

JOURNEY TO THE DREAMTIME

THE GHAN

DEPARTING WEDNESDAY

If your dream is to take the road less travelled, and uncover the spiritual and cultural significance of the Red Centre as you traverse its natural wonders, this is your ultimate experience. Explore the town of Alice Springs and its outback surrounds, before heading to Uluru and Kata Tjuta in an unforgettable desert journey of romance, depth, and discovery.

INCLUSIONS

- 2 days / 1 night aboard The Ghan, Darwin to Alice Springs, in Platinum Service including all meals, beverages and Off Train Excursion in Katherine
- 3 nights accommodation in Alice Springs including breakfast daily
- 3 nights accommodation at Longitude 131° including chef prepared meals, open bar, signature experiences and guided Uluru base walk
- 7 days car hire (intermediate SUV)
- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Share exclusive, authentic experiences with only a few other travellers
- Witness the sun setting on Uluru
- Experience Bruce Munro's internationally-acclaimed artwork, Field of Light
- Dine out and discover the wonders of the night sky at an exclusive venue among the desert dunes
- Visit the mystical domes of Kata Tjuta
- Learn about the history of the Mala people on a base walk of Uluru
- Discover Mutitjulu Waterhole and the sacred site of Kuniya Piti

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 Platinum Club or 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 where your holiday adventure begins. On arrival into the Red Centre, pick up your hire car at Alice Springs airport and prepare for a journey you'll never forget.

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Resort (B,L)

DAY 3 LEISURE DAY

There is much to see and do in and around Alice Springs. Head to the dramatic West MacDonnell Ranges framing the "capital of the outback" for a walk at scenic Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm, or perhaps visit Ormiston Gorge, stopping for afternoon tea at Ellery Creek – one of the Territory's favourite swimming waterholes. (B)

DAY 4 ALICE SPRINGS TO ULURU

The choice is yours, rise early or sleep in before hitting the road to Uluru. Travel at your own pace today, the drive from Alice Springs to Uluru is on completely sealed roads and takes approximately four and a half hours. Make your way to Longitude 131°, your luxury basecamp to explore the spiritual heart of Australia.

This evening, experience the changing colours reflected across Uluru as the sun slips below the horizon, chilled glass and canape in hand. There, you'll have the opportunity to see Bruce Munro's internationally-acclaimed art phenomenon,

Field of Light: created from 50,000 stems and crowned with radiant spheres, the interactive light installation blooms and appears to sway as darkness descends. Arrive at dusk and wander the field before enjoying the cool night skies at Table 131°.

Dine out and discover the wonders of the outback night sky at an exclusive venue among the dunes. Enjoy the sense of natural theatre over four courses complemented with fine Australian wines. Later, the Longitude 131° lodge guide will regale with tales of the southerly constellations.

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights Longitude 131° (B,D)

DAY 5 **ULURU AND KATA TJUTA**

Explore the impressive formation of Kata Tjuta on a walk through Walpa Gorge, and discover how eons of weathering and continental upheaval have created today's landscape. Then, visit the Cultural Centre for insight into the spiritual and cultural meanings of both Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

In the afternoon, join the lodge guide for a gentle walk along Uluru's base and learn about the history of the Mala people, viewing cave paintings and other sites important to both Anangu and the early explorers. Enter Kantju Gorge at dusk to witness the rock walls ablaze with the light of the setting sun, then revel in the silence and solitude with sunset drinks and canapes.

Dinner is at Dune House with its daily changing menu, featuring the flavours and textures of the bush for a uniquely local dining experience. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 **ULURU AND KATA TJUTA**

Discover peaceful Mutitjulu Waterhole and the sacred site of Kuniya Piti as the sun rises over the outback. Listen as the lodge guide shares the Anangu creation story of Kuniya and Liru, adding greater depth to Uluru's striking features.

Spend the remainder of your day indulging in the relaxing facilities of Longitude 131°, or explore more of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park at your own pace with your hire car. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 **ULURU TO ALICE SPRINGS**

Soak in the last morning rays at Uluru or Kata Tjuta before making your way back to Alice Springs. On the return drive, contemplate the last few days of intimate encounters with the region's iconic natural attractions, and the memories that will last a lifetime. Check in to your overnight accommodation.

OVERNIGHT: Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Resort (B)

DAY 8 **FAREWELL**

Take in any last minute sights this morning before returning your hire car and your road less travelled comes to an end. (B)