



AUSTRALIA'S RED HEART

Explore the spirit of the Red Centre on this inspiring adventure from Alice Springs and Kings Canyon to Uluru.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Families & Multi-Generational Travel



Australia, Northern Territory



7 days from AU\$4,340 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Explore the spirit of the Red Centre on this inspiring adventure from Alice Springs and Kings Canyon to Uluru. Delve into the rugged heart of the West MacDonnell Ranges with your private First Nations guide, and admire the ancient landscapes of Kings Canyon before descending into the Garden of Eden, a natural waterhole surrounded by ancient and exotic plant life. Marvel at the epic Field of Light and Light Towers art installations — an ode to the beauty and mystery of Australia's red heart — and witness the everchanging colours of Uluru and Kata Tjuta. This is a stunning self-drive journey to feel the power of the Outback.

Journey Highlights

- Self-drive through the Red Centre to Kings Canyon and Uluru
- Witness the ever-changing colours of majestic Uluru and Kata Tjuta
- Wander among the epic Field of Light and Light Towers art installations
- Set sail on a 'ship of the desert' with a sunrise camel ride
- Lose yourself in sacred stories of 'the Dreaming' from First Nations people



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Alice Springs

Meet your local guide for a tour of 'Alice'. Spend time at the School of the Air and the world-first Royal Flying Doctor Service for a fascinating insight into education and health care in the remote Outback.

DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs / L

Day 2: Alice Springs

Journey through the dramatic West McDonnell Ranges to Simpsons Gap and majestic Standley Chasm for a picnic lunch. Visit the advanced ecotourism desert park with rare and endangered animals. Enjoy interactive guided presentations and witness free-flying birds at the nature theatre presentation.

DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs / BL

Day 3: Kings Canyon

Collect your 4WD Land Cruiser* and embark on a self-drive adventure to Kings Canyon via the Mereenie Loop through the spectacular Central Desert landscape. Arrive at Kings Canyon Resort, an oasis in the red desert plain.

Kings Canyon Resort / B

Day 4: Kings Canyon

Drive to Kings Canyon Rim to embark on a spellbinding 6 km hike to the top of the canyon. Your expert guide will walk you through the history of this sacred Indigenous site, explaining the natural and mythical significance of the canyon's most captivating rock formations such as Priscilla's Crack, Cottrell Lookout, the Garden of Eden and the Lost City. The scenery is epic and you can expect an extraordinary bird's-eye view over the red ochre desert. Don a sturdy pair of walking shoes and come energised for the hike's over 500 steps.

Kings Canyon Resort / B

Day 5: Uluru

Rise at dawn and wander through the acclaimed artist Bruce Munro's Light-Towers — a stirring art installation of sound, light and energy. Witness the colours change in response to an entrancing soundscape by composer Orlando Gough, which makes the 69 light towers dance. Pause, reflect and acknowledge the mystery of Australia's Red Centre, followed by hot coffee and pastries as the sun comes up.

Drive to Uluru, stopping en route at Curtin Springs, a legendary outback cattle station. Return your vehicle at Ayers Rock town centre before a private transfer to your accommodation. This evening, your Bruce Munro art immersion continues at the Field of Light. Inspired by wildflowers, gaze upon 50,000 slender stems crowned with radiant frosted-glass spheres as they gently bloom with rhythms of coloured light.

Sails in the Desert / B

Day 6: Uluru

Early this morning, meet your driver-guide for a private tour of the massive rock domes of Kata Tjuta ('The Olgas'). Explore the ancient rock formations spread over some 20 kilometres in this spiritual place while the sun's morning glow awakens the desert. Make your way to the western side of Kata Tjuta for an outback picnic breakfast.

This afternoon, enjoy a private tour of Uluru. The sheer size of this monolith puts geological time into great perspective. As you drive around the base, your guide will take you to the entrance of Munitjulu Waterhole nestled in the contours of Uluru. Here you will learn the Creation and Dreaming stories of Liru (poisonous snake) and Kuniya (python). Study the rock art of the ancients and learn how Uluru was, and still is, a significant location for Indigenous peoples. Adjourn to the Talinguru Nyakunytjaku viewing area where you will witness a spectacular sunset.

