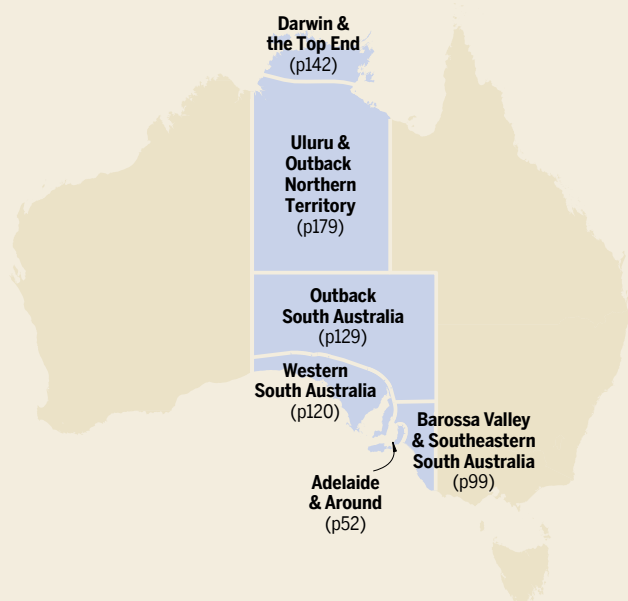




South Australia & Northern Territory



Anthony Ham & Charles Rawlings-Way

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander people should be
aware that this book may
contain images of or refer-
ences to deceased people.

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Itineraries



The Best of SA & NT

To cover such vast terrain in two weeks might be bordering on insanity, but if you've only got two weeks to spare and a passion to explore the Australian outback, this is the way to do it. To make it work, you'll need to take an internal flight.

Begin in **Adelaide** (p53), one of Australia's coolest and most culturally rich cities, and spend two nights here. Pick up a car and head north, pausing overnight in **Port Augusta** (p124) – long enough to visit the Wadlata Outback Centre and Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden. The next morning drive on to **Coober Pedy** (p138), precisely the sort of disconcerting remote outpost you'd expect to find at the end of a long outback drive. The next morning, buckle up for the longest drive of your trip, a nine-hour paved-road desert traverse to **Yulara** (p218), your base for exploring Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (p217). After three nights, drive to **Watarrka National Park** (p216) for a night, then on to **Alice Springs** (p198) the following day. From Alice, fly to **Darwin** (p143) from where you could take a whirlwind three- or (better) four-day tour that takes in **Kakadu National Park** (p166) and **Litchfield National Park** (p163). Return to Darwin for a great meal, art galleries and your flight home.



Southeastern SA to Alice Springs

This month-long epic is like traversing the soul of a continent, from the verdant green vineyards of South Australia's wine regions to the searing red heart of the outback. You'll need your own wheels to take this one on.

Begin your journey in the **Coonawarra wine region** (p119). From here explore the dunes and lagoons of **Coorong National Park** (p116), sip your way through **McLaren Vale wine region** (p81), hop over to **Kangaroo Island** (p89) for a few days of wildlife watching, then roll into festival-frenzied **Adelaide** (p53). Don't miss a trip to Adelaide Central Market for lunch, and a night eating and drinking on Rundle St.

More wine! About an hour north of Adelaide is the old-school **Barossa Valley** (p102) (big reds); and about two hours north is the boutiquey **Clare Valley** (p106) with its world-class riesling, cottagey B&Bs and old stone mining towns.

You're a couple of weeks in already – time to put some serious kilometres under your belt. Continuing north, raggedy **Flinders Ranges National Park** (p135) jags up from the semi-desert like a rust-coloured mirage. Rich in Indigenous culture, the Flinders – the heart of which is the amazing Ikara (Wilpena Pound) – will sear itself into your memory. Hit the Stuart Hwy and journey north to the mildly spooky rocket-testing town **Woomera** (p138) and the opal-tinged dugouts of **Coober Pedy** (p138).

Trucking north, you'll enter the Simpson Desert and cross into the Northern Territory. The Lasseter Hwy turn-off takes you to peerless **Uluru** (p222) and the mesmerising **Kata Tjuta** (p224) rock formations. No matter how many times you've seen a photo, there's nothing quite like seeing an Uluru sunset firsthand.

About 300km north of Uluru, the spectacular, vertigo-inducing **Kings Canyon**, in **Watarrka National Park** (p216), rewards intrepid travellers with scenic walks into and around the rim of the gaping desert chasm. Finish up in the desert oasis of **Alice Springs** (p198), in the heart of the steep-sided MacDonnell Ranges. Alice has plenty to keep you busy for a few days: the excellent Alice Springs Desert Park, some classy restaurants or just a soak in a swimming pool as you gear up for the next leg of your journey.



Darwin, Kakadu & Nitmiluk

This route gets you to the heart of the Top End, from multicultural Darwin to the great national parks of the north – visit some of these and you’ve seen some of Australia’s most beautiful wild places.

Gone are the days when **Darwin** (p143) was a brawling frontier town full of fishermen, miners and truck drivers blowing off steam. These days it’s all about outstanding museums, galleries of Indigenous art and great food.

A few hours south on the Stuart Hwy you’ll run into some superb national parks. **Litchfield National Park** (p163) is famous for its plummeting waterfalls, bushwalks and cooling swimming holes, and is worthy of at least two days. From here, backtrack 50km north then head east into World Heritage-listed **Kakadu National Park** (p166), a wetland of international significance with amazing rock outcrops adorned with equally amazing, millennia-old Aboriginal rock art as well as a full suite of native Australian wildlife. Spend four days here and make sure you pop across the croc-rich East Alligator River to Gumbalanya (Oenpelli; p176) for great Aboriginal art.

