The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, Holiday Coast Tours reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company’s control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Every attempt will be made to ensure the alterations do not adversely effect the operation of the tour. Holiday Coast Tours will not be held responsible for weather based cancellations or those closures made at the venue’s discretion.

Passengers are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance in case of cancellation or curtailment expenses, loss of luggage or illness etc.

Cancellations and amendments:
Cancellation fees will be levied relative to the amount of notice given:
42 days or more—loss of deposit
28-41 days: 50% of fare plus deposit
27 days before and Day of departure: 100% of fare.
In case of concert or sporting tours, where admission tickets are purchased in advance, a minimum cancellation fee equivalent to the cost of admission tickets will apply.
Some accommodation require prepayment and refund will be subject to their conditions.
Please note: Passenger baggage to be a maximum of 20kg. per person

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HOLIDAY COAST TOURS

Presents
Southern Victoria/Adelaide/The Centre to Darwin
Featuring
Bendigo & The Victorian Goldfields
Hamilton & Western Victoria
Mount Gambier
Adelaide & The Barossa Valley
The Legendary Ghan – via the Centre to Darwin

August 2018

What an extraordinary experience this will be as we “circumnavigate” the eastern half of Australia – via, coach, rail and air! Late spring is the best time for a trip like this and – to make it possible - we have

- Sir Reginald Ansett Transport Museum – entry
- Campe’s Motor Museum
- Lunch at the Royal Mail Hotel Dunkeld
- Volcanoes Discovery Centre – entry
- Portland Maritime Discovery Centre – entry and guided tour
- Glenelg River Cruises – 2 hour cruise including smorgasbord lunch
- Dingley Dell Cottage – entry and afternoon tea
- Aquifer Tours Blue Lake Pumping Station – guided tour
- Woods-Mackillop Schoolhouse – tour plus light lunch
- Adelaide Oval – entry and tour
- Barossa Chateau – lunch including Tea/coffee, entry to garden, gallery tour, and tastings
- Jacobs Creek Visitors Centre Vineyard Tour & Wine Tasting
- Museum and Art Gallery of NT – entry
- Spirit of Darwin Cruises – Dinner Cruise including 3 course buffet and complimentary drink
Tour inclusions:

- Air conditioned coach travel
- 10 night’s motel accommodation
- 9 cooked motel breakfasts
- 9 motel dinners
- 7 included lunches – see below
- The Ghan Adelaide to Darwin – 2 nights (2 x Lunch, 2 x Dinner, 1 x Brunch, 1 x Breakfast)
- Lunch at the Kinross Woolshed Hotel, Albury
- Services of a local guide in Bendigo
- Sacred Heart Cathedral entry
- Vintage Talking Tram
- Central Deborah Gold Mine – guided surface tour
- Golden Dragon Museum
- Bendigo Pottery Interpretative Museum
- Creswick Woollen Mill – entry and self-guided tour
- Narrapumelap Mansion – entry, talk and light lunch
- Hamilton Art Gallery – entry

secured great accommodation, including First Class Cabins on the Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin. For the first few days we travel south, via Goulburn, to Bendigo in the heart of the Victorian Goldfields. From there we have 2 nights in Hamilton - a rural city on the rich agricultural plain - the Western District - between the Grampians and the coast. The city’s prosperous wool growing heritage is reflected in its many grand buildings, majestic homesteads and fine landscaped gardens. Many treasures from the homesteads are now part of the rich and diverse collection of the Hamilton Art Gallery, one of Australia’s finest regional galleries. From the Western District of Victoria we travel into South Australia and onto Adelaide - the southern departure point for the Ghan. Prepare for a trip of unimaginable proportions as we travel deep into the heart of Australia. Gaze out of the window taking inspiration from the ever changing landscape - and when the train stops along the way, take part in some of the excursions to experience the dramatic scenery of Central Australia and explore the ancient, awe-inspiring wonders of the Northern Territory.