This evening, feel a powerful connection to country with the shared Wintjiri Wiru experience at the open-air theatre on a dune top with incredible views of Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Listen to a traditional story in the Pitjantjatjara language, and witness ground-breaking technology as choreographed drones, lasers and projections light up the night sky in a modern, artistic expression of an ancient, Anangu story (additional cost).

Sails in the Desert / B

Day 7: Depart Uluru

Rise early to saddle-up on a camel — your morning's 'ship of the desert'. Breathe in the cool morning air as you ride your friendly camel through the red centre as dawn breaks over Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Watch the desert come to life and learn about the flora and fauna along the trail from your knowledgeable cameleer, before your private transfer to the airport.

B**Note**

*Vehicle hire not included.

Map



Accommodation

DoubleTree Hilton Alice Springs



Experience eco-friendly luxury and enjoy stunning views of the majestic MacDonnell Mountain Ranges whilst staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Alice Springs. Conveniently located just off Stuart Highway, the hotel is within walking distance of downtown and close to many attractions such as Simpsons Gap, Desert Park and Anzac Hill.

The spacious guest rooms and suites offer all mountain views, generous work surfaces, luxurious bedding, a modern bathroom, smart television, and internet access. All the essentials and more are covered in their modern, stylish guest rooms with an array of amenities to ensure you feel right at home.

Enjoy the thrilling and innovative menu and the warm welcoming atmosphere at *Saltbush*, a brand-new dining experience. Unwind at the inviting cocktail style lounge, *Deck Bar* or savour the highest quality fine-dining experience in Alice Springs at *Hanuman*.

With its many amenities you can choose to visit the 24-hour fitness centre, improve your serve on one of two tennis courts, swim in the heated outdoor pool overlooking the lush garden landscape or play a round on the 18-hole golf course located just next door.

Why we like it:

- The DoubleTree Hilton is a modern Alice Springs hotel which offers stunning views of MacDonnell Mountain Ranges
- Experience the finest Thai and Indian specialties at the award-winning *Hanuman* restaurant
- With its many amenities and walking distance from many attractions, DoubleTree Hilton is the perfect place to stay whilst exploring Alice Springs

King Canyon Resort, Northern Territory



Kings Canyon Resort is located in Australia's Northern Territory and is accessible via a loop off the main highway running between Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Alice Springs. Sensitively designed, the resort has been built to blend harmoniously with the surroundings - the spectacular Watarrka National Park.

The resort is home to the Kings Canyon Resort Hotel with Standard Rooms and Deluxe Rooms.

All rooms are tastefully decorated, spacious and comfortable, with separate ensuite bathroom with shower/bath. The Deluxe Rooms include a spacious bathtub and private balconies offering magnificent views of a rocky escarpment which is dramatically lit at night.

Why we like it

- Kings Canyon Resort is near Watarrka National Park, the home of the incredible sandstone formation of Kings Canyon, and close to Uluru and Kate Tjuta
- Dining options span light meals and snacks, an a la carte menu at the café and an authentic outback BBQ
- The resort has two swimming pools
- Other facilities include bars and lounges, tennis court, a sunset viewing platform and a souvenir shop
- The resort has a children's playground

Sails In The Desert, Yulara



Named after the soaring white sails that crown its roof, Sails in the Desert is Ayers Rock Resort's premier hotel. The hotel's interiors are exquisitely furnished and designed, with decor focused on Aboriginal heritage and significant artwork which is on display throughout.

The hotel offers three accommodation options. Spacious standard rooms have deluxe king or twin queen beds and include air-conditioning, whilst the Terrace Rooms have extended balconies. The Deluxe Suites are over twice the size of the Terrace Rooms and provide separate living/dining and sleeping areas, as well as balconies overlooking a garden oasis. The real star, of course, is the location, which is truly breathtaking.

Why we like it

- Sails in the Desert is located in the Ayers Rock Resort, in the living cultural landscape of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
- Dining options include the lively, buffet-style Ilkari Restaurant and the more contemporary Walpa Lobby Bar
- Red Ochre Spa offers a range of health and beauty treatments
- The property offers a sparkling swimming pool lined with lush gumtrees
- Other facilities include bars and lounges, the Mulgara Art Gallery, shops and a children's play ground. The hotel offers over 65 tours, local activities and attractions within the Resort and the Uluru (Ayers Rock) - Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) National Park

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