

TOP END EXPLORER

THE GHAN EXPEDITION

DARWIN TO ADELAIDE
DEPARTING MONDAY (APRIL TO OCTOBER)
9 Days / 8 Nights
**Friday departures available with the order of Darwin arrangements different to below*

Connect with culture and country by combining two iconic national parks with one legendary rail journey. You'll deeply explore Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks before vising incredible remote landscapes as you travel Australia by train on The Ghan Expedition.

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast daily
- Darwin Harbour Sunset Dinner Cruise
- 2 nights intimate small-group Kakadu, East Alligator River and Litchfield touring with Outback Spirit, including accommodation, guided touring and meals
- 1 night accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast
- Transfer from 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
- 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Take in the sparkling waters of Darwin Harbour over a delicious dinner of local seafood and produce
- Cruise on the Mary River spotting wildlife, including saltwater crocodiles and an abundance of birdlife
- Visit the Ubirr art site within Kakadu National Park, home to some of the world's most outstanding rock art
- Swim in a waterfall at Litchfield National Park
- Cruise through ancient Nitmiluk Gorge in Katherine
- Explore the outback town of Alice Springs and the unusual underground town of Cooper Pedy

Please note, itineraries are subject to change.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE DARWIN

You've arrived in Darwin – it's yours to explore. Spend the day at your leisure before checking in to your accommodation.

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Hilton Garden Inn Darwin

DAY 2 – DARWIN HARBOUR DINNER CRUISE

Today is free for you to enjoy the sights of Darwin at leisure. Perhaps take a stroll along the Waterfront Precinct or visit the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. In the evening, admire a spectacular sunset while feasting on a Territory-style dinner featuring local seafood and produce on a Darwin Harbour Sunset Cruise (B, D)

DAY 3 – DARWIN TO LITCHFIELD AND KAKADU NATIONAL PARKS

As one adventure ends, another begins with Outback Spirit. This morning, we depart Darwin and head towards Batchelor, the gateway to Litchfield National Park. Containing several types of typical Top End habitats, Litchfield National Park is abundant with lush monsoon forests, termite mounds, unusual rock formations, waterfalls, and cascades.

After stopping for morning tea, our next stop is Florence Falls. Here you can watch from the scenic viewing platform as the spectacular falls cascade into the plunge pool below.

Next, we move onto Wangi Falls; a large plunge pool surrounded by shady grassed areas. The falls flow all year round and you can take a dip in the crystal-clear pool. After a light lunch we cross the Adelaide River and continuing east, we enter the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park before arriving at your accommodation for the next two nights, the Kakadu Crocodile Hotel at Jabiru, so named for the crocodile shape it takes. (B, L, D)

Note: Swimming at Wangi Falls is subject to National Park No Croc Safety Clearance.

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Kakadu Crocodile Hotel



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DAY 4 – KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

An early start today as we head to Jabiru Airstrip, where you'll gain another perspective on this incredible environment. Take to the skies on a 60-minute scenic flight over ancient escarpments, floodplains and winding rivers, exhibiting the results of 1.8 billion years of continuous erosion. Your flight includes live commentary from your pilot as you glide over these spectacular ancient lands.

After landing at Jabiru Airport we depart for the East Alligator River region, known as the gateway to Arnhem Land. Take a spectacular local indigenous cruise on the East Alligator River and listen to the stories of the region as you spot the large saltwater crocodiles that dwell in these waters.

After a peaceful cruise, it's time to reboard the coach and head to the World Heritage Ubirr art site, home to some of the world's most outstanding rock art.

Enjoy a 1-kilometre circular track walk and take in the amazing rock art. There will be time for those feeling fit to make the steep 250m climb to the top of the rocky escarpment for magnificent views across the Magela floodplain.

Enjoy lunch before heading to Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) Art Site where you can take in ancient rock paintings and spectacular vistas whilst enjoying the 1.5 kilometre walk around this incredible indigenous site. Then it's time to head back to the hotel to relax and enjoy dinner. (B, L, D)

**Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April you will experience Nourlangie after your scenic flight instead of Ubirr, and the cruise will occur on Yellow Waters.*

DAY 5 – KAKADU NATIONAL PARK TO DARWIN

This morning, we depart Kakadu National Park and travel along the Arnhem Highway through the Mary River National Park with its vast wetlands attracting many migratory birds.

On arrival at Mary River, you will take to the water on a cruise that showcases the local wildlife, including saltwater crocodiles and the abundance of birdlife in the region.

From here we travel through the productive region of Humpty Doo, where an array of tropical fruits are grown before heading to Darwin, arriving early evening, where your three-day Simply Kakadu Tour comes to an end. (B, L)

**Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April you will enjoy the famous 'Jumping Croc Cruise' in place of the Mary River cruise.*

OVERNIGHT: 1 night Hilton Garden Inn Darwin

DAY 6 – BOARD THE GHAN EXPEDITION IN DARWIN

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. (L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights The Ghan Expedition

DAY 7 – 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,



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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 8 – 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 9 – THE GHAN EXPEDITION, ARRIVE 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)