

Cruising The Kimberley From Darwin To Broome

Sunday 16 – Saturday 29 June 2024

12 nights

TOUR OVERVIEW

We invite you to discover the world's last, and possibly most pristine, wilderness - the remarkable Kimberley, an area covering more than 400,000 square kilometres in North West Australia. Travelling by small ship will allow you to access all of the icons of the coast that are inaccessible by road. From towering waterfalls to secluded gorges, and imposing rock ridges to wide savannah plains, the breathtaking outback landscapes of the Kimberley provide a unique experience. You will see the world's oldest indigenous rock art and hear legends of Australia's pioneering past. Nature lovers will revel in the abundance of birds and wildlife including the salt water crocodile in this area. With two landings most days and the expert local knowledge of the experienced guides, you are assured of making the most of every minute of your journey. Aboard your expedition vessel, which accommodates up to 120 guests in air-conditioned, en-suite cabins, you will travel in total comfort and unrivalled style.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the unique tidal phenomenon of the Horizontal Waterfalls in inflatable Zodiac tender vessels
- Marvel at the plunging 80 metre high King George Falls
- View the mysterious Gwion Gwion (Bradshaw) rock art and learn about the ancient cultures of the indigenous people
- See crocodile, humpback whales, rock wallabies, turtles and birdlife
- Witness Montgomery Reef rise out of the ocean with the falling tide
- Learn about the first explorers to chart this magnificent coastline.
- Enjoy sunset canapés and drinks on the beach as dusk settles over the Kimberley



TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Tour manager - see notes below **
- International economy airfare (ex Auckland)
- 10 nights accommodation on board the Coral Adventurer
- 2 nights' accommodation in Darwin
- Half day tour of Darwin
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily on board
- A selection of wine, beer, house spirits, juice, soft drinks with lunch & dinner (on board only)
- Local guides and group transfers
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- Use of snorkeling gear
- All tips for local guides
- Pre-tour material

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Personal expenses
- Airline taxes
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel or airport portorage

IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

With a strong focus on visiting places not often touched by tourists, the shore excursions are designed to promote local interaction and cultural exchange. One of the benefits of travelling on a small ship is the ability to make impromptu stops. The small size of the ship ensures that shore excursions are comfortable and have minimal impact on the communities and environments visited.

The excursion tender 'Xplorer' is boarded directly from the ship's main deck, before the hydraulic platform gently lowers into the water, avoiding the need to clamber aboard or get your feet wet. Exploration in the inflatable zodiac may require a bit more clambering in and out of the boat.

TOUR PRICE

Coral Deck Cabin - share twin per person NZD\$ 15,490
17 sq m cabin with king size bed or two singles, ensuite with shower, twin portholes

Promenade Deck Stateroom - share twin per person NZD\$17,990
17 sq m cabin with king size bed or two singles, compact ensuite with shower, large picture window

Explorer Deck Balcony Stateroom - share twin per person NZD\$22,590
21.4 sq m cabin with king size bed or two singles, ensuite bathroom, private balcony

Sole use cabins are very limited. Please contact us for the single supplement price.

VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class flights. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)



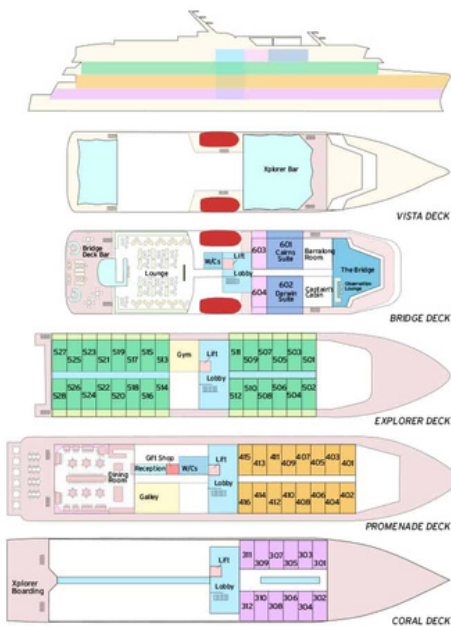
YOUR SHIP

Coral Adventurer

- This new 120 passenger ship is built to take you closer to unspoiled vistas in comfort, style, and safety
- Shallow draft and advanced navigations and propulsion systems allow access to locations normally closed to large cruise ships and active stabilisers dampen sea motion
- Two trademark Xplorer tenders, cradled in the back of the ship, seat all passengers and facilitate comfortable shore excursions with open views
- There are six zodiacs for more intrepid exploration
- All cabins have a small ensuite, individually controlled air-conditioning, ample storage and Australian toiletries.

Facilities on board include:

- A lecture lounge with multimedia capabilities for daily expedition briefings and expert presentations
- A small onboard library features destinations and wildlife material
- Over 1000 sq m of open deck space including a wrap-around promenade deck with panoramic views
- Single seating dining area with communal 'wine table', serving buffet breakfast and lunch and multi-course table d'hote dinners
- Showcase galley visible to guests for fresh cuisine featuring Australian produce
- Multiple indoor and outdoor bars, including the Explorer bar on the Vista Deck
- Gym equipped with elliptical trainers and treadmills
- Passenger elevator



TOUR MANAGER:

A tour manager will escort you to Darwin and back from Broome. Subject to the size of the group the tour manager may also join you on the ship, if not you will be well looked after by the excellent crew on-board.

