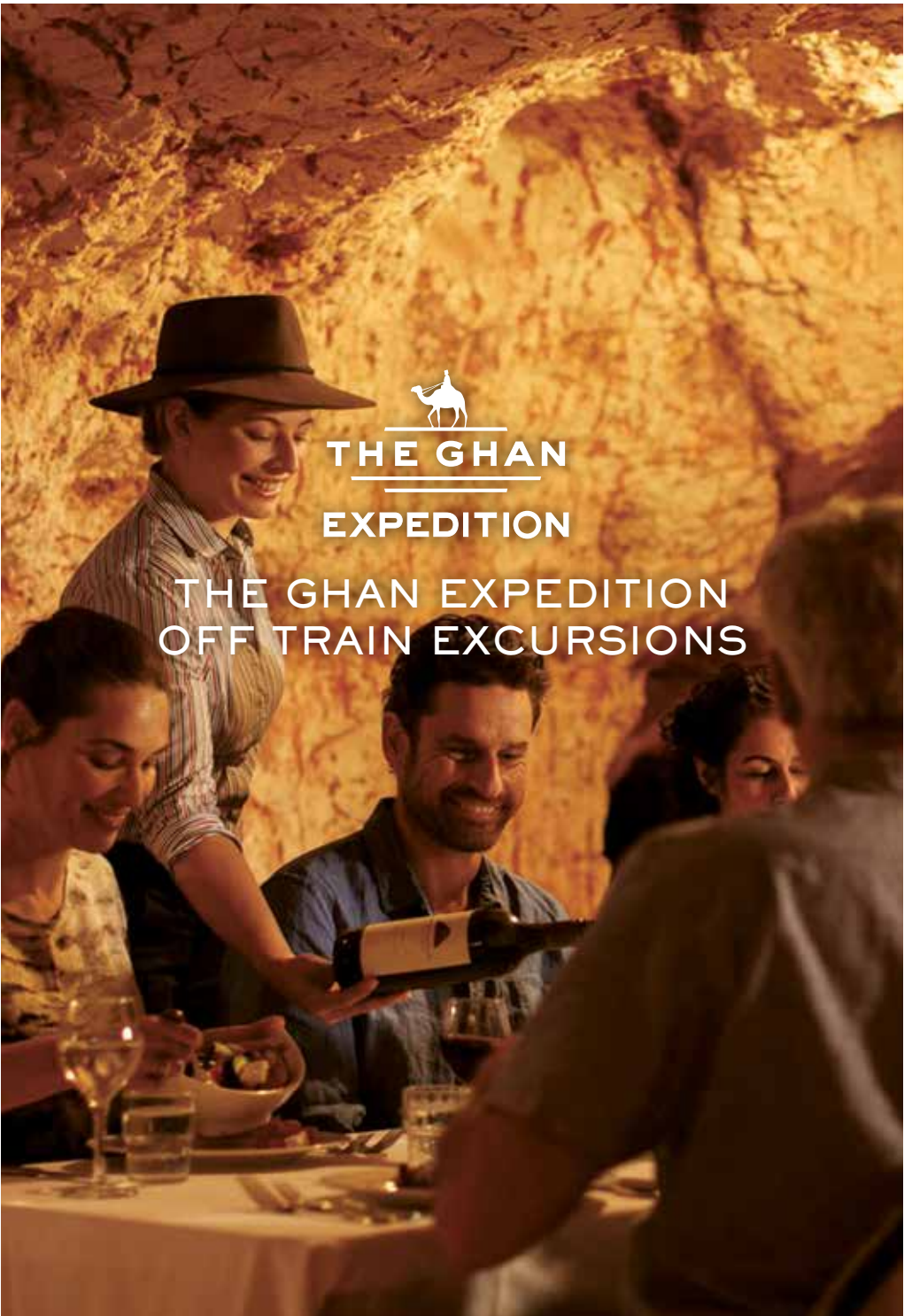




THE GHAN

EXPEDITION

THE GHAN EXPEDITION  
OFF TRAIN EXCURSIONS



**There's nothing quite like the magic and romance of a relaxing train holiday. So when we pass through such amazing destinations, it's only natural you will want to explore and discover a little more of the local attractions.**

**Off Train Excursions are specially designed to fit in with the train timetable so you'll have the opportunity to take in some of the area's best sights and better yet, they are included as part of your journey aboard The Ghan Expedition.**

