

THE ULTIMATE TERRITORY TOUR

THE GHAN EXPEDITION

DARWIN TO ADELAIDE | DEPARTURE FRIDAY
(APRIL TO OCTOBER)

**Friday departures also available April to October
with Darwin arrangements in different order*

If your dream is to see the best of the Australian outback and immerse yourself in the heart of it with hands-on experiences, this is your ultimate holiday. It doesn't come any better than touring Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks, travelling on The Ghan Expedition, cruising Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge and exploring Uluru and Kata Tjuta, all in one sensational journey through the nation's heartland.

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night accommodation in Darwin including breakfast
- 2-night intimate small-group Kakadu, East Alligator River and Litchfield tour with Outback Spirit Tours, travelling onboard a state-of-the-art 4WD Mercedes-Benz vehicle, including accommodation and guided touring
- 2 nights' accommodation in Darwin including breakfast daily
- Darwin Harbour Sunset Dinner Cruise
- Transfer from hotel to Darwin Rail Terminal
- 1 night aboard The Ghan Expedition Darwin to Alice Springs, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Katherine and Alice Springs
- Transfer from Alice Springs Rail Terminal to hotel
- 1 night accommodation in Alice Springs including breakfast
- 5-night intimate small-group Red Centre touring with Outback Spirit Tours, travelling on board a state-of-the-art 4WD Mercedes-Benz vehicle, including accommodation, guided touring and meals
- 1 night accommodation in Alice Springs including breakfast
- Transfer from hotel to Alice Springs Rail Terminal
- 2 nights aboard The Ghan Expedition Alice Springs to Adelaide, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experience in Coober Pedy
- 15 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 11 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Take in the sparkling waters of Darwin Harbour over a delicious dinner of local seafood and produce

- Cruise on the Mary River spotting wildlife, including saltwater crocodiles and an abundance of birdlife
- Visit the Ubirr art site within Kakadu National Park, home to some of the world's most outstanding rock art
- Swim in a waterfall at Litchfield National Park
- Dine under the stars at the 'Sounds of Silence' dining experience
- Explore the rock formations of Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) and Walpa Gorge
- Admire the internationally acclaimed 'Field of Light' display at Uluru and watch as it illuminates the desert night

**Itinerary subject to change during the wet season (April)*

DAY 1 – DARWIN

You've arrived in Darwin – it's yours to explore. Spend the day at your leisure before checking in to your accommodation.

OVERNIGHT: 1 night Hilton Darwin

DAY 2 – DARWIN TO KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Today your touring with Outback Spirit Commences. Depart Darwin heading towards Kakadu National Park. Much of the route is along the Arnhem highway, passing the productive region of Humpty Doo, where a vast array of tropical fruits is grown, and crossing the Adelaide River, with its vast wetlands, which attract migratory birds. At the Mary River, take to the water on a cruise that showcases the local wildlife, including saltwater crocodiles and the abundance of birdlife in the region.

Continuing east, we enter the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, stopping at the Mamukala Wetlands and the Bowali Visitor Centre before arriving at your accommodation, the Crocodile Hotel at Jabiru, so named for the crocodile shape it takes. (B,L,D)

**Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April, we will visit the Bowali Visitor Centre on Day 2, and the cruise will occur on Adelaide River with crossings at Mary River, West Alligator and South Alligator Rivers*

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

**Due to availability, some stays may be at Coinda Lodge*

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DAY 3 – KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Begin the day with a drive to the East Alligator River region, known as the gateway to Arnhem Land. Take a spectacular local indigenous cruise on the East Alligator River and listen to the stories of the region as you spot the large saltwater crocodiles that dwell in these waters.

After a peaceful cruise, it's time to reboard the coach and head to the World Heritage Ubirr art site, home to some of the world's most outstanding rock art. Enjoy a 1-kilometre circular track walk and take in the amazing rock art. There will be time for those feeling fit to make the steep 250-meter climb to the top of the rocky escarpment for magnificent views across the Magela floodplain.

Enjoy a light lunch before visiting a local indigenous community arts centre, where there is the opportunity to watch local artists at work and possibly purchase some artwork.

Later, we head out to Nourlangie where you can take in ancient rock paintings and spectacular vistas as you take a 1.5 kilometre walk around this incredible indigenous site.

Then it's time to head back to the hotel to relax and enjoy dinner. (B,L,D)

*** Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April you may visit the Bowali and Warradjan Visitor Centres in place of Ubirr, and the cruise will occur on Yellow Waters..*

DAY 4 – KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK, DARWIN

This morning is a 6.45am departure to Jabiru Airport, where you'll gain another perspective on this incredible environment. Take to the skies on a 60-minute scenic flight over ancient escarpments, floodplains and winding rivers, exhibiting the results of 1.8 billion years of continuous erosion. Your flight includes live commentary from your pilot as you glide over these spectacular ancient lands.

Following our morning flight, we depart Kakadu National Park and head towards Batchelor, the gateway to Litchfield National Park. Containing several types of typical Top End habitats, Litchfield National Park is abundant with lush

monsoon forests, termite mounds, unusual rock formations, waterfalls, and cascades.

