natural habitat ADVENTURES

WWF

Discovering Our Planet Together

Australia North: Kakadu, Kimberley & the Outback

Explore Ancient Landscapes & Cross the Red Desert on The Ghan Luxury Train

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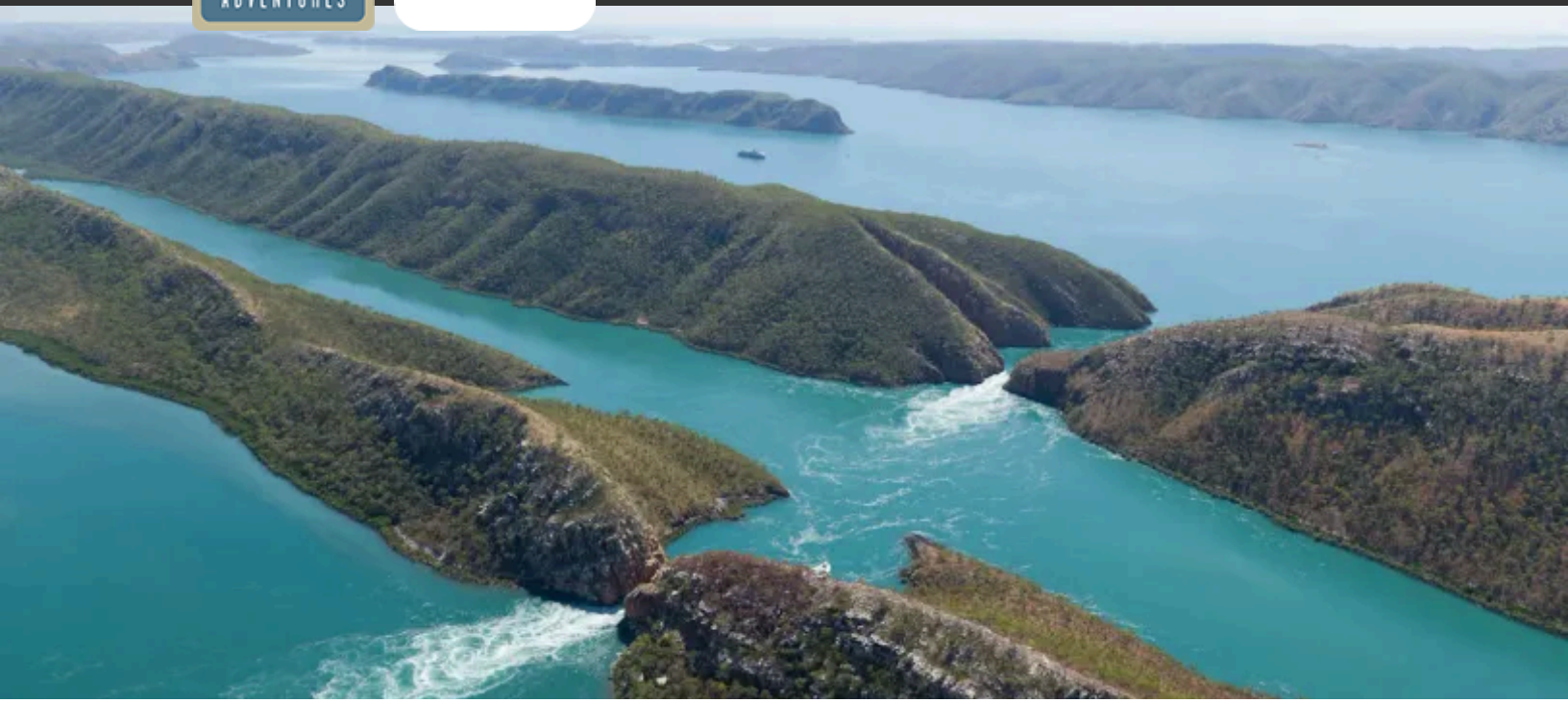


Trip Details:

Days
14 Days /
Jun–Aug

Price
From
$19995
(+Air)

Australia North: Kakadu, Kimberley & the Outback

Explore Ancient Landscapes & Cross the Red Desert on The Ghan Luxury Train

Journey to the back of beyond on a singular itinerary that connects three of Australia's most remote tracts of wilderness. In the vast Red Center, watch the sun set over the monolith of Uluru (Ayers Rock), and wonder at more stars than you've ever seen before. From Alice Springs, board *The Ghan* for the storied train passage across the desert to Katherine up north. Then head for the "Top End" of the Land Down Under—the tropical reaches of the Outback. With interpretation from our Expedition Leader and Aboriginal guides, delve into the watery wilderness of Kakadu, thick with crocodiles. Fly on to the Kimberley, where the beehive stacks of the Bungle Bungle Range form an otherworldly landscape. In Australia's far-flung north, the Dreamtime shapes primal terrain where human cultures have been integrated with the land for more than 65,000 years.

