



## A chance to relive history

Stretching from Marree in the south, to Oodnadatta and on to Marla in the north are 655 kilometres of road called The Oodnadatta Track. It is a track steeped in history that should not be missed by any Australian.

The pastoralists took up massive tracts of "grazing land" in the 1880's along the track. The stations were serviced by the Afghan camel trains en route to the new settlement of Alice Springs. The cameleers carried virtually everything to Alice Springs for over half a century, before the famous Ghan railway line took over in the 1920's following the infamous Oodnadatta Track.

To travel the Oodnadatta Track today is an experience that you will never forget. It is a chance to relive history and to appreciate the contribution that our pioneers and early settlers made in opening up and developing this great country.

Even before you start along the track, a quick visit to the ghost town of Farina, with its derelict buildings, including the Trans Continental Hotel and the underground bakery will tantalize your senses. The pioneering families followed the railway north from Adelaide and settled in the village of Government Gums. Here they built permanent structures and cultivated the land to grow wheat; the name of the settlement was later changed to Farina (Italian for wheat). There were many good years of production, but soon drought intervened and all was lost.

Then travel on to Marree at the bottom of the Birdsville and Oodnadatta Tracks. Pioneering names like Harry Ding and Tom Kruese contacted mail delivery to Birdsville in the 1920's through to the 1950's, from Marree. The town park is littered with wrecks of vehicles used by these pioneers.

Locomotives and rolling stock from the mighty Ghan lay idle at the station in the main street. The long station (it catered for two different gauges) was the major staging post for the movement of troops, provisions and equipment north to Alice Springs and on to Darwin after the raids on Darwin in 1942.

Travelling the dusty track west alongside the railway line we come to Lake Eyre South (18 metres below sea level) and a chance to walk on the crusty white surface.

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