

This guide was prepared for you by...

# Bondi Beach Backpackers

0412 509 279 - 35a Hall Street, Bondi Beach NSW 2026



## DARWIN TO ADELAIDE ROAD TRIP

The trip down the middle is surprisingly busy with many unique and wonderful natural features. Don't go so fast, stop a little and explore this awesome section of the Australian road trip circuit.

Please keep an eye on your gas and in remote areas fill up at every opportunity.

You also need to carry water too. Lots of water for you and maybe the car!

Enjoy this road trip as you will most likely only do it once!

Enjoy!

I very much hope this guide is useful to you.

Have a great trip, drive safe and if this was useful to you please write to us at

[info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au](mailto:info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au)

We would love to hear from you, hear about your awesome trip, inform us of any changes and/or updates that need to be made so we can help others too!

Thank you.

Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team



Darwin



Stunning all the way



Adelaide



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## DARWIN TO LITCHFIELD & KAKADU NATIONAL PARKS

From DARWIN you can hit 2 major national parks of LITCHFIELD and KAKADU. You can also do them on the way south visit them and have DARWIN not far away if you need to return. The option is yours

### LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK



Located just 116km south of Darwin, approximately an hours drive is this amazing national park that many say is better than the more widely known KAKADU NATIONAL PARK. The park is filled with stunning waterfalls, walking tracks and waterholes that are surrounded by monsoonal vine forests all of which offer cool respite on hot summer days.

There is a whole list of awesome things to do so stay a while, at least three nights to see it all.

- FLORENCE FALLS
- GREEN ANT CREEK WALK,
- THE MAGNETIC TERMITE MOUNDS,
- TABLE TOP TRACK,
- THE LOST CITY,
- TJAYNERA FALLS,
- TULMER FALLS,
- WALKER CREEK,
- WANGI FALLS WALK
- BULEY ROCKHOLE



Florence Falls



Green Ant Creek Walk



Magnetic Termite Mounds



Table Top Track



The Lost City



Tjaynera Falls



Tolmer Falls



Walker Creek



Wangi Falls Walk



Buley Rockhole



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## DARWIN TO LITCHFIELD & KAKADU NATIONAL PARKS

### KAKADU NATIONAL PARK



Australia's biggest national park is a world heritage listing, has ancient landscapes, thundering waterfalls, lush rainforests, wetlands, exotic wildlife & ancient rock art. Covering 20,000 square kilometres it's renowned for cultural and natural values and also waterfalls, lush rainforests, wandering wetlands, exotic wildlife and ancient rock art.

There are cabins, campgrounds, retreats and hotels here.

There is a whole list of awesome things to do so stay a while, at least three nights to see it all.

- TWIN FALLS
- ANBANGBANG BILLABONG
- BARDODJILIDJI WALK
- BARRK MARLAM WALK
- BOULDER CREEK WALK
- BUDJMI LOOKOUT
- GUNLOM PLUNGE POOL
- JIM JIM FALLS
- JIM JIM FALLS PLUNGE POOL WALK
- BUBBA WETLANDS WALK



Twin Falls



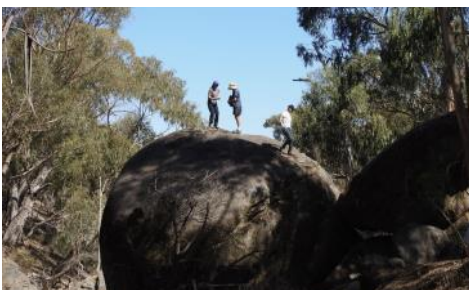
Anbangbang Billabong



Bardodjilidji Walk



Barrk Marlam Walk



Boulder Creek Walk



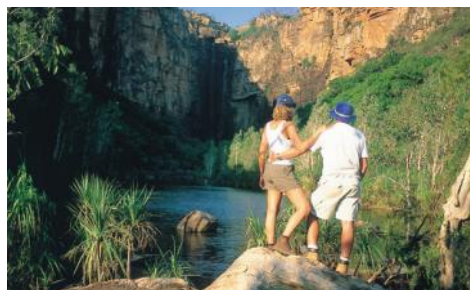
Budjmi Lookout



Gunlop Plunge Pool



Jim Jim Falls



Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool



Bubba Wetlands Walk



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## DARWIN TO KATHERINE TO MATARANKA SPRINGS

