



Spend a night on The Ghan

From the Red Centre to the Top End Medicine, Culture and the History of Medicine via the Ghan

26 September – 2 October 2023

“The tour ran like clockwork. ...the local guides were excellent. It was one of the best run tours I have been on. The highlight of this trip definitely was our night on The Ghan. What a spectacular way to see the NT. The trip had a great mix of medical visits, local sites and scenery. Every moment of the tour was filled with great activity and interesting information.”

Emma Whalley, From the Red Centre to the Top End, June 2021



Jon Baines
tours



Nitmiluk Gorge (credit Tourism NT Sam Earp)

From the Red Centre to the Top End, this tour encompasses Australia at its most remote, historic and starkly beautiful. Encompassing vast Indigenous heartlands, dramatic landscapes and fascinating history from ancient to pioneer to the modern day.

Starting in Alice Springs, visit the striking MacDonnell Ranges, go stargazing at pristine night skies at the Earth Sanctuary, explore the historic town and learn about the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and outback medicine and visit Purple House.

Board the Ghan for a magnificent 24-hour journey – a top bucket list experience. In Katherine, explore unspoiled wilderness on a cruise along Nitmiluk Gorge and learn about Indigenous culture.

Arrive in Darwin and led by specialist tour guides explore the city and learn of its fascinating and dramatic history with a medical focus. Enjoy a sunset dinner at the Mindl Markets, visit beautiful Litchfield National Park with the option of a dip and cruise the Adelaide River.

Tour Leader

Lindy Moffat is a major events specialist who's travelled extensively - including living on an Israeli kibbutz and in the UK. She spent many years at the Australian Football League producing Brownlow Medal functions, Grand Final entertainment and managing overseas tours. She then established the Landcare Foundation a government/corporate environmental body before accepting the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons invitation to establish their Conferences and Events Department. Lindy then spent over 20 years travelling Australia and internationally organising educational events for surgical societies with the largest event being the Annual Scientific Congress attracting around 3,000 surgeons encompassing all surgical specialties. It is the major annual continuing professional development activity for Australasian surgeons.



Lindy is a passionate history, art and sports lover and if you sneak a look in her bag you'll always find a few history books and usually a tennis biography or two. And always some chocolate... for just in case



Ormiston Gorge (credit Tourism NT Shaana McNaught)

2 nights Alice Springs – 1 night Ghan – 3 nights Darwin



Day 1: Alice Springs (Tues, 26 Sept) **D**

Pm: Arrive and check into the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Alice Springs.

Eve: Enjoy a welcome dinner and star gazing at the Earth Sanctuary, which is run by Danny Falzon and his brothers, who are also paramedics. Danny will give a talk on their paramedic work in Alice Springs. After dinner, learn about local ecology, astronomy and culture and enjoy the spectacular night skies with a fully guided astronomy experience with telescope viewing at Earth Sanctuary's space observatory.

Day 2: Alice Springs (Wed, 27 Sept) **B L**

Am: Drive out to the MacDonnell Ranges. Stop off at Simpsons Gap and take part in a guided walk learning of the geology of the region. Continue to Standley Chasm and take a relaxed walk to the Chasm. Enjoy morning tea on the café veranda. Continue to the ochre pits and hear about the local Indigenous groups and the ochre trade.

Pm: Lunch at the Glen Helen Resort before walking to Ormiston Gorge with the option of a quick dip. Drive to Ellery Creek Waterhole. Arrive back in Alice Springs in time to enjoy a spectacular outback sunset from Anzac Hill.

Day 3: The Ghan / Alice Springs (Thurs, 28 Sept) **B D**

Am: Visit Purple House, an innovative Indigenous-owned and run health service providing mobile dialysis units and remote clinics. Learn about their operation and about bush medicine. Visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service and learn of their history and the provision of medical care to outback Australia.

Pm: Visit the Alice Telegraph Station and the School of the Air. Transfer to the train for evening departure.

Eve: Board the Ghan and transfer to your compartment. Enjoy modern Australian cuisine with regional fine wines onboard. Socialise with your fellow travellers before retiring to your comfortable private cabin for the night.

Day 4: The Ghan / Darwin (Fri, 29 Sept) **B L**

Am: Enjoy the pristine wilderness of Katherine from the water with a cruise along dramatic Nitmiluk Gorge. Learn of the ancient Indigenous rock paintings and gain insight into the culture of the traditional owners of Nitmiluk, the Jawoyn people. Reboard the Ghan.

Pm: Have lunch onboard and relax and enjoy the journey with afternoon tea served later.

