

Alice Springs

Alice Springs is located in the Central Australia region, or the Red Centre, in an arid environment comprising of several different deserts. It is the third largest town in the Northern Territory of Australia with a population of approximately 26,500 people. The distance from Alice Springs to Adelaide and Darwin in each direction is about 1500 kilometres. The town of Alice Springs is very close to the geographic centre of Australia and is known fondly by locals as “the Alice” or simply “Alice”. The traditional Aboriginal inhabitants are the ‘Arrernte’ people, who have called the Central Desert Region home for more than 50,000 years, they call the area Mparntwe.

There are daily express coach services to and from Adelaide and Darwin servicing Alice Springs via the Stuart Highway. Another way to experience the spectacular desert scenery is the train. The Ghan, operated by Great Southern Railway, visits Alice Springs railway station on its journey between Adelaide and Darwin twice per week in each direction. If you'd prefer to fly in, there are also daily flights from all capital cities to Alice Springs airport. We can assist you with booking any of the transport options available to Alice Springs whether it is a coach, tour, campervan, The Ghan, or a flight. Please contact us for information.

Many people visit Alice Springs to start their journey to the iconic Uluru (Ayers Rock), which is located approximately 5 hours away. Most tours to Uluru, and other sights such as Kings Canyon and Kata Tjuta, depart on a regular basis from Alice Springs. Keep in mind that there is no public transport available from Alice Springs to visit these sights so we strongly recommend booking a tour in advance as they do book up quickly. Alice Springs is a popular tourist destination and a vital service centre for those visiting and living in the dry red centre of Australia. It therefore has several large hotels, backpacker hostels, a convention centre, and a range of restaurants and other visitor attractions.

Sights & Attractions

The town of Alice Springs, situated around the mostly dry Todd River on the northern side of the MacDonnell Ranges, has both Aboriginal and Western European influences. Alice Springs boasts a number of historic buildings, such as the Hartley Street School, the Overland Telegraph Station, and the Old Courthouse and Residency. The town's important central point, the Todd Mall, hosts regular community events and has a number of impressive Aboriginal art galleries. A fascinating attraction designed to educate visitors on the surrounding desert environment is the Alice Springs Desert Park. Also just a short distance from the town centre is the arid climate botanic garden, Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

Hiking is a popular pastime for travellers here, particularly in the nearby MacDonnell Ranges. The MacDonnell Ranges run east and west of Alice Springs and contain a number of excellent trails and beautiful swimming holes. These include Red Bank Gorge, Glen Helen Gorge, and Ormiston Gorge and creek. Considered one of the world's greatest hiking experiences is the 223 kilometre Larapinta Trail that follows the West MacDonnell Ranges.

Just south-east of Alice Springs you can discover the Simpson Desert, which features spectacular rock formations such as Chambers Pillar and Rainbow Valley set amongst enormous red sand dunes. Another popular leisure activity is visiting Finke Gorge National Park to do some 4-wheel driving.

Alice Springs hosts a number of unique events and memorable entertainment on an annual basis including the Camel Cup, Finke Desert Race, the Alice Springs Beanie Festival, and the Henley-on-Todd Regatta. Keep in mind that Finke is approximately 400 kilometres south of Alice Springs in the Simpson Desert!

Climate

In Alice Springs both rainfall and temperatures can vary dramatically. In summer, the average maximum temperature reaches high 30°C and above, whereas in winter it is 20°C. However if you're here in winter, bring some warm clothes, particularly for the night time, when it can get down to 0 °C and below. The average annual rainfall is 279.2 millimetres, most of this falling between December and February.

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