

# ≡ Territory ≡ Art Trails





# Territory Art Trails

The Northern Territory is defined by its vibrant arts, cultural heritage and creative industries born out of its unique history and diversity – being home to some of the oldest continuing living cultures on earth.

Cultural and artistic expression is very much a part of the NT's identity and the arts sector is much more than meets the eye. From cultural festivals by the sea to desert choirs and bustling Aboriginal art fairs, the NT celebrates Aboriginal culture and art as fundamental to our identity and welcomes a diversity of cultures from around the globe that also play an intrinsic part in the Territory's character, economy and appeal.

The energy and vision of artists and residents from across the diverse regional and remote communities that make up the Territory are what makes it such a distinctive and vibrant place to visit and live.

Take a journey along the Art Trails of the Northern Territory to see where you end up. Be inspired from the following suggested itineraries or create your own experience >>>

Cover images

Top: Djilpin Arts, Beswick

Lower Left: Mimi Aboriginal Arts and Crafts, Katherine

Lower Right: Colourful pots of Hermannsburg

This image: Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre, Ali Curung





Djilpin Arts, Beswick



Maruku Arts, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park



Darwin Festival



Ubirr, Kakadu National Park



Dyed Pandanus, Kakadu

### ROCK ART SITES

You can find some of Australia’s most significant and ancient Aboriginal cultural rock art sites around the Northern Territory – some areas are easily accessible to many visitors, others are more remote and many remain undiscovered to this day (by Western culture). National parks across the NT work with the traditional owners to protect these sites – considered some of the most well-preserved Indigenous artworks in the world.

### ABORIGINAL ART CENTRES AND GALLERIES

Scattered throughout the Territory are art centres and galleries offering the sale of some of the best Indigenous and non-Indigenous works in the world including unique and contemporary pieces. To ensure that we are supporting best practice, only art centres and galleries that are accredited through the Indigenous Arts Code and/or accredited through relevant organisations featured on the Art Trails, so you can feel secure, knowing that you are buying art in an ethical way and are supporting the artist and/or the local Aboriginal community when purchasing art work.

### ART AND CULTURAL TOURS

Art features prominently across the NT in all shapes and forms from contemporary music, theatre and dance to Aboriginal art, carving and textiles, and can be accessed and experienced through our tourism industry. Get hands on with art and culture in the Northern Territory through the many different day and extended tours.

### ART AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

There is lots to celebrate within the creative arts industry, and we love a good festival here in the Territory. From music, culture and public art to a combination of all three – there is an event that will make you want to come back year after year. Make sure you check out the full **festival and events calendar** so you can add on to your Northern Territory Art Trail!

### DISCOVERING THE ART TRAILS OF THE TERRITORY

Discover your Territory Art Trail by road, and self-drive your way around the NT. The Northern Territory is a great place for a road trip holiday with plenty to do between stops, excellent road conditions and lots of opportunities to discover some magical spots. Travel on unsealed roads is to be expected throughout the Northern Territory so please remember to drive safely, whether you are hiring a car, or using your own. Some roads require 4WD or high clearance vehicles only.

You can check the local road report **here**. Many art centres are located within Aboriginal communities and may have strict entry policies, or require you to obtain a permit. Please ensure you contact the relevant permits office in advance. Information on drive holidays in the Northern Territory can be found on our **website**. During certain seasons some art centres and tours are not open or available, please ensure you contact the centre or tour provider and make arrangements well in advance. Please respect the rules and regulations of each Aboriginal community when entering.

