EXPLORE THE OUTBACK ON
THE GHAN
3rd - 5th DECEMBER 2017
THE GHAN TRIP

Explore the Outback on The Ghan.

ADELAIDE TO DARWIN (NORTHBOUND)

Regarded as one of the world’s greatest rail journeys, The Ghan delivers so much more than an extended train ride. It promises access to parts of Australia no other holiday can come close to – a unique insight into the spectacular and ever changing landscape between Darwin, Alice Springs and Adelaide and the perfect balance of comfort and adventure culminating in an experience that will move you in every sense of the word.

Two nights and three days setting off from Adelaide via Alice Springs and Katherine, one way, 2,979km. Coast to coast, through the fiery red centre, experiencing Australia at its dramatic best.

You will be staying in a Gold Service private cabin with all-inclusive fine dining and beverages at the classically styled Queen Adelaide Restaurant and enjoy extended off train excursions and outback stops in Marla, Katherine and Alice Springs.

TRAVEL TIME

3 – 5 December 2017 (plus 1 night in Adelaide and 1 night in Darwin)

THE GHAN DEPARTS FROM

Adelaide Parklands Terminal, Keswick, South Australia

THE GHAN ARRIVES IN

Darwin Train Station, Salloo Street (off Berrimah Road), East Arm, Northern Territory

OFF TRAIN EXCURSION STOPS

Katherine and Alice Springs

OUTBACK SHORT STOP

Marla
ARRIVAL
Arrive into Adelaide. Transfer to Hilton Adelaide® for the night. Free and easy.

DAY 1
ADELAIDE AND FLINDERS RANGES
Transfer to Adelaide Parklands Terminal to board The Ghan. Departure time is 12:15pm. Please check in 60mins before departure time. Step aboard the legendary Ghan, and once you’ve settled in and the big wheels start turning, make your way to the classically styled Queen Adelaide Restaurant carriage for a delicious 2 course lunch, accompanied by your choice of fine wines. Before long some of the oldest rock formations in the world, the Flinders Ranges come into view and as darkness envelopes the rugged outback, indulge in a three course modern Australian cuisine. After dinner, head back to your cabin for a good night’s sleep in anticipation of a striking outback sunrise.

DAY 2
THE CENTRE - MARLA, MACDONNELL RANGES AND ALICE SPRINGS
Wake up and witness an unforgettable outback sunrise at our morning stop in Marla in the remote reaches of South Australia. Back on board, enjoy brunch as you make your way through the MacDonnell Ranges to Alice Springs where a choice of Off Train Excursions awaits – catch a glimpse of the history of yesteryear, the thriving culture and unique lifestyle of today or visit local landmarks, or take a front row seat at a spectacular bird show at the Desert Park. Back on the train for dinner, sample the menu created in collaboration with award-winning smallgoods purveyor, Barossa Fine Foods.

DAY 3
Arrive into Adelaide. Transfer to Hilton Adelaide® for the night. Free and easy.
KATHERINE TO DARWIN

Welcome to Katherine! Upon reaching the Northern Territory you’ll enjoy another full breakfast before leaving the train for a day of cultural delights. Endless options await in Katherine. Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the Katherine River gazing in wonder at towering sandstone cliffs or alternatively, gain an insight into the culture and ways of the traditional owners of Nitmiluk, the Jawoyn people, with an exclusive cultural experience. Spend the day with the Aboriginal people, sharing their culture, learning their ways and trying some of the skills developed over thousands of years.

A late lunch awaits back on board, then kick back and savour the last few hours of this epic journey.

Roll into Darwin at 5.30pm then ease back into "life on the land".

Transfer to Hilton Darwin* for one night. Free and easy.

DEPARTURE

Enjoy breakfast before Check Out.

Transfer to airport to board your flight home.

*Accommodation may change depending on availability at the time of booking.
The Ghan

ON - BOARD

GOLD SERVICE - SINGLE INCLUSIONS
Private compact sleeper cabin featuring a bed that converts to a seat by day, private vanity, with shared shower/toilet facilities located at the end of the carriage.
Fresh sheets, bath towels, pillows, doonas, hair dryer and complimentary toiletries.

