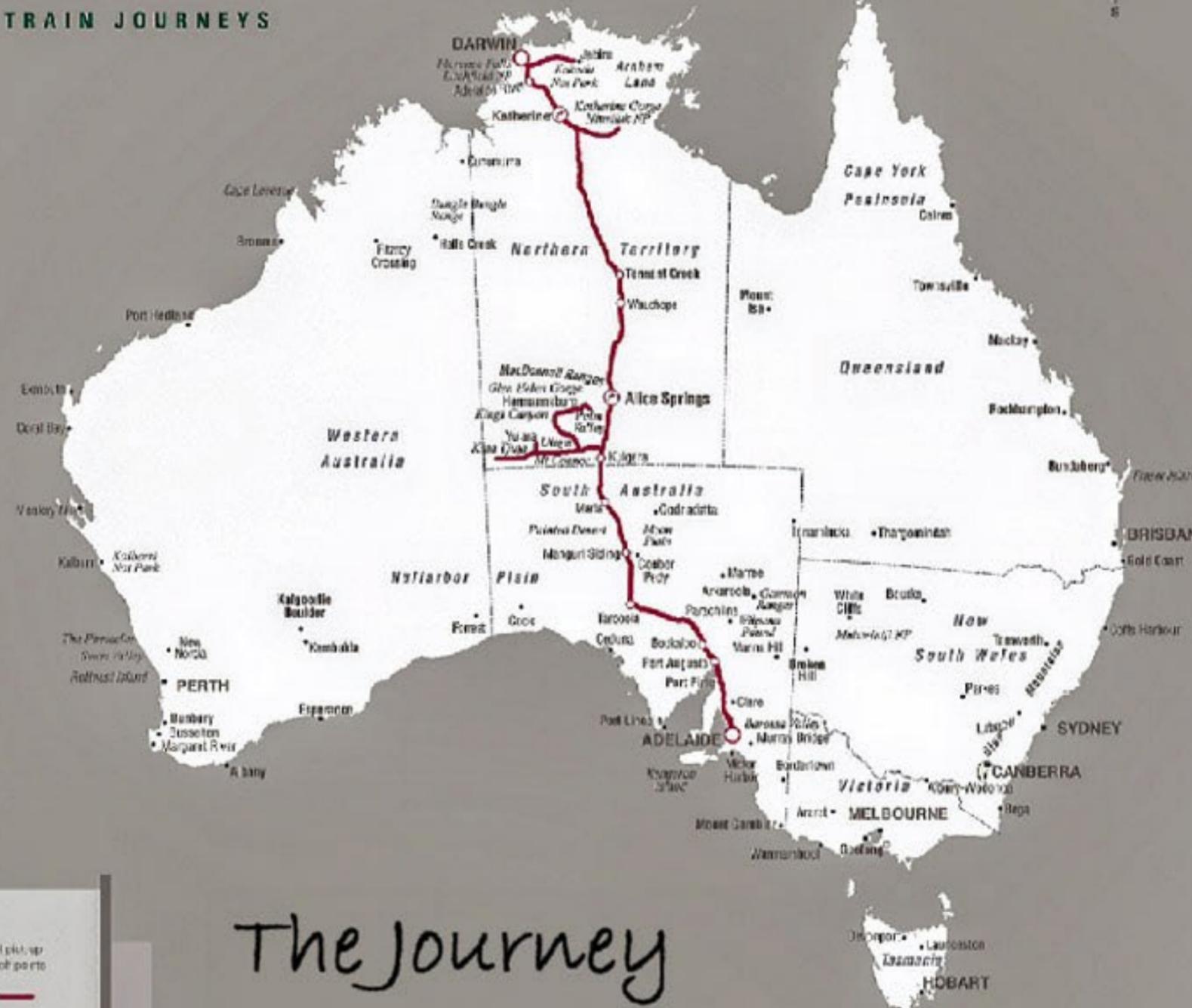


The Ghan train trip



GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT TRAIN JOURNEYS



THE GHAN



Time to explore.

Darwin to Adelaide and return.

- Darwin to Adelaide 3 days (2 nights) 2978 km.
- Connections available on the Indian Pacific for guests travelling to or from Sydney.

Capital City
Terminal

On Train
Excursions

Additional pick-up
and drop-off points

The Ghan

The Journey

SUSAN M BROWN.



Susan M Brown is from Tasmania and now lives in Mooloolaba in the Sunshine coast, Queensland.

Susan is now retired from the workforce and pursuing her passion for acting.

Susan also has a bucket list which she is ticking off, the trip on the Ghan being one of them.

THE

Bob Caddell.



Bob Caddell is from London in the U.K and now lives in Sellicks beach in South Australia.

Bob has been retired from the workforce for 16yrs just enjoying his passion for windsurfing and travelling.

Bob also has a bucket list which he is ticking off, the trip on the Ghan being one of them.

GHAN



Keswick rail terminal Adelaide

The Ghan railway terminal is a little way out of the city at Keswick, so we parked the car in storage and took the shuttle bus to the terminal. We were greeted at the terminal by porters that took our luggage for the train journey, followed by complementary drinks. The carriages were on the platform, when boarded the train we were shown to our accommodation.

Page Right: The Ghan engine bringing the 38 carriages together for the trip.





Ghan carriage accommodation

The accommodation seemed small but everything worked well. The bed was made up whilst we were having dinner, and packed away when we were having breakfast.

Left; The shower and toilet.

Top Right; lounge.

Page right; Sleeping quarters.





Queen Adelaide carriage



The Dining room and lounge

The lounge is open for coffee, tea and drinks all day. There are books and games for your use if you choose. Breakfast and dinner are by appointment in the Queen Adelaide carriage, you just let the staff know the time you require.

Top left; The dining room.

Bottom right; The Outback Explorer bar.

Top Right; The Outback Explorer lounge.





Marla

After a nights sleep on the train we were awoken at 5.30am the train had stopped at Marla. We were treated to breakfast around the fires, whilst we await sunrise. After sunrise we were back on the train heading for Alice Springs.

Top left; The fires for breakfast at Marla.

Bottom left; The sunrise at Marla.

Top Right; The Ghan Carriage in the morning light.



Alice Springs

After sunrise we were back on the train heading for Alice Springs. After lunch on the train we arrive in Alice Springs, collect our luggage and find our shuttle bus to the Crown Plaza hotel. Next morning we leave for Yulara.

Top left; Musician playing at Alice Springs station on our arrival.

Top Right; The Ghan at Alice Springs station.

Bottom right; Pool at the Crown Plaza hotel.





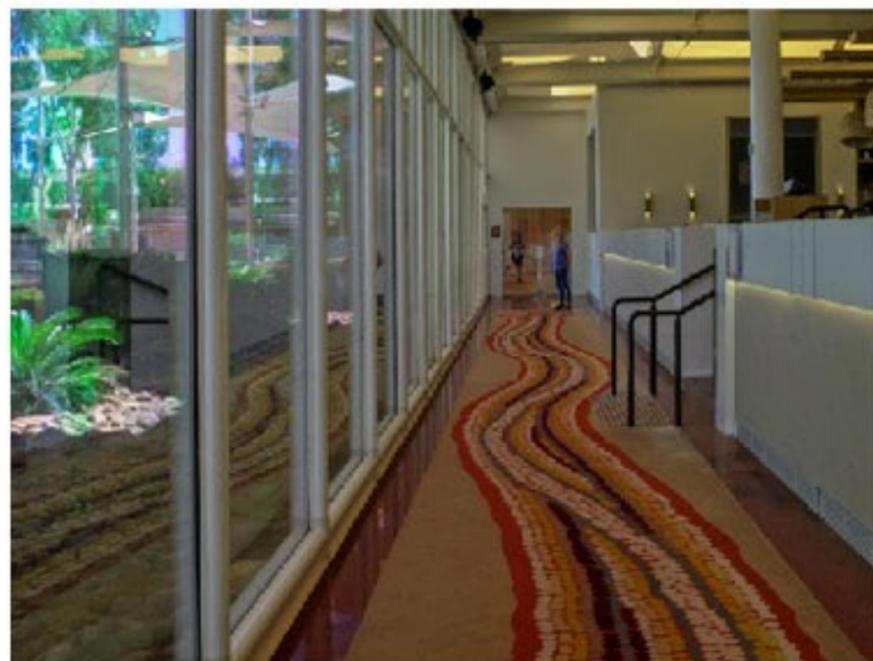
Travelling to Yulara

Next morning after an early breakfast we leave our hotel and head for Yulara via coach, the Northern Territory the speed limit is 130kmph. We head south from Alice Springs on the Sturt highway, then onto the Lasseter highway towards Curtin Springs. We stopped to look at Mount Conner / Artilla and the dry salt lake, Mount Conner / Artilla is part of Curtin Springs Station and is 300 metres above ground level, it is known to the locals as Fooluru as tourist mistake it for Uluru.

Page left; Mount Conner / Artilla.

Top left; The dry salt lake.

Top Right; The toilet and shower at Curtin Springs.



Yulara

Yulara is a village within the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park, we stayed at the Sails in the Desert hotel for 2 nights

Top left; The pool at Sails in the Desert.

Bottom left; Yulara shopping centre.

Top Right; The restaurant at Sails in the Desert.