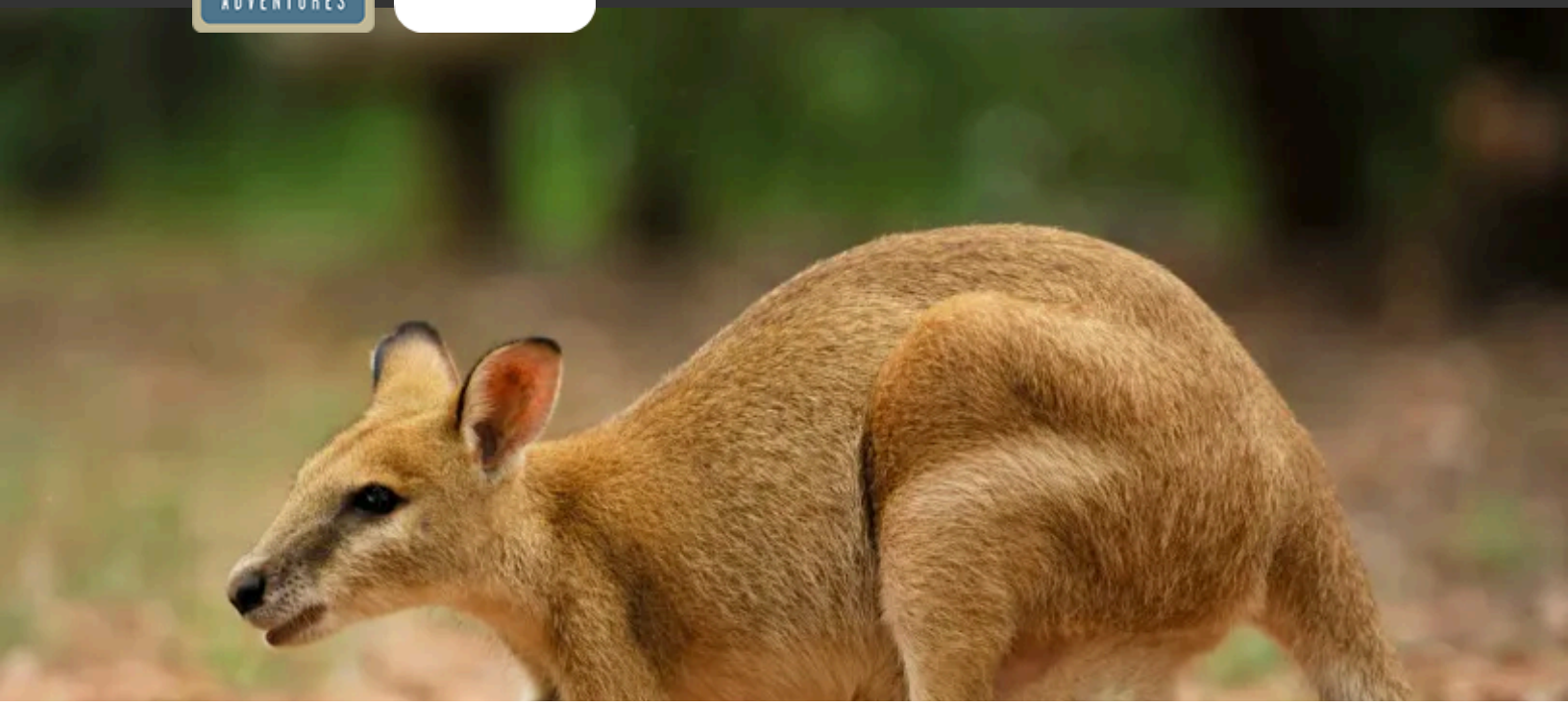
Trip Highlights

With your naturalist Expedition Leader and Indigenous guides, explore the iconic landscapes and Aboriginal heritage of Uluru, Kakadu and the Bungle Bungles

Gain an intimate view on nature on bush walks and river cruises, and survey its vast grandeur on scenic flights and a 750-mile rail journey aboard *The Ghan*

In five national parks and three World Heritage Sites, see 65,000-year-old rock paintings, and look for wallabies, wallaroos, dingos and saltwater crocodiles

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1
Sydney, Australia

Day 2
North Head Sanctuary / Botanic Gardens of Sydney

Day 3
Fly to Ayers Rock / Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

Day 4
Traditional Uluru Heritage Tour / Mala Walk

Day 5
Kata Tjuta Sunrise / Private Flight to Alice Springs / The Ghan Luxury Train

Day 6
The Ghan / Nitmiluk National Park—Katherine Gorge Cruise / Kakadu National Park—Jabiru

Day 7
Ubirr—Rock Art & Wildlife Viewing

Australia North: Kakadu, Kimberley & the Outback Itinerary

Explore Ancient Landscapes & Cross the Red Desert on The Ghan Luxury Train

Day 1: Sydney, Australia

Arrive in Sydney, cosmopolitan capital of New South Wales, and site of the first European fleet landing in 1788, when ships carrying convicts arrived from England. Transfer to our hotel in the heart of The Rocks, a district steeped in ancient Aboriginal history. After displacing the Gadigal First Nations people, British colonists established Australia's first town on this rocky point, creating the colony of New South Wales. This evening, join your Expedition Leader on a short walk to your welcome dinner at a waterfront restaurant overlooking Sydney Harbor.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8
Private Billabong Cruise / Warradjan Cultural Center / Nourlangie Rock Art

Day 9
Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve / Darwin / Kununurra / Private Flightseeing Over the Bungle Bungles

Day 10
Purnululu National Park—Exploring the Bungle Bungles / Stargazing

Day 11
Private Flightseeing Over Purnululu National Park / Kununurra / Broome

Day 12
Private Dolphin & Marine Life Cruise / Cable Beach

Day 13
Private Flight over Buccaneer Archipelago & Horizontal Falls / Pearl Farm & Cultural Tour

