



**GIPPSLAND  
TRAVEL**

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# **DARWIN, CENTRAL AUSTRALIA & THE GHAN EXPEDITION**

**15 May to 31 May 2022**

Personally escorted by Jacquey Turner



## **VISITING THE GEMS OF AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE RED CENTRE AND TO THE NORTH.**

**ULURU – KINGS CANYON – ALICE SPRINGS – DARWIN  
KAKADU – ARNHEM LAND – TIWI ISLANDS**

Then join **THE GHAN EXPEDITION** for the ultimate rail  
journey from **DARWIN** to **ADELAIDE**.

Gippsland Travel Centre Pty. Ltd. ABN 70 065 385 337  
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**ULURU** is one of Australia's most recognisable natural landmarks and has been a popular destination for tourists since the late 1930s. It is also one of the most important indigenous sites in Australia.

Uluru is sacred to the Pitjantjatjara, the Aboriginal people of the area, known as the Anangu. The area around the formation is home to an abundance of springs, waterholes, rock caves and ancient paintings. Uluru is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Uluru and Kata Tjuta, also known as the Olgas, are the two major features of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

**KAKADU** Located 240 kilometres east of Darwin in Australia's tropical north, Kakadu National Park is Australia's largest terrestrial national park. Kakadu covers almost 20,000 square kilometres and is a place of enormous ecological and biological diversity. It extends from the coast and estuaries in the north through floodplains, billabongs and lowlands to rocky ridges and stone country in the south. These landscapes are home to a range of rare and endemic plants and animals, including more than one-third of Australia's bird species and one-quarter of its freshwater and estuarine fish species.

Kakadu is considered a living cultural landscape. The traditional owners *Bininj Mungguy* have lived on and cared for this country for more than 50,000 years. Their deep spiritual connection to the land dates back to the Creation and has always been an important part of the Kakadu story.

**ARNHEM LAND** is wild, spiritual and diverse, with rugged coastlines, remote islands, rivers teeming with fish, lush rainforests, towering escarpments and savanna woodlands. Wildlife is abundant throughout East and West Arnhem Land. There are lots of saltwater crocodiles and the area provides an important conservation habitat for dugongs, nesting turtles and migratory birds.

The traditional owners of Arnhem Land are the Yolngu people, who have occupied the region for at least 60,000 years. This is the land where Australia's most famous musical instrument, the didgeridoo, originated.

**TIWI ISLANDS** One of the biggest jewels in Australia's burgeoning crown has to be the Tiwi Islands. Comprising two main islands—Bathurst and Melville—it's located around 80kms north of Darwin in the Northern Territory.

This unique slice of paradise is home to incredible Aboriginal culture, sugar white sand beaches, hidden escapes, breath-taking nature and wildlife.

The Tiwi Islands are known as 'the islands of smiles'. The Tiwi people are internationally renowned for their individual style of art including carvings and bright textile designs. Prized by collectors, many Tiwi artists have exhibited around the world.

**THE GHAN**, one of the most popular rail journeys in the world, makes for a relaxing voyage between Darwin and Adelaide. Those on board will feel the never-ending beauty of the iconic Australian outback as they travel towards the heart of our glorious country – the Red Centre in the Northern Territory. The journey includes stops in unique locations that completely immerse you into the local landscape, wildlife and culture.



**Sunday 15 May** **Melbourne – Uluru** **(D)**

We shall have an early morning private coach transfer from Warragul to Melbourne for our flight to Uluru. On arrival we shall be transferred to our stunning accommodation, *SAILS IN THE DESERT, or similar*, for a two-night stay.

After settling in, we shall get together to experience an Uluru sunset with welcome canapés and drinks before we dine at the hotel restaurant.

**Monday 16 May** **Uluru** **(B D)**

We rise very early this morning to ensure we don't miss Bruce Munro's **Field of Light sunrise**. His Field of Light, inspired by a trip to Uluru over 27 years ago, is installed in a remote desert area within sight of majestic Uluru. After breakfast at the hotel, we shall meet our driver/guide and travel to **Kata Tjuta** and **Walpa Gorge** for this morning's touring. When we return to the hotel there will be free time to relax before dinner.

This evening, the **Sounds of Silence** offers the best of the Red Centre distilled into four magical hours. We arrive to the lyrical sound of the Didgeridoo and enjoy sparkling wine and canapés while viewing sunset over Uluru and Kata Tjuta.