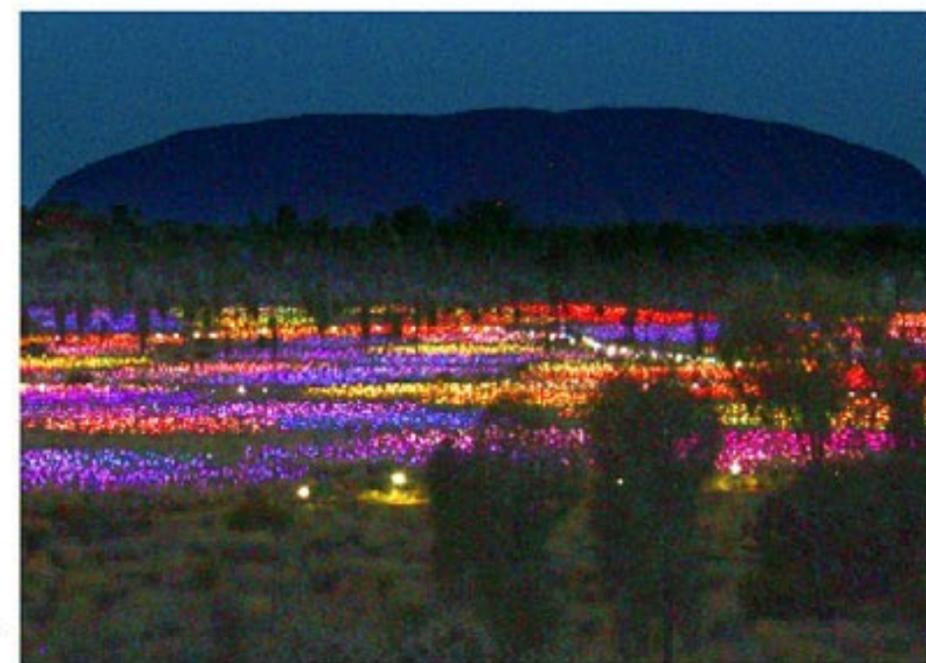
Field of lights

The Field of Light art is an installation by internationally acclaimed artist Bruce Munro. We did the tour at night, it was a very large area of lights to walk through in the dark.

Top left; The field of lights at Uluru.

Bottom left; The field of lights at Uluru.

Top Right; The field of lights at Uluru.



Uluru / Ayres Rock

Uluru / Ayers Rock was named by William Gosse in 1873 after Sir Henry Ayers. Uluru is the Aboriginal name. The rock was created over some 600 million years, it originally sat at the bottom of a sea, but today stands 348m above ground, and 2.5kms of its bulk is underground.

I have visited Uluru many times and have been lucky enough to see the rain coming off it, but never climbed it, as some reason for me it did not seem the right to do. There are great dreamtime stories to be heard from the Aboriginal people.



Sunset at Uluru



Rain running off Uluru





Uluru / Ayres Rock

Uluru is a big sandstone monolith that is 348 meters above ground, but the bulk of uluru is 515 metres is below ground.

Top left; Sunrise at Uluru.

Bottom; Uluru with Kata Tjuta / Olgas in the background.

Right; People climbing Uluru, which is now closed for good.





Kata Tjuta / The Olgas

Kata Tjuta or the Olgas are made up of 36 rock formations, the highest point is Mount Olga, rising to 546m above ground, some 200m higher than Ayers Rock / Uluru. The Olgas were named by European explorer Ernest Giles in 1872, then in 1993 it was dual named Kata Tjuta / The Olgas.

Most of the area is closed off to white people and Aborigines who do not have business there. I did the valley of the Winds walk, it is 7.4km, takes around 3 hours and gets very hot, but has beautiful views of the Olgas.



Sunset at Kata Tjuta



Sunrise at Kata Tjuta





The Walpa Gorge Walk

There are 36 steep sided domes of the Olgas /Kata Tjuta. Kata Tjuta is a Pitjantjatjara word meaning many heads. This is an Anangu men's site and is sacred under Tjukurpa.

Walpa Gorge Walk is 2.6km with views of the domes/

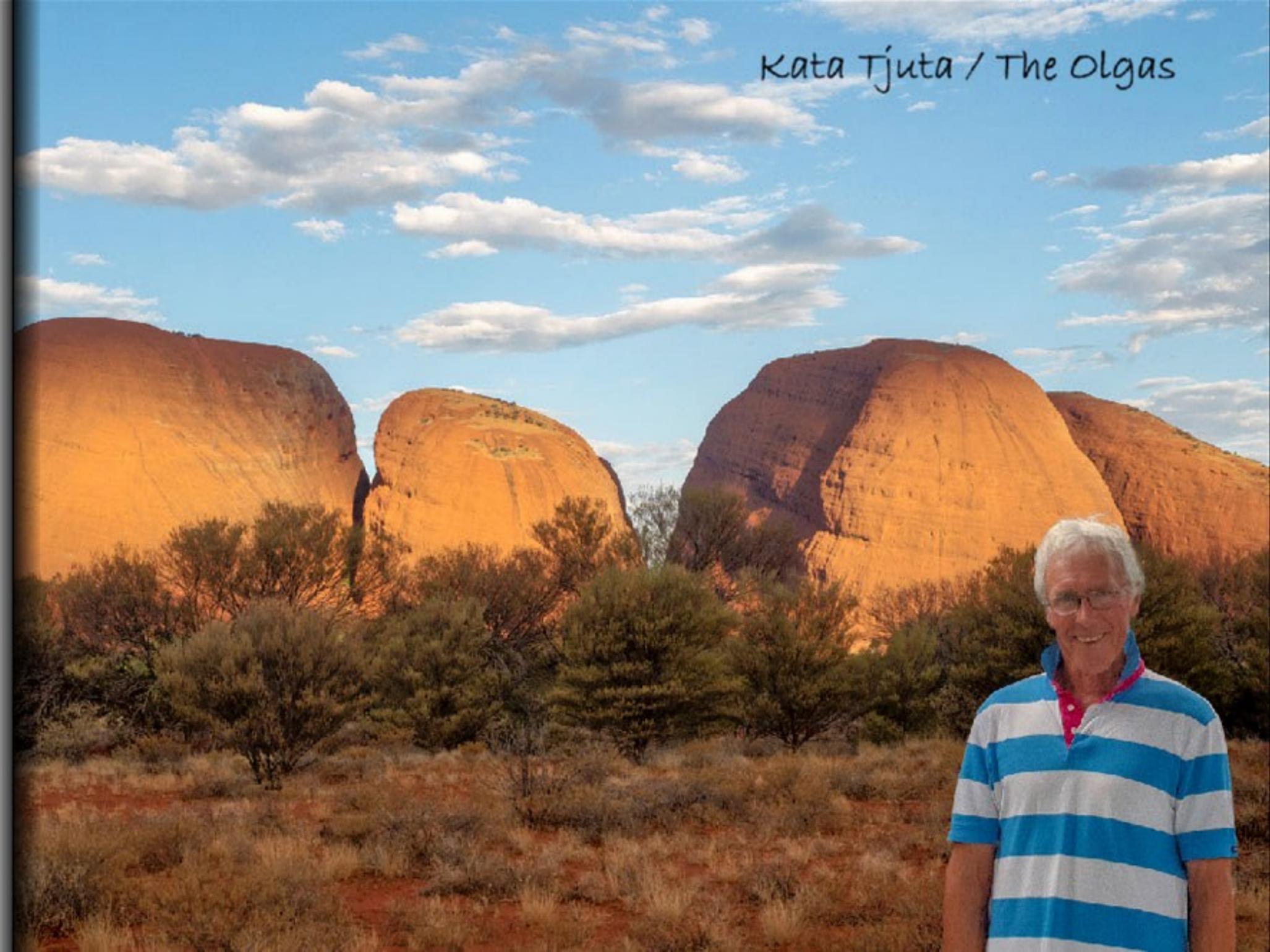
Top left; The Walpa Gorge Walk.

Top right; The light on the Domes of Olgas /Kata Tjuta.

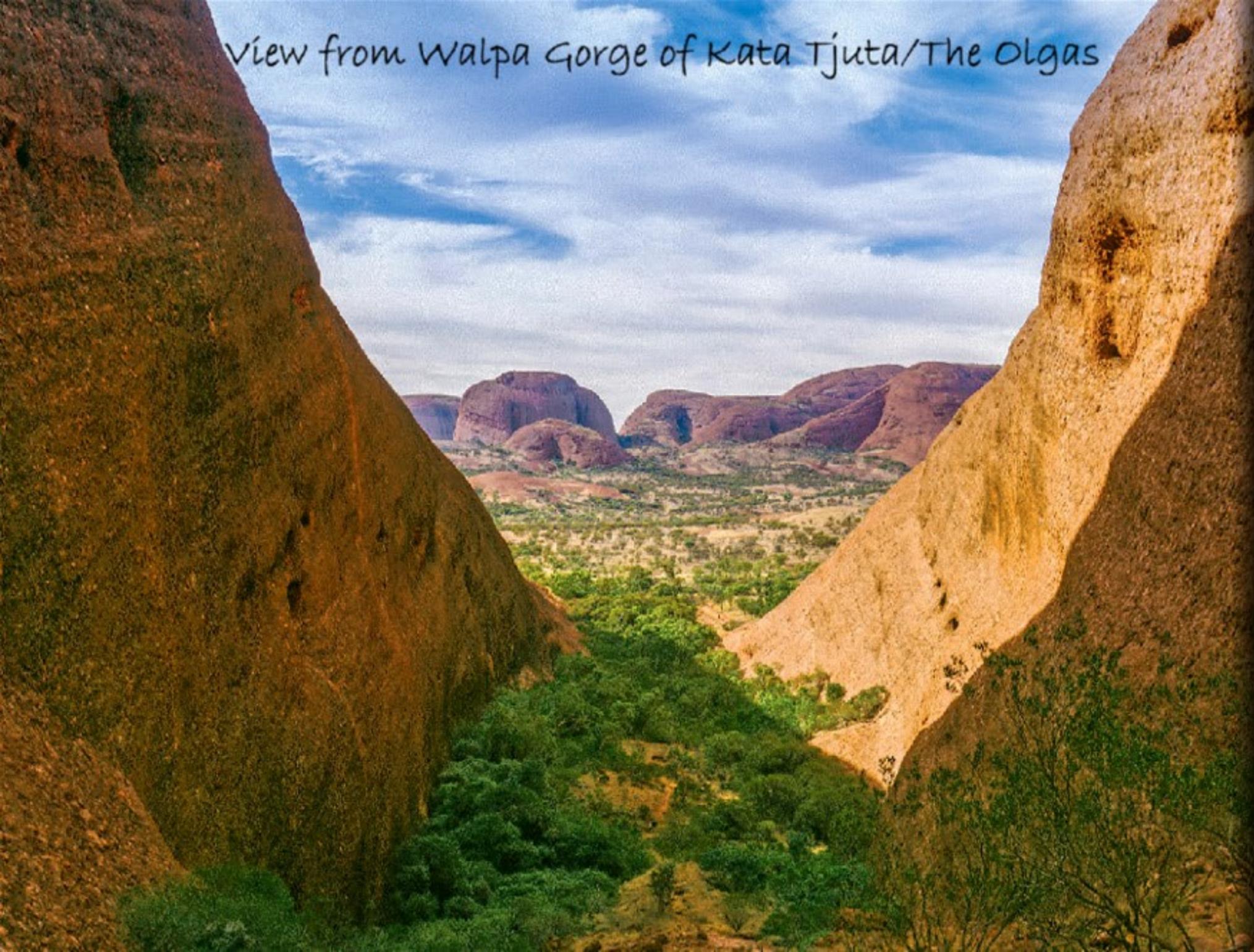
Bottom left; the road to Olgas /Kata Tjuta..



