



PLATINUM JOURNEYS



TOP END ESCAPE VIA THE GHAN

Tuesday 7th July – Friday 17th July 2020

Hop on the Ghan at Adelaide and travel to NT. Then arrive at the sparkling harbour of Darwin, the indigenous culture of the Tiwi Islands, the misty waterfalls of Litchfield National Park and the exceptional natural beauty of Kakadu National Park on our amazing tour to the Top End.



Day 1: HOME - ADELAIDE Tue 7 Jul 20 (D)

Welcome to our magnificent tour from Adelaide to Darwin featuring the Ghan, Kakadu, Tiwi Islands and Litchfield National Park. We board our flight to Adelaide where we have an afternoon at leisure before a welcome dinner at our accommodation (lunch at own expense / dinner at hotel)

Overnight: Adelaide Rockford (PH: 08 8211 8255)

Day 2: GHAN Wed 8 Jul 20 (BLD)

All aboard the legendary Ghan, travelling 2 nights across rugged and spectacular landscapes. Sit back and watch the rolling pastoral lands of South Australia out the window or chat to your fellow travellers in the lounge car. Before you know it, we're seeing some of the oldest rock formations in the world as the Flinders Ranges come into view. This evening, indulge in a regionally-inspired menu and selection of local wines in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant as darkness falls outside the train's windows (breakfast at accommodation / lunch and dinner included on the Ghan)

Overnight: The Ghan, Great Southern Rail (PH: 08 8213 4401)

Day 3: GHAN Thu 9 Jul 20 (BLD)

Begin with a freshly brewed coffee or juice as the day dawns at Marla, an outback outpost in remote South Australia. It's here, deep inland, that you will enjoy a one of a kind experiences, as you watch the desert come to life at sunrise. All aboard for brunch as we make your way through the MacDonnell Ranges to Alice Springs where a choice of off train excursions awaits. Alice is an iconic Red Centre outpost. 1,500 kilometres from the nearest major city, it may be remote, but offers plenty to explore – home to doctors who fly, rivers that run dry, and a cast of colourful characters. Your time in the 'capital out of the outback' offers numerous opportunities to explore its historic legacy and unique environment (all meals included on the Ghan)

Overnight: The Ghan, Great Southern Rail (PH: 08 8213 4401)

Day 4: GHAN Fri 10 Jul 20 (BLD)

Our day dawns in the tropical north. The pristine wilderness of Katherine is stirring and powerful, and we'll have the chance to explore it from the water or land with your choice of off train experiences. Cruise the jaw-dropping Nitmiluk Gorge, learn more about its ancient Indigenous rock paintings and gain insight into the culture of the traditional owners of Nitmiluk, the Jawoyn people, or discover authentic outback life on a cattle station. As evening falls, we arrive in Darwin to complete our epic Australian journey. From the Darwin Train Station, we are transferred to our hotel. Tomorrow, we'll be ready to explore the Kakadu and the Top End! (breakfast & lunch included on the Ghan / dinner at hotel).

Overnight: Oaks Elan Darwin (PH: 08 8981 0888)

Day 5: DARWIN - KAKADU Sat 11 Jul 20 (BLD)

Today we experience the magic of World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. Kakadu is one of the world's greatest natural wonders with remarkable scenery and unique flora and fauna. Our first stop is the fabulous Spectacular Jumping Crocodile Cruise. See powerful saltwater crocodiles as they propel themselves high out of the water to snatch their prey. With the help of our experienced guides, we learn more about these magnificent creatures while watching the crocs jump for food from the safety of our boat. The walls of the Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) rock art site have served as a shelter and canvas for thousands of years, providing windows into a rich spiritual tradition. Not far is the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre, which tells the story of their culture through displays, artefacts and exhibitions that illustrate the stories of the traditional owners. We now make our way to Coinda where we board our magical Yellow Water Sunset Cruise. Look out for the vast range of wildlife including Jacana, Egrets, Sea Eagles and maybe a crocodile or two (breakfast & dinner at hotel / packed lunch included).

