



3 days in Alice Springs



Swimming at Ellery Creek Big Hole
Tourism NT/Kyle Hunter

This three-day itinerary will introduce visitors to the vibrant and modern city set against the backdrop of the magnificent MacDonnell Ranges.

They'll discover the rich history of the town, and the ancient Aboriginal art and culture. Less than 3.5hrs flight from most capital cities in Australia, it is also easily reachable by road or by the legendary Ghan train.

DAY ONE

Start your engines

If you have arrived in Alice Springs by any other means than driving, it is highly recommended that the first thing you

do is **hire a vehicle** for the trip. There is so much to see and do in and around Alice Springs and having a reliable mode of transport means nothing will be missed.

First stop, Alice Springs Desert Park

Make your first destination the **Alice Springs Desert Park**. Situated on Larapinta Drive, the Desert Park is a 'must see' for every visitor to the Red Centre, where the desert comes to life.

Spot rare and endangered animals in the low light of the nocturnal house and discover the star attractions at the 'free-flying birds of prey' show.

Stroll along the 1.6 kilometre trail to experience three separate habitat areas within the park. There are informative talks throughout the day, including a presentation on Aboriginal survival. Make your way around the park at your leisure, then relax with some refreshments at the onsite café.

Take in the history at the Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Make your way to the **Alice Springs Telegraph Station** Historical Reserve and learn about where the settlement of Alice

Springs originated in 1871. Mountain bikes are available for hire and there are a range of tracks on offer. No experience is needed; this is a great activity for people of all ages.

Sleep easy

Check into your **accommodation**. There are many options available in Alice Springs, from luxury hotel rooms to camping under the stars including:

- **Desert Palms**
- **Crowne Plaza Alice Springs**
- **Squeakywindmill Boutique Tent B&B**

DAY TWO

Drift away on a hot air balloon ride

Rise early and take to the skies in a hot air balloon with **Outback Ballooning** for a magnificent bird's eye view of Alice Springs and the Red Centre. As you drift into an outback sunrise of pastel blues, purples and yellows, keep an eye out for native wildlife and the iconic Red Kangaroo down below.

Indulge the senses at Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Once your feet are firmly planted on the

Couple walking at Simpsons Gap
Tourism NT/Jesse Lindemann



Dingoes at the Alice Springs Desert Park
Tourism NT/Jordan Hammond

ground again, it's time to indulge in a cooked breakfast at the Bean Tree Café which you can find nestled in the **Olive Pink Botanic Garden**.

It is Australia's only arid zone botanic garden and the perfect place to relax for breakfast or lunch among the native surrounds. Take the time to wander along the walking trails to see the hundreds of plant species that are native to the Red Centre, or spot some of the 80 bird species which have been recorded at the park.

Be inspired by the early pioneers

Next stop is the **Royal Flying Doctor Service**. Get among the interactive displays and step inside a full-sized replica of a modern PC-12 airplane, part of the exciting new collection. Here, visitors will gain an insight into the iconic Australian outback service established by pioneers in 1928.

There is an onsite café, where you can dine under the original verandah and enjoy the amazing blue skies Alice Springs is known for. Sit back and relax with a coffee, specially blended for the RFDS by a local coffee roaster.

Meet new scaly friends

Get up close and personal with some of the

Northern Territory's favourite wildlife at the **Reptile Centre** (pre-bookings required), which is home to the largest reptile display in Central Australia. Here visitors get to meet Terry the Saltwater Crocodile, see huge perentie goannas, thorny devils, frill-neck lizards and some of the world's most venomous snakes. Join one of the daily shows to learn more about the variety of lizards and pythons, which is followed by a supervised handling session – a perfect photo opportunity!

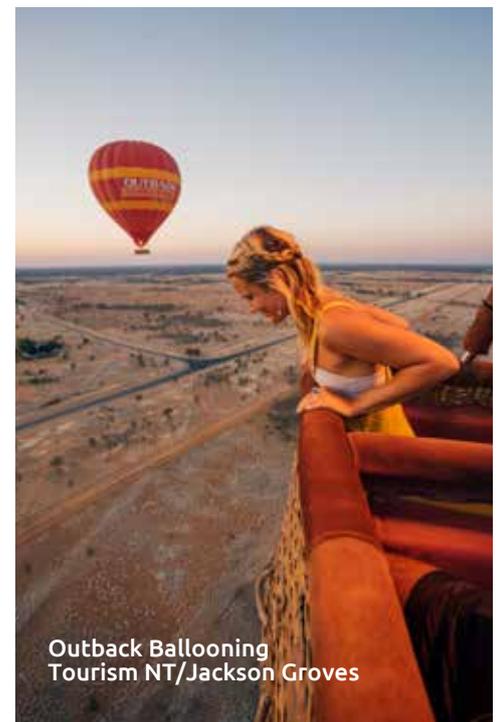
DAY THREE

Soak up the spirituality of Simpsons Gap

Get to know the outskirts of Alice Springs and hit the road heading 18 kilometres west of Alice Springs along Larapinta Road to **Simpsons Gap**, which is an impressive opening between the towering cliffs of the West MacDonnell Ranges. The area is also an important spiritual site to the Arrernte Aboriginal people, where several dreaming trails and stories cross.

See the beauty of Ellery Creek Big Hole

Continue along Larapinta Drive, turning right at Namatjira Drive towards Ellery Creek



Outback Ballooning
Tourism NT/Jackson Groves

Big Hole where you can stop for a refreshing swim. This location is one of the most popular and picturesque swimming, camping and picnic spots in the region. You'll understand why when you set eyes on the spectacular waterhole surrounded by the high red cliffs and sandy creek.

See Alice by camel

Make your way back to Alice Springs in time for a sunset camel tour at **Pyndan Camel Tracks**. A camel ride will definitely be one of the most memorable experiences of an Alice Springs visit.

The camel tour starts at Pyndan Camel Tracks yard, through White Gums Station and follows an avenue of Iron Bark and Mulga trees across a clay pan flat. You'll be led on your ride by one of Pyndan's camel experts who will tell you more about these iconic animals.

Finish the ride and the end of the journey with amazing views of the glowing MacDonnell Ranges as the sun goes down.