

# 6 reasons to visit the Red Centre in 2017

Anna Howard

While the greatness of Uluru is reason enough to lure travellers to the Red Centre, planning your next Red Centre escape around these 2017 events will add another dimension to your outback holiday.

## Field of Light, Uluru: until 31 March 2017

It's still not too late to catch the iconic star-studded installation that has bathed the Red Centre in an ethereal glow since April. The largest and most isolated iteration of artist Bruce Munro's work, the Field of Light is a sparkling carpet of 50,000 frosted-glass light spheres dotting a remote expanse framed by Uluru. Munro's first solar-powered exhibit represents a spiritual homecoming for the artist, as the idea was conceived during his first visit in 1992.

## Tjungu Indigenous Cultural Festival: 22–25 April 2017

Returning for its fourth year by popular demand, the Tjungu Festival celebrates the vibrancy of indigenous Australian culture across a host of performances. This year, the spotlight is on even more performances from the local Anangu people and surrounding lands, alongside returning artists, established indigenous performers and national sporting stars. Highlights during the festival include bustling art and bush tucker markets, a short film festival and the 'Tastes of Tjungu' outdoor dining experience.

## Desert Dreaming Yoga Retreat: 22–29 April 2017

Listen up, yogis! Feel the serenity wash over you as you salute the sun during intimate classes on this unique yoga retreat. Famed yoga instructor Denby Sheather returns to host a week of yoga, meditation and cultural immersion in the inspiring surrounds of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Together with yoga practice and spiritual awareness classes, you'll be treated to cultural activities with indigenous artists and an unforgettable dining experience under the stars. Feed your soul in one of the most stirring places in all of Australia.

## Uluru Camel Cup: 26–27 May 2017

Forget Derby Day and the race that stops a nation. Venture to the Red Centre in May for a true 'only in Australia' experience: the Uluru Camel Cup. Northern Territory locals and visitors come together for a weekend of fun, with festivities kicking off in true Aussie style at the Outback Pioneer Hotel. Then, it's a non-stop lineup of events, including racing, the ever-popular Fashions on the Field, a family-friendly activities and a true-blue outback ball set under the sparkling night sky.

## ACO Uluru Festival: 2–4 June 2017

One for classical music lovers, the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) returns to the Red Centre for a series of exclusive concerts led by Richard Tognetti and in harmony with ARIA Award nominee Stephen Pigram's soulful voice and rhythmic guitar. The three performances held in the intimate Uluru Meeting Place have been designed to complement the moving spirit of the area's unique surrounds. The festival also features three exclusive dining events, including a Long Lunch with tastes of the outback and a celebratory Gala dinner on the final evening.

## Uluru Astronomy Weekend: 20–22 October 2017

Calling all stargazers! Discover the spectacular Australian outback sky – void of city light pollution – with the help of leading astronomers and the Centre of Excellence for All-sky Astrophysics (CAASTRO) during this fascinating all-ages weekend event. The stargazing event includes activities for the whole family, stargazing demonstrations, engaging talks about cosmic events, the structure of the Universe and dark matter, and an exclusive Astronomical Sounds of Silence experience.



## Lasseters Hotel, Alice Springs

3 nights 4½-star

- Pay for 2 nights & get 1 night FREE in a Standard Room
- WiFi
- Return airport transfers

Adjoining the Alice Springs Convention Centre, this hotel is located at the foot of the MacDonnell Ranges, offering guests stunning views of the surrounds.

from only **\$165\***

Select travel 1 Dec 16 – 10 Feb & 14 Feb – 31 Mar 17. Deal 4315610.



## Aurora Kakadu

2 nights 3-star

- Stay in a Family Room

Situated in Kakadu National Park, this hotel is the perfect base from which to visit one of the world's finest wildlife reserves. Set amid lush bushland, it offers tropical gardens, manicured lawns and abundant relaxation areas.

family of 4 from only **\$215\***

Based on 2 adults & 2 children 0 – 12 years, quad share. Select travel 1 Feb – 31 Mar 17. Deal 4315617.



## Skycity Darwin

4 nights 5-star + tour

- Pay for 2 nights & get 2 nights FREE in a Deluxe Hotel Room
- Litchfield National Park Waterfalls Tour

**BONUS** Bottle of sparkling wine on arrival, 20% off breakfast at The Vue & 10% off onsite restaurants & any Lagoon Day Spa treatment.

This is Darwin's only 5-star beachfront resort. Set on lush tropical gardens with direct access to Mindil Beach and the sunset markets. Explore one of the most spectacular natural sites.

from only **\$369\***

Select travel 1 Feb – 14 Mar 17. Deal 4315607.





