



## AUSTRALIA

**THE GHAN - TOP END EXPLORER** (TOUR CODE: 12607)

## STARTS AND ENDS

Adelaide to  
Darwin

## TRAVEL PERIODS

Mar 2024 - Oct 2024

## EXPERIENCE

Cultural  
Rail

## TRAVEL STYLE

Rail Packages

Combine two national parks with one legendary rail journey and connect with nature, wildlife and incredible landscapes as you traverse the country.

**Highlights**

- 2 nights' aboard **The Ghan** – Adelaide to Darwin
- Explore the outback town of Alice Springs
- 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
- View the aircraft on display at the Darwin Aviation Museum
- See the largest permanent display of Aboriginal artwork
- 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
- Stroll the George Brown Botanic Gardens
- Cruise through ancient Nitmiluk Gorge in Katherine

Combine two national parks with one legendary rail journey and connect with nature, wildlife and incredible landscapes as you traverse the country. Travel through the outback from Adelaide to Darwin on The Ghan, before continuing on to Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks for deeper exploration of the Top End's diverse natural habitats.

## INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights aboard The Ghan – Adelaide to Darwin, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Marla, Alice Springs and Katherine
- 3 nights' accommodation in Darwin including breakfast
- Transfer from Darwin Rail Terminal to hotel
- 2 nights of intimate small-group Kakadu, East Alligator River and Litchfield touring with Outback Spirit Tours, travelling on board a state-of-the-art 4WD Mercedes-Benz vehicle incl. accommodation
- Half-day Darwin City Sights Tour\*
- Enjoy All-Inclusive meals and beverages
- Darwin Harbour Dinner Cruise\*\*
- 7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches and 5 Dinners
- GOLD SERVICE INCLUSIONS ON THE GHAN:
  - Comfortable sleeper cabin featuring private en suite
  - Upper & lower berths that convert to a 3-seater lounge
  - Power outlets in cabin
  - In-cabin music channels and journey audio commentary
  - All-inclusive dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant
  - All-inclusive alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages
  - All-inclusive Off Train Excursions and Short Stops
  - Luggage allowance is 60kg per guest\*\*\*

## ITINERARY

Day

1

### Board the Ghan in Adelaide

Step aboard The Ghan in Adelaide for an unforgettable adventure to the Top End. Settle into your cabin and see the changes in landscape from your window as the train leaves the city, heading for the Flinders Ranges and beyond.

#### **Overnight stay aboard The Ghan.**

Lunch, Dinner



Day **2**

## The Ghan Alice Springs

After your first night enjoying the fine dining and relaxed luxury of this iconic train, you'll wake to an amazing outback sunrise at Marla – a remote outpost 160 kilometres from the Northern Territory border that marks the start of the Oodnadatta Track.

Enjoy more incredible scenery before arriving at Alice Springs early in the afternoon to enjoy an Off Train Experience that reveals more of this historic outback town.

### **Overnight stay aboard The Ghan.**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

## The Ghan Katherine and Darwin

As you head further north into the tropics, prepare to experience one of the Top End's most impressive natural wonders. The stunning Nitmiluk Gorge lies within the massive 292,000 hectares of Nitmiluk National Park near Katherine.

You'll have the chance to explore it from the water with a guided cruise – an Off Train Experience you'll never forget. A few hours later, you'll arrive in Darwin and transfer to your accommodation.

### **Overnight stay in Darwin at Double Tree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin.**

Breakfast, Lunch





Day **4**

## Darwin to Kakadu National Park

Today your touring with Outback Spirit commences. Depart Darwin heading towards Kakadu National Park. Much of the route is along the Arnhem highway, passing the productive region of Humpty Do, where a vast array of tropical fruits is grown, and crossing the Adelaide River, with its vast wetlands, which attract migratory birds.

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

Continuing east, we enter the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, stopping at the Mamukala Wetlands and the TOP END EXPLORER Bowali Visitor Centre before arriving at your accommodation, the Crocodile Hotel at Jabiru, so named for the crocodile shape it takes.

*\*Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April, we will visit the Bowali Visitor Centre on Day 2, and the cruise will occur on Adelaide River with crossings at Mary River, West Alligator and South Alligator Rivers.*

**Overnight stay at Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel (Due to availability, some stays may be at Coinda Lodge Darwin)**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



CROCODILE AT KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Day **5**

## Kakadu National Park

Begin the day with a drive to 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 a light lunch before visiting a local indigenous community arts centre, where there is the opportunity to watch local artists at work and possibly purchase some artwork.