Day 14
Broome / Depart

Day 2: North Head Sanctuary / Botanic Gardens of Sydney

With your Expedition Leader, walk over to Circular Quay this morning to board the ferry across Sydney Harbor to Manly. Here, we join an expert local guide for a private walk at North Head Sanctuary, an Australian Wildlife Conservancy property that is an urban reserve of extraordinary biodiversity. Hidden on top of North Head in this oceanside suburb, the important scrub heath vegetation is a remnant of native bushland and the site of important biodiversity restoration programs, including the replanting of three locally extinct species. Numerous walking trails lace the scrubland that is home to echidna, bandicoot, rainbow lorikeet, and lizards, plus a host of birds including the wattlebird, wagtail, fairywren and raven.

After lunch in Manly, ferry back to Sydney and continue to the Botanic Gardens of Sydney. On an Aboriginal bush tucker tour, hear from our Indigenous guide about native bush plants, how they were traditionally used by the Gadigal people, and how they have been adapted to modern palates. On this site, First Nations people lived off the land for centuries before European settlement, and we learn about their initial contact with those aboard the 11 boats that arrived from England in 1788. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure before dinner at The Glenmore, a 1921 heritage-listed building with one of the best views of Sydney Harbor and the city skyline from the rooftop terrace, including the iconic Sydney Opera House.

Day 3: Fly to Ayers Rock / Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

After breakfast, depart to meet our flight from Sydney to Ayers Rock Airport, then continue to our hotel where a light lunch awaits. This afternoon, we have our first encounter with Uluru, the legendary red sandstone monolith that rises in striking solitude 1,142 feet above the flat grasslands where we find an abundance of springs, waterholes, rock caves and ancient paintings. Uluru, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is sacred to the Anangu, the Aboriginal people of central Australia who are the original inhabitants of this region, with a presence established for more than 60,000 years. European explorers first arrived here in 1872. A year later, a surveyor observed Uluru and named it Ayers Rock in honor of the Chief Secretary of South Australia, Sir Henry Ayers. In 1993, Australia adopted a dual naming policy to recognize both the traditional Aboriginal name and the English name of landmarks, and Uluru/Ayers Rock became the first official dual-named feature in the Northern Territory.

On a guided walk to Mutijulu Waterhole, hear traditional Creation stories from the Dreamtime, then drive around the base of Uluru before stopping at a sunset vantage point before dinner. We gain another perspective on Uluru during the only evening dining experience inside Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park. Sample traditional local foods including native apple, bush tomato and quandong flavors, and savor renowned Australian barbecued steak, kangaroo and seafood, accompanied by Australian wines. After dinner, stargaze with a local expert under some of the darkest skies on Earth.

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Day 4: Traditional Uluru Heritage Tour / Mala Walk

Accompany a traditional Uluru family member to their homeland, called Patji, and spend intimate time learning about the oldest living culture in the world on this unique and exclusive experience. Patji is located just outside Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park. Explore this extraordinary environment on a 4x4 outing with our Aboriginal guide, stopping to hear personal stories from our Uluru family hosts, including how they survived in this desert environment prior to the advent of tourism, and how the Uluru inhabitants fought for land rights to their Aboriginal domain. Continue to a private sand dune for a panorama over the great expanse of desert overlooking Uluru and the jumble of rock formations that comprise neighboring Kata Tjuta.

From Patji, continue to the northwest side of Uluru for the Mala Walk among the sheer vertical walls and profound peacefulness of Kantju Gorge. Observe many examples of Anangu rock art along the path, then spend time after our walk at the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Center to learn more about the ancient Indigenous culture that has been at home here since time immemorial.

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Day 5: Kata Tjuta Sunrise / Private Flight to Alice Springs / The Ghan Luxury Train

Drive across the desert landscape early this morning to reach the mighty rock formation of Kata Tjuta, also known as the Olgas. With a local guide, we walk we to the best vantage point on the massive domes that comprise this mystical place, watching the sun's golden glow turn the rocks vermillion and rust. After an Outback picnic breakfast, follow our guide into Walpa Gorge, named for the wind (walpa) that whistles between the massive conglomerate rock walls and rounded hulks of Kata Tjuta, the result of eons of weathering. Learn how the forces of nature have shaped these dramatic formations over millions of years, as well as the cultural significance of this sacred ceremonial site.

At midday, board our private chartered flight from Ayers Rock to Alice Springs, with a spectacular view of Uluru from the air. “Alice” is a remote town in the middle of Australia, located halfway between Darwin and Adelaide. It’s called the gateway to the Red Center, the arid interior desert known for its rusty sandstone geological features. On arrival, tour Alice Springs’ most notable sights, including the Royal Flying Doctors Service, bringing medical care to the most far-flung sectors of the Outback; The School of the Air, facilitating distance learning for Australia’s most remote students; and Telegraph Station, the site of the first European settlement in Alice Springs. Established in 1871 to relay messages between Darwin and Adelaide along the Overland Telegraph Line, the station connected Australia to the undersea telegraph network of the British Empire, allowing a message to reach London in as little as five hours versus the 3-4 months it took by ship. Our tour concludes with a panorama of the town and MacDonnell/Tjoritja Ranges from Anzac Hill.

