

On Track



THE
GHAN

Gold Kangaroo Service News

Good afternoon and welcome aboard The Legendary Ghan. To those of you that have connected with us from the Indian Pacific or The Overland, we trust you enjoyed your brief stay in Adelaide.

Soon we will be making our way through the Adelaide Plains and the beautiful southern Flinders Ranges as we begin the journey through the heart of Australia. Upon reaching Alice Springs tomorrow morning we will have travelled a total 1,559km through 41 towns.

Please join us this evening for the Gold Kangaroo Reception to enable you to meet members of the train crew and other guests holidaying with us aboard The Ghan.

Enjoy your journey into the heart of Australia.

Regards,

Leanne

Hospitality Attendant

Today's Activities	Time*	
Depart Adelaide Keswick Terminal	5.15pm	CST
Bar Open	5.45pm	
Gold Kangaroo Reception (for guests attending the Sunset Dinner)	6.00pm	
Sunset Dinner – maroon card	6.30pm	
Gold Kangaroo Reception (for guests attending the Moonlight Dinner)	7.00pm	
Moonlight Dinner – navy card	8.30pm	
After Dinner Music in Lounge Car (CD Selection)	8.30pm	
Tomorrow Morning's Activities	Time*	
Morning Tea/ Coffee in Cabin	7.00am	
Daybreak Breakfast – maroon card	7.30am	
Sunrise Breakfast – navy card	8.45am	
Bar Open – Souvenirs on Display in Lounge Car for viewing/ purchase	10.00am	
Journey Commentary: (played over private cabin sound system)	10.00am	
Journey Information Session – Lounge Car	10.30am	
Arrive Alice Springs	11.55am	

Cabin Servicing

The on-train staff will perform various cleaning duties in your cabin to ensure that it is serviced and you are well looked after. Your carriage attendant will make up your beds during dinner and convert your sleeping berths back to lounges during breakfast.

Credit Card Accounts

Great Southern Railway welcomes guests to set up credit card accounts for beverages, souvenirs, and other purchases during your journey aboard The Ghan. All credit card accounts will need to be settled tomorrow morning after breakfast. Visa, Mastercard and Bankcard are accepted. Please see the Bar Attendant in the Lounge Car should you wish to establish a credit card account.

Port Pirie

As we travel between Crystal Brook and Port Augusta late this afternoon, there is an imposing chimney stack to be seen on the left-hand side of the train. This stack marks the home of the world's largest lead refinery. Founded in 1848, Port Pirie was South Australia's first provincial city. The city was named after a vessel, the *John Pirie*, which had delivered settlers there three years earlier. Built in 1889, the lead refinery has been the backbone of Port Pirie. Each year, around one million tonnes of concentrates are transported by rail from the Broken Hill mines for processing at the refinery. Port Pirie has the second most important seaport in South Australia. This natural seaport is used to ship lead, zinc, gold, copper and other precious metals to all corners of the globe. The smoke stack at Port Pirie lead and zinc refinery is 205m high.

Port Augusta: Gateway to Australia's Outback

Later this evening we will be stopping briefly at Port Augusta Railway Station. Like many other towns and cities that lie on The Ghan route, rail has played an important role in the development of Port Augusta. In 1854, Port Augusta operated as a seaport servicing the developing pastoral and mining industries to both the west and north. Its importance as a seaport diminished following the development of the Transcontinental Railway in 1916. The Commonwealth Government established significant railway maintenance and servicing facilities in Port Augusta which resulted in rapid population growth. The Ghan used Port Augusta as an important 'whistle stop' when it commenced services to Central Australia in 1929. However, with the privatisation of the railways in the 1990s, Port Augusta's importance as a rail hub diminished. With the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link now completed, Port Augusta is well placed to be a significant transport hub for the rail industry once again.

The Afghan Cameleers

The Afghan cameleers played a critical role in the early European settlement of Australia. The camel is perfectly adapted for travelling long distances through the hot, inhospitable interior, and the Afghans had mastered the skill of handling these 'ships of the desert'. The Afghan cameleers assisted in the development of the rail link between Port Augusta and Alice Springs, and later the overland telegraph line between Adelaide and Darwin. The introduction of the motor vehicle caused the Afghan cameleers to become redundant as the preferred mode of transport, resulting in many Afghans returning to their home country. The Ghan remains a monument to the Afghan cameleers' courage and resilience in blazing a permanent trail into Central Australia.

Portable CD Players – The Ghan Journey Guide CDs - Hair Dryers

The Ghan Journey Guide CDs are played through your cabin sound systems at set times throughout the journey (see "Today's Activities" schedule). However, there are also a limited number of portable CD units available for the complimentary use of Gold Kangaroo Service guests to enable you to listen to the Journey Guide CDs at your leisure. Hair Dryers are also available for your complimentary use. Please ask your carriage Hospitality Attendant should you wish to utilise the CD unit or Hair Dryer facilities. A small cash deposit or credit card imprint will be required.

Deluxe Cabin

The Ghan has a Deluxe Cabin featuring a twin bed and an additional fold down single bed. It has its own lounge area with table, arm chairs, video entertainment facilities, and a stocked bar fridge with complimentary refreshments. Perfect for those guests seeking a little extra space and comfort. A surcharge of \$395 per night applies to the Deluxe Cabin. Please contact your Hospitality Attendant to enquire about availability should you be interested in upgrading to the Deluxe Cabin. If available, you are welcome to view the Deluxe Cabin prior to purchase.

Did You Know?

Port Germein, originally a thriving trading port for the region's rich grain harvest, once boasted a four kilometre long jetty which was one of the longest in the southern hemisphere. The jetty has been badly damaged by storms, and is now only used for recreational purposes.

The Port Augusta Power Station produces approximately 40% of South Australia's electricity. It is fuelled by brown coal which is transported by rail approximately 250km from Leigh Creek. Around 2.5 million tonnes of coal are burnt each year.

Near the town of Pimba, which we pass through later this evening, is a place called Woomera. Woomera was set up in the 1940's as a rocket testing range. Woomera is an Aboriginal name for a throwing stick, a form of lever used to further the distance and speed of a thrown spear.