

TOP END EXPLORER

THE GHAN

ALICE SPRINGS TO DARWIN
DEPARTING MONDAY (MARCH TO OCTOBER)
DEPARTING THURSDAY (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER)
7 Days / 6 Nights

Connect with culture and country by combining two iconic national parks with one legendary rail journey. You'll visit incredible remote landscapes as you explore Australia by train on The Ghan from Alice Springs to Darwin, before continuing to Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks for deeper exploration of the Top End's diverse natural habitats.

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night aboard The Ghan, Alice Springs to Darwin, including all meals, beverages and an Off Train Experience in Katherine
- Transfer from Darwin Rail Terminal to hotel
- 1 nights accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast
- 2 nights of intimate small-group Kakadu, East Alligator River and Litchfield touring with Outback Spirit, including accommodation, guided touring and meals
- 2 nights accommodation in Darwin, including breakfast daily
- Darwin Harbour Sunset Dinner Cruise
- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise through ancient Nitmiluk Gorge in Katherine
- 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
- Take in the sparkling waters of Darwin Harbour over a delicious dinner of local seafood and produce

Please note, itineraries are subject to change.

DAY 1 – BOARD THE GHAN IN ALICE SPRINGS

Your journey begins in Alice Springs as you step aboard The Ghan 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. (D)

OVERNIGHT: 1 night The Ghan

DAY 2 – 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 you'll disembark The Ghan and be transferred to your overnight accommodation. After checking in, you may wish to explore the Waterfront Precinct with its many restaurants and bars. (B,L)

OVERNIGHT: 1 night Hilton Garden Inn Darwin

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.



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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 at Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

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: 2 nights Hilton Garden Inn Darwin

DAY 6 – 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 7 – FAREWELL

Your Top End experience comes to an end when you check out of your accommodation after breakfast and farewell Darwin. (B)