

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 begins in Adelaide with a welcome experience before you step aboard The Ghan and settle into the rhythm of life on the rails. Watch the countryside roll past from the comforts of your cabin, or mingle with fellow travellers in the lounge carriage as the train makes its way north.

By early evening, arrive at Long Plains before continuing by coach into the rolling vineyards of the Clare Valley, one of South Australia's most celebrated wine regions. Here, a signature dinner awaits in a reimagined Woolshed, set amongst the picturesque surrounds. With a menu of seasonal produce grown and curated exclusively for guests of The Ghan, every dish is drawn from the farm and paired with the 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. (D)

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights The Ghan

DAY 2 – THE GHAN, FLINDERS RANGES

This morning, wake to the changing countryside as The Ghan arrives into Port Augusta, South Australia's gateway to the outback. After a hearty 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 home to the heritage Pichi Richi line. Settle in for a delicious lunch paired with the botanicals of Flinders Gin, then visit the ruins of Kanyaka Station to hear stories of the broken dreams of colonial farmers in this harsh and



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unrelenting landscape. Rejoin the train for a relaxed dinner on board recalling the day's adventures. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – THE GHAN, ALICE SPRINGS
After a night of fine dining and 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 journey continues north and the desert landscape unfolds. Arriving in Alice Springs, choose from a range of Off Train Experiences that reveal the history, culture and character of this remarkable outback town. Take a guided town tour and gain a deeper sense of place, from its pioneering history to the people and stories that have shaped Alice Springs, or venture into the West MacDonnell Ranges for a guided experience at Simpsons Gap or Standley Chasm, where towering red rock walls and ancient landscapes hold deep spiritual significance for the Arrernte people. At Alice Springs Desert Park, encounter native wildlife and the unique ecosystems of Central Australia, while those seeking a different perspective can upgrade to a scenic helicopter flight over the surrounding ranges, taking in their scale and rugged beauty from above.

By late afternoon, return to the train with time to freshen up for dinner and another unforgettable evening on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 – THE GHAN, KATHERINE AND ARRIVE DARWIN
Your final day begins in the tropical north, where the landscape gives way to rocky escarpments and fast-flowing canyon streams. Enjoy breakfast on board as The Ghan makes its way towards Katherine.

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.

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.

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)



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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 boab tree. The boab 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.

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.



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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)