**Take the time to look through the fantastic excursions on offer and make the most of your chance to see some of the spectacular attractions en route.**

**To register your preference for the Off Train Excursions you wish to participate in, simply advise your Hospitality Attendant or Restaurant Manager at your earliest opportunity.**



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## KATHERINE

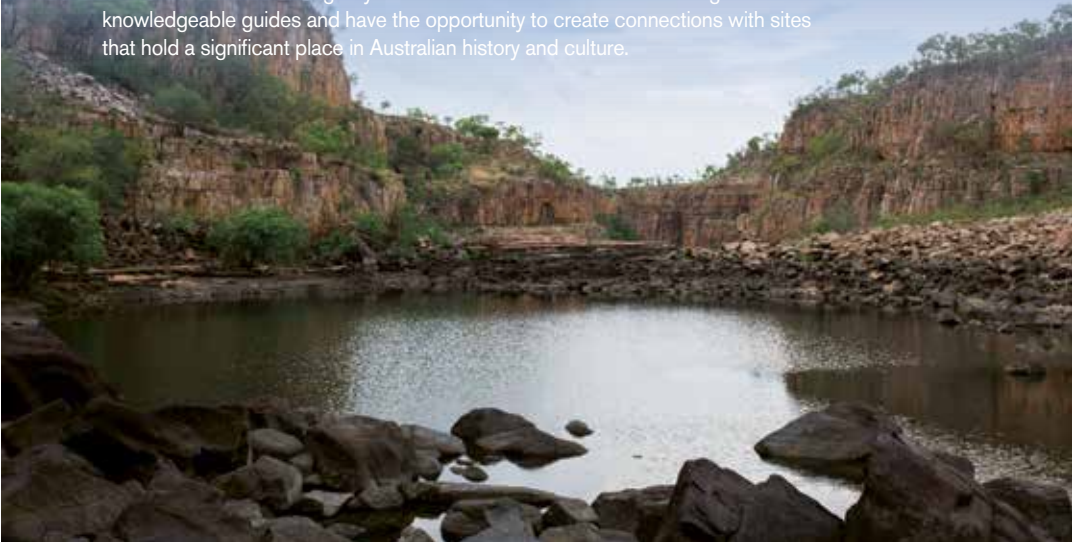
Covering more than 292,000 hectares, Nitmiluk National Park is located north-east of Katherine.

Nitmiluk is home to the spectacular Katherine Gorge, a series of sandstone gorges carved over a billion years by the Katherine River. The impressive gorge walls and white sandy beaches can be explored on foot or on a cruise and both are equally stunning experiences.

Nitmiluk National Park is a haven for nature lovers, with rugged landscapes, dramatic waterfalls and lush gorges providing an abundance of flora and fauna.

Katherine is also well known for its outback experiences. The harshness and remoteness of this wide land has created a breed of people with great heart, resilience and strength. Here you can share these experiences and stories of successes and failures – what life in the Outback is all about.

As a guest on The Ghan Expedition you can choose one of three exciting excursions included in your journey or alternatively upgrade to a more adventurous excursion. All excursions give you access to hear from some of the region's most knowledgeable guides and have the opportunity to create connections with sites that hold a significant place in Australian history and culture.





**KATHERINE**

## NITMILUK GORGE CRUISE

(included in your journey)

Relax as you discover the grandeurs of one of the Northern Territory's most monumental natural wonders on this leisurely boat cruise.

Cruise down Katherine River as the large rock formations of the Gorge tower over the calm water. Nitmiluk is home to the Indigenous Jawoyn people and many of their stories centre around the Gorge.

Calls of the cicada resonate across the water between the massive sandstone cliffs while you cruise down the First and Second Gorges listening to stories about how the Gorge came to be named. The sheer walls of the Gorge, etched by time and the elements, are home to a myriad of plant and animal life, much of it unique to this area and all playing a role to the lives of its traditional owners.

A walk of approximately 500 metres over rocky terrain is required in both directions between the First and Second Gorges. It is suggested a good level of mobility is required to participate in this excursion.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** Moderate to high – approx. 2 kilometres of walking required.





## KATHERINE

# NITMILUK FIRST GORGE ROCK ART CRUISE

(included in your journey)

Learn more about the rich history and culture of the Katherine region through the fascinating interpretations of Indigenous rock art dating back 40,000 years.

