

## KIMBERLEY JEWELS

### THE GHAN EXPEDITION

DARWIN TO ADELAIDE

DEPARTING MONDAY AND FRIDAY (SET DEPARTURE DATES)

JUNE TO JULY

16 Days / 15 Nights

Explore the wild and remote region of the Kimberley with Outback Spirit. This is an intimate and enriching small-group touring experience with other like-minded people. Form lasting new friendships, avoid the queues and stay in unique camps and lodges off-limits to larger groups. Journey through the Kimberley on an exclusive touring route and immerse yourself in the wonders of this remote area before sitting back and settling into The Ghan's gentle rhythm as you travel from Darwin to Adelaide by train.

#### INCLUSIONS

- 12 nights of intimate small-group touring with Outback Spirit, travelling on board a state-of-the-art 4WD Mercedes-Benz vehicle, including hotel, lodge and safari camp accommodation, meals, beverages, all attractions, entry and cruise fees, and guided touring
- Transfer from hotel to Darwin Rail Terminal
- 3 nights on The Ghan Expedition, Darwin to Adelaide, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Katherine, Alice Springs and Coober Pedy
- 15 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 15 dinners

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Horizontal Falls by seaplane with an exciting boat ride
- Visit spectacular Windjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek National Parks
- Discover the World Heritage Listed Bungle Bungles including Cathedral Gorge and Echidna Chasm
- Experience a scenic helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungles
- Travel the northern half of the infamous Gibb River Road
- Discover Kununurra and Wyndham including Five Rivers Lookout
- Enjoy an Ord River adventure cruise and learn about the Irrigation Scheme
- Stay at El Questro and discover Zebedee Thermal Springs

- Enjoy a guided walk to Mitchell Falls via rarely seen Gwion and Wanjina cultural art sites including a return scenic helicopter flight
- Discover the Mitchell Plateau
- Scenic fixed wing flight aboard a Cessna Grand Caravan from Mitchell Plateau to Darwin

#### DAY 1 – BROOME

On arrival in Broome, your 13-day Jewels of the Kimberley tour commences. Today you will be greeted by our friendly and professional Tour Director before checking in to the iconic Cable Beach Club Resort and Spa where you will stay for the next two nights. The remainder of the day is free to spend at your leisure, before viewing a spectacular Indian Ocean sunset from the resort prior to your welcome dinner. (D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Cable Beach Club Resort and Spa

#### DAY 2 – HORIZONTAL FALLS SEAPLANE ADVENTURES

Start your day early as we set off on an unforgettable full-day adventure to the Dampier Peninsula and Horizontal Falls. Your day includes visiting the Beagle Bay Aboriginal Community, home to the iconic Mother of Pearl Church. You'll also visit the renowned, third-generation Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm, learning about the rich history and culture of this family-owned business.

Experience a breath-taking seaplane flight, offering panoramic views of the stunning Buccaneer Archipelago, before landing in the calm waters of Talbot Bay. Throughout the day, enjoy a scenic cruise through Cyclone Creek and the Horizontal Falls, followed by a refreshing swim in the marine viewing enclosure, where you can get up close to the local marine life. After a day full of adventure and discovery, we make our way back to Broome. (B,L,D)

*Please note: this tour may be done as drive first/fly second or fly first/drive second depending on the itinerary offered on that day. The same inclusions and activities are provided in both directions. Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures have a weight restriction of 120kg.*



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### DAY 3 – BROOME, DERBY, WINDJANA GORGE AND FITZROY CROSSING

Today we depart Broome and head for Derby. Enjoy a look around town and visit the Boab Prison Tree before joining the start of the Gibb River Road. From here we travel east before turning off the Gibb River Road and heading into Windjana Gorge, one of the most spectacular gorges in the Kimberley. In places, the water-streaked walls rise majestically to stand 100 metres above the floodplain. Your guide will take you on a walk through the Gorge and give you an insight into the history and geology of the area.

