

RED CENTRE SPECTACULAR

THE GHAN

ADELAIDE TO DARWIN
DEPARTING SATURDAY (MARCH TO NOVEMBER)
DEPARTING TUESDAY (APRIL TO OCTOBER)
11 Days / 10 Nights

Immerse yourself in the Northern Territory's breathtaking natural wonders and settle into The Ghan's gentle rhythm as you travel across the country on this spectacular 10-day journey. From exploring the West MacDonnell Ranges to taking your place beside spiritual Uluru and Kata Tjuta, you'll soon understand why people travel great distances to see the Territory's remarkable landscapes and icons.

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights aboard The Ghan, Adelaide to Darwin, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in the Clare Valley, Flinders Ranges, Marla and Katherine
- 7 nights of intimate small group touring with Outback Spirit, including accommodation, meals and guided touring
- 1 night aboard The Ghan, Alice Springs to Darwin, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experience in Katherine
- 10 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 10 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Penobscot Farm for a signature dining experience in the Clare Valley
- Travel through the West MacDonnell Ranges, visiting Standley Chasm and Ormiston Gorge
- Visit Kings Canyon for a guided scenic walk
- See the spectacular Light Towers installation
- Visit World Heritage-listed Uluru and enjoy a guided base tour
- Early risers can experience the magic and beauty of the sun rising over Uluru
- Dine under the stars at the 'Sounds of Silence' dining experience
- Explore the rock formations of Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) and Walpa Gorge
- Admire the internationally acclaimed 'Field of Light' display at Uluru and watch as it illuminates the desert night
- Witness the breathtaking cultural experience of Wintjiri Wiru
- Visit ancient Nitmiluk Gorge

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



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DAY 3 – THE GHAN, ARRIVE 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.

Our arrival in Alice marks the start of a new adventure. We'll venture further into the heart of Australia on the eight-day Red Centre Explorer tour with Outback Spirit. Here, you will be met by the passionate Outback Spirit crew, who will be guiding you as you take in all the Red Centre has to offer over the next eight days.

Check-in at your Alice Springs hotel, where we'll stay for the first two nights. In the evening, the group will meet for welcome drinks and a short briefing on what you can expect during your tour. Tonight's dinner is at the hotel. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters

DAY 4 – ALICE SPRINGS
Today, explore Alice Springs and its surrounds, taking in natural rock formations that are truly spectacular. After breakfast, venture to the West MacDonnell Ranges and enjoy a walk to Simpsons Gap. Known as 'Rungutjirpa' by the Arrernte people, Simpsons Gap is an important spiritual site and home to dozens of rare plants and a host of native wildlife.

We'll then visit Standley Chasm – Angkerle Atwatye – a cultural icon of Central Australia, which is 100% owned and operated by the Arrernte community. We'll break for morning tea before departing the West MacDonnell Ranges to visit the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Here, enjoy a guided tour that will challenge your perception of the desert, leaving you with an understanding that the desert is full of life.

This evening, enjoy a classic-style outdoor BBQ and show under the incredible night sky. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – ALICE SPRINGS TO KINGS CANYON
Today, we say goodbye to Alice Springs as we go deeper into the outback. First up is a visit to Ellery Creek for a short walk and morning tea, then we travel to Ormiston Gorge to see its towering red cliffs. After lunch, we'll travel on to the mighty Kings Canyon and Watarrka National Park.

As we drive through the outback, we'll take the scenic Mereenie Loop 4WD track through the West MacDonnell Ranges and arrive at Kings Canyon Resort, where we'll spend the next two nights.

Tonight, dinner is at Carmichael's, a relaxed restaurant situated in Kings Canyon Resort, surrounded by native trees and bushlands. If you're lucky, you may spot an inquisitive dingo wandering through the grounds. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 2 nights Kings Canyon Resort

DAY 6 – KINGS CANYON – WATARRKA NATIONAL PARK
This morning, we depart early to experience the beauty of Kings Canyon. Two walks are available, including the spectacular 6km rim walk, which features breathtaking views of the Watarrka National Park before descending into the 'Garden of Eden'.

For those who wish to save energy, a more relaxed walk is also available along the creek on the canyon floor (2.6km).

There is also the opportunity to take a 15-minute helicopter flight over Kings Canyon and Watarrka National Park (at own expense).

After the morning's activities, we return to Kings Canyon Resort for lunch and to rest and refresh.

