have some free time to start exploring Alice Springs. Please note that this itinerary reflects the Red Centre Drive famil itinerary and has been tailor-made specifically for this group.

Accommodation and experiences can be substituted to suit different preferences or budgets.

Getting from the airport into town is straightforward, with taxis readily available. Please note that Uber services are not available in Central Australia, including Alice Springs. For two or more people, a taxi is generally the most cost-effective and convenient option.

Alice Springs Airport also offers a scheduled airport shuttle service:

- **Alice Springs Airport Shuttle**  
W: [Welcome! » Alice Springs Airport Shuttle](#)

Alternatively, you can pre-arrange an airport transfer, with drivers meeting guests at the baggage carousel.

- **Emu Run Experience**  
W: [Emu Run Experience | Uluru Tour Packages, Trips & Excursions](#)
- **Alice Silver Service**  
W: [Alice Silver](#)

### Accommodation:

Alice Springs is approximately a 15 to 20-minute drive from the airport. We stayed at Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters, conveniently located just outside the Alice Springs CBD. The hotel features a restaurant, a lively pub, gym and casino, and is within easy walking distance of the neighbouring DoubleTree by Hilton, home to both Hanuman Restaurant and Saltbush Restaurant.

- **Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters**  
W: [Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters - Alice Springs, Australia](#)

### Lunch **Juicy Rump – Crowne Plaza**

Once settled in, head over to the Juicy Rump sports bar for a relaxed pub lunch – a nice way to relax and get a breather before the adventure begins!

### **Transfer to thl rental branch – vehicle pick up and tour through depot**

Take a taxi from the hotel to the thl rental branch to collect your vehicle.

Before hitting the road the next day, get familiar with your trusty rides for the journey ahead. You'll receive a full briefing on the pick-up and check-in process and a demo on how everything works.

Once all set, take your first short drive back to the Crowne Plaza.

**5.30 pm**

**Drive to Earth Sanctuary Outback Spirit Dinner**

Earth Sanctuary lies just out of town, approximately a 15-minute drive from the hotel. Your evening begins with a short walk and sunset drinks, taking in sweeping views of the East MacDonnell Ranges. As night falls, you'll be treated to Earth Sanctuary's signature Dinner & Show under a canopy of stars. This unforgettable experience blends local stories of ecology, culture, and astronomy - brought to life by your passionate hosts.

Enjoy a delicious home-cooked gourmet BBQ dinner in this unique outback setting. The experience includes two complimentary drinks, with additional beverages available for purchase at the bar.

Established in 1999, Earth Sanctuary is an award-winning outback venue located just 15 minutes from Alice Springs. Overlooking the stunning East MacDonnell Ranges, it's proudly one of the Northern Territory's first carbon-neutral venues, with a strong vision to lead in education and sustainable tourism. You'll instantly feel the passion, care, and warm hospitality the family-run team brings to every experience.

**Earth Sanctuary**

**W:** [www.earth-sanctuary.com.au](http://www.earth-sanctuary.com.au)

**9.00 pm**

**Return from Earth Sanctuary to the hotel**

**Overnight:**

**Crowne Plaza Alice Springs**

**W:** [Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters - Alice Springs, Australia](#)

**Day 2: Alice Springs to Kings Canyon**



**From 6.00 am Breakfast at hotel**

**7.00 am**

**Departure from Alice Springs and drive to Kings Canyon**

Today, you'll cover approximately 436 km, with an estimated driving time of around 4.5 hours.

That said, we recommend taking your time with regular rest stops to stretch, take in the scenery and enjoy the journey, so allow an additional hour to reach Kings Canyon. Start by heading south on the Stuart Highway towards Erldunda Roadhouse, a good place to stop for a break and refuel. From there, turn onto the Lasseter Highway (A4) and follow it for approximately 100 km before turning onto Luritja Road (State Route 3). After another 100 km, you'll arrive at Kings Creek Station, your lunch stop for the day.

**12.30 pm**

**Arrival at Kings Creek Station and lunch**

After a long drive, it's time to relax and enjoy a well-earned lunch.

Kings Creek Station is a working cattle station offering a range of accommodation options, from camping to luxury tented stays, all set against a backdrop of stunning outback scenery.

Guests can explore the property on a fun buggy station tour or take to the skies on a breathtaking helicopter flight for a bird's-eye view of the surrounding landscape. The station shop offers a selection of supplies, meals and drinks for purchase—and if you're feeling adventurous, don't miss the opportunity to try one of their famous Kings Creek camel burgers.

**Kings Creek Station:**

**W:** [www.kingscreekstation.com.au](http://www.kingscreekstation.com.au)

**2.00 pm**

**Departure to Discovery Resorts Kings Canyon**

It's just a short 35-minute drive to Discovery Resorts – Kings Canyon, your accommodation for the night.

