Prepare your senses for a culinary experience over three days in the tropics of Darwin.

Blending its close proximity to Asia with waters brimming with fresh catches and locally sourced native ingredients – the Northern Territory has mastered the flavours of contemporary cuisine.

TOP 10

1. Try a famous NT laksa at one of Darwin’s iconic markets: Mindil Beach Sunset Market, Parap Markets or Nightcliff Markets
2. Catch and cook your own barramundi on a trip with Kakadu Fishing Tours or Wildman Fishing Tours in the Top End
3. Head to one of Darwin’s best seaside restaurants with views for days at Pee Wee’s at the Point in East Point Reserve
4. Learn from the locals and jump on a foodie walking tour with Darwin Gourmet Tours
5. Head out on an all-inclusive sunset cruise with Darwin Harbour Cruises, Sail Darwin or Cape Adieu
6. Eat and drink your way around the restaurants and bars at the Darwin Waterfront
7. Go bar hopping at Charlie’s of Darwin, Loading Bay and Babylon Bar and explore the street art down Austin Lane in the CBD
8. Tantalize the tastebuds with a dining experience at Hanuman restaurant, owned by the well-known restaurateur Jimmy Shu or make a booking at the award winning Phat Mango for dishes showcasing locally sourced ingredients
9. Get out of town on a bush tucker tour with OffRoad Dreaming to Berry Springs Nature Park to learn about bush foods
10. Kick off the day at one of Darwin’s scrumptious cafés: Ray’s Café & Patisserie, Sweet Brew, Aboriginal Bush Traders, Laneway Specialty Coffee in Parap or the Foreshore Café in Nightcliff

DAY 1

Start your foodie adventure in the tropical capital of Darwin with breakfast at Laneway Specialty Coffee in Parap. Visiting on a Saturday? Double up the morning by swapping out your smashed avocado for a laksa from Mary’s Laksa at Parap Markets. Parap Shopping Village is dotted with art galleries and local boutiques – a worthwhile visit anytime during the week.

After filling up, head to the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory to learn on Larrakia country by discovering the region’s cultural influences, military history and natural disasters that have all shaped what the city looks like today. Be sure to have lunch overlooking the harbour at Saltwater @ Bundilla located at the museum.

This afternoon, continue the culinary journey on a walking tour with Darwin Gourmet Tours, a great way to familiarise yourself with the city’s best local eats. End the evening with a night cap at a recommended city bar from your tour guide or check out these food and drink options.
DAY 2

Today, plan well ahead to organise your travel outside of Darwin for a day out on the water. A fishing charter is a must when visiting the Top End of the NT. Get the full experience on a catch and cook trip with an expert guide on Mary River or Yellow Water Billabong in Kakadu. Book a trip with Wildman Fishing Tours or Kakadu Fishing Tours with departures leaving from Cooinda Lodge. After reeling in a fish, perhaps an elusive infamous barramundi, settle in for the evening with your catch of the day cooked to perfection over a glass of wine.

As an option for those who aren’t fishing enthusiasts, jump on a bush tucker tour with Offroad Dreaming. Travel to Berry Springs, a 40-minute drive outside of Darwin, to walk through the monsoon rainforest and taste hand-picked bush foods from the surrounding area. Tee up the visit with a refreshing swim.

DAY 3

On your last day in the tropical metropolis of Darwin, pick a café that takes your fancy. You may choose Sweet Brew in Stuart Park for its ham and cheese toasted croissants; sit in the leafy outdoor area and dive into a plate of waffles at Ray’s Café and Patisserie or enjoy the breeze while sipping on a frappe and fritters at Nightcliff Foreshore Café.

If you’re looking to take a few tastes of the Territory home with you, visit Aboriginal Bush Traders on The Esplanade. The not-for-profit organisation uses local suppliers to stock native ingredients and sells Aboriginal art with funds going directly back into communities.

