

Gane & Marshall

TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS

The Red Centre & Top of Australia

Adelaide, Uluru, Alice Springs and Kakadu



Day 1: Arrive Adelaide

You will be met on arrival in Adelaide and transferred to the Playford for two nights in a standard room (breakfast).

The Playford

The Playford is a comfortable 5-star city hotel with a great location on the North Terrace, minutes from Adelaide's major sights and central shopping & restaurant precinct.

The rooms are spacious and attractively furnished. Facilities include indoor pool, health club with spa & sauna, fine dining restaurant and high speed internet access in all rooms.

Day 2: Tour of Adelaide Market

This morning, join a shared tour of Adelaide Central Market with local guide and stall owner Mark Gleeson. Adelaide has the character of a large country town and as you explore its busy market centre with Mark you'll quickly be made to feel like a local!

Adelaide's Central Market is the largest food market in Australia, with a huge range of specialist food stalls serving the best quality gourmet produce. Your guide, Mark Gleeson, is a local store owner, and the perfect



Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

person to show you around! The tour lasts approx. two hours and ends with a delicious coffee served at one of the market stalls.

Day 3: Ayers Rock

You will be collected from the Playford this morning and transferred to Adelaide's Domestic Airport for the flight to Ayers Rock/Uluru. On arrival at Uluru, collect your hire car and make your way to the Sails in the Desert Hotel for one night in a superior room (breakfast).



Sails in the Desert

Set in the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park, Sails in the Desert is a luxurious five-star hotel and one part of the Ayers Rock Resort. It is a striking blend of contemporary design—the name 'Sails in the Desert' comes from the white sail-like structures that shade the hotel grounds and gardens—and Aboriginal heritage. The rooms are large, spacious and lavishly furnished, and enjoy dramatic views of the desert. Facilities include swimming pool, tennis courts, and a selection of restaurants.

Australia's Red Centre is home to three geological marvels – Kata Tjuta, Mt Conner and Uluru, otherwise known as Ayers Rock.

This evening at sunset, join a small group tour of Uluru, accompanied by a local guide (transfers, drinks and snacks included). A National Park fee of A\$25.00 per person is payable directly.

Uluru is one of Australia's most striking natural landmarks, a vast inselberg that dwarfs everything around it. It is also a site of great cultural significance, especially to the local Anangu people, for whom the monolith was traditionally a sacred site.

As you explore the site with an Aboriginal guide, you will learn more about the importance of Uluru in early Aboriginal culture, and of the stories told about its origins in the fabled 'Dreamtime'.



Day 4: Kata Tjuta

Wake at the crack of dawn and embark on a sunrise tour of Kata Tjuta in the company of your guide. Breakfast is provided during the excursion, so you can depart as early as dawn. This is a great chance to escape the crowds, as most groups will be viewing Uluru at this time of day – if they're not in bed!

The rock formations of Kata Tjuta are at their most spectacular in the early hours, when you can really admire their colours as they change in response to the shifting light.

Take the time to meander through the natural rock domes, of which there are 36, and to explore the Walpa Gorge. Your guide will explain the cultural significance of Kata Tjuta, and its role as an Aboriginal ceremonial site.



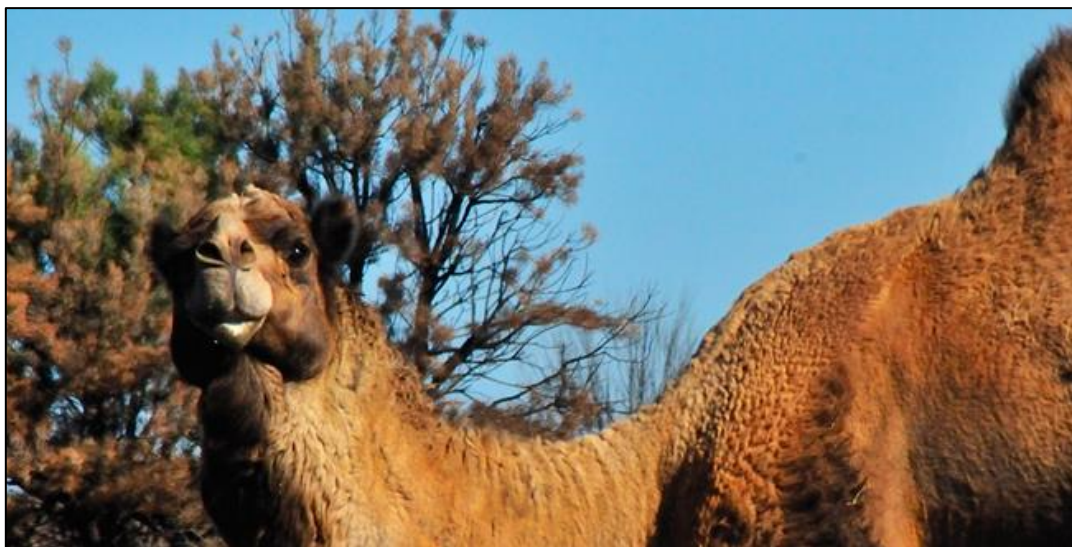
Return to Sails in the Desert late morning. Rest of day at leisure.

