

TRAVEL NOTES - THE OLD ANDADO TRACK



The Old Andado Track is an attractive alternative route south from Alice Springs to Oodnadatta. It starts via Alice Springs airport, heads south east to the Santa Theresa Community (no access) and then continues south down the western fringes of the Simpson Desert.



You can then follow the Oodnadatta Track to Marree and thence via the Flinders ranges to Port Augusta and Adelaide, or head west via the Painted Desert to Cadney Park Roadhouse and Coober Pedy on the Stuart Highway.

From Alice Springs it's a sandy/gravel track via Oodnadatta to Cadney Park, or via Marree as far as Lyndhurst on the Oodnadatta Track.

We've done this track twice now, it takes 2 or 3 days, 4 or 5 if you dally around a bit as we've done, and it's more interesting than the boring bitumen.

The travelling is quite easy over sandy tracks and between big red sand dunes but avoid wet weather, it's quite remote and traffic is infrequent.

Places of interest include:

- **Mac Clark's Acacia Peuce Reserve** which preserves some of the few remaining stands of tough, prickly but rare Waddi trees, (Mac Clark was Station Owner at Old Andado).

- **Old Andado Station**, now a historical homestead kept in its original state, with basic camping and facilities on an honour basis.



- **Mt Dare Roadhouse**, a camping and supply point at the western end of the Simpson Desert crossing.

- **Dalhousie Springs**, a large geothermal lake, 100m long with water at 38° all the year round, great for a warm swim in the middle of winter (until you get out), and a good camp ground (fees payable to the host).

- **Dalhousie Homestead ruins** (if the track south is navigable) or **Eringa Water Hole** to the west if not.

- **Oodnadatta** township for supplies and a hamburger at the Pink Roadhouse.

- **The Painted Desert** and camping at [Arckaringa Station](#) if heading west. *Cont...*

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- The **Oodnadatta Track** and all the Old Ghan line railway relics and overland telegraph stations if heading south.

- Take a detour out to **Old Peake Telegraph Station** 16km east of the track, interesting history and good camping.



- A 60km trip out to **Halligan Bay** on Lake Eyre is an experience, and a more desolate spot it's hard to imagine: *"With bitter feelings of disappointment I turned from the dreary and cheerless scene around me"* wrote Edward John Eyre in 1840. Not much has changed in 174 years.

- There's a sobering memorial to Swiss tourist Caroline Grossmueller along the way who died of thirst on this track in 1998.

- **William Creek Hotel** is a compulsory stop for a drink at the bar. We met a local nearby...



A Kultarr, also known as the Jerboa Pouched-mouse

- **Maree** is now a sad former railway town, but a supply point at the southern end of the Birdsville Track.

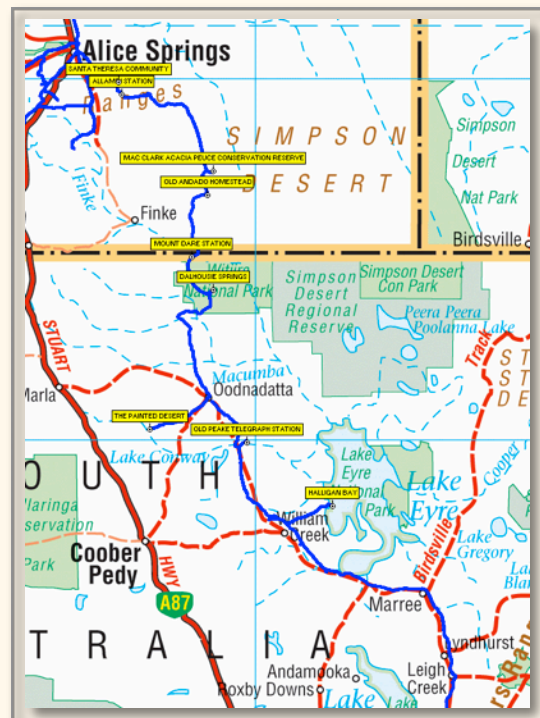
- Stop for a look around **Farina** (Latin for flour), an abandoned township in a former wheat growing area (in the desert??) which is being slowly renovated. Stay in the bush campground with a large green grassy area but a small fee.

There are plenty of other good camping spots along the Oodnadatta Track, under Old Ghan bridges or at railway sidings.



Camping used to be allowed at Lake Eyre South but it's discouraged now, they've ploughed up all the tracks.

Don't expect to find reliable water supplies in this part of South Australia, it's a very dry area, even roadhouses might not have any to spare. Fuel and other supplies are available at Mt Dare, Oodnadatta and then Maree.



The total distance from Alice Springs to Adelaide was nearly 2000km, about 400km longer than the bitumen route but a lot more interesting.

We have some blog sites on our Old Andado treks [here](#) and [here](#).

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