



Desert FESTIVAL

MPARNTWE • ALICE SPRINGS
27-29 SEPT 2024

Access Guide

Created by



Access
2Arts



Making disability and art work

What is an access guide?

In this guide we will show you what to expect when you come to Desert Festival in the Olive Pink Botanical Gardens.

We provide access information about step-free paths, sensory sensitivities and facilities as well as an overview of the event.

This guide was created by Access2Arts in collaboration with Red Hot Arts.

More information about the event can be found at <https://www.desfest.com/>

For any enquiries or feedback regarding the festival's accessibility, please contact us on festivals@redhotarts.com.au or 08 8952 2392



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Thank you

What is Desert Festival?

Desert Festival (AKA Desfest) is Red Hot Arts' annual signature event; a multi-arts festival held each September showcasing local and regional content to celebrate arts, culture and community. It is the only local event that provides a multi-disciplinary platform for Central Australian artists from diverse cultural backgrounds across all artforms.

Through collaboration and partnerships, we are able to maximise community connection to the arts, support incubation of new works, promote artists and artistic opportunities and co-ordinate professional development opportunities for the local arts sector.



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Before the event



Buying Tickets

Tickets are available online at <https://www.desfest.com/program2024/>

Reduced – Our reduced price is available to anyone who may face financial barriers attending the arts, such as concession card holders, youth, those in insecure employment. We will not ask to see proof at the time of purchase or at the venue.

BLAKTIX for First Nations – This special price is to increase access and opportunity for First Nations attendees, on whose unceded land we hold this event.

Disability Complimentary Companion Card – If you are selecting this complimentary ticket, please ensure you have your Government issued Companion Card on arrival.

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Pre-show information

This Guide will give you information on what to expect at the Desert Festival Hub at Olive Pink Botanical Garden.

There is lots of information on the Desert Festival Website <https://www.desfest.com/> including about the festival and the artists.

You can also check out the program of events on the website at <https://www.desfest.com/program2024/>



Getting to the event



Parking

An accessible parking and drop-off zone is located at the Festival Site at the end of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden driveway.

There is limited other parking on-site and we recommend on-street parking along Barrett Drive to ensure there is footpath access to the site.

Please note that Tuncks Road does not have a footpath and access will be via the roadway.



Cycling

There are a number of places in town that you can hire a bike from for the duration of the festival, including e-bikes. Bike parking is available at the festival site, please bring your own bike lock.

Walking

The gardens sit adjacent to the Todd River, a 15 minute walk from the CBD.

Public Transport

There is a bus services available in Mparntwe and number 200 services Eastside and Sadadeen which stops a short walk to the OPBG. See here for all timetables and routes here: <https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/public-buses/alice-springs-timetables-and-maps>



Festival Venue



Olive Pink Botanic Garden

The main festival hub is Olive Pink Botanic Garden. It is mainly outdoors with some shelters and one indoor space.

The gardens sit adjacent to the Todd River just outside of the CBD.

Olive Pink Botanic Garden is Australia's only arid zone botanic garden and was established by Miss Olive Pink in the 1950s.



Map



The site

The site is large, and it can take some time and energy to get from the road to the festival site. We recommend you plan your visit with this in mind.

If walking distances if difficult for you, it would be best to be dropped off in the accessible drop-off zone.

There will be bars, food vans and performances across the outdoor space.

There are details in the pages following about accessibility for people with asthma, details on the paths and surfaces, sensory information, and other facilities.

<https://northernterritory.com/us/en/alice-springs-and-surrounds/see-and-do/olive-pink-botanic-garden>



Image: xx

Wheelchair and step-free access

Most of the festival site is wheelchair-accessible, but there may be some areas that are difficult to navigate, especially for manual wheelchairs.

Some areas of the festival site are uneven and pathways, stages and some spaces can become crowded. There are some lips and small steps between surfaces.

There is limited accessibility to the indoor video installation please see Desert Festival staff for assistance.



Ground Surfaces

Much of the surface is firmly packed earth, paving or concrete, and there are some lips or small steps between surfaces.

There are some areas with small hills or slopes.

During busy periods, and after rain the ground can become muddy.

During dry periods it can be very dusty.



Paths and lighting

All paths are marked on the map.

The path from the road entrance to the festival site will be marked with festoon lighting (as pictured) and is on firmly packed dirt, clearly bordered by vegetation.

Most paths are on firm surfaces, but may transition between surfaces.

At night the site can be quite dark in areas that are not busy, but there will be lights where the food, bars, toilets and other amenities are, as well as lights for the path and across the park.



Image: xxxx

Asthma

The site may be dusty. Anyone who suffers from asthma should consider wearing a mask and bring the specific medication they need.

Sun safety

As this is an outdoor event, we recommend ensuring you are sun safe, including wearing sunscreen, hats and appropriate clothing.

Smoking

Smoking is strictly prohibited outside of the designated smoking area including e-cigarettes and vapes.





Sensory information

Desert Festival may be an overwhelming experience for some people. There is a lot of loud music, many people, and a variety of smells and textures.

There are quieter areas at various times, especially when there is no music playing and further away from the paths.

There will also be a lower sensory chill out space available if you need to take some time out.

As long as you have your ticket, you can enter and exit as you need, but you must see staff.

Amenities

A photograph of a woman and a child looking at a woven basket on a metal structure at night. The woman is wearing a dark top and a backpack, and the child is wearing a dark top. The scene is illuminated by warm, orange light, with a blue light source in the background. The basket is made of woven material and is hanging from the structure. The woman is pointing at the basket, and the child is looking up at it. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

Facilities

Toilets

Accessible bathrooms are located within the main bathrooms behind the main building. The Accessible bathroom doorways are 75cm wide.

An accessible portable toilets is available as marked on the map.

First Aid

If you require immediate first aid, please let a staff member know.

Parenting Facilities

Change table facilities are available in the main bathrooms.

Quiet Space

A quiet space has been designated further away from the busy event spaces if you require a lower sensory space.



Food and Drink

If you would like to buy food and drink on site, there are a range of food vendors catering to many different dietary needs.

The bar will be located in the shelter close to the main building and will serve a range of beverages.

The bar will have an accessible service area.

Stages and seating

The main stage will be located in the festival outdoor space.

There will be a raised stage along with some ground level performance space.

A range of flexible seating will be available.

The performance of Timepiece will take place in another area of the Festival Site.

This area is surrounded by a low wall. Some people may sit on the low wall, and there will be some other seating available as well as wheelchair viewing spaces.



Staff and Volunteers

Staff and volunteers can help you with any questions you have at the festival.

Some are walking around the site, some are stationed at different activities, and there are always staff close to the Box Offices.

Many staff and volunteers have completed an Access2Arts Disability Access and Inclusion training.



Thank you!

We hope you have a great time at Desert Festival.

If you have questions, please contact us on festivals@redhotarts.com.au or (08) 8952 2392

If you have feedback on this Access Guide, please let Access2Arts know via hello@access2arts.org.au or by calling (08) 8463 1689.