Kata Tjuta / The Olgas



view from Walpa Gorge of Kata Tjuta/The Olgas



Red Center Way

The Red Centre Way is a loop road that shows Palm Valley, Kings Canyon, Hermansburg and the Larrapinta trail.

Top left; Stone that remembers John Flynn the founder of the Flying Doctor Service.

Top right; Monument to Albert Namatjira an Aboriginal artist.

Bottom right; The turn off to Kings Canyon.





Kings Creek Station

Set amongst majestic desert oaks, Kings Creek Station is a 2,000 square kilometre working cattle/camel station with facilities for food, fuel and camping.

Top right; training the young camels.

Top left; Kings Creek roadhouse.

Bottom left; wild camels.

Ian and Lyn Conway established Kings Creek Station in 1981



The Gill ranges





Kings Canyon and the Luritja people

This is Luritja country. The people have lived here for thousands of years and their culture remains strong.

A safe refuge
As well as being an ancient refuge, Kings Canyon was an important ceremonial site. In fact, it was the only place in the Luritja country where the Luritja people could go to escape the heat of the day.

Luritja art
There are a number of ancient rock art sites in the park, including ancient rock art and paintings. Most of these sites are now protected by a fence and visitors are not allowed to enter. These sites are a reminder of the Luritja people's rich cultural heritage.

Spiritual bonds with the land
There are many stories about the park with great spiritual significance for the Luritja people. These include the sacred sites and rock formations. The people say they were created by spirits and are still present in the landscape.

Watarrka National Park
This land was named Watarrka National Park in 1982. Watarrka (pronounced wuh-tarr-ka) is the Luritja people's name for the Luritja Desert. Watarrka National Park is a collection of the best places in the desert.

The young Kuringka Men
Kings Canyon is an important ceremonial place for Luritja men. It was used for many ceremonies and rituals. The young men would gather here to perform their traditional dances and songs. They would sing and dance for days on end. The young men would also perform their traditional rituals. They would sing and dance for days on end. The young men would also perform their traditional rituals. They would sing and dance for days on end.

Watarrka National Park

Kings Canyon

Only 3 hours from Uluru, is the beautiful Kings Canyon featuring 100 meter high sandstone walls, palm filled crevices and views that stretch across the desert. Kings Canyon is in the 71,000 hectares Watarrka National Park and has been home to the Luritja Aboriginal people for more than 20,000 years. I got up early and took the 6km Rim Walk, a must for those wanting see the great views of the Canyon rim, the weathered domes of 'The Lost City' and the Garden of Eden.

A Ceremony Place

The shady creek is a very shady place for the Luritja people. In the past only men fully initiated in the Luritja culture would venture further up the creek from here. The Luritja people ask you to please respect this important area. There is no access to the top of the canyon from here.





Kings Canyon

Kings Canyon is within the 71000 hectares Watarrka National Park in the Northern Territory.

Left; Kings Canyon.

Top left; The sandstone domes.

Top right; Cotterels bridge.

Bottom right; The Lost City.





Water is Life Kapi-nguru Wanika Nyinanyi

The Garden of Eden is a very sacred place to the Traditional Owners of Watarrka. It is an important men's site and the Tjukurpa (dreaming) stories are far too sensitive to share publicly. Aboriginal people do not swim at this precious water source and ask that others respect this place and keep out of the waterhole.

Like the Aboriginal people that have relied on this water as a lifeline as centuries gone by, so to do the multitude of animals and plants that call Kings Creek home. Hundreds of species rely on the health and longevity of waterholes such as this one for their survival. Human activity such as swimming reduces the quality of the water by adding pollutants such as sunscreen and can deter native wildlife from inhabiting this area.

"Splash your face to cool off, that's ok, but don't swim."

"If you keep the water healthy, you keep the plants and animals healthy."

"Sit quietly...enjoy"
The Traditional Owners of Watarrka welcome visitors to this sacred place. Take the time to sit and quietly enjoy the water source. Quietly sit and you will be rewarded with a glimpse of its unique wildlife. The presence of all life here centres around the water. In this desert land, water is life.

"As a Traditional Owner I am not allowed to swim here, this place is a men's place. Please respect our wishes and don't swim here."

Watarrka National Park
Traditional Owners and Parks and Wildlife Working Together

Garden of Eden

The Garden of Eden is a beautiful waterhole surrounded by rare plants in Kings Canyon. The Tjukurpa people do not swim in the water and ask you not to.

Top left; The waterhole.

Top right; The water supply.

Bottom right; The plants of the Garden of Eden.



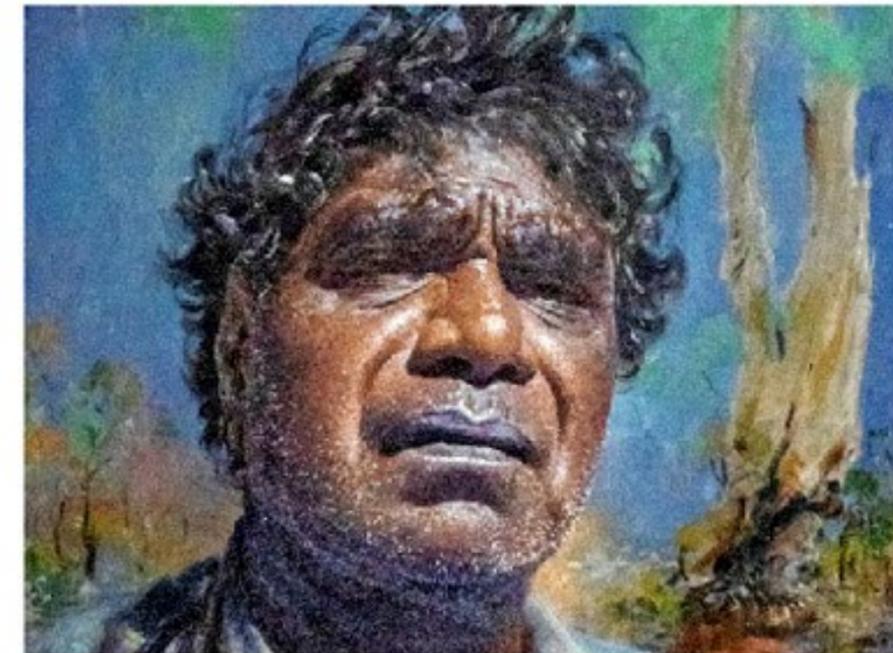
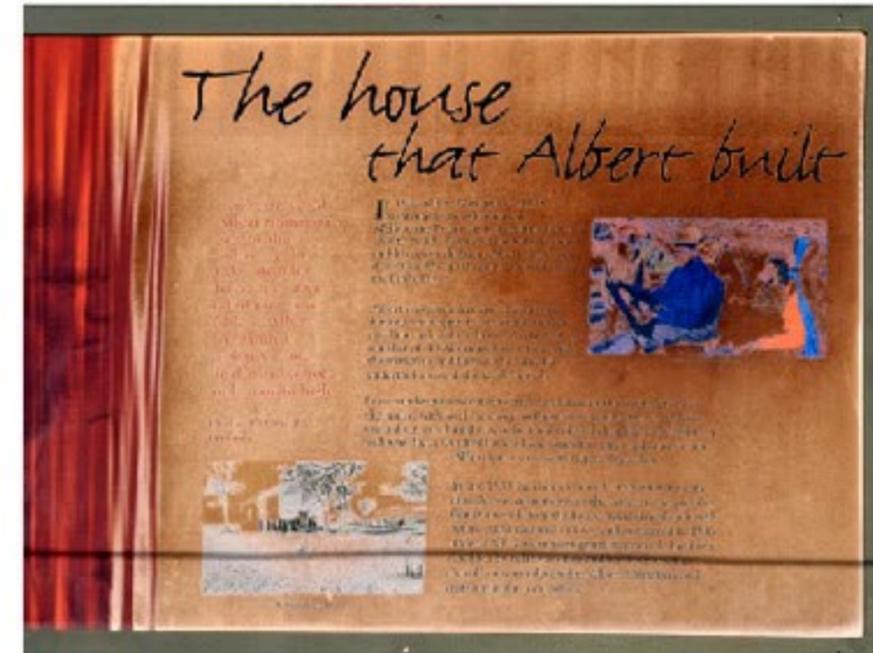
Albert Namatjira

Albert was born in 1902 and at the age of 13 Albert did the Aboriginal ritual initiation as one of the Aranda group, he lived in the bush for six months and was taught traditional laws and customs by tribal elders. Work as a camel driver took Albert through the country he would later paint, the dreamtime places of his Aranda people.

