

# Larapinta Trail



Distance: 70km Duration: 7 Days / 6 Nights Departs: Alice Springs

Level: **Challenging**

Arguably one of the best desert trails in the world, the Larapinta Trail is a walkers delight. Experience the rugged beauty of the famous West MacDonnell ranges, vast desert vistas, stunning gorges and cool waterholes framed by weeping ghost gums.

On this 7 Day tour we will take you to some of the highlights of this 223km trail. With knowledgeable and fun guides you will be challenged to scale the mighty Mt Sonder, trek along Reveal Saddle and explore some of the unique gorges of this area including Ormiston gorge and Serpentine gorge. Each evening after a full days adventure you will return in your trusty desert chariot vehicle to your accommodation for a shower and a delicious a la carte meal, recapping the days highlights with new friends.

There are some medium-hard sections on rocky terrain, but people with a moderate level of fitness can complete the walks. Preparation will make the experience all the more enjoyable. A mix of excellent home-made lunches, restaurant dinners and knowledgeable guides will complement your trip.

## What our guests say:

*"Hiking The Larapinta Trail has definitely been one of the peak experiences of my life. I wouldn't have been able to do it had I not gone with Inspiration Outdoors. I found the terrain challenging but not having to carry a heavy backpack made it doable. Our guides, Rachelle and Magic Mike were so supportive, encouraging and their knowledge of local culture and history was most interestingly presented.*

*To be able to return back to our accommodation, have a hot shower and then have a delicious meal waiting was wonderful.*

*Obviously a tremendous amount of research went into this adventure and it showed, every aspect was seamless.."*

*Heather Saggars*



# Itinerary

A guide will accompany you each day as you discover the highlights of the Larapinta Trail. On some of the more challenging walks two guides will accompany the group, to offer more options.

Some of the walks include quite steep and rocky sections; but, with a moderate level of fitness, each walk is enjoyable! We highly recommend that you do some training beforehand, especially walking steps and doing some training on rocky terrain.

The walks along the Larapinta Trail are a good mix of one direction, return and circuit walks. You are always welcome to take a day off walking. We will try to help you find suitable alternative activities.

*\*The itinerary may alter depending on extreme weather conditions and heat.*

## Day 1

### Arrival day in Alice Springs.

Flights from major capital cities generally arrive into Alice Springs around noon each day. Make your way to your accommodation at the Mercure. The tour will begin at 3:30pm with a leisurely afternoon walk to a scenic lookout. This is a great time to acclimatise and familiarise yourself with your surroundings. If flights don't allow an early arrival no need to worry, as the walk today is very short.

However, please make sure to book a flight that will allow you to meet the group at 6pm for a Welcome Meeting in the lobby of the hotel for more information on the tour and walks ahead. Afterwards we will enjoy a delicious chef prepared a la carte meal at the famous Barra on Todd restaurant of the hotel, which will also give you a chance to get to know your fellow walkers a bit better.

## Day 2

### Alice Springs Telegraph Station to Wallaby Gap.

Walk: 13.5km

We depart Alice Springs town from the accommodation fairly early this morning and head to the Telegraph Station, just out of town. From here we start our walk and as we head along the ridges just behind Alice Springs town we start getting our first glimpses of the seemingly endless mountain ranges all around us.

From Wallaby Gap we will head back to Alice Springs for another night.

## Day 3

### Reveal Saddle and Standley Chasm

Walk: 12km + 2km



Today we pack up and leave Alice Springs. We'll drive out to Standley Chasm from where we start our walk up to Reveal Saddle and back. As we make our way along the creek bed and then slowly start climbing up through the valley to the top, you would never have anticipated the stunning views you get rewarded with once at the top. Spot the odd Cycad hidden away in the gullies and enjoy an array of flowers and River

Red Gum Trees in the creek bed. In the afternoon you will have time for the short walk (2km) up into Standley Chasm.

From Standley Chasm we then make our way to Glen Helen to settle in at our accommodation for the next 3 nights.

## Day 4

### Serpentine Gorge to Serpentine Chalet Dam

Walk: 14km

Journey to one of the most popular walks on the Larapinta Trail. From Serpentine Gorge carpark we make our way up to the top of the ridge. Discover some Mountain Hakea along the way and enjoy the breathtaking views once we get to the top.

Discover the most iconic picture of the Larapinta Trail at Counts Point from where we head back down towards Serpentine Chalet Dam.



## Day 5

### Ormiston Gorge Pound Walk and The Ochre Pits

Walk: 9km

Today we head into the heart of the West MacDonnell Ranges. The Ormiston Gorge Pound is a stunning walk that shows off all the beauty Central Australia can provide.

At the end of the walk we will head to the famous Ochre Pits to have a look around one of the most significant places to the local Arrernte Aboriginal people, before heading back to the accommodation for a relaxed afternoon.

## Day 6

### Mt. Sonder

### Walk: 16km

Today is our last days walk on the Larapinta Trail and its an absolute cracker! We make our way to Redbank, from where we will start our walk to the famous Mt Sonder. From the valley floor we slowly make our way up some steep sections to get to the Saddle. As we walk along the Saddle take in the vastness of the area before ascending to the top of Mt. Sonder. Enjoy your well deserved lunch as we take in the spectacular 360° views.

