



# 3 days in Alice Springs

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

There is plenty to see and do in and around Alice Springs, so once you arrive either **hire your own vehicle** or join one of the **guided tours**. Some operators will even tailor their tours to suit your needs!

### 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 informational 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 get your body moving on a mountain bike tour, leaving from the Trail Station.

Tours leave at 2:30pm daily and are led by an experienced local rider, with all gear provided. You can also organise to go at a time of your choosing if you give the company 24 hours prior notice. No experience is needed; this is a great activity for people of all ages.

### Cuddle a joey at the Kangaroo Sanctuary

Join a guided sunset tour of the **Kangaroo Sanctuary Alice Springs** and cuddle one of the baby kangaroos that have been rescued by

the sanctuary. Located just outside of the town centre bus transfers are available.

### Sleep easy

Check into your **accommodation**. There are many options available in Alice Springs, from luxury hotel rooms to camping under the stars. Take your pick and get a good night's rest ready for a big day tomorrow.

## DAY TWO

### Drift away on a hot air balloon ride

Rise early and take to the skies **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.

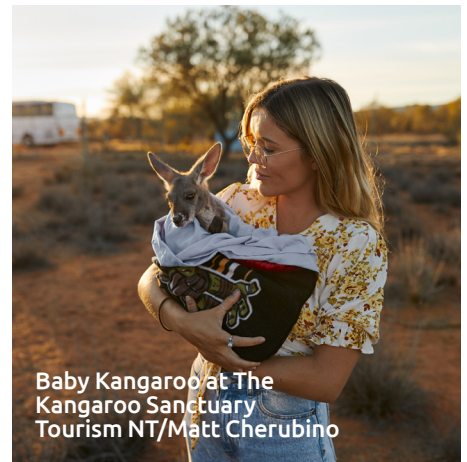
*Different in every sense*







Hot air ballooning at sunrise  
Tourism NT/Matt Glastonbury



Baby Kangaroo at The  
Kangaroo Sanctuary  
Tourism NT/Matt Cherubino



Outback Cycling  
Tourism NT/Flow Mountain Bike

### Indulge the senses at Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Once your feet are planted firmly again on the ground, 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 on 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, especially 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**, 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!

### Explore on 2 wheels

With an expanding network of trails in all directions, Alice Springs and the Red Centre give those who love to tackle the terrain on two wheels a massive playground! You can hire a

mountain bike or bring your own, take a more gentle route exploring the historic sites on a bicycle or gear up for the world-class biking events that happen annually.

### Revel in a bush tucker dinner under the stars

Enjoy a special dinner cooked in a bush setting and served under the Milky Way with **RT Tours**. Your host, a local Arrernte man, will introduce you to bush foods and traditional cooking for this spectacular three-course meal set in the West MacDonnell Ranges.

*Different in every sense*





Uluru Camel Tours  
Tourism NT/Nic Morley



Larapinta Trail  
Tourism NT/Sean Scott

## 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 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.

## Did you know?

Central Australia is home to one of the Great Walks of Australia, The Larapinta Trail. The 223km track traverses the ridgelines of the West MacDonnell Ranges that surround the town of Alice Springs. Choose a section or challenge yourself to trek all 12! Guided tours available.

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