Driving south from DARWIN 293km comes EDITH FALLS. A series of cascading waterfalls and pools on the EDITH RIVER in the NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

A further 60km south along the GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY is a jewel of a place. KATHERINE has a lot to offer and after a long drive stay a few days and do some awesome things such as KATHERINE HOT SPRINGS and NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK is around a series of gorges on the KATHERINE RIVER. Previously named KATHERINE GORGE NATIONAL PARK, its northern edge borders KAKADU NATIONAL PARK. The gorges and the surrounding landscape have great ceremonial significance to the local Jawoyn people, who are custodians of NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK.

Kayaking on KATHERINE GORGE is a great experience and inexpensive and you should definitely do this. The levels of the water is the main thing because too low you cannot access far, to high might have other issues, (not sure what) but check on the day and the time of day to make your experience awesome.

Driving south a further 117km is MATARANKA HOT SPRINGS. The MATARANKA THERMAL POOLS and BITTER SPRINGS are both located in the ELSEY NATIONAL PARK. It is safe to swim here and the springs are a perfect 34 degrees all year round. The rest of ELSEY NATIONAL PARK'S waterways are all inhabited by crocodiles so NO SWIMMING.

There are some great place to stay here. Stay a night or two and enjoy the great walks in the ELSEY NATIONAL PARK.

The early days of Mataranka were captured in the Australian novel "We of the Never Never".



Edith Falls Swimming Hole



Katherine Hot Springs



Katherine Gorge Kayaking



Matatanka Springs



Bitter Springs Thermal Pool



Elsey National Park Walks



Bower Bird Nest Elsey National Park



Matatanka Springs



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## MATARANKA SPRINGS TO ALICE SPRINGS

A further 173km south comes the iconic DALY WATER'S PUB. Take a break and check out this place. It's a time tested 1930's pub serving classic pub meals like steak, schnitzels and seafood.

Now you are up for a long drive.

A further 384 km south is the highway intersection where you can head east to TOWNSVILLE, only 1538km away OMG!!!

Stop for a photo. You will most likely never be here again!

The town of TENNANT CREEK is just 26km away to the south.

Not much here but a place to stay and rest maybe.

The DEVILS MARBLES is next and only 96 km south of TENNANT CREEK and is pretty special.

The DEVILS MARBLES HOTEL provides cabins, caravan park style accommodation as well as hotel rooms. Maybe a better option than TENNANT CREEK but it's a further 96km.

A 400km drive south will bring you to ALICE SPRINGS.

Not much to do here but is the gateway to some of the worlds best natural features such as

- ULURU/AYERS ROCK
- KINGS CANYON
- KATA TJUTA

ALICE SPRINGS is a major town so will have everything you may need including backpacker hostel accommodation.



Daly Waters Pub



The Intersection



Devils Marbles



Devils Marbles Hotel Swimming Pool



Tennant Creek



Sunset over Alice Springs



More Road!!!



The Road!!



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## **KINGS CANYON & WATARRKA NATIONAL PARK**

Is 322km from ALICE & sits inside the WATARRKA NATIONAL PARK at the west end of the GORGE GILL RANGE.

KINGS CANYON RESORT has bunk houses, cabins, hotel rooms and luxury camping. There is much to do here

### **KINGS CANYON RIM WALK (LOOP TRACK) 6km/3-4 hours**

The walk ascends to the top of the Canyon and follows the Canyon rim around before descending to carpark. Half way along is the Garden of Eden, a beautiful area of cool waterholes & riverine vegetation. Along the track are stairs & boardwalks to make your walk safe and to protect sensitive vegetation & waterholes.

**KINGS CREEK WALK (RETURN TRACK) 2km/1 hour.** It meanders along Kings Creek, ending at a viewing platform with stunning views of the sheer Canyon walls. Follow the same track to return to the carpark. Sturdy footwear is essential as the track can be rough underfoot.

