



JOURNEY BEYOND
THE GHAN



OUTBACK TO OCEAN

RAIL & SAIL

DEPARTING

Wednesday, 21 May 2025 aboard Le Jacques Cartier

Sunday, 29 June 2025 aboard Le Soleal

Sunday, 20 July 2025 aboard Le Jacques Cartier

15 Days / 14 Nights

Pair a journey through Australia's red centre on The Ghan with a voyage across the Kimberley coastline aboard PONANT's luxurious Le Jacques Cartier or Le Soleal (subject to departure date), and you have one legendary adventure. The Kimberley region of Western Australia is a wild land of remote, rugged and 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 remember forever.

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
- 1 night's accommodation in Darwin including breakfast
- Transfer from Darwin hotel to cruise terminal
- 10-night Australia's Iconic Kimberley expedition cruise aboard PONANT's Le Jacques Cartier or Le Soleal (subject to departure date), including prepaid gratuities
- Transfer from cruise terminal to Broome hotel
- 1 night's accommodation in Broome including breakfast
- 14 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 (additional cost)
- View the effects of unique tidal phenomena, Horizontal Falls

DAY 1 – BOARD THE GHAN IN ADELAIDE

Board The Ghan in Adelaide for an impressive journey showcasing spectacular 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 – 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. After breakfast in Marla, board The Ghan and head onwards to Alice Springs watching the colours of the outback change before your eyes. As the train pulls into Alice Springs, prepare for a day of immersive Off Train Experiences that'll showcase the best of the red centre. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – 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'll disembark The Ghan and 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: 1 night Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin Waterfront

DAY 4 – BOARD LE JACQUES CARTIER or LE SOLEAL IN DARWIN

This morning is yours to explore Darwin at your leisure. In the afternoon, you will be transferred from your accommodation to the Port of Darwin to board Le Jacques Cartier or Le Soleal 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 Jacques Cartier or Le Soleal



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DAY 5 – 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 6 – 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 depictions 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 7 – 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 8 – CAREENING BAY

Careening Bay was named by Lieutenant Phillip Parker King after his ship, the HMC Mermaid, was careened there during his third voyage of discovery in 1820. At high tide, on a warm September afternoon, King ran the leaking HMC 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 boab tree. The boab tree is now three metres wide and National Heritage listed. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 – SWIFT BAY

The Bonaparte Archipelago consists of a rugged maze of islands stretching almost 150 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 10 – 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 Mitchell Falls by helicopter from Naturalist Island beach (additional cost). (B,L,D)

DAY 11 – 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 a 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)

DAY 12 – 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)



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DAY 13 – 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 14 – 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 Jacques Cartier or Le Soleal 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 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century. (B)

OVERNIGHT: 1 night Oaks Cable Beach Resort

DAY 15 – FAREWELL

Take in any last-minute sights in and around Broome as your rail and sail adventure concludes and you leave with memories to last a lifetime. (B)