

TOP END EXPLORER

THE GHAN

ADELAIDE TO DARWIN
DEPARTING SATURDAY (MARCH TO OCTOBER)
DEPARTING TUESDAY (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER)
9 Days / 8 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, before continuing to Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks for deeper exploration of the Top End's diverse natural habitats.

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 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
- 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Penobscot Farm for a signature dining experience in the Clare Valley
- Discover the remarkable Flinders Ranges
- Explore the outback town of Alice Springs
- 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 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, 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 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 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 5 – 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

DAY 6 – 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



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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 7 – 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 is 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 8 – 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 9 – FAREWELL
Your Top End experience comes to an end when you check out of your accommodation after breakfast and farewell Darwin. (B)