This afternoon we'll visit Tunnel Creek National Park, where you can take a fascinating underground river walk. We then continue to Fitzroy Crossing, arriving late-afternoon to check in to the Fitzroy River Lodge. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night Fitzroy River Lodge

*Please note: We recommend packing water/reef shoes to take part in the Tunnel Creek walk.*

### DAY 4 – GEIKIE GORGE, HALLS CREEK AND BUNGLE BUNGLES

Nature and geology lovers will delight as we head into Geikie Gorge National Park for a one-hour cruise on the Fitzroy River, winding through ancient limestone where you can still see fossils embedded in the walls of the gorge.

After returning to Fitzroy Crossing we head further east to Halls Creek. After lunch we continue along the Great Northern Highway before taking the turnoff to the World Heritage Listed Purnululu National Park (the Bungle Bungles). Enjoy two nights at the Bungle Bungle Savannah Lodge, owned by Outback Spirit in partnership with Aviair/Helispirit. The lodge features comfortable cabins with ensuite bathrooms. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Bungle Bungle Savannah Lodge

### DAY 5 – EXPLORING THE BUNGLE BUNGLES

Today we explore the wonders of Purnululu, including its unique orange and black beehive shaped domes. First up, enjoy a breathtaking 18-minute scenic helicopter flight over the park with a bird's eye view of its astounding natural features. Afterwards enjoy a walk along Piccaniny Creek to the mind boggling natural amphitheatre of Cathedral Gorge. Then follow the 'dome trail' for a closer inspection of the park's unique geological formations.

This afternoon we'll head to the northern region of the Bungle Bungles to visit Echidna Chasm before returning to the lodge. (B,L,D)

*Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights.*

### DAY 6 – NORTH TO WYNDHAM AND KUNUNURRA

Today we farewell the Bungle Bungles and travel north to Wyndham. Enjoy a visit to the spectacular Five Rivers Lookout, with dramatic views over Cambridge Gulf. After a picnic lunch we make our way to Kununurra and check in to the centrally located Kununurra Country Club for our overnight stay. The rest of the afternoon can be spent at your leisure. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night Kununurra Country Club

### DAY 7 – ORD RIVER CRUISE AND EL QUESTRO

This morning we head to the banks of Lake Kununurra to board our sensational 3-hour cruise up the Ord River. Enjoy the mesmerising scenery and diverse wildlife as your skipper takes you upstream to Lake Argyle, with expert commentary along the way. Once we reach the dam wall, we board our coach and return to Kununurra by road, stopping off at the Argyle Homestead Museum along the way. Located at the base of the Cockburn Range, our home for the next two nights is Emma Gorge Resort, where we stay in unique tented cabins. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Emma Gorge Resort

### DAY 8 – EXPLORING EL QUESTRO

This morning we head deeper into this iconic Kimberley wilderness park to Chamberlain Gorge, a beautiful three-kilometre-long fresh waterhole bound by towering escarpment. Enjoy a 90-minute gorge cruise and feed some of the cheeky Archerfish before returning to Emma Gorge Resort via the Station township.

After lunch, enjoy a guided walk up to the stunning Emma Gorge waterfall (2.5 hours return – a good level of fitness required, but well worth it). Enjoy a swim in the large rock pool at the base of the falls and marvel at the beauty of the gorge, one of the best in the Kimberley. Upon returning to the resort, the rest of the afternoon can be spent at your leisure before re-grouping for dinner. (B,L,D)

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### DAY 9 – ZEBEDEE SPRINGS, GIBB RIVER ROAD AND DRYSDALE

You'd be hard pressed to find a better way to start the day than a swim in the warm, crystal clear waters of Zebedee Thermal Springs. We'll spend a relaxing morning here before resuming our journey west along the Gibb River Road.

Cross the mighty Pentecost River and continue past Ellenbrae Station to the 'Y' junction. From here we follow the Kalumburu Road to Drysdale River Station, which runs 9,000 head of cattle across more than 1 million acres. We spend the night here in comfortable station cabins with private ensuite bathrooms. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night Drysdale River Station

### DAY 10 – KING EDWARD RIVER AND MITCHELL PLATEAU

This morning we continue north along the Kalumburu Road before turning onto the Mitchell Plateau track. After fording the King Edward River we'll visit a series of spectacular Wandjina rock art galleries, known as some of the best in the Kimberley.