In 1944 Albert sold 38 paintings in a Melbourne art exhibition, with the proceeds he tried to build a house in Alice Springs. Once again the law prevented him, just because he was Aboriginal. Public outrage at Albert's predicament pushed the government to grant him and his wife Rubina full citizenship in 1957. Citizenship meant they could vote, enter a hotel and build a house anywhere they chose, Albert, Rubina and their 8 children built a house at the Goat camp on the banks of the Finke river.

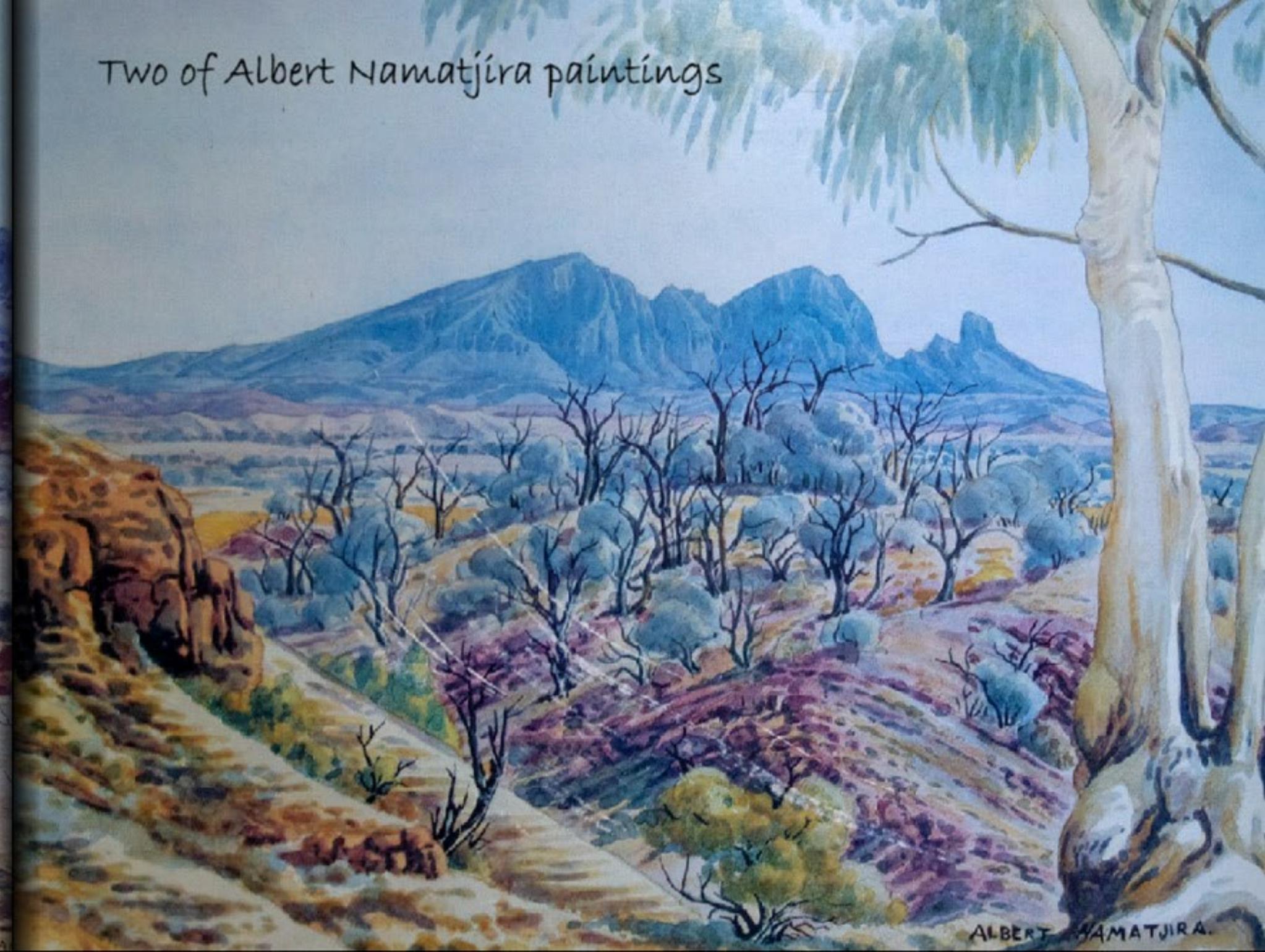
As a citizen Albert Namatjira could now also buy alcohol. In keeping with Aboriginal customs, Albert's friends expected him to share any food and alcohol he bought. But in doing this he broke white man's laws. In 1958, police charged Albert with supplying alcohol to Aboriginal people. He denied the charge, but the court didn't believe him. After two months in prison, Albert emerged a free, but a broken man. He had lost his will to paint, and to live. Albert Namatjira died in 1959. He was just fifty-seven years old.

In 1967 the government to granted similar rights to the rest of the Aboriginal population.





Two of Albert Namatjira paintings



Palm valley

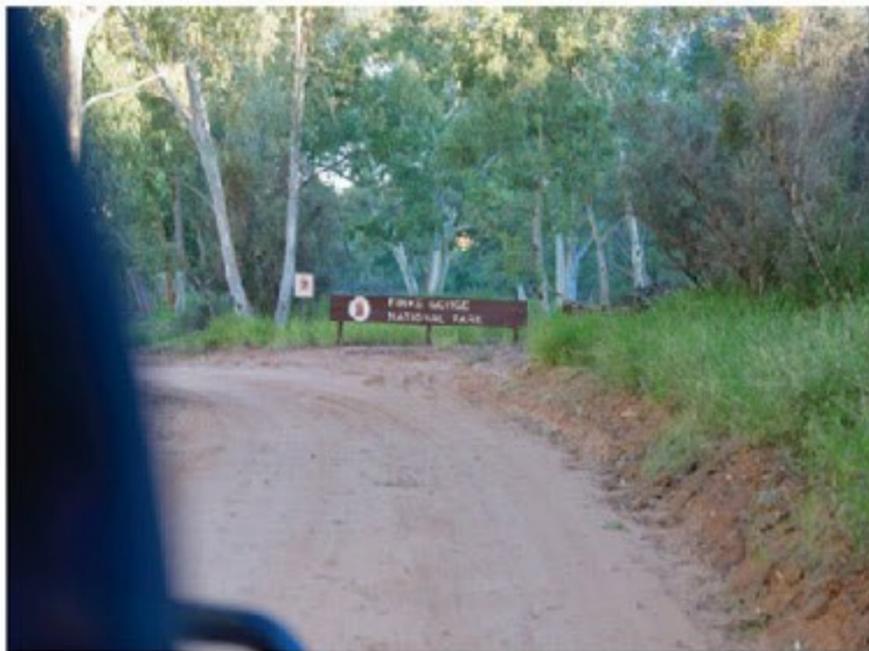
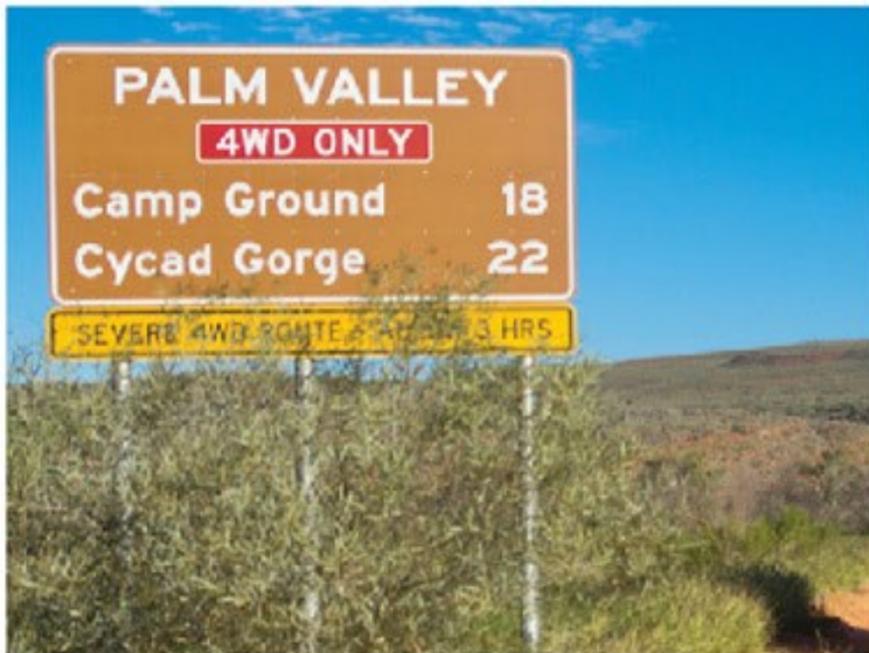
Palm valley is in the Finke Gorge National Park which covers an area of 46,000 hectares.

Palm valley has sandstone amphitheatres, pinnacles and gorges and is home to the Red Cabbage Palm after which the valley is named.

Top Left; Palm valley warning Sign.

