

## TOP END EXPLORER

### THE GHAN EXPEDITION

DARWIN TO ADELAIDE | DEPARTURE MONDAY  
(APRIL TO OCTOBER)

*Friday departures available with the order of Darwin arrangements different to below*

Combine two national parks with one legendary rail journey and connect with nature, wildlife and incredible landscapes as you traverse the country. Explore the Top End's diverse natural habitats at Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks before travelling through the outback from Darwin to Adelaide on The Ghan Expedition.

#### INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights' accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast daily
- Half-day Darwin City Sights tour
- Darwin Harbour Sunset Dinner Cruise
- 2 nights intimate small-group Kakadu, East Alligator River and Litchfield touring with Outback Spirit Tours, travelling on board a state-of-the-art 4WD Mercedes-Benz vehicle, including accommodation, guided touring and meals
- 1 nights' accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast
- Transfer from hotel to Darwin Rail Terminal
- 3 nights aboard The Ghan Expedition, Darwin to Adelaide, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Katherine, Alice Springs and Coober Pedy
- 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- View the aircraft on display at the Darwin Aviation Museum
- See the largest permanent display of Aboriginal artwork
- Stroll the George Brown Botanic Gardens
- 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
- Cruise through ancient Nitmiluk Gorge in Katherine

- Explore the outback town of Alice Springs and the unusual underground town of Cooper Pedy

#### DAY 1 – ARRIVE DARWIN

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

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront

#### DAY 2 – DARWIN, DARWIN HARBOUR DINNER CRUISE

Take in the top sights of this tropical city on a morning tour, including the Stokes Hill Wharf area, Botanic Gardens, the Chinese Temple, the Mooring Basin, and Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, plus Darwin Aviation Museum. In the evening, admire a spectacular sunset while feasting on a Territory-style dinner featuring local seafood and produce on a Darwin Harbour Sunset Cruise, (B, D).

#### DAY 3 – 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 Do, 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 Cooinda Lodge*

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### DAY 4 – 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 5 – 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:** 1 night Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront

### 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)

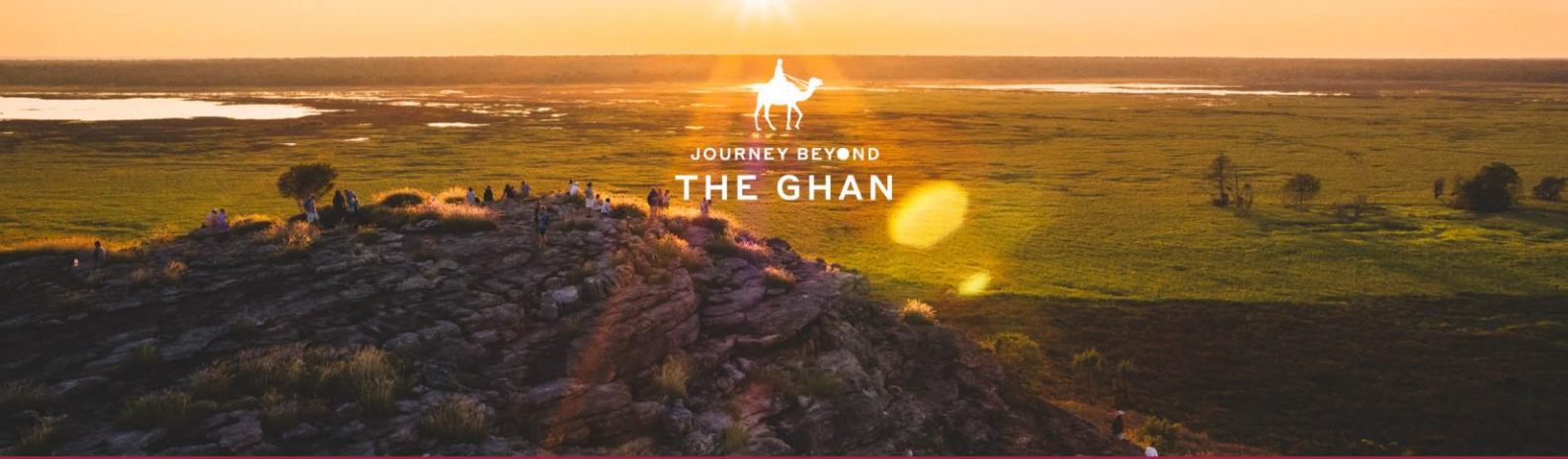
**OVERNIGHT:** 3 nights The Ghan

### DAY 7 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ALICE SPRINGS

Your arrival into Alice Springs after breakfast provides you with time to explore this iconic town in the red heart of Australia. Your Off Train Experience choices today include visiting the spectacular Alice Springs Desert Park and Reptile Centre, walking Simpsons Gap, or exploring the Royal Flying Doctor Service and visiting ANZAC Hill. In the evening, dine under a blanket of stars at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station. (B, L, D)

### DAY 8 – 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)



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### **DAY 9 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ADELAIDE**

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 before your arrival into Adelaide, completing one of the world's great rail experiences. (B)