

RED CENTRE SECRETS

THE GHAN

DEPARTURE WEDNESDAY

The rail journey from Darwin to Alice transports you to a sacred and spiritual landscape unlike any other on the planet. Home to staggering natural wonders and rich in history, your unique itinerary will see you experience the impressive landforms of the Red Centre, learn the Dreamtime stories of the local Aboriginal people, and marvel at the changing colours of Uluru as the sun sets.

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
- 3 nights accommodation in Alice Springs including breakfast daily
- 4 days/3 nights Kata Tjuta, Uluru and Kings Canyon tour including accommodation and guided touring
- 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunrise and sunset at Uluru
- Explore the rock formations of Walpa Gorge
- See the beautiful Mutitjulu Waterhole
- Visit the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre
- Enjoy an Aussie barbecue under the stars
- Climb to the rim of Kings Canyon

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. While you're here, explore Alice's rich and diverse art scene and intriguing outback history. Why not get a head start on your time in Alice with a hike or climb through the chasms, craters and sacred Aboriginal sites of the MacDonnell Ranges? Such a range of activities in the outback playground to choose from.

OVERNIGHT: DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs (B,L)

DAY 3 ALICE SPRINGS TO KATA TJUTA

This morning you'll depart Alice Springs and travel south through the MacDonnell and James Ranges. You will visit a camel farm and marvel at the majestic Attila (Mount Conner) before arriving at Ayers Rock Resort. Enjoy the afternoon experiencing the natural wonders, unique flora and native wildlife of the area, as you travel to the mystical 36 domes of Kata Tjuta. An unforgettable day fades to dusk as you enjoy a glass of sparkling wine under an equally sparkling outback sky.

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Voyages Sails in the Desert Hotel (B)

DAY 4 ULURU AND KATA TJUTA

Watch the glistening sunrise over Uluru as you begin day four of your adventure. Your connection with the environment continues as you explore Kata Tjuta and Walpa Gorge, uncovering its unusual rock formations, before touring the base

of Uluru. You'll see ancient rock art and get to know the rich Aboriginal and European history of the area. Watch as day turns to night with sunset over Uluru, finishing with an Aussie barbecue under the stars. (D)

DAY 5 **ULURU TO KINGS CANYON**

This morning take some time to relax in the Red Centre or explore the Resort. See artists at work, learn more about the region's history, geology, flora and fauna in the museum, enjoy the smells and sights of native gardens, or a bush yarn at the Circle of Sand. In the afternoon join your tour to Kings Canyon.

OVERNIGHT: Kings Canyon Lodge

DAY 6 **KINGS CANYON TO ALICE SPRINGS**

Today, experience the majestic views over the Watarrka National Park as you challenge your senses on a rim walk of Kings Canyon. But don't worry, if heights aren't for you there is an alternative (and easier) walk across the boulder-strewn canyon floor. Then it's a well-earned rest after you head back to Alice Springs.

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs

DAY 7 **LEISURE DAY**

Explore Alice Springs at your own pace. This small outback town is rich in history. Enjoy its many walking trails, which are well signed posted and provide insightful facts on the region. No trip to Alice is complete without experiencing a camel ride for yourself – these gracious animals and their Afghan handlers played a vital role in outback history, their service reflected in The Ghan's emblem. (B)

WE RECOMMEND

Camel Riding at Pyndan Camel Tracks \$79 per person.

For a true outback experience, hop aboard a camel for a relaxing ride through Wine Gums Station. Enjoy the one-of-a-kind perspective as you view the beautiful backdrop of the West MacDonnell Ranges.

DAY 8 **FAREWELL**

This morning your adventure to the Red Centre comes to an end. On checking out of your accommodation it's time for your onward journey home. (B)