

# EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Essential introduction to Australia's desert

Alice Springs Desert Park is a government-owned, purpose-built facility that brings the Central Australian desert to life. Students will gain an understanding that the country around them is ancient, alive, exciting and dynamic. They'll learn about the connection between desert plants, people, landscapes and culture.

The Desert Park offers guided and self-guided tour programs for local, remote and interstate students in the areas of science, flora and fauna, geography and history— all specific to Central Australia.

On a cultural tour, students will learn how it's possible to survive in a desert and hear the survival stories of desert people. They'll walk through the local people's ancient supermarket, hardware shop and pharmacy. It's these experiences that will inspire the students to find answers themselves, presenting the challenge of research skills, creative thinking, personal interpretation and a general understanding of the area.

*School programs provide opportunities for students to connect with desert flora and fauna and Aboriginal culture, build their understandings, and be empowered to take action to help save wildlife.*

At night, students can learn about rare and endangered animals of Central Australia on the very popular Nocturnal Tour. Don a head lamp and step into the Mulga Walk, a large predator-proof enclosure to see bilbies, come centimetres from an echidna and, if you're lucky, spot Mala now only found in captivity on the mainland.



### A visit to Alice Springs Desert Park will provide students with:

- an understanding that the country around them is ancient, alive, exciting and dynamic
- an awareness of the interconnected lives of desert plants, animals, people and landscapes
- an opportunity to recognise, interact with and reflect on cultural perspectives different to their own
- appreciation that the desert is a special and worth protecting

[www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au/education/schools.shtml](http://www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au/education/schools.shtml)

Alice Springs Desert Park

Tel: (08) 8951 8788 | Fax: (08) 8951 8720 | Larapinta Drive, Alice Springs NT 0871 | [asdp@nt.gov.au](mailto:asdp@nt.gov.au)

[www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au](http://www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au) | <http://asdpeducation.wikispaces.com>

# Experiences

Alice Springs Desert Park provides engaging activities from a self-guided exploration, exclusive tailored one hour-presentations, guided tours or a complete desert experience.

## SELF GUIDED

Option available 7.30am to 6pm, seven days a week. Make the most of your day by checking out your favorite presentations:

9.15am	Largest Marsupial – Red Kangaroo
10.00am	Nature Theatre – free flying birds
11.00am	Aboriginal Survival in the Desert – cultural talk
12.00pm	Desert Animals – Nocturnal House

View the [full program](#) to plan your visit. It is recommended to arrive 30 minutes prior to a scheduled presentation.

A complimentary meet and greet with brief introduction to the Desert Park is provided for all school group bookings.

Please note public presentations are subject to change and recommend requesting a current program on booking. Priority is given to the general public. Public presentations are limited to 40-60 people per presentation with exception to Nature Theatre with seating for 230.

## DISCOVERY SESSION

Sessions range from 45-60 minutes and the topic can be tailored to the age group of students. Please select one session from the following categories:

### Desert Plants

- ◆ Desert Loving Plants
- ◆ Nature's Food Basket
- ◆ Nature's Boarding House
- ◆ Surprising Spinifex

### Desert Animals

- ◆ Animals of the Night
- ◆ Threatened Species
- ◆ Life in the Pouch
- ◆ Desert Invertebrates

### Desert People

- ◆ Survival in the Desert
- ◆ Language and Culture
- ◆ Journey through Desert Art
- ◆ Bush Food and Medicine

Alternatively if you have a topic in mind, please provide background on the booking for consideration from our team. Discovery sessions are limited to 200 people depending on the topic. Available Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm.

## CULTURAL WALK

What is it we humans need to survive? Be met by a Guide on arrival to begin your discovery. Be involved in interactive activities that share knowledge on belonging to and looking after the land, its plants and animals and each other. Walk from Desert Rivers to Sand Country learning about how to find water in the desert and different tracks and tools used by desert Aboriginal people. In the Park's Nocturnal House learn about hunting and sign language before continuing the journey to the Nature Theatre to be enthralled by birds of prey and other predators of the desert. An Aboriginal Guide is not guaranteed, however the Desert Park will endeavour to meet the request.

Inclusions:

- 2.5 hour exclusive guided tour
- Exploration of Aboriginal culture, plants and animals
- Guided tour of Nocturnal House
- Nature Theatre – free flying bird presentation

Departure: Seven days a week departing at 8am, 9.45am, 1.30pm or 3.15pm

Capacity: Minimum of 15 and maximum 75 people.



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## NOCTURNAL TOUR

Step inside the Mulga Walk enclosure for an evening of adventure and discovery. Spotlight endangered and extinct animals no longer found in Central Australian deserts including mala and bilby in the foothills of the MacDonnell Ranges. Students will learn about endangered species of the desert and how they can make a difference.

Inclusions:

- 1 hour spotlighting tour in the Mulga Walk habitat, an exclusive area not available to the public during the day.
- A chance to see rare and endangered animals.
- Includes head torch for every person.
- Cameras are welcome but no flash photography please.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes; bring water, insect repellent (optional) and warm clothes in winter.

Departure: Winter (1 April to 30 September) 7pm  
Summer (1 October to 31 March) 8pm  
Groups should arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled departure times. Departure time confirmed on booking.

Capacity: Minimum of 15 and maximum 45 people.



## Planning your Visit

### ADMISSION FEES

All school groups must be pre-booked. School program rates are non-commissionable. Valid 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017.