As a more relaxed cruise experience, your guide will share some of the ancient secrets of the region as you gently cruise down the First Gorge, witnessing the awe-inspiring sandstone cliffs and sheer drops that reach amazing heights.

Listen to Dreamtime stories about the creation and significance the Gorge played in the lives of its traditional owners, the Jawoyn people.

Take a short walk to the top of the First Gorge to visit an Indigenous rock art site where artwork remains even after thousands of years exposed to the elements. These works are ancient evidence of the existence of the Jawoyn culture in the area during the last Ice Age.



**Recommended Fitness Level:** Low – short walks required.



KATHERINE

## KATHERINE OUTBACK EXPERIENCE

(included in your journey - this tour operates April to October)

There has always been a romance with the Australian Outback. It is a place like no other, of far-flung cattle stations, endless horizons, horses, working dogs, and of course red dust. It is a place where women and men, in wide brimmed hats, live and work at the hands of mother nature.

If you have ever wondered what life is really like on an Australian cattle station, how a wild horse is tamed or how working dogs are trained to muster cattle, then the Katherine Outback Experience is for you.

On arrival, you will be greeted by two-time Golden Guitar winner and horseman extraordinaire, Tom Curtain and his partner Annabel McLarty, owners of the award-winning Katherine Outback Experience.

The show celebrates life on the land through real horse-starting and working dog demonstrations, Australian country music and storytelling. Raw and authentic, there are no fancy production sets

or flashing lights. Things don't always go to plan, but that is part of the beauty of the real Australian outback, and why Tom Curtain's Katherine Outback Experience has fast become one of the Territory's most highly anticipated attractions.

Tom will introduce his team of much-loved working dogs and many of the station's farm animals including Bernie the Buffalo, Tin Shaker the Braham Steer and Cecil the Mule. You will be able to get up close and personal with all animals and if you are lucky, pat and cuddle the puppies.

You will enjoy live music from Tom's three nationally acclaimed albums, Territory Time, Heatwave and Smack Bang, often performed on top of the horse's saddle.

After the show, enjoy light refreshments and local homemade food and don't forget to purchase a souvenir from the unique gift shop including Tom Curtain's albums to remember this special outback show.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** Low – short walks required with a seated tour experience.







KATHERINE

## NITMILUK GORGE HELICOPTER FLIGHT

**U** (optional upgrade - \$190.00 per person)

Stretching for kilometres throughout the top end of Australia, Nitmiluk Gorge consists of a staggering 13 limestone formations which make up one of Australia's most epic natural wonders.

While science suggests that this stunning landscape was carved over the millennia by the elements, the traditional owners of the land, the Jawoyn people, believe that the Gorge system was created by Bula. The most important figure in Jawoyn dreaming stories, Bula and his two wives hunted across this land and in doing so he transformed the landscape through his actions.

Take a helicopter flight to fully appreciate the sheer enormity of the river. As you fly over all 13 gorges, see if you can follow the path of Bula as you move through the region as he did. A view from the air is the best way to appreciate the complexity of the system that makes up Nitmiluk Gorge.

Please note weight restrictions of 130kg per person do apply.

As this excursion is an optional upgrade, a cost of \$190.00 per person will be payable direct to your Restaurant Manager. If you choose this excursion, you will not be able to participate in the included Off Train Excursions.



**Recommended Fitness Level:** Low – must be able to climb aboard the helicopter.





**KATHERINE**

## TWIN PARKS FIXED WING SCENIC FLIGHT

**U** (optional upgrade - \$400.00 per person)

Katherine and the Top End are full of hidden secrets that can only be discovered by soaring high above its vast and sometimes formidable terrain.

The Twin Parks scenic flight is your private adventure in the Top End. Transfer to the Royal Air Force Base Tindal and enjoy a chilled glass of sparkling wine before boarding your flight. Over the next 90 minutes you will discover one of Australia's most remarkable and remote natural wilderness areas. This spectacular journey gives an awe inspiring perspective of this land, taking you over two of the great National Parks of the area – Kakadu and Nitmiluk.

Listening to full commentary provided by your pilot, immerse yourself in the wonder of magnificent waterfalls, landscapes, wildlife and other hidden treasures that make up this world heritage reserve.

On returning from this moving experience you will receive a souvenir certificate to always remind you of the secrets unveiled during your time spent in the skies above this ancient land.

