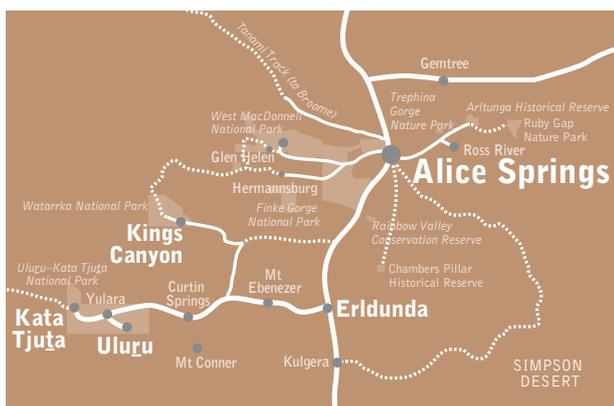


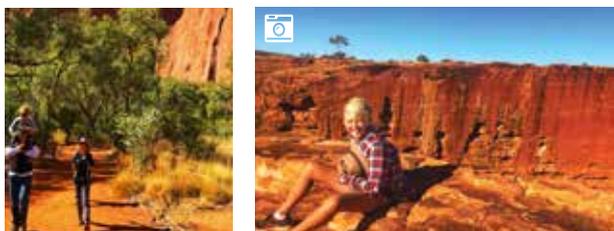


SUGGESTED ITINERARY: RED CENTRE

7 DAY RED CENTRE 4WD



ROUTE: Alice Springs to Alice Springs loop
NUMBER OF DAYS: 7 days
HIGHLIGHTS: Glen Helen Gorge / Palm Valley / Kings Canyon / Uluru / Kata Tjuta.



HINTS

- Best Surprise:** Garden of Eden, Kings Canyon
- Best swimming spot:** Glen Helen Gorge
- Must see:** Field of Lights

DAY 1: ALICE SPRINGS TO GLEN HELEN

Our friendly team at our Alice Springs depot will introduce you to the vehicle, its equipment and explain all the features including the 4WD controls.

This suggested itinerary begins your adventure on the 130 kilometre drive to Glen Helen Gorge through the stunning Western MacDonnell Ranges. This natural landscape features towering sandstone walls and mountain pools for a refreshing swim. The views are both plentiful and spectacular, including the changing colours of Mount Sonder throughout the light of the day.

The Finke River runs through the Gorge to the Simpson Desert. It is home to nine species of fish, a number of migrating waterbirds and according to the local Traditional Owners, the birthplace of their revered Rainbow Serpent.

The Glen Helen Resort offers both camping and comfortable motel options as well as a popular restaurant. Scenic Helicopter rides can also be booked here.

DAY 2: GLEN HELEN TO PALM VALLEY

From Glen Helen drive past iconic landscapes that include Gosse Bluff, a large meteorite crater, on your way to Palm Valley within the Fynke Gorge National Park. At a travelling distance of around 100 kilometres this is a great day of 4WD adventure into this unique and remote spot that's packed with palm trees, spectacular sandstone amphitheatres, pinnacles and gorges.

Palm Valley takes its name from the Red Cabbage Palm (*Livistonia Mariae*), which is only found in this region. It is estimated there are around 3,000 of these palms in the area along with a diverse range of many other rare plant species.

These are the landscapes that inspired the world-famous water colourist Albert Namatjira, who grew up in the nearby community of Hermannsburg.

This is a fabulous location to camp and enjoy its many bushwalking trails.

DAY 3: PALM VALLEY TO KINGS CANYON

Depart Palm Valley and travel around 200 kilometres to Kings Canyon taking in the famous Mereenie Loop track. You should see plenty of wildlife, including Kangaroos, dingoes, eagles and wild camels, horses and donkeys.



Along the way you will pass through the old mission town of Hermannsburg. Its fascinating history was established in 1877 by two German Lutheran missionaries who built a thriving community in partnership with the local Aranda people.

Kings Canyon is set within the Watarrka National Park and is one of the most breathtaking locations in Australia. Its sandstone walls are over 100m high and provide the most amazing views of the desert and unusual flora.

Accommodation options are limited to the Kings Canyon Resort or Kings Creek Station. Both offer campgrounds – bush camping is illegal in the National Park.

Activities include the six kilometre walk around the rim of the canyon. This includes the lush and picturesque Garden of Eden and the waterhole at Kathleen Springs. If there has been heavy rain, the Kestrel Falls are something to see, as is the unique rock formations of the The Lost City.

DAY 4: KINGS CANYON TO ULURU

The drive to the resort town of Yulara is approximately 300 kilometres. This is base camp for exploring Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Spend the afternoon at the Domes of Kata Tjuta and catch the spectacular 'Sunset over the Rock', where the changing light transforms the colours from ochre, burnt orange to blazing red.

There are a number of guided tours available by the local Anangu people who will share their stories of the Dreamtime passed down by generations. There are incredible rock art sites, and an abundance of natural flora and fauna of the area. The huge rock slabs that are visible are only just the tips – some are up to six kilometres below the ground!

There are a number of accommodation options available at Yulara – everything from budget up to 5-Star!

DAY 5: ULURU KATA TJUTA

Get up early for sunrise at the rock from one of the five official viewing areas. It's also the best time to walk around the base of Uluru before the heat of the day sets in. By choosing this walk instead of climbing, you will be respecting the wishes of the local Aboriginal people. The Rangers offer free guided walks every morning.

The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre offers a range of local artworks, souvenirs and refreshments as well as insights into local Anangu culture.

There are numerous activities that include skydiving, helicopter flights, Camel rides even motorcycle tours, but make sure you do not miss the critically acclaimed *Field of Light Uluru* by the internationally celebrated artist Bruce Munro, which has now been extended until 31 December 2020.

DAY 6: YULARA TO OWEN SPRINGS RESERVE

Leaving Yulara, we recommend heading North-East to Owen Springs Reserve – about 440 kilometres, which is on the way to Alice Springs, nestled in the Waterhouse Ranges. This is an ideal four-wheel drive experience, offering a quiet outback setting surrounded by rocky gorges and shady red gums – perfect for bush camping and birdwatching.

Scottish explorer John McDouall Stuart discovered the waterhole and named it Ewatt Springs in 1869, which was later renamed Owen Springs. Stuart's explorations paved the way for the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line.

Owen Springs Reserve was previously a large cattle station, set up in 1873 by cattleman William Gilbert. Ruins of the old homestead are still on the site, believed to be the first station homestead built in Central Australia. Other significant pastoralists who have owned Owen Springs Station include Sir Thomas Elder and Sir Sidney Kidman.

DAY 7: OWEN SPRINGS TO ALICE SPRINGS

Alice Springs is just a short 60 kilometre drive from the north of the Reserve, along the Larapinta Drive. This road will lead you through the famous 'Heavitree Gap' in the MacDonnell Ranges, the southern entrance to Alice Springs. This is where the first European explorers ventured through. It was named by William Mills, surveyor of the Overland Telegraph line, after his old school Heavitree, in Devon South England.



GREAT WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT BEFORE YOU GO

<https://www.discovercentralaustralia.com/>

<https://www.australia.com/en/places/alice-springs-and-surrounds/guide-to-the-red-centre.html>

<https://www.clc.org.au/index.php?/articles/info/tourism>



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