



PLATINUM JOURNEYS

# GULFLANDER & SAVANNAH WAY

15 Days - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021

The Savannah Way is an epic journey across the top of Australia from Darwin to Cairns. Leave the cosmopolitan city behind as we head to dramatic outback landscapes, exceptional gorge scenery and diverse national parks. Walk through ancient geological formations, chat with locals in tiny country pubs and wander incredible heritage listed landscapes.



## Day 1: HOME TO CAIRNS Sun 15 Aug 21 (-)

Welcome to our incredible tour from Cairns to Darwin, known as the Savannah Way. After our morning pickups we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Cairns. On arrival we are met by our friendly Platinum Journeys team and have a brief introduction to Cairns before drop offs in town for dinner (no meals included).

*Overnight: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort (PH: 07 4080 1888)*

## Day 2: CAIRNS TO FORSAYTH Mon 16 Aug 21 (BD)

We farewell Cairns and head inland to Undara National Park, set in pristine Savannah Woodlands. We enjoy a tour of the 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! We continue to Forsayth for our overnight stay (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: Goldfields Hotel and Finnigans Rest, Forsayth (PH: 07 4062 5374)*

## Day 3: FORSAYTH TO KARUMBA Tues 17 Aug 21 (BD)

Up at sparrows as we have a travel day ahead. Chat to your fellow adventurers or watch the scenery roll by as we make our way to board The Gulflander at Critters Camp. The historic train takes us on a journey 'from nowhere to nowhere'. We enjoy the sights of Normanton before continuing to Karumba and checking in to our accommodation. Tonight, we dine at the Sunset Tavern, a wonderful spot to enjoy dinner (breakfast at accommodation / lunch at own expense / dinner at Sunset Tavern).

*Overnight: Karumba Lodge Hotel Motel (PH: 07 4745 9121)*

#### **Day 4: KARUMBA Wed 18 Aug 21 (BLD)**

After a relaxed morning, we visit the Barramundi Discovery Centre. Enjoying morning tea here, we meet our guide who will unveil the life cycle of the Barramundi. Take an opportunity to taste some of the 'swimming locals' at Ash's @ the Point Café before returning to the hotel. The afternoon is at leisure before a very special evening. Make sure you have your camera packed, as we board the Crab & Croc Cruise. Watch the sky turn into fire upon the reflective waters, while sipping on a glass of wine with nibbles (breakfast & dinner at accommodation / lunch included).

*Overnight: Karumba Lodge Hotel Motel (PH: 07 4745 9121)*

#### **Day 5: KARUMBA TO ADELS GROVE Thu 19 Aug 21 (BD)**

Although we have a coach day, there are some interesting points of interest on our travels. We stop at Camp 119, the site of the last camp, explorers, Burke and Wills made before turning south and heading home. Then, we journey to Leichardt Falls before making our way to Adels Grove, on the edge of the Lawn Hill National Park (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: Adels Grove Lawn Hill (PH: 07 4748 5502) – pre-erected tents with shared facilities*

#### **Day 6: LAWN HILL NATIONAL PARK Fri 20 Aug 21 (BD)**

We have 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 our electric pontoon boats, we begin by meandering along the Lawn Hill Creek to indulge in the most stunning sights of the Lawn Hill Gorge. Take in views of the soaring gorge walls and the natural spa bath at the Indarri Falls. We finish our day with drinks and nibbles on Harry's Hill for a colourful sunset (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: Adels Grove Lawn Hill (PH: 07 4748 5502) – pre-erected tents with shared facilities*

#### **Day 7: ADELS GRIVE TO BARKLY HOMESTEAD Sat 21 Aug 21 (BD)**

We have a travel day ahead as we take to Gregory Downs Camooweal Road to reach the Camooweal township. We cross the border into the Northern Territory, stopping at the remote roadhouse, Barkly Homestead 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 (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: Barkley Homestead (PH: 08 8964 4549)*

#### **Day 8: BARKLY HOMESTEAD TO CAPE CRAWFORD Sun 22 Aug 21 (BD)**

We continue our journey north as we make our way to Cape Crawford. Tonight, we stay at the Heartbreak Hotel. The hotel is an institution and a truly genuine representation of the Australian Outback (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: Heartbreak Hotel (PH: 08 8975 9928)*

#### **Day 9: CAPE CRAWFORD TO MATARANKA Mon 23 Aug 21 (BD)**

Pack your camera as we take to the skies on a magnificent optional scenic flight\* over the Lost City. Be amazed by the ancient columns of sandstone, a truly natural wonder. We make our way to Mataranka, where we can 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! (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: Mataranka Homestead (subject to availability)*