Bottom left; Entering the Finke Gorge National Park.

Bottom right; Electric animal grid, the electric wires were held just off the road with springs.



Palm valley

The first part of the journey to palm valley campground is not too bad, you have to cross the finke river with water and dry sand.

Top Right; Crossing the Finke river.

Bottom right; Campground has toilets and cold showers and barbeque and camp kitchen.

Bottom left; Sunset at the waterhole behind the campgrounds.



A waterhole in the Finke national park.



Sunset at Old Woman Rock and Kalarranga rock in the amphitheater





Cycad Gorge

A palm cycad plant grows to 2m high and the same in width, it has long leaves and an egg shaped fruit which has toxic properties. For this reason, the seed was not used as a food source by Arrernte people.

Top Left; Cycad gorge.

Bottom left; Cabbage palms at Cycad Gorge.

Top right; Entering Cycad Gorge in the Finke Gorge National Park.

The Fortune of Nature

Palm Valley has unique characteristics that have allowed the Red Cabbage Palm, *Livistona mariae*, to survive.

These unique conditions occur over about two kilometres of this creekbed. Permanent water and protection have created a safe haven for the palms.

'If the full moon comes up you can go in the morning and the water comes up from the cracks.' Traditional Owners

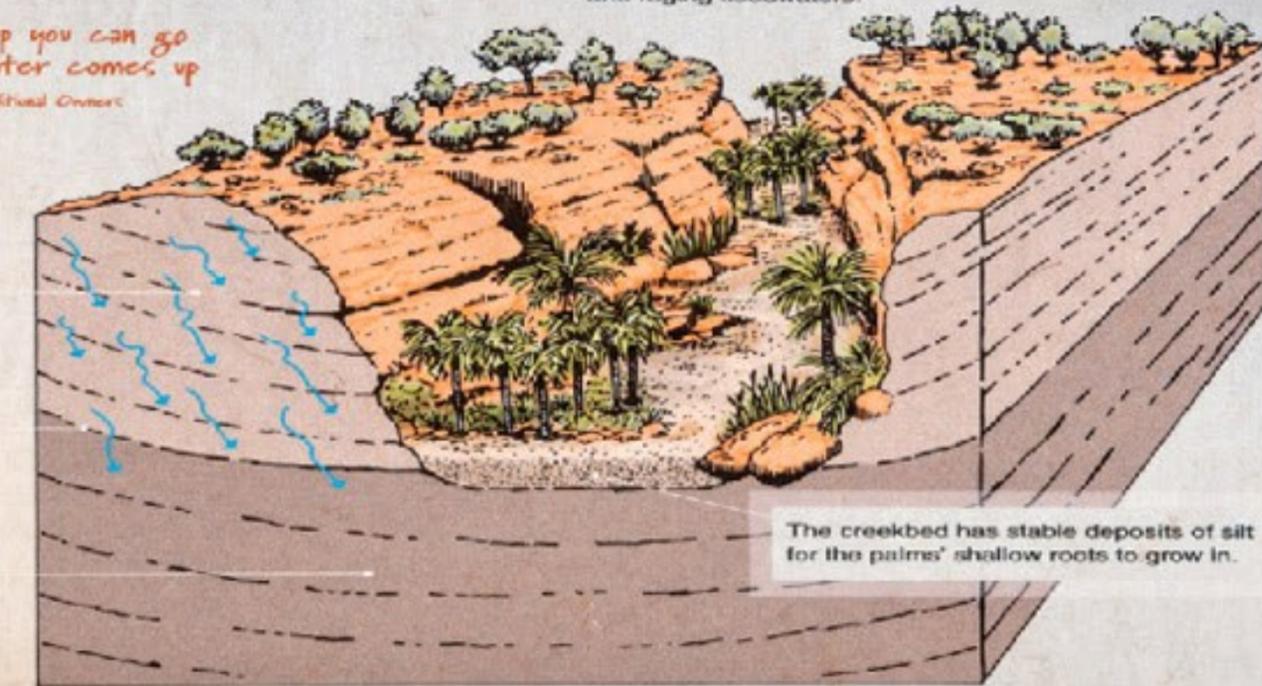
The narrow valley is protected from drying winds and raging floodwaters.

Rainwater is soaked up by the sandstone hills and slowly released through the layers of rock to provide a permanent supply for the palms.

Water table

A hard layer of saturated sandstone, which is an important source of water for the Red Cabbage Palm.

The creekbed has stable deposits of silt for the palms' shallow roots to grow in.



Palm valley

Traveling from Cycad gorge there are several water crossings to get to Palm Valley. When you reach Palm Valley you see the towering palm trees growing out of the sandstone, it's amazing to think these red cabbage palms/*Arankaia* are only found in this one location in the middle of Australia's arid zone.



Palm valley

When you reach Palm valley you see towering palm trees, it's amazing to think these red cabbage palms/ Arankaia are only found in this one location in the middle of Australia's arid zone.

Top Left; Susan and Bob on the sandstone.

top right; Red Cabbage Palms at palm valley.

Bottom right; Ghost gum on the Mpulungkinya Loop walk .



Arranda land

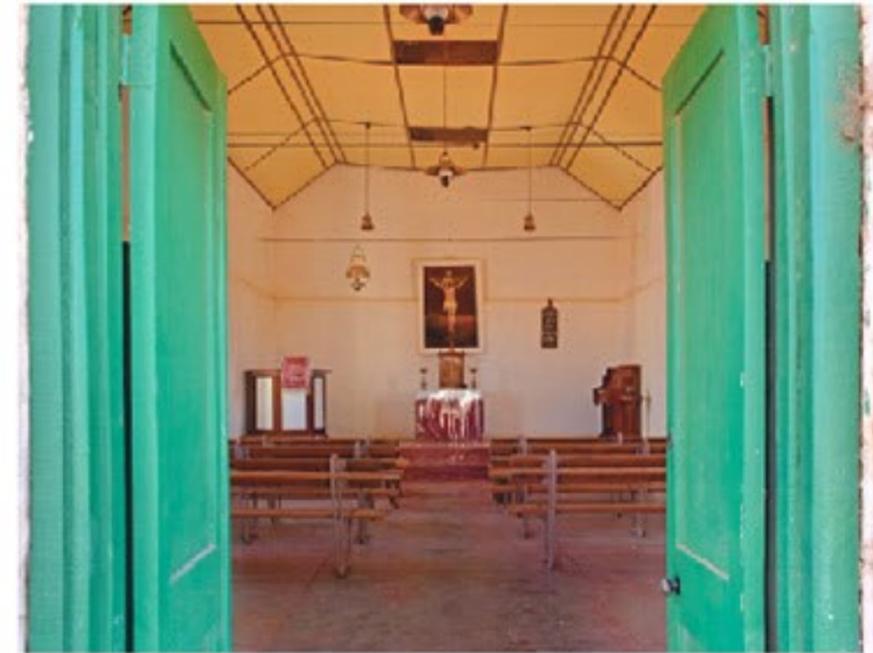
The Finke river is one of the oldest rivers in the world.

Top Left; Wild horses having a feed.

Top right; Elder and boy going walk about at the Finke river.

Bottom right; Sign about litter on country .





Hermannsburg

Hermannsburg was a Lutheran mission built in the 1880s and was one of Central Australia's first settlements, the buildings were built from local materials. Today Hermannsburg is the Arrernte Aboriginal community with around 400 living in and around the township.

Top Left; Inside the old church.

Top right; Kitchen and eating house.



Bottom right; Welcome sign .



Hermannsburg

Hermannsburg Mission is associated with the Ntaria Twins dreaming. The twins were born at a waterhole near Palm Valley, a thin one and a fat one. The area where they camped is a men's area where women go if they want to get pregnant

Top; The Girls bunkhouse.

Bottom left; Girls bunkhouse.



Glen Helen Gorge

At Glen Helen Gorge the ranges part to make way for the Finke River. The permanent Finke River waterhole is an important refuge in the hot summer months, for all animals and migrating waterbirds. From here the Finke River continues and makes its way to the Lake Eyre.

To the traditional owners the waterhole is the home of an ancient and powerful Rainbow Serpent, and they regard it as off limits.





Ormiston Gorge / Kwartatuma
Ormiston gorge is famous for its waterhole, and the spectacular geology and landforms of the MacDonnell Ranges.

Left; Sunrise in the gorge.

Top Left; Dingo looking for fish.

Top right; The spectacular gorge.

Bottom right; Bird flying into the gorge for water.

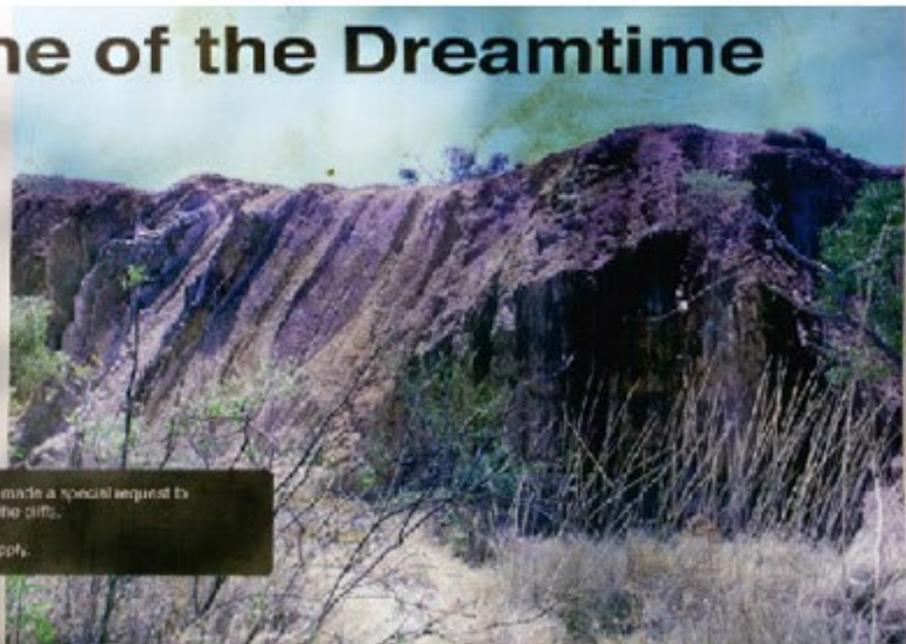


Ochre - Stone of the Dreamtime

Aboriginal people have extracted ochre from these cliffs for thousands of years. The ochre from here is still used by Western Arrernte people, mainly for ceremonial purposes.