We enjoy a delicious dinner featuring Bush Tucker native Australian ingredients throughout the many dishes on offer. During dinner a 'star talk' brings the night sky to life and telescopes are available for closer viewing. As the sun sets and darkness falls, we walk through the phenomenal Field of Light installation then listen to the sound of a didgeridoo while enjoying an unforgettable experience.

**Tuesday 17 May** **Uluru - Kings Canyon** **(B L D)**

After breakfast we head out to visit the **Kata Tjuta Uluru Cultural Centre**, the **Mutitjulu Waterhole** and enjoy a guided **Kuniya Walk**, a short and easy walk, that offers a look at desert wildlife.

We then depart Uluru and travel to **Kings Canyon**. Enroute we will visit **Kings Creek Station**, which lies 36 kilometres from the magnificent Kings Canyon (Watarrka) and is set amongst majestic desert oaks. Here we shall enjoy lunch at the café.

Our accommodation for the next two nights is the **KINGS CANYON RESORT**, *or similar*. Dinner tonight will be at the resort.



**Wednesday 18 May** **Kings Canyon** **(B D)**

Early this morning there is an opportunity to complete the challenging Kings Canyon Rim Walk, the iconic hike to the top of Kings Canyon. The Rim Walk will take you on a 6 kilometre circuit transcending down into the Garden of Eden and back to the top to wonder at the 360 views.

Afterwards, we enjoy a **Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience** guided tour. Our 1-hour tour is a short walk and talk on areas of importance in the cultural knowledge on bush tucker and bush medicines used for spiritual and healing and a lot more, as used by the Luritja and Pertame (Southern Aranda) people.

When we return to the resort, there is time to relax before we get together for dinner.

**Thursday 19 May** **Kings Canyon - Alice Springs** **(B L D)**

This morning we shall embark on a gentler **Kings Creek Walk** which meanders along Kings Creek, ending at a viewing platform, where you experience stunning views of the sheer canyon walls.

We return to the hotel for breakfast before we depart for Alice Springs. Enroute we shall explore **Simpson Gap** and the magnificent gorge, **Standley Chasm** plus see some amazing scenery.

On arrival in Alice Springs, we shall check into the **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON**, *or similar*, for two-night stay. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

**Friday 20 May**

**Alice Springs**

**(B D)**

Today we join an Aboriginal guide at the **Alice Springs Desert Park** for an insight into their traditions and culture. Alice Springs Desert Park is an inspiring portrayal of Australia's central desert environment that seamlessly blends the plants, birds, animals and people of our arid regions within one, tourism and conservation facility. After, we will enjoy time at the Alice Springs Reptile Centre.

This evening we will enjoy a very special dinner.



**Saturday 21 May**

**Alice Springs – Darwin**

**(B D)**

We leave Central Australia this morning and transfer to the airport for our flight to Darwin. We arrive late morning and will be met at the airport to then embark on a half day city sights tour.

When our tour is complete, we will check into the THE HILTON, *or similar*, for an overnight stay.

With beautiful views of the Top End city, there is no better way to experience Darwin's renowned sunsets than on board the **Charles Darwin**. Tonight, we shall enjoy a Territory-style dinner with fresh seafood and local produce. This two-and-a-half-hour cruise is the perfect way to experience Darwin's world-famous sunsets.

**Sunday 22 May**

**Darwin – Hawk Dreaming Wilderness Lodge**

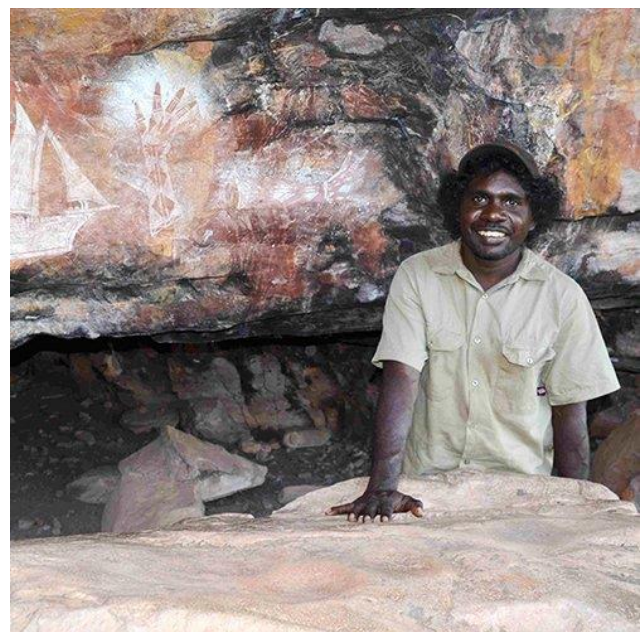
**(B L D)**

We depart Darwin by small 4WD coach for our transfer to **Hawk Dreaming Wilderness Lodge**, for a two-night stay. This lodge rests in an extremely special and justifiably renowned part of **Kakadu National Park** known as Cannon Hill.