Then it’s time to embark on one of the world’s great railway adventures: board *The Ghan*, Australia’s historic train that inaugurated service in 1929, for the journey across the Outback. *The Ghan* was named for the pioneering cameleers who blazed a permanent trail into the Red Center of Australia more than 150 years ago; its full route from Adelaide in the south to Darwin in the north spans 1,850 miles. We travel nearly half of it on our northbound journey to Katherine, enjoying luxury accommodations in a comfortable sleeper cabin, Aussie beers and wines in the Outback Explorer Lounge, and fine meals in the Queen Adelaide Dining Room, whose art deco atmosphere harks back to the train’s original ambience.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 6: The Ghan / Nitmiluk National Park—Katherine Gorge Cruise / Kakadu National Park—Jabiru

Wake early for breakfast aboard *The Ghan* before arriving in Katherine, where we disembark the train. Entering Nitmiluk National Park, take a boat cruise on the Katherine River between the sheer sandstone cliffs. Learn about the region's history and culture through interpretations of Indigenous rock art dating back 40,000 years. Hear Dreaming stories about the Creation and the significance of the gorge in the lives of its traditional owners, the Jawoyn people. A short walk to the top of First Gorge reveals a stunning rock art site where paintings remain even after thousands of years of exposure to the elements, evidence of the Jawoyn culture in the area during the last Ice Age.

This afternoon, drive north from Katherine to Jabiru in Australia's "Top End," with lunch en route and a stop to look for hooded parrots. Entering Kakadu National Park, we find the tropical side of the remote Australian Outback, home to one of the world's largest saltwater crocodile populations. On the coastal floodplains of Australia's most northerly reaches, the Greater Kakadu region contains stunning biodiversity, including 68 mammal species, more than 120 reptile, 26 frog and 300 tidal and freshwater fish species, some 2,000 plant species, more than 10,000 insect species, and one-third of all Australian bird species, including an annual migration of over 100,000 magpie geese. Kakadu's giant crocodiles are the world's largest living reptiles, thriving for nearly 200 million years. They live in floodplains, billabongs, gorges and coastal waters, and we expect to see plenty of them.

Day 7: Ubirr—Rock Art & Wildlife Viewing

This morning, discover the wonders of Ubirr on the Kakadu side of the river, where ancient Aboriginal people camped beneath its cool rocky shelters and used plants and animals from the nearby floodplain for food, tools and medicine. Ubirr's rock art galleries are some of the most renowned in the world, with fine examples of X-ray painting as well as contact art from the time when Indigenous people first encountered Europeans. Much of it features fish, turtles, goanna and other important food sources. One image shows a thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger, which became extinct on the mainland more than 2,000 years ago. An optional hike to the top of Ubirr Rock offers magnificent views across Kakadu, Arnhem Land and the Nadab floodplains. Ubirr is one of the few places where it is possible to view the diminutive eastern short-eared rock-wallaby. Special bird sightings include the blue-winged kookaburra, pheasant coucal and peaceful dove, among many others. Learn how the Kakadu Escarpment was formed millions of years ago as we scout for native species including the white bellied sea-eagle and sulphur-crested cockatoo. Return to our hotel for time to relax this afternoon, followed by dinner and a night walk in hopes of a glimpse of northern brush tail possum and northern brown bandicoot.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 8: Private Billabong Cruise / Warradjan Cultural Center / Nourlangie Rock Art

Head out early this morning for a cruise on the Yellow Water Billabong. Exploring this serene wetland, we look for saltwater crocodiles and prolific birdlife—about one-third of Australia's bird species are found in Kakadu National Park, with at least 60 right here, including brolga, cockatoo, galah and red-winged parrot. Other sightings might include the agile wallaby and Gilbert's dragon lizard. Then tour the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Center, an interactive museum, art exhibit and gathering place to meet the traditional owners of these lands.

After lunch at our hotel, look for agile wallabies as we head to the Nourlangie region, offering views over the magnificent Arnhem Land escarpment and its unique wildlife. Here, ancient sandstone ranges rise from the floodplains in a powerful landscape that evokes the Aboriginal Dreamtime. We visit the Nourlangie rock art site, which contains some of the most powerful Aboriginal paintings in Australia, including a depiction of the Lightning Man, who creates thunder by banging stone axes together. Birds here may include emerald doves and sandstone shrike-thrush, and with luck, we might spy an endemic black wallaroo. Keep an eye out, too, for water buffalo. At the end of the day, look for wildlife around Lake Jabiru as the sun sets. The wetlands are a haven for waterbirds, including brolga crane, glossy ibis, magpie goose, black-necked stork (jabiru), egrets, herons and more. We often see huge flocks of little corellas coming in to roost, and many species of finches.

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Day 9: Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve / Darwin / Kununurra / Private Flightseeing Over the Bungle Bungles

This morning, as we begin our drive to Darwin, we explore one of Kakadu's most famous wetlands and premier birding spots. Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve is part of the Adelaide River floodplain, one of several connected catchments that make up the Top End wetlands and are of international importance due to their beauty, natural systems and cultural significance. As we stroll the boardwalk through the paperbark forest, look for barn owls, comb-crested jacanas, myriad dragonflies skimming the surface of the water, and a gigantic carpet of blooming waterlilies. From the Pandanus viewing platform, survey the vast floodplains and drying billabongs, searching for dancing brolgas, black-necked storks, and hundreds of egrets and herons. The reserve is also a haven for water pythons, freshwater turtles and other wildlife.

