

NT Round Up 2025 – Red Centre Famil

April 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)

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
- Central Land Council: clc.org.au/aboriginal-languages-of-central-australia

The map is available at: 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

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 NT Round Up Red Centre family 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](#)

Activity suggestions:

Depending on your arrival time you can either spend the first day relaxing or if time allows make sure to explore Alice Springs and surroundings. Either go independently or book a guided tour.

Tour operators:

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

- **AAT Kings:** [Top Things To Do In Alice Springs | AAT Kings AU](#)

Highlights to visit:

- **Historical Telegraph Station:** [Top Things To Do In Alice Springs | AAT Kings AU](#)
- **Royal Flying Doctors Services Visitors Centre:** [RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility](#)
- **School of the Air:** [Alice Springs School of the Air – Welcome to the World’s Largest Classroom](#)
- **Reptile Centre:** [Alice Springs Reptile Centre - Home](#)
- **The Kangaroo Sanctuary Alice Springs:** [The Kangaroo Sanctuary - Alice Springs, Central Australia](#) (only bookable directly online)

Alternative accommodation:

- **DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs**
W: www.hilton.com/en/hotels/aspdadi-doubletree-alice-springs/

Day 2: Alice Springs and West MacDonnell Ranges



5.25 am

Outback Ballooning

Please be ready on time at hotel reception 5 minutes before your pick-up for the Sunrise Outback Balloon Flight.

You’ll travel to the launch site in the cool, pre-dawn stillness, arriving just in time to watch the first light of day illuminate the majestic MacDonnell Ranges. Then, it’s time to float gently over the vast Central Australian outback on a 30-minute scenic flight, keeping an eye out for wildlife - especially the iconic red kangaroo - and soaking in the scale and remoteness of this breathtaking landscape.

After landing, you’re welcome to join the crew in packing up the balloon—a fun part of the experience! This is entirely optional and involves some lifting, so if you’d prefer to stand back and take photos, that’s perfectly fine too.

Important note: The balloon may be dusty, so please wear clothes that you don’t mind getting a little dirty.

The tour wraps up with light refreshments and a celebratory glass of sparkling wine or tropical juice - the perfect end to a truly memorable morning.

Outback Ballooning

W: www.outbackballooning.com.au

9.15 am

Return to the hotel and breakfast

10.30 am

Alice Springs and West MacDonnell Ranges tour (private charter)

- **Standley Chasm Walk**
Enjoy a scenic walk through Standley Chasm, a striking natural wonder famed for its

towering red rock walls. As you explore, discover the area's unique flora and fauna and learn about the cultural significance of this sacred site.

- **Simpsons Gap Walk and Picnic Lunch**

Take a leisurely stroll along the picturesque Simpsons Gap, then relax and enjoy a picnic lunch amid the stunning natural beauty of the West MacDonnell Ranges.

- **Historical Telegraph Station**

Visit the historic Telegraph Station, where you'll discover its key role in early communication and the region's history. Explore the well-preserved buildings and enjoy the surrounding natural scenery.

ANZAC Hill Lookout

Finish your afternoon with a visit to ANZAC Hill Lookout, which offers panoramic views of Alice Springs and the surrounding desert - a perfect spot for photos and quiet reflection.

4.00 pm Drop off at Crowne Plaza

Return to the Crowne Plaza, concluding your afternoon adventure.

5.30 pm Pick up for 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

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 3: Departure to Kings Canyon

7.00 am **Breakfast at hotel**

7.30 am **Departure from Alice Springs – Drive to Kings Canyon**

Today, we'll cover approximately 436 km, with an estimated driving time of around 4.5 hours. We'll take our time along the way to fully appreciate the stunning outback landscape.

Stop at Erldunda Rest Stop, giving you a chance to stretch your legs, grab refreshments, or pick up a souvenir. Be sure to visit the emu enclosure for a close look at these iconic outback birds.

From there, continue along the Lasseter Highway for approximately 100 km before turning onto State Route 3 – Luritja Road. After another 100 km, you'll arrive at Kings Creek Station, where we'll stop for lunch.

12.45 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

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

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.

7.30 pm Dinner at Kings Canyon Bar & Grill

After your incredible sunset experience, head straight over to the Kings Canyon Bar & Grill for dinner. This relaxed, casual setting is the perfect place to unwind together after a full day of exploration and adventure.

Overnight Discovery Parks Kings Canyon, standard rooms

W: www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au/kings-canyon

Please note: Due to time constraints, the group experienced Kings Canyon from the air on a scenic helicopter flight - an absolutely spectacular experience and highly recommended. For a leisure stay, allowing two nights at Kings Canyon is ideal, providing ample time to complete the iconic Kings Canyon Rim Walk.

