

13 Day Ponant Luxury Cruise: Broome to Darwin | July 2023

Kimberley Coast - Broome - Darwin

From **\$12,500** pp twin share



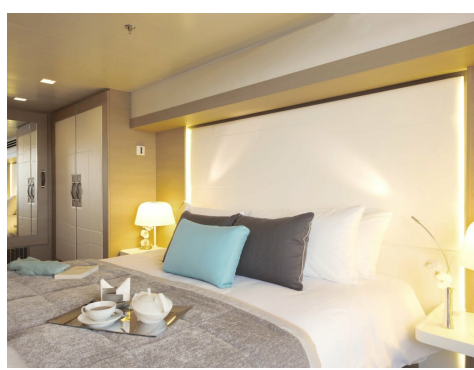
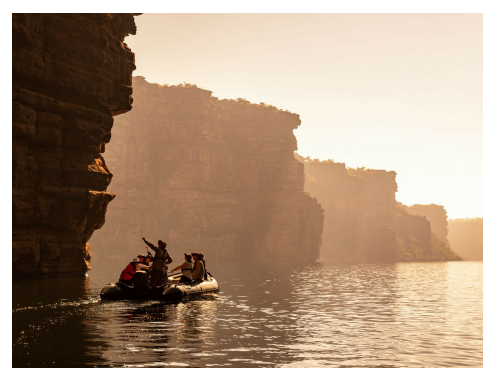
10 night PONANT luxury expedition cruise on '*Le Soleal*'

TWO nights of premium accommodation either side: Broome & Darwin

All chef-created, locally-sourced meals and drinks onboard

Expeditions, tours & activities exploring the incredible Kimberley region

Description



Last Three Cabins! Huge Sale - PLUS ask us about our upgrade offer!

We have teamed up with luxury cruise experts Ponant to bring you this world-class adventure, exploring our very own Kimberley region! Experience this unique destination in comfort and style, all while getting up close to the natural wonders, amazing wildlife and incredible scenery of this region.

Travel from Broome along the Kimberley coastline, experiencing wild mangrove forests, teeming with crocodiles and bird life, explore King George river and its twin waterfalls, the Lacepede Islands, Horizontal Falls and the breath-taking spectacle of Montgomery Reef.

Remote, white-sand beaches, deserted islands, stunning coastline, abundant wildlife, estuaries, mangroves, awe inspiring natural phenomena and so much more, all amongst the luxurious backdrop of your PONANT ship - this is the experience of a lifetime.

Only three cabins left for 2023, at an amazing price. Don't miss your chance at the ultimate Aussie adventure!

Itinerary

Day 1

Your adventure begins today in Broome

On arrival please make your own way to your 4 star Broome hotel where you will have time to relax before your luxury cruise adventure begins!

Day 2

Board *Le Soleal*

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 truly unique spectacle provided by nature.

Day 3

Lacepede Islands

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 4

Collier Bay (Day 4 - 5)

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 5

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Day 6

Careening Bay

Careening Bay was named by Lieutenant Phillip Parker King after his ship, HMC Mermaid, was careened there during his third voyage of discovery in 1820. King surveyed the western coast to complete the map initiated by Flinders 20 years earlier. The Mermaid had been leaking badly and King needed to find a shallow sandy bay where he could careen his boat to undertake repairs. At a high tide, on a warm September afternoon, he ran the Mermaid onto the sands. For ten days the Mermaid crