

DIVERSE TRAVEL AUSTRALIA



we of the never never

100TH ANNIVERSARY EXPEDITION
TRAVEL ON THE GHAN FROM ADELAIDE TO DARWIN
OR FLY TO DARWIN – THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

"From sun-up to sun-down on Tuesday, the train glided quietly forward on its way towards the Never-Never" **JEANNIE GUNN**

In the early 1900's a young woman, Jeannie Gunn, left her comfortable Melbourne home and travelled north to set up home on a cattle station with her new husband Aeneas in the remote Northern Territory of Australia. Her subsequent book 'We of the Never Never' is an epic tale of a woman facing the challenges, hardships and passion of this enchanting land. Her story was published in London in 1908 – 100 years later we will see what charmed her – and perhaps again fall under the spell of the 'Never Never'.

2008 ADELAIDE DEPARTURE DATES
20-29 APRIL • 10-19 AUGUST • 12-21 OCTOBER



The Ghan to the 'Never Never'

EXPERIENCE THE LUXURY OF THE LEGENDARY GHAN WITH DIVERSE TRAVEL AUSTRALIA. AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY THROUGH AUSTRALIA'S REMOTE AND BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE.

Day 1

Adelaide, Board The Ghan
 After boarding at Adelaide's Keswick Rail Terminal, your first day on The Ghan begins with a light lunch in the Restaurant Car as you travel north towards Spencer Gulf and Port Augusta. **(LD)**

Day 2

Alice Springs Stopover with Local Tour
 Wonderful views of the Central Australian desert sunrise are served with breakfast prior to your arrival in Alice Springs. Several Whistle Stop Tours are available (own expense) including a town tour, camel riding in the Todd River bed, quad bike riding and a helicopter ride to Simpson's Gap. Re-board the train and enjoy the desert scenery as you continue your journey north overnight. **(BLD)**

Day 3

Katherine to Darwin
(or fly to Darwin today)

In the morning stopover in Katherine for some more Whistle Stop Touring (own expense) including a boat cruise on the famous Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge), a coach tour of the town and surrounds or even a spectacular helicopter flight. Then it's time to hop back on board for your journey north through the lush Top End countryside before arriving in Darwin and checking in to your accommodation. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening with your host Mike Keighley at your hotel. *Overnight (1 night): Skycity Darwin* **(BLD)**

Day 4:

Darwin to Katherine

This morning you are collected from your accommodation by Mike Keighley for an easy day as you retrace Jeannie Gunn's trip from Darwin to Pine Creek, then on to Katherine. Jeannie and her new husband Aeneas Gunn travelled by the old 'Spirit of Protest' steam engine from Darwin to Pine Creek, then by horse and buggy down to Katherine, crossing the Cullen, Ferguson, Edith and Katherine Rivers. You'll do the same, however by comfortable 22 seat coach. You'll cover 350 kilometres at a leisurely pace with a gourmet picnic lunch at Pine Creek and rest stops along the way. Mike will choose a selection of songs to play to keep up the outback spirit and will fill you in on some of the quirky details of the area – past and present. Late afternoon you'll arrive at the outback town of Katherine. You spend the night at Knotts Crossing Resort right on the banks of the Katherine River at the spot where Jeannie crossed the river on her trip south.

Overnight (2 nights): Knotts Crossing Resort **(BLD)**

Day 5

Katherine & Surrounds

This morning you take a look at historic Springvale Homestead (the oldest standing homestead in the NT), the Katherine museum and a highlight, the ORIGINAL Katherine township and Inn where Jeannie and Aeneas stayed preparing and stocking up for the final ride south to Elsey Station. The current owners allow you to make a special stop here. Time will be allocated today to do any shopping, banking or visits to art galleries. You'll end your day back at Knotts Crossing Resort where you are free to sip a drink by the pool or take a walk down to the nearby Katherine River. **(BLD)**

Option in afternoon 2 hour boat cruise on Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) *own expense*

Day 6

Katherine to Mataranka

Today you follow Jeannie's tracks down to Mataranka, the heart of the Never Never. You pass by the very modern Tindal airforce base, unheard of in Jeannie's days, continue past limestone outcrops and savannah country and make your way to your accommodation for the next three days, the Territory Manor. Max and Mandy are your hosts here and will welcome you with their outback charm, good cooking and neat accommodation in their quaint mud brick motel complete with all the mod cons. Your meals will be served at the Outdoor restaurant. At night you can view the stars and at breakfast enjoy the birdsong. After lunch you head off to the site of the original Elsey Homestead, visit the gravesites of Aeneas Gunn and other characters from the book, view Jeannie's memorial and finish the day with a soak at the Bitter Springs Thermal Pool.

Overnight (3 nights): Territory Manor **(BLD)**

Day 7

Elsey Station & The Land of the Never Never

Today you head off the tourist track into famous Elsey Station, still a 1.2 million acre cattle station and home to the Mangarrayi people. Four wheel drives are used to explore the Station and its wetlands, waterfalls and the emerald green Roper River that runs through this vast property. Some of the Aboriginal people are descendants from those in Jeannie's book and they will accompany you to their favourite locations. This is the



Lots of Inclusions!

Gold Kangaroo Service on the Legendary Ghan, 2 nights accommodation at Darwin's only 5* beachside resort SKYCITY, welcome buffet dinner (drinks own expense), 2 nights accommodation in Katherine, 3 nights accommodation at Mataranka, 6 day tour to Adelaide River Township, Pine Creek, the original Katherine township, Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge), Mataranka, Jeannie Gunn's memorial, Elsey Station and the land of the 'Never Never' including touring by coaster bus and 4WD, permits/royalties and a professional driver/guide and meals as specified
(B) = breakfast **(L)** = lunch **(D)** = dinner.

land Jeannie said you would Never Never leave once it had cast its spell on you. You will see what she meant when you travel here. **(BLD)**

Day 8

The Never Never Country

You'll explore more of Elsey Station by 4WD and travel to Red Lily lagoon where you have the opportunity to view the largest stand of Livistonia Rigida palms in the world. You then travel back to the homestead to hear from the stockmen about the current function of Elsey Station. **(BLD)**

Day 9

Katherine to Darwin

Today you head back to Darwin via Katherine stopping at sites en-route to your accommodation.

Overnight (1 night): Skycity Darwin **(BL)**

Day 10

Darwin

Your tour concludes after breakfast. **(B)**

Orion Expedition Cruises

Add a 10 night cruise from Darwin to the Kimberley at the end of your trip to explore spectacular waterfalls, gorges and Indigenous rock art – *just ask!*



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Your Travel Agent:

FARES: Package cost per person (AUD\$)

Travel From	Days	Adult*	Single^
The Ghan ex Adelaide	10	\$4600	\$685
ex Darwin	8	\$2680	\$685

Flights

For those requiring flights please advise your Diverse Travel Australia consultant or local travel agent.

Conditions: *Fares are based on Twin Share Accommodation. ^Single Room Supplement obligatory if travelling alone. Prices are based on a minimum of 15 people travelling and are valid for travel on the specified dates only. Booking and payment conditions apply. Diverse Travel Australia reserves the right to change or cancel itineraries dependent on weather conditions or Aboriginal ceremonies. The operator will not be liable for any personal expenses incurred by the client as a result of delay, alteration or cancellation, whether caused by mechanical defect, flooding or any other cause. Personal accident, sickness and property insurance is highly recommended. Itinerary and price subject to change without notice.