Day 5: Kings Canyon

Set off early for Kings Canyon, a 4 hour drive. On arrival, check into Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge for 1 night in a luxury tented Cabin (breakfast and dinner).

Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge

Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge nestles among desert oak trees in a secluded part of Kings Creek Station, a working camel and cattle station in the Australian outback. The lodge offers stylish tented cabins (Meru-style tents – think African safari tents) each with air-conditioning units and en-suite bathrooms. The cabins open out onto private verandahs overlooking the desert landscapes.



There's a range of activities available at Kings Canyon, from escorted camel rides to quad biking and helicopter flights—mostly at additional cost. Walking trails are accessible nearby and bikes available to hire.



Day 6: Alice Springs

Depart Kings Canyon this morning after breakfast and drive to Alice Springs Resort (allow 5 hours). Check into Chifley Alice Springs Resort for one night in a standard room (breakfast).

The Alice Springs Resort

The final night of your Red Centre safari is spent in Alice Springs, situated at the very geographic centre of Australia.

The Alice Springs Resort is a comfortable hotel situated on the banks of the usually dry Todd River. Facilities include a solar-heated swimming pool, the Palm Restaurant and the Gum Tree Lounge. The deluxe rooms have a private balcony with a view of the surrounding area.

Day 7: The Ghan to Darwin

Drop off your hire car at the downtown office and make your way to Alice Spring's main station, where you board the famous Ghan Train to Darwin (gold service class). This is an overnight ride to Darwin via Katherine, covering a total distance of 1,400km.

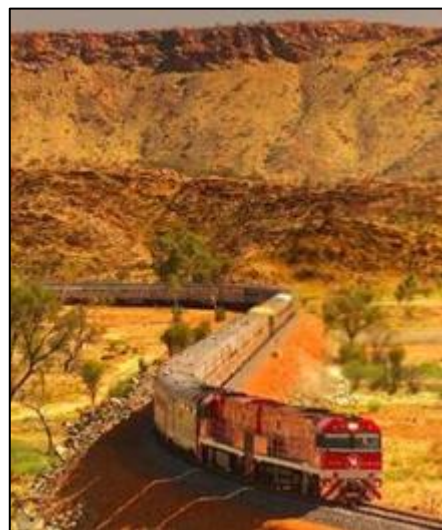
The Ghan

Travel through the heart of the Australian continent on the legendary Ghan. This iconic route was first pioneered nearly 200 years ago, in the early nineteenth-century. Then, the journey was made on camel, and led by Afghan handlers; today, you'll be pleased to know, luxury trains are an option!

The Ghan train takes its name from these early pioneers and its emblem of an Afghan camel-rider is intended as a tribute to their efforts in opening up the harsh interior to the rest of Australia.

Gold Service Cabin Accommodation

Your stay on the Ghan will be in a twin sleeper cabin, which has been designed to convert from a three seater lounge during the day to a bedroom with upper and lower sleeping berths by night. The cabin has en-suite bathroom with toilet, shower and washbasin. Each cabin is fully serviced by carriage attendants. Meals are taken in the



beautifully furnished restaurant car, while the gold lounge & bar is the spot to socialise and meet other guests.

You will make a number of stops during the journey (all off-train tours are included in the gold service – see further down for details).



North-east of Katherine is the Nitmiluk National Park, which covers an area of almost 300,000 hectares and is home to the remarkable Katherine Gorge (in fact a series of gorges, 13 in total, gradually carved out of the natural sandstone over the course of a billion years by the Katherine River). During your journey you'll be able to explore the gorge walls and sandy beaches by foot or on a boat cruise. Aboriginal culture is very much rooted in this area, with a number of striking rock art sites. Nitmiluk National Park is also a haven for wildlife enthusiasts, with its rugged hills, broad valleys, and pockets of rainforest that provide a home for a wealth of flora and fauna.

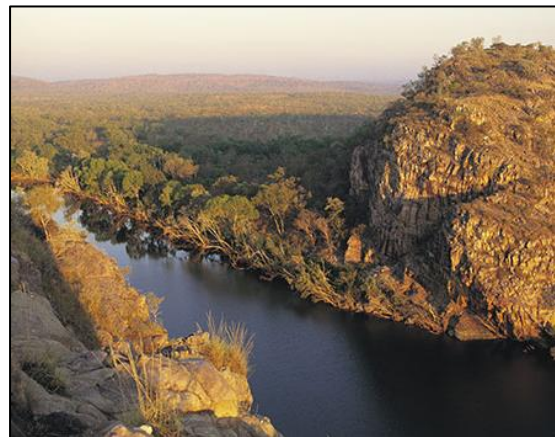
Choose from one of three included tours:

Nitmiluk Gorge Cruise

Cruise beneath the towering rock formations of the First and Second Gorges and follow the course of the Katherine River.

