

# **11 DAYS AUSTRALIA'S ICONIC KIMBERLEY LEAVING DARWIN STARTING 17 JUL 2022**

## **DESTINATIONS**

—  
**DARWIN**

## TOUR ITINERARY



### DAY 1

Destination	Darwin 
Meals included	Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

Darwin is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End". It is the capital city and the most populated town of the Northern Territory. Darwin is a beautiful tropical city, a melting pot of people and cultures, over 50 different cultures live and work side by side that prides itself in its unique and friendly laid-back lifestyle.

Come discover the town's still recent history through its emblematic buildings such as the new Parliament House opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture or Admiralty House declared heritage place, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids.

### DAY 2



Destination	 Pulau Meati Marang 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

Enjoy a leisurely day at sea to take advantage of the luxurious onboard services or enjoy a cool drink by the pool. Enjoy time to reflect on your experiences or share photographs with fellow guests.

Your expedition team will be offering an enrichment programme focusing on Australia, its history and flora and fauna. Perhaps take the opportunity to be out on deck sunbathing or sampling culinary specialties prepared by our Chef and Galley Team.



*Technical Stop: The Indonesian officials will perform the necessary clearance formalities. Our stopover at Pulau Meati Marang is for technical clearance purposes only. There is no opportunity for guests to go ashore.*

### DAY 3

Destination	 Wyndham 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

Wyndham is the northernmost town in Western Australia and in many ways is the gateway to the Kimberley. It is surrounded by some of the most spectacular landforms, rivers and wetlands in the Kimberley.

### DAY 4

Destination	 King George River 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

The journey up the King George River is nothing short of breathtaking. The 80-metre-high sides of the gorge display varying degrees of weathering of the ancient Warton sandstone. The colours and textures of the gorge change with the light as you travel further up the river creating a continual changing scenery that is simply stunning.



The journey culminates at the King George twin falls; the highest single-drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley (80 m or 260 ft). Fed by wet season run-off the level of water cascading over the falls varies from year to year.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

Your Expedition Team will escort you in either the Zodiacs® or ships tenders to the foot of the twin falls, and explain all about the stunning geological formations of the canyon.

### DAY 5



Destination	 Vansittart Bay 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

Jar Island contains ancient rock art galleries depicting the Gwion Gwion style unique to the Kimberley region. Mainly neglected by, or unknown to, the early European researchers of Aboriginal culture in the Kimberley in favour of the dominant and more dramatic Wandjina art, Gwion Gwion art has in recent years gained world prominence.

It is generally thought that this art may extend back to over 30,000 years before our time and represents the first wave of seagoing colonisers of the Australian continent. As it is, these are the oldest detailed depiction of human figures in the world.

Join your Expedition Team ashore for a short walk, past some fascinating rock formations, to the site of the Gwion Gwion art galleries.

### DAY 6



Destination	 Swift Bay 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

The Bonaparte Archipelago, is a stunningly rugged maze of islands stretching almost 150 km along Western Australia's remote Kimberley coast. Its colour and scale conspire to take ones' breath away. Its distant location has meant it has remained an unspoilt and remarkably pristine location to explore and experience.

Phillip Parker King named "Swift's bay" after Jonathon Swift (1667-1745) the author of Gulliver's travels. The 'T' shaped bay is composed of heavily fractured sandstone providing an abundance of rock shelters.

On the walls of these shelters are examples of both Wandjina and Gwion Gwion style rock art. Join your expedition team ashore for a guided walk to a number of rock art galleries depicting these unique rock art styles.

### DAY 7

Destination	 Hunter River 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

Arguably one of the most scenic parts of the Kimberley coast, Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River are lined with ancient rainforest pockets, pristine mangroves and mosaic sandstone cliffs.



They are considered to be some of the most pristine mangrove forests in the world, containing up to 18 different species, supporting a rich and diverse fauna. The sandstone escarpment at the river mouth, known as "Kampamantiya" rises over 200 metres high before giving way to extensive mud banks and mangrove forests home to numerous bird species and the iconic saltwater crocodile.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

Our expert Expedition Team will share their knowledge with you as you explore this pristine mangrove environment by Zodiac® keeping a constant lookout for wildlife. You will also have the opportunity to reach the Mitchell Falls by helicopter from Naturalist Island beach.