Continuing to Darwin, scout for dingoes along the way, which we may see throughout Kakadu. At the Darwin airport, catch a commercial flight to Kununurra, followed by lunch at a scenic restaurant. We then board our private chartered flight to survey the surreal landscape of the Bungle Bungles from the air. One of the planet's most fascinating geological landmarks, the beehive-shaped cones consist of stacks of ancient seabed layered with dolomite in orange and gray stripes, rising a thousand feet above the savanna.

Once we land at the airstrip in Purnululu, it's a short drive to our lodge, our base for exploring the East Kimberley region of Western Australia, one of the most ancient and untouched corners of the country. The wild and remote Kimberley is known for its stunning coastal and interior scenery, comprising a massive central plateau of dissected sandstone ranges and an extensive limestone range formed from an ancient barrier reef. Gather for sundowners before dinner.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 10: Purnululu National Park—Exploring the Bungle Bungles / Stargazing

Our focus today is World Heritage-listed Purnululu National Park, which lies within Gija and Jaru Country. This area is of enormous significance to these Indigenous custodians, and we learn about their intimate connection to this astounding landscape since time immemorial. Join a local guide for a walking tour through the sandstone domes, viewing their dramatic stripes at eye level. Our hike takes us to Cathedral Gorge, a huge natural amphitheater where shrubs dangle from the vertical walls. Among the rock towers, observe the creek beds, gaps and crevices, evidence of wet-season waterfalls, and ponder how nature's forces have sculpted and scoured this setting over millions of years. Along the way, learn about traditional bush medicine as we observe native plants used in human healthcare for millennia. Look for some of Purnululu's 130 bird species, as well as rare and unique animals including the nailtail wallaby and short-eared rock wallaby. We stop for a picnic lunch in the gorge, awed by the amazing natural acoustics.

For those who wish, a more challenging hike to Echidna Chasm is offered this afternoon, or opt to soak up the beautiful surroundings at camp and relax back at the lodge until it's time for sundowners again. Once darkness descends, trace the stars' movements across some of blackest night skies on the planet.

Day 11: Private Flightseeing Over Purnululu National Park / Kununurra / Broome

On our private chartered flight back to Kununurra, there's one more thrilling opportunity to observe the wondrous geography of the Bungles Bungles from on high. After lunch on landing, board our afternoon flight to Broome on the northwest Australia coast, where it's just a short drive to our beachfront hotel on Roebuck Bay. Situated in the heart of town yet surrounded by peaceful nature, including lush garden greenery and lithe palm trees, our hotel offers the ideal location for exploring Broome and its marine environs.

Day 12: Private Dolphin & Marine Life Cruise / Cable Beach

Search for Australia's rarest dolphin—the snubfin—on a morning eco-cruise aboard a 50-foot catamaran. This charming, round-headed cetacean is native to Australia's north coast and was identified as a distinct new species in 2005. With almost no beak, these dolphins have a sweet, cartoonish face, similar to the beluga whale. Threatened by fishing net casualties and coastal development affecting the shallow waters and brackish estuaries they favor, the snubfin dolphin has become a focus of conservation concern. The creation of several marine parks in northern Australia is having a positive impact on efforts to preserve their declining numbers. We also look for more common bottlenose dolphins, dugongs, sea turtles and manta rays among the rich marine life of Roebuck Bay. Enjoy morning tea on board as we learn about the bay's diverse ecosystem. Return to our hotel this afternoon to relax by the bay, or explore Broome on your own before we head to famous Cable Beach for sundowners.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 13: Private Flight over Buccaneer Archipelago & Horizontal Falls / Pearl Farm & Cultural Tour

Another day of private flightseeing is in store as we follow the stunning Kimberley coastline, a jumble of crenellated sandstone indented with rugged gorges and waterfalls pouring off the plateau into turquoise bays. From on high, survey the thousands of islands that comprise the Buccaneer Archipelago. Crossing the ancient Kimbolton Ranges and King Sound, we reach Horizontal Falls, an unusual feature that David Attenborough called “one of the greatest natural wonders of the world.” In the turquoise waters of Talbot Bay, the fast-moving tidal current squeezes through two narrow gorges of the McLarty Range, pushing the water into rapid-like formations which rush through the twin gaps at a forceful rate, producing waterfalls turned on their side. The powerful tides in the Kimberley can fluctuate more than 30 feet, and the direction of the flow reverses so the water moves two different ways each day.

As our flight continues, get an exhilarating vantage over Cape Leveque, where red sandstone cliffs meet white sand and clear aqua seas, then land at Cygnet Bay to visit Australia's oldest family-owned pearl farm. Although Aboriginal peoples along the northern coast harvested and traded pearl shell more than 20,000 years ago, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, pearling was a key industry across northern Australia, and Broome became the pearling capital of the world. Australia supplied most of the world’s demand for pearl shell—called “mother of pearl,” the illustrious lining of the oyster shell—which was exported to Europe and the United States. As manufacturers turned to plastic as an inexpensive alternative to mother-of-pearl in the 1950s, the market for pearl shell collapsed, and today Australia’s pearling industry is based on cultivation. Broome remains an important center in the production of South Sea pearls.

