One of the great Australian road trips is without a doubt from Adelaide to Darwin, along the Explorers Way. Passing some of Australia’s favourite natural icons, including Uluru and Kata Tjuta, Watarrka National Park/Kings Canyon, MacDonnell Ranges, Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles, Nitmiluk National Park and Litchfield National Park. The journey follows the famous explorer, John McDouall Stuart, who was the first European to successfully cross Australia south to north and establish a route to the coastal region of the Northern Territory.
**DAY ONE TO FIVE**

**Travelling from South Australia**

Spend the first five days travelling through outback South Australia, stopping in at some of the small coastal towns. Take in the southern and central Flinders Ranges and make sure you stay overnight at Coober Pedy.

**DAY SIX AND SEVEN**

**Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park**

Once you drive across the Northern Territory border, make a beeline for Australia's ultimate icons. Discover the beauty of Uluru and Kata Tjuta – this desert region is blessed with natural wonders, world-class dining experiences and ancient Aboriginal culture.

There’s an abundance of things to see and do within the Park. Stop in at the Cultural Centre to learn about the significance of the area to the local Anangu people – the traditional custodians of Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

Sunrise and sunset are the best times to admire the incredible scenes of the outback. Remember to take some chairs and ‘sunset refreshments’ so you can really make the most of this special moment on your Explorers Way journey.

Take a walk or ride around Uluru, follow the Walpa Gorge Walk (2.6km return) to admire the shapes of the domes of Kata Tjuta, and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife in the desert.

**Accommodation**

- **Ayers Rock Resort** offers a range of accommodation options from camping to four-star apartments or stay in luxury at **Longitude 131°**

**DAY EIGHT**

**Uluru to Kings Canyon**

Leave Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and drive 300 km back along the Lasseter Highway and Luritja Highway to reach Watarrka National Park/Kings Canyon. This majestic destination features 100 metre-high sandstone walls, walking trails and views that will leave you speechless.

**DAY NINE**

**Kings Canyon/Watarrka National Park**

For an unforgettable view of Kings Canyon, rise before dawn and follow the 6 km trail along the Kings Canyon Rim Walk. There are other smaller walks on offer so make the most of your time here and explore as much as possible.

**Food and drink**

- Aninti Café at the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre, Yulara town square
- supermarket to stock up on all your needs,
  - Curtin Springs Station,
  - Kings Canyon Resort
  - Kings Creek Station

**Tours and activities**

- Free ranger-guided activities, Uluru Camel Tours, Maruku Arts, Curtin Springs walks, Kings Canyon scenic helicopter tours, Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience & Tours
DAY TEN
Kings Canyon to Alice Springs
Once you get back on the road, head to the NT’s second largest town, Alice Springs. If travelling by four-wheel drive, take the Mereenie Loop, or travel along the sealed Luritja and Lasseter Highways, before turning north onto the Stuart Highway towards Alice Springs.

DAY ELEVEN
West MacDonnell Ranges and Glen Helen
The West MacDonnell Ranges are an easy day trip from Alice Springs along a sealed road. There are many stops along the way to enjoy. Walk along the trail at Simpsons Gap or stand between the sheer walls of Standley Chasm. To cool off why not enjoy a swim at Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge, Glen Helen Gorge or Redbank Gorge.

Food and drink
Eldunda Roadhouse
Accommodation
Alice Springs accommodation

DAY TWELVE
Alice Springs to Tennant Creek
On your journey from Alice Springs to Tennant Creek, take the time to stop at Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles, a sacred site to the Warumungu people. These massive ancient granite boulders are strewn across a wide shallow valley, and continue to crack and change.

DAY THIRTEEN
Tennt Creek to Daly Waters
As you travel further north, you will notice how the environment around you is changing. The Daly Waters Historic Pub is a popular place to stay overnight that offers backpacker, hotel or cabin rooms. The pub and grounds are crammed with memorabilia that reveal the pub’s colourful history and who has passed through its doors. Set up camp for the night and make the most of this notoriously characteristic pub.

Food and drink
Sporties Steak and Grill, Mataranka Homestead

DAY FOURTEEN
Daly Waters to Katherine
As you make your way towards Katherine, take a break from driving and enjoy a rejuvenating swim in the Mataranka Thermal Pool. Fed by spring water in the Daly and Georgina basins, it is surrounded by a palm forest and its waters are a constant 34 degrees celsius. Katherine is the NT’s fourth largest town, and a perfect base to check out the nearby gorge country. Why not explore the vast Nitmiluk National Park’s thirteen gorges via a helicopter joy flight, canoe or join a guided boat cruise. For more information about what to do around this area see the Kakadu and Katherine Nature’s Way itinerary.
DAY FIFTEEN

Katherine and surrounds
Spend the day in Katherine and take in the beautiful surroundings of Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge with plenty of activities on offer; visit the hot springs within the township of Katherine and take the option of squeezing in a visit to Leliyn (Edith Falls).

DAY SIXTEEN

Katherine to Litchfield
Litchfield National Park is only a 90-minute drive from Darwin. Its unspoilt beauty makes the natural water playground a popular spot with day trippers who come from the city for a dip at Florence Falls, Buley Rockhole and Wangi Falls. Walking tracks, camping facilities and 2WD and 4WD accessible tracks means there is an adventure to suit everyone. For more information check out the Litchfield itinerary.

Food and drink
Finch Café, Nitmiluk Café, Pop Rocket Café – Katherine Hot Springs, Emerald Springs, Lazy Lizard

Optional add-on

Extra nights
To really make the most of this drive, we highly recommend adding on extra nights in locations such as Alice Springs, Kings Canyon, Uluru, Tennant Creek and Katherine. You will be able to make the most of this iconic road trip and your ‘driving arm’ will thank you!

Accommodation
Nitmiluk Caravan Park, Knotts Crossing Resort, Katherine Holiday Park, Litchfield Safari Camp

Tours and activities
Marksie’s Stockman’s Tucker Night, Katherine scenic flights, Cutta Cutta Caves, Top Didj Cultural Experience, Litchfield National Park, Helicopter Flights

DAY SEVENTEEN

Litchfield to Darwin
You have made it! You are officially an ‘explorer’. Take your first glimpse of the Timor Sea as you come into Darwin, Australia’s northern-most capital city. You will find yourself in a contemporary multicultural metropolis of open-air markets, festivals, Asian influenced cuisine, and an outdoor lifestyle.

Park passes are required for both Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks. You can purchase your park passes online here.