

# BEYOND THE ALICE

## THE GHAN

DEPARTURE WEDNESDAY

An ancient land with ancient stories. Explore the rich and diverse history of Australia's red heart, hear the traditional stories of the local Pitjantjatjara people, walk the paths generations of Aboriginal ancestors have travelled, and discover the spiritual significance of Uluru. You'll see caves and ancient rock paintings, unforgettable sunrises and natural wonders, and create memories that resonate long after your journey ends.

### INCLUSIONS

- 2 days/1 night aboard The Ghan, Darwin to Alice Springs, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Excursion in Katherine
- Transfer from Alice Springs Rail Terminal to Hotel
- 2 nights accommodation in Alice Springs in dormitory shared facilities
- 3 days/2 nights Red Centre Adventure including dormitory shared facilities accommodation and small group guided touring
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a guided walk to Mutitjulu Waterhole
- Visit the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre
- Watch the changing colours of Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- Walk to the Valley of the Winds and Karu Lookout
- Visit a local cattle property, Curtin Springs Station
- Hike to the top of the Kings Canyon rim
- See Kings Creek Station, a working cattle station

### DAY 1 BOARD THE GHAN IN DARWIN

Settle in to the comforts of The Ghan, relax in your cabin or mingle with fellow travellers in the Outback Explorer Lounge. Enjoy lunch ahead of your Off Train Excursion in Katherine. In a region renowned for jaw-dropping natural assets, Katherine boasts one of the Top End's best – the incredible Nitmiluk Gorge.

OVERNIGHT: The Ghan (L,D)

### DAY 2 THE GHAN, ALICE SPRINGS

Arrive into Alice Springs after breakfast and transfer to your accommodation. Enjoy time exploring this famous remote town or relax before tomorrow's early start.

OVERNIGHT: YHA Alice Springs (B)

### DAY 3 ALICE SPRINGS TO ULURU

Daybreak, and your tour heads south through the MacDonnell and James Ranges. First stop: a camel farm. Here you will discover the history of the Afghan Cameleers, and experience a camel ride first-hand (optional at own expense). Continuing to Ayers Rock Resort, the road trip features so much natural beauty that you'll appreciate the regular stops along the way. On arrival into Ayers Rock Resort, you'll head out to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, where the powerful presence of Uluru is before you. Along the way, you'll view ancient rock art, discover more Aboriginal and European history, and then finish the day relaxing with a glass of sparkling wine, watching the rock change colour as the sun dips below the western horizon.

OVERNIGHT: Outback Pioneer Lodge (D)

### DAY 4 ULURU TO KINGS CANYON

An early start is rewarded with an extraordinary sunrise, as you make your way to an ideal viewing spot to see the first rays of sun as they set the Red Centre alight. After this delightful start you'll walk to the Valley of the Winds, heading first to the Karu Lookout and its sweeping views across the domes of Kata Tjuta, and out into the sacred Anangu men's area. Next stop is the Karingana Lookout, well worth the effort as it takes you through trickling creek beds to a timeless haven within the domes. Here you'll find a photographer's dream, with breathtaking views in every direction. Depart Ayers Rock Resort in the late morning and travel to a local cattle property, Curtin Springs Station. Continue to Kings Canyon Resort.

OVERNIGHT: Kings Canyon Lodge (B,L,D)

## **DAY 5                                      KINGS CANYON TO ALICE SPRINGS**

A bright and early morning hike will see you head into Kings Canyon and up to the top of the Kings Canyon rim. A once-in-a-lifetime experience, the six-kilometre trail takes you up a 100 metre cliff face with breathtaking views of sandstone walls, grottos, chasms and cliffs. The experience takes roughly three hours and is well worth the effort – but you may prefer to explore the boulder-strewn creek bed instead, an easier shady walk following the trail between the two sheer walls of the canyon. After accomplishing the hike, it is time to sit back and admire the scenery as you head back to Alice Springs.

OVERNIGHT: YHA Alice Springs (B,L)

## **DAY 6                                      FAREWELL**

Your Alice Springs adventure concludes today after checking out of your accommodation. (B)