



THE GHAN

OFF TRAIN EXCURSIONS ADELAIDE TO DARWIN



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.

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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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, 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

(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 breathtaking 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.

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 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 some retail therapy in the gift shop.



Recommended Fitness Level: Moderate – guided walking tour.



ALICE SPRINGS

ALICE EXPLORER

(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. Now is your chance to explore some of the iconic sites of the Alice to discover its significant place in Australian history.

Visit the attraction triangle where you have time to briefly visit the following venues.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service, to learn about the vital medical care the service provides to thousands of Australians living in Outback Australia.

The National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, one of three women's museums in Australia, celebrating women in history who have made a significant contribution to Australia's heritage.

Get up close and personal with the reptiles of the Australian Outback with a visit the Reptile Centre, where you will meet Terry the Saltwater Crocodile and a range of other scaly friends such as goannas, frill-neck lizards and thorny devils. The choice is yours, tour times will be explained to you by you or Great Southern Rail Guide.

Re-join the group and travel to the historical precinct of The Alice Springs Telegraph Station. Here you'll learn about day to day life of the first European settlement in Alice Springs and how the station played a pivotal role in bridging the isolation and communication gap between remote Australian towns. Established in 1872 to relay messages between Darwin and Adelaide, it is the best preserved of the 12 stations along the Overland Telegraph Line.



ALICE SPRINGS

SIMPSONS GAP DISCOVERY WALK

(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 breath-taking 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.



Recommended Fitness Level: High – walking tour, approximately a total of 4 kilometres of walking required.



ALICE SPRINGS

PYNDAN CAMEL TRACKS

U (optional upgrade - \$60.00 per person)

Experience what transportation was like in bygone times for the Afghan traders of Central Australia by riding on the back of a friendly camel.

The ride begins at Pyndan Camel Tracks yards and travels into White Gums Station. The track follows an avenue of Iron Bark and Mulga trees, across a clay pan flat, and climbs a slight incline to reach sweeping views across the MacDonnell Ranges through Temple Bar Gap.

Keep your eye out for kangaroos and wallabies, birds and lizards and don't forget your camera for those spectacular panoramic landscape views.

Hop off and wander through the camel museum, or purchase your own memento of your camel experience from the quaint souvenir shop. Relax and listen to the sounds of surrounding bushland as you sit back with a cool drink and cuisine inspired by flavours of the bush.

As this excursion is an optional upgrade, a cost of \$60.00 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.



ALICE SPRINGS

SPIRIT OF MOUNT GILLEN HELICOPTER FLIGHT

U (optional upgrade - \$185.00 per person)

Early explorers trekked on foot across harsh desert to find magnificent landscapes that are now ingrained in Australian history and culture. Fast forward hundreds of years and today's explorers enjoy these same landscapes with a touch more comfort and a bird's eye view.

Transfer to the Crown Plaza Alice Springs, where you have the opportunity to sit back and relax around the pool area with a drink while waiting for your helicopter flight. The helicopter flight will take you up and over Alice Springs to experience amazing views of Simpson's Gap – one of the most prominent water holes in the region – Mt. Gillen Ridgeline and the Larapinta Trail.

It's only from the air that you'll experience the sheer magnitude of this ancient and timeless land. Absorb the spirit of the Outback as your pilot reveals its mystery through detailed commentary.

Don't forget your camera to capture memories of these unique and unforgettable landscapes that will last forever.

After your flight, enjoy a swim in the pool or the hotel facilities while you wait for your transfer back to Alice Springs Rail Terminal. This really feels like a touch of luxury in the centre of Australia.

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

As this excursion is an optional upgrade, a cost of \$185.00 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.



ALICE SPRINGS

ALICE SPRINGS AND SURROUNDS FIXED WING SCENIC FLIGHT

U (optional upgrade - \$380.00 per person)

This is your chance to see the views of Alice Springs and the surrounding region from a different perspective.

Alice Springs is surrounded by the MacDonnell Ranges which run in an east-west direction and extend for a distance of 642 kilometres.

To the Arrernte Aboriginal people, the Ranges that are close to Alice Springs (Mt Gillen and Mt Johns) are giant caterpillars (Yeperenye). The caterpillars made their way from the west and from the east to meet at a place now called Heavitree Gap.

From the air you can witness the unique beauty of Emily Gap, Jessie Gap, Simpsons Gap, Glen Helen and Ormiston Gorges and follow the ochre coloured sandstone cliffs of Mt Gillen.

Continue to be inspired by the natural surroundings and cultural heritage of these areas, taking in the extensive views of Alice

Springs, Heavitree Gap, the Todd River and the colourful desert ranges that are a feature of this scenic flight.

See the Alice Springs Rail Terminal and the enormity of The Ghan, ANZAC Hill and take a peek at the United States/Australian Joint Defence Space Research Facility at Pine Gap plus cross the oldest known river system in the world, the Finke River before returning to Alice Springs Airport.

