



Where the
desert
comes alive

ALICE SPRINGS

Desert Park

**ALICE SPRINGS
DESERT PARK**

MEDIA & SALES KIT

Alice Springs Desert Park
(08) 8951 8788 | Open 7.30am - 6pm daily
Larapinta Drive, Alice Springs, Northern Territory
www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**
GOVERNMENT

WERTE - *WELCOME*

Alice Springs Desert Park plays a key role in showcasing the exceptional diversity of Central Australia's unique flora and fauna.

These facilities provide opportunities for the community and visitors to immerse themselves amongst the desert's plants and animals in a natural setting that is educational, interactive and inspiring for the visiting public.

In addition to the significant role this Park plays in education and awareness-raising, this Park also presents its exhibits and presentations with interpretative information that entwines the significance of Aboriginal culture to this region.

Paul Ah Chee Ngala
Alice Springs Desert Park Director



PRODUCT INFORMATION

Location

At the foothills of the MacDonnell Ranges. Off Larapinta Drive, 7 km west of Alice Springs

Opening Hours

7.30am to 6.00pm.

Last entry 4.30pm.

Closed Christmas Day (25 Dec)

Length of Visit

Average length of stay is 3 hours

Facilities

- Information Sheets (English, German, French and Japanese)
- Coolamon Café & Gift Shop
- Function room and event spaces
- Disabled toilet
- Drinking water fountains throughout the Park
- Free picnic and barbecue area
- Filming and photographic opportunities (permits apply)
- Electric scooters (hire charges)
- All facilities and exhibits are wheelchair accessible

Media Stories

News stories can be found at <http://mediareleases.nt.gov.au/> or email media.dtc@nt.gov.au

Facts and Figures

Opened

22 March 1997

Construction Cost

A\$20 million

Funding

Northern Territory Government

Responsible Department

Department of Tourism & Culture

Visitation

86,570 in 2016/17

Core Exhibit Area

50 hectares

Greater Sit Area

1,300 hectares

Primary Walking Paths

1.5 km

Plant Species Represented

More than 400 species

Animal Species Represented

More than 100 arid zone species

Cultural Interpretation

Covers arid Australia but focuses on Central Australia and particularly Arrernte culture. Developed in consultation with the Parks' Traditional Owners.

Awards

2014 Northern Territory Brolga Award for Tourism Excellence – Major Tourist Attraction

2011 Group Training Northern Territory - Host Employer of the Year

2009 Northern Territory Brolga Award for Tourism Excellence – Ecotourism

2008 Northern Territory Brolga Award for Tourism Excellence – Major Tourist Attraction

2008 Northern Territory Brolga Award for Tourism Excellence – Ecotourism

2006 Northern Territory Brolga Award for Tourism Excellence – Major Tourist Attraction

2006 Northern Territory Brolga Award for Tourism Excellence – Ecotourism

Accreditation



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WHERE THE DESERT COMES ALIVE!

Alice Springs Desert Park is an inspiring portrayal of Australia's central desert environment that effortlessly blends the plants, birds, animals and people of our arid regions within one, extraordinary tourism and conservation facility.

Our attraction is as distinctive as the Australian desert itself - a truly unique experience that continues to captivate and educate travellers. There's much more to deserts than meets the eye and our visitors are astonished by the life and beauty they discover on their journey with us.

Being a world leader in environmental and cultural interpretation means we masterfully shape the mystery and wonders of our region into a tourism journey that brings the desert to life. No two days at the Desert Park are ever the same and we love this changeability. As the seasons shift different plants thrive and various animals become active, and this transformation is reflected in the Park's displays and presentations. Our visitors immerse themselves in nature and its transitions - touching, breathing and feeling the phenomenon of the desert.



FUN FOR THE FAMILY

The desert is abundant and full of life and the Desert Park offers so many opportunities to discover the wonders of Central Australian deserts.

Involvement - A wide range of activities are held on a daily basis enabling entertaining and interactive experiences with local guides, such as learning how to find water from a dry river bed.

Wildlife - Throughout the Park there are fantastic opportunities for excellent wildlife viewing including the many aviaries, nocturnal house, the Nature Theatre free flying bird show and of course the stars of the desert - dingo, kangaroo and emu.

Explore - Children can explore the desert in a safe environment from climbing rocky outcrops, smelling native lemongrass and drawing in the red sand.