#### SELF GUIDED

Pre-School	Free
Northern Territory School	Free
Interstate School	\$15 per student
Tertiary Group	\$15 per student
Accompanying Adult ( <i>refer to below conditions</i> )	FOC
Additional Accompanying Adult	\$24.00 per adult

#### DISCOVERY SESSION (includes entry fee)

Pre-School	\$8 per student
Northern Territory School	\$8 per student
Interstate School	\$18 per student
Tertiary Group	\$18 per student
Accompanying Adult ( <i>refer to below conditions</i> )	FOC
Additional Accompanying Adult	\$24.00 per adult

#### CULTURAL WALK (includes entry fee)

Northern Territory School	\$24.50 per student
Interstate School	\$29.25 per student
Tertiary Group	\$29.25 per student
Accompanying Adult ( <i>refer to below conditions</i> )	FOC
Additional Accompanying Adult	\$35.25 per adult

#### NOCTURNAL TOUR

Northern Territory School	\$21.40 per student
Interstate School	\$21.40 per student
Tertiary	\$33.75 per student
Accompanying Adult ( <i>refer to below conditions</i> )	FOC
Additional Accompanying Adult	\$33.75 per adult

## ADULT TO STUDENT RATIO

One (1) adult per five (5) students is required for children year 9 and below and one (1) adult per ten (10) students is required for year 9 to year 12. Additional adults incur a fee; please refer to the admission fee section.

## SUPERVISION

Please remind your students that other people are there for an enjoyable day out and following the basic supervision guidelines will ensure a great day for everybody:

- Students remain the responsibility of the teacher at all times
- It is important that students move through respectfully and consider animals and other members of the public.
- Ensure students understand the needs of the animals and behave accordingly - loud noises and sudden movements can upset the animals
- Ball games and whistles are not permitted.

Read more in our Code of Conduct [here](#).

## OPENING HOURS

Alice Springs Desert Park is open 7.30am to 6pm daily. Closed Christmas Day (25 December).

## STORAGE

School bags and lunch boxes can be stored in administration. Please advise on booking to organise this complimentary service.

## MAP & PROGRAM

On arrival, supervising adults will receive a Park Map. A map can be viewed or downloaded [here](#) and program [here](#).

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation of Discovery Session, Aboriginal Cultural Walk, Nocturnal Tour or the Desert Expedition must be made at least 7 days prior to the visit otherwise a cancellation fee will be invoiced to the school. The cancellation fee will be waived in the event of inclement weather or if the booking is rescheduled to another date.

Cancellation fees are as follows:

6 days' notice 25% of the cost of the service.

2-5 days' notice 50% of the cost of the service.

Less than 24 hours' notice 100% of the cost of the service.

## BOOKING AND PAYMENT

Please complete the booking form at the end of this document and send to:

Visitors Services Team

Alice Springs Desert Park

Email: [asdp@nt.gov.au](mailto:asdp@nt.gov.au)

Fax: (08) 8951 8720

Telephone: (08) 891 8788

A booking will not be confirmed without a booking form.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Alice Springs Desert Park Risk Management can be viewed [here](#).

Please complete this form a minimum of 14 days prior to your class visit and email to [asd@nt.gov.au](mailto:asd@nt.gov.au) or fax to (08) 8951 8720. School groups visiting the Desert Park remain the responsibility of teachers and should be adequately supervised at all times. To assist with supervision the Desert Park offers a 5:1 ratio, for every 5 children 1 adult is free of charge. Additional adults incur a fee.

TYPE OF VISIT       SELF-GUIDED                                       NOCTURNAL TOUR  
 DISCOVERY SESSION                                       2.5 HOUR CULTURAL WALK

BOOKING DATE .....

SCHOOL .....

ARRIVAL TIME ..... DEPARTURE TIME .....

# STUDENTS ..... # ADULTS (Ratio 1:5) .....

ABN ..... YEAR LEVEL .....

EMAIL ..... TELEPHONE .....

TEACHER NAME .....

DISCOVERY SESSION: please choose your topic

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Loving Plants    | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals of the Night | <input type="checkbox"/> Survival in the Desert     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature's Food Basket    | <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened Species   | <input type="checkbox"/> Language and Culture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature's Boarding House | <input type="checkbox"/> Life in the Pouch    | <input type="checkbox"/> Journey through Desert Art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surprising Spinifex     | <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Invertebrates | <input type="checkbox"/> Bush Food and Medicine     |

Alternative topic for consideration.....

WHAT DO YOUR STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT THIS TOPIC? .....

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TO LEARN? .....

OPTION	COST PER PERSON	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF ADULTS	TOTAL COST
Self-guided	Preschool/NT School	Free		
	Interstate/Tertiary	\$15		
	Additional adult	\$24.00		
Discovery Session	Preschool/NT School	\$8		
	Interstate/Tertiary	\$8		
	Additional adult	\$24.00		
Cultural Walk	Preschool/NT School	\$14		
	Interstate/Tertiary	\$29.25		
	Additional adult	\$35.25		
Nocturnal Tour	NT School	\$21.40		
	Interstate	\$21.40		
	Tertiary	\$33.75		
	Additional adult	\$33.75		

Prices valid 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

PAYMENT METHOD: **CREDIT CARD / EFTPOS / CHEQUE / PURCHASE ORDER NO (\$25 invoicing fee):** .....

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CODE OF CONDUCT INFORMATION SUPPLIED

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE.....