### DAY 8

Destination	 Collier Bay 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar



Lying to the east of the Buccaneer archipelago, the ancient landscapes of Collier Bay have been shaped by the massive tidal movements the region is renowned for, creating a photographer's paradise. With a tidal range exceeding 14 metres, recorded near Yule entrance at the southern end of the bay, they are among the largest in the world. This massive daily movement of water creates unique phenomena that occur nowhere else in the world.

Nestled in the centre of the Bay is Montgomery Reef, the world's largest inshore reef system. As the tide falls a raging torrent of water cascades off the top of the reef, creating turbulent 'rivers' and mini waterfalls. At the Southern end of the Bay, Talbot Bay is home to the world's only 'Horizontal Falls' described by Sir David Attenborough as "One of the greatest wonders of the natural world."

Hidden in the many caves and grottos of this ancient landscape are a multitude of ancient Rock Art galleries. Here you can find spectacular examples of the Wandjina and Gwion Gwion styles.

As we are at the mercy of weather and tide conditions in this region, the activities mentioned above are only possible experiences and can't be guaranteed.

### DAY 9

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Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

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### DAY 10


Destination	 Lacepede Islands 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Cruise	Le Laperouse, Deluxe Suite Deck 4, or similar

The Lacepede Islands are Western Australia's most important breeding habitat for Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), and have been named by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

The breeding colony of Brown Boobies is possibly the largest in the world. Up to 20,000 Roseate Terns have also been recorded here. Other birds breeding on the islands include Masked Boobies, Australian Pelicans, Lesser Frigatebirds, Eastern Reef Egrets, Silver Gulls, Crested, Bridled and Lesser Crested Terns, Common Noddies, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers.

Join your expedition team for a guided Zodiac® tour to view the prolific wildlife. Due to the sensitive nature of the environment, landings are prohibited on the Lacepede Islands.

### DAY 11

Destination	 Broome, Disembark Cruise
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Located in the northwest of the Kimberley region and in the far north of Western Australia, the town of Broome is reputed for its history and its glorious pearling era.

The fascinating Chinatown district, which is the historic city centre, and the famous Japanese Cemetery, dates back to 1896, and has a past marked by the immigration of numerous Chinese and Japanese workers, attracted by the prosperous pearl industry at the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century.

Broome is also famous for the "Staircase to the Moon", an optical illusion created by the Moon reflecting on the sand banks at low tide, like a staircase climbing up towards the sky, a unique spectacle provided by nature.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### Inclusions

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Travel with Ponant Cruises
- 11 Day cruise on board the Le Soleal in a Prestige Deck 5 (Upgrades available)
- Unlimited drinks are included, at any time of the day (excludes certain items)
- Fine French dining daily with all breakfast, lunches and dinners while sailing
- Join the highly qualified local expedition team and enjoy regular outings and shore visits in Zodiac inflatables with a team of experienced naturalist guides
- Wi-Fi free of charge

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### CABINS & UPGRADES

#### Cabin Bedding and Upgrades

Bedding on board the cruise is restricted to the following configurations. If you wish to upgrade your cabin, the following amounts are payable in addition to the package price prior to travel:

#### **Prestige Deck 5: INCLUDED**

Private balcony, Individually-controlled air-conditioning, King-size bed or twin beds, Shower, Minibar, Flat screen, Satellite TV, Desk with stationery, Ipod(TM) players, Video on demand, Safe, Hairdryer, Bath robes, Satellite direct line telephone, 110/220 volts outlet, French bath products, 24hr room service, Internet access wifi.