Lunch awaits, along with a cultural experience with our local Bardi Jawi tour guide. Through rich stories and demonstrations, he shares lore about the seasons, hunting methods and various types of shelters. We’ll hear a traditional song and get to taste damper—Australia's classic rustic bread—and fresh seafood. Our return flight to Broome is just as spectacular as we fly over Pender Bay, Beagle Bay, Carnot Bay, James Price Point, Willie Creek and Cable Beach. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner at our seaside hotel.

Day 14: Broome / Depart

Our grand Australia Outback journey concludes this morning, with a transfer to the airport included to meet your departing flight.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Accommodation Details:

- The Ghan
- Desert Gardens Hotel
- Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel
- Bungle Bungle Wilderness Lodge
- Mangrove Hotel
- Shangri-La Hotel Sydney

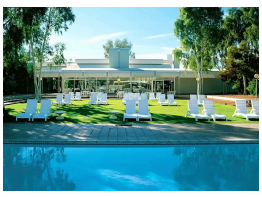
For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/northern-australia-nature-tour/accommodations

Australia North: Kakadu, Kimberley & the Outback Accommodations

Explore Ancient Landscapes & Cross the Red Desert on The Ghan Luxury Train

The Ghan

Spend a night aboard Australia's long-distance luxury passenger train that inaugurated service in 1929 and still today carries travelers in genteel elegance across the desert Outback.



Desert Gardens Hotel

Located inside Ayers Rock Resort, Desert Gardens Hotel offers a stylish, contemporary retreat and is the only accommodation with views of Uluru, as well as being the closest to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

Built in the shape of a crocodile and located within Kakadu National Park, the Aboriginal-owned “Croc” is the ideal base for exploring the park’s many natural and cultural attractions.

Bungle Bungle Wilderness Lodge

On Picaninny Creek in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Purnululu National Park, this off-the-grid tented bush camp has easy proximity to all the dramatic features of the wild Kimberley.

Mangrove Hotel

A seaside resort on Roebuck Bay, with suites offering wide tidal views, tropical gardens, and dining inspired by the region's coastal and inland cuisine.

Shangri-La Hotel Sydney

A luxury five-star hotel with harbor views, elegant rooms, acclaimed dining, spa, indoor pool and eco-friendly practices —steps from Darling Harbour, the Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

No One Offers You a Bigger Encounter with Australia's Untamed North

The Great Australian Outback—few places evoke a stronger sense of adventure. While Australia is hardly an unknown destination, the remote north is ripe for discovery. Our wide-ranging journey is crafted for thewildest possible encounters. Join a distinctly Nat Hab-style expedition as we delve into a montage of red deserts, sculpted gorges, tropical rivers and floodplains, sandstone mountains, waterfalls and springs.

1

An All-Encompassing Northern Australia Adventure

This isn't your typical Australia tour. Experience the unharnessed landscapes of Australia's Red Center and Top End, enjoying plenty of comfort though we never stray far from wilderness. Explore contrasting ecosystems on this in-depth nature immersion: the savanna, shrublands and sand dunes around Uluru; Kakadu's gorges, woodlands and wetlands; and the diverse terrain of the Kimberley, with its freshwater rivers, waterfalls, canyons, pockets of rainforest and layered sandstone mountains.

2

World-Class Nature Destinations

We visit five national parks and three UNESCO World Heritage Sites on this impressive and diverse itinerary, a collection of places that enjoy world renown for their stunning natural and cultural features, including endemic wildlife and rock art sites more than 60,000 years old.

3

Our Expertise Grants You Access to Rare Experiences

Australia's wild Top End—the northern tier of the Northern Territory—is immense, and its star attractions are hard to reach. Frankly, it's tough terrain to navigate on your own. But we've linked it up on a seamless itinerary uniting exceptional natural diversity. And through our connections, you'll be privy to locations and adventures not offered by more conventional companies.

4

An Overnight Journey Aboard One of the World's Most Famous Trains

Since 1929, *The Ghan* has been making the passage across Australia's vast Outback, connecting Adelaide in the south to Darwin, 1,850 miles north. We ride the rails for about half this distance, enjoying the train's refined elegance between Alice Springs and Katherine. Spent a night in your private sleeper car, which converts to a comfortable lounge space by day, and watch the expansive views roll past from the Outback Explorer bar and art deco environs of the Queen Adelaide Dining Room.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

5

Scenic Flights Give You Perspective You Won't Get Otherwise

We fly you from Uluru to Alice Springs, eliminating a full day of rugged driving while providing one of the most spectacular aerial experiences in Australia: a view on Uluru from above! You'll also enjoy a flightseeing adventure in the Kimberley that includes surveying the wondrous terrain of the Bungle Bungles for photos you'll never get on the ground. Plus our other chartered flights over northern Australia's wildest reaches!

6

Private & Strategic Flights Get You Farther, Faster

This element is key to making this ambitious itinerary work. The only way to expeditiously get from one remote place to the next is by flying, and we have gone to great lengths to craft a seamless itinerary with optimal connections. We include three privately chartered flights, plus three commercial flights, to accomplish that. Otherwise, we would be looking at long overland travel or returning to distant cities and making inconvenient connections that eat up entire days of your time. You've come all this way to explore wild nature—and we make sure that's what you are doing! Yes, it costs more—but the value added to your experience is exponential. What's more, our chartered flights also double as scenic flights over sights like Uluru, Purnululu and Horizontal Falls.