### **SOUTH WALL WALK (RETURN TRACK) 4.8km/2 hours**

Begins with a demanding climb up to the south wall of Kings Canyon and offers stunning views of the park's geological features. The walk ends at a one-way gate from which you need to return to the car park via the same route. The Garden of Eden or the rest of the Rim Walk cannot be accessed from the South Wall Return Walk.

### **KATHLEEN SPRINGS WALK (RETURN TRACK) 2.5km/1 hour**

Signs along the track tell stories of Aboriginal Culture and the recent cattle industry. It leads to a spring-fed waterhole at the head of Kathleen Gorge. This is a cool moist place to sit and enjoy the area's tranquility.

**GILES TRACK (RETURN TRACK) 22km over 2 days** This 22 km 2 day walk links Kings Canyon and Kathleen Springs. An information sheet and map must be obtained from the Parks website or Resort Reception prior to commencing the walk. Careful planning and preparation is required.



Watarrka National Park



Kings Canyon



Kings Canyon



Kings Canyon Rim Walk



Kings Creek Walk



Kings Canyon at Night



Giles Track



Kathleen Springs Walk



Kings Canyon Walks



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## ULURU — KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Is 346km from KINGS CANYON

KATA TJUTA has camping hotels and lodges.

Formerly known as THE OLGAS, the 36 domes of KATA TJUTA cover more than 20 square kilometers and soar up to 546 meters above the surrounding plain.

Nature-lovers will want to experience WALPA GORGE, a narrow creek valley between two of KATA TJUTA'S largest domes. The gorge is a sanctuary for numerous plants and animals including wallabies and gorgeous wildflowers.

There is much to do here

### **WALPA GORGE WALK (RETURN TRACK) 2.6 km/1 hour**

Walking the WALPA GORGE is like entering a temple crafted by nature. This area is a refuge for wild plants and animals. Inside the rocky track gently rises to a seasonal stream passing rare plants and ends in a wood of spear wood. This is one of a few places where you can see wallabies hopping around the domes.

### **VALLEY OF THE WINDS WALK (LOOP TRACK) 3-4 hours**

Get away from everything and enter another world at the Valley of the Winds. The views from this challenging walk are breathtaking and well worth the effort as you immerse yourself with Kata Tjuta's domes. It also features unparalleled views of the spectacular Mars-like landscape surrounding Kata Tjuta from two lookout points along the track. It is steep, rocky and difficult in places, so please be careful and take your time.

The full circuit takes 3-4 hours. Drinking water is available along the track.

For a shorter option you can walk to one of the lookouts and return.

### **KARU LOOKOUT (RETURN TRACK) 2.2 km/1 hour**

The track to the first lookout is moderately difficult and has some loose rocks to negotiate. However, the views from the lookout are absolutely jaw-dropping. Please mind your step and wear sturdy footwear. Drinking water is available at the start of the track.

### **KARINGANA LOOKOUT (RETURN TRACK) 5.4km/2.5 hours**

The track to the Karingana Lookout takes you down into the valley and creek beds. It is challenging in sections with many steps and some steep spots.



Nackaroo Lookout



Kata Tjuta National Park Domes



Kata Tjuta National Park Domes



Walpa Gorge Walk



Walpa Gorge Walk



Karingana Lookout



Karu Lookout



Valley Of the Winds Walk



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## ULURU/AYERS ROCK

ULURU/AYERS ROCK is just 54km (finally a short distance!) from KATA TJUTA and still inside the KATA-TJUTA NATIONAL PARK.

ULURU/AYERS ROCK has camping sites and top end hotels but not much in between

ULURU, or AYERS ROCK, is a massive sandstone monolith in the heart of the Northern Territory's arid "Red Centre". ULURU is sacred to indigenous Australians and is thought to have started forming around 550 million years ago.