#### **Privilege Deck 5 Suite**

Private balcony, Individually-controlled air-conditioning, King-size bed or twin beds, Shower, Minibar, Flat screen, Satellite TV, Desk with stationery, Ipod(TM) players, Video on demand, Safe, Hairdryer, Bath robes, Satellite direct line telephone, 110/220 volts outlet, French bath products, 24hr room service, Internet access wifi, 1 stateroom for people with reduced mobility. *Upgrades from AU\$7,260 per person, twin share or AU\$13,430 per person, single (subject to availability).*

#### **Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5**

With 40m<sup>2</sup> private balcony, Individually-controlled air-conditioning, King-size bed or twin beds, Bathtub, Minibar, Flat screen, Satellite TV, Desk with stationery, Ipod(TM) players, Video on demand, Safe, Hairdryer, Bath robes, Satellite direct line telephone, 110/220 volts outlet, French bath products, 24hr room service, Internet access wifi, Butler service. *Upgrades from AU\$8,190 per person, twin share or AU\$15,150 per person, single (subject to availability).*

*Please request your cabin upgrade in the 'special requests' field. Availability and price will then be confirmed and added to your invoice upon acceptance.*

## TOUR ITINERARY

### ABOUT YOUR SHIP

**Le Laperouse** is environmentally friendly, fitted with innovative equipment and complete with lounges designed to be largely open to the exterior, this new and intimately sized yacht offers a unique type of cruise experience.

Onboard this ship sailing under the French flag, you'll experience the incomparable pleasure of a cosily intimate cruise offering the possibility of exploring an ever-increasing range of destinations in an ethnic chic ambiance and with five-star service.

The Blue Eye, a multisensorial underwater lounge offering a unique experience unlike anything else in the world. To know more about your ship, please click [HERE](#).



## TOUR ITINERARY

### CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- Join our highly qualified local expedition team
- Enjoy regular Zodiac® outings & shore visits to get close to Kimberley nature
- Explore landscapes and ancient rock art that is billions of years-old.
- Listen to stories of the Dreamtime from the oldest continuous culture on the planet
- Explore pristine mangrove environments, home to the world's largest living reptile
- Opportunity to reach the Mitchell Falls by helicopter, from Hunter River
- Witness unique tidal phenomena such as the Horizontal Falls
- In Wyndham, enjoy one of the three complimentary excursions (subject to availability, on a first-come first-served basis in chronological order of booking, please contact our travel agents):
  - **Ord River experience:** navigation on the Ord River between Kununurra and Lake Argyle. You will have the opportunity to enjoy remarkable wildlife and stunning landscapes. The tour includes a simple buffet lunch served on a riverside camp.
  - **Bungle Bungle scenic flight:** panoramic flight onboard a Cessna airplane from Kununurra to the Bungle Bungle massif. You will, in particular, fly over Diversion Dam, Carr Boyd Range or Purnululu National Park.
  - **El Questro experience:** guided by an El Questro ranger, the tour includes an all-encompassing journey through Emma Gorge and Zebedee Thermal Springs. Take a mid-day break for lunch and end the full day with the Chamberlain River Cruise.

### Fine Print

#### BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

Inspiring Vacations has been globally recognised and awarded for its handling of COVID-19 during the pandemic. The safety and wellbeing of our guests is our highest concern during this time of uncertainty, and we are continuously monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation.

We have adopted the advice of the WHO to ensure all customers can travel with the knowledge of how to travel safely and with confidence.

**Australian owned and operated with 100% Australian Customer Service support**

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## TOUR ITINERARY

We are proudly 100% Australian owned and operated, with our head office located in Melbourne, Victoria. When you make your booking, you will receive dedicated and ongoing support from our team of travel professionals throughout your booking, up until you are due to depart.

### **Flexible Date Change Option**

Book now, change later with our Flexible Date Change option. You may select this \$99pp option at time of purchase, giving travellers the flexibility to change your date without penalty (subject to availability, less third party costs incurred, plus any applicable surcharges for the new date selected).

Date change must be requested prior to 65 days before your original selected departure date\*. Once inside 65 days of departure, date changes are not permitted. \*some packages may have a varied period in which you can request a date change due to limitations with the third-party provider.

Please refer to our 'Book with Confidence' section for terms and conditions.

The Flexible Date Change option does not cover cost incurred for components not fulfilled by Inspiring Vacations or in the event extra services have been booked with Inspiring Vacations outside of the standard package, including but not limited to airfares, pre/post accommodation or insurance.

### **Cooling off period**

If you change your mind within 7 days of making your booking online, you can request a refund of your initial deposit payment as part of our cooling off period. Once your purchase date falls outside of the 7 day period, our standard terms and conditions will apply.

