

MEDIA RELEASE

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New affordable rail holidays

Great Southern Rail are opening up Outback Australia for budget conscious travellers with the launch of a range of new Red Service holiday packages.

'Red Service' aboard The Ghan and the Indian Pacific recently underwent a \$6 million facelift, with the introduction of newly refurbished 'Matilda Cafes', new 'Red Gum Lounges' and refitted seating carriages.

GSR is now a 'one-stop-shop' for economy level travel across Australia. From Australia-wide rail passes to full holiday packages and short day tours, Great Southern Rail now has something to suit every traveller.

The 'Red Centre Expedition' is one of eight new packages available. The 10 day adventure begins in Sydney aboard the Indian Pacific to Adelaide. Three nights in Adelaide allow plenty of time to explore the city and spend a day wine tasting in the Barossa Valley. Next stop is Alice Springs aboard The legendary Ghan before the ultimate Red Centre adventure – the breathtaking Uluru, Kings Canyon and Kata Tjuta and an outback cooking experience that includes witchety grubs!

"A Red Service holiday package is the easy and affordable way to really immerse yourself in Outback Australia," said Chief Executive of Great Southern Rail, Tony Braxton-Smith.

"A rail holiday is a unique way to see more of Australia at a very competitive price with loads more comfort and features than any other form of transport," said Tony.

For travellers looking for more flexibility, GSR's range of rail passes provide fantastic value on unlimited travel all over Australia within either a three or six month period.

The 'Rail Explorer Pass' is popular with adventurous travellers, allowing them to hop-on and hop-off The Ghan, Indian Pacific and The Overland as often as they like within a three month period (\$450) or a six month period (\$590).

"Rail Passes are fantastic value. Just one trip on The Ghan or Indian Pacific almost equals the value of the Rail Explorer Pass, yet pass holders have three or six months of unlimited travel," said Tony.

Red Service travellers can choose either Red Day/Nighter Seat or Red Sleeper Cabin accommodation.

The newly refurbished Red Day-Nighter Service features comfortable reclining seats that provide more leg room than other modes of transport. Red Sleeper cabins feature a compact twin-share berth fitted with two facing lounge chairs by day that convert to snug upper and lower berths by night. Twin berth sleepers have a wash basin, while showers and toilets are located nearby at the end of each carriage.

Up to 40kg of luggage (two 20kg bags) per person can be taken aboard The Ghan, Indian Pacific and The Overland at no additional cost and the new Red lounge and dining carriages offer even more space to enjoy the ever changing scenery, socialize and move around whilst aboard the train.

For more information on Red Service travel, holiday packages and rail passes please visit Great Southern Rail's website, www.greatsouthernrail.com.au/backpackers or call 13 21 47.

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