DAILY ITINERARY

Sunday 16 June 2024
Auckland – Darwin
via Melbourne
Meals: in flight
Overnight: Darwin

Depart Auckland this afternoon on Air New Zealand flights to Darwin via Melbourne. You will arrive into Darwin in the early morning of Monday 17 June.

Monday 17 June
Meals: B/D
Overnight: Darwin

Early arrival into Darwin, transfer and check in to your hotel in the early hours of Monday morning. Relax and have a sleep-in this morning before joining your tour manager and the group on a half day tour of Darwin. You will visit the Darwin aviation museum which hosts some rare footage of the Japanese air raid of WWII. Wander through the botanic gardens and view the largest permanent display of Aboriginal art in Australia at the Museum and art gallery of the Northern Territory. End the day with a dinner at the Darwin Sailing Club as you watch the sunset over Fannie Bay.

Tuesday 18 June
Cruise programme
Meals: B/L/D daily
Overnight: Coral Adventurer

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Darwin Fort Hill Wharf and meet the Coral Expeditions team for check in/ boarding at 8:00am, with time to settle into your stateroom before a 9:00am departure. There will be a light breakfast available upon boarding before you cruise across Joseph Bonaparte Gulf and sail into Western Australian waters. Your incredible adventure starts along the Kimberley Coast.

Take the time to become acquainted with all the facilities onboard before joining the expedition team in the Bridge Deck Lounge for an introduction to the Kimberley. As dusk falls meet your fellow travelers, the Captain, and crew for the Captain's Welcome Drinks.

19 - 27 June
Cruise programme
Meals: B/L/D daily
Overnight: Coral Adventurer

Cruise programme as per below.

Friday 28 June
Broome – Auckland
via Perth
Meals: B/in flight

After breakfast, you will disembark and transfer to the airport for your Air New Zealand flights home (via Perth) or onto your post-tour arrangements. If travelling straight home you will arrive in NZ early morning on Saturday 29 June.

You may wish to spend a few more days in Broome or perhaps extend your holiday further in Australia. The team at Calder & Lawson can help with any arrangements before or after the tour.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

KING GEORGE RIVER & FALLS (OOMARI FALLS)

Fed by the King George River draining across the Gardner Plateau, 80m tall King George Falls (*Oomari Falls*) are the most impressive Kimberley waterfalls and the highest twin falls in Western Australia.

Before reaching the mist-like spray rising from the base of King George Falls, you cruise through steep-sided gorges carved by a flooded river system that carved a swathe through the Kimberley landscape 400 million years ago. The indigenous group here is the Balangarra people.



VANSITTART BAY (BANJAL)

Vansittart Bay is home to many cultural and historically significant sites like the remarkable Gwion Gwion (Bradshaw) Aboriginal rock art galleries which are estimated to be up to 20,000 years old. Jar Island is so-named after the pot shards found here, brought to the island by Makassan fishermen harvesting sea cucumbers (also known as trepang).

Nearby, on the Anjo Peninsula lays the well-preserved wreckage of a US Airforce C-53 Skytrooper aircraft, the result of a pilot losing his bearings flying from Perth to Broome in 1942 and putting down on a salt pan near present-day Truscott Airbase.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

MITCHELL FALLS, WINYALKA, & SWIFT BAY

Tumbling down the Mitchell Plateau in a series of tiered waterfalls and emerald green rock pools, the Mitchell Falls (*Punamii-Uunpuu*) are the photogenic poster child for the Mitchell River National Park. Take a scenic heli flight (additional cost) to multi-tiered Mitchell Falls where emerald-hued rock pools cascade down the escarpment. The indigenous group here is the Wunambal people.

Mitchell River National Park is inhabited by significant numbers of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and bird species which are lured by a year-round water source. Sandstone terraces beside tiered rock pools make a terrific viewing platform from which to savour the serenity of this ancient landscape.

An alternative option to Mitchell Falls is exploring the sandstone caves of Wollaston Bay or Wollaston Creek. This mass of weathered tunnels, arches, and columns form a labyrinth-like maze and was once an Aboriginal midden. Another option while anchored at Winyalkan Bay is a visit to a series of Wandjina and Gwion Gwion rock art galleries at Swift Bay.

In the evening you will enjoy watching the sunset over the Indian Ocean while indulging in a gourmet BBQ.



PRINCE FREDERICK HARBOUR & BIGGE ISLAND (WUUYURU)

Prince Frederick Harbour is one of the Kimberley's most spectacular locations at the southern end of York Sound. The harbour is dotted with islands lined with mangroves and monsoon rainforests, set against a backdrop of ochre-hued escarpment.

