



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HEARTLAND

### THE GHAN

DEPARTURE WEDNESDAY (APR – AUG)

If your dream is to see the best of the Australian outback and immerse yourself in the heart of it with hands on experiences, this is your ultimate holiday. Start your journey on The Ghan before our expert guides from Outback Spirit help you explore some of the Territory's most iconic sights including Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Continue the journey north on The Ghan to top off this sensational journey through the nation's heartland.

#### INCLUSIONS

- 1 night aboard The Ghan, Adelaide to Alice Springs, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experience in Marla
- Transfer from Alice Springs Rail Terminal to Hotel
- 2 night accommodation in Alice Springs including breakfast daily
- 2 nights Uluru and Kata Tjuta including accommodation and guided touring
- Transfer from Hotel to Alice Springs Rail Terminal
- 1 night aboard The Ghan, Alice Springs to Darwin, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Excursion in Katherine
- 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the rugged beauty of Australia's Northern Territory
- Atila (Mt. Connor)
- Experience the magic and beauty of Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- Explore the stunning Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) and Walpa Gorge
- Admire the internationally acclaimed 'Field of Light' display at Uluru and watch as it illuminates the desert night

#### DAY 1 – BOARD THE GHAN IN ADELAIDE

Depart Adelaide aboard The Ghan and marvel as the spectacular Flinders Ranges pass by.

**OVERNIGHT:** The Ghan (L,D)

#### DAY 2 – THE GHAN, ALICE SPRINGS

Witness an unforgettable outback sunrise at Marla, in the remote reaches of South Australia, before arriving into Alice Springs. Transfer to your accommodation where you can settle in or head out to start your exploring of this unique town.

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night at DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs (B)

#### DAY 3 – ALICE SPRINGS TO ULURU

Travel from Alice Springs to Uluru (Ayers Rock) aboard a luxury coach. Take in the rugged desert landscapes of the region, passing through the beautiful MacDonnell Ranges. There is time for a stop at a local Roadhouse for a quick break then view flat-topped Atila (Mt. Connor) in the distance before arriving at Ayers Rock Resort rested, relaxed and ready to explore the amazing World Heritage-listed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

This afternoon enjoy a leisurely drive out to Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) for one of our favourite sunset experiences in Central Australia. Marvel at the unique flora and admire the view of the central valley of the domes of Kata Tjuta while you take in a magnificent outback sunset with gourmet canapés and Australian wine. (B)

#### DAY 4 – KATA TJUTA

Rise early this morning to travel to the Uluru sunrise viewing area. Watch the first rays of the sun set the Red Centre alight while enjoying a warming cup of tea or coffee. Then travel to the mystical 36 domes of Kata Tjuta. On the way enjoy panoramic views of the southern side of Kata Tjuta before arriving at the base of Walpa Gorge. Spend some time exploring the gorge and the unusual conglomerate rock formations. The walking trail through Walpa Gorge follows the natural creek between two of the tallest domes of Kata Tjuta. Return to Ayers Rock Resort. This afternoon visit Uluru - Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre where there is time to purchase some locally made Aboriginal art and learn more about the Western Desert region.

Later travel around the base of Uluru with a local Driver Guide. Learn about the native flora, fauna and intriguing cultural traditions of traditional owners, the Anangu, and



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discover an array of fascinating sacred sites. Join your Driver Guide for a walk to Mutitjulu Waterhole. You'll explore a number of caves and view Aboriginal rock paintings as your Guide interprets their meaning and significance.

Travel to the Uluru sunset viewing area, 'Sunset Strip' and relax with a glass of wine and Nibbles as the sun sets over the western horizon and the evening sky brings out the many shades of colour for which Uluru is renowned.

*Please ensure you have a minimum of 1 litre of water with you for your walk.*

### **DAY 5 – FIELD OF LIGHT, ALICE SPRINGS**

This morning you will be picked up at your accommodation in a luxury coach to be taken the very short distance to the exclusive Field of Light location. With just enough time for some background commentary on the internationally renowned artist Bruce Monroe, you will arrive very excited to see his latest artistic endeavour. Arriving in complete darkness, you will be able to enjoy the 50,000 globes of light in the desert, before making your way up the hill to the Field of Light sunrise viewing platform. Once at the platform, the AAT Kings team will be serving you tea, coffee or hot chocolate. You can enjoy your beverage as the sun starts to creep light throughout the sky and then watch in awe as it pops up in the distance behind Uluru, flooding the landscape, including Kata Tjuta behind you, with light. As the natural light brightens the landscape, the Field of Light will dim for the day. Enjoy some amazing photos from this unique raised location that allows you to view both Kata Tjuta and Uluru in all their natural glory. This afternoon, travel through desert scenery between on your way to Alice Springs. Your Driver Guide will provide comprehensive commentary as you pass through the beautiful rugged scenery of the outback. View Atila (Mt. Conner). Stop at the Erldunda Roadhouse where you may purchase afternoon tea (own expense). Travel along the Stuart Highway before arriving in Alice Springs. You will be dropped off at your Alice Springs hotel.

### **DAY 6 – BOARD THE GHAN IN ALICE SPRINGS**

Checking out after breakfast, experiences await you in the outback town of Alice Springs. This evening, it's time to get back on board The Ghan and get reacquainted with your

cabin. As the train heads north, enjoy watching the beautiful scenery pass by your window as you relax with fellow travellers in the Outback Explorer Lounge.

**OVERNIGHT:** The Ghan (B,D)

### **DAY 7 – THE GHAN, KATHERINE AND DARWIN**

Today you will discover the wonders of Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge with a variety of Off Train Excursions to choose from before continuing to your final destination, Darwin. (B, L)