After stopping for morning tea, we head onto Wangi Falls; a large plunge pool surrounded by shady grassed areas. The falls flow all year round and after a light lunch, you can take a dip in the crystal-clear pool. Our next stop is Florence Falls. Here you can watch from the scenic viewing platform as the spectacular falls cascade into the plunge pool below. We then head for Darwin, arriving early evening, where your Outback Spirit Tour comes to an end. (B, L)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Hilton Darwin

DAY 5 – LEISURE DAY, DARWIN HARBOUR DINNER CRUISE

Explore Darwin at your leisure. Tonight, enjoy a dinner cruise on Darwin Harbour Cruises' Charles Darwin catamaran in air-conditioned comfort. View the spectacular Darwin sunset while savouring a delicious Territory-style dinner. (B,D)

DAY 6 – BOARD THE GHAN EXPEDITION IN DARWIN

Settle into 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 Experience in Katherine. In a region renowned for jaw-dropping natural assets, Katherine boasts one of the Top End's best – the incredible Nitmiluk Gorge. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 1 night The Ghan Expedition

DAY 7 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ALICE SPRINGS

After breakfast you'll arrive into Alice Springs, where a day of fascinating Off Train Experiences awaits you. Once your experience is complete, you will be transferred to your hotel to enjoy the evening at leisure. (B)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs

DAY 8 – ALICE SPRINGS

Your 5 night Red Centre adventure with Outback Spirit Tours starts when you are met at your hotel by your friendly and professional crew early afternoon. Enjoy a brief afternoon tour of Alice Springs, including Anzac Hill, learning what makes this unique outback outpost tick, before dinner at the hotel. (B,D)



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DAY 9 – ALICE SPRINGS TO KINGS CANYON

Today, depart Alice Springs and travel the Mereenie Loop through the Western MacDonnell Ranges. Visit Standley Chasm and Ormiston Gorge before arriving at Kings Canyon. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Kings Canyon Resort

DAY 10 – KINGS CANYON – WATARRKA NATIONAL PARK

Experience the wonders of the majestic Kings Canyon with your choice of walk, including the 6km rim walk, featuring breathtaking views of the Watarrka National Park or a less arduous 2.6km walk along the canyon floor.

Returning to the resort this afternoon, there is an opportunity to take a helicopter flight over Kings Canyon and the Watarrka National Park.

PLEASE NOTE: Additional costs are applicable and weight limits apply to all scenic flights. (B,L,D)

DAY 11 – KINGS CANYON TO ULURU

Pass through Kings Creek Station and enjoy an informative paper talk and lunch at Curtin Springs, before arriving at Uluru. Enjoy this evening's unique 'Sounds of Silence' dining experience under the stars. Beginning with canapes and chilled sparkling wine, listen to the sound of the didgeridoo and the resident star talker decode the southern night sky while enjoying a premium bush tucker-inspired buffet. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Sails in the Desert

DAY 12 – ULURU KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Early risers will experience the sun rising over Uluru and the colours of dawn spreading across the landscape. After breakfast, head off to discover Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and admire the stunning rock formations on a guided walk into Walpa Gorge. Learn about traditional Anangu culture on a guided tour around the base of Uluru.

This evening, head to an exclusive dune-top location with majestic views of Uluru. Enjoy drinks and canapes as artist Bruce Munro's global phenomenon 'Field of Light' comes to life before heading off to explore the stunning display via dedicated pathways.

PLEASE NOTE: Dinner this evening will be at approximately 9pm. (B,L,D)

DAY 13 – ULURU TO ALICE SPRINGS

After a leisurely breakfast, set your sights for Alice Springs. Pause to view Mount Connor, known as the third desert tor before arriving at your hotel in Alice Springs this afternoon, where your Outback Spirit Tour Concludes. (B,L)

OVERNIGHT: 1 night DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs

DAY 14 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, DEPART ALICE SPRINGS

Checking out after breakfast, you have some free time to explore Alice Springs before returning to your hotel to join a scheduled transfer to the Alice Springs Rail Station to re-join The Ghan Expedition.

This evening, enjoy a truly unique dining experience. Tuck into a mouth-watering meal and enjoy a cold beer or fine wine at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, under a chandelier of stars. (B,D)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights The Ghan Expedition

DAY 15 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, COOBER PEDY

From your morning stop at Manguri, you'll venture into the weird and wonderful opal mining township of Coober Pedy, where more than half of the residents live underground. Here, you'll enjoy a day of discovery and a gourmet lunch in the most unique of locations: underground. Dinner is served back on the train, where you can enjoy a nightcap as your journey continues. (B,L,D)

DAY 16 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ARRIVE ADELAIDE

From your cabin window this morning, you'll see a dramatic change in landscape as the rich ochre tones of the outback make way for the green fields of South Australia. Enjoy a leisurely brunch as you pass through the majestic Flinders Ranges and prepare for your mid-morning arrival into Adelaide, completing one of the world's great train journeys. (B)