

Alice Springs & surrounds

24-hour itinerary



Sunrise Balloon Tour
Tourism NT/Grenville Turner




Desert art at Tangyentyere Artists
Tourism NT/Felix Baker



Telegraph Station
Tourism NT/Shaana McNaught

Rise early this morning and take to the skies in a hot air balloon for a magnificent bird's eye view of Alice Springs and the Red Centre. As you drift into an outback sunrise of pastel blues, purples and yellows, keep an eye out for native wildlife and the iconic Red Kangaroo down below. You'll need to book with **Outback Ballooning** a day or two in advance, and all tours are subject to weather suitability.

Once your feet are planted firmly again on the ground, it is time to indulge in a cooked breakfast at the **Bean Tree Café** which you can find nestled in the **Olive Pink Botanic Garden**. It is Australia's only arid zone botanic garden and the perfect place to relax for breakfast or lunch amongst the native surrounds. Take the time to wander along the walking trails to see the hundreds of plant species that are native to the Red Centre, or spot some of the 80 bird species which have been recorded at the park.

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Make the most of your 24 hours in Alice Springs!

Discover what the locals love about this bustling town and meet native wildlife, visit historic landmarks, get amongst the thriving café culture and immerse yourself in the traditional and contemporary local Aboriginal art.



*Driving time is estimated from Alice Springs.

Top 10

1. Take to the skies and watch the sun rise over Central Australia with **Outback Ballooning**
2. Wander through native landscapes at the **Olive Pink Botanic Garden** and indulge in a cooked breakfast or lunch at the Bean Tree Café
3. Discover the abundance of desert life at the **Alice Springs Desert Park**
4. Immerse yourself in Aboriginal culture along the **Territory Arts Trail**
5. Enjoy lunch or a coffee at one of **Alice Springs' trendy cafés** along Todd Mall
6. Discover the history of Alice Springs at the **Telegraph Station** or see more moving on a mountain bike tour from the on-site Trail Station
7. Get amongst the interactive displays at the **Royal Flying Doctor Service** visitor centre
8. Discover the many reptiles of Central Australia at the **Alice Springs Reptile Centre**
9. Take in the panoramic views of Alice Springs atop **Anzac Hill** and watch the sun set behind the ranges
10. Learn how to navigate the night sky, identify the zodiac and constellations and listen to ancient Aboriginal stories of creation at the **Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre**

Make your first mid-morning destination at the **Alice Springs Desert Park**. Situated on Larapinta Drive, the Desert Park is a 'must see' for every visitor to the Red Centre. Spot rare and endangered animals in the low light of the nocturnal house and dodge the star attractions at the 'free-flying birds of prey' show. Walk along the 1.6 km trail and experience three separate habitat areas within the Park. Attend one of the informational talks throughout the day, including a presentation on Aboriginal Survival. Make your way around the Park at your leisure, and then relax with some refreshments at the onsite café.

After some lunch, take a short drive to the **Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve**. Learn about the history of the people who established the overland telegraph station or try a more adventurous route on a mountain bike tour. Tours from the Trail Station leave at 2:30pm daily and are led by an experienced local rider, with all gear provided.

Next stop is the **Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)**. Get amongst the interactive displays and step inside a full-sized replica on a modern PC-12 airplane, part of the exciting new collection.

Here, you will gain an insight into the iconic Australian outback service established by pioneers in 1928. There is an onsite café, where you can dine under the original verandah and enjoy the amazing blue skies Alice Springs is known for. Sit back and relax with a coffee, especially blended for the RFDS by a local coffee roaster.

Make a visit to the top of **Anzac Hill** for a panoramic view of the town. You can drive your car to the top, or if you're feeling active, you can walk via the 'Lions Walk.' Enjoy your view of the MacDonnell Ranges, the town centre and the desert landscapes as the sun goes down.

To finish off the day, make the most of the clear skies in the Red Centre and gaze at the thousands of stars overhead at the **Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre**. Learn how to navigate and identify the zodiac and constellations in the night sky and hear ancient Aboriginal stories of creation.



Sunset from ANZAC Hill
Tourism NT/Nicholas Kavo



RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility
Tourism NT/Shanaa McNaught



Thorny Devil, Reptile Centre
Tourism NT/Yuri Kardashyan

Head back into town to the Todd Mall, which is lined with commercial galleries specialising in **Aboriginal art**. Stop at Papunya Tula Artists to see the renowned dot paintings, then at Mbantua Art Gallery and Cultural Museum, which has one of the largest collections of Aboriginal art in Australia and specialises in art from the Utopia region. While you're in the area, enjoy lunch at one of the many **trendy café's** dotted throughout the Todd Mall.

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Alice Springs Town Map

