

Central Australia

Larapinta Trail, Uluru & Kata Tjuta

Distance: 90km Duration: 9 Days / 8 Nights Alice Springs departures



Level: Medium (Uluru + Kata Tjuta) to Challenging (Larapinta Trail)

Have you always wanted to see more of Central Australia, walk the highlights of the Larapinta Trail, explore Kings Canyon and have time to admire Uluru and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas); then this tour is for you.

Take your time to walk, explore, relax and soak up the surrounding beauty each day - while still seeing so much and enjoying the close connection with nature. This tour exclusively offers the opportunity to decide to either camp (we provide you with a spacious tent, camp bed, mattress, eating utensils and camp chair) **OR** if your days of camping are over you may choose to sleep in a motel style room every night. **Please be aware that the motel accommodation is very basic and at some of the accommodation providers there are no ensuite bathrooms.*

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 food, two restaurant meals and knowledgeable guides will complement your trip.

2018 DEPARTURES:

31 August - 8 September
11 - 19 September

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 do able. Our guides, Rachelle and Magic Mike were so supportive, encouraging and their knowledge of local culture and history was most interestingly presented. I really enjoyed the choice of music as we were heading to and from the Trail each day.

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 Siggers



Itinerary

A guide will accompany you each day as you discover the highlights of the Larapinta Trail, explore the remote Kings Canyon and take in Uluru and Kata Tjuta from below. 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.

Most walks along the Larapinta Trail will be in one direction whereas the walks around Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon are 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

Alice Springs Telegraph Station to Wallaby Gap.
Walk: 13.5km

We depart Alice Springs town after picking you up at your accommodation early this morning and head just out of town to the Telegraph Station. 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 one night. While you unpack your guides will prepare a 2-course dinner.

Day 2

Reveal Saddle and Standley Chasm
Walk: 12km + 2km

Today we 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 3

Serpentine Gorge to Serpentine Chalet Dam
and The Ochre Pits
Walk: 14km

Journey to one of the most popular walks on the Larapinta Trail. From Serpentine Gorge 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. 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.

Day 4

Mt. Sonder
Walk: 16km

Ready for an adventure and the highlight of the Larapinta Trail we make our way to Redbank, from where we will start our walk today. 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 5

Ormiston Gorge Pound Walk and drive to
Kings Canyon
Walk: 9km

Today we enjoy our last walk around the West Mac Donnell Ranges before making our way along the Mereenie Loop to Kings Canyon. The Ormiston Gorge Pound is a stunning walk that shows off all the beauty Central Australia can provide. After our walk in Ormiston Gorge we make our way along the unsealed Mereenie Loop to Kings Canyon. Here we will enjoy a dinner at the Restaurant after settling in at our accommodation.

Day 6

Kings Canyon Rim Walk and Aboriginal
experience
Walk: 6km

Enjoy awakening to the sounds of the Australian Bush before we head out to Kings Canyon for the Rim Walk. After a steep climb up to the top the walk takes us along the canyon and

through a small remnant of a tropical oasis. In the afternoon we will immerse ourselves in an Aboriginal Cultural Tour. Experience spear and boomerang displays, learn about bush tucker and bush medicine, learn local languages and much more. You could even choose to top it all off with a flight over Kings Canyon.



Day 7

Kings Canyon to Uluru and Uluru base walk
Walk: 9.8km

Moving on to probably the highlight of any Central Australia trip we make our way to Uluru today. After settling in at our campsite in Yulara we head out to Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park in the afternoon to commence our Uluru Base Walk. The very diverse Base Walk at Uluru has much more to offer than you would expect. As we admire Uluru from below we will learn more about the local Anangu people and some of the amazing stories connected to Uluru.



Day 8

Kata Tjuta and Valley of the Winds walk
Walk: 7.4km

After a leisurely breakfast this morning we head to Kata Tjuta for the Valley of the Winds walk. Walking through the many domes and coming up close to this conglomerate we discover how different Kata Tjuta and Uluru are.

With some free time in the afternoon you may choose to join a helicopter ride, come up close to some camels, discover Yulara or just relax.

Later we will enjoy some nibbles while watching the sunset over Uluru as we reflect on a great trip.