**Itinerary Details**

**Day 1 (D): Port Macquarie to Goulburn - Saturday 28 July 2018**

With the coach loaded and everyone on board we are ready to go – departing the Port Macquarie Coach Terminal at 8.00am. It’s a travel day today as we make our way south towards Sydney and then, via the Southern Highlands, for our overnight stop at
**Goulburn.** There will be stops during the day including a lunch break before we arrive at our motel late afternoon. *(Lunch own arrangements & cost/Dinner in the motel)*

Heritage Motel Goulburn

**Day 2 (BLD): Goulburn to Bendigo – Sunday 29 July 2018**

We follow the Hume Highway this morning, south to the twin cities of **Albury/Wodonga.** Our morning stop is at **Gundagai** and our lunch stop is just north of Albury at the **Kinross Woolshed Hotel.** This is an interesting place! The building's origins date back to the early 1890's when it was one of the busiest shearing sheds of its time. This afternoon new continue into Central Victoria and onto **Bendigo** – our base for the next 2 nights. *(Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Pub lunch)*

Quality Inn Colonial Bendigo 03 54470122

**Day 3 (BLD): The Bendigo Goldfields – Monday 30 July 2018**

At the heart of Bendigo is its rich gold fields heritage. The restored Victoria era buildings that line Bendigo’s streets are the hub of the city's cultural life. Music, food and wine, art and history are all enjoyed against a backdrop of lavish sandstone buildings.

Overlooking the city centre is one of Australia’s most stunning Cathedrals. The **Sacred Heart Cathedral** is, architecturally, English Gothic and during our touring we will be taking a close look!

Following breakfast we will begin our touring of Bendigo and the best place to start is at the magnificent **Sacred Heart Cathedral** which overlooks the city. It is the only English Gothic Cathedral in Australia.

The foundations consist of granite from Harcourt, near Bendigo. The walls are of sandstone, from the Geelong region and the dressings and carvings are of limestone from Waurn Ponds and Mt.Gambier. The floor is Calacutta Vagli Extra Marble from Italy. The walls of the sanctuary are Sicilian Pearl Marble, with Verdi Tinos surrounding the main altar which is of Dromana Granite.

**Below costing is approximate only with airfare from Darwin to Sydney/Port Macquarie still to be added – these will be advised end September & the cost of the Ghan to be finalized in July.**

**APPROX COST:**

Based on **Gold Class** twin share cabins aboard the Ghan (upper & lower berths) $6350.00 per person twin share with single supplement $3100.00 sole use Gold Class twin cabin + airfare to be added

Based on **Gold Class** single cabins aboard the Ghan (single berth, no facilities) $5920.00 per person twin share with single supplement $790.00 + airfare to be added

Based on **Platinum Class** twin share cabin aboard the Ghan (double bed cabin) $7910.00 per person twin share with single supplement $4315.00 sole use Platinum Class cabin + airfare to be added
for our Sunset Dinner Cruise. Hopefully, the incredible Darwin Harbour sunset will provide a fantastic photo opportunity. (Breakfast/lunch own arrangement and expense, dinner cruise)

Please note: During our time in Darwin, we will make a visit to Aquascene. As the fish-feeding is tide dependent, this attraction will be fitted into our itinerary at a suitable time. Since the early 1950s a unique and natural phenomena occurs on the high tide amongst the tranquil tropical waters of Darwin’s Doctors Gully. Hundreds of friendly local wild fish swim to the shallow shoreline in search of a gratuitous meal of fresh bread. Over the course of this enduring 60 plus year tradition, the fish have shed their normal shyness and are willingly hand-fed to the delight of thousands of fascinated locals and tourists every year. Aquascene was established in 1981 and has become a magical attraction that we can all enjoy – but you may have to get your feet wet!

DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin - 08 8980 0800

Day 13 (B): Fly Home - Thursday 09 August 2018
Details to be advised

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc.

Mid morning we board the ‘Talking Tram’ for an interesting ride through the main areas of Bendigo to see some of the other stunning buildings, such as the Shamrock Hotel and to learn a little about the history of the Goldfields.

