



## JOURNEY BEYOND THE GHAN



# OUTBACK TO OCEAN

## RAIL & SAIL

Departs: Wednesday, 19 June 2024  
17 Days / 16 Nights

Pair the legendary journey through the red-hearted centre of Australia on The Ghan with a voyage through the Kimberley aboard PONANT's Le Laperouse and you have a journey of epic proportions. The Kimberley region of Western Australia is a wild land of remote, spectacular scenery, spread over vast distances, much like the Red Centre brushed with a different colour palette. From the outback town of Alice Springs to the Horizontal Falls in Talbot Bay, this rail and sail adventure is one to be cherished.

### INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights' aboard The Ghan, Adelaide to Darwin, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Marla, Alice Springs and Katherine
- Transfer from Darwin Rail Terminal to Darwin hotel
- 2 nights' accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast daily
- Transfer from Darwin hotel to Le Laperouse
- 10-night Australia's Iconic Kimberley expedition cruise aboard PONANT's Le Laperouse including, prepaid gratuities
- Transfer from Le Laperouse to Broome hotel
- 2 nights' accommodation in Broome, including breakfast daily
- 16 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness spectacular outback landscapes as you travel on The Ghan
- Visit the impressive natural wonder of Nitmiluk Gorge
- Discover ancient landscapes and rock art in the Northern Territory and the Kimberley
- Get up close to King George twin falls
- Explore pristine mangrove environments and spot crocodiles
- See the oldest detailed depiction of human figures in the world on Jar Island
- Take a helicopter flight over Mitchell Falls
- View the effects of unique tidal phenomena, Horizontal Falls

### DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2024, BOARD THE GHAN IN ADELAIDE

Board The Ghan in Adelaide for an iconic showcase journey of inland Australia. As the train leaves the city heading for the Flinders Ranges and beyond, the dramatic changes in landscape will ignite your imagination over the next two days. (L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights The Ghan

### DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 2024, THE GHAN AND ALICE SPRINGS

After your first night enjoying the fine dining and relaxed comfort of this iconic train, you'll wake to an unforgettable outback sunrise at Marla – a remote outpost 160 kilometres from the Northern Territory border that marks the start of the Oodnadatta Track. Enjoy the magnificent outback scenery as you make your way onwards to Alice Springs. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 21 JUNE 2024, THE GHAN, KATHERINE AND DARWIN

When the landscape transforms into rocky gorges and fast-flowing canyon streams, prepare to experience one of the Top End's most impressive natural wonders, Nitmiluk Gorge. Continue to Darwin, where you will be transferred to your overnight accommodation. After checking in, you may wish to explore the Waterfront Precinct with its many restaurants and bars. (B,L)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin Waterfront

### DAY 4 – SATURDAY, 22 JUNE 2024, DARWIN

There are many things to see and do in Darwin. We recommend a City Sights tour to learn more about this tropical city or venture out a little further afield on a Litchfield National Park tour, where you will see stunning waterfalls and waterholes surrounded by monsoonal vine forests. (B)

### DAY 5 – SUNDAY, 23 JUNE 2024, BOARD LE LAPEROUSE IN DARWIN

This morning is yours to explore Darwin at your leisure. In the afternoon, you will be transferred from your



JOURNEY BEYOND  
THE GHAN



## OUTBACK TO OCEAN

accommodation to the Port of Darwin to board Le Laperouse for your Kimberley cruising. Settle into your elegant cabin, make yourself comfortable, enjoy dinner and perhaps have a nightcap at the Blue Eye, a multisensorial underwater lounge. (B,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 10 nights Le Laperouse

### DAY 6 – MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2024, KING GEORGE RIVER

The journey up the King George River is nothing short of breathtaking. The 80-metre-high sides of the gorge display varying degrees of weathering of the ancient Warton sandstone. The colours and textures change with the light creating a continually changing vista that is simply stunning. The journey culminates at the King George twin falls, the highest single-drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley. Your Expedition Team will escort you to the foot of the twin falls and explain the stunning geological formations of the canyon. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7 – TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2024, VANSITTART BAY

Jar Island contains ancient rock art galleries depicting the Gwion Gwion style unique to the Kimberley region. Gwion Gwion art may extend back to over 30,000 years before our time and represents the first wave of seagoing colonisers of the Australian continent. As it is, these are the oldest detailed depiction of human figures in the world. Join your Expedition Team ashore for a short walk, past some fascinating rock formations, to the site of the Gwion Gwion art galleries. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8 – WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2024, ASHMORE REEF (TECHNICAL STOP)