> Gunlom, Kakadu National Park  
Northern Territory



## Expert pick



**Rodney George**  
Flight Centre  
Circular Quay,  
NSW

Travel Expert Rodney George from Flight Centre Circular Quay believes the Northern Territory offers visitors the whole holiday package.

“From the spiritual centre of Uluru to tropical capital Darwin, Northern Territory isn’t short on wonders. Add the magic of one of the world’s great train journeys, The Ghan, and this rugged state offers the complete holiday.

“However, I think the true beauty of the Northern Territory can be found at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park – the Red Centre.

“Ayers Rock Resort is your one-stop destination for accommodation. Whatever your budget, there’s a place to suit in this enclave, from backpacker dorms, right through to the ultra luxurious Longitude 131.

“I spent a memorable New Year at the all-inclusive Longitude 131. And when they say all-inclusive, they mean it. Your luxury ‘tent’ accommodation, meals, drinks and touring with a professional guide are all included.

“You’ll also get the opportunity to dine under the stars after watching the sun go down over Uluru, while enjoying local delicacies such as emu and kangaroo while sipping on wines from around the country.

“Then, of course, waking up to views of Uluru is something you’ll remember for years to come.

“While you’re in the Red Centre, don’t miss walking the mammoth mounds of Kata Tjuta. If time permits, take a day trip out to King’s Canyon where you can explore the gorge and hike along its rim. It’ll be an early start to avoid the heat, but the views are well worth the journey.”

**Get in touch with Rodney**

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### Voyages Desert Gardens Hotel, Ayers Rock

3 nights 4½-star

- Stay in a Garden View Room
- Breakfast daily
- WiFi
- Indigenous Guest Activities Program
- Return airport transfers

Set among magnificent ghost gums and flowering native shrubs, this centrally located hotel is the ideal base from which to explore the beauty of Ayers Rock.

from only **\$369\***

Select travel 10–25 Dec & 28 Dec 16 – 20 Feb 17. Deal 4315614.



### Kakadu & Katherine Gorge Self-drive

4 nights + car hire

- Stay 2 nights in Darwin & 1 night each in Kakadu & Katherine
- Breakfast daily
- 5 days car hire^

Discover panoramic vistas, mountain gorges, swimming holes and cascading waterfalls. You will also experience Aboriginal culture, rock art and billabongs on your Kakadu and Katherine self-drive adventure.

from only **\$525\***

Select travel 1 Nov 16 – 31 Mar 17. ^Pick-up/drop-off Ayers Rock Airport, conditions apply. Deal 4315625.

\*Prices are per person, twin share, unless otherwise stated. See page 2 for all terms & conditions.



### ibis Styles Katherine

3 nights 3½-star, car hire + tour

- Pay for 2 nights & get 1 night FREE in a Standard Room
- Breakfast daily
- 4 days car hire^
- NitNit Dreaming Cruise

Close to many of the region’s attractions, this hotel is the perfect base from which to explore the beautiful Katherine region.

from only **\$405\***

Select travel 1 Dec 16 – 31 Mar 17. ^Pick-up/drop-off Darwin Airport, conditions apply. Deal 4315614.



### Red Centre Self-drive

4 nights + car hire

- Stay 2 nights each in Ayers Rock & Kings Canyon
- WiFi^
- 5 days car hire~

Take a drive and explore the beautiful region of Alice Springs and beyond. The natural wonders and ancient culture of Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Watarrka National Parks will be sure to make your red centre adventure a memorable one.

from only **\$765\***

Select travel 10–25 Dec & 28 Dec 16 – 20 Feb 17. ^In Ayers Rock. ~Pick-up/drop-off Ayers Rock Airport, conditions apply. Deal 4315633.

\*Prices are per person, twin share, unless otherwise stated. See page 2 for all terms & conditions.



### Kings Canyon Resort

2 nights 3½-star, car hire + tour

- Stay in a Standard Room
- 3 days car hire~
- Kings Canyon Climb

Located between Uluru and Alice Springs, this oasis offers its guests the ultimate blend of culture and nature. Enjoy a short drive to Watarrka National Park, the home of the magical sandstone formation of Kings Canyon.

from only **\$419\***

Select travel 1 Nov 16 – 31 Mar 17. ^Saving included in price. ~Pick-up/drop-off Alice Springs Airport, conditions apply. Deal 4315622.



### Top End Self-drive

8 nights + car hire

- Stay 3 nights in Kakadu, pay for 2 nights & get 1 night FREE in Darwin & 2 nights in Katherine
- Breakfast daily^
- WiFi~
- 9 days car hire#

Enjoy the laid-back experience as you drive through this tropical, multicultural region and see some of the best of Australia’s Outback.

from only **\$979\***

Select travel 2 Jan – 31 Mar 17. ^In Darwin. ~In Katherine. #Pick-up/drop-off Darwin Airport, conditions apply. Deal 4315624.