

GULFLANDER & SAVANNAH WAY

The epic journey across the top of Australia from Darwin to Cairns

15 DAYS

Departing 30 August 2021



DAY 1: Mon 30 Aug FLY TO DARWIN (-)

Welcome to this incredible tour from Darwin to Cairns, known as the Savannah Way. Fly to Darwin today (own expense) and on arrival meet your Platinum Journeys crew and transfer to the hotel. Dinner is at own expense this evening. **Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Darwin**

DAY 2: Tue 31 Aug DARWIN (BD)

Uncover the fascinating sites and interesting past of Darwin with a local expert. The present city centre was established in 1863 with many of its original historical buildings, such as the Old Court House and Government House, still standing. Also see the new Parliament House built on the site of the Darwin Post Office which was bombed during World War II and afterwards take a drive through Fannie Bay which is popular with sailors, windsurfers and water skiers alike. Dinner this evening will be aboard the Spirit of Darwin as we watch the sunset on the harbour. **Overnight: As Above**

DAY 3: Wed 01 Sep LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK (BLD)

Today visit Litchfield National Park with its untouched rainforests, stunning waterfalls and magnificent scenery - Litchfield has gained a reputation as the jewel of the Northern Territory's crown. Enjoy lunch at Litchfield Café before spending time exploring the park. There are some great photo opportunities as we stop to see the magnetic anthills and cascading Florence Falls. For anyone looking for a swim there's an opportunity to take a dip in the Wangi Falls plunge pool. Return to Darwin this afternoon. **Overnight: As Above**

DAY 4: Thu 02 Sep DARWIN – KAKADU (BD)

Today's highlight is travelling to Kakadu National Park, one of the world's greatest natural wonders with remarkable scenery and unique flora & fauna. Discover Australia's 50,000-year indigenous heritage through the incredible natural rock art gallery walls and visit Ubirr Rock, one of the best and most accessible galleries in the park. See representations of the many animals the Aboriginal people hunted, including fish and birds, presented in x-ray style paintings. Animals were painted to pay respect, to ensure future hunting success or to illustrate a noteworthy catch. At the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre learn the stories of the traditional owners through displays, artefacts and exhibitions. We then board our magical Yellow Water Sunset Cruise. Look out for the vast range of wildlife including Jacana, Egrets, Sea Eagles and maybe a crocodile or two. **Overnight: Kakadu Lodge Coinda**

DAY 5: Fri 03 Sep KAKADU – KATHERINE (BD)

Sadly farewell Kakadu and head for beautiful Katherine Gorge where we enjoy a journey of discovery through the magnificent Nitmiluk Gorge with a Nit Nit Dreaming Cruise. Sit back and relax as the tranquil surrounds transport us into a spiritual world of Jawoyn culture and history against the magnificent backdrop of cliff faces. Tonight we are in for a real treat as Golden Guitar winner and horseman extraordinaire, Tom Curtain, delights and entertains us with his Katherine Outback Experience. The dinner and show celebrate the life in the outback through skilled horsemanship, working dog demonstrations, live music & humorous bush tales. **Overnight: Knotts Crossing Resort**

DAY 6: Sat 04 Sep KATHERINE – MATARANKA (BD)

Today travel to Mataranka and enjoy the fantastic mineral hot pools. The thermal pools pump out a tremendous amount of warm water which has soothed many travellers of their aches and pains over the years. Don't forget your bathers and a towel! **Overnight: Mataranka Homestead**

DAY 7: Sun 05 Sep MATARANKA – CAPE CRAWFORD (BD)

Today travel to Cape Crawford. Pack your camera as we take to the skies on a magnificent **optional** scenic flight* over the Lost City and be amazed by the ancient columns of sandstone, a truly natural wonder. Tonight stay at the Heartbreak Hotel - an institution and a genuine representation of the Australian Outback. ***Please advise at time of booking if you wish to do a scenic flight.** **Overnight: Heartbreak Hotel, Cape Crawford**

DAY 8: Mon 06 Sep CAPE CRAWFORD – BARKLY HOMESTEAD (BD)

Today head south, stopping at the remote Barkly Homestead roadhouse for our overnight stay. Located halfway between Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory and Camooweal in Queensland, Barkly is known as the first and only stop for travellers crossing the border. **Overnight: Barkly Homestead**

DAY 9: Tue 07 Sep BARKLY HOMESTEAD – ADELS GROVE (BD)