Located 600 Kilometres north of Broome, on the edge of the continental shelf, Ashmore Reef consists of 3 low-lying tropical islands surrounded by coral reef. The islands have a combined land area of approximately 54 hectares and are a designated important bird area (IBA). Visitation to Ashmore Reef and Islands is strictly controlled and most of the reef is designated as a sanctuary zone where access is prohibited. Our visit to Ashmore Reef is required to ensure we comply with Australian government regulations. Should weather, sea and tide conditions permit, there may be an opportunity for guests to undertake a zodiac tour of the vicinity of West Island. (B,L,D)

### DAY 9 – THURSDAY, 27 JUNE 2024, VANSITTART BAY

Careening Bay was named by Lieutenant Phillip Parker King after his ship, HMC Mermaid, was careened there during his third voyage of discovery in 1820. At a high tide, on a warm September afternoon, King ran the leaking Mermaid onto the sands. As the crew worked hard to re-float the vessel, the ship's carpenter carved the name of the vessel and the year into a conspicuous boob tree. The boob tree is now three metres wide and National Heritage listed. (B,L,D)

### DAY 10 – FRIDAY, 28 JUNE 2024, SWIFT BAY

The Bonaparte Archipelago consists of a rugged maze of islands stretching almost 150k Kilometres along Western Australia's coast. Its remote location has ensured it remains a remarkably pristine location to explore and experience. The 'T' shaped bay is composed of heavily fractured sandstone providing an abundance of rock shelters. On the walls of these shelters are examples of Wandjina and Gwion Gwion style rock art. Join your Expedition Team ashore for a guided walk to a number of rock art galleries depicting these unique rock art styles. (B,L,D)

### DAY 11 - SATURDAY, 29 JUNE 2024, HUNTER RIVER

Arguably one of the most scenic parts of the Kimberley coast, Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River are lined with pockets of ancient rainforest, pristine mangroves, and mosaic sandstone cliffs. The sandstone escarpment at the river mouth, known as "Kampamantiya" rises over 200 metres high before giving way to extensive mud banks and mangrove forests home to numerous bird species and the saltwater crocodile. The Expedition Team will share their knowledge as you explore by Zodiac, keeping a lookout for wildlife. You will also have the opportunity to reach the Mitchell Falls by helicopter from Naturalist Island beach. (B,L,D)

### DAY 12 - SUNDAY, 30 JUNE 2024, COLLIER BAY

Lying to the east of the Buccaneer Archipelago, the ancient landscapes of Collier Bay have been shaped by massive tidal movements, creating a photographer's paradise. With a tidal range exceeding 14 metres, this movement of water creates unique phenomena. Nestled in the centre of the bay is Montgomery Reef, the world's largest inshore reef system. As the tide falls a raging torrent of water cascades off the top of the reef, creating turbulent 'rivers' and mini waterfalls. (B,L,D)





JOURNEY BEYOND  
THE GHAN



## OUTBACK TO OCEAN

### **DAY 13 – MONDAY, 01 JULY 2024, HORIZONTAL FALLS**

At the southern end of the Bay, Talbot Bay is home to the world's only 'Horizontal Falls', described by Sir David Attenborough as "One of the greatest wonders of the natural world." Hidden in the many caves and grottos of this ancient landscape are a multitude of ancient rock art galleries. Activities here will be determined by the weather and tide conditions. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 14 - TUESDAY, 02 JULY 2024, LACEPEDE ISLANDS**

The Lacepede Islands are Western Australia's most important breeding habitat for Green Turtles and have been named by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The breeding colony of Brown Boobies is possibly the largest in the world and up to 20,000 Roseate Terns have also been recorded here, amongst the plethora of other birdlife. Join your Expedition Team for a guided Zodiac tour to view the prolific wildlife. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 15 - WEDNESDAY, 03 JULY 2024, BROOME**

The town of Broome is reputed for its history and its glorious pearling era. This is where your Kimberley cruising will come to an end. Early this morning, Le Laperouse will dock in the Port of Broome, where you will disembark and be transferred to your hotel. The day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Visit the fascinating Chinatown district; which is the historic city centre, and the Japanese Cemetery, dating back to 1896, with a past marked by the immigration of numerous Chinese and Japanese workers, attracted by the pearl industry at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (B)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Oaks Cable Beach Resort

### **DAY 16 – THURSDAY, 04 JULY 2024, BROOME**

Broome is a coastal pearling town, steeped in history. Surrounded by water on both sides of the town, you may wish to discover Roebuck Bay or the famous, Cable Beach with white sand for miles. (B)

### **DAY 17 – FRIDAY, 05 JULY 2024, FAREWELL**

Take in any last-minute sights in and around Broome as your rail and sail adventure concludes. (B)