Eve: Arrive Darwin and transfer to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

Day 5: Darwin (Sat, 30 Sept) **B L**

Am: 'It's different up here!', say noted Darwin historians Peter and Sheila Forrest. Join them as they tell why that is so and as they reveal the drama, the tragedies and the achievements of Top End history – from the Dreamtime to the present day. This is a tour with an emphasis on medical themes from traditional medicine to Aboriginal health care programs

and the conquest of leprosy; through early settlement to the heroic emergency responses to cyclones, natural disasters and wartime air raids, to the Bali bombings. Stand on the places where the first enemy bombs fell on Australia; see Cyclone Tracy's destructive impact. Above all, through Peter and Sheila you will meet the amazing people who made history in this remarkable part of Australia. Join them as they take you on travels through history – today.

Pm: Local lunch and at leisure

Eve: Optional Sunset dinner cruise on Darwin Harbour*.

Day 6: Darwin (Sun, 1 Oct)

B D

Am: Drive to the Adelaide River and board the Pathfinder cruise. Hear of the floodplains ecosystem, the history, wildlife and some 40,000 years of human interaction with this stunning environment. Witness the power of the mighty Australian Estuarine (Saltwater) Crocodile as they jump out of the water to feed.

Pm: Onto Litchfield National Park and explore some of its dramatic sites, including the magnetic termite mounds, Wangi Falls and Florence Falls, where you can take a dip. Return to Darwin and the hotel to freshen up before dinner.

Eve: Visit Mindil Markets for sunset dinner and drinks.

Day 7: Darwin (Mon, 2 Oct)

B

Am: Depart.

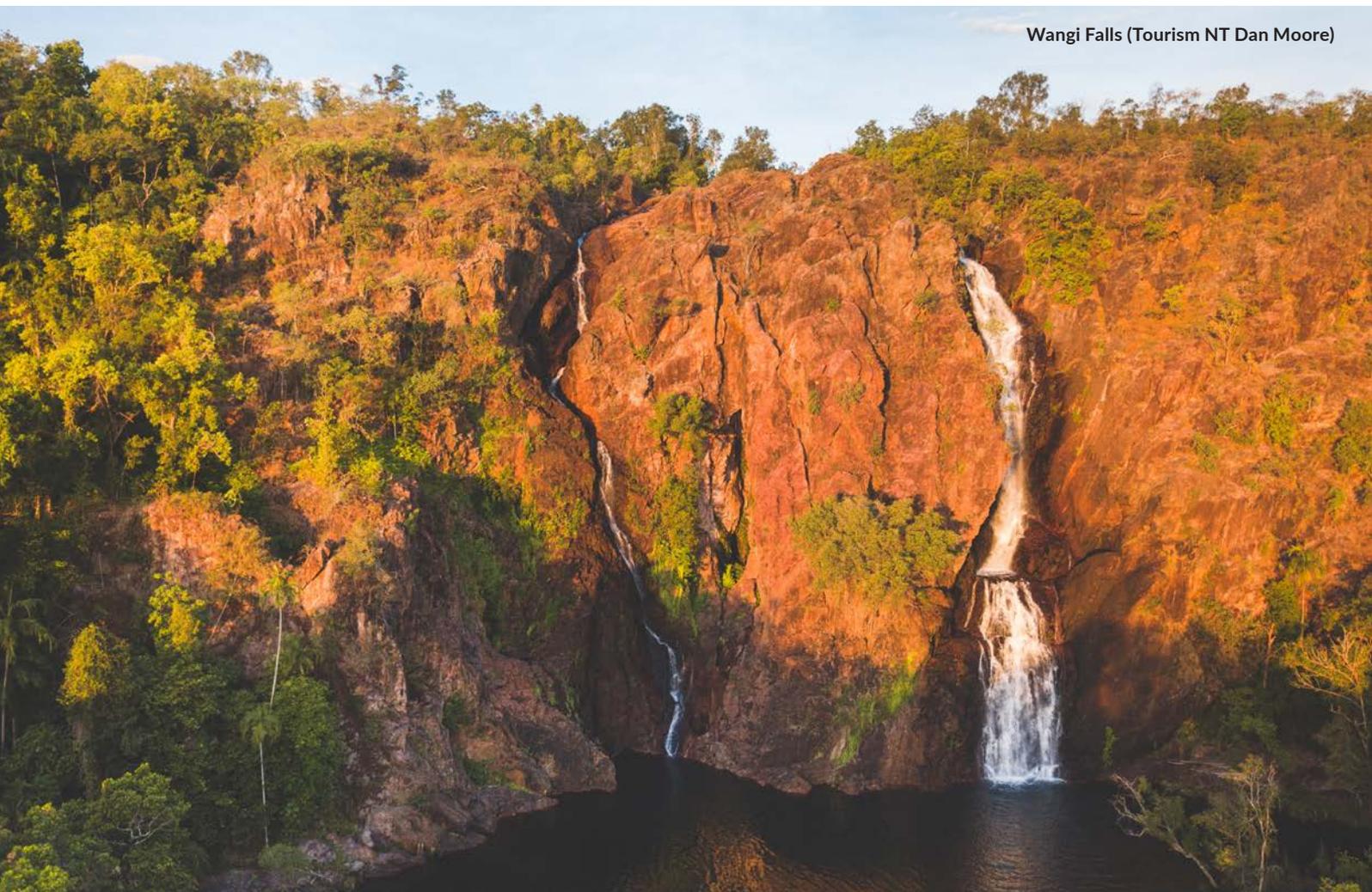
* We will be in contact with all those who have booked with the option of a Darwin Harbour Cruise