**Arrival and check in at Discovery Resorts - Kings Canyon**

On arrival, check in, drop your bags, and make your way to the helipad for an unforgettable afternoon experience.

**3.00 pm**

**PHS Helicopter – 15-minute scenic flight over Kings Canyon**

You'll begin with a safety briefing (approximately 15 minutes), after which you'll take to the skies.

This 15-minute scenic flight is the ultimate way to appreciate the sheer scale and natural beauty of Kings Canyon. Soar above the dramatic sandstone cliffs - nearly as deep as Uluru is tall - and take in sweeping views of the Domes of the Lost City, the Garden of Eden, Kings Creek and Carmichael Crag. Your experienced pilot will provide fascinating commentary throughout the flight, while the ever-changing perspectives offer plenty of frame-worthy photo moments. As many guests have said before, a visit to Kings Canyon simply isn't complete until you've seen it from the air.

**Professional Helicopter Services**

**W:** [www.phs.com.au](http://www.phs.com.au)

**6.05 pm**

**Light-Towers by Sunset**

As the sun begins to set, you'll be welcomed with drinks and canapés before being introduced to the illuminated artwork by renowned artist Bruce Munro. A local guide will share the story behind the installation, after which there will be time to wander through the enchanting maze of light and colour as day turns to night - a truly special way to end the day in the Red Centre.



## **Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience**

**W:** [www.karrke.com.au](http://www.karrke.com.au)

### **10.00 pm Departure Kings Canyon – drive to Uluru**

It's time to say goodbye to Kings Canyon as you make your way to Yulara, the township at Uluru. The drive takes approximately three hours. You may wish to stop en route at Curtin Springs, a roadside inn with a petrol station, shop, and restaurant. Alternatively, you can drive straight through to Ayers Rock Resort and enjoy lunch at the Town Square or the Outback Hotel pub.

### **1.45 pm Arrival at Desert Gardens - Yulara**

At Ayers Rock Resort, there is a range of accommodation options to suit different travel styles and budgets. **Sails in the Desert** is the resort's five-star option, offering spacious, beautifully appointed rooms, with the Ilkari Restaurant a standout dining experience. **Desert Gardens Hotel** is similar in standard and is the only hotel at the resort offering Rock View rooms.

**Emu Walk Apartments** are a great choice for families and friends, featuring one- and two-bedroom apartments. There are also two three-star options: **The Lost Camel Hotel** and **The Outback Hotel and Lodge**. The Outback Hotel is located about a 10-minute walk from the main resort area and Town Square. Recently refurbished, it offers a relaxed atmosphere, a lovely pool, and a lively pub with plenty happening throughout the day and evening.

Travelling with a motorhome or camper van with equipment, a **powered campground** is also available, located near the Outback Hotel.

*During this trip, we stayed at Desert Gardens Hotel.*

### **5.20 pm Pick-up from Desert Gardens for the Field of Light Dinner**

Transport is included as part of your Field of Light dinner experience.

After a short transfer from Ayers Rock Resort, you'll enjoy a gentle evening stroll along an elevated walkway through the desert, leading to a stunning dune-top lookout.

Here, you'll be welcomed with drinks and canapés as the sun sets over Uluru. A didgeridoo performance often sets the mood during pre-dinner drinks, adding a special touch to the experience. The evening continues with a three-course, bush tucker-inspired buffet dinner under the stars, followed by a self-guided walk through the magical Field of Light — an immersive light installation by artist Bruce Munro.

Depending on conditions, the experience may also include stargazing with a resident star expert.

You'll return by bus to the hotel, where the evening winds down.

### **Overnight: Desert Gardens Hotel**

#### **Voyages Ayers Rock Resort**

**W:** [www.ayersrockresort.com.au](http://www.ayersrockresort.com.au)

## Day 4: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

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### 6.10 am **Uluru Segway Sunrise Tour**

The Segway guides will pick you up from your hotel. Pick-up times vary depending on sunrise or sunset times throughout the year, so please be sure to reconfirm your pick-up time for all sunrise and sunset tours in the area.

Start your morning with a truly unforgettable experience. The tour begins with a spectacular sunrise viewing at Uluru, where you'll watch the colours of the rock shift with the early light, accompanied by a light breakfast.

After sunrise, enjoy a quick Segway training session to get comfortable before setting off on a guided adventure around the base of Uluru.

Along the way, your guide will share stories about the region's cultural significance, natural features, and ancient history, with key stops at sites like Mutitjulu Waterhole – a sacred site known for its rock art and deep cultural importance.