For the grand finale, take a sunset cruise around Darwin Harbour. Whether it’s a champagne sunset on catamaran with Sail Darwin, seafood buffet on a Darwin Harbour Cruise or sit down to a three-course meal on Cape Adieu Harbour Cruises.
Foodie experiences in Alice Springs & surrounds
Three-day itinerary

**DAY 1**

Wake up early in Alice Springs to start the trip in an epic way sky-high on an Outback Ballooning flight. Watch the MacDonnell Ranges come to life and kangaroos graze across the grass as you float across the land. Toast to the morning with a sparkling Australian wine or fruit juice in hand as you start the day.

Follow up the hot air balloon experience with breakfast at Page 27, tucked halfway down a leafy arcade in Todd Mall. This café delivers on its coffee fix and brunch menu. While you’re in town, check out the Aboriginal art galleries and boutiques in the along the main strip. Make sure to visit the Araluen Cultural Precinct to engage with world-class art exhibits.

End the day at Alice Springs Hanuman located in the Doubletree by Hilton to try Thai and Indian inspired dishes by well-known chef and restaurateur, Jimmy Shu.

TOP 10

1. Create your own bush tucker-flavoured picnic by choosing a selection of dried fruit, herb dips and cakes from Kungkas Can Cook in Alice Springs
2. Get your fill on artisan breads, gourmet pastries and locally-roasted coffee from The Bakery Alice Springs located on Todd Street in the centre of town
3. Toast to the morning after an epic sunrise flight with Outback Ballooning
4. Learn first-hand about the bush tucker and bush medicine on a tour at Standley Chasm Angkerle Atwatye
5. Head to the Alice Springs Brewery Co. for a local tasting paddle and flavoursome pizzas
6. Looking for vegetarian or vegan bites with lots of flavour? The House of Tallulah, Epilogue Café & Restaurant and Watertank Café have you covered
7. It’s all about the vibe in Alice Springs. Dine out at Monte’s Lounge for Mexican, head to the Hideout to sip on a cocktail with views of the MacDonnell ranges and take your pick of tapas and gin at The Locals
8. Sit down amongst the desert flowers in the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and enjoy a coffee and cake from the on-site café
9. Stop in at Page 27 for the best coffee in town in-between browsing the art galleries and street art dotted throughout Todd Mall
10. Make sure to spend an evening dining at the Hanuman Alice Springs, owned by well renowned chef and restaurateur, Jimmy Shu
DAY 2

Prep yourself for a day out of town and book a bush tucker tour at Standley Chasm, known as Angkerle Atwatye, 50km outside of Alice Springs. Walk with an Arrente guide and learn about the native plants that are still used as bush foods and bush medicine by the traditional owners. Standley Chasm is a Rock Wallaby Dreaming Place and is sacred to Arrente women.

Organise a picnic lunch the day before, including a few platter items from Kungkas Can Cook and combine your trip to Standley Chasm with a dip at Ormiston Gorge in the West MacDonnell Ranges. The Red Centre’s waterholes are stunning to visit. Mid-afternoon, drive back into town and freshen up for the evening.

After freshening up at your accommodation, finish the evening over a locally brewed beer and pizza from Alice Springs Brewing Co. The perfect way to unwind after a day in the West MacDonnell Ranges.

DAY 3

Start your morning amongst the desert flowers at Olive Pink Botanic Garden. The on-site café has lots of homemade goodies to kick off your day. Take a peek at the Visitor Centre and Olive Pink Gallery to see what local exhibitions are on display.

Before heading to your next tasty refill spot and to learn more about the flora and fauna of Central Australia, make sure to visit Alice Springs Desert Park. This impressive research and conservation site is home to protected local species such as the mala, bilby and rufous-crowned emu-wren.

For lunch with a vibe, Alice Springs is home to a number of impressive cafes. The House of Tallulah, Epilogue Cafe & Restaurant or Watertank Cafe have you covered for any dietary need or lunch craving. Tonight, choose from one of the restaurants listed in this Foodie’s guide to cap off your time in the Red Centre of the NT.