

11 Day Kimberley Cruise from Broome to Darwin with Flights

Broome - Darwin

From **\$10,999** Typically \$11,999 ✈ pp twin share



Return flights from Melbourne, Sydney, or Brisbane included

10-night Kimberley Cruise aboard the Coral Adventurer

Includes all meals, exclusively chef-prepared onboard

Book now with only 30% deposit!

Description



Explore the remote Kimberley Coast wilderness aboard the Coral Adventurer. During the curated shore excursions visit the local highlights, including waterfalls, rock art galleries, rock pools, Montgomery reef and islands that dot the coastline. Travel in comfort and convenience with all 120 guests participating in shore excursions via two Xplorer tender vessels, which allow guests to transfer right off the main deck. Enjoy a daily program of lectures, briefings and themed documentaries and movies. Keep an eye out for the local wildlife in the ocean, on land and in the sky.

Itinerary

Day 1

Broome

Today, fly to Broome and embark on your Kimberley cruise. Board your Coral Expeditions ship at 4.00 pm where there is time to settle into your cabin before our 5:00 pm departure. Take the time to become acquainted with all the facilities onboard as we cruise northwards towards Cape Leveque.

As dusk falls meet your fellow travellers, the Captain and crew for the Captain's Welcome Drinks.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2

The Lacepede Islands

The Lacepede Islands are a protected class-A nature reserve and are significant as a seabird nesting rookery for brown boobies and roseate terns. Other species often sighted at the Lacepedes include Australian Pelicans, frigate birds, egrets and gulls. The four low-lying islands are also an important breeding and nesting habitat for green turtles.

If weather and tide conditions are suitable, we will explore the lagoons by Xplorer and Zodiac tender vessels.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3

Horizontal Falls and 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 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 the Zodiac inflatable tenders is one of the highlights of our Kimberley expedition cruises.

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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4

Doubtful Bay and Raft Point

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 us, we will be able to visit the galleries.

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 Sale River, Steep Island and Ruby Falls at Red Cone Creek.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5

Montgomery Reef

Montgomery Reef is a biologically diverse area covering over 300 sq 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, we get up close in the Xplorer and Zodiac inflatable tenders to witness the spectacle as the 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, dolphins, dugongs and sawfish 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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Prince Regent River and Careening Bay

King Cascade 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.

We 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.

Lt. Philip 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. Almost 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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

Prince Frederick Harbour

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 the 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. We will take our Xplorer tender vessels on a cruise up Porosus Creek to view some striking rock formations.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Mitchell Falls, Winyalkan, & Swift Bay

Tumbling down the Mitchell Plateau in a series of tiered waterfalls and emerald green rock pools, the Mitchell Falls are the photogenic poster child for the Mitchell River National Park. Take a scenic helicopter flight (additional cost) to multi-tiered Mitchell Falls where emerald-hued rock pools cascade down the escarpment.

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 Hathway's Hideaway. 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 Wandjina and Gwion Gwion rock art galleries at Swift Bay.

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

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

Vansittart Bay

Vansittart Bay is home to many cultural and historically significant sites like the remarkable Gwion Gwion (Bradshaw) Aboriginal rock art galleries 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 Macassan fisherman 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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10

King George River and Falls

Fed by the King George River draining across the Gardner Plateau, 80m tall King George Falls is 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, we cruise through steep-sided gorges carved by a flooded river system that carved a swathe through the Kimberley landscape 400 million years ago.

Early in the waterfall season, we may cruise around the base of impressive King George Falls while in later months we take the opportunity to view the honeycomb erosion patterns of sandstone cliffs up close.

As our incredible Kimberley adventure draws to a close, on our last evening aboard we enjoy the Captain's farewell drinks amongst new-found friends.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11

Arrive in Darwin

Our incredible adventure along the Kimberley Coast concludes in Darwin this morning at 8:30 am. Bid farewell to new-found friends and the Captain and crew.

Transfer from post-cruise to the airport and fly home.

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- Return Economy flights from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane
- Domestic flights with Virgin Australia (subject to availability)
- 10-night Kimberley Cruise aboard the Coral Adventurer on a twin share basis
- Meals: 10 Breakfast, 10 Lunches and 10 Dinners
- Spectacular shore excursions
- Beer/wine/soft drinks included during lunch and dinner
- Post-cruise transfer to the hotel or airport
- Tea & coffee (self-service 24/7 hours)

Cruise Ship

Coral Adventurer - Cabin on the Coral Deck on a twin share basis with private bathroom facilities

Roadtrip for Good

After the ash settles, and communities rebuild, we want you to do just one little thing. Go back to these towns. Plan a roadtrip. Arrive with wide smiles and open wallets. Buy a coffee or a loaf of bread. Stay for a day, a weekend or more.

Visit www.roadtripforgood.org.au to plan your next road trip.



Exclusions

- Arrival transfer to the port
- Laundry (paid service onboard)
- Wifi (paid service onboard)
- Mitchell Falls Heli flight (only bookable onboard) \$590 per person
- Drinks outside meal times

Single Supplement

Travelling solo? Call us on 1300 350 263 or email at info@traveldream.com.au for a quote on the single supplement.

Optional Add-On



Please call us on 1300 350 263 or email at info@traveldream.com.au for a quote.

Broome and Darwin Stay Package:

- 2 night stay in Broome at Kimberley Sands Resort & Spa
- 1 night stay in Darwin at the Darwin Waterfront