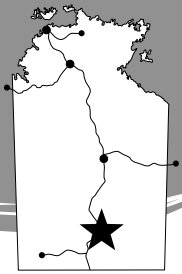


Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve



Fact Sheet

The Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve marks the original site of the first European settlement in Alice Springs. Established in 1872 to relay messages between Darwin and Adelaide, it is the best preserved of the twelve stations along the Overland Telegraph Line. The site was first recorded by surveyor William Mills in March 1871, who was in search of a suitable route for the Overland Telegraph Line through the MacDonnell Ranges. Construction of the Telegraph Station began in November 1871.

The township of Alice Springs obtained its name from the waterhole a short distance to the east of the Station buildings.

The Telegraph Station operated for 60 years, after which time the buildings served as a school and 'the Bungalow' for Aboriginal children. During WWII parts of the Station were used by the Army.

The Station was protected as a Historical Reserve in 1963, and a number of stone buildings have now been restored. These buildings house furnishings and artefacts from the early 1900s and are preserved as a historic interpretive display.

Access

By vehicle, the Reserve is situated 4 km north of Alice Springs along Herbert Heritage Drive off the Stuart Highway. Alternatively, there is a walking and cycling track into the Reserve from the Stuart Highway via Schwarz Crescent,

and another along the west bank of the Todd River (Riverside Walk).

An entry fee, which includes a self-guided tour map, is payable for access to the buildings in the Historical Precinct (free for locals). Access to the remainder of the Reserve is free.


When to visit


The Reserve is accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to October) are the most pleasant.


The Reserve is open between 8am and 9pm every day of the year.


The Historical Precinct is open 9am - 5pm every day except Christmas Day.

What to do

 **Picnicking** - The shaded lawns make a popular venue for picnics and barbecues. Free electric barbecues are provided.

 **Walking** - The Telegraph Station is a leisurely 4 km walk or cycle from the Todd Mall, along the Todd River. Alternatively a number of short marked walking tracks traverse the hill country within the Reserve.

 Section 1 of the **Larapinta Trail** to Simpsons Gap starts here. This is a challenging long distance walk and requires careful planning and preparation. For detailed information visit the Parks and Wildlife website or contact Tourism Central Australia.

 **Cycling** - The Alice Springs Mountain Bike Trails offer four interlinked singletracks, suitable for beginner and intermediate level cyclists. Trails

Safety and Comfort


- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat (or helmet if cycling), sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Use the gas barbecues provided and fuel stoves where possible.
- Put your rubbish in the bins provided or take it with you.
- Pets are permitted on a leash in the car park only.

are shared use with pedestrians. Be prepared with water, sunscreen and a mountain bike in good condition. Bikes can also access a 2.7 km section of the Larapinta Trail. For more details on the trails and how to hire bikes, call the Telegraph Station kiosk on (08) 8952 3993.

The Riverside walk and the track along Herbert Heritage Drive are also shared walk/cycle paths (see map). Bikes are not permitted on any other walking tracks.

 **Camping** is not permitted in the Reserve.

Larapinta Trail walkers should leave details of their walk plan with a reliable person including their intended time of return. Also carry a satellite phone or personal locator beacon.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

ASTS Ranger Station
Ph: (08) 8952 1013
Fax: (08) 8952 1555
www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au

Head Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 8250 Fax: (08) 8951 8290



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