Cannon Hill is abundant in wildlife and is where a large diversity of the park's landscape elements come together. The area has considerable importance to the local Aboriginal people, some of whom still live near the lodge. The rock art on the sandstone outliers around Cannon Hill dates back many thousands of years.

Enroute we will stop at a few points of interest including visiting sculptures dedicated to the regions wild rice, the **historical Bark Hut Tourism Centre** and the **Bowali Visitor Centre**.

We arrive at the lodge and in the afternoon, we will enjoy a sunset tour taking in nearby rock art sites and nibbles by the Cannon Hill billabong or rock art sites.





**Monday 23 May** **Hawk Dreaming Wilderness Lodge** **(B L D)**

After breakfast, we will embark on the **Arnhemlander Cultural and Heritage 4wd tour**. With a knowledgeable guide, we'll experience vast flood plains, towering escarpment, rock art sites, Indigenous artists at work at **Injalak Arts Centre**, **Inkiyu Billabong** before lunch in a scenic location.

We will have another opportunity for a sunset tour visiting different sites from last night.

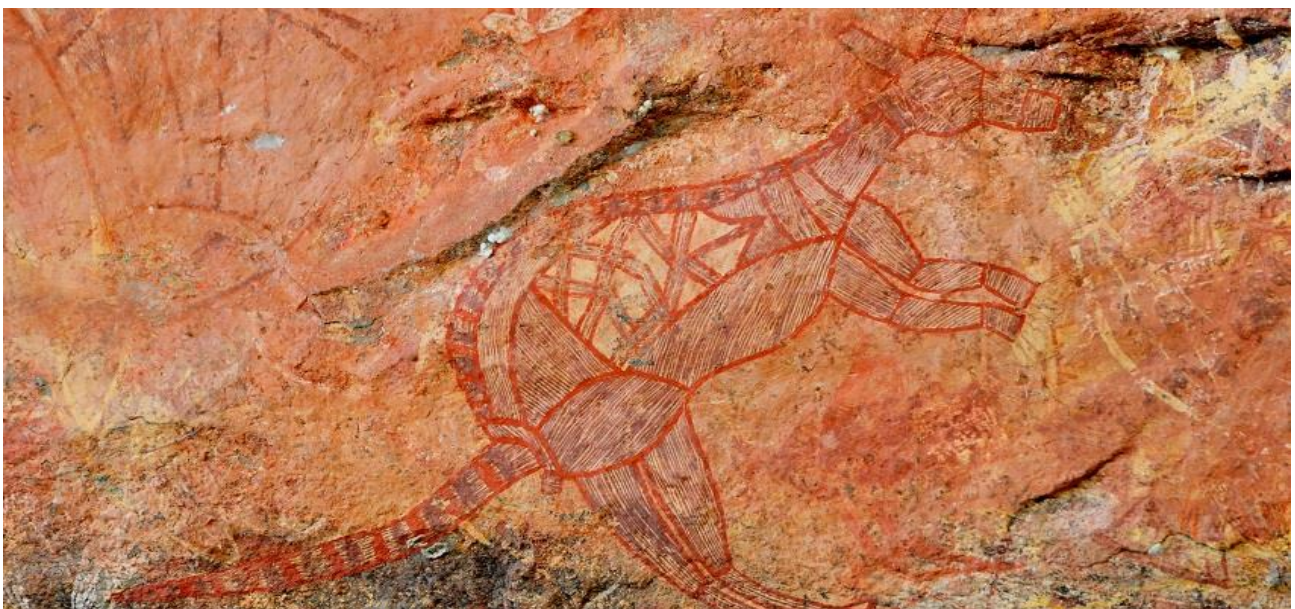
**Tuesday 24 May** **Hawk Dreaming Wilderness Lodge – Darwin** **(B L D)**

After breakfast we will enjoy a **Guluyambi Cultural Cruise**, a unique boat tour on Kakadu's scenically spectacular East Alligator River. We take in the wonderful pristine wilderness of this World Heritage landscape as we cruise leisurely upstream. An Aboriginal guide provides insight into their culture, local mythology, the river's abundant food chain, traditional uses for many plants and animals as well as bush survival skills.