#### Important things to remember



Support the ethical sale of authentic Aboriginal art only



Call ahead when visiting remote art centres



Photography – always ask, be sure it is not a sacred site



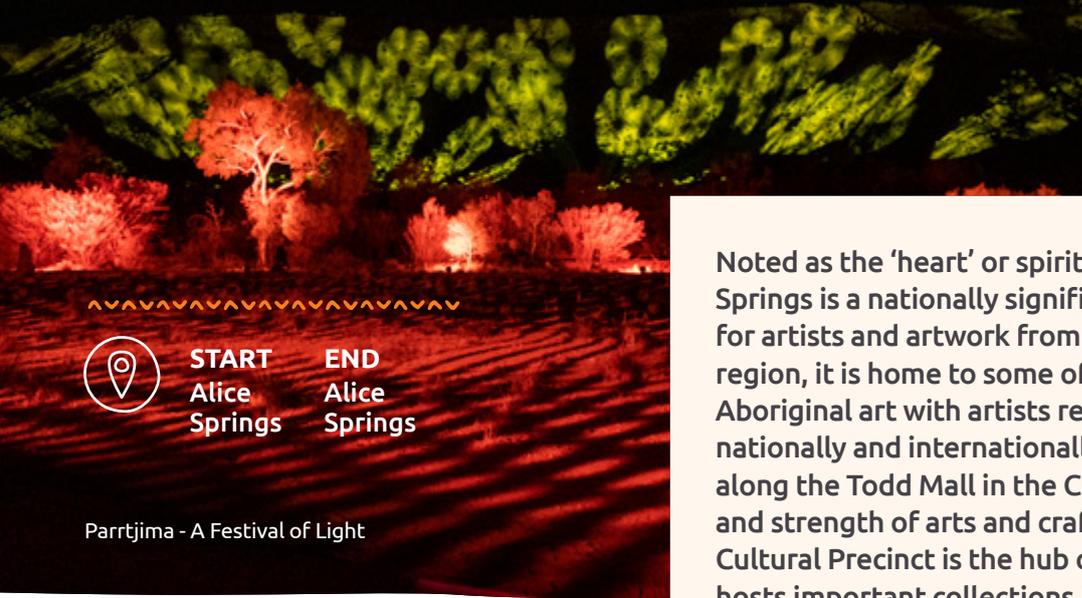
Respect the culture, land and people



Ensure you apply for permits on Aboriginal land in advance

# Alice Springs & surrounds

## 3 Day Art Trail



Noted as the 'heart' or spiritual centre of Australia, Alice Springs is a nationally significant arts hub. A vibrant centre for artists and artwork from the larger central desert region, it is home to some of the most important names in Aboriginal art with artists regularly exhibiting their work nationally and internationally. A range of art galleries dotted along the Todd Mall in the CBD showcase the diversity and strength of arts and crafts in the region. The Araluen Cultural Precinct is the hub of visual arts for the region, and hosts important collections from local and Australian artists such as Albert Namatjira, and founders of the Western Desert art movement.

Make sure you align your trip with one of the many art and cultural festivals such as the quirky **Alice Springs Beanie Festival**, which showcases thousands of handmade beanies, each one a work of art; or Desert Mob, a much anticipated annual event in September which is a statement of Aboriginal art from remote art centres in Central Australia. See the remarkable MacDonnell Ranges being lit up with **Parrtjima**, an incredible festival in light running in April each year. Art lovers will be able to immerse themselves in the Red Centre's strong Aboriginal culture and landscape.



### DAY 1: ALICE SPRINGS

The best introduction to Alice Springs is a morning tour with Alison from **Journey the Dreaming** to learn about the natural and cultural environment of the area. You will be given a head start and local tips to set yourself up for the rest of your time here. In the afternoon, pick up a hire car and visit the **Araluen Arts Centre** which incorporates exhibitions, museums, craft and a research centre to explore at your own leisure. If you have time today, try to squeeze in a visit to **Tangentyere Artists**. Based in the town centre Tangentyere Artists offers a variety of unique art consisting of different styles, materials and methods. You will be able to purchase direct from the gallery, with some purchases going back to local town camps.

**Iltja Ntjarra Art Centre** is also a must do. Home to the Namatjira watercolour artists, the art centre places a focus on the tradition of painting in watercolour as a show of respect to the famous Albert Namatjira. Expect to see unique landscape paintings reflective of the local Central Australian desert along with jewellery, prints and other merchandise for purchase.



Kathleen Buzzacott Art Studio, Alice Springs



Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Alice Springs



Hermannsburg Historic Precinct

### DAY 2: WEST MACDONNELL RANGES REGION

Today, prepare for an adventure out of Alice Springs to experience some of the more unique and remote art centres in Central Australia. Please ensure that the art centres know you will be visiting by booking an appointment, as opening times do vary, and please ensure you check if any permits are required. A reasonably easy drive, start early morning and head out along Namatjira Drive to make your first stop off at **Kathleen Buzzacott Art Studio**. Kathleen produces beautiful fine dot paintings as well as handcrafted jewellery.

While you are in the area, make sure you take advantage and stop off at the local icons, Simpson's Gap and Standley Chasm. Continue out to **Ikuntji Artists**, which is located at Haasts Bluff and was one of the first art centres established by women in the Western Desert Art Movement. The gallery delivers a variety of art pieces to view and purchase such as screen prints, paintings, clothing, bags and other merchandise.

Take the loop back past **Hermannsburg Historic Precinct** to finish off the day which is home to one of the NT's most famous Aboriginal artists, Albert Namatjira. After visiting the Iltja Ntjarra Art Centre in Alice Springs, you will have more of an appreciation of this area, and even have the opportunity to explore the precinct and visit the house Albert Namatjira grew up in.

### DAY 3: ALICE SPRINGS

Experience a hands on art and cultural experience with Kumalie Riley from **Tinkerbee**. Learn about the traditional symbols and explore storytelling through art and culture while you create your own piece of art. After exploring the immediate areas surrounding Alice Springs, you may have your own story to tell, so let your creative juices flow.

After your cultural experience with Kumalie get more of a local art fix with **Tjanpi Desert Weavers**. You will be blown away by the bold colours and unique pieces that have been created here. Tjanpi offers a huge variety art on display for sale such as woven baskets and other creatures, sculptures, jewellery, popular eye catching t-shirts and even your own weave kit to try out for yourself!

#### Festivals to include in your itinerary

DesertMob	9 Sep – 24 Oct 2021
Alice Springs Beanie Festival	25 – 28 Jun 2021
Parr tjima Festival	9 – 18 Apr 2021
Desert Harmony Festival	TBC 2021
Desert Song Festival	10 – 19 Sep 2021
Alice Springs Desert Festival	23 Sep – 3 Oct 2021
Bush Bands Bash	Sep 2021 TBA