

Summer in the Red Centre

Seven-day itinerary



Summer in the Red Centre means the waterholes are full and ready to plunge into for a swim. It's the perfect temperature to dine under the stars, then wake up early to watch an incredible outback sunrise. Experience the Red Centre over summer – September to April.

TOP 5

1. Head to the **Araluen Cultural Precinct** to see internationally acclaimed collections of Aboriginal art in Central Australia
2. Take a refreshing swim in **Ellery Creek Big Hole** in the West MacDonnell Ranges
3. Rise early to walk the rim of **Kings Canyon in Watarrka National Park** for epic views
4. Walk, hire a bike or book a segway tour to **explore Uluru from every angle**
5. Take a **sunrise or sunset flight with Outback Ballooning** in Alice Springs



Above: Araluen Art Precinct
Left: Outback Ballooning Alice Springs

DAY 1

Head to the leafy lane of the Fan Arcade, located along the Todd Mall. Page 27 is the go-to in Alice Springs for brunch and coffee. Prepare for an exciting day of visiting Australia's thriving hub of **Aboriginal art galleries**.

Located in the middle of town, Todd Mall is lined with commercial galleries specialising in Aboriginal art.

Head to the **Araluen Cultural Precinct** which includes large collections of Aboriginal art showcasing both traditional and contemporary practices in the Aboriginal art movement.



Earth Sanctuary

DAY 2

Pack a picnic on a day trip to the West MacDonnell Ranges. Follow Larapinta Drive and turn right at Namatjira Drive towards **Ellery Creek Big Hole** where you can stop for a refreshing swim.

This is one of the most popular and picturesque swimming, camping and picnic spots in the region. Make sure you explore and swim at Ormiston Gorge and Redbank Gorge while you're in the 'West Macs'.

Experience the spirit of the Outback at the award-winning **Earth Sanctuary Dinner and Star Show**. A shuttle bus will take you to Earth Sanctuary's secluded location in time to watch a spectacular sunset over the East MacDonnell Ranges. As night falls, a glittering canopy of stars shine bright.

Enjoy a gourmet home-cooked BBQ dinner as your hosts share stories of ecology, culture and astronomy.

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DAY 3

Set off early today to drive from Alice Springs to Uluru and take in the desert views and wide open road along the way. There's plenty of **accommodation options** to choose from but make sure to book ahead.

Book yourself in for a **bush tucker experience** at Ayers Rock Resort. Learn about local native bush foods and enjoy tasting seasonal seeds, spices and fruits. Watch a cooking demonstration using native bush ingredients and learn about the history of Australia's bush foods.

Experience **A Night at the Field of Light** – an incredible light installation designed by internationally renowned artist, Bruce Munro. Walk the trail surrounded by more than 50,000 solar powered glowing stems and admire the scene under the desert night sky.

DAY 4

Watch the sun rise over an illuminating **Uluru** on a camel tour. Climb aboard for a one-hour leisurely walk and make the most of the impressive morning photo opportunities.

The best way to really appreciate the grandeur of Uluru is walking or by hiring a bike near the **Uluru Cultural Centre** to make your way around the 10.6 km base walk. Uluru's base is dotted with informative displays which describe the significance of the springs, waterholes, rock art caves and ancient paintings.

Spend the afternoon on the back of a Harley Davidson with **Uluru Motorcycle Tours** and take in the views with the wind in your hair.

Later that evening, pick from a variety of restaurants, from tavern-style to fine dining experiences for dinner at Ayers Rock Resort.

DAY 5

Kata Tjuṯa (the Olgas), which means 'many heads', is a series of enormous rock domes that date back 500 million years. Start your morning early with a drive to the **Kata Tjuṯa** dune viewing area. A short walk from the car park offers magnificent panoramic views of the domes and a relaxing place to sit and absorb the ever-changing colours of the landscape.

Continue on the road to Kata Tjuṯa and find out just how ancient and imposing the domes are by tackling one of the two popular walking tracks. The **Walpa Gorge Walk** is an easy level which takes an hour return and follows a stream to a grove of flourishing spearwood.

Say farewell to the Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park this afternoon and drive to **Kings Creek Station**. Pitch your tent or stay in a safari cabin set among natural bush, try the Kings Creek camel burger for lunch or stroll to the George Gill lookout for magnificent views of the ranges.

DAY 6

Beat the heat with a sunrise at **Kings Canyon**. Rise and shine early to watch the sunrise and walk around the Kings Canyon rim to take in awe-inspiring views of the weathered, buttressed domes of The Lost City and the protected lush valley below in the Garden of Eden.

Make your way back to Alice Springs. If travelling in a 2WD or hire car, take the sealed road via the Stuart and Lasseter Highways. A 4WD is needed to take the unsealed Ernest Giles road or the Mereenie Loop, and the latter requires a permit.

Dine and drink the night away at Epilogue Lounge. Described by Lonely Planet as the coolest place in Alice Springs – it brings together everything you need in an eating and entertainment venue.



DAY 7

Get up before dawn to experience a sunrise balloon ride with **Outback Ballooning**. Witness the remarkable colours of the early morning dawn over the MacDonnell Ranges – on most days, you'll spot Australian wildlife, particularly red kangaroos, in their natural environment.

After breakfast, make your way to the **Alice Springs Desert Park**. Situated on Larapinta Drive, the Desert Park is a must-see for every visitor to the Red Centre. Stroll through the changing desert environments of the park through the three diverse habitat areas. Finish the trip with some refreshments at the onsite café.

Field of Light
Uluru



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