At the Central Deborah Gold Mine we have arranged a guided surface tour of what is an actual working mine - right in the centre of the city. On completion of our tour we have lunch in the café before our afternoon visit to the Golden Dragon Museum. What a story it is of the impact and contribution made by the Chinese people of Bendigo - from the Gold Rush of the 1850’s to the present day. One permanent display is “Sun Loong” the longest Imperial Dragon in the world and “Loong” the oldest Imperial dragon in the world. Our final stop of the day is at Bendigo Pottery for a self guided tour of the Interpretative Centre. Here we step back in time and learn about the production processes, machinery, working conditions and traditional skills of Bendigo Pottery from its beginning in 1858 to the present. All up, it will be a fascinating day! (Breakfast morning, in&m dinner in the motel/Light lunch included)

Quality Inn Colonial Bendigo 03 54470122

Day 4 (BLD): Bendigo to Hamilton – Tuesday 31 July 2018
Our touring this morning takes us south to Maldon and then onto Creswick, to visit to the Creswick Woollen Mill, Australia’s last coloured woollen spinning mill. Here we have a fully interactive experience showcasing the journey of fibre - all the way from its source on the alpaca through the manufacturing process and finally to the shop shelf. The exhibit gives a great insight into natural fibres and how these luxurious fibres are processed. Following our visit and morning tea we travel to Ballarat before driving west along the Glenelg Highway - through Lake Bolac - to a little village called Wickliffe. Our lunch stop is at Narrapumelap - an impressive French Gothic Mansion. Its original owner, John Dixon Wyselaskie (1818-1883) was a successful pastoralist and a philanthropist. We will enjoy a tour here and a light lunch before
travelling through to the rural city of Hamilton in the heart of Victoria’s Western District. This will be our base for the next 2 nights as we explore the town and visit the nearby attractions. One of Australia’s best regional Art Galleries is located in Hamilton. On arrival this afternoon we will take a visit. The Hamilton Art Gallery is the proud owner of the Shaw Bequest which is made up of around 800 artworks from 18th and 19th Century England and Europe - porcelain, silver, glass, oriental ceramics and paintings. There is also Hamilton’s rare collection of 18th Century landscapes by Paul Sandby (1731-1809). *(Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch included)*

**Comfort Inn Grange Burn Motel, Hamilton**

**Day 5 (BLD) Hamilton/Penhurst/Dunkeld/Grampians - Wednesday 01 August 2018**

We enjoy the sights of Hamilton including the historic bluestone churches, early settlers homes, Lake Hamilton and the Botanical Gardens, designed by Guilfoyle (who designed the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne). Included in our tour is a visit to the Sir Reginald Ansett Transport Museum and Campes Motor Museum. The Ansett Museum tells the story of a very determined Reginald Ansett who built his empire from a passenger service between Hamilton and Ballarat (road) and Hamilton and Melbourne (air) in the 1930s.

Local identity Glen Campe also has a museum here with more than 80 vintage and veteran cars, trucks and motor bikes on display. Lunch today will be a highlight. We are off to Dunkeld at the foot of the Grampians for lunch at the famous Royal Mail Hotel. This is an award winning hotel set in extensive gardens and overlooking the Southern Grampian Ranges. This afternoon we tour south to Penshurst before returning to Hamilton. There is a very interesting Volcanoes Discovery Centre here. This area was covered in active volcanoes thousands of years ago and The Centre shows us how they were formed, their geology and their history in the Western District. It will be a fun day! *(Breakfast/Pub lunch/Dinner)*

**Comfort Inn Grange Burn, Motel, Hamilton**

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**Day 11 (BLD): Katherine to Darwin – Tuesday 07 August 2018**

Welcome to Katherine! Upon reaching the Northern Territory we enjoy another full breakfast before leaving the train for a day of cultural delights. Endless options await in Katherine! We can take a leisurely cruise on the Katherine River gazing in wonder at towering sandstone cliffs. Alternatively, gain an insight into the culture and ways of the traditional owners of Nitmiluk, the Jawoyn people, with an exclusive cultural experience. Spend the day with the Aboriginal people, sharing their culture, learning their ways and trying some of the skills developed over thousands of years. Activities include basket weaving; spear throwing, fire lighting, painting, and learning the Didgeridoo. A late lunch awaits back on board, then kick back and savour the last few hours of this epic journey. The Ghan arrives in Darwin at 5.30pm. We transfer to our hotel where we can enjoy a 2 course dinner. Tomorrow, we’ll be ready to explore the Top End! *(Breakfast and lunch on The Ghan /2 course dinner in the hotel)*

**DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin - 08 8980 0800**

**Day 12(BD): Exploring Darwin - Wednesday 08 August 2018**

Following a hearty breakfast, we explore Darwin with a tour of the city sights. The present city centre was established in 1869 and contains most of its remaining historic buildings such as Brown’s Mart, the Old Police Station, the Old Court House and Government House. We see the new Parliament House built on the site of the Darwin Post Office bombed during World War II, the areas most affected by Cyclone Tracy plus the many other fascinating sights of Australia’s northern gateway. We then take a drive through Fannie Bay, popular with sailors, windsurfers and water skiers.

The area is home to the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and The Cyclone Tracey Gallery. We have the rest of the afternoon free to do our own sightseeing or just relax at the hotel. Early evening, we transfer to Stokes Hill Wharf.
we make our way to the classically styled **Queen Adelaide Restaurant** carriage for a delicious lunch, accompanied by our choice of fine wines. With all meals and beverages included in our Gold Service fare, we can leave our credit card tucked away! This afternoon, we can relax and watch the rolling pastoral lands of South Australia merge into rugged mallee scrub. Marvel as the spectacular Flinders Ranges disappear into the horizon, all the while enjoying the solitude of our cabin, reading or catching up on our favourite podcast, then mingling with fellow travellers in the Lounge car for afternoon tea.

A three course meal in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant this evening is bound to satisfy as darkness falls outside the train's windows. We look forward to another two days of this! *(Breakfast in hotel, lunch and dinner on The Ghan)*

**The Legendary Ghan**

**Day 10 (BLD): The Legendary Ghan – Monday 06 August 2018**

Wake up with a coffee or juice and witness an unforgettable outback sunrise at Marla in the remote reaches of SA. Back on board, it's time for brunch. Enjoy a light bite from the extensive menu or order something a little more substantial - perhaps a full breakfast complete with eggs just the way you like them. After a few more coffees, fresh juices and more incredible outback scenery, we'll be arriving in iconic **Alice Springs**. Here we can glimpse the history of yesteryear, the thriving culture and unique lifestyle of today. Visit local landmarks, or take a front row seat at a spectacular bird show at the Desert Park. Back on the train there's time to talk through the day's discoveries with newfound friends in the Outback Explorer Lounge before freshening up for dinner in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant. *(Breakfast, lunch and dinner on The Ghan)*

**Day 6 (BLD): Portland/Mount Gambier – Thursday 02 August 2018**

We travel via Branxholme and Heywood to **Portland** - Victoria’s first permanent white settlement. It is built on Portland Bay, which is the only deep water port between Adelaide and Melbourne. Our morning stop is at the **Portland Maritime Discovery and Visitors' Centre**, located on the foreshore of Portland, adjacent Lee Breakwater Rd. It functions as the local information centre and it also has displays concerning aspects of local maritime history whaling, navigation, rescue, shipwrecks, marine life, marine exploration and the story of European immigration and settlement. From here we continue into South Australia and **Nelson**, just over the Victorian border where the beautiful **Glenelg River** flows through the **Lower Glenelg National Park**. The very best way to see the national park is by boat and so today we have arranged a **river cruise** to see this dramatic region. After a fabulous cruise and a great **lunch** we take a drive to Port MacDonnell and the **Cape Northumberland Heritage and Nature Park**. This is South Australia’s most southerly point and is a rugged coastline with natural vegetation uninterrupted views and an historical lighthouse site. Our afternoon stop is at **Dingley Dell** – the one time home of Adam Lindsay Gordon. We will be entertained by the curator here – a self-confessed Adam Lindsay Gordon fanatic! We will hear some of his poetry and see the restored cottage in which he lived. We then drive into **Mount Gambier** for our overnight stop. *(Breakfast & dinner in the motel/Light lunch included)*