After a picnic lunch we drive through an ancient Livistona Palm forest before arriving on the Mitchell Plateau mid-afternoon.

Featuring deluxe Safari Suites with ensuite bathrooms, quality furnishings and large balconies, Outback Spirit's Ngauwudu Safari Camp is the most luxurious and spacious accommodation on the Mitchell Plateau. Built exclusively for Outback Spirit guests, it's truly a magical spot to spend the next two nights of our adventure and the ideal base from which to discover the Mitchell Plateau and Mitchell Falls.

This afternoon, take a dip in the camp's private palm fringed waterhole or simply relax in your safari suite. Enjoy a drink around the campfire at sunset before retreating to the restaurant for dinner. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Ngauwudu Safari Camp

### DAY 11 – EXPLORING PUNAMII-UNPUU (MITCHELL FALLS)

A big walk today, but also a big highlight. After a short drive to the ranger station, we'll set off on a guided 4km walking tour to the incredible Mitchell Falls (good level of fitness and mobility required). Along the way we'll discover rarely

seen Gwion Gwion and Wandjina rock art galleries, accompanied by a local expert guide from Kandiwal Community. The walk also takes us past Mertens Falls before arriving at the top of the Mitchell Falls, one of the most awe-inspiring wonders of the Kimberley.

After a picnic lunch and enough time to admire the falls, we'll take to the skies for a spectacular helicopter flight (included) back to where the walk started. Viewing the falls and surrounding landscape from the air is an absolute highlight, and a great way to finish off the experience! Once we're on the ground at the ranger station, we return to the camp for a well-earned rest and perhaps a swim in the palm fringed creek. (B,L,D)

*Please Note: For passengers not wishing to do the Mitchell Falls walk there is an option to fly down by helicopter at an additional cost. An Outback Spirit guide will still escort you.*

*Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights.*

### DAY 12 – SCENIC FLIGHT TO DARWIN

This morning we head to the Mitchell Plateau airstrip for our scenic flight to Darwin. Our aircraft for the morning is Outback Spirit's state-of-the-art Cessna Grand Caravan, featuring a high wing for excellent visibility, air-conditioning and turbine reliability. Head east to Joseph Bonaparte Gulf before hugging the coastline to Darwin, arriving early in the afternoon. We then check in to the Hilton Garden Inn Darwin, where the rest of the afternoon can be spent at your leisure.

Tonight, enjoy our final dinner together and celebrate a wonderful Kimberley adventure! (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night Hilton Garden Inn Darwin

*Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights.*

### DAY 13 – BOARD THE GHAN EXPEDITION IN DARWIN

Your 13-day Jewels of the Kimberley tour comes to an end this morning.

After an early breakfast at your hotel before checking out and making your way to the lobby of DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade, 116 The Esplanade, Darwin ready to check in for your journey on The Ghan Expedition.



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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 and a cruise is on offer to

showcase the beauty of this spot. Alternatively, the Katherine Outback Experience lets you into the lives of those who call the outback home, while the Cutta Cutta Cave system is home to a variety of native wildlife and is rich in Indigenous culture and modern European history. Alternatively, take it all in from the air, with an optional upgrade helicopter flight over Nitmiluk. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 nights The Ghan Expedition

### DAY 14 – 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 on an Off Train Experience. There's an experience to suit everyone, including an off-road e-bike adventure, the Alice Explorer tour that takes in the historic Telegraph Station and Royal Flying Doctor Service, a cultural experience at Standley Chasm, meeting the wildlife at the Desert Park or taking in the astounding beauty of Simpson's Gap. Alternatively, spot Uluru and Kata Tjuta from the air, with an optional upgrade scenic flight. In the evening, dine under a blanket of stars at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station. (B,L,D)

### 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. Off Train Experiences on offer include exploring the majestic Breakaways, touring the town, learning more about mining history on the Opal Experience, or an optional upgrade with the Painted Hills and Lake Eyre scenic flight.

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, 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 Flinders Ranges before arriving into Adelaide, completing one of the world's great rail experiences. (B)