



GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL

a serco company

Press Release

March 2009

The Ghan's 80th Birthday – Australia's Legendary Rail Journey

On the 4th of August 1929, The Ghan departed Adelaide bound for Alice Springs, some 1500kms north into the heart of Australia's outback.

80 years on, this legendary train continues to follow in the footsteps of explorers and tradesmen through the Outback, along a ribbon of steel to Alice Springs. Although the name, the exact route and style of travel may have changed over the years, the emblem depicting the Afghan Cameleer still remains and is a constant reminder of the history surrounding what is The Legendary Ghan.

It was only 5 years ago that the rail line was extended to Darwin which allowed The Ghan to continue its journey through the heart of this magnificent country – yet another milestone in the history of this great train journey.

Guests from around the world and Australia have been able to experience one of the truly fascinating rail journeys during its 80 years of operation. Lasting 3 days and 2 nights, guests can choose to travel on a budget in Red Service seating or in the traditional comfort of Gold Service sleepers. In September 2008, The Ghan also became the most luxurious train in Australia with the introduction of Platinum Service.

Celebrating 80 years – 2009 the year to travel on The Ghan

Great Southern Rail in conjunction with their international distribution partners, have created a series of special packages to commemorate The Ghan's 80 years of service. The offers will be available to book for 80 days from 16 March to 3 June for travel 01 April to 31 December 2009.

Packages will be available for travel in Gold Service (Twin or Single Berth Sleepers) between Darwin and Adelaide or Darwin and Alice Springs and in Platinum Service (Double or Twin Berth Sleepers) between Darwin and Adelaide.

For more information and images on The Ghan and other trains operated by Great Southern Rail please contact:

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Editors Notes

- Serco owned Great Southern Rail are a Rail Australia Alliance member and the owners and operators of Australia's Great Train Journeys –The Ghan, Indian Pacific, The Overland and the new luxury touring train The Southern Spirit with their head office in Adelaide, South Australia
- Australia is unique in the world having 2 trans-continental rail journeys – east/west on the Indian Pacific and north/south on The Ghan
- Platinum Service was launched on 10 September 2008 on The Ghan and offers spacious cabins, double the size of Gold Service Twin Sleeper Cabins, and is inclusive of freshly prepared meals in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant Car and morning and afternoon tea served to your cabin.
- Great Southern Rail provide guests travelling on The Ghan and Indian Pacific with the opportunity to see Australia by offering Whistle Stop Tours in Katherine and Alice Springs for The Ghan and Broken Hill, Adelaide, Cook and Kalgoorlie for the Indian Pacific.

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