Please note weight restrictions do apply and vary depending on total weight of all passengers in the aircraft.

As this excursion is an optional upgrade, a cost of \$400.00 per person will be payable direct to your Restaurant Manager. If you choose this excursion, you will not be able to participate in the included Off Train Excursions.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** Low – must be able to climb aboard the aircraft.





## ALICE SPRINGS

Framed by the MacDonnell Ranges and an intense desert landscape, the township of Alice Springs is Australia's most famous Outback town.

Called Mpwante by traditional owners, the Arrernte people, and situated just 200 kilometres south of the geographic centre of Australia, the town of Alice Springs began as a repeater station along the Overland Telegraph Line.

The stories of Australian history and heritage overflow in Alice Springs, with a rich cast of characters - Afghan cameleers, flying doctors and Outback explorers. Today it is possible to pay homage to their legacy at various sites around the town and surrounding areas.

As a guest travelling on The Ghan Expedition, you can choose one of three informative excursions that explore this region, or alternatively upgrade to a more adventurous excursion. All excursions give you the opportunity to learn about the magnificent landscapes and the inspiring characters who established a town called Alice.





## ALICE SPRINGS

# ALICE SPRINGS DESERT PARK AND OUTBACK BBQ DINNER

(included in your journey)

The Alice Springs Desert Park is an inspiring portrayal of Australia's desert environment that effortlessly blends the plants, animals and people of the arid regions. With over 200 desert animals and 400 plants to explore at the base of the MacDonnell Ranges, the Desert Park is a living field guide to Central Australia.

Join your experienced guide for an exclusive guided walking tour to unravel ancient cultural stories, the science behind the region's breath-taking landscapes, mysterious animal life and geological marvels. Your exclusive guided walking tour takes you through tall river red gums, enduring Spinifex or vibrant seasonal wildflowers for an unforgettable close-up exploration of outback flora and fauna.

Enjoy a leisurely lunch during your time in the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Step inside the Nocturnal House to discover the mysterious lives of desert animals of the night including the iconic bilby and mala.

Watch closely as these animals go about their natural interaction and foraging for food.

As a guest travelling on The Ghan Expedition there is a front row seat reserved for you at the spectacular free flight bird show. After the show your back stage pass allows you to get up close and personal with the birds and trainers during a private training session.

See the resident dingoes before viewing a film on desert evolution on the big screen or alternatively take time to enjoy the vast views of the MacDonnell Ranges from the cafe.

Return to The Ghan to freshen up prior to dinner.

Transfer to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station for a truly unique and authentic dinner experience. Become immersed in the spirit and grandeur that is the history of the Australian Outback. Tuck in to a mouth-watering meal, enjoy a cold beer or a fine wine all whilst under a chandelier of stars.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** Moderate – guided walking tour approximately 2.5km





## **ALICE SPRINGS**

# **ALICE EXPLORER AND OUTBACK BBQ DINNER**

**(included in your journey)**

Alice Springs might be the gateway to the heart of Australia, but this town also holds some of its very own gems.

Travel to the world's largest classroom, The School of the Air, covering more than 1.3 million square kilometres.

Alice Springs School of the Air was established in 1951 and is still in operation today. It was the first to use two-way radio broadcasts to help with the education of students in remote areas who were unable to attend face-to-face lessons. If you are lucky, you may be able to witness a class first hand.

Visit the attraction triangle where you can choose to visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service Base to learn about the vital medical care the service provides to thousands living in Outback Australia.

Go on to visit the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, one of three women's museums in Australia, dedicated to preserving the place of women in

history for their special contribution to Australia's heritage.

Alternatively, you can take a detour to the Reptile Centre, home to the largest reptile display in Central Australia with more than 100 reptiles exhibited. Terry the Saltwater Crocodile's exhibit features underwater viewing enabling you to get up close to this mighty predator.

The choice is yours, visit as many or as little as you please.

Capture a stunning photograph of Alice Springs atop ANZAC Hill before returning to The Ghan to freshen up prior to dinner.

Transfer to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station for a truly unique and authentic dinner experience. Become immersed in the spirit and grandeur that is the history of the Australian Outback. Tuck in to a mouth-watering meal, enjoy a cold beer or a fine wine all whilst under a chandelier of stars.