## Day 7

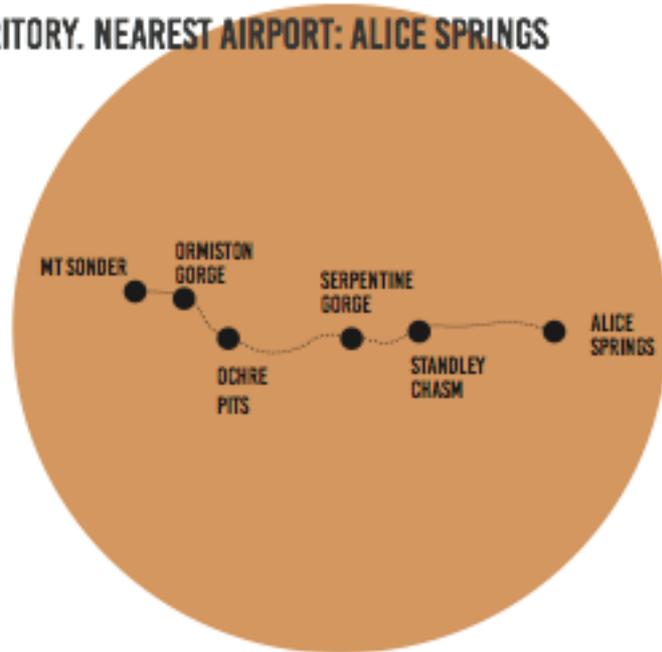
### Glen Helen Gorge Walk. Return to Alice Springs

### Walk: 1km

Enjoy awakening to the sounds of the Australian Bush before we head back to Alice Springs where you will be able to catch an early afternoon flight home.



## LARAPINTA TRAIL, NORTHERN TERRITORY. NEAREST AIRPORT: ALICE SPRINGS



# The Fine Details

**\$3,095 per person twin share (single supplement \$450)**

### What's included:

- Transport is by an air-conditioned comfortable bus
- Professional guiding and support each day by 2 guides
- Emergency support: guides carry satellite phones and a full first aid kit
- 6 night's accommodation at motel style accommodation
- All park entry fees
- 6 healthy breakfasts – cereal, fruit, yogurt, toast
- 6 morning teas, carried by your guide
- 5 lunches
- Pre-dinner nibbles each night
- 6 delicious two course dinners

### Where do we start from?

The tour starts and finishes in Alice Springs.

There are daily and multiple flights to Alice Springs so talk to us about organising your flight if you need any help.

Drop-off will be around 11am on the last day in time for you to catch an early afternoon flight home.

If you would like to continue your stay in Alice Springs;

- Aurora Alice Springs
- The Mercure Alice Springs
- The Diplomat Motel Alice Springs
- Hotel ibis Styles Alice Springs Oasis
- Alice Springs YHA

### Is this tour for me?

This tour has been designed for active people with a love of nature and a bit of an adventurous streak. The majority of our guests are over 55 years old and walk, cycle or swim regularly (but not run half marathons!).

This is a challenging tour but by no means a "hard core" hiking experience. Our guests are not content to sit on a bus all day but nor are we about forced marches. Our focus is on delivering a tour that does not rush, and has a good balance of activity and rest.

## Where do we stay?

We will be staying at two different accommodations

- The Mercure, Alice Springs, 2 nights
- Glen Helen Homestead Lodge, 4 nights

The motel style accommodation is allocated on a double or twin share basis. If you are a solo traveller we will room you with another solo traveller of the same gender. Limited single supplements are available at an additional charge. Please ask for details and availability if interested.

On our first two nights we will be staying at the Mercure in Alice Springs. The rooms are standard 4 star hotel rooms and we will come together at the Mercure restaurant for meals.

We then move to Glen Helen for 4 nights to get closer to our walks on the Larapinta Trail. Here we will be staying in basic motel rooms with ensuite bathrooms.

## Dietary requirements?

If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know when you book, we are happy to adapt our tasty, nutritious meals to suit a variety of dietary needs.

## Average Temperature (degrees):

**June:** 5° min - 20° max

**July:** 4° min - 20° max

**August:** 6° min - 23° max

## How many guests will be on the tour?

This tour has a maximum of 12 passengers. Accompanying the group will be 2 guides from Inspiration Outdoors who will walk on the track with you, drive and look after all of your needs while on tour.

## What's the average age of walkers?

The average age of our guests are between 55-75 years young but we welcome any adult on our tours.

Ready to book? Your next adventure is two steps away...

- Jump onto our website [www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au](http://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au), find your tour in the menu and click on the orange button in

the top right hand corner that states, '[CheckAvailability/Book Now](#)' alternatively call us on **08 6219 5164** (international calls dial **+618 62195164**) or email us at [walk@InspirationOutdoors.com.au](mailto:walk@InspirationOutdoors.com.au).

- Pay a \$350pp deposit to secure your booking (full payment is required six weeks prior to departure or at time of booking if booking within six weeks).

## Just in case...

We hope that you do not need to cancel your booking. However, if you do, our cancellation fee, based on the notice given prior to the departure date, is:

- 85 days or more, you will be refunded all monies paid, less a \$50 administration fee.
- 42 to 84 days prior to departure, you will lose your deposit
- 28 to 41 days: 25% of full tour cost
- 14 to 27 days: 50% of full tour cost
- less than 14 days: 100% of full tour cost, no refund

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. This policy will be adhered to despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.

## Stay inspired...

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