Today we will also experience the **Ubirr Rock Art Complex**. Ubirr hosts some of the world's most outstanding rock art and is one of the reasons for Kakadu's dual World Heritage status. The paintings document ancient human interaction with the environment.

After lunch we say farewell to this exceptional location and return to Darwin, via the **Mamukala Wetlands**. The viewing area is alive with birdlife, where you can spot woodland species such as wagtails, kookaburras and bee-eaters. When you arrive at the bird hide at the end of the path, you're presented with a cacophony of honking, chirping and tweeting, as a wetland packed to the brim with waterbirds stretches before your eyes.

We arrive back in Darwin, and check into THE HILTON, *or similar*, for a four-night stay. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.



**Wednesday 25 May Darwin (B L)**

Today we will travel to **Litchfield National Park**, a true wonder of the Top End, replete with idyllic waterfalls, pristine swimming spots, beautiful walking trails and hidden natural wonders.

We will enjoy a stop for a swim at **Wangi Falls**, the best-known and most popular attraction in Litchfield National Park. We also visit **Florence Falls**, **Buley Rockhole** and the intriguing **Termite Mounds**. Unlike the usual Cathedral Termite Mounds you see throughout the north, these gravestone looking high-rises are architectural feats. You will be amazed at how they are aligned north to south to minimise the exposure to the sun.

We return to the hotel and the rest of the day is at your leisure.



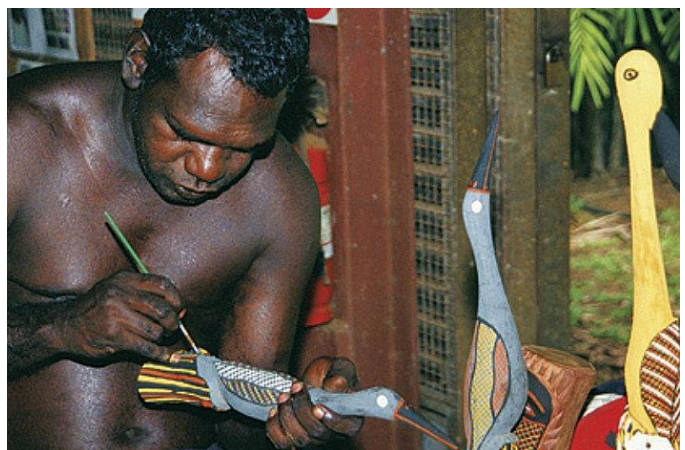
**Thursday 26 May Darwin (B)**

A highlight today is the **Jumping Crocodile Cruise** an unforgettable experience viewing Australia's deadliest reptiles, the famed Australian Salt Water Crocodile. Crocodiles are often viewed in cages or enclosures, however the chance to view the majestic jumping Crocodiles in the wild and in their own habitats is one not to be missed. A knowledgeable skipper will take us on a memorable journey.

Tonight, we visit the **The Mindil Beach Sunset Market** in the heart of Darwin. The Market sees the congregation of over 200 unique stalls, ranging from food stalls offering incredible local and international cuisine to an array of arts, crafts and services stalls. The Market also supports and provides opportunity to Darwin and regional NT artists from all genres of creative and performing arts to showcase their talent. The combination of amazing food, arts and culture, set to the backdrop of the spectacular sunset, creates an electric atmosphere.

**Friday 27 May Darwin (B D)**

Today we take the ferry to the **Tiwi Islands** for a Cultural day tour. The Tiwi Islands comprise of two main islands – Bathurst and Melville, which are 80 kilometres north of Darwin. This is a special opportunity to visit a modern-day Aboriginal community. It will provide an insight into the Tiwi people's rich culture and lifestyle. The tour will reveal scenes seldom seen by many outsiders and will leave you with a lifetime memory.



We return to Darwin and will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Saturday 28 May** **Darwin – The Ghan - Katherine** **(B L D)**

Our journey on **The Ghan** begins with a morning departure from Darwin. Once you're settled into your private cabin, mingle with fellow travellers or sample the exceptional food, wine, and service onboard. When it's time for lunch, savour the regionally-inspired menu accompanied by a selection of all-inclusive wines and beverages, before an early afternoon arrival at the Top End township of Katherine.