Ochre is integral to the Dreamtime stories - stories of creation and law - of Aboriginal people throughout Australia. Red ochre deposits often represent the blood of sacred ancestral beings.

The traditional Aboriginal stories and ceremonies for this site belong to Western Arrernte men. Women and children are not permitted to dig the ochre, or know the stories associated with the site. However, women are permitted to use ochre from this site in their ceremonies if it is provided by men.



Ahead of you is one of the most dramatic formations of the Ochre Pits, with swirling near vertical curves of colour 'painted' on the 10m-high cliff face. Wind and rain have carved into the layers to reveal dramatic designs.

The different colours represent layers of mudstone and siltstone, once horizontal, but steadily heaved into their present near-vertical position when the MacDonnell Ranges formed over 500 million years ago.

The colours

Yellow ochre, the dominant colour of these cliffs, is caused by a mixture of white clay and iron oxide (rust).

The red-brown colours are formed by high levels of oxidised iron in very fine-grained hematite or limonite.

White ochre has very little or no iron. The white colour comes from kaolin, a white clay mineral.

Tiny fragments of mica and quartz give the ochre a shiny quality.

West MacDonnell National Park



The Aboriginal custodians of this site have made a special request to visitors not to touch or remove ochre from the pits.

It is also an offence by law and penalties apply.



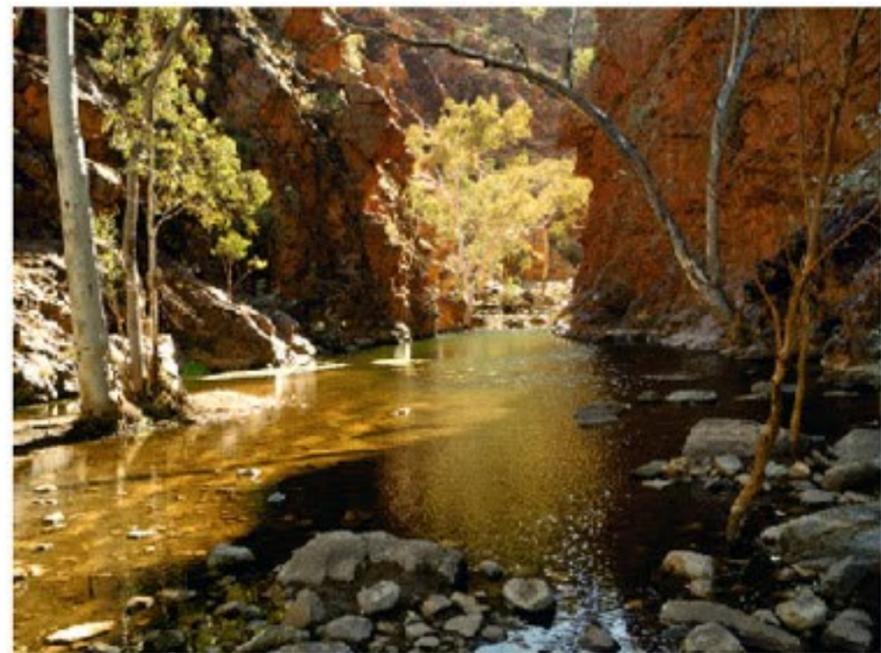
Serpentine Gorge / Ulpma

Serpentine Gorge is an easy walk that takes you into a sheltered gorge and waterhole, the water is cold.

Bottom Left; Serpentine gorge waterhole.

Top right; A steep climb up onto the western ridge of the gorge will show a great panorama of MacDonnell Ranges.

Bottom right; The lookout walk takes you into the Gorge.



Ellery Creek Big Hole / Udepata

Over thousands of years of floods the water carved out Ellery Creek Big Hole through the MacDonnell Ranges and created the waterhole.

Top Left; Entrance to Ellery creek big hole.

Bottom Left; Ellery creek big hole.

Bottom right; Ellery creek big hole waterhole.





Standley Chasm / Angkerle Atwatye

Unlike the normal golden hour of the day, at Standley Chasm its most dramatic an hour either side of noon on a sunny day. Then the sheer walls of the chasm glow from reflected sunlight to create the rich colour.

Top Left; Standley Chasm cave.

Bottom Left; Standley Chasm.

Top right; Entrance to Standley Chasm.

Right; Simpson's gap





Welcome to Emily Gap

Anthwerrke, the Arrernte name for Emily Gap, is a traditional site of major importance. It is part of the story-line for the Three Caterpillars: Yepernyne, Nanyurke and Utnerengatye which are ancestral beings for the Alice Springs area. Arrernte people conceived in Alice Springs consider themselves direct descendants of these Caterpillar ancestors.

The Caterpillar story is recorded in a gallery of rock paintings 150 metres from here. Sometimes the gap fills with water and you can't get to the paintings.

The name Emily Gap first appeared in the early 1870s on maps of the region. It was used by the first white settlers in the area. The name was used by the first white settlers in the area. The name was used by the first white settlers in the area.

Protecting Our Heritage

Please help to protect this unique landscape. Remember all animals and cultural features of the rock are very precious.

Emily Gap / Anthwerrke

Emily's gap was created by a giant caterpillar fighting with a stink bomb, the stink bomb bit off the caterpillar head which created the gap, the body creating the Macdonnell range

Top Left; Aboriginal rock art.

Top right; Aboriginal rock art.

Bottom right; Dreamtime story for Emily's Gap.



An Eroded Landform

This hole is actually two overlapping craters. The shockwaves from the meteorite hitting the earth partly destroyed the walls between the craters. They have been further eroded over the last few thousand years by wind and rain.

The spurs that you see made of dark material are the remains of the outer walls that have eroded away.

Rain has washed the fine sandstone out of the craters down from the walls and eroded the surface of the crater like a miniature dunes.

Can Man With his eyes in the horizon risk and in the crater floor. All ancient craters are found at the bottom tips.

Henbury Meteorite Conservation Reserve

Henbury Meteorite Craters

When a meteor crashed into the earth 4,700 years ago it left 12 craters in the Central Australian desert that can be explored today at the Henbury Meteorites Conservation Reserve.

The largest crater is 180m wide and 15m deep and can be seen in the picture above.

the Henbury Meteorite Craters

Around 4,700 years ago, a large meteorite travelling at over 40,000 kilometres per hour broke up before impact and hit the surface of the earth at Henbury.

It is one of the most important meteorite craters in the world. The craters are located in the Central Australian desert. The craters are located in the Central Australian desert. The craters are located in the Central Australian desert.

Things to do

- Take a walk to see the craters.
- Take a walk to see the craters.
- Take a walk to see the craters.

Be Prepared When Walking

Be prepared when walking in the desert. Be prepared when walking in the desert. Be prepared when walking in the desert.

Care for the Desert

Care for the desert. Care for the desert. Care for the desert.

For Your Safety

For your safety. For your safety. For your safety.

Alice Springs / Mparntwe

The name Alice Springs was first given to the waterhole that was originally discovered near the town when the Overland Telegraph Line was being constructed in 1871, it was named after Alice Todd the wife of the superintendent Sir Charles Todd.

In 1887 gold was discovered in these parts which saw hundreds of settlers flock to Alice Springs region to claim the stakes. Supplies, food and provisions was transported by camel trains that drove their way through the centre of the country.

In 1929 the camel trains were finally replaced with trains. The railway ran between Adelaide and Alice Springs, which saw the population of the region grow. The old Ghan travelled through floodplains and was sometimes not able to get through, so a new railway was built in 1980 avoiding the floodplains to Alice Springs, in 2004 the train line was extended to Darwin.

Dreamtime says that the mountains were created by 3 giant caterpillars Yeperenya, Utnerrengatye and Ntyarlke, all 3 having their heads ripped off by Iriperenye the green stink bug and creating the gaps in the Macdonnell ranges, the ranges are the bodies of the caterpillars. At Emil's gap you can see the rock art paintings of the caterpillars.

Nearby the Alice Springs is the Larapinta Trail which i have visited a couple of times. One year i was lucky enough to be in the town for the camel races, a great experience. Another year i was in Alice at the time of the Todd River races, but unable to hang around to see them due to travel commitments going north to the Kimberly.





Top Left; The Anzac Hill Memorial was unveiled on 25 April 1934 (Anzac Day) and was dedicated to the armed forces of World War I. It has now become a memorial to all those who have served in the defence of their country during all wars in which Australia has participated.

Top left; Anzac Hill memorial.

Top right; View of Alice Springs from Anzac Hill showing the Macdonnell ranges that surround Alice Springs.



Bottom right; Alice Springs Ghan Railway Station.



Top Left; The old Telegraph station.

Top right; Royal Flying Doctor plane.

Bottom left; The dry Todd river and the gap in the Macdonnell ranges.



Hot air balloon at Alice Springs

Left; Riding in a hot air balloon over the Macdonnell ranges at sunrise.