7

Private Boat Cruises

Exclusive excursions on privately chartered boats bring you closer to natural and cultural wonders in quiet seclusion. Float through Kakadu's vibrant wetlands to see saltwater and freshwater crocodiles, agile wallabies and myriad species of birdlife as we explore Yellow Water Billabong. On a private boat trip out of Broome, look for snubfin dolphins and other marine wildlife in Roebuck Bay.

8

Carefully Chosen Lodgings Immerse You in Australia's Wildest Places

Experience Nat Hab's signature brand of luxury: staying in secluded spots surrounded by nature. Ply the watery reaches of Kakadu from our Indigenous-owned lodge; wake up to view of Roebuck Bay from our luxurious oceanside hotel in Broome; stargaze from our desert lodge in view of Uluru and from Bungle Bungle Wilderness Lodge in the remote Kimberley; and spend a night aboard The Ghan, one of the world's most famous trains.

9

A Distinct Nature Focus with Aboriginal Perspective

Nature is the primary force sculpting Australia's vast landscapes, but humans have been at home here for millennia. From savanna to swamp to tropical rainforest, this is Aboriginal homeland. Through private and intimate cultural encounters, including guided botanical walks, interpretive experiences at rock art sites more than 65,000 years old, and boat trips with Aboriginal-owned and operated ecotourism enterprises, witness how local people are bringing the wisdom of traditional sustainable living and land management to Australia's national parks today.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

10

Some of the Best Stargazing on the Planet

The places we stay—such as Purnululu National Park in the East Kimberley Outback of Western Australia— are so far away from urban areas and extensive artificial light that you are literally under some of the darkest skies on Earth. As the night sky becomes a vanishing natural resource worldwide, embrace this rare chance to see stars on a scale you simply can't imagine.

11

Explore with No More Than 11 Travelers

In a small group, we can seek out more remote nature highlights and stay in intimate lodges, surrounded by nature and close to wildlife. With fewer people, you get a deeper, more peaceful nature experience. And with local guides supporting our Expedition Leader throughout, you get the exceptional attention and interpretation you deserve.

12

Maximize Your Time in Nature with Flights Between Destinations

Australia is a huge country. That's why we fly between many of our itinerary highlights. Less time on the highway maximizes time in the wild among the landscapes and wildlife you came so far to see. Compare closely: Many companies offer longer itineraries that don't spend near as much time in nature.

13

The World's Finest Naturalist Guides

Natural Habitat Adventures has a well-deserved global reputation for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders have years of experience and training, including resources from WWF's top scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable—or more personable—guides than those who work with us. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best! **Read our Expedition Leader bios** and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

14

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Australia Adventure

Natural Habitat Adventures is proud to offer our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

15

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

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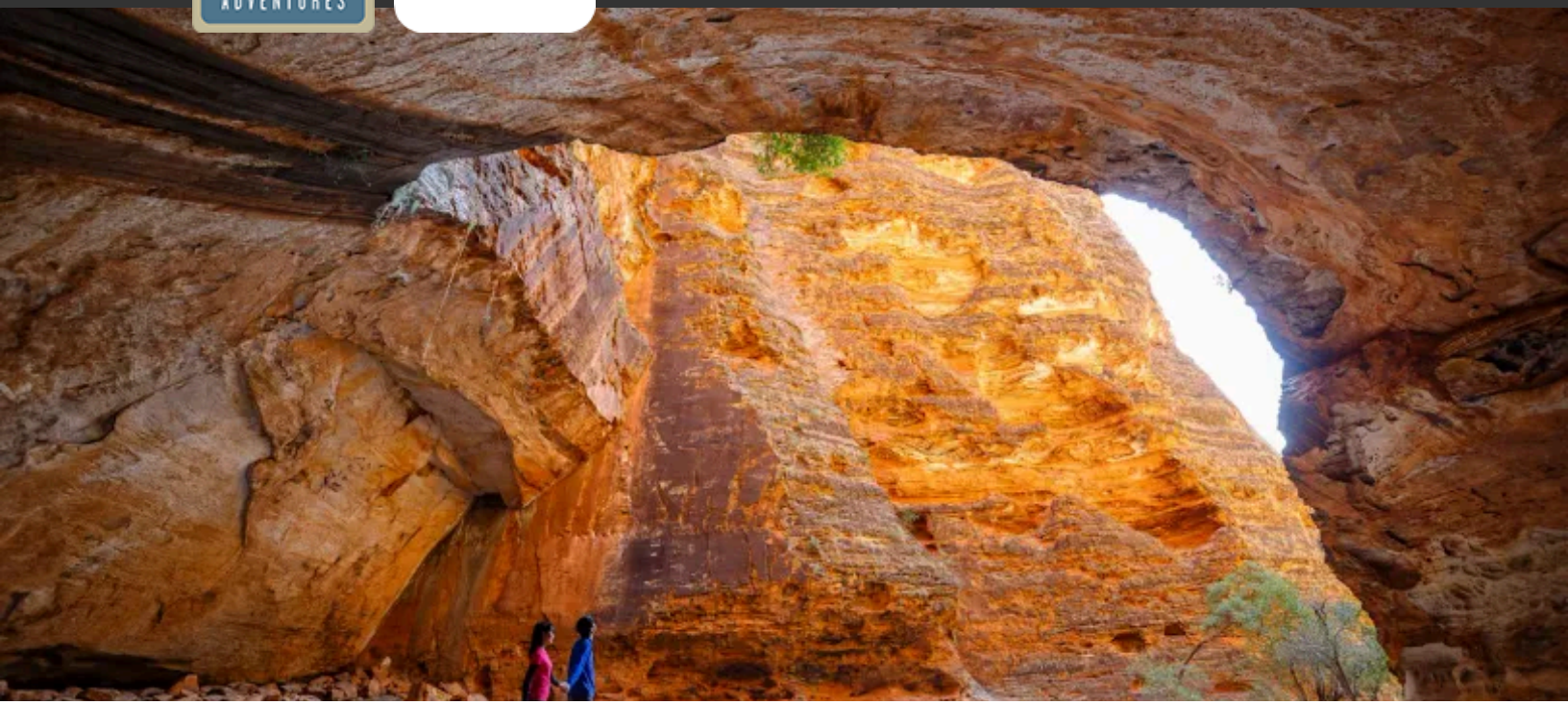
16