Further south, spend a day in **Katherine** (p181), the regional ‘big smoke’ (make sure you have a meal at Marksies Camp Tucker; p183) before ending up in **Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park** (p184), where the Katherine River cuts its way through 13 jagged ravines.

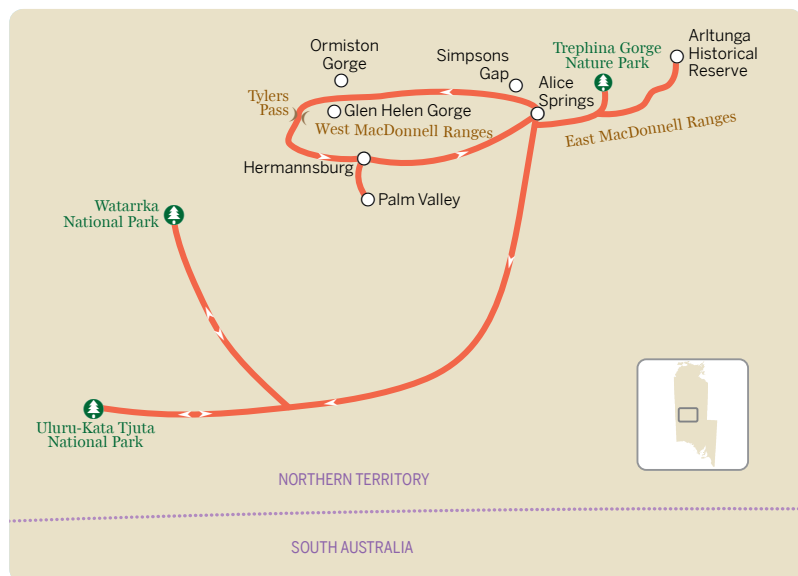


Top: Kangaroo Island rocks (p89)

Bottom: Red collared lorikeet at Litchfield National Park (p163)



BILDAGENTUR ZOOVAR GMBH/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



The Red Centre

Exploring Australia's Red Centre is the essence of the outback: rocky outcrops, remote and red; fascinating wildlife; and a horizon seemingly without end. It's a journey you'll never forget. You'll need your own wheels (preferably a 4WD) to make this journey.

Alice Springs (p196; 'Alice' to her friends), at once frontier town in the middle of nowhere and a place to enjoy the trappings of civilisation, is the ideal starting point. Once you've sampled her charms, plan on two trips, one a day trip, the other an overnight loop from Alice.

Begin with a half- or full-day excursion along the East MacDonnell Ranges to **Trephina Gorge Nature Park** (p208) and **Arltunga Historical Reserve** (p208). Next head in the opposite direction from Alice to explore the West MacDonnells, visiting Simpson's Gap, **Ormiston Gorge** (p211) and **Glen Helen Gorge** (p212; overnight here). The next morning, get an early start and make for **Tylers Pass** (p212) for vast views, then continue on a loop back to Alice Springs, detouring to **Hermannsburg** (p213) and **Palm Valley** (p213) along the way.

Track south down the Stuart Hwy then west on the Lasseter to oasis-like **Watarrka National Park** (p216) to see **Kings Canyon**. Saving the best until last, make your pilgrimage to **Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park** (p217).

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Sento Hot Baths
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving/Snorkelling
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Cathy Craigie is a Gamilaori and Anaiwon woman from northern New South Wales. She is a freelance writer and cultural consultant and has extensive experience in Aboriginal Affairs. Cathy contributed to the Aboriginal Australia chapter.

Brenda L Croft was born in Perth and now lives on the south coast of New South Wales. She is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of NSW. Brenda is from the Gurindji, Malngin and Mudpurra peoples in the NT on her paternal side, and has Anglo-Australian, German and Irish heritage on her maternal side. She has been involved in the arts and cultural sectors for three decades as an artist, arts administrator, curator, writer, academic and consultant. Brenda contributed to the Indigenous Visual Arts chapter.

David Fuller & Kylie Strelan wrote the Outback Environment chapter. David has worked for more than 20 years as a parks and wildlife ranger, and Kylie is an editor with an environmental consultancy. They lived for more than 15 years in national parks throughout the Northern Territory, including Garig Gunak Barlu, the West MacDonnells and Nitmiluk. With a passion for road trips (and family to visit in Adelaide), David and Kylie have driven the length of the Stuart Hwy more times than they care to recall.

Professor Irene Watson wrote the section headed The Land & Indigenous Peoples in the Outback Environment chapter, first published in Lonely Planet's *Aboriginal Australia & the Torres Strait Islands: Guide to Indigenous Australia*. Professor Watson is now working with the University of South Australia. Professor Watson writes: 'I am a Tanganekald and Meintangk woman; my ancestors are the sovereign peoples of the Coorong and the southeast region of South Australia.'



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Anthony Ham

Northern Territory Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic, the Middle East and Australia. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the UK and US. Anthony also contributed to the Indigenous Art & Culture and Ultimate Outback themed spreads.



Charles Rawlings-Way

South Australia Charles is a veteran travel writer who has penned 30-something titles for Lonely Planet – including guides to Singapore, Toronto, Sydney, Tasmania, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Australia – and numerous articles. After dabbling in the dark arts of architecture, cartography, project management and busking for some years, Charles hit

the road for Lonely Planet in 2005 and hasn't stopped travelling since. Charles also contributed to the Plan, Understand and Survival sections.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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