For those wishing to take the optional helicopter flight over Kings Canyon, this afternoon offers some time to enjoy Kings Canyon from the air (at own expense), or you can enjoy a relaxing afternoon at your leisure.

As afternoon turns to evening, we'll enjoy sunset drinks and canapes at Light-Towers, an immersive sound and light installation by the acclaimed artist Bruce Munro.

Tonight, we'll enjoy dinner at the newly renovated Kings Canyon Bar & Grill and gather to recall the day's adventures. (B,L,D)



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DAY 7 – KINGS CANYON TO ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Today is special. This morning we visit Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience and Tours, an indigenous owned and operated cultural tour. In the Aranda language, Karrke is the Aboriginal name for the western Bowerbird, which is native to Central Australia, and our guide will teach us about bush tucker and bush medicines used for spiritual and physical healing.

We then depart Karrke for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, passing through Kings Creek Station to enjoy lunch at Curtin Springs, a million-acre cattle station. In the early afternoon, we arrive at the award-winning Sails in the desert Hotel, part of the Ayers Rock Resort.

This evening, we are transferred to the Wintjiri Wiru Sunset Dinner. A breathtaking cultural storytelling experience through choreographed drones, lasers and projections illuminating the night sky.

After a short journey from the resort, we venture to an open-air theatre set upon a dune top. Enjoy cocktails infused with native ingredients while taking in the incredible views of Uluru.

As darkness descends, enjoy a gourmet dinner hamper where native ingredients are combined with modern techniques to create a balanced and flavourful palette as the night sky lights up before our eyes. Witness the ancient Mala story re-told and feel a powerful connection to country listening to a traditional Inma soundtrack and narration in the local Pitjantjatjara language. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights Sails in the Desert Hotel

DAY 8 – ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, we depart to discover Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and admire the stunning rock formations on a guided walk into Walpa Gorge, an ancient temple crafted by nature.

Take in the cultural centre and take a guided tour around the base of Uluru, which stands 348 metres above the desert plains. Learn about traditional Anangu culture and why Uluru, one of the largest monoliths in the world, is such a sacred site.

In the afternoon, tour the Gallery of Central Australia followed by free time to relax by the pool or alternatively, take the complimentary shuttle to explore the Resort and activities on offer.

Departing the resort before sunset, we head to an exclusive dune-top location, again with majestic views of Uluru. Enjoy drinks and canapes as artist Bruce Munro's global phenomenon Field of Light gently illuminates.

Aptly named Tili Wiru Tjuta Nyakutjaku (looking at lots of beautiful lights), Field of Light features 50,000 slender stems, crowned with radiant, frosted-glass spheres, spread across an area the size of seven football fields. After your host provides insight into this remarkable installation, you can explore the stunning display via dedicated pathways.

This evening, return to the hotel for dinner. (Please note dinner will be at approximately 9.00pm). (B,L,D)

DAY 9 – ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Early risers can experience the sun rising over Uluru this morning and the colours of dawn spreading across the landscape. Breakfast is at the hotel, before we depart for the Mala Walk. Admire the fine examples of rock art along this walk before arriving at Kantju Gorge, a place of profound peacefulness surrounded by sheer vertical walls.

This afternoon is at your leisure. You may choose to explore the Town Square, arrange a scenic flight (own cost) or relax in the comfort of your hotel.

This evening, enjoy the unique Sounds of Silence dining experience under the stars. Offering the best of the Red Centre distilled into four magical hours, the evening begins with canapes and chilled sparkling wine served on a viewing platform overlooking the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

As the sun sets and darkness falls, listen to the sound of the didgeridoo and enjoy a premium bush tucker-inspired buffet incorporating native bush ingredients. Afterwards, settle back and listen to the resident star talker decode the southern night sky.

After this incredible experience, we return to Sails in the Desert for our final night. (B,L,D)



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DAY 10 – ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK TO ALICE SPRINGS, THE GHAN

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel before making the journey by road from Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park to the Alice Springs Rail Terminal where your Red Centre Explorer tour comes to an end.

Re-join The Ghan in the late afternoon, as you step aboard and settle into your cabin. Raise a glass as you meet fellow travellers in the lounge, sharing stories and anticipation for the journey ahead before enjoying your first regionally inspired dinner on board as The Ghan makes its way north. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 1 night The Ghan

DAY 11 – THE GHAN, KATHERINE AND ARRIVE DARWIN

Your 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 your unforgettable journey of exploring Australia by train draws to a close. (B,L)