**Recommended Fitness Level:** Low – coach tour with short walks required.





## ALICE SPRINGS

# SIMPSONS GAP DISCOVERY WALK AND OUTBACK BBQ DINNER

(included in your journey)

Simpsons Gap is one of the most prominent gaps in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Located 18 kilometres by sealed road from Alice Springs, it features the towering cliffs of Simpsons Range, a permanent waterhole, and opportunities to spot resident wildlife.

A magical location where important elements of flora, fauna and Indigenous culture all come together, the Simpsons Gap area incorporates large stands of Mulga and is a major stronghold for over 40 rare and relict plants.

Here you will enjoy walks that pass the native plants of the area including ancient Ghost Gums and views of the range.

Known as Rungtjirpa to the Arrernte Aboriginal people, Simpsons Gap was the mythological home of a group of giant goanna ancestors. Several dreaming trails and stories cross at this important spiritual site.

Enjoy the serenity and peacefulness as you watch the walls glow from reflected sunlight, creating a breathtaking display of stark form and rich colour.

The Simpsons Gap walks are on a natural site. While every precaution has been taken to ensure the walk is safe for everyone, we do insist that all walkers are of high fitness, do wear appropriate footwear, carry a water bottle and wear a hat and sunscreen.

On completion of your guided walks, travel to the Alice Springs Desert Park for lunch and free time in this inspiring portrayal of Australia's desert environment. Return to The Ghan to freshen up prior to dinner.

Transfer to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station for a truly unique and authentic dinner experience. Become immersed in the spirit and grandeur that is the history of the Australian Outback. Tuck in to a mouth-watering meal, enjoy a cold beer or a fine wine all whilst under a chandelier of stars.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** High – walking tour, approx. 4 kilometres of walking required. Guests must wear long pants and enclosed shoes.





## ALICE SPRINGS

# ALICE TO OFF ROAD AND OUTBACK BBQ DINNER

(included in your journey)

Your Alice to Off Road mountain bike adventure begins at Outback Cycling in Todd Mall. From here you will be guided to the historical Old Telegraph Station. The trail winds itself in and around the famous dry Todd River, as you experience up close some of the most breathtaking countryside. Your tour will take you along the Ilentye trail an Indigenous Arrernte word, pronounced eeLINDGE, meaning Galah. This area of National Park is home to many wild galahs distinguishable by their pink colouring, often seen feeding in small flocks.

After a leisurely cycle on the ochre coloured dirt, your Tour Guide will lead you to a picturesque spot, where you will be able to soak in this amazing landscape. Photography and relaxing is definitely encouraged! Your bike ride resumes along the Ilentye trail that runs parallel to the unique rugged terrain that is home to many black-footed rock wallabies, often spotted moving over the rocks.

Ghost Gum trees line the trail and provide a stark contrast to the blue sky and red landscape.

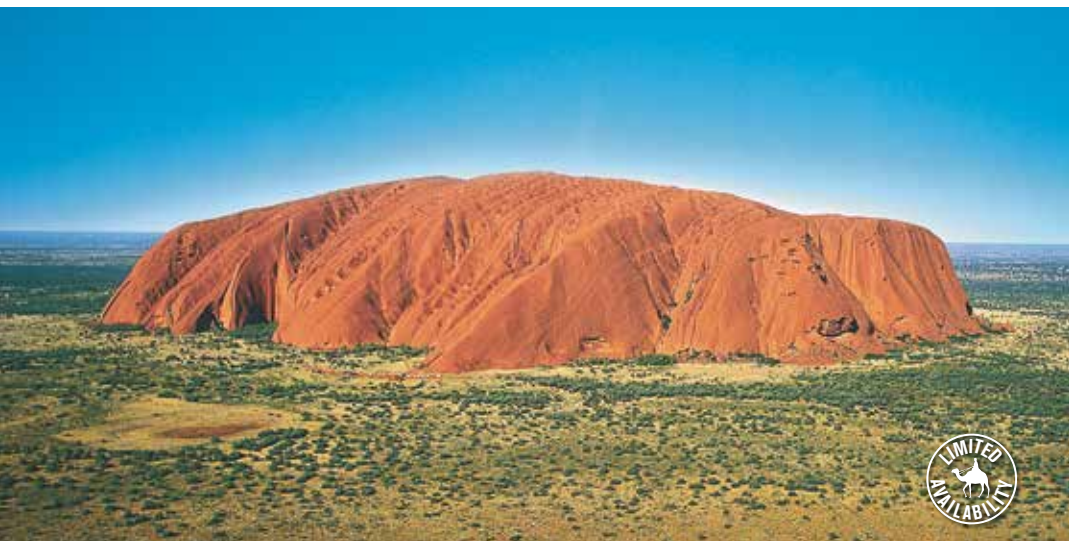
This cycling tour provides an active and hands on way to tour Alice Springs, learning about the history of the town, its geological formations as well as immersing yourself in the captivating landscape.

