

HISTORY

Alice Springs was first established as a repeater station for the Overland Telegraph Line with a small settlement nearby, then known as Stuart. In 1933 the settlement was renamed Alice Springs and has been an integral part of opening the interior of Australia for the gold mining, pastoral and tourism industries. Dotted around town are numerous sites of significance marking the region's rich settler history.





ALICE SPRINGS TELEGRAPH STATION

Situated 4km north of the town centre, the Telegraph Station was established in 1871 to relay messages between Darwin and Adelaide along the Overland Telegraph Line, giving birth to the township of Alice Springs. You can join one of their tours that run at 9:30am and 11:30am daily (April to November only). You can also enjoy light meals and refreshments at the Trail Station Café or enjoy a picnic in the reserve.

Located: Herbert Heritage Drive



STUART TOWN GAOL

The Stuart Town Gaol started construction in 1907 by local builders using materials sourced from the district. It was designed to replace a facility that stood south of Heavitree Gap which was prone to flooding when the Todd River flowed. Construction of the building was complete in 1909 and served as the towns gaol until 1938, when it was replaced by the Stuart Terrace facility. Today it houses memorabilia and stories relating to police and prisoner history. The site is open to the public via keys that are collected from the Hartley Street School (see number 5).

Located: 8 Parsons Street

3 ADELAIDE HOUSE

Designed by Reverend John Flynn and built in 1926, Adelaide House was the first hospital in Alice Springs. The building is a two-story structure designed for hot inland climates featuring thick stone walls, wide verandahs, a ventilated roof, and an innovative ducted ventilation system. The house is now a simple museum run by volunteers.

Located: 48 Todd Street



THE RESIDENCY

Since its construction in 1928. The Residency has become a tangible symbol of the brief independence and Vice-Regal power Central Australia had from North Australia in Northern Territory history. The building shows a unique design to combat Central Australian heat with its central masonry core and surrounding verandah. It has housed or accommodated several important historical figures; most notably Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh stayed there in March 1963.

Located: Corner of Parsons and Hartley Streets

5 HARTLEY STREET SCHOOL

The original building of the school was constructed in 1929 to cater for the increasing population of the important railway terminal town. In 1945 a new kindergarten and classroom were designed with wooden floors and a distinctive octagonal shape. The School of the Air started teaching students on 20 September 1950 when the first broadcast was made from a small studio within the school. This school is now open to the public as a museum.

Located: 39 Hartley Street

6 ANZAC HILL

The Anzac Hill Memorial was unveiled on Anzac Day 1934 and was originally dedicated to all those of the armed forces who had paid the supreme sacrifice during World War I. It has since become a memorial to all those who have served in the defence of their country during all wars in which Australia has participated. The lookout is bordered with informative signs on these wars. It is the ideal spot for a panoramic view of Alice Springs and the surrounding ranges and is popular for sunset and sunrise.

•••••

Located: Anzac Hill Road





WOMEN'S MUSEUM OF **AUSTRALIA & OLD GAOL**

Built in 1938 to replace the Stuart Town Gaol on Parsons Street, the building still contains many of its original features including high perimeter walls and cells in which inmates occupied. The site is now the home of the Women's Museum of Australia which was founded in 1993 by Molly Clark from Old Andado Station. The Women's Museum celebrates the achievements of women in Australian History, highlighting the courage, determination and perseverance of ordinary women who achieved extraordinary things.

Located: 2 Stuart Terrace



8 ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE TOURIST FACILITY

Visit the original Alice Springs working base that began operating in 1939. This attraction offers many interactive activities throughout the museum including; the John Flynn hologram presentation, telling his story of the birth and growth of the RFDS (Royal Flying Doctor Service). Or the heroic tales of pilots, doctors, and nurses, reliving the experiences of either the patient or the pilot with Virtual Reality. You can also enjoy a relaxing meal and coffee in the Base Café located in the heritage listed homestead next door.

Located: 8/10 Stuart Terrace

OLIVE PINK BOTANIC

Founded in 1956 by artist, anthropologist and Aboriginal rights campaigner Miss Olive Pink, the Olive Pink Botanic Garden boasts over 500 Central Australian plant species. Walk though Australia's only arid zone botanic garden along trails to see native flora as well as fauna such as rock wallabies and bowerbirds. You can also enjoy a coffee at the Bean Tree café. The Garden also includes Tharrarltneme (Annie Meyers Hill), a sacred site for the local Arrernte people.

Located: 27 Tuncks Road



10 JOHN FLYNN'S GRAVE

The John Flynn's Memorial Reserve, erected in 1953 and located on a low hill at the foot of Mt Gillen, is the resting place for the ashes of Reverend John Flynn, founder of the Australian Inland Mission later becoming the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Flynn provided a 'mantle of safety' by giving spiritual and medical aid to the people of inland Australia.

Located: Larapinta Drive, 7km west of Alice Springs CBD





Road conditions and access to parks in the Northern Territory (NT) can change at short notice. Always check the road conditions before you leave. General road conditions can be accessed at roadreport.nt.gov.au/. For specific information on national park access, please visit nt.gov.au/parks.