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

As this excursion is an optional upgrade, a cost of \$380.00 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.



Darwin

Katherine

Adelaide

KATHERINE

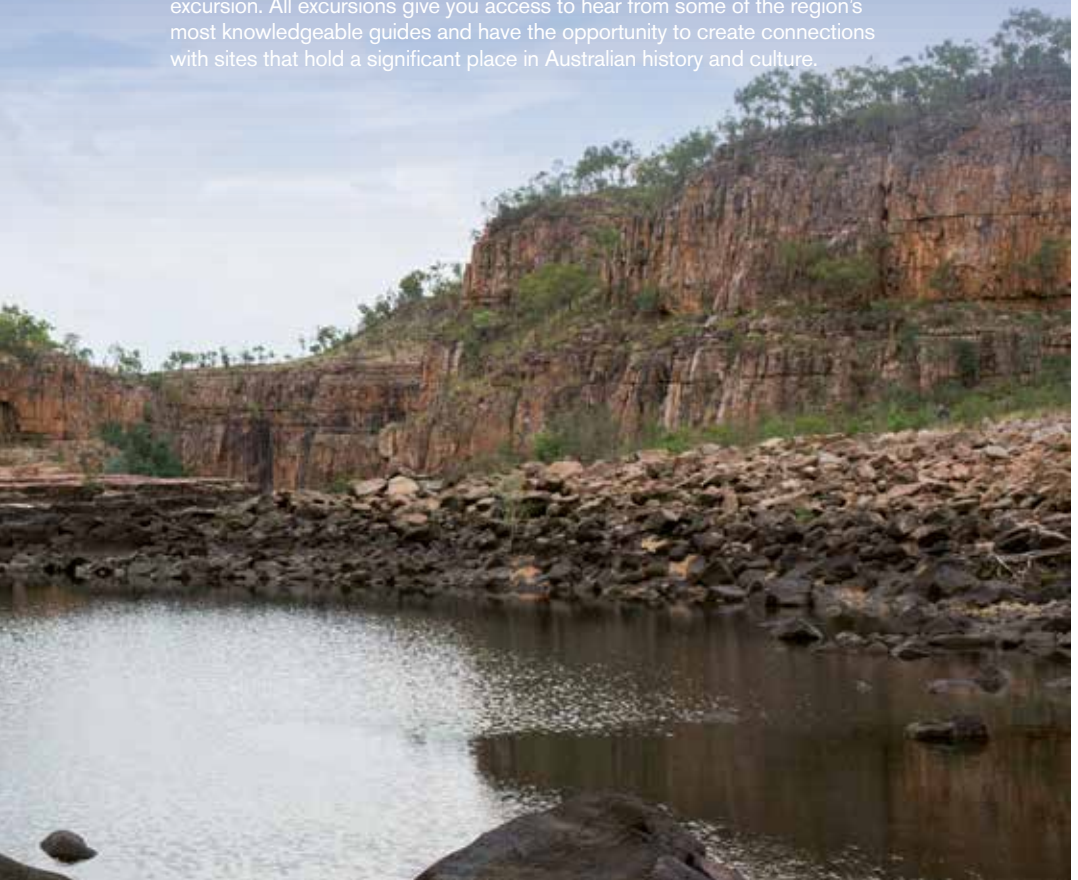
Covering more than 292,000 hectares, Nitmiluk National Park is located north-east of Katherine.

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 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.



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.



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. The raw beauty, dramatic landscapes and isolation has created a special breed of people with great heart, strength and resilience who live and work at the hands of Mother Nature.

Katherine Outback Experience provides a unique window into the real Australian Outback and the inner workings of life on a cattle station through the sharing of stories and experiences, cattle dog demonstrations and live music performances.

Hear about Tom Curtain who began his professional horse training career in 2001 at Mt Sanford Station in the Northern Territory. It was in the stock camp he taught himself to play guitar. What started out as some fun, writing songs about life on the land and singing around the campfire, lead to the release of his award winning album 'Smack Bang!' in which the

title track went to Number 1 in the Australian Country Music Charts.

Meet the team of dedicated people and station animals ranging from stock horses to working dogs, cattle, a buffalo and even a donkey who all have a key role in the show. The 'Stock Yards' is where the action takes place. Enjoy a live demonstration of the art of horse-breaking, depicting the psychology between man and horse, watch the Riverboyne Dog Team working cattle, goats or ducks in harmony, before interacting with Bernie the Buffalo, Tin Shaker the Brahman Steer and Legend the Trick Horse.

There is even time to sit back and relax, listening to live music including some well-known Aussie anthems and originals, often performed from a top of a horse. An action packed experience filled with fun facts and history about the cattle industry and Australian Outback.



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. See 17 Mile Valley, Northern Rock Hole and Biddlebomb Cascades. 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.

OFF TRAIN EXCURSION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Valid for travel on The Ghan from 01 April 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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