Overnight: Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel (PH: 08 8979 9000)

Day 6: KAKADU - DARWIN Sun 12 Jul 20 (BL)

This morning we explore Australia's 50,000-year Indigenous heritage through the incredible natural rock art gallery, Ubirr Rock – one of the best and most accessible galleries in the park. Marvel at the Main Gallery, where we will see representations of the many animals the Aboriginal people hunted including hunters carrying spears and fish and birds and animals presented in x-ray style, revealing internal organs and bone structures. Animals were painted to pay respect, to ensure future hunting success or to illustrate a noteworthy catch. We depart the National Park to Darwin. This evening we have the opportunity to explore the Mindil Beach Sunset Markets. With the multicultural background of Darwin, be tempted by the delicious smells of over 60 food stalls including Sri Lankan, Turkish & Greek cuisines. After dinner (own expense), find the perfect gift among the art and craft stalls or be entertained by the fire twirlers, musicians and street performers. Our coach will meet us at a pre-arranged time to transfer us back to the hotel (breakfast at hotel / lunch included / dinner at own expense)

Overnight: Oaks Elan Darwin (PH: 08 8981 0888)

Day 7: TIWI ISLANDS Mon 13 Jul 20 (BLD)

We have an early start today, as we head to the Tiwi Islands for a full day of touring. The island is thriving with indigenous culture, vibrant art and locals passionate about Australian Rules Football. The ferry ride takes about 2 hours, so sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery as we arrive on Bathurst Island. Here we meet our local guide and are welcomed with a traditional 'Welcome to Country' smoking ceremony including totem dances. After a short morning tea break (traditional Australian damper and a cup of tea) we'll learn about the culture and history of the Tiwi People at the Patakijiyali Museum. We'll also visit the Mission Precinct and unique Catholic Church before experiencing an exclusive 'behind the scenes' screen-printing session with local artists. We'll even get the unique opportunity to create our very own special memento to take home with us (breakfast & dinner in hotel / lunch included).

Overnight: Oaks Elan Darwin (PH: 08 8981 0888)

Day 8: LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK Tue 14 Jul 20 (BLD)

Today we head to the beautiful Litchfield National Park. With untouched rainforests, stunning waterfalls and magnificent scenery, Litchfield has gained the reputation as the jewel of the Northern Territory's crown. Enjoy lunch at Litchfield Café before spending some time exploring the park. There are some great photo opportunities as we stop to see the magnetic anthills and see the cascading Florence Falls. For anyone looking for a swim - take a dip in the Wangi Falls plunge pool (breakfast & dinner at hotel / lunch included).

Overnight: Oaks Elan Darwin (PH: 08 8981 0888)

Day 9: DISCOVERING DARWIN Wed 15 Jul 20 (BD)

Uncover the fascinating sites and interesting past of Darwin with a local expert. The present city centre was established in 1863 with many of its original historical buildings such as the Old Court House and Government House still standing. We also see the new Parliament House built on the site of the Darwin Post Office which was bombed during World War II. We then take a drive through Fannie Bay, popular with sailors, windsurfers and water skiers. Our farewell dinner aboard the Spirit of Darwin as we watch the sunset on the harbour (breakfast in hotel / lunch at own expense / dinner included).

Overnight: Oaks Elan Darwin (PH: 08 8981 0888)

Day 10: DARWIN - CANBERRA Thu 16 Jul 20 (B)

After a morning at leisure, we farewell Darwin as we make our way to the airport for our flight to Canberra. Due to our late arrival, we will have a night in Canberra before travelling home tomorrow (breakfast included / lunch & dinner at own expense).

Overnight: Canberra Rex Hotel (PH: 02 6248 5311)

Day 11: CANBERRA - HOME Fri 17 Jul 20 (B)

We arrive home with amazing memories of our amazing Top End and Ghan adventure (breakfast included / lunch at own expense).

Tour cost Twin Share/Double per person \$6595.00
Solo Traveller \$7495.00

Tour cost based on a minimum of 14 passengers.



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.(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. Alterations to the itinerary may occur – a final confirmed itinerary will be provided with your travel documentation approximately 3 weeks prior to departure.

TOUR COST INCLUDES

Airfares from Canberra to Adelaide and from Darwin to Canberra and all transfers.

Air-conditioned, restroom equipped vehicle with experienced driver/guide & hostess.

Twin share accommodation.

All entry fees to sightseeing activities as listed in the itinerary.

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Travel insurance – Travel Makers strongly advise taking out travel insurance.

Items of personal nature eg laundry/phone and any optional extras/trips listed in the itinerary.

All beverages and meals not indicated in the itinerary.

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CONTACT US

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phil@travelmakers.com.au

Call us **1800 838 408 (02) 6223 2780**

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CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

All bookings must be accompanied by a deposit of \$600.00 per person
The balance and final payment must be received 60 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION POLICY

More than 60 days notice : full refund less \$600.00 deposit

14 days to 60 days before tour : 50% refund

Within 14 days of tour : no refund

**Travel Makers and Platinum Journeys strongly recommend all passengers
take out travel insurance in case of illness or accident**