



## 8 Day Ghan Railway and Simpson Desert Crossing

**Day One.** Alice Springs. You should arrive in Alice Springs the day prior or early this morning and meet up with us at 10 am. We will go over your vehicle, tell you about what lies ahead, and give some training on safe travel. You are then free to check out the local attractions or just kick back and relax. A free day like this allows participants to get themselves organised after a long trip to Alice Springs, and allows us to all to get to know each other prior to departure. Camp Site facilities- Showers, Toilets, Store.

**Day Two.** Alice Springs to Chamber's Pillar. Tracking parallel to the route of the Old Ghan, we visit the aboriginal rock engravings of Eweninga and Maryvale homestead before detouring into the jump-up and sandridge country of Chambers Pillar Historic reserve. See the explorers initials carved into the rock since 1870. Sunsets on the pillar are fantastic. Sunrise on Castle rock is even better, so be up early in the morning if you want to capture this sight. Camp Site facilities- Drop Toilet.

**Day Three.** From Chambers Pillar we rejoin the Ghan at Maryvale, where we actually begin the drive along the old rail bed to Finke. There are a number of old railway sidings along the way. From Finke we travel to the Lambert Centre, the centre of mass of the Australian continent where we bush camp for the night. No facilities.

**Day Four.** Mt Dare. We have a major fuel stop here prior to crossing the Simpson desert Unfortunately it is probably the most expensive fuel in Australia, but it is the last stop prior to our 4 day desert crossing. David Cox (owner) does his best to keep the price as low as he can so don't hassle him about it please. Camp Site facilities- Showers, Toilets, Pub. Great home style cooking too.

**Day Five.** We venture into the desert proper now. At Dalhousie we visit the ruins of the homestead, and then the springs where we take a refreshing dip in the warm water. Into the sand dunes now, we reach our desert camp site at Purni bore where bird life abounds. (Warm Shower. Toilet)

**Day Six.** Now we begin the real sand driving. Tyre pressures down, we journey along the WAA line and several other tracks to our camp site at the Lone Gum. A lonely Coolibah in the desert hints at a wetter past. The night sky here has to be seen to be believed.

**Day Seven** Still traversing over dunes we eventually begin travelling northwards between them to Approdina Atora Knolls, small gypsum hills, and then back over dune after dune until we finally reach People corner. You will be amazed at the track stretching off into the distance today. It seems it never ends, but it does. Poepple corner is the junction of QLD NT and SA. We marvel at the pioneers who travelled through this area so long ago.

**Day Eight** Our last day in the desert and our last day together. We are now in the big dune country where the dunes are reddest and several kilometres apart. The biggest of them, Napperanicka dune or Big Red is the last dune we cross before Birdsville. At 90 metres elevation, it is a tough climb to the top if the sand is dry. Fortunately a chicken track provides an alternate route for those who don't make it to the top. Our final evening together involves a celebratory meal at the iconic Birdsville Hotel.

Itineraries may change for safety or reasons of weather or other unforeseen events. We reserve the right to change the itinerary as required.