Later, we head out to Nourlangie where you can take in ancient rock paintings and spectacular vistas as you take a 1.5 kilometre walk around this incredible indigenous site. Then it's time to head back to the hotel to relax and enjoy dinner.

*\*\* Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April you may visit the Bowali and Warradjan Visitor Centres in place of Ubirr, and the cruise will occur on Yellow Waters.*

**Overnight stay at Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel (Due to availability, some stays may be at Coinda Lodge Darwin)**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





Day **6**

## Kakadu National Park Litchfield National Park Darwin

This morning is a 6.45am departure to Jabiru Airport, 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.

Following our morning flight, we depart Kakadu National Park 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, we head onto Wangi Falls; a large plunge pool surrounded by shady grassed areas. The falls flow all year round and after a light lunch, you can take a dip in the crystal-clear pool.

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. We then head for Darwin, arriving early evening, where your Outback Spirit Tour comes to an end.

**Overnight stay at DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin.**

Breakfast, Lunch





Day **7**

## Darwin

Take in the top sights of this tropical city on a morning tour, including the Stokes Hill Wharf area, Botanic Gardens, the Chinese Temple, the Mooring Basin, and Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, plus Darwin Aviation Museum. 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.

**Overnight stay at DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin.**

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **8**

## Farewell

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

Breakfast

## ACCOMMODATION

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### DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Esplanade

#### Darwin

Perfectly locate on Darwin Esplanade, take in the breathtaking views of the harbor and enjoy hotel's trademark cookies when you arrive. Experience an imaginative combination of food and wine and unwind by the stunning outdoor pool after a long day of sightseeing around Darwin.



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### Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

#### Kakadu National Park

An idyllic retreat located in the wilderness of Kakadu National Park and is the perfect base to start exploring many of Kakadu's most significant natural attractions. Cool off in the large outdoor pool, the perfect oasis for relaxing in between discovery tours before feasting on Kakadu bush tucker & gourmet dining at the Escarpment restaurant and bar.



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### The Ghan

The Ghan offers more than transit between Adelaide to Darwin and vice versa. Onboard you will find sumptuous dining, elegant private cabins, attentive service, and the camaraderie of your fellow travellers and when the train stops, the adventures begin. Choose from a huge range of included off-train experiences to create your own rich and rewarding personal journey through Australia's outback and beyond.

#### GOLD SERVICE

Immerse yourself in the world of romance that epitomises rail travel with our Gold Service offering. Our most popular service option has everything you'll need to feel at home for the duration of your journey.

Choose between Gold Twin or Single cabins, both of which provide the perfect place to relax and recharge after a day's journey.

And after a day of off-train activities, your cabin provides the perfect place to relax and recharge before heading for the lounge or dining carriage. With room to stretch out and all the comforts of home, Gold Service is the most popular level of service aboard The Ghan. You'll enjoy private cabin accommodation together with all-inclusive dining, beverages and a range of fascinating Off Train Excursions at key stops.

Gold includes hearty breakfasts, two-course lunches and three-course dinners. You may also choose to complement your meal with our selection of premium wines and beverages, all included in your fare.



## Gold Twin Cabins

Gold Twin offers a comfortable sleeper cabin featuring private en suite and upper and lower berths that convert to a three-seater lounge by day

### Features include

- Power outlets in cabin
- In-cabin music channels and journey audio commentary available
- All-inclusive dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant
- All-inclusive Australian wines, beers, base spirits and non-alcoholic beverages
- All-inclusive Off Train Excursions and Short Stops
- Luggage allowance is 60kg per guest
- Complimentary Shuttle bus transfers available in Darwin to selected hotels in the city centre

*Single cabins available – or upgrade to the highest level of service onboard, Platinum Service.*



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Advertised "from price" is based on 'ADVANCE PURCHASE' Rail Journey Fares and must be paid in full at time of booking. Pricing varies on each departure and is subject to availability. Please enquire with our team for exact pricing, upgrade options and departure dates.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit.

\*Half-day Darwin City Sights Tour - Tour is not included on March, April and October travel dates.

\*\*Darwin Harbour Dinner Cruise - Tour is not included on March travel dates.

\*\*\***PLEASE NOTE:** while guests may bring up to 60kg per luggage on The Ghan, there are luggage restrictions in place for Outback Spirit tours due to space limitation on the vehicles. Outback Spirit luggage allowance includes 1 x medium sized soft bag or suitcase (no more than 16kgs) and 1 x hand luggage/backpack per person. Please note there are no luggage storage facilities at our Adelaide, Alice Springs, Darwin, or Perth terminals.

### Excluded

- Flights - Please contact our team to add flights onto this package.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.