Choose between a relaxing cruise through **Nitmiluk Gorge's** ancient natural wonders and exploring the region's rich Indigenous culture, or experience a glimpse into the lives of those who call the outback home, with a fascinating day of discovery on a huge cattle station. Enjoy dinner as the sun sets over the outback, then back in your cabin you'll find your bed turned down. Fall asleep as the train rolls soothingly onwards.

**Sunday 29 May** **The Ghan – Alice Springs** **(B L D)**

After your first night on The Ghan, you'll be greeted by a morning view of the spectacular Red Centre. A full day of excursions awaits you in the outback town of **Alice Springs**. An optional upgrade is a scenic flight to Uluru, returning in time to meet the rest of your fellow guests at a spectacular barbeque dinner under a million stars at the historic **Alice Springs Telegraph Station**.

**Monday 30 May** **The Ghan – Manguri and Coober Pedy** **(B L D)**

From your morning stop at the outback outpost of **Manguri**, you'll venture into the weird and wonderful opal mining township of **Coober Pedy**, where more than half of the residents live underground. Here, you'll enjoy a day of discovery, and a gourmet lunch in the most unique of locations: underground.

Dinner is served back on the train where you can enjoy a nightcap as your journey continues.

**Tuesday 31 May** **The Ghan – Adelaide** **(B L)**

From your cabin window this morning you'll see a dramatic change in landscape, as the rich ochre tones of the outback make way for the green fields of South Australia.

Enjoy a leisurely brunch as you pass through the majestic **Flinders Ranges** and prepare for your mid-morning arrival into Adelaide, completing one of the world's great travel experiences.

We disembark The Ghan and are met for a panoramic tour of Adelaide, stopping at the **Botanic Gardens** for a picnic lunch before continuing on to the airport. We depart Adelaide Airport in the late afternoon for our flight to Melbourne.

On arrival in Melbourne, we transfer back to Gippsland by private coach.





## INCLUSIONS

- Personally escorted throughout entire tour by Jacquy Turner  
*\*In the unlikely event that Jacquy is not available to escort all or part of the tour, she will be replaced with a well-trained tour escort.*
- Minimum 15 guests - maximum 20 guests (very limited single rooms)
- Private coach transfers between Gippsland and Melbourne
- Economy airfares and taxes –  
Melbourne Uluru / Alice Springs-Darwin / Adelaide-Melbourne
- All airport arrival and departure transfers
- Touring and transfers in a mid sized air-conditioned coach except while touring Kadadu)
- Kakadu touring and transfers on an air-conditioned 21-seater 4WD
- Return ferry to Tiwi Islands
- Hotel accommodation with private facilities throughout tour
- Experienced driver/local guides throughout tour
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary and admission fees where applicable
- Meals as per itinerary: **40 meals:** 16 Breakfasts (B), 10 Lunches (L), 14 Dinners (D)
- Complimentary water throughout tour
- Gippsland Travel hat or cap; luggage strap; water bottle; hand gel; an end of tour journal showcasing your time on the tour.
- Porterage (one suitcase per person)
- **ALL tipping** of waiters/restaurant staff at included meals throughout the tour
- **ALL tipping** of guides and drivers

## EXCLUSIONS

- Comprehensive Travel insurance. It is a condition of our tours that comprehensive travel insurance is in place at the time of final payment.
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone charges, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses, and transfers/sightseeing or meals not included in inclusions.
- Any optional tours or activities other than those specified in the itinerary
- Excess baggage charges.

JACQUEY TURNER, your tour escort, has more than 36 years' experience as a highly successful travel agent and tour guide. Jacquy's attention to detail and personal care ensures that everyone travelling in her group will have a most enjoyable holiday experience.



*"I thoroughly enjoy escorting tour members to so many wonderful places in the world and are especially looking forward to showing you around our own backyard. The sights, sounds and history all contribute to a fabulous experience but most importantly it is the people that you meet and have the privilege of travelling with that has the most lasting impression. We always have lots of fun and continue to enjoy the memories for many years."*



## COVID POLICY

If the tour cannot operate due to COVID-19 state border closures and restrictions, the tour will be rescheduled and any funds paid will be transferred to the new tour date.

Due to the ongoing and evolving Covid-19 situation in Australia we have been advised by our suppliers that all guests must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Fully vaccinated means that there has been at least 14 clear days from the second dose and the date of our departure.

Those who have a medical exemption from receiving the Covid-19 vaccine can still travel. Guests will be required to show a Covid-19 vaccine medical contraindication prior to our departure.

