



Uluru & Outback NT

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Why Go?

The remote and largely untamed chunk of the Northern Territory (NT) from Darwin to Uluru is where dreams end and adventure begins. If you enjoy off-road driving, meeting real characters of the Australian outback and contortions of an ancient land sliced into escarpments, canyons, gorges, and pockets of verdant bush, then you've come to the right place.

The Stuart Hwy from Katherine to Alice Springs is still referred to as 'The Track' – it has been since WWII, when it was literally a dirt track connecting the Territory's two main towns, roughly following the Overland Telegraph Line. It's dead straight most of the way. The Red Centre is Australia's heartland boasting the iconic attractions of Uluru and Kata Tjuta, plus an enigmatic central desert culture that continues to produce extraordinary abstract art. And delighting travellers with its eccentric offerings, pioneering spirit and weathered mountain setting, Alice Springs is the city at the centre of a continent.

Best Places to Eat

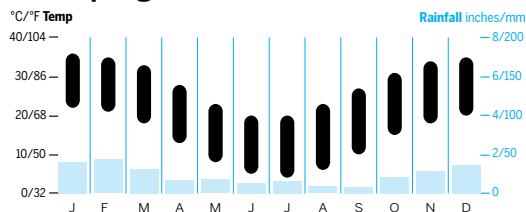
- Savannah Bar & Restaurant (p847)
- Epilogue Lounge (p864)
- Hanuman Restaurant (p864)
- Piccolo's (p864)

Best Places to Stay

- Nitmiluk National Park Campground (p851)
- Territory Manor Motel & Caravan Park (p853)
- Alice in the Territory (p863)
- Elkira Court Motel (p863)

When to Go

Alice Springs



Apr–Aug Peak season with cooler temperatures in the Red Centre.

Jun & Jul Festival season – Beanie Festival and Camel Cup in Alice Springs.

Sep–Mar It's hot, hot, hot around Alice Springs; storms bring relief in Katherine.



Uluru & Outback NT Highlights

1 Witnessing the wonderful **Uluru** (p882) and **Kata Tjuta** (p883) at sunset; discovering the spiritual side of these awesome rocks from local Anangu guides.

2 Paddling a canoe beneath soaring sandstone ramparts in **Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park** (p849).

3 Hiking past prehistoric ferns and through bizarre beehive rock formations to the dramatic cliff face of **Kings Canyon** (p875).

4 Soaking away the cobwebs in a steamy thermal spring at **Mataranka** (p853).

5 Gazing at ghost gums, budgerigars and wallabies

among the gaps, gorges and waterholes of **West MacDonnell National Park** (p873).

6 Wandering among precarious balancing boulders at the **Devil's Marbles** (p856).

7 Exploring **Alice Springs** (p857), and some of central Australia's best Indigenous art.