There is much to do here

### **ULURU BASES WALK (LOOP TRACK) 10.6 km/3.5 hours**

You can take the entire Uluru base walk, or just concentrate on one or more of its sections, depending on how much time you have, your level of fitness and the weather. We recommend you start the base walk from the Mala carpark in the early morning, while it's cool. Facing the rock, start by going clockwise. Each section will look and feel completely different. Some areas are surprisingly green and lush, providing plenty of wildlife and bush tucker spotting opportunities, while other sections feel open and vast, with little shade. The base walk will take you through acacia woodlands and grassed claypans. You will encounter bloodwoods, native grasses, and many waterways and waterholes. Some tracks close in the afternoon during the summer, due to the high risk of heat stroke.

### **MALA WALK (RETURN TRACK) 2km/1.5 hours**

This walk goes from the Mala carpark to Kantju Gorge. Enter the caves where the Mala (rufous hare-wallaby) people camped when they first arrived at Uluru and see the kitchen cave where they prepared their meals. Admire the fine examples of rock art along this walk before arriving at Kantju Gorge, a place of profound peacefulness surrounded by sheer vertical walls. Drinking water is available on this walk.

### **NORTH EAST FACE WALK (RETURN TRACK) 6km/3 hours**

This is the longest open stretch of the Uluru base walk, running from Kitchen Cave on the Mala walk to Kuniya Piti. The track distances itself from the rock as it crosses the north-east face. According to Anangu culture, the rock formations of the north-east face hold chapters of creation stories that should only be learned in person. grandchild as family inheritance.

### **LUNGKATA WALK (RETURN TRACK) 4km/1.5 hours**

This is one of the most geologically impressive & visually diverse sections of the Uluru base walk. There are sections where the sides of Uluru slant down to meet the path. Here you'll encounter spectacular elevated caves & crevices which are home to thousands of birds.



Uluru/Ayers Rock



Uluru/Ayers Rock



Uluru/Ayers Rock Base walk



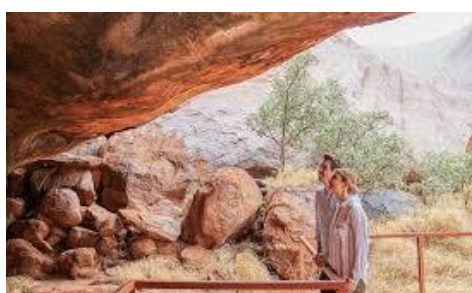
Uluru/Ayers Rock Base walk



Uluru/Ayers Rock Base walk



Uluru/Ayers Rock Base walk



Uluru/Ayers Rock Base walk



Uluru/Ayers Rock Base walk



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## ULURU/AYERS ROCK TO THE FLINDERS RANGES

From here you have a choice.

You can return to ALICE SPRINGS which is 460km away or

You can keep heading south to next stop of COOBER PEDY which is a massive 755km. Due to the length of this section we advise you leave early in the morning.

COOBER PEDY is a town often referred to as the "opal capital of the world" because of the quantity of precious opals that are mined there. COOBER PEDY is renowned for its below-ground residences, called "dugouts", which are built in this fashion due to the scorching daytime heat. More than half of the town's families live underground, where temperatures are maintained at a pleasant 23-25 degrees C throughout the year.

There are underground churches and art galleries too – plus the award-winning Desert Cave Hotel, the world's first 4-star luxury property of its type, complete with mining display and opal gallery. Check out the BIG WINCH LOOKOUT and BIG HILL.

The FLINDERS RANGES are next and you have a choice. From COOBER Pedy take the OODNADATTA TRACK 7 hours drive and 601km east and then south to the FLINDER RANGES. This would be an unsealed road. Or take the Highway south via PORT AUGUSTA which is 7.5 hours drive and 712km.

The FLINDERS RANGES has all kinds of accommodation from camping to plush apartments. There is lots to do here.

### **TREZONA HIKE (RETURN TRACK) 8km/4 hours**

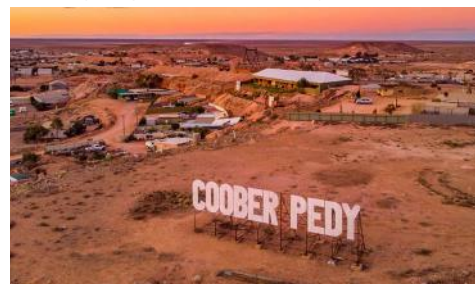
Magnificent views of the open grassland country of Heysen Range. Discover some of the earliest life forms on earth in the Trezona geological formation. This area was heavily grazed when the park was a pastoral property. Access: begins from Trezona Campground, 40 kilometers north of Wilpena along the Brachina Gorge Road.

