



## COASTAL QUEST WITH KAKADU

### RAIL & SAIL

Departs: Monday, 19 August 2024  
20 Days / 19 Nights

The Kimberley is one of the oldest and largest wilderness frontiers in the world, covering hundreds of thousands of square kilometres. This complex landscape encompasses sandstone cliffs, pristine mangroves, spectacular waterfalls, pockets of rainforest, and an astounding array of bird and wildlife. Combine a luxury, small-ship coastal odyssey with PONANT and an intimate small group Kakadu, East Alligator River and Litchfield tour with Outback Spirit Tours before being amazed by the inland ochres of the Red Centre as you travel aboard The Ghan Expedition, culminating in a rail and sail experience that will connect you to land and sea and provide memories that will last a lifetime.

### INCLUSIONS

- 1 night's accommodation in Broome including breakfast
- Transfer from Broome hotel to Le Jacques Cartier
- 10-night Australia's Iconic Kimberley expedition cruise aboard PONANT's Le Jacques Cartier, including prepaid gratuities
- Transfer from Le Jacques Cartier to Darwin hotel
- 3 nights' accommodation in Darwin including breakfast daily
- 3 days intimate small-group Kakadu, East Alligator River and Litchfield touring with Outback Spirit Tours
- Transfer from Darwin hotel to Darwin Rail Terminal
- 3 nights' aboard The Ghan Expedition, Darwin to Adelaide, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Katherine, Alice Springs and Coober Pedy
- 19 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 15 dinners

### HIGHLIGHTS

- View the unique tidal phenomena, Horizontal Falls
- Take a helicopter flight over Mitchell Falls
- See the oldest detailed depiction of human figures in the world on Jar Island
- Explore pristine mangrove environments and spot crocodiles
- Get up close to King George twin falls
- Discover ancient landscapes and rock art in the Northern Territory and the Kimberley
- Cruise on the Mary River spotting wildlife, including saltwater crocodiles and an abundance of birdlife

- Visit the Ubirr art site within Kakadu National Park, home to some of the world's most outstanding rock art
- Swim in a waterfall at Litchfield National Park
- Witness spectacular outback landscapes as you travel on The Ghan Expedition
- Visit the impressive natural wonder of Nitmuluk Gorge

### DAY 1 – MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 2024, BROOME

Make your own way to Broome and check in to your hotel. The day is yours at leisure to explore the highlights of Broome.

OVERNIGHT: 1 night Oaks Cable Beach Resort

### DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2024, BOARD LE JACQUES CARTIER IN BROOME

This morning is yours to explore Broome at your leisure. In the afternoon, you will be transferred from your hotel to the Port of Broome to board Le Jacques Cartier for your Kimberley cruising. Settle into your cabin, make yourself comfortable, enjoy dinner and perhaps have a nightcap at the Blue Eye, a multisensory underwater lounge. (B,D)

OVERNIGHT: 10 nights Le Jacques Cartier

### DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2024, LACEPEDE ISLANDS

The Lacepede Islands are Western Australia's most important breeding habitat for Green Turtles and have been named by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The breeding colony of Brown Boobies is possibly the largest in the world and up to 20,000 Roseate Terns have also been recorded here, amongst the plethora of other birdlife. Join your Expedition Team for a guided Zodiac tour to view the prolific wildlife. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4 AND 5 – THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 2024 TO FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 2024, COLLIER BAY AND HORIZONTAL FALLS

Lying to the east of the Buccaneer Archipelago, the ancient landscapes of Collier Bay have been shaped by massive tidal movements, creating a photographer's paradise. With a tidal range exceeding 14 metres, this movement of water creates unique phenomena. Nestled in the centre of the bay is Montgomery Reef, the world's largest inshore reef system. As the tide falls a raging torrent of water cascades off the top of the reef, creating turbulent 'rivers' and mini waterfalls. At the Southern end of the Bay, Talbot Bay is



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home to the world's only 'Horizontal Falls', described by Sir David Attenborough as "One of the greatest wonders of the natural world." Hidden in the many caves and grottos of this ancient landscape are a multitude of ancient rock art galleries. Activities here will be determined by the weather and tide conditions. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6 – SATURDAY, 24 AUGUST 2024, CAREENING BAY

Careening Bay was named by Lieutenant Phillip Parker King after his ship, HMC Mermaid, was careened there during his third voyage of discovery in 1820. At a high tide, on a warm September afternoon, King ran the leaking Mermaid onto the sands. As the crew worked hard to re-float the vessel, the ship's carpenter carved the name of the vessel and the year into a conspicuous boab tree. The boab tree is now three metres wide and National Heritage listed. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7 – SUNDAY, 25 AUGUST 2024, HUNTER RIVER

Arguably one of the most scenic parts of the Kimberley coast, Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River are lined with pockets of ancient rainforest, pristine mangroves and mosaic sandstone cliffs. The sandstone escarpment at the river mouth, known as "Kampamantiya" rises over 200 metres high before giving way to extensive mud banks and mangrove forests home to numerous bird species and the saltwater crocodile. The Expedition Team will share their knowledge as you explore by Zodiac, keeping a lookout for wildlife. You will also have the opportunity to reach the Mitchell Falls by helicopter from Naturalist Island beach. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8 – MONDAY, 26 AUGUST 2024, SWIFT BAY

The Bonaparte Archipelago consists of a rugged maze of islands stretching almost 150kms along Western Australia's coast. Its remote location has ensured it remains a remarkably pristine location to explore and experience. The 'T' shaped bay is composed of heavily fractured sandstone providing an abundance of rock shelters. On the walls of these shelters are examples of Wandjina and Gwion Gwion style rock art. Join your Expedition Team ashore for a guided walk to a number of rock art galleries depicting these unique rock art styles. (B,L,D)

