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## Crikey! The Ghan Inaugural Journey to Darwin February 1, 2004

Great Southern Railway today announced The Ghan will leave Adelaide on its inaugural journey to Darwin on **Sunday February 1, 2004** - 126 years after the Great North-South line was first conceived.

Regular scheduled services will begin the following week on Sunday **February 8**, with tickets on sale **from 9am today**.

Great Southern Railway also announced the appointment of "The Crocodile Hunter", Steve Irwin, as Ambassador for The Ghan to Darwin at a media conference in Sydney. Irwin will front a major advertising and publicity campaign for the epic outback journey throughout Australia and in key overseas markets.

The wildlife enthusiast, whose conservation efforts have won his television series a huge following around the world, will also use his own specially commissioned The Ghan train to film episodes of 'The Crocodile Hunter' when The Ghan service is extended to Darwin next year.

"My passion is promoting Australia wherever I go, and I'm proud to be associated with the great Aussie tourism icon, The Ghan," Steve Irwin said. "I've checked it out and what a little beauty! What better way to travel through the heart of Australia than in air-conditioned comfort aboard The Ghan."

The transcontinental journey from Adelaide to Darwin covers 2979kms, giving guests in either direction two nights aboard the legendary train. Great Southern Railway Chief Executive Officer Stephen Bradford said interest in The Ghan to Darwin had been intense since fares and timetables for the new service were released in June 2002 and it was clear the transcontinental line was at last becoming a reality.

"It is almost 75 years since The Ghan first left Adelaide for Alice Springs, and in that time the train has established a reputation for being one of the truly great train journeys of the world.

"Now it's becoming even greater, with the new line passing through one of the last untouched regions of the world – from the red-hued vistas of the MacDonnell Ranges through the magnificent gorge country of Katherine to the tropical splendour of the Top End.

"Off-train tours will enable guests to visit such stand-out attractions as the Alice Springs Desert Wildlife Park or Katherine Gorge by boat or helicopter."

Fares one-way per person between Adelaide and Darwin start from \$A198 for a Red Kangaroo Daynighter Seat (adult \$440), and \$1183 for a Gold Kangaroo Sleeper (adult \$1740), which includes all meals served in the stylish Restaurant Car. Gold Kangaroo Service guests may take their car with them on the train for \$99 with the purchase of two tickets.

The Indian Pacific and The Overland trains provide convenient connections with The Ghan in Adelaide for guests travelling to or from Sydney and Melbourne.

**For bookings on The Ghan to Darwin call Great Southern Railway on 13 21 47 or visit website [www.trainways.com.au](http://www.trainways.com.au)**

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**Images of The Ghan are available via [andrew@mqmedia.com.au](mailto:andrew@mqmedia.com.au)**

*Great Southern Railway proudly supports the Australian Royal Flying Doctor Service and Alice Springs School of the Air.*

THE  GHAN

  
INDIAN PACIFIC

THE  OVERLAND