



Mount Sonder

# EAST MACDONNELL RANGES

Enjoy the pace of the East MacDonnell Ranges, The Binns Track, the adventure, the smaller crowds.



Corroboree Rock

## THE STORY OF THE HERMANNSBURG HISTORIC PRECINCT

Established in 1877 and situated 130 kms west of Alice Springs, Lutheran missionaries from Hermannsburg, Germany, set up the Finke River Mission on the northern bank of the Finke River. The two very diverse cultures came together sharing hardship, faith and courage over time and forged a unique relationship still strong today.

The missionaries in Hermannsburg or Ntaria saw from the start, the importance of learning and recording the written form of the Western Aranda language. Education was shared in both English and Aranda, with their Christian message at the centre of their philosophy.

1982 saw the return of land title to the Aranda people. This followed a period of neglect to all the buildings, some dating back as far as 1882 until 2006. Then local Aranda leader, Kasper Gus Ntjalka Williams helped lead them to having the site declared a National Heritage Place. This has assisted in securing both Northern Territory and Australian Government funding to assist with infrastructure improvements and upgrades to signage and story-telling.



### HISTORIC FACT

In the 'Curio Shop' in Hermannsburg in 1961 you could buy 1 pair Adult size Moccasins for between 15 and 20 shillings

## ALBERT NAMATJIRA

Born in 1902 as Elea Namatjira, this Western Arrernte speaking man became the most famous Indigenous Australian of his generation and showed a keen interest in painting in his early years.

Namatjira met a well known local artist Rex Battarbee and at the age of 32 began being tutored by Rex. Namatjira then began to paint seriously in a style more Western art influenced, using water colour paintings of the outback and a great contrast to the symbols and abstract designs of more traditional art forms.

As the first Aboriginal to be exhibited commercially and internationally, Alberts work became widely acclaimed. Artists in Hermannsburg continue to paint with watercolours in Albert Namatjira's style.



Never underestimate the beauty or cultural significance of the lesser known East MacDonnell Ranges, for your next adventure. These stunning rock formations, river beds, valleys and the rugged ranges that dominate your travels east, will glow a different colour and offer a different pace.

## THE BINNS TRACK

The complete journey starts at the South Australia border and has you winding through remote national parks, amazing camping opportunities and fascinating outback towns. Covering a total track length of 2230kms, this is an adventure journey you will never forget.

Named after Bill Binns, a dedicated NT Parks & Wildlife ranger for over 32 years, it was created to allow tourists to explore regions of the NT not often visited and offering 4WD adventure.

## ALICE SPRINGS TO YEPERENYE EMILY GAP - 15 km

This is your first stop to walk amongst a sacred area to the local traditional people and offers large rock paintings and engravings depicting the caterpillar dreaming of Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

## JESSIE GAP TO CORROBBOREE ROCK - 26 km

Formed over 800 million years ago by salt lakes. This dolomite structure is a sacred men's site, important to the local indigenous today.