This is the home of the Aboriginal Jawoyn people, and the Katherine Gorge features prominently in their stories and myths, which you'll learn of during the journey.

The cruise is mostly a relaxed affair, but do note that a walk of several hundred metres on rough terrain is required between the First and Second Gorges.



Nitmiluk First Gorge Rock Art Cruise

This is a chance to learn more about the colourful history of the Katherine region and about the culture of its main inhabitants, the Jawoyn. You will visit rock art sites that are believed to date back almost 50,000 years, to before the last Ice Age.



The trip starts with a cruise down the First Gorge (see above) and then sees you climb to the top of the gorge to visit the most interesting of the surviving rock art sites. You will be accompanied throughout by a local guide who will be able explain in greater depth the cultural practices and long history of the Jawoyn.

The Ghan Cultural Experience

Learn more about the local culture of the Jawoyn in this hands-on Aboriginal experience. Your Jawoyn guide will teach you rock painting, javelin throwing, the use of the Woomera, traditional cooking, as well as ancient skills such as pandana weaving. You'll also learn more about the myths and stories told by the Jawoyn – the Dreamtime stories.

Day 8: Arrive Darwin

Your rail journey ends in Darwin, where you will be met on disembarking at the railway station and transferred to Mantra on the Esplanade for one night in a room with a city view (breakfast).



Mantra on the Esplanade

Mantra on the Esplanade is located in central Darwin, a few minutes' walk from the city centre and shopping district.

It offers a selection of one, two and three bedroom apartments, all with en-suite bathrooms and separate living, kitchen and dining areas. From their balconies, the apartments overlook Darwin Harbour.

Hotel facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, restaurant and bar.

Mantra on the Esplanade is just a short stroll from a number of good restaurants.

Day 9: Kakadu National Park

After breakfast, collect your hire car and make your way to Kakadu (allow 3 hours, along usually quiet roads). On arrival at the park, check in to Gagadju Holiday Inn for three nights in a superior room (breakfast).

It's possible to stop on the way to Kakadu and take a Jumping Crocodile cruise on the Adelaide River—let us know if you'd like us to build this into your tour.



Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn

The Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn is a charming resort situated within Kakadu National Park. It provides a great base from which to explore the surrounding area, as it is close to a number of the more prominent rock art sites. Facilities include a large swimming pool and restaurant & bar.

Day 10 & 11: Kakadu National Park

Kakadu is found in the remote north of Australia, and is the largest National Park in the country. Its name recalls the Gagudju people, who once dominated the hills and floodplains that make up the bulk of the park's land. Even today, Kakadu remains one of the few areas in Australia where Aboriginal traditions are still very much alive—traditions which stretch many thousands of years into the past, with archaeological finds suggesting that the area has been inhabited for at least 50,000 years.

Kakadu boasts perhaps the greatest concentration of rock art sites in the world, with as many as 5,000 recorded. Not without reason, then, is it considered a World Heritage Site. Many of the sites are hidden away in hard-to-reach gorges, but a number of the most impressive are easily accessible. The rock art, several examples of which are believed to date back over 20,000 years, depicts fauna and flora that has long since become extinct in Australia.

Kakadu National Park is as famous for its natural attractions as its historical and cultural sites. As Australia's largest national park, it encompasses a huge area of land, and within it a vast range of terrain that is home to a diversity of wildlife—kangaroo, quoll, jacana, crocodile, wallaby, and more. At the heart of this ecosystem is the South Alligator River, which flows through the centre of the Park and irrigates its floodplains. River cruises in the park provide the best opportunities for wildlife viewing.



There's a huge amount to see and do in Kakadu. You can organise your own excursions from Gagudju, or if you prefer let us organise some activities for you in advance. Here are some ideas:

- Sunset and sunrise cruises on the South Alligator River offers wonderful photo opportunities and great wildlife viewing – this is a must.
- Take a scenic flight – in the months following the rains this is a great way to see inaccessible waterfalls and swollen rivers and billabongs.
- Visit the ancient rock art site at Nourlangie or Ubirr and take in the magnificent views at sunset.
- Visit the Murdurjul crafts centre, where you can learn more about Aboriginal handicrafts.
- Jabiru Golf Club is the located within the park (the only such course in Australia)
- There's plenty of scope for guided safaris (4x4) and walks.



Day 12: Homeward or Onward Travel

Make your way back to Darwin and drop off your hire car at Darwin Airport.



Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,590**, based on a group size of two and shared twin/double accommodation. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).*

Includes:

Accommodation as described
 Meals as specified
 Activities as per itinerary
 National Park entry fees
 Car hire in the Red Centre and Kakadu
 10% mandatory Goods & Services Tax

Excludes:

International and domestic flights
 Australian Visa
 Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote
 Items of a personal nature
 Optional tours