Top left; In the basket waiting to take off in a hot air balloon.

Top right; Landing in a hot air balloon.

Bottom right; Sunrise over the Macdonnell ranges.



Nitmiluk



JAWOYN SHARING OUR COUNTRY

Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk

Left; Jawoyn sharing our country

Top right; Freshwater crocodile nesting area.

Bottom right; Freshwater crocodile.

Bottom left; Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk





Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk

Left; The end of the first gorge.

Right; Aboriginal rockart at Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk.

Top left; Aboriginal rockart at Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk.



Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk

Left; The second gorge.

Top Right; The water rises 15 metres during the wet season.

Bottom Right; The first gorge from the Baruwei lookout.

Top left; End of the first gorge in Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk.



Darwin / Palmerston

The Larrakia people are the traditional owners of the Darwin region.

The Dutch visited Australia's northern coastline in the 1600s and landed on the Tiwi Islands only to be repelled by the Tiwi people. Then in 1839 the The Captain of the Beagle, John Lort Stokes, discovered the harbour and named it after a former shipmate, British evolutionist Charles Darwin.

In 1871 gold was discovered by the workers who were constructing the Overland Telegraph Line at Pine Creek and a new settlement called Palmerston evolved near Darwin. In the same year the 1100 mile submarine cable between Darwin and Banjoewangie in Java was laid, This connected Australia through Batavia (now Jakarta), Singapore, Europe and London.

Originally part of New South Wales and then transferred to South Australia, the Northern Territory was then separated from South Australia and transferred to Commonwealth control on 1 January 1911, its name changed from Palmerston to Darwin.

In WW11 Darwin was bombed by the Japanese, but the biggest change was made by Cyclone Tracy in 1974 when the existing town was nearly completely destroyed.

Darwin is the capital of Australia's Northern Territory and the gateway to massive Kakadu National Park and Litchfield National park. The Northern Territory has two seasons the wet and the dry, when visiting by vehicle it is best to travel in the dry season as the roads / tracks can become closed due to flooding from the monsoonal rains.



Darwin

Top Left; Susan posing with a fire hydrant.

Top right; Darwin at night.

Bottom right; Musician playing outside at the pub.





Darwin

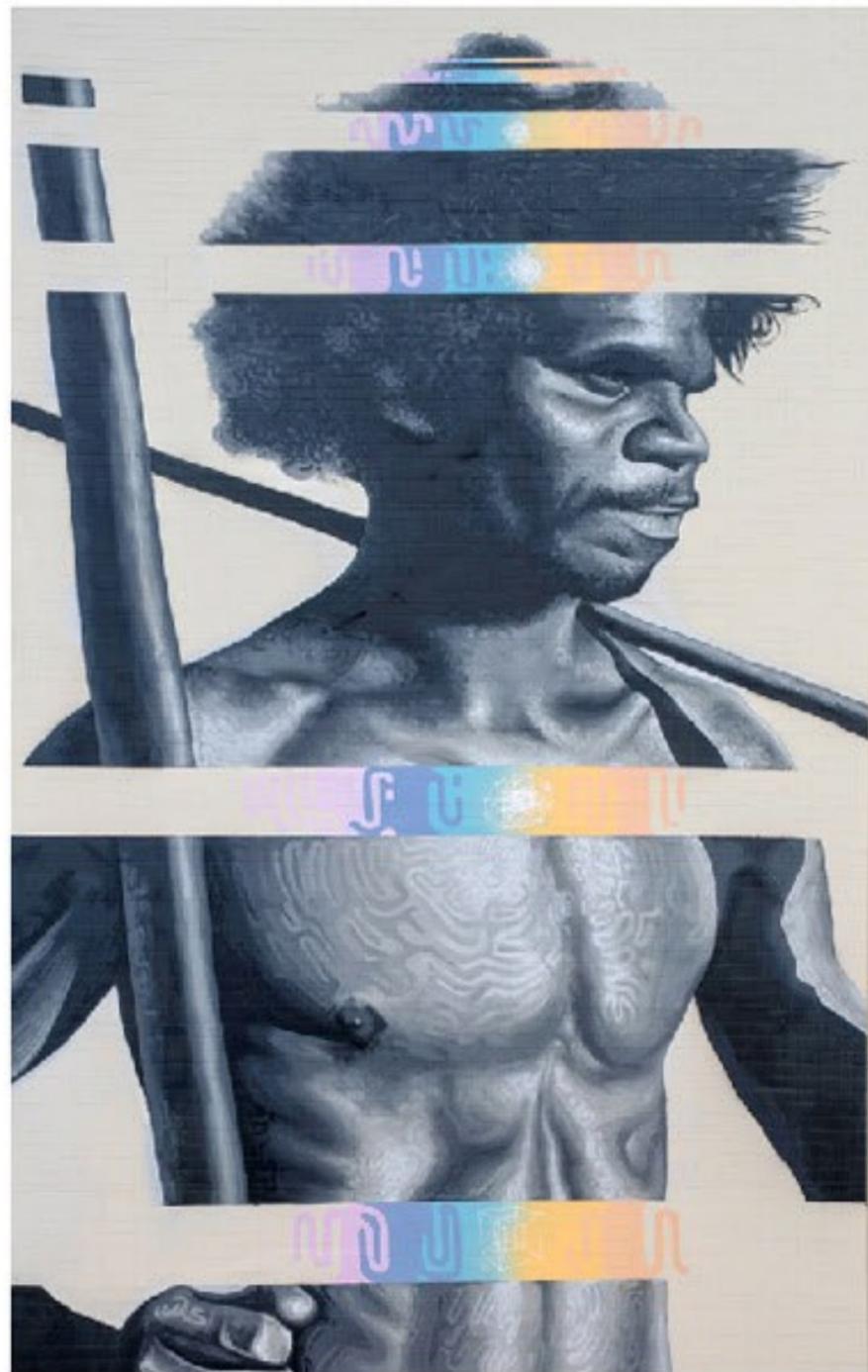
Left; Sunset in Darwin.

Top Left; Storm in the night sky in Darwin harbour.

Top right; Sunset in Darwin .

Bottom right; Afternoon storm brewing in Darwin.







Darwin

Right; Darwin beach.

Top Left; Chinese Temple and Museum Chung Wah in Darwin.

Top right; Inside the Chinese Temple and Museum Chung Wah in Darwin.

Bottom left; Darwin hop on and off tour bus.





Kakadu

Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory is World Heritage listed, and is almost 20,000 square kilometres in size.

It is a biodiverse nature reserve of wetlands, rivers and sandstone escarpments, it's home to some 2,000 plant species and wildlife from saltwater crocodiles and flatback turtles to birds.

The Bininj/Mungguy Aboriginal people have called Kakadu home for some 65,000 years, it has Aboriginal rock paintings dating back to prehistoric times.

There are lots of waterfalls and safe swimming holes, but the creeks and waterways have crocodiles so care must be taken.

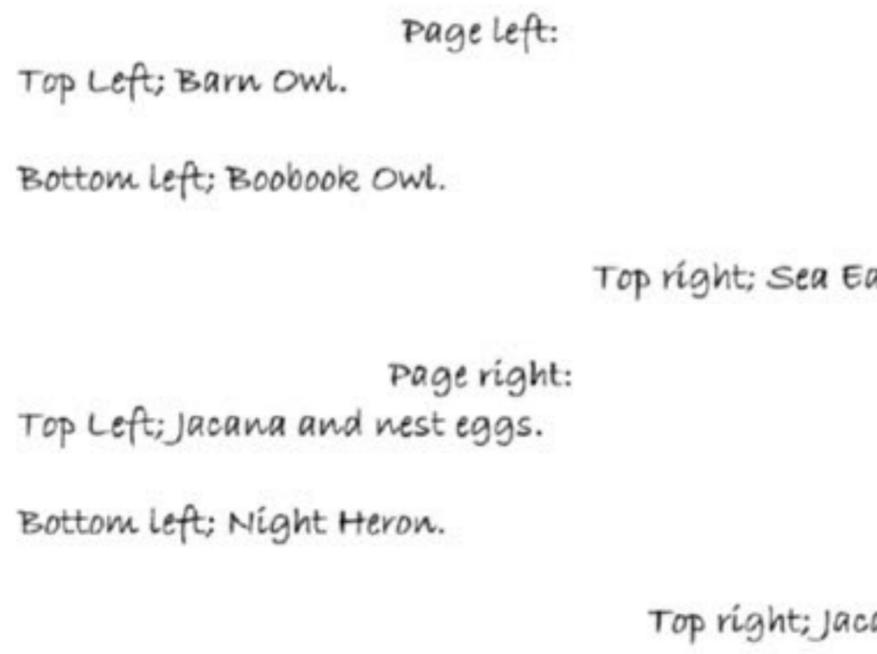


Yellow Waters / Ngurrungurrudjba

The Yellow Water Billabong is located at the junction of Jim Jim Creek and the South Alligator River, it is Kakadu's largest wetland consisting of river channels, floodplains and swamps.

Along the shoreline are paperbark forests, pandanus, fresh water mangroves. The water has vibrant white and pink waterlilies along with Saltwater Crocodiles, many birds as you will see in the following pages.





Page left:

Top Left; Barn Owl.

Bottom left; Boobook Owl.

Top right; Sea Eagle.

Page right:

Top Left; Jacana and nest eggs.

Bottom left; Night Heron.

Top right; Jacana.

Bottom right; Darter drying out.



Page left:

Top Left; Jabaru.

Bottom left; Cormorant.

Top right; Sea Eagle.

Bottom right; Darter drying out.

Page right:

Top Left; Egret.

Top right; duck.

Bottom right; Night Heron.