Natural Habitat Adventures Is World Wildlife Fund's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From $19995 (+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 11 Travelers

Australia North: Kakadu, Kimberley & the Outback Dates, Pricing & Info

Explore Ancient Landscapes & Cross the Red Desert on The Ghan Luxury Train

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 14, 2026	Jun 27, 2026	$19995 USD (+internal air)
Jun 28, 2026	Jul 11, 2026	$19995 USD (+internal air) Habitat Club Pricing Available
Jul 19, 2026	Aug 1, 2026	$19995 USD (+internal air)
Aug 9, 2026	Aug 22, 2026	$19995 USD (+internal air)

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Dates not confirmed for 2027		
Jun 6, 2027	Jun 19, 2027	$19995 USD (+internal air)
Jun 27, 2027	Jul 10, 2027	$19995 USD (+internal air)
Jul 18, 2027	Jul 31, 2027	$19995 USD (+internal air)
Aug 1, 2027	Aug 14, 2027	$19995 USD (+internal air)
Aug 8, 2027	Aug 21, 2027	$19995 USD (+internal air)

Pricing

See https://nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/northern-australia-nature-tour/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader, local guides and lodge staff, one night on The Ghan luxury train, private wildlife and cultural cruises, private touring with local and aboriginal guides, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, airport transfers for those arriving by air on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

- **Internal air fee includes:** Flight from Sydney to Uluru, private scenic flight over Uluru and to Alice Springs, flight from Darwin to Kununurra, private scenic roundtrip flight to Purnululu National Park, flight from Kununurra to Broome, and private scenic roundtrip flight to Horizontal Falls (these will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, most alcoholic beverages, gratuities for Expedition Leaders, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), international airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Important Information About This Trip

Our journey explores sectors of the Australian Outback that are least populated, most wild, and replete with rugged beauty. These are places that are most difficult to get to and experience fully on your own, where the expertise and guidance of our knowledgeable Expedition Leaders will be most appreciated. We explore in quiet hours and settings that facilitate secluded and intimate encounters with nature.

A Note About Travel Within Australia
With our chartered and commercial flights, we are able to avoid otherwise essential long, rugged drives, since the remote destinations we visit are at great distances from one another due to the vastness of the country. However, even though we have minimized driving, we'll have one or two road transfers, and roads are often narrow, winding and/or unpaved. Wildlife is often found near the road, too, which means we must drive slower than you'd typically expect. Please understand that all this is part of nature travel in Australia—while knowing that we have arranged activities and chartered flights to minimize driving challenges wherever possible.

A Note About Rooming on The Ghan
Guests booking a *Single Cabin* on The Ghan will have access to shared bathroom facilities rather then an en-suite.

A Note About Australian Accommodations
It is important to understand that Australia is a huge yet sparsely populated country, a remote and isolated continent filled with wildlife and landscapes that are truly unique. Australia is also an English-speaking country, which, aside from some left-side driving and happy accents, feels pretty familiar to life in North America. Yet while it may seem similar to the U.S. and Canada in many ways, the culture around travel is a bit different. Many Australians travel via camper or caravan (trailer) to remote destinations. Those who do stay at ecolodges don't expect the same level of accoutrements, service or maintenance that most North American travelers are accustomed to, even when such lodges are designated as 4- or 5-star accommodations. And since the Covid-19 pandemic, staff turnover at many lodges has been very high, making regular upkeep more difficult. So, please be prepared that while you can certainly expect our accommodations to be clean and comfortable, the standards overall may be a bit lower than what you are accustomed to.

However: there are good reasons we stay where we do! We choose our hotels and ecolodges based on their proximity to nature and wildlife, and the experiences we are able to have from these more remotely located bases far exceed what we could expect if our primary intent was finding the most luxurious accommodation. On this trip, the luxury is in the experience, including access to nature and wildlife, which is why we will choose an ecolodge that's just minutes away from a wild reserve, for example, rather than a luxury hotel that requires a 2-hour drive.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins in Sydney, New South Wales, and ends in Darwin, Northern Territory. Because this is a long international journey with a significant time difference, **we recommend that you arrive at least one day prior to Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you must arrive in Sydney by 4 pm in order to join your group for your orientation dinner.

You may depart Broome any time on the final day.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together
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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.