



Larapinta Trail

7 Days



Leading adventures for over 20 years

Part of the JOOB Travel Company

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ADVENTURE TOURS



> Larapinta Trail

Arguably one of the best desert trails in the world, the Larapinta Trail is a walker's delight. Experience the rugged beauty of the famous West MacDonnell Ranges - where vast desert vistas, stunning gorges, and cool waterholes are framed by weeping ghost gums. On this journey, we'll guide you to some of the most memorable highlights along this iconic 223 km trail.

Updated now as of May 2025: as part of our new partnership with 100% Finke River Culture & Adventure, you'll walk alongside First Nations leaders, gaining insight into the ancient stories, culture, and connection to Country from the Traditional Custodians of Tjoritja (West MacDonnell Ranges). This is more than a walk - it's an opportunity to experience the Larapinta Trail through the eyes of those whose ancestors who have cared for this land for tens of thousands of years.

Hear the Dreaming stories that shaped the landscape. You'll begin to see the land not only for its beauty, but for its deep spiritual and cultural significance. You'll learn about the native plants that have provided food and medicine for generations, and hear stories that reveal

Details

Arrive:	Alice Springs
Depart:	Alice Springs
Duration:	7 Days
Group Size:	12 guests maximum
Average Age:	50-75
Activity Level:	Moderate - challenging

Testimonials

We had a great 5 day tour of Alice Springs, Kings Canyon, Uluru with all the must see locations in between included. Our tour guide Miguel was one of the most knowledgeable guides we have experienced. His genuine love for this land and the indigenous history allowed him to nurture a true understanding of the ancient landmarks you were visiting. Our group was small so this allowed Miguel to customise many of our walks to better explain the sites and see more of the country. A tour can sometimes be just a tour but with a great guide like Miguel the tour becomes a great experience and memory.

Tracy - Central Australia 2021

Got Questions? Chat with us...



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Highlights



Enjoy views of the rugged and surprisingly diverse desert mountain range.



Walk along the popular Serpentine ridge, dropping down in spectacular gorges.



Scale the mighty Mt Sonder.

What to expect



Sleep in your own easy to erect tent and immerse yourself in the natural surrounds.



Relax around your campsite under a carpet of stars



Average Weather (Celsius)

Autumn: 8 - 30

Winter: 4 - 20

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Itinerary

Trek the ruggedly beautiful Larapinta Trail.

Day 1 ALICE SPRING ARRIVAL DAY

There are daily flights into Alice Springs from most major capital cities. Make your way to your accommodation at Desert Palms Alice Springs (74 Barrett Drive, Alice Springs).

Meet at the reception at 6pm where we will do an extensive briefing about the week to come. Afterwards we head to a nearby restaurant to enjoy a delicious chef prepared a la carte meal and the chance to become familiar with your fellow walkers.

Meals:	D
Accommodation:	Desert Palms Alice Springs (or similar)

Day 2 WALLABY GAP

This morning, you'll be introduced to your local Aboriginal walking guides, your crew and your drivers who will all be with you on the trail. Then it's time to head out of town to the start of the Larapinta Trail, which sits at the edge of the West MacDonnell Ranges (or Tjoritja, in the language of the Western Arrernte people). Get your first glimpse of the seemingly endless mountain ranges as you arrive at the historic Alice Springs Telegraph Station. Nearby is the waterhole that gave Alice Springs its name (which is not a spring at all). This is where you'll start section 1 of the Larapinta Trail, the 14km walk to Wallaby Gap. When you arrive, take a moment to rest in the shade of the ghost gums, then make your way to your private campgroun your home for the next four nights located on Aboriginal land. Have dinner with your group and settle in for your first night by the campfire under the Outback sky.

Please note breakfast is not included this morning. There is a kiosk at Desert Palms that sells breakfast items or otherwise there is the Bean Tree Cafe at the Olive Pink Botanical Gardens a short walk from the Desert Palms.

Activity:	14km walk
Meals:	L, D
Accommodation:	100% Finke Campground

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Day 3

SERPENTINE GORGE TO SERPENTINE CHALET DAM

After breakfast, set off on one of the most scenic walks along the Larapinta Trail, along Serpentine Ridge (this is section 8 of the Larapinta Trail). From the base of Serpentine Gorge, you'll make your way to the top of the ridge, passing landscapes of Mountain Hakea the pink, alien-like bush flowers of the Outback. Once you reach the top of the ridge, take a break to appreciate the views across the red desert landscape, Haasts Bluff and Mt Zeil the highest point in the Northern Territory. These views are some of the best on the whole Larapinta trail, so take it all in as you have a bite to eat. Your Aboriginal guides will share the story of how the Irbanga (fish) ancestors travelled through this country, looking from the ridge towards the north, and the importance of the Eritja (eagle) and Takuia (mouse) Dreaming. Don't miss the photo opportunity at Counts Point, from where you'll head back towards Serpentine Chalet Dam. Back at camp and the campfire, your hosts will share some stories about the West MacDonnell Ranges, including its rich history and culture.

Activity: 14km walk

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: 100% Finke Campground

Day 4

ORMISTON GORGE POUND WALK AND THE OCHRE PITS

Head out on the Ormiston Gorge Pound Walk this morning. This scenic trail shows off all the natural beauty of Central Australia and the gorge at the end offers a nice respite. Your guides will share the stories of the Argutja Unthippa (dancing ladies), how they created the pound and what it represents, connected to Rodna Country. Among the towering red walls and local plant life, you'll find a cool swimming hole that acts as your end-of-hike oasis. There will be plenty of time to relax at the swimming hole before you head to the Ochre Pits later in the afternoon one of the most significant places for the local Western Arrernte First Nations people. A Traditional Owner will talk more about how important the ochre pits are and share the story of the Eritja (eagle) that came through this country. Later, head back to camp for dinner and another gorgeous night under the stars.