### **BOOM OR BUST HIKE (LOOP TRACK) 2km/1.5 hours**

This loop trail contains a wide array of flora with a colorful display of wildflowers present in spring months. Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.



Alice Springs or Coober Pedy



Coober Pedy



Coober Pedy



Coober Pedy



Flinders Ranges



Flinders Ranges Boom or Bust Hike



Flinders Ranges Trezona Hike



Flinders Ranges



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## FLINDERS RANGES TO ADELAIDE

### **ARKAROO ROCK HIKE (RETURN TRACK) 3km/2 hours**

Admire Adnyamathanha rock paintings featuring ochre and charcoal images that tell the creation story of Wilpena Pound. Enjoy spectacular views of the Chace Range at sunset. The rock paintings are best seen in morning light. Access: begins from the Arkaroo Rock car park, 17 kilometers south of Wilpena on the Hawker-Blinman Road.



Flinders Ranges Arkaroo Rock Hike

### **BUNYEROO GORGE HIKE (RETURN TRACK) 7.5km/3.5 hours**

This peaceful gum-lined gorge is framed by rugged rock formations. The gorge provides great opportunities for observing the native wildlife. Bullock teams and coaches transporting copper, mail and produce used the gorge in the 19th century to access the western plains. Access: begins from the Bunyeroo car park, 18 kilometers north of Wilpena along the Bunyeroo Gorge Road.



Flinders Ranges Bunyeroo Gorge Hike

### **BUNYEROO/WILCO CREEK (RETURN TRACK) 7.5km/2.5 hours**

"Enjoy views of Wilpena Pound, escape the heat under the shade of native pine groves along the hilltops of the ABC range. Access: begins from the Bunyeroo car park, 18 kilometers north of Wilpena along the Bunyeroo Gorge Road.



Flinders Ranges Bunyeroo/Wilco Hike

### **BRIDLE GAP HIKE (RETURN TRACK) 18.8km/6 hours**

The trail, which forms part of the famous Heysen Trail, bisects the floor of Wilpena Pound. A variety of mallee, native pine and heath habitats provide excellent opportunities for keen naturalists to observe local birds including wrens, robins, parrots and raptors. Access: begins from the bushwalking trailhead at the Wilpena Visitor Centre complex.

From the FLINDERS RANGES there is a 470km drive south to ADELIAD. There is beautiful green (finally green!) wine country on the way going through some fabulous country and world famous wineries. Stop and taste as much as possible would be a treat for you

I very much hope this guide was useful to you.

We hope you had a great trip and if this was useful to you please write to us at [info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au](mailto:info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au)

We would love to hear from you, hear about your awesome trip, inform us of any changes and/or updates that need to be made so we can help others too!

Thank you!

Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team



Flinders Ranges Bridle Gap Hike



Adelaide Wine Country



Adelaide



Adelaide Wine Country



Adelaide Wine Country



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## DRIVING NEED TO KNOW

### Signs

Read the signs, they may save your life. Especially those about NOT to go in the water!!

### Rivers

Most coastal rivers are fast, wide and kill quick plus mean things live in them like sharks.

### Take Breaks

Aussie roads are long, boring & you need to take breaks!

### Kangaroos

Will smash your car to pieces and the crash that follows smashes you and your mates to pieces so at sun up and sun down be very aware!

### Parking

You have to park the direction traffic faces. If you see a parking spot available turn around & park in the same direction as others. Don't be the wrong way round or face a fine that will make you dry.

Many towns make you park with back of car to the kerb whilst other towns want you to park with the front of your car to the kerb. Read the signs or get a ticket.



Read signs that save



I'm drowning



Take a Break!!



Kangaroo v Car. Kangaroo will win!!



Park Same Direction as Others