



# 3 days in Tennant Creek & Barkly Region



TC8 Gold Mine  
Tourism NT/Karl-Heinz Herzog



Giant granite boulders at Karlu Karlu  
Tourism NT

Discover the Explorers Way and head to Australia's heart of gold, Tennant Creek. Here visitors will discover a town rich in history and culture with lots to explore.

During three days you'll be able to meet local Aboriginal artists and learn about their craft, follow the course of the Overland Telegraph Line to the ancient rock formations of the Devils Marbles, and perhaps spot a UFO!

## DAY ONE

### Selfie stop at the Tropic of Capricorn Marker

Starting in Alice Springs, rise early and pack your vehicle ready to embark on your great Central Australian adventure. Travelling north, today's first stopover is the Tropic of Capricorn, just 30 kilometres north of Alice Springs on the **Explorers Way**, one of Australia's most exciting road trips. Be sure to get a photo taken next to the unique marker which was designed by a local Alice Springs man to mark Australia's Bicentenary.

### Journey to the centre of Australia

Back on the road again, take in the beautiful desert scenery as you travel north. Approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes later you'll come to your next travel break, the **Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve**. Stop a while and stretch your legs – you're standing in the dead centre of Australia! Visit the historical reserve that commemorates John McDouall Stuart's journey through the Centre of Australia.

### Hear tales of the extraterrestrial

Continue on to Wycliffe Well, a unique outback town well worth a pit stop.

Known as the UFO capital of Australia for its hundreds of reported UFO sightings - look to the skies to see if you can spot anything unusual. Hang out in the roadhouse and enjoy some refreshments as you read about the details of paranormal sightings across the shop walls and from the Wycliffe Well guest book, where many visitors document their encounters. It's the perfect place to pick up a souvenir or two.

### Check-in to the Devils Marbles Hotel

Drive on to the **Devils Marbles Hotel**, where you will stay tonight. Chill out this afternoon at the hotel beer garden or cool off with a dip in the swimming pool. The Devils Marbles Hotel offers a variety of accommodation options from motel style rooms to caravan and campsites.

### Bask in the sunset glow over the Devils Marbles

Just before sun down tonight make your way to the **Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve** to witness a spectacular Central Australian sunset over the mysterious giant boulders. These ancient rock formations seem to have dropped from the skies, appearing to defy gravity. They hold great significance for the Aboriginal people and are the subject of many Dreamtime stories.



Karlu Karlu at sunset  
Tourism NT/Yuri Kardashyan



Telegraph Station  
Tourism NT/Karl-Heinz Herzog

## Relax with dinner and a night cap

Head back to the Devils Marbles Hotel tonight to enjoy a meal at their restaurant. Be sure to check out their wine cellar and indulge in a night cap before bed.

## DAY TWO

### Hit the road for Tennant Creek

Enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast before you hit the road again. **Tennant Creek** is just over an hour's drive away. Tennant Creek has a rich gold mining and cattle droving history and has been shaped by its strong Aboriginal culture. It's a town that truly represents the real outback Australia. Apart from there being lots to learn about the Central Australian town, there is also plenty to see and do.

### Step back in time to the gold rush

If you're feeling lucky, **Battery Hill Mining Centre** is the place you want to go, where you can noodle for your own gold. Learn about the outback gold rush of the 1930's and get a glimpse of what it was like living in Tennant Creek during this era.

Check out the world-class minerals display and the museum display 'Freedom, Fortitude and Flies', which looks at social life at the goldfields throughout that time. Join an underground mining tour where you'll get to see the machinery in action, as well as the Gold Stamp Battery, which has been fully restored and operates during tours. You can also check out the Borella Exhibit and learn the story of Albert Borella, the NT's only Victoria Cross recipient.

### Lunch by the lake

Relax with lunch today at the popular man-made lake, **Tingkarli/Lake Mary Ann**. This spot is a cool oasis five-kilometres north of Tennant Creek and provides a great area for swimming or canoeing. If you're feeling active, check out one of the walking paths around the lake, one of which winds its way through the beautiful Honeymoon Ranges.

### Take a drive to the historical Telegraph Station

Drop into one of the local bakeries or cafés for breakfast before making your way to the **Tennant Creek Telegraph Station**. The historic building played a significant role in the late 1800's when the Overland Telegraph Line was being constructed, and provided a refuge for linesman and travellers alike from the

harsh surrounds. If you want to explore inside the historic buildings make sure you ask for the key from the Battery Hill Mining Centre.

## Take your pick for tonight's rest and dinner

Check into your **accommodation** and wind down for the evening. There are plenty of accommodation options to pick from, including motel style rooms, cabins and caravan parks.

For dinner there's plenty of options, including tasty Asian menus, pizzas, meet up with locals at the Sporties or Memo Clubs, or cook up a BBQ under the stars.

## DAY THREE

### Engross yourself in local Aboriginal art and culture

Immerse yourself in local Aboriginal art and culture today with a visit to the **Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre**. Here you can learn all about bush tucker and traditional medicines, as well as Aboriginal life and history in the Tennant Creek region. One of the main highlights is the audio tour which will take you through arid zone gardens, interpreting plants and landscapes through Aboriginal eyes.

As you wind up your tour, relax with morning tea at the on-site café, which is well known for its great food and coffee. Check out local arts, crafts and other souvenirs for sale in the retail area and take a piece of Central Australia home.

### Wander around The Pebbles

Visit the sacred women's dancing site at **The Pebbles**, a granite rock formation just north of Tennant Creek, where dancing and healing rites of the Munga Munga Dreaming take place. It's known as 'Kunjarra' to the Warumungu people.

### Take in some history

As you head north on your Explorers Way adventure, stop in at the **Attack Creek Historical Reserve**, 75km north of Tennant Creek, where a stone cairn memorial marks the most northerly site of John McDouall Stuart's expedition in June 1860. The etchings tell the saga of Stuart's journey with his companions William Kekwick and Benjamin Head, who reached this point and were forced to turn around.