NB: Medical visits are subject to current Covid guidelines.

**“Loved all the places visited,
great selection.”**

Lisa Wong, participant Ghan Medical Tour June, 2022

Wangi Falls (Tourism NT Dan Moore)





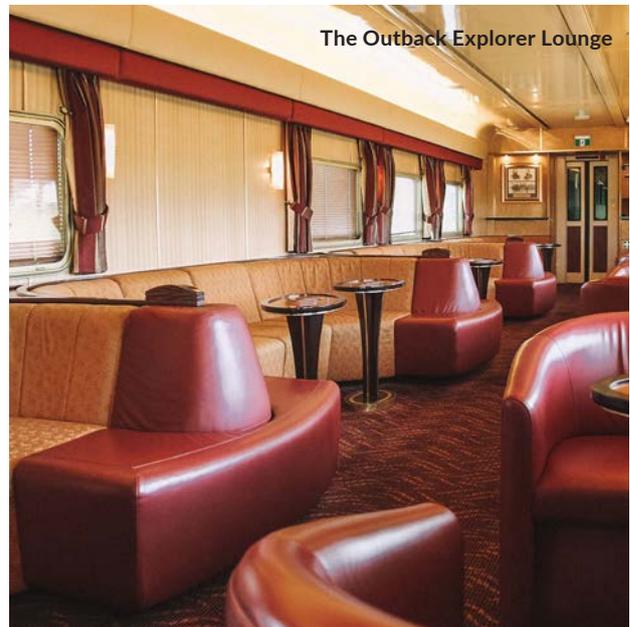
The Ghan

The Ghan

In 2019 this iconic train celebrated 90 years of outback adventure, its legend stemming from the 1930s when the first Afghan cameleers arrived in Australia. The train was named for these pioneering souls and dubbed 'The Afghan Express', later being shortened in true Australian style to 'The Ghan'. Now regarded as one of the world's great rail journeys, The Ghan provides access to parts of Australia no other holiday can come close to, combining comfort, fine dining and adventure in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The Gold Service is the most popular level of service aboard The Ghan, with all-inclusive dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant and all-inclusive Australian wines, beers, base spirits and non-alcoholic beverages. With in-cabin power outlets music channels and journey audio commentary available, the cabins include:

- For Gold Twin, a comfortable private sleeper cabin featuring private en suite and upper and lower berths that convert to a three-seater lounge by day.
- For Gold Single, a compact sleeper cabin featuring a bed that converts to a seat by day and well-appointed shower and toilet facilities located at the end of the carriage. There are four toilets and two showers per carriage.



The Outback Explorer Lounge



The Queen Adelaide Restaurant



The cost of the tour is \$5,580 per person sharing

The cost of the tour with a room to yourself is \$5,990

The cost includes:

- The services of a tour leader, Lindy Moffat
- Five nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in 4-star hotels
- One night's all-inclusive accommodation on The Ghan Gold Service with unlimited Australian wines, beers, base spirits and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily on the tour (including a number of special meals)
- A full programme of cultural tours
- Medical visits and talks as per the itinerary
- All admission fees and transport services
- GST

Cost excludes

- External flights and transfers before and after the tour, Meals not mentioned, All optional excursions, tours and visits.

Option of a sunset dinner cruise on Darwin Harbour



Florence Falls, Litchfield (Tourism NT Jackson Groves) (top); Sunrise over Nitmiluk (credit Tourism NT Mark Fitzpatrick) (left)

Onboard culinary teams work closely with local suppliers, farmers and providores sourcing the finest local ingredients, including Top End barramundi, locally produced beef and lamb, Margaret River cheeses, Barossa Valley smallgoods, and native Australian fare, alongside all-inclusive Australian wines, beers, base spirits and non-alcoholic beverages.

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Royal Flying Doctors (top); The Old Telegraph Station, Alice Springs; Board the Ghan in Alice Springs; See the jumping crocodiles in the Adelaide River (above)



Jon Baines
tours