**\*Please advise at the time of booking if you wish to book a scenic flight**

## Day 10: MATARANKA TO KATHERINE GORGE Tue 24 Aug 21 (BLD)

Up at sparrows call as this morning we head to Katherine. 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 show celebrates the life in the outback through real horse-starting, working dog demonstrations, live music and humour bush tales. After lunch we have free time in Katherine before heading to the tranquil Katherine Gorge. We enjoy a journey of discovery through the magnificent Nitmiluk Gorge with a Nabilil Dreaming Cruise. Sit back and relax as the tranquil surrounds transport us into a spiritual world of Jawoyn culture and history. Witnessing the changing colour of the sunsetting against the glorious backdrop of cliff faces before a delicious candle lit dinner under the sparkling stars. What an incredible day! (breakfast at accommodation / lunch at Katherine Outback Experience / dinner with Nitmiluk Tours).

*Overnight: Knotts Crossing Resort, Katherine (PH: 08 8972 2511)*

## Day 11: KATHERINE TO KAKADU Wed 25 Aug 21 (BD)

Today we experience the magic of World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. Kakadu is one of the world's greatest natural wonders with remarkable scenery and unique flora and fauna. We say farewell to Katherine and travel north to Pine Creek. This evening we 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. Not far from our resort is the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre, which tells the story of their culture through displays, artefacts and exhibitions that illustrate the stories of the traditional owners. We'll wander the centre before checking into our accommodation (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: Kakadu Lodge Coinda (PH: 08 8979 1500)*

## Day 12: KAKADU TO DARWIN Thu 26 Aug 21 (BD)

Rise and shine as we explore Australia's 50,000-year Indigenous heritage through the incredible natural rock art gallery walls of the Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) rock art site which have served as a shelter and canvas for thousands of years, providing windows into a rich spiritual tradition. Next, we visit Ubirr Rock, one of the best and most accessible galleries in the park. Marvel at the Main Gallery, where we will see representations of the many animals the Aboriginal people hunted including hunters carrying spears and fish and birds and animals presented in x-ray style, revealing internal organs and bone structures. Animals were painted to pay respect, to ensure future hunting success or to illustrate a noteworthy catch. This afternoon we continue to Darwin, our home for the next three nights (breakfast & dinner at accommodation).

*Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Darwin (PH: 08 8901 0705)*

## Day 13: DARWIN Fri 27 Aug 21 (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. We also see the new Parliament House built on the site of the Darwin Post Office which was bombed during World War II. We then take a drive through Fannie Bay, popular with sailors, windsurfers and water skiers. Dinner will be aboard the Spirit of Darwin as we watch the sunset on the harbour (breakfast at accommodation / dinner included).

*Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Darwin (PH: 08 8901 0705)*

**Day 14: LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK Sat 28 Aug 21 (BLD)**

Today we visit Litchfield National Park. With untouched rainforests, stunning waterfalls and magnificent scenery, Litchfield has gained the reputation as the jewel of the Northern Territory's crown. Enjoy lunch at Litchfield Café before spending some time exploring the park. There are some great photo opportunities as we stop to see the magnetic anthills and see the cascading Florence Falls. For anyone looking for a swim - take a dip in the Wangi Falls plunge pool. Our farewell dinner is at Cullen Bay as we watch the sun set (breakfast at accommodation / lunch included / dinner at Seafood on Cullen).

*Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton Darwin (PH: 08 8901 0705)*

**Day 15: DARWIN TO HOME Sun 29 Aug 21 (B)**

With our suitcases packed full of memories we are transferred to Darwin Airport for our flight home. What a fantastic holiday we have had travelling throughout Outback Queensland and the stunning Northern Territory (breakfast at accommodation).

**Tour cost Twin Share/Double per person \$7495 Solo Traveller \$8894**

Tour cost based on a minimum of 14 passengers.

**(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. Alterations to the itinerary may occur – a final confirmed itinerary will be provided with your travel documentation approximately 3 weeks prior to departure.**

**TOUR COST INCLUDES:**

Air conditioned, restroom equipped vehicle travel with experienced crew  
Twin share accommodation with ensuite facilities  
Meals as per the itinerary  
All entry fees to sightseeing activities as listed in the itinerary

**TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

Airfares from home port to Darwin and from Cairns to home port  
Travel insurance – please enquire for a quote or to purchase a policy  
Items of a personal nature eg laundry/phone and any optional extras/trips  
Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages plus meals not listed in the itinerary

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**CONDITIONS OF BOOKING**

All bookings must be accompanied by a deposit of \$600.00 per person  
The balance and final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

More than 90 days notice : refund less \$600.00 deposit  
90 - 60 days before tour : 50% refund  
Less than 60 days: no refund

**ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTION**

For cancellations with more than 30 days notice  
75% credit towards a future tour

**Platinum Journeys strongly recommend all passengers take out travel insurance at the time of booking, in case of unexpected illness or accident**