



Uluru & Outback Northern Territory

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Marksies Camp Tucker (p183)
- ➔ Sounds of Silence (p218)
- ➔ Black Russian Caravan Bar (p183)
- ➔ Montes (p204)

Best Places to Sleep

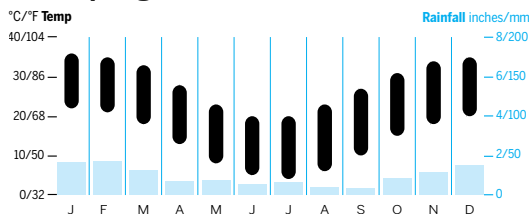
- ➔ Desert Gardens Hotel (p219)
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Why Go?

The remote and largely untamed chunk of the Northern Territory from Katherine 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 NT's two main towns. It's dead straight most of the way. The Red Centre is Australia's heartland, boasting the iconic attractions of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), 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.

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 Northern Territory Highlights

- 1 Uluru** (p222) Watching the sunrise and sunset alter the earth's colour palette on this strangely spiritual rock.
- 2 Kata Tjuta** (p224) Hiking through the hidden valleys and deep-red monoliths of the Olgas.
- 3 Nitmiluk National Park** (p181) Swimming in croc-free

waters and hiking through splendid gorge country.

- 4 Kings Canyon** (p216) Admiring one of the outback's icons, looking for wildlife.
- 5 Pungalina - Seven Emu Wildlife Sanctuary** (p197) Journeying to remote Gulf Country in search of wildlife.

- 6 Alice Springs** (p198) Shopping for Indigenous art in one of Australia's most remote cities.

- 7 West MacDonnell Ranges** (p209) Exploring the dramatic escarpment country, with its wildlife and waterholes west of Alice.