**Mount Gambier**

**Day 7 (BD): Mt Gambier/Penola/Naracoorte Friday 03 August 2018**

Our first visit this morning is to the **Blue Lake Visitors Centre** where we will meet our guide for a tour of the **Blue Lake Pumping Station**. We hear a fascinating story with comprehensive information about this most unique volcano, its folklore & legends, mysterious annual colour change, wildlife and facts about the water supply of the city of Mt Gambier. We will even hear about the antics
of Adam Gordon Lindsay – who was not only a well known national poet, he was also an accomplished horseman and leading steeplechase jockey. He almost came to grief one day at the Blue Lake! From here we visit Umpherston Cave - a sinkhole that has been landscaped with terraced gardens close to the city centre. It is an impressive garden with palm trees reaching to the sky and plants hanging over the edges of the sinkhole. Lunch today is 50ks north of Mt Gambier at Penola - home of the Blessed Mary Mackillop, recently canonised as Australia’s first saint. The town was established in the 1850’s and has a colourful history. Fortunately a lot of this history has been preserved and is on display along Petticoat Lane and throughout the Mary MacKillop Interpretative Centre. We see and hear the story of the co-founders of the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart – initially to provide a Catholic education for poor, isolated and rural children. The Mary MacKillop Interpretative Centre brings together the other buildings on the site – the School House, the Church, Shrine and Old Convent around a central square and a reflective pool that adds stillness and peace to this special site. Adjacent to the Interpretative Centre is Petticoat Lane. This intriguing heritage site portrays the pioneer living standards of the 1890’s. The story of Christopher Sharam, his wife and 15 children is detailed at a site just behind the original slab hut cottage. Our touring this afternoon takes us via Naracoorte and then into Adelaide. (Breakfast & dinner in the hotel/Light lunch at Penola)

Stamford Plaza Adelaide.

Day 8 (BLD): Adelaide Oval and Barossa Valley – Saturday 04 August 2018

After breakfast we make our way to the nearby Adelaide Oval. The redeveloped Oval offers a unique blend of new and old – from the latest in stadium design to the famous features such as the heritage listed scoreboard, the century-old Moreton Bay Fig trees and the grassed northern mound. Our Adelaide Oval Tour will take us behind the scenes to the inner workings of this iconic ground. Mid morning we head north into the Barossa Valley - one of the world’s best known wine valleys, located just 60kms north of Adelaide. It derives its name from the Barossa Ranges, which were named by Colonel William Light in 1837. Light chose the name in memory of the British victory over the French in the Battle of Barrosa, in which he fought in 1811. The name "Barossa" was registered in error, due to a clerical error in transcribing the name "Barrosa". The area is approximately 13kms long by 14kms wide. A guided tour and lunch is included at Barossa Chateau – a stunning building that sits in one of Australia’s most important rose gardens of international significance. Combined with Lyndoch Hill, the overall estate covers an impressive 25 acres, 30,000 roses and 5kms of walkways. The Chateau is also home to one of the largest collections of porcelain in Australia. At the nearby Jacobs Creek Visitors Centre we will enjoy a wine tasting. Way back in 1847, a young Bavarian immigrant by the name of Johann Gramp planted the Barossa Valley’s first commercial vineyard on the banks of Jacob’s Creek. Today, Johann’s original cellar is still standing at the site. (Breakfast & dinner in the hotel/Light lunch in the Barossa Valley)

Stamford Plaza Adelaide.

Day 9 (BLD): The Legendary Ghan - Sunday 05 August 2018

We enjoy a hearty breakfast this morning. Our hotel is conveniently located in the city, so some of us may like to take a stroll along historic North Terrace – virtually opposite our hotel is the Adelaide Casino. The Casino is above the grand Adelaide Railway Station, next to Parliament House with the Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide’s “arts’ heart”, right behind – overlooking Elder Park on the banks of the picturesque River Torrens. On the corner of King William Street is Government House, residence of the Governor. Walking east on this cultural boulevard, we’ll pass the State Library, the SA Museum, the Migration Museum and the Art Gallery of South Australia. Statues and war memorials also line the terrace. We now make the short transfer to board the famous Ghan for our journey via the Centre to the Top End. Once we've settled in and the big wheels start turning,