Tours typically last around five hours and are run by experienced operators such as Uluru Segway Tours and Ayers Rock Resort.

#### **Uluru Segway Tours**

**W:** [www.ulurusegwaytours.com.au](http://www.ulurusegwaytours.com.au)

### 11.15 am **Return to the resort – time to freshen up**

Return to the hotel to freshen up and relax a little before lunch.

### 12.30 pm **Lunch at Gecko's**

### 1.45 pm **Pick-up for SEIT Kata Tjuta Domes tour**

Get picked up from your hotel for a guided tour with SEIT Outback Australia, travelling approximately 30 kilometres to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas). This experience offers insight into both the majestic beauty and deep cultural significance of this sacred landscape. Your journey begins with a scenic drive through the desert plains of the Red Centre, arriving at the towering domes of Kata Tjuta in the soft morning light or golden afternoon glow.

Accompanied by a knowledgeable SEIT guide, you'll walk into Walpa Gorge, where soaring red rock walls enclose a surprisingly lush and tranquil environment. Along the way, learn about the area's geology, flora and fauna, as well as the Anangu cultural connections to this remarkable site.

With its stunning scenery, sense of stillness and rich storytelling, this guided experience offers a truly immersive encounter with one of the Northern Territory's most iconic landscapes. The tour duration is approximately three hours, with return transfer to Desert Gardens Hotel.

#### **SEIT Outback Australia**

**W:** [www.seitoutbackaustralia.com.au](http://www.seitoutbackaustralia.com.au)

**Dinner: Ilkari Restaurant – Buffet dinner**

After a long and eventful day, enjoy a delicious buffet dinner at **Ilkari Restaurant** at **Sails in the Desert**. Table bookings are recommended.

Named after the local Pitjantjatjara word for “sky”, Ilkari offers a refined, first-class buffet experience that blends international flavours with native Australian ingredients. At the heart of the restaurant is an interactive live kitchen, where expert chefs prepare dishes before your eyes, creating a dynamic and engaging dining atmosphere.

**Ilkari Restaurant**

W: [Ilkari Restaurant Dining Experience | Ayers Rock Resort](#)

**Overnight: Desert Gardens Hotel**

**Voyages Ayers Rock Resort**

W: [www.ayersrockresort.com.au](http://www.ayersrockresort.com.au)

## Day 5: Uluru to Alice Springs

**6.15 am Sunrise Journeys**

You will be picked up from our hotel and driven to the viewing platform to experience this unique sunrise experience. Pick-up times vary depending on sunrise or sunset times throughout the year, so please be sure to reconfirm your pick-up time for all sunrise and sunset tours in the area.

As the slow rising sun marks the day, a stunning piece of artwork, created by three local Anangu women comes to life through laser projection, music and the natural environment of the desert floor. The iconic Uluru is our backdrop. Feel the shared connection to the land. Be reminded of the experiences we understand as humans. By coming together, past, present and future - we are one.

Sunrise Journeys is an intimate and sensory travel experience designed to last well beyond your stay. This experience is a result of a collaboration between three renowned Anangu artists - Selina Kulitja (Maruku Arts), Denise Brady (Kaltukatjara Art), and Valerie Brumby (Walkatjara Art) - along with Anangu musician and composer Jeremy Whiskey, and expert visual experience creator Mandylights.

**Voyages Indigenous Tourism**

W: [Sunrise Journeys: Cultural Celebration & Nature | Ayers Rock Resort](#)

**8.15 am Return to the hotel – breakfast and check-out**

**9.30 am Departure from Yulara and return to Alice Springs**

Begin the 4 to 5-hour drive back to Alice Springs, with regular comfort stops along the way to stretch, refresh and avoid fatigue. Pause for lunch at Eralunda before continuing on the final leg of the journey.



**9.30 am Return to the hotel, breakfast (if time allows) and check out**

Depending on our return time to the hotel, enjoy a quick breakfast at the hotel. Breakfast closes at 10 am, check out time is 12.00 pm. You will have ample time to relax before packing up and checking out for our taxi ride to the airport.

**Departure from Alice Springs**

We hope you enjoyed exploring the Red Centre on your own set of wheels and had a fabulous trip!

## **Thank you for visiting Australia's Northern Territory!**

For more information on the NT please, visit our website [northernterritory.com](http://northernterritory.com)

### **Tourism and Events NT's Online Image Gallery**

If you would like to order or download images from our online Image Gallery please go to:

[mediagallery.tourismandeventsnt.com.au](http://mediagallery.tourismandeventsnt.com.au)

Click "register now" and complete the online registration\*

Once processed you will receive a username and password via email

\*Registration typically takes around one business day to be processed