

OUTBACK TO OCEAN KIMBERLEY CRUISING

RAIL & SAIL

DEPARTING

Saturday, 22 May 2027 aboard Le Jacques Cartier
Tuesday, 10 August 2027 aboard Le Jacques Cartier
18 Days / 17 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, 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

- 3 nights aboard The Ghan, Adelaide to Darwin, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in the Clare Valley, Flinders Ranges, 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 cruise terminal
- 10 night Australia's Iconic Kimberley expedition cruise aboard PONANT's Le Jacques Cartier, including prepaid gratuities
- Transfer from cruise terminal to Broome hotel including touring enroute
- 2 nights accommodation in Broome, including breakfast daily
- 17 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 13 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Penobscot Farm for a signature dining experience in the Clare Valley
- Witness spectacular outback landscapes as you travel on The Ghan
- Discover the remarkable Flinders Ranges
- Explore the outback town of Alice Springs
- 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

Please note, itineraries are subject to change.

DAY 1 – BOARD THE GHAN IN ADELAIDE, CLARE VALLEY

Your journey on The Ghan begins in Adelaide this afternoon, as you step aboard and settle into the rhythm of life on the rails. Watch the countryside roll past your window as the train makes its way north, a hint of the adventure to come.

By early evening, the train arrives at Long Plains, where you step off and transfer into the rolling vineyards of the Clare Valley – one of South Australia's most celebrated wine regions. At Penobscot Farm, a signature dinner awaits in the reimagined Woolshed, curated exclusively for guests of The Ghan. Every dish is drawn from the farm's own biodynamic produce, paired with Clare Valley's celebrated Rieslings and reds under the guidance of Executive Chef Nicola Palmer. As the sun sets over the vines, raise a glass to the days of discovery ahead.

After dinner, return to the train and retire for the night as The Ghan continues its journey north. (D)

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights The Ghan

DAY 2 – THE GHAN, FLINDERS RANGES

Wake to the changing countryside as The Ghan arrives into Port Augusta, South Australia's gateway to the outback. After breakfast, step off the train and prepare for a full day discovering one of the nation's most remarkable regions: the Flinders Ranges.

Your Off Train Experience takes you deep into one of the oldest mountain ranges on Earth, where 600 million years of geological history has folded the land into dramatic gorges and red rock outcrops. Stand amid ancient rock formations and take in a landscape millions of years in the making.

From here, head to the historic town of Quorn, once a vital crossroads on the Trans-Australian Railway and now home to the heritage Pichi Richi line.

OUTBACK TO OCEAN KIMBERLEY CRUISING

Settle in for lunch paired with the botanicals of Flinders Gin, distilled from the landscape around you. Visit the ruins of Kanyaka Station and hear stories of the ruined dreams of colonial farmers in this harsh and unrelenting landscape — a striking introduction to the outback. After a day of exploration, rejoin the train for a relaxed evening on board recalling the day's adventures. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – THE GHAN, ALICE SPRINGS

After a night of fine dining and relaxed comfort aboard The Ghan, wake to a spectacular outback sunrise at Marla, a remote outpost 160 kilometres from the Northern Territory border and gateway to the legendary Oodnadatta Track.

With red dirt beneath your feet and a bonfire casting warmth into the cool morning air, pause to take in the stillness of this extraordinary place.

Back on board, enjoy a leisurely brunch as the desert landscape unfolds on the journey north to Alice Springs. Here, a variety of Off Train Experiences awaits. Choose an off-road e-bike adventure across ochre-coloured earth, explore the town's key landmarks on the A Town Called Alice tour, or embrace a cultural experience at Standley Chasm. Nature lovers can meet the wildlife at the Desert Park or marvel at the striking beauty of Simpsons Gap. For a bird's-eye view, upgrade to a scenic helicopter flight and witness the sheer scale of this remarkable region.

Return to the train in the late afternoon, with time to refresh before dinner is served and another unforgettable evening begins. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 – THE GHAN, KATHERINE AND DARWIN

Your final day begins in the tropical north, where the landscape gives way to rocky escarpments and fast-flowing canyon streams. Here, you'll experience one of the Top End's greatest natural wonders on a cruise through the majestic Nitmiluk Gorge. As you glide along the water, your guide will share the cultural significance of this place to the Jawoyn people, weaving in stories that highlight their deep spiritual connection to the land.

Alternatively, step into the lives of those who call the outback home at the Katherine Outback Experience, or venture underground to explore the limestone chambers of the Cutta Cutta Caves, rich in native wildlife, Indigenous culture and European history.

For a different perspective, upgrade to a helicopter flight and witness the scale and grandeur of Nitmiluk from above.

After your day's adventures, return to the train and journey onwards to Darwin, where you'll disembark The Ghan and be transferred to your accommodation. After checking in, you may wish to explore the Waterfront Precinct with its many restaurants and bars. (B,L)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Hilton Darwin

DAY 5 – DARWIN

Today is for further exploration of Darwin city, taking in the relaxed pace of life in the north. Alternatively, consider an optional tour (additional expense) to make the most of your time in the Top End. (B)

DAY 6 – BOARD LE JACQUES CARTIER 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 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

DAY 7 – 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 8 – 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.

OUTBACK TO OCEAN KIMBERLEY CRUISING

Join your Expedition Team ashore for a short walk, past some fascinating rock formations, to the site of the Gwion art galleries. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 – 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 10 – 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 boob tree. The boob tree is now three metres wide and National Heritage listed. (B,L,D)

DAY 11 – 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 12 – 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 13 – 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 14 – 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 15 – 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 16 – 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 will dock in the Port of Broome, where you will disembark to join your half day tour of Broome and surrounds before transferring to your hotel.

OUTBACK TO OCEAN KIMBERLEY CRUISING

Enjoy your introduction to the fascinating history of Broome 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.

The remainder of the day is at your leisure to relax in the comfort of your accommodation or head out to discover more of Broome's hidden treasures. (B)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa

DAY 17 – BROOME

Today is yours to explore at your own pace. Venture to Cable Beach where the white sand and blue ocean stretches as far as the eye can see. Visit Chinatown district or do a spot of pearl shopping in the Broome mall. (B)

DAY 18 – 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)