Activity: 9km walk

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: 100% Finke Campground (or similar)

Day 5

MT. SONDER

Embrace a very early start this morning as you make your way to Redbank Gorge in the dark, to begin your hike to the top of Mt Sonder (or Rutjupma, in the language of the Western Arrernte people). This is section 12 of the Larapinta Trail. Make your way up some steep sections to get to the saddle, then the trail gets slightly easier. When you reach the top, take in the 360-degree views as the sun starts to climb over the horizon, lighting up the expanse of the desert below. Your guides will point out the important sites and

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share the story of how the Argutja Unthippa (dancing ladies) created and transformed the MacDonnell Ranges and how the Kulaia (Rainbow Serpent) used to live on top of Mt Sonder but moved down to Redbank Gorge. This is also where Albert Namatjira lived and you can see the landscapes he painted from up here. Head back down the mountain along the saddle, ready for a well-earned breakfast back in the valley. You then have a free afternoon, where you can take on some extra walks or simply relax until your last camp dinner together tonight.

Activity: 16km walk

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: 100% Finke Campground



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Day 6

STANDLEY CHASM AND REVEAL SADDLE WALK

Today is your last day on the Larapinta Trail, so make sure you take in all the scenery on your walk this morning. Head to Standley Chasm for the Reveal Saddle Walk (section 4 of the Larapinta Trail), which shows the Western MacDonnell Ranges in all their glory. The trail heads along the dry riverbed over rocky and uneven terrain, past lots of plants like cassias, sennas and the odd red river gum. Then, the trail starts climbing up through a valley towards Reveal Saddle. Similar to Serpentine Ridge, you'll get an awesome view of the rock layers that have been tilted and exposed as you get higher. When you come full circle this afternoon, maybe walk into Standley Chasm a sacred women's site. Alternatively, you can have a coffee at the Visitor's Centre before saying goodbye to the ranges. Make your way to your hotel accommodation in Alice Springs with your leader, where you'll celebrate your hiking experience with the group over dinner.

Activity: 11km walk

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: Desert Palms Alice Springs (or similar)

Day 7

DEPARTURE DAY

Enjoy your time in Alice Springs before catching your flight home.

Please note breakfast is not included this morning. There is a kiosk at Desert Palms that sells breakfast items or otherwise there is the Bean Tree Cafe at the Olive Pink Botanical Gardens a short walk from the Desert Palms.

Activity: no walking

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Departure Dates

05 May 2025	-	11 May 2025
27 May 2025	-	02 Jun 2025
10 Jun 2025	-	16 Jun 2025
19 Jun 2025	-	25 Jun 2025
28 Jun 2025	-	04 Jul 2025
07 Jul 2025	-	13 Jul 2025
16 Jul 2025	-	22 Jul 2025
25 Jul 2025	-	31 Jul 2025
03 Aug 2025	-	09 Aug 2025
12 Aug 2025	-	18 Aug 2025

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Pricing

2025

\$3,299 Per Person

\$350 Deposit

Optional Extras

\$210 Single Supplement

Inclusions

- Guided walks with First Nations leaders from 100% Finke River Culture & Adventure, sharing Dreaming stories, bush knowledge, and cultural insights.
- Fantastic moderate-challenging walks including Ormiston Gorge, Mt Sonder, Serpentine Gorge.
- 7 day tour starting and finishing in Alice Springs
- Most meals, a combination of a la carte dinners, home cooked camp meals, healthy packed lunches and continental breakfasts
- All transport: private bus to and from Alice Springs; as well as transport to and from the track each day
- Professional guiding and support each day
- Small group size
- Emergency support: fully trained guides carry satellite phones and first aid kits
- Excellent itinerary and planning drawn from many years of experience
- Comfortable camping (nights 2,3,4,5) and hotel style accommodation (nights 1 and 6)

Exclusions

- Breakfast on Day 2 & 7

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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).

Cancellation Policy

All our tours are guaranteed departures.

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.

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About our tours

First, our tours are for people who like to walk long(ish) distances. That means we usually leave our accommodation pretty early each morning (between 7.30 and 8.30) and finish walking mid to late afternoon.

You won't break any records on our walks - for fastest or slowest hike. We keep a steady pace, but there are plenty of opportunities to rest, take photos and appreciate the views along the way.

A relaxed, social and supportive atmosphere is central to our tours. Have a chat and enjoy the sights and smells with your walking companions. Then back at the accommodation, slip into your comfy slacks and slippers and put your feet up with a cup of tea or a wine. Enjoy the conversation around the dinner table. And if you want to go to bed as soon as you've finished the last spoonful of dessert, or stay up and chat, you can.

We don't specialise in birds or plants or rare subterranean amphibians - although we're interested in all of these things. There are no evening lectures and you don't need to bring a notepad and pen (unless you want to). We have a sound and ever-expanding knowledge of the unique and special environments that we walk through, and love sharing what we know with those who are interested. We especially like digging around for stories of the plants and people whose history is linked with the areas we walk in and we'll share those stories with you as we walk.

Our tours are for those who enjoy the simple pleasure of walking in nature, combined with the luxuries of a proper relaxing holiday. We pay attention to the details so that you can relax and enjoy the experience. With the assistance of a team of knowledgeable friends, Inspiration Outdoors aims to provide... Recreation Beyond Expectation

Check out our reviews on TripAdvisor



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