The Rim Walk requires a reasonable level of fitness, as the first few hundred metres are steep and strenuous. The full circuit takes approximately three hours, so be sure to allow sufficient time and carry plenty of water. An early-morning start is strongly recommended to avoid the heat of the day.

Alternative accommodation: There are two accommodation options in this area, both offering excellent stays - choose the one that best suits your personal preferences.

- **Kings Creek Station**

W: www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au/kings-canyon

Day 4: Kings Canyon to Uluru



Breakfast

After a good night's sleep, enjoy a delicious breakfast at the resort before hitting the road.

8.20 am Check-out and drive to Karrke Aboriginal Experience

It's approximately a 40-minute drive back towards Kings Creek Station. Just before reaching Kings Creek Station, you'll see the turn-off to Karrke Aboriginal Experience.

9.00 am

Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience

Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience and Tours offers a truly unique and authentic insight into Aboriginal culture, right in the heart of Watarrka National Park.

This Aboriginal-owned and operated business runs for 10 months of the year, inviting visitors to join a one-hour cultural experience guided by local Luritja and Pertame (Southern Arrernte) people of Central Australia.

During the tour, you'll learn about traditional bush medicine, seasonal bush tucker, and the cultural significance of local plants and birds. You'll also see demonstrations of dot painting, weapon making (including spears and boomerangs), clap stick carving, and discover how organic seeds are used in jewellery making. It's an inspiring and educational experience, offering a meaningful connection to Country and culture.

Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience

W: 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 Sails in the Desert - 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 Sails in the Desert.

5.50 pm

Pick-up from Desert Gardens for the Field of Light Dinner

Transport is included as part of your Field of Light dinner experience. Please reconfirm your pick-up time at reception, as times vary throughout the year depending on sunset.

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: Sails in the Desert

Voyages Ayers Rock Resort

W: www.ayersrockresort.com.au

Day 5: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

5.45 am **SEIT Outback Australia – Kata Tjuta Sunrise Tour**

Your SEIT Outback Australia guide will meet you at the entrance to your accommodation at Ayers Rock Resort, before travelling through the desert landscape to the entrance of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Please note that pick-up times need to be reconfirmed on booking as they vary depending on the time of the year.

From there, it's a 40-kilometre journey across the desert to the mighty rock formations of Kata Tjuta. On arrival at the viewing area, you'll walk to a prime vantage point to take in the 36 domes that make up this spiritually significant site, as the soft morning light brings the desert to life.

Next, you'll travel to the western side of Kata Tjuta, where you'll have the opportunity to relax and enjoy an outback picnic breakfast. As you approach the entrance to Walpa Gorge - named for the wind (*Walpa*) that whistles between the massive domes shaped by eons of weathering and geological upheaval - your guide will share insights into the significance of this men's sacred ceremonial site.

Enjoy a gentle walk between the towering conglomerate rock walls as your guide explains how the environment and geology of the area have evolved over millions of years.

At the conclusion of the tour, your guide will return you to your accommodation at Ayers Rock Resort.

SEIT Outback Australia

W: www.seitoutbackaustralia.com.au

10.45 am **Return to Sails in the Desert - free time & lunch**

2.00 pm **Uluru Segway Tours – Best and Segway tour**

Your Segway guides will meet you at the entrance to your accommodation at Ayers Rock Resort to drive the group out Uluru, where the trip starts.

This unforgettable tour blends adventure, culture and breathtaking scenery. Begin with a guided walk to the iconic Mutitjulu Waterhole, where you'll discover ancient rock art and learn about the rich traditions of the Anangu people.

After a Segway training session (approximately 30 minutes), glide effortlessly along the most scenic section of Uluru's base (around one hour), taking in its striking formations and expansive desert landscapes. Conclude your experience with the Mala Walk, where

your knowledgeable guide will share deeper insights into Aboriginal culture, traditions and the significance of Uluru -creating a perfect balance of exploration, learning and adventure.

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: **Sails in the Desert**

Voyages Ayers Rock Resort

W: www.ayersrockresort.com.au

Day 5: Sunrise Journeys and Departure

5.10 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](#)

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

Your Sunrise Journey experience includes a light breakfast. If you wish, you may also enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out at 10:00 am.

No matter which accommodation you are staying in at Ayers Rock Resort, all airport transfers are included and will be operated via shared AAT Kings coach transfers to the airport. Please ensure you are packed and ready ahead of your scheduled pick-up time, depending on your departure. Pick-up details for individual flights will be available at reception.

It's time to bid farewell to the Red Centre and your fellow travellers. We hope you've enjoyed exploring this remarkable region and had a truly fabulous trip!

Thank you for visiting Australia's Northern Territory!

For more information on the NT please, visit our website 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.tourismandeventsnnt.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