White-bellied sea eagles and other birds of prey are often seen here, and at low tide, expansive mudflats reveal large populations of mudskippers and mangrove crabs. You will take the Xplorer tender vessels on a cruise up Porosus Creek to view some striking rock formations.

Bigge Island's indigenous name is Wuuyuru, and the indigenous Group of the area is the Wunambal people.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

PRINCE REGENT RIVER & CAREENING BAY (WUNBUNG-GU)

King Cascade (*Mambulbada*) is a classically beautiful terraced waterfall and is one of the most photographed waterfalls in the Kimberley. Falling from a considerable height and around 50m across, water tumbles down a staggered terrace of Kimberley sandstone. Layer upon layer of the ochre-hued and blackened rock sprouts grasses, mosses, and ferns in a sort of lushly vegetated hanging garden. You reach King Cascade after cruising in the Xplorer tender vessels down the Prince Regent River which is a remarkable anomaly as the river runs dead straight along a fault line. The indigenous group here is the Dambimangari people.

Lt. Phillip Parker King named nearby Careening Bay after he beached his leaking vessel HMC Mermaid to effect repairs. While stranded on this remote coastline for 17 days the ship's carpenter carved *HMC Mermaid 1820* into the bottle-shaped trunk of a boab tree near the beach. 200 years later, the Mermaid Boab Tree has since split into two trunks and sports a mammoth girth of 12m. Significantly, the bulbous tree is listed on the National Register of Big Trees and the carpenter's careful inscription now stands almost as tall as a person. Careening Bay's indigenous name is Wunbung-gu, and the indigenous Group is the Wunambal people.



MONTGOMERY REEF

Montgomery Reef is a biologically diverse area covering over 400sq km and was named by Phillip Parker King. Twice daily, as the sea recedes in mammoth 11m tides, Montgomery Reef rises from the Indian Ocean in a cascade of rushing water revealing a flat-topped reef pockmarked with rockpools and rivulets.

As the reef emerges, you get up close in the Xplorer and Zodiac inflatable tenders to witness the spectacle as your Expedition Team share their knowledge on the formation of the reef and the myriad wildlife.

Opportunistic birds take advantage of the emerging reef, feeding on marine life left exposed in rock pools. Turtles and dolphins too are also attracted to feeding opportunities as the ocean recedes. The ocean is awash in a swirl of eddies and whirlpools as the moon's gravitational force takes hold. Then a few hours later the entire water-borne drama is reversed as the tide comes in and Montgomery Reef disappears below sea level. Montgomery Reef's Indigenous name is *Yowjab*, and the channel *Wilyjaru*. The indigenous group here is the Dambimangari people.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

DOUTFUL BAY & RAFT POINT (NGUMBREE)

Doubtful Bay is the traditional country of the Worrora people who follow the Wandjina, their god, law-maker and creator. Images of Wandjina are found throughout the Kimberley, recording their stories, knowledge and culture in stone. Other sites we aim to visit in Doubtful Bay include the mighty Steep Island and Ruby Falls at Red Cone Creek.

Raft Point guards the entrance to Doubtful Bay, a vast body of sheltered water which harbours significant sites such as the ancient Wandjina rock art galleries, considered some of the finest in the Kimberley. If a Traditional Owner guide is available to accompany, you will be able to visit the galleries. Raft point is known as *Ngumbree* to the indigenous group here, the Dambimangari people.



HORIZONTAL FALLS (GARAANNGADDIM) & TALBOT BAY / BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO

The Horizontal Falls are one of the Kimberley's biggest attractions and are a result of the mammoth 11m tides the Kimberley is renowned for. Naturalist Sir David Attenborough described the Horizontal Falls as 'one of the greatest natural wonders of the world.'

The Horizontal Falls are created as the ocean thunders through a narrow gorge in the McLarty Ranges. Water builds up on one side and is forcibly pushed through the bottleneck, creating a rushing horizontal waterfall of swiftly flowing seawater. Riding the rapids on Zodiac inflatable tenders is one of the highlights of your Kimberley expedition cruise. The Horizontal Falls are known as "Garaanngaddim" to the local indigenous group, the Dambimangari people.

Talbot Bay is at the heart of the Buccaneer Archipelago, where rocks on the 800 or so islands are estimated at over 2 billion years old. At Cyclone Creek, you will see evidence of massive geological forces in the impressive rock formations and cruise through the Iron Islands, past Koolan Island, before enjoying sunset drinks at Nares Point.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

THE LACEPEDE ISLANDS

Subject to weather and tides, you may visit the Lacepede Islands. The low islands are a nature reserve and Important Bird Area, supporting up to 18,000 breeding pairs of Brown Boobies and Roseate Terns, as well as a significant breeding area for the Green Sea Turtle. We explore the island's lagoon by Zodiac and Xplorer to spot many species of birds and marine wildlife.



HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$2,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached, the tour will become a 'confirmed departure' and your deposit will be non-refundable.

Click below to complete the online registration form, pay the \$2,000 deposit, and your place in this tour is secured. Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/ or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

These can be found on our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/, on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration.

There is a 1.5% surcharge if you pay by credit card.