**Please note itinerary may vary slightly depending on sunrise and sunset times.*

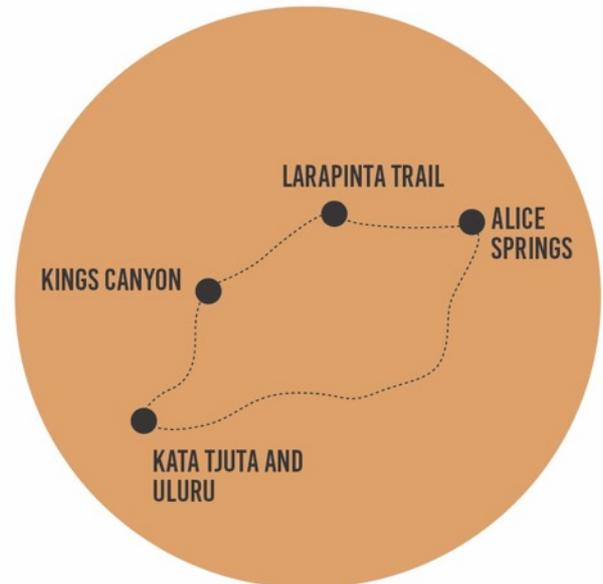


Day 9

Yulara to Alice Springs

To complete your experience of Central Australia we head to Uluru for Sunrise. Before our journey back to Alice Springs we return to camp to enjoy one last leisurely breakfast and pack up. We break up the long drive (5.5hrs) with a few interesting stops along the way. The drop off at your chosen hotel in Alice Springs will be around 4pm.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY. NEAREST AIRPORT: ALICE SPRINGS



The Fine Details

Cost:

CAMPING: \$2,850 per person Camping **OR**

ACCOMMODATION: \$3,500 per person twin share
(single supplement \$570)

What's included:

- Transport is by an air-conditioned custom built 4WD tour coach
- Professional guiding and support each day by 2 guides
- Emergency support: guides carry satellite phones and a full first aid kit
- 8 night's accommodation at campsites/motel style accommodation
- All park entry fees
- All camping equipment, except a sleeping bag and pillow
- 8 healthy breakfasts – cereal, fruit, yogurt, toast
- 9 morning teas, carried by your guide
- 9 lunches – some packed and some delivered picnics
- Pre-dinner nibbles each night
- 8 delicious two course dinners
- Excellent itinerary and planning

Where do we start from?

The tour starts and finishes in Alice Springs. As the tour leaves early in the morning you will need to fly into Alice Springs the day prior. We pick up our guests from their hotels between 8am and 8:30am. We will drop you off around 4pm on the last day.

Please see our below recommendations for accommodation in Alice Springs;

- Aurora Alice Springs
- Chifley Alice Springs Resort
- 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 a variety of different accommodations on our Central Australia walking tour which include the following

- Alice Springs Tourist Park, 1 night
- Glen Helen Homestead Lodge, 3 nights
- Kings Canyon Resort, 2 nights
- Ayers Rock Resort Campground, 2 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 night we will be staying in Alice Springs at Alice Springs Tourist Park. Here we will have multiple camping sites all together for the campers and Ensuite Cabins for our non-campers. A camp kitchen will be set up in the camping area and we endeavour to have it as close as possible to the non-campers.

We then move to Glen Helen for 3 nights to get closer to our walks on the Larapinta Trail. At Glen Helen the campers will enjoy 3 nights in permanent canvas tents and the non-campers will be staying in the motel rooms with ensuite bathrooms. The camp kitchen will be set up in the camping area, which is a very short walk from the motel rooms.

At Kings Canyon we will be staying at Kings Canyon Resort for 2 nights. Here the campers will be at a group campsite with the camp kitchen set up and the non-campers will be staying in motel style rooms with shared toilet blocks. The group camp area is very close to the motel rooms.

In Yulara we will be staying at Ayers Rock Resort Campground. The campers and the camp kitchen will be set up at the group campsite section. The non-campers will be staying in basic cabins with shared toilet blocks and the camp kitchen a short walk away.

Tell me more about the camping experience...

Our camping equipment is designed to make sure you have a comfortable experience. (As we like to say it's camping for non campers!) Each person will have the use of their own 160cm tent (they are really easy to put up and we will help

you) as well as a knee high stretcher bed and self inflating mattress. Even if you are travelling with a friend or a significant other you will have access to your own tent or you are more than welcome to share. You will need to bring a pillow and sleeping bag or you can hire a sleeping bag from us for \$35 (to cover dry cleaning at the end of the tour).

A holiday isn't a holiday if there isn't time to relax and reflect on the day's adventures. Our guides are there to make sure your camping experience is enjoyable and will carry out all the campsite duties, of course any help is always appreciated. You'll spend the nights relaxing on comfortable armchairs enjoying the sights and sounds as you sit around the campfire, recapping the highlights of the day with your fellow travel companions.



Dietary requirements?

From vegetarians to pescatarians to meat loving carnivores with an aversion to cucumbers we cater for all dietary requirements and will make sure you are well fed and looked after on tour. Your resourceful guides will ensure that fresh local produce and ingredients are used when available.

Average Temperature (degrees):

August: 5 min - 23 max

September: 9 min - 26 max

Keep in mind it can get quite cold at night especially if you are camping. For those staying in accommodation you will need to bring warm clothes as the camp kitchen where you will enjoy all your meals is outside.

How many guests will be on the tour?

This tour has a maximum of 15 passengers.

Accompanying the group will be 2 guides from Inspiration Outdoors who will cook, 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, 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.
- 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:

- More than 12 weeks: \$50 administration fee
- 6 to 12 weeks: loss of deposit
- 4 to 6 weeks: 25% of full tour cost
- 2 to 4 weeks: 50% of full tour cost
- less than 2 weeks: 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.

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