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LEARN FROM ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING CULTURES

Australia is a nation of Aboriginal culture. This is a very big country and different cultures evolved in different areas in response to plants, animals and landscapes.

Language – Arrernte is the main language spoken around the Alice Springs area. Other desert languages can also be heard being spoken by Indigenous people from other parts of Central Australia.

Art – Is it art? Gain a basic appreciation of some of the symbols used in telling desert stories how their use in modern art reflects a culture that is still vibrant and alive today.

Survival in the Desert – As visitors walk around the Park they see plants and animals that are still important resources for food and medicines to Aboriginal people today. Share in some of the knowledge about survival in the desert.

BE INSPIRED BY NATURE

Wander through three desert habitats and discover the plants, animals and people of Central Australian deserts. Explore a desert river and even find a fish, get sand on your shoes as you walk past a salt lake and wander through the rich desert woodlands.



Nocturnal House – In one of the most spectacular nocturnal houses in the world see reptiles, birds and invertebrates including some rare or endangered mammals.

Nature Theatre – Free-flying birds demonstrate their natural behaviours.



Changing Heart – A big screen 20 minute movie tracing 4.5 billion years of the evolution of the Australian desert.

Flora Wonder – View at close-range the vast array of native Central Australian vegetation and learn how different species are used in daily life.

Dingoes, Kangaroos & Emus – See these iconic Australian animals up close in their natural desert habitats.





EXCLUSIVE VIP AND GROUP PRODUCTS

GUIDED TOURS

A tour of the Desert Park hosted by one of our guides is a fantastic way to learn about the secrets of Central Australia. The Park's guide team includes Central Australian Aboriginal people who have a wide knowledge of the plants, animals and people of Central Australia.

Duration: From 1 hour

EXCLUSIVE NATURE THEATRE

The Nature Theatre featuring free-flying birds of prey and is one of the highlights of a Desert Park visit. We recommend groups in excess of 120 people consider an exclusive Nature Theatre as part of their Desert Park visit.

Duration: 20 minutes

EXCLUSIVE GUIDE PRESENTATIONS

The Desert Park team includes professional Guides, Botanists, Horticulturists, Zoologists and Zookeepers and we are also able to draw on expertise from other Alice Springs locals. As a result, we can talk on an incredibly wide range of topics.

Presentations, lectures or workshops can be delivered to suit the needs of general or special interest tourists, of school or tertiary students, of the very young through to the older traveller. Topics are almost limitless, including bush foods and bush medicine, Aboriginal tools and weapons, reptile diversity in Australian deserts, endangered desert animals and recovery programs and star talks.

Duration: From 30 minutes

EAGLE ENCOUNTER

Option for small groups of up to 15 people to get up close with Australia's largest bird of prey, the Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Duration: 20-30 minutes

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

Get up close with an iconic Central Australian animal and learn how they adapt in the desert.

Duration: 20-30 minutes

EXCLUSIVE NOCTURNAL TOUR

The Nocturnal Tour can be held exclusively for groups of 30-90 people. Spotlight rare and endangered animals by spotlight with expert guides in our free range exhibit. Option to include super or dinner with evening tour.

Duration: 1 - 3 hours



EVENTS & VENUES

EVENTS

The Desert Park is one of the most spectacular locations in Alice Springs. Impressive and innovative venues, ambience and majestic scenery enable a wide range of events. Opportunities are unbeatable, as are the astounding views of the MacDonnell Ranges.

Possibilities include:

- Fine dining surrounded by the animals of the desert night in the Nocturnal House.
- Explore the Desert Park then finish with a cocktail and fork food event in the Courtyard that allow your group the chance to mingle amongst the wildflowers, and enjoying Central Australian cuisine and entertainment.
- Breakfasts in Madigans Function Room where your delegates get to take in the sunrising on the towering MacDonnell Ranges while enjoying a sumptuous start to their day.
- Delegates learning and trying their hands at survival skills in the desert from the oldest living culture in the world.
- Gathering around the warm campfire to learn bush medicine techniques or appreciate desert with local guides.

VENUES

Awaye Flat

Located in the Sand Country Awaye Flat provides an ideal location for interactive activities and unique dining opportunities.

Amphitheatre

An outdoor amphitheatre located in the foothills of the MacDonnell Ranges with natural acoustics. This is an ideal location for ceremonies, concerts, product launches and other functions. The site has a natural bush feel and makes the most of the Central Australian landscape.