## LATE BOOKINGS

Higher deposit payments are required for late bookings. A guarantee of full payment is required at the time of booking for all bookings received within 4 weeks of departure.

## BOOKINGS SOLD ON A SHARE BASIS

Bookings may be accepted on a share room basis on the proviso that the person requesting the share reservation agrees that while every effort will be made to match suitability of the passengers there is no guarantee that a share room can be provided. If a share room is not available at the time of final payment, either the single room alternative, at an additional cost, or the cancellation conditions detailed in your itinerary will apply.

## HEALTH & FITNESS

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Gippsland Travel Tour, you are required to at least:

- Be able to walk at least 1 hour on uneven surfaces without the use of any walking aid (walking stick for stability is acceptable)
- Walk up multiple flights of stairs and short, steep hills
- Stand for 20 minutes without needing to sit down, often in hot/humid climates
- Carry your own hand luggage / handle your own suitcase when portering is not supplied eg. at airports.
- Get on and off various modes of transport without assistance, including small boats. Assistance will be offered where necessary.

Passengers must inform us of any medical conditions which may affect your ability to participate in the tour.

At our discretion we can exclude you from a tour or any activity we consider that you are unable to safely participate in that tour or activity or if we consider your participation may place the safety of other guests at risk.

You will be requested to supply a letter from your doctor indicating your prescription medication and your reason for taking it, which shall be carried in the event of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and can be supplied in a sealed envelope.

## ITINERARY CHANGES and ITINERARY VARIATIONS

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to amend the hotels, itinerary and excursions if deemed advisable or necessary due to adverse weather conditions, road conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any necessary alternative arrangements will be made to a similar standard.

Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of Gippsland Travel make it necessary to change airlines, hotels or amendments to daily activities. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

## UNUSED PORTION OF THIS TOUR

We regret refunds will not be given for any unused activities of this tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation or transfers.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Airlines schedules are subject to change without notice. Voluntary date changes will incur fees. Gippsland Travel is not liable for delays or disruption of air travel.

## GENERAL CONDUCT

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to remove a traveller from a tour if they are acting in a way that interferes with the general operation of the tour or compromises the general enjoyment of the tour by other travellers in any way

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:

Subject to Australian Consumer Law, Gippsland Travel does not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused by a third-party supplier/s over who we have no direct control. Gippsland Travel is not liable for Force Majeure or any other event which is beyond our control or which is not preventable by us.

## FORCE MAJEURE:

Force Majeure means the occurrence of an event that is beyond Gippsland Travel's reasonable control and which could not have been reasonably prevented by Gippsland Travel. Force majeure includes, but is not limited to: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, natural catastrophes and natural disasters (including but not limited to flooding, fire, earthquake, landslide), adverse weather conditions, high or low water levels; government directed travel restrictions or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, explosion, generalised lack of availability of raw materials or energy, nuclear or other industrial accident causing environmental pollution or contamination; change in law, meaning, enactment, amendment (including repeal) in the law or administration of any law in Australia or any jurisdiction or territory relevant to the booking contract, which includes changes in statute, regulation, determination, by-law, declaration, licence and the common law as applicable from time to time.

For the avoidance of doubt, Force Majeure shall not include (a) financial distress nor inability of either party to make a profit or avoid a financial loss, (b) changes in market prices or conditions, or (c) a party's financial inability to perform its obligations hereunder.

In the event that a Force Majeure is declared, the customer will be bound by the third-party supplier/s Terms and Conditions, if applicable.

## TERMINATION OF BOOKING CONTRACT OR CHANGE OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE

If Gippsland Travel, in its reasonable opinion, considers that any Force Majeure event prevents Gippsland Travel (whether directly or through its employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents) from lawfully or safely providing any products or services subject of the booking contract with you, Gippsland Travel may immediately by written notice; (a) terminate the booking contract (in whole or part of); or (b) change your travel arrangements as reasonably practicable to ensure your safety and invoice for any additional costs.

If you are eligible for a refund once a booking has been cancelled, the balance less any non-refundable amounts will be forwarded to you once received by Gippsland Travel from the third-party supplier/s.

Gippsland Travel is not responsible for any delays of refunds from the third-party supplier/s. Refunds from third party supplier/s can take in excess of 6 weeks. Refunds will be processed as per original form of payment.

Travel insurance policies may provide cover for cancellation fees subject to their terms and conditions.

## GOVERNING LAW

These booking conditions are governed by the law in force in Victoria, Australia.