After you have completed your mountain bike ride, enjoy lunch in one of the quaint cafes in Todd Mall.

Transfer back to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station in the evening for a truly unique and authentic dinner experience. Become immersed in the spirit and grandeur that is the history of the Australian Outback. Tuck in to a mouth-watering meal, enjoy a cold beer or a fine wine all whilst under a chandelier of stars.



**Recommended Fitness Level:** Moderate to High – Mountain Bike Ride approx. 6km across sandy bike paths. Enclosed footwear and comfortable clothing recommended.



## ALICE SPRINGS

# ULURU FIXED WING SCENIC FLIGHT AND OUTBACK BBQ DINNER

**U** (optional upgrade - \$1249.00 per person)

Be sure to take your camera and capture these once in a lifetime memories.

Transfer to Alice Springs Airport to board your chartered Uluru scenic flight. Undertake your safety briefing, board the aircraft and get ready for takeoff.

As you head to Uluru you will fly over – Kata Tjuta National Park. Take in the spectacular outback scenery and vastness of Australia with a unique bird's eye view.

On arrival at Ayers Rock Airport, you will be met by your tour guide to commence your immersive experience of Uluru.

World Heritage-listed Uluru is one of Australia's most iconic symbols and best known natural landmarks. The ancient monolith is impressive; Uluru is 348 metres above the plain, more than 860 metres above sea level and has a circumference of 9.4 kilometres. During your time at Uluru you will visit Mutitjula Waterhole, home of Wanampi, an ancestral water snake.

Enjoy a picnic lunch before travelling around the base of Uluru by vehicle. Hear cultural stories and environmental information from your local guide. Stop for the picture-perfect postcard photo.

Return to Alice Springs Airport and transfer to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station for a truly unique and authentic dinner experience. Become immersed in the spirit and grandeur that is the history of the Australian Outback. Tuck in to a mouth-watering meal, enjoy a cold beer or a fine wine all whilst under a chandelier of stars.

Please note weight restrictions do apply and vary depending on total weight of all passengers in the aircraft.

As this excursion is an optional upgrade, a cost of \$1249.00 per person will be payable direct to your Restaurant Manager unless booked prior. If you choose this excursion, you will not be able to participate in the included Off Train Excursions.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** Moderate – must be able to climb aboard the aircraft and guided walks required.







# COOBER PEDY

Coober Pedy is an opal mining town located in the harsh Outback of South Australia, some 680 kilometres south of Alice Springs and 850 kilometres north of Adelaide.

Coober Pedy is recognised as the largest producer of opal in the world with an estimated 70% of the world's precious opal being mined in the opal fields of the area.

Although opal had been discovered elsewhere in Australia around the late 1800s and early 1900s, it was first discovered in this area by Willie Hutchison, in February 1915. Following his discovery, settlement began and subsequently developed into the modern town of Coober Pedy.

Whilst living conditions were harsh with water and provisions being carted great distances, today the local water supply comes from an underground source 24 kilometres north of the town.

Today with a population of approximately 3,500, Coober Pedy has one of the most multicultural communities in Australia with an estimated 45 nationalities represented.

As a guest travelling on The Ghan Expedition, you will enjoy an excursion that explores this region, showcasing the hardships and rewards of opal mining.







## COOBER PEDY

# EXPLORE COOBER PEDY

(included in your journey)

Visit all the hot spots of Coober Pedy during this jam packed excursion.

Coober Pedy is an 'underground' town where you could arrive with just the shirt on your back and leave a millionaire.

Tour the town and hear about its history. See the Serbian Orthodox Church, built underground with rock carvings in the walls, high roof 'ballroom' style design and stained glass windows making this one of Coober Pedy's most awe inspiring structures.

Visit Umooona Opal Mine and Museum, an underground museum with detailed historical content of the town, an Aboriginal Interpretive Centre, an underground home known as a 'dugout' and an original opal mine. Should you wish, some professional advice is available on opal quality and pricing in the gift shop.