Cinema

The Cinema consists of a series of museum style galleries and an indoor seated theatre with a 21x7m wide screen which can be lowered to reveal an uninterrupted view of the ranges. Ideal location for ceremonies, lectures, product launches and other presentations.

Courtyard

The Courtyard is a beautifully landscaped paved space which is suitable for larger groups at the entrance of the Park.

Entry Foyer

An intimate space for a small gathering surrounded by a display of local artwork.

Lhere Ilthe (Desert Rivers)

Enjoy cocktails or a BBQ dinner at this stunning location with views of the MacDonnell Ranges.

Madigans Function Room

Expansive glass windows and shaded verandah overlooking the MacDonnell Ranges provides the perfect location for meetings, lunches and dinner events.

Nocturnal House

The Nocturnal House provides an exclusive opportunity to mingle with the animals from the desert in the darkness of the night either it be a cocktail or dinner party.

Venue fact sheets available.



2018-2019 NETT RATES ENTRY & TOURING

General Entry

Gross

Adult	\$32.00	
Child (5-15 years)	\$16.00	
Student/Concession	\$22.50	
Australian Government Seniors Card	\$25.50	
Economy Family Pass (1 Adult and 2 Children)	\$54.50	
Super Economy Family Pass (2 Adults and up to 4 children)	\$87.00	
School/Tertiary Group	n/a	

Nocturnal Tour

Gross

Nocturnal Tour	Adult	\$45.00	
	Child (5-15 years)	\$28.50	
	School Group (Transition - Year 12)	n/a	
Nocturnal Tour & Dinner (Group Charter)	Adult	\$124.00	
	Child (5-15 years)	\$100.00	
	School Group (Transition - Year 12)	n/a	

Aboriginal Cultural Tour

Gross

Flat Rate (1-4 people)		\$464.00	
5-9 People	Adult	\$95.00	
	Child (5-15 years)	\$47.00	
10-15 People	Adult	\$61.00	
	Child (5-15 years)	\$30.00	
15+ People	Adult	\$47.00	
	Child (5-5 years)	\$23.00	
	Student/Tertiary Groups	n/a	

Living Desert

Gross

Adult	\$150.00	
Child (5-15 years)	\$16.00	
Student/Concession	\$22.50	

2018-2019 NETT RATES VENUE HIRE

Venue Hire

Non commissionable

Amphitheatre

Maximum two hour event between 4pm and 6pm

\$623

Maximum four hour event between 4pm and 8pm

\$868

Away Flat

Day Hire - Maximum four hour event between 8am and 6pm

\$408

Day Hire - Maximum eight hour event between 8am and 6pm

\$868

Evening Hire - Maximum four hour event between 5pm and 11pm

\$699

Cinema

Two Hour Hire - up to two hours between 8am and 6pm

\$459

Half Day Hire - up to 4 hours between 8am and 6pm

\$635

Full Day Hire - up to 8 hours between 8am and 6pm

\$1348

Evening Hire - package up to 4 hours between 5pm and 9pm

\$970

Courtyard

Maximum three hour event between 6pm and 9pm \$790

\$807

Maximum five hour event between 6pm and midnight

\$1429

Entry Foyer

Maximum two hour event between 6pm and 9pm

\$378

Lhere Ilthe (Desert Rivers) Shelter

Day Hire - Maximum four hour event between 8am and 6pm

\$408

Day Hire - Maximum eight hour event between 8am and 6pm

\$868

Evening Hire - Maximum four hour event between 5pm and 11pm

\$699

Madigans Function Room

Day Hire - eight hour event between 8am and 5pm

\$505

Evening Hire - three hour event between 4pm and 8pm

\$505

Evening Hire - five hour event between 6pm and 11pm

\$633

Meeting Room

Full Day Hire - between 7.30am and 6pm

\$245

Nocturnal House

Cocktails - two hour event between 6pm and 9pm

\$1588

Dinner - four hour event between 6.30pm and 10.30pm

\$2170

Rates valid 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019



GET IN CONTACT WITH THE DESERT PARK

SALES AND MARKETING

Estelle Marshall
Product Development
Coordinator
estelle.marshall@nt.gov.au
(08) 8951 8707

RESERVATIONS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Visitor Services Team
asdp@nt.gov.au
(08) 8951 8788

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