Emily Gap

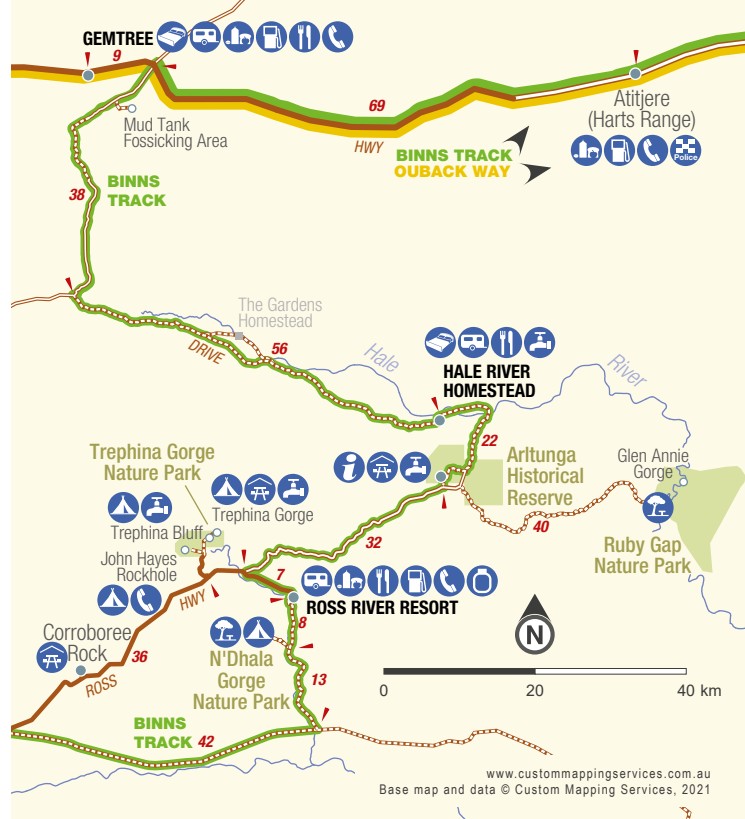


### CORROBBOREE ROCK TO TREPHINA GORGE NATURE PARK - 30 km

Home of the largest ghost gum (*Corymbia aparreninja*) in Australia, this park offers a variety of short and experienced walks. With birds and other wildlife frequent visitors, sheer quartzite cliffs and River Red Gum lined watercourses, this is a wonderful photo opportunity.

### N'DALA GORGE NATURE PARK

Back on the Ross Highway, pass the Arltunga Rd 5 km and through Ross River Resort. Head through on the Ringwood Rd and into the park. Known as a cultural treasure, this park boasts 6,000 individual petroglyphs, or rock carvings. This is a must for any art lover! Accessible by 4WD vehicle only.



### ROSS RIVER HOMESTEAD - 83 km from Alice Springs

Offering accommodation, camping, meals and more, this is a picturesque place to spend a day or more.

### ARLTUNGA HISTORIC RESERVE

Turn off from Ross Highway (5 km after Trephina Gorge T/O - 75 km from Alice Springs). Follow the gravel road 33 km to The Visitor Centre. Get all the information from the interpretive boards. This offers an insight to the history of the first settlement in Central Australia. With a 'rush on' for what was first thought were rubies, garnets and then later gold, this was the reason Arltunga had nearly 300 people, well before Stuart, now Alice Springs, was established. Old buildings have been preserved in the region and are well worth the visit or camp. \*No Fossicking Allowed.

### RUBY GAP NATURE PARK - 40 km from Arltunga

You will need a full day minimum, to visit this remote and rugged terrain, that is not to be underestimated. Enjoy bush camping and experienced walkers will be rewarded after a 2 km walk to Glen Annie Gorge. Travelling on, you can enjoy the hospitality of Hale River Homestead with historic sites, birdwatching walks and more. Or you can take part of the Binns Track further north to Gemtree, for a stopover and a fossick on the Plenty Highway.



Ruby Gap





Dalhousie Hot Springs

### MT DARE TO ALICE SPRINGS - 527 km 1 - 2+ Days

While flanking the western edge of the Simpson Desert, you will pass sand ridges 5-8 mtrs high and meander through the Finke River flood-out. Stop for a picnic lunch at Old Andado Homestead where pioneering pastoralist Molly Clark lived for over 50 years.

### ALICE SPRINGS TO GEMTREE - 138 km 1 - 2+ Days

(Further information page 101)

East MacDonnell Ranges offer many stop overs including Emily & Jesse Gap, Trephina Gorge and more. Heading to Ruby Gap Nature Park (4WD only) look for the many native birds and wildlife along the river bed. Camping is a wonderful option especially for experienced walkers to enjoy. Onto the Pinnacles Track to Gemtree through the rugged but breathtaking Harts Range. Fossick for gems either on your own or with a tour from your base at Gemtree.



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### GEMTREE TO TENNANT CREEK - 509 km 2+ Days

(Further information page 111) As you travel further north, to Iltwelepeuty/ Davenport Ranges National Park you can embrace the peaceful surrounds, enjoy a swim or stay and camp in this tranquil setting. A short detour to Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles is a must do, home to massive granite boulders and best photos taken at sunrise or sunset, when the colours are at their best for any photograph.

### TENNANT CREEK TO DUNMARRA - 355 km 2+Days

(Further information page 114) Stopover in Tennant Creek to discover gold history at Battery Hill Mining Centre or the unique Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture centre. The Telegraph Station, and Lake Maryann, all north of Tennant Creek offer wonderful day trips or while on your way to Dunmarra.

### DUNMARRA TO TIMBER CREEK - 430 km 2+ Days