

TRAVELLING THROUGH COUNTRY

THE GHAN EXPEDITION

DEPARTING WEDNESDAY

The heart of the outback opens up before you, and your adventure aboard The Ghan Expedition from Darwin to Adelaide will leave you with memories that last long after the journey ends. From ocean to outback, South Australia showcases incredible natural diversity, and there's no better way to explore the multi-faceted state than with a handpicked itinerary through its coastal towns to the magnificent Flinders Ranges

INCLUSIONS

- 4 days / 3 nights aboard The Ghan Expedition, Darwin to Adelaide, in Platinum Service including all meals, beverages and Off Train Excursions in Katherine, Alice Springs and Coober Pedy
- 3 nights accommodation in Adelaide including breakfast daily
- 4 days / 3 nights Lake Eyre and Flinders Ranges private charter Eco Safari including accommodation and guided tours
- Scenic flight over awe-inspiring Lake Eyre and Wilpena Pound
- 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 5 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Stroll down the wooden jetty at Port Germein, a seaside town rich in maritime history
- Visit Mount Remarkable National Park surrounded by 600 million year old rock formations
- Bushwalk along the tree-lined creek bed
- Explore Quorn and the Old Ghan Railway Station
- Wander around deserted ghost towns
- Fly over Wilpena Pound, Brachina Gorge, and Lake Eyre
- Land at the remote outback town of William Creek for lunch
- Travel through Bunyerroo Gorge and the rugged creek beds of Brachina Gorge
- Bushwalk to an Aboriginal rock art site
- Wine tasting in renowned Clare Valley

DAY 1 BOARD THE GHAN EXPEDITION 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 first 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: 3 nights The Ghan (L,D)

DAY 2 THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ALICE SPRINGS

Your arrival into Alice Springs after breakfast provides you with time to explore the iconic town in the red heart of Australia. Prepare for a day of fascinating excursions and, in the evening, dine under a million stars. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 THE GHAN EXPEDITION, COOBER PEDY

When you next disembark in remote Manguri, you'll enjoy a full day exploring the amazing opal mining township of Coober Pedy. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ADELAIDE

After completing the famous north-south crossing of the interior you will arrive into Adelaide. There is a lot to explore in the renowned foodie capital, check in to your accommodation and spend the day exploring at your leisure.

OVERNIGHT: Mayfair Hotel

DAY 5 ADELAIDE TO FLINDERS RANGES

Today you will travel north along the eastern side of Spencer Gulf, stopping along the way at historical coastal towns. Learn about their rich maritime history, and take a stroll along the wooden jetty at Port Germein, a once-bustling port.

The backdrop for your gourmet picnic lunch will be Mount Remarkable National Park, where you will be surrounded by stunning 600-million-year old rock formations and an abundance of native wildlife. If you enjoy bushwalking, experience a one-hour guided walk along beautiful tree-lined creek beds, with spectacular views along the way.

Continue your journey across one of the oldest mountain ranges on earth, through the picturesque Pichi Richi Pass, and on to historic Quorn. With its typical outback buildings and the original Ghan Railway Station, the small town has been the setting for a number of iconic Australian films. Follow in the path of the early explorers and head to Warrens Gorge Conservation Park to search for the rare and elusive yellow-footed rock wallabies. Dramatic rock formations and outcrops harbour these endangered wallabies, with an estimate of only 8,000 living in the wild.

Sit back in the 4WD as you head along rough and dusty outback tracks through the deserted Willochra Plain, a place where eagles soar and emus run free. Along the way, you will have the chance to wander deserted ghost towns, a poignant reminder of the area's early history and the hardship faced by pioneers who survived temporarily, but ultimately gave way to the unforgiving desert conditions.

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights Rawnsley Park Station (B,L)

DAY 6 FLINDERS RANGES AND LAKE EYRE

Today, prepare for a flight you'll never forget. Your first breathtaking scene is the Flinders Ranges from above, as you head toward the awesome spectacle of Wilpena Pound and Brachina Gorge before tracking north to the fabled Lake Eyre. Fly over Parachilna, Leigh Creek and Lake Harry. After marvelling at the wonders of this mammoth inland salt lake in the middle of the desert, you will land at the outback town of William Creek (population: 4), and experience lunch at a remote pub where the locals gather.

Your return trip back to Wilpena Pound will see you fly over the Andamooka opal fields and Lake Torrens, and then cap off a magnificent day with a real Aussie barbeque around the campfire. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 BUNYEROO AND BRACHINA GORGES

This morning your expert guide will take you through the spectacular Bunyeroo Gorge, visiting secluded areas of great natural beauty. You will travel through the rugged creek beds of Brachina Gorge, an area with flourishing wildlife and with fascinating geology dating back millions of years.

The landscapes you see here are those that inspired world-renowned South Australian painter, Sir Hans Heysen. After a picnic lunch, immerse yourself in the ancient landscape, take that special photo, or simply soak up the most spectacular outback scenery Australia has to offer - the wealth of wildlife is a bonus. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 FLINDERS RANGES TO ADELAIDE

Join your guide on an hour-long bushwalk to an Aboriginal art site where the traditional custodians, the Adnyamathanha people, have left rock art depicting their ceremonies over thousands of years. Travel back along the eastern side of the mountains with spectacular red gum-lined creeks to Melrose, the oldest town in the Flinders Ranges.

South Australia is home to world-famous wine regions, and you will have a chance to see why with a stop in the famous Clare Valley. Sample one of the premium local wines before concluding your day back in Adelaide.

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Mayfair Hotel (B,L)

DAY 9 LEISURE DAY

Wake early this morning and discover the many treasures of Adelaide or perhaps sleep in and reminisce about the life-long memories of the Flinders Ranges from the last few days. (B)

DAY 10 **FAREWELL**

After exploring rugged South Australia, it's time to farewell your city accommodation and prepare for your onward journey home. (B)