Please ensure that any request to cancel your booking is received via email to [support@inspiringvacations.com](mailto:support@inspiringvacations.com), including the reason for cancellation.

# TOUR ITINERARY

## HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

### Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with only a 25% deposit per person
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$1,000 per person within 28 days
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 120 days prior to departure

### Booking Process

- 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password
- Then select the red 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade
- Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the red 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is on request and will be confirmed by Inspiring Vacations once all components of your package have been secured with our partners, please see below for further information

### Booking On Request

- Your Inspiring Vacations package is made up of multiple components and travel partners.
- Once your booking is made and passenger details form submitted, we will begin to confirm all of your arrangements. Please note, this process can take several business days to complete.
- Once all elements have been confirmed we will send you an email confirmation, if we are unable to confirm we will provide you with alternative dates or offer a full refund of your deposit or re-credit your account if a travel credit was used.
- Please DO NOT book any additional services, such as flights, until we have confirmed your Inspiring Vacations package in writing. Inspiring Vacations will not be liable for any fees or charges incurred to change or cancel components not booked by Inspiring Vacations should your selected package be unavailable.

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### **COVID-19**

Due to COVID there may be disruptions to standard operating schedules of particular components of this itinerary. Should a component be effected a substitute will be confirmed prior to departure.

#### **Fitness Requirements**

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity.

These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers. As a general rule, portage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

#### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only and subject to availability. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however any changes are beyond our control.

#### **Single Supplement**

Please follow the 'book now' prompts and select 1 passenger to view the single supplement cost.

#### **Triple Share**

Not Available

#### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

#### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation including, e-tickets and cruise details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

#### **Children**

Children must share a room with parents at all times and are charged the same price as adults.

#### **Warning About The Use Of Drones**

The use of drones aboard PONANT ships, whether they are sailing at sea, at a port of call or anchored, is strictly forbidden. The use of drones on land in the Arctic and Antarctic regions is also strictly forbidden by international polar regulations.

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In other regions, it may be possible to use drones on land if permission has been obtained from the relevant authorities of each country and each region travelled through, as well as a pilot's licence that should be obtained from your home country.

Passengers are responsible for obtaining these permits; they should be able to present them at all times. Passengers who do not obtain these authorisations expose themselves to the risk of legal proceedings.

### VISA & PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

For all international voyages, it is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that they have a valid passport and they meet the visa requirement. Passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond the completion of your trip. Passport must contain at least two completely clear, blank, unused visa pages for each visa required, not including any amendment pages. Visa pages with stains or ink from other pages in the passport are not usable. Guests who deviate from the scheduled embarkation or disembarkation port should research the foreign entry requirements for the port country. Due to government regulations, regrettably, Ponant will have to deny boarding to any guest who fails to obtain the appropriate travel documentation for this trip.

The information below is current but subject to change at any time without advance notice from government authorities. Please consult your respective government agencies for visa and health information.

**Australia:** an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) must be obtained before your arrival in Australia. For more information, please visit [www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/immigration-and-visas](http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/immigration-and-visas). Carriers should be aware that there will not be any physical evidence in your passport. A copy of your ETA must be sent to PONANT at the latest 45 days prior to your cruise date. We also ask you to keep a copy of your ETA and keep it with your passport throughout the duration of your trip.

Australian customs regulations are very strict, especially for the import of food items such as fresh food (even sealed), fruits, eggs, meat, plants, vegetables, seeds, grains. Fur and feathers are also forbidden. We highly recommend you consult this website for further details : [www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/immigration-and-visas/customs-clearance](http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/immigration-and-visas/customs-clearance).

It is recommended that you contact your health professional for any specific medical advice relating to travel through these regions, including advice on Malaria prevention and dengue fever.

**New Zealand:** Nationalities who are visa-exempt must now apply for an

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Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) before your arrival in New Zealand. For more information, please visit [www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas). A copy of your ETA must be sent to PONANT at the latest 45 days prior to your cruise date. We also ask you to keep a copy of your ETA and keep it with your passport throughout the duration of your trip. While applying for the ETA, you will be asked to pay the mandatory International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). Australian passport holders are exempt of the ETA and the IVL.

### EXCLUSIONS

- Flights
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)