### DAY 9 – TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2024, VANSITTART BAY

Jar Island contains ancient rock art galleries depicting the Gwion Gwion style unique to the Kimberley region. Gwion Gwion art may extend back to over 30,000 years before our time and represents the first wave of seagoing colonisers of

the Australian continent. As it is, these are the oldest detailed depiction of human figures in the world. Join your Expedition Team ashore for a short walk, past some fascinating rock formations, to the site of the Gwion Gwion art galleries. (B,L,D)

### DAY 10 – WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2024, KING GEORGE RIVER

The journey up the King George River is nothing short of breathtaking. The 80-metre-high sides of the gorge display varying degrees of weathering of the ancient Warton sandstone. The colours and textures change with the light creating a continually changing vista that is simply stunning. The journey culminates at the King George twin falls, the highest single-drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley. Your Expedition Team will escort you to the foot of the twin falls and explain the stunning geological formations of the canyon. (B,L,D)

### DAY 11 – THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2024, LE JACQUES CARTIER AT SEA

Enjoy a leisurely day at sea to take advantage of the luxurious onboard services or sip a cool drink by the pool. Your expedition team will offer an enrichment programme focusing on Australian history, flora and fauna. Enjoy some down time on the deck, relax in the sauna, or sample culinary specialties prepared by the Chef and Galley Team. Lovers of the open sea can visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. (B,L,D)

### DAY 12 – FRIDAY, 30 AUGUST 2024, DARWIN

Darwin is the capital city of the Northern Territory and a melting pot of people and cultures that prides itself on its friendly, laid-back lifestyle. Early this morning, Le Jacques Cartier will dock in the Port of Darwin where you will disembark and be transferred to your hotel. The day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Discover the town's history through its emblematic buildings, such as the new Parliament House opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture, or Admiralty House, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids. (B)

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin Waterfront



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### DAY 13 – SATURDAY, 31 AUGUST 2024, DARWIN TO KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Today your touring with Outback Spirit commences. Depart Darwin heading towards Kakadu National Park. Much of the route is along the Arnhem highway, passing the productive region of Humpty Doo, where an array of tropical fruits is grown, and crossing the Adelaide River, with its vast wetlands, which attract migratory birds. At the Mary River, take to the water on a cruise that showcases the local wildlife, including saltwater crocodiles and the abundance of birdlife in the region. Continuing east, you will enter the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, stopping at the Mamukala Wetlands and the Bowali Visitor Centre before arriving at your accommodation, the Crocodile Hotel at Jabiru, so named for the crocodile shape it takes. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights at Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

### DAY 14 – SUNDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER 2024, 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 250m 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)

### DAY 15 – MONDAY, 02 SEPTEMBER 2024, KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK, DARWIN

This morning is a 6.45am departure to Jabiru Airport, where you'll gain another perspective on this incredible environment. Take to the skies on a 60-minute scenic flight over ancient escarpments, floodplains and winding rivers, exhibiting the results of 1.8 billion years of continuous

erosion. Your flight includes live commentary from your pilot as you glide over these spectacular ancient lands. Following our morning flight, we depart Kakadu National Park 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, we head onto Wangi Falls; a large plunge pool surrounded by shady grassed areas. The falls flow all year round and after a light lunch, you can take a dip in the crystal-clear pool. 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. We then head for Darwin, arriving early evening, where your Outback Spirit Tour comes to an end. (B,L)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Adina Apartment Hotel Darwin Waterfront

### DAY 16 – TUESDAY, 03 SEPTEMBER 2024, DARWIN

Take a walk along Stokes Hill Wharf to visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service or why not join an evening sunset dinner cruise aboard Charles Darwin. (B)

### DAY 17 – WEDNESDAY, 04 SEPTEMBER 2024, BOARD THE GHAN EXPEDITION IN DARWIN AND KATHERINE

Check out of your hotel this morning and transfer by coach to the Darwin Rail Terminal. Here you will board The Ghan Expedition and enjoy an Off Train Excursion in Katherine. (B,L,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 3 nights The Ghan Expedition

### DAY 18 – THURSDAY, 05 SEPTEMBER 2024, THE GHAN EXPEDITION AND ALICE SPRINGS

After breakfast you'll arrive into Alice Springs, where a day of fascinating Off Train Experiences await. Whether you explore the town, hike the scenic Simpsons Gap or get up close to native wildlife at Alice Springs Desert Park, the day promises to be interesting and immersive. Alternatively, upgrade to a scenic flight over Uluru. Come evening, re-join the group for a spectacular outback BBQ dinner under the stars at The Telegraph Station. (B,L,D)



JOURNEY BEYOND  
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### **DAY 19 – FRIDAY, 06 SEPTEMBER 2024, THE GHAN EXPEDITION AND COOBER PEDY**

This morning arrive at Manguri, a rail siding half an hour's drive from Coober Pedy. Today is your chance to explore the fascinating opal mining town of Coober Pedy, including a memorable lunch in a unique location and marvelling at the ingenuity of the Serbian Orthodox Church, carved into the side of a mountain. Time spent at The Breakaways will give you a lasting impression of this unearthly landscape before returning to Manguri for a pre-dinner drink as the sun sets. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 20 – SATURDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2024, THE GHAN EXPEDITION AND ADELAIDE**

The Ghan Expedition arrives in Adelaide this morning, where your epic rail and sail journey concludes. (B)