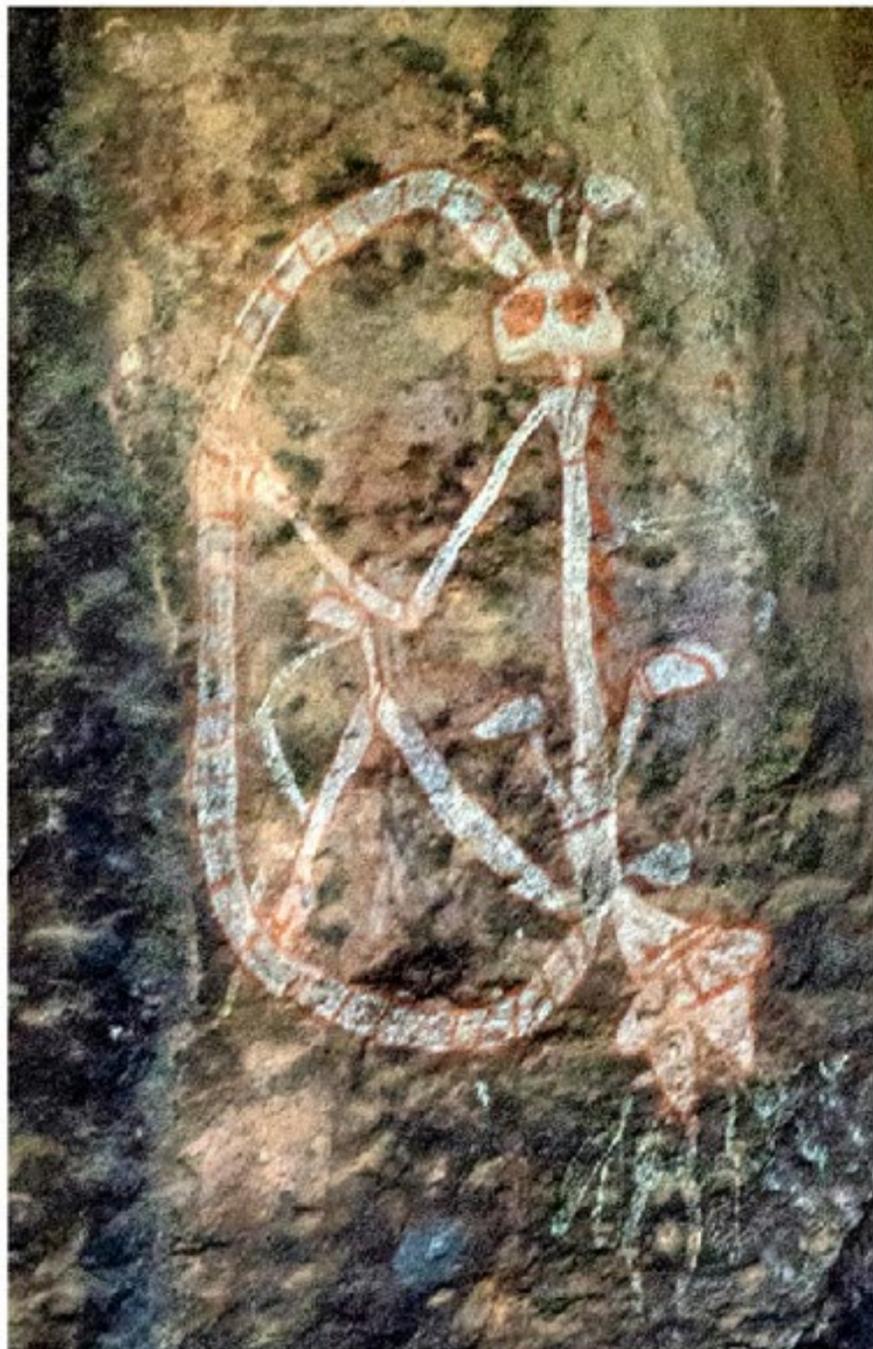
Page left:
 Top Left; Freshwater crocodile.
 Bottom left; Saltwater crocodile.

Top right; Crocs sweat through their mouth they often lay with their mouth open, it's called gaping.

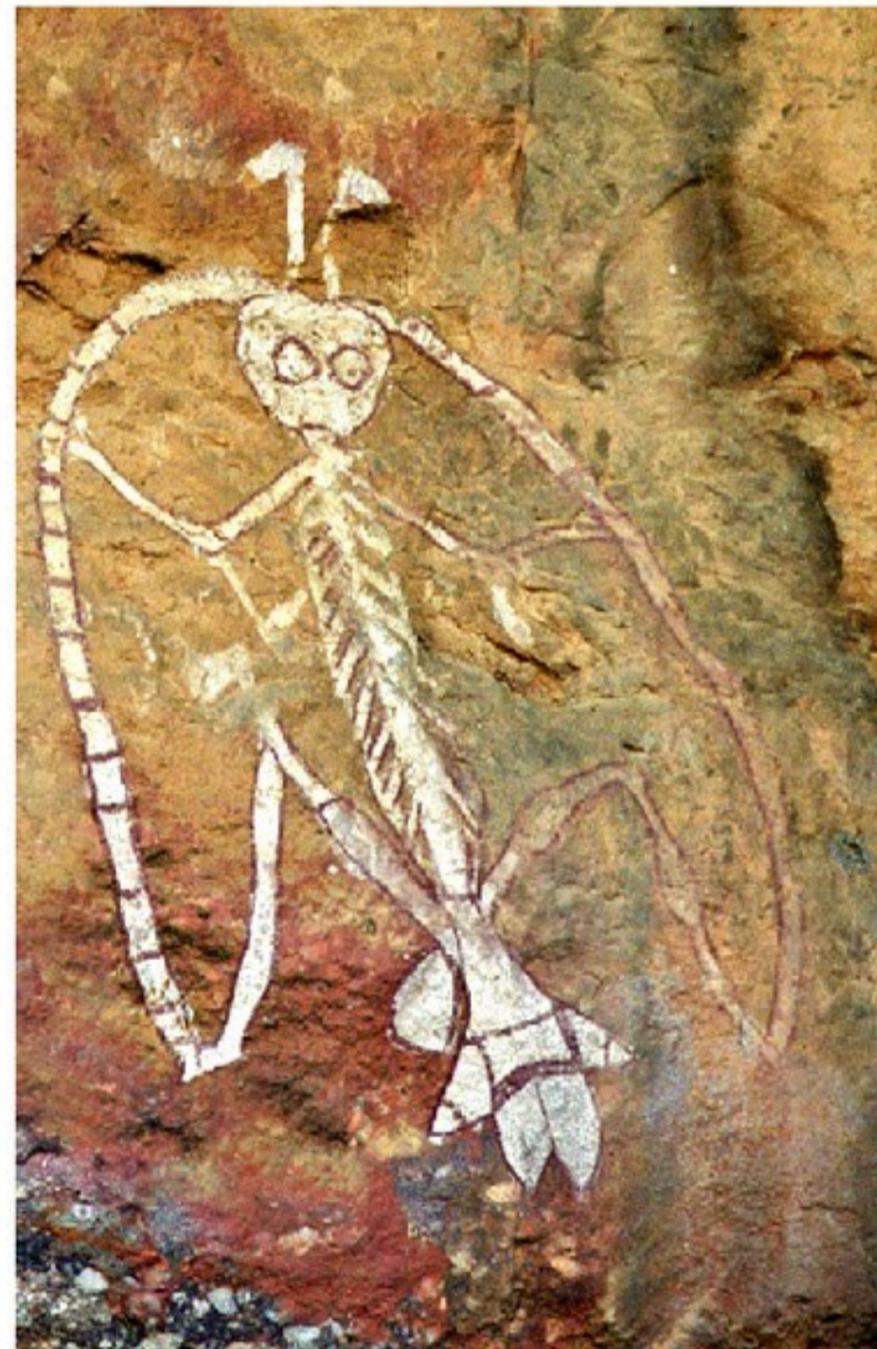
Page right:
 Top Left; Yellow waterlily.
 Bottom left; Waterlillies.

Top right; Pandanas trees.
 Bottom right; Purple waterlily.





Lightning Man



Lightning Man



Aboriginal rockart at Anbangbang



1 Namarrgon the lightning man.

2 Barrgini Namarrgon's wife.

3 Ginga the crocodile.

4 Men and women on their way to ceremony.

5 Quluibirr the fish.





Page left:
Top Left; Darwin ship to trade buffalo skins.
Bottom left; Aboriginal rockart.

Top right; Hands up high.
Page right:
Top Left; Crocodile feeding on the Adelaide River.
Bottom left; Bat.

Top right; Crocodile.
Bottom right; Kingfisher.



Adelaide to Darwin is 2,797 kilometres (1846 miles) , travelling through some of the most remote places in Australia.

We leave Adelaide on the Ghan train, traveling past the Flinders Ranges and through the night to Maria, having breakfast in the bush at sunrise and then on to Alice Springs.

We stayed in Alice Springs for four days visiting Uluru, The Olgas, Kings Canyon, Palm Valley and Hermannsburg. Taking a sunrise hot air balloon ride.

Leaving Alice Springs on the Ghan heading north to Katherine where we visited Katherine Gorge, then back on the Ghan heading for Darwin across the Adelaide river.

We stay in Darwin and next day go to Jaburu in Kakadu for a cruise on Alligator river and visit several aboriginal rock art sites.

We depart Jaburu and visit Humpty Doo and cruise on the Adelaide river to see the crocodile feeding.

We arrive back in Darwin and say goodbye to all the wonderful people we have met and travelled with.

Next day off to the airport back to South Australia to visit Kangaroo Island.