QUEEN ADELAIDE RESTAURANT
Take your seat at one of the world’s most exclusive restaurants. At the heart of the Queen Adelaide Restaurant is a commitment to fresh, regionally-sourced Australian food.
Dynamic menus showcase the finest regional flavours available - from Top End barramundi, locally-produced beef and lamb, Margaret River cheeses, Barossa Valley smallgoods and native Australian fare including kangaroo, saltbush and wild rosella flower. All meals are complemented by a range of all-inclusive wines, beers and non-alcoholic beverages.

THE OUTBACK EXPLORER LOUNGE
You never know who you’ll meet or where the conversation will lead in the Outback Explorer Lounge – the perfect place for travellers to come together and share stories, all while enjoying a wide range of all-inclusive refreshments. All day and often late into the night, the Outback Explorer Lounge is the train’s centre of activity where long hours can be spent socialising, snacking and catching glimpses of passing wildlife through wide picture windows.

CLIMATE
Travelling from one end of the country to the other can provide a variation in climates. On The Ghan you can experience mid-30 degree temperatures in Darwin or Katherine and 4 degree nights/early mornings in the desert during your Outback Experiences in Marla.
Below is a guide of average temperatures (°C) in December for key stops The Ghan goes through.

Adelaide: 15.6 °C (min) – 27.1 °C (max)
Marla: 20.0 °C (min) – 35.1 °C (max)
Alice Springs: 20.2 °C (min) – 35.4 °C (max)
Katherine: 24.8 °C (min) – 36.5 °C (max)
Darwin: 25.3 °C (min) – 32.6 °C (max)

WHAT TO WEAR
Smart casual attire is recommended. Warm clothes for Outback Experiences as mornings and evenings in the Outback can be cool. We also recommend you pack a wide brimmed hat, SPF30+ sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes for your Off Train Excursions. Warm clothes are recommended for evenings on board the train, as the air-conditioning can be cool.

The Ghan History
Originally dubbed the Afghan Express, The Ghan train was named for the pioneering cameleers who blazed a permanent trail into the Red Centre of Australia more than 150 years ago. Many cameleers were migrants from an area now known as Pakistan. However, according to outback lore in the 1800s, these men were believed to come from the mysterious outpost of Afghanistan and were considered Afghans - ‘Ghans’.
ON - BOARD

THE GHAN

GOLD SERVICE

THE GHAN HISTORY
Originally dubbed the Afghan Express, The Ghan train was named for the pioneering cameleers who blazed a permanent trail into the Red Centre of Australia more than 150 years ago. Many cameleers were migrants from an area now known as Pakistan. However, according to outback lore in the 1800s, these men were believed to come from the mysterious outpost of Afghanistan and were considered Afghans - 'Ghans'.

WHAT ELSE TO PACK
Guests who bring electronic devices, such as laptops, that connect to 240-volt power on the trains should also pack a surge arrestor.

LUGGAGE
Due to space constraints, guests are advised to take on-board only hand luggage / overnight bag containing the requirements for your entire rail journey.

Your cabin luggage allowance: One piece of hand luggage plus a garment bag, cabin bag (105 cm/41 inches – linear measurement) or briefcase

Your check-in luggage allowance: 2 x 30kgs. Luggage check-in opens 2.5 hours prior to departure and closes 60 minutes prior to departure. Checked luggage cannot be accessed during the journey.

Certain items are prohibited from being carried in your luggage at all. Valuables including your passport, medicine, fragile or perishable items must be carried on board as cabin baggage. An additional fee may apply to excess luggage. Please refer to The Ghan’s Terms and Conditions for full conditions.

MONEY ON-BOARD
Visa, MasterCard, American Express Card and Diners Card are accepted on-board the trains. Travellers Cheques are not accepted and EFTPOS is not available.

INSURANCE
We suggest you consider taking travel insurance to protect your holiday plans.

SMOKING
Smoking is prohibited on The Ghan. For smokers, we suggest nicotine mints/gum.

INSECT BITES
Insect bites are often experienced as a result of midges which are common in the Northern Territory. Biting midge abundance varies greatly during the month, with highest numbers occurring around the time of the full moon and to a lesser extent around the new moon. Biting midge numbers also vary during the year with relatively low numbers during the wet season, an increase from April to August, and highest numbers occurring between August and November. The increase in numbers each month coincides with the increase in the highest tide levels each month from the mid to late dry season.