Visit the grassless golf course, the only golf club with reciprocal playing rights to St Andrews in Scotland.

See a working opal field at the Quest Opal Mine where there is the chance to don a hard hat and grab a pick to try your luck at finding your own fortune. Here you will enjoy lunch.

With your fortune stored safely in your pocket, travel along a portion of The Dog Fence, the longest continual construction in the world. Stretching some 5,300 kilometres, it begins east of Surfers Paradise in Queensland and ends up north of Ceduna in the Great Australian Bite, South Australia.

Stop en route for a great photo opportunity before arriving at The Breakaways, a striking example of arid scenery. Looking out over the Breakaways it is hard to believe that a vast inland sea covered the area. Marvel at the scenery that stretches as far as the eye can see.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** Moderate to high – stairs, steep inclines, short walks and navigating underground tunnels required.





## COOBER PEDY

# OPAL EXPERIENCE

(included in your journey)

Discover the beauty and history of Australia's national gemstone at the Umoona Opal Mine and Museum, one of Coober Pedy's original attractions and the Opal capital of the world.

Join the local guide as you meander along the Opal tour on a journey through history. You will then enjoy an immersive opal experience showcasing the largest display of high end opals in South Australia as well as the opportunity to take in some wonderful shopping at the retail shop.

Explore the underground caverns, hand dug shafts and tunnels featuring an original underground dugout home and memorabilia from the past.

From Umoona you will then head to one of your two lookouts across this unique outback town. Looking out over the Breakaways it's hard to believe that a vast inland sea covered the area and that over time, the landscape has been transformed into a dramatic terrain that changes colour with the passing of the sun and creates an almost surreal panorama. Your second lookout is at the Big Winch, and will provide you with the perfect vantage point to truly appreciate the breathtaking landscape and view of the surrounding town.

A visit to the Opal Quest Mine is where you will have the opportunity to don a hard hat and try your luck at fortune while enjoying this relaxed lunch in this unique underground dining experience.



**Recommended Fitness Level:** Moderate – stairs, steep inclines, short walks and navigating underground tunnels required.



## COOBER PEDY

# DISCOVER THE MAJESTIC BREAKAWAYS

(included in your journey)

Take the time to wander and discover the incredible diversity of Coober Pedy's spectacular Breakaways on this guided tour.

The Breakaways Reserve got its name from the colourful low hills that appear from a distance as if they are 'broken away' from the higher ground of the reserve. The landscape was once an inland sea and over time has been transformed into a dramatic landscape that changes colour with the passing of the sun creating an almost surreal panorama.

The Breakaways Lookout is a highlight for guests and provides the perfect vantage point to truly appreciate the breathtaking landscape.

This cultural tour takes you on a journey and brings the land to life. Your local guide showcases the vibrant local flora and fauna and delights you with indigenous 'dream time' stories and tales from the past.

You will discover the beauty and history of Australia's national gemstone at the Umoona Opal Mine and Museum, one of Coober Pedy's original attractions and the Opal capital of the world.

A guided interactive tour of the museum is a perfect back drop to allow you the opportunity explore the underground caverns, hand dug shafts and tunnels featuring an original underground dugout home and memorabilia from the past.

A visit to the Opal Quest Mine is where you will be able to don a hard hat and try your luck finding fortune while enjoying lunch in this unique underground dining experience.

**Recommended Fitness Level:** Moderate – approximately 500m of walking and standing for long periods at the Breakaways. The remainder of the excursion involves stairs, steep inclines and navigating underground tunnels.



# OFF TRAIN EXCURSIONS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Valid for travel on The Ghan Expedition from 03 April 2018 to 27 October 2018.

Minimum numbers may apply to some Off Train Excursions. The content of Off Train Excursions is subject to change without notice. All arrangements are subject to cancellation or modification due to inclement weather, late running of train or other unforeseen circumstances.

Refunds will not be given for cancelled or modified excursions.

Fares are quoted in Australian dollars and include GST. All fares are subject to change without notice.

Great Southern Rail does not own, operate or control Off Train Excursions. To the extent permitted by law, Great Southern Rail is not responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity whatsoever or expenses incurred resulting from a third party supplier's acts or omissions.

The travel services provided by these suppliers are subject to the conditions imposed by the suppliers and their liability may be limited by their tariffs, conditions of carriage, and agreements.

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