A travel day ahead as our route takes us to Gregory Downs Camooweal Road to cross the border into the Queensland and reach the Camooweal township. Continue to Adels Grove, on the edge of the Lawn Hill National Park, our home for the next two nights. **Overnight: Adels Grove Lawn Hill: pre-erected tents with shared facilities**

DAY 10: Wed 08 Sep LAWN HILL NATIONAL PARK (BD)

Today is a full day to discover the stunning Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park. With its emerald waterways winding through lush foliage and towering red sandstone walls, this national park ticks all the boxes for a remote outback escape. Boarding the electric pontoon boats, we begin by meandering along the Lawn Hill Creek to indulge in the most stunning sights of Lawn Hill Gorge. Take in views of the soaring gorge walls and the natural spa at Indarri Falls. Finish the day with drinks and nibbles on Harry's Hill with a colourful sunset. **Overnight: As Above**



DAY 11: Thu 09 Sep ADELS GROVE – KARUMBA (BD)

Another travel day today with some points of interest along the way. Journey to Leichardt Falls before making our way to Camp 119, the site of the last camp explorers Burke and Wills made before turning south and heading home. Tonight dine at the Sunset Tavern, a wonderful spot to enjoy dinner. **Overnight: End of the Road Motel, Karumba**

DAY 12: Fri 10 Sep KARUMBA (BLD)

After a relaxed morning visit the Barramundi Discovery Centre and whilst enjoying morning tea meet the guide who will unveil the life cycle of the Barramundi. Have the opportunity to taste some of the 'swimming locals' at Ash's @ the Point Café before returning to the hotel. This afternoon is at leisure before a very special evening - make sure you have your camera ready, as we board the Crab & Croc Cruise. Watch the sky turn to fire over the reflective waters while sipping on a glass of wine with nibbles. Return to the Sunset Tavern for dinner. **Overnight: As Above**

DAY 13: Sat 11 Sep KARUMBA – FORSAYTH (BD)

An early start with another travel day ahead. Chat to your fellow passengers or watch the scenery roll by as we make our way to board The Gulflander train at Critters Camp, where this historic train takes us on a journey 'from nowhere to nowhere'. Enjoy the sights of Normanton before continuing to Forsayth and checking in to our accommodation in time for dinner. **Overnight: Goldfields Hotel & Finnigans Rest**

DAY 14: Sun 12 Sep FORSAYTH – CAIRNS (BD)

This morning head to Undara National Park, set in pristine Savannah Woodlands, to enjoy a tour of the unique Undara Lava Tubes. These amazing underground tunnels formed thousands of years ago when the volcano Undara erupted and the tunnels were gouged out by the lava flow. What an amazing geological experience! Continue to Cairns for our final night on tour together. **Overnight: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort**

DAY 15: Mon 13 Sep CAIRNS – FLY HOME (B)

With suitcases packed transfer to Cairns airport for your flight home, so ending a fantastic trip travelling through the stunning Northern Territory and Outback Queensland.

Cost: \$7,495.00 per person, twin share

** Based on a minimum of 14 passengers travelling **

Non-refundable deposit required: \$600.00 per person

Single Supplement: \$1,400.00

Balance required no later than: 16 July 2021

CANCELLATION: In the event of cancellation, levies will apply, please see booking conditions for details.

MULTIPLE NIGHT STAYS:

Darwin * 3 Nights

Lawn Hill NP * 2 Nights

Karumba * 2 Nights

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- * Darwin sights & WWII history
- * Litchfield National Park & Wangi Falls
- * Kakadu NP incl Art Sites & Yellow Waters cruise
- * Katherine Gorge cruise & Outback dinner and show
- * Mataranka thermal pools
- * Lawn Hill National Park & Gorge cruise
- * Emma Gorge & El Questro Station
- * Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria incl cruise
- * Historic Gulflander train journey
- * Undara National Park & Lava Tubes

Tour Cost Includes:

- Air conditioned, restroom equipped vehicle travel with experienced crew.
- Twin share accommodation throughout.
- Meals as per itinerary: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch (bush style, salad rolls etc), D = Dinner.
- All entry fees to sightseeing activities as listed in the itinerary.

Tour cost does not include:

- **Travel insurance – for a quote or to purchase a policy please advise.**
- **Airfares to Darwin and from Cairns (please enquire for a quote if required).**
- Items of personal nature eg laundry/phone and any optional extras/tours listed in the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and meals not indicated in the itinerary.

Alterations to the itinerary may occur – a final confirmed itinerary will be provided with your travel documentation approximately 3 weeks prior to departure.

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

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