



TOP END EXPLORER & THE GHAN

ADELAIDE - DARWIN

SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.

DAY 1 – BOARD THE GHAN IN ADELAIDE

Step aboard The Ghan in Adelaide for an unforgettable adventure to the Top End. Settle in to your cabin and see the changes in landscape from your window as the train leaves the city, heading for the Flinders Ranges and beyond. (L,D)

DAY 2 – THE GHAN, ALICE SPRINGS

After your first night enjoying the fine dining and relaxed luxury of this iconic train, you'll wake to an amazing outback sunrise at Marla – a remote outpost 160 kilometres from the Northern Territory border that marks the start of the Oodnadatta Track. Enjoy more incredible scenery before arriving into Alice Springs early in the afternoon to enjoy an Off Train Experience that reveals more of this historic outback town. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – THE GHAN, KATHERINE AND DARWIN

As you head further north into the tropics, prepare to experience one of the Top End's most impressive natural wonders. The stunning Nitmiluk Gorge lies within the massive 292,000 hectares of Nitmiluk National Park near Katherine. You'll have the chance to explore it from the water with a guided cruise – an Off Train Experience you'll never forget. A few hours later, you'll arrive in Darwin and transfer to your accommodation. (B,L)

DAY 4 – DARWIN TO LITCHFIELD & KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

As one adventure ends, another begins with Outback Spirit. This morning, we depart Darwin and head towards Batchelor, the gateway to Litchfield National Park. Containing several types of typical Top End habitats, Litchfield National Park is abundant with lush monsoon

forests, termite mounds, unusual rock formations, waterfalls, and cascades. After stopping for morning tea, our next stop is Florence Falls. Here you can watch from the scenic viewing platform as the spectacular falls cascade into the plunge pool below.

Next, we move onto Wangi Falls; a large plunge pool surrounded by shady grassed areas. The falls flow all year round and you can take a dip in the crystal-clear pool. After a light lunch we cross the Adelaide River and continuing east, we enter the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park before arriving at your accommodation for the next two nights, the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel at Jabiru, so named for the crocodile shape it takes. Meals (B,L,D)

Note: Swimming at Wangi Falls is subject to National Park No Croc Safety Clearance

DAY 5 – KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Begin the day with a drive to the East Alligator River region, known as the gateway to Arnhem Land. Take a spectacular local indigenous cruise on the East Alligator River and listen to the stories of the region as you spot the large saltwater crocodiles that dwell in these waters.

After a peaceful cruise, it's time to reboard the coach and head to the World Heritage Ubirr art site, home to some of the world's most outstanding rock art. Enjoy a 1-kilometre circular track walk and take in the amazing rock art. There will be time for those feeling fit to make the steep 250-meter climb to the top of the rocky escarpment for magnificent views across the Magela floodplain.

Enjoy a light lunch before visiting a local indigenous community arts centre, where there is the opportunity to watch local artists at work and possibly purchase some artwork.

Later, we head out to Nourlangie where you can take in ancient rock paintings and spectacular vistas as you take a 1.5 kilometre walk around this incredible indigenous site. Then it's time to head back to the hotel to relax and enjoy dinner. (B,L,D)

Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights with 120kgs being the maximum upper limit per person.

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Please Note: Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April you may visit the Bowali and Warradjan Visitor Centres in place of Ubirr, and the cruise will occur on Yellow Waters.

**Due to availability, some stays may be at Cooinda Lodge*

DAY 6 – KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, DARWIN

We depart Kakadu along the Arnhem Highway and travel through the Mary River National Park. Board a scenic cruise to discover the vast floodplains and wetlands teeming with birdlife and home to one of the highest concentrations of saltwater crocodiles in the world.

Afterwards, pass through the agricultural hub of Humpty Doo before arriving in Darwin, where your 3-day Simply Kakadu adventure concludes. (B,L,D)

Due to the seasonal weather experienced in the Top End during March and April you will enjoy the famous 'Spectacular Jumping Crocodile Cruise' in place of the Mary River cruise.

DAY 7 – DARWIN, DARWIN HARBOUR CRUISE

Today is free for you to enjoy the sights of Darwin at leisure. Perhaps take a stroll along the Waterfront Precinct or visit the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. In the evening, admire a spectacular sunset while feasting on a Territory-style dinner featuring local seafood and produce on a Darwin Harbour Sunset Cruise. (B,D)

DAY 8 – FAREWELL

Your Top End experience comes to an end as you check out of your accommodation after breakfast and farewell Darwin. (B)