

COASTAL QUEST KIMBERLEY CRUISING

RAIL & SAIL

DEPARTING
Wednesday, 07 July 2027 aboard Le Soleal
Wednesday, 14 July 2027 aboard Le Jacques Cartier
18 Days / 17 Nights

Imagine vast and untouched wilderness covering hundreds of thousands of square kilometres. This is the Kimberely, one of the world's oldest and largest wilderness frontiers. This complex landscape encompasses sandstone cliffs, pristine mangroves, spectacular waterfalls, pockets of rainforest, and an astounding array of birds and wildlife. Experience the colours of the outback on a luxury, small-ship coastal odyssey with PONANT, and journey through the red centre on The Ghan Expedition, culminating in a rail and sail experience that will connect you to land and sea and provide memories that will last a lifetime.

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights accommodation in Broome, including breakfast daily
- Transfer from Broome hotel to cruise terminal
- 10 night Australia's Iconic Kimberley expedition cruise aboard PONANT's Le Soleal or Le Jacques Cartier (subject to departure date), including prepaid gratuities
- Transfer from cruise terminal to Darwin hotel
- 2 nights accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast daily
- Transfer from Darwin 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
- 17 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 13 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

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

Please note, itineraries are subject to change.

DAY 1 – BROOME

Make your own way to Broome and check in to your hotel. The day is yours to spend at leisure exploring the highlights of Broome or relaxing by the pool.

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa

DAY 2 – 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 3 – BOARD LE SOLEAL or LE JACQUES CARTIER IN BROOME

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and spend the morning in Broome. In the afternoon, you will be transferred from your hotel to the Port of Broome to board Le Soleal or Le Jacques Cartier for your Kimberley cruising adventure. Settle into your cabin, make yourself comfortable, enjoy dinner and perhaps have a nightcap. (B,D)

OVERNIGHT: 10 nights Le Soleal or Le Jacques Cartier

DAY 4 – 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 5 AND DAY 6 – COLLIER BAY AND HORIZONTAL FALLS

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 phenomenon. 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



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top of the reef, creating turbulent 'rivers' and mini waterfalls.

Nestled at the southern end of Buccaneer Archipelago is Talbot Bay, home to the world's only 'Horizontal Falls' and 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 7 – 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 8 – 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 (additional cost). (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 – 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 11 – 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 12 – LE SOLEAL or LE JACQUES CARTIER AT SEA

Enjoy a leisurely day at sea to take advantage of the luxurious onboard services or sip a cool drink by the pool. Your expedition team will offer an enrichment programme focusing on Australian history, flora, and fauna. Enjoy some down time on the deck, relax in the sauna, or sample culinary specialties prepared by the Chef and Galley Team. Lovers of the open sea can visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. (B,L,D)

DAY 13 – DARWIN

Darwin is the capital city of the Northern Territory and a melting pot of people and cultures that prides itself on its friendly, laid-back lifestyle. Early this morning, Le Soleal or Le Jacques Cartier will dock in the Port of Darwin where you will disembark and be transferred to your hotel. The day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Discover the town's history through its emblematic buildings, such as the new Parliament House opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture, or Admiralty House, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids. (B)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Hilton Darwin



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DAY 14 – 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 15 – BOARD THE GHAN EXPEDITION IN DARWIN, KATHERINE
Celebrate the start of your journey with a welcome drink and light refreshments, then pause for a photo with the iconic red locomotive before stepping on board. For the next few days, The Ghan will be your home away from home. Settle into the comforts of your cabin or mingle with fellow travellers in the lounge carriage. Enjoy lunch on board as The Ghan makes its way south towards Katherine, before your first Off Train Experience.

Here, the choice is yours as to how to explore this remarkable region. Cruise through the towering sandstone cliffs of Nitmiluk Gorge, uncovering its deep beauty and cultural significance. Step into the Katherine Outback Experience for an authentic glimpse into the lives of those who call the outback home. Or venture underground to the Cutta Cutta Caves, where fascinating limestone formations, native wildlife, and stories of Indigenous culture are waiting to be shared. For a different perspective, upgrade to a helicopter flight and take in the scale of Nitmiluk's 13 gorges from above. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights The Ghan Expedition

DAY 16 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ALICE SPRINGS
This morning, wake to the wide-open skies of the outback as The Ghan rolls deeper into Central Australia and towards the iconic town of Alice Springs. After a hearty breakfast on board, step into the heart of the Red Centre with a choice of Off Train Experiences that offer different perspectives on this remarkable part of the country.

Gain a sense of Alice Springs through its pioneering history, distinctive character and connection to the surrounding desert, or venture into the West MacDonnell Ranges for a guided experience at Simpsons Gap or Standley Chasm. Here, sheer red rock walls rise from the ancient landscape, a place of deep spiritual significance for the Arrernte people. Visit Desert Park to encounter native wildlife and gain an insight into the unique desert environments of Central Australia, take to the red dirt on an off-road e-bike adventure, or for those seeking a grander perspective, upgrade to a scenic flight over Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

As night falls, a signature experience of The Ghan's southbound journey awaits at the historic Alice Springs Telegraph Station. Settle in beneath a canopy of stars, where white-clothed tables, fine food and live entertainment create a memorable evening surrounded by the red earth of the Australian desert. (B,L,D)

DAY 17 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, COOBER PEDY
Today brings you to the extraordinary outback town of Coober Pedy, where life is anything but ordinary. Known as the opal capital of the world, this desert settlement hides its treasures both above and below ground, with more than half of its population living underground.

Your adventure begins as The Ghan arrives at the remote outpost of Manguri, where you'll continue by coach to Coober Pedy. Explore the striking Breakaways, uncover the town's quirky character and attractions, or delve into the fascinating history of opal mining. For a different perspective, upgrade to a scenic flight over Painted Hills and Lake Eyre, taking in the vastness of this ancient landscape from above. A highlight of the day is a gourmet lunch served underground, offering a taste of the town's unique way of life.

Return to the train and settle in for your final evening on board The Ghan. Enjoy dinner in the dining carriage before raising one last nightcap in the lounge with fellow travellers as the train continues south towards Adelaide. (B,L,D)

DAY 18 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ADELAIDE
As the sun rises, watch the landscape transform as the rich ochre tones of the outback give way to the green fields of South Australia. Enjoy light refreshments as The Ghan travels through the Flinders Ranges before continuing towards Adelaide.

As your journey comes to an end, take with you more than memories. Carry the stories shared, connections made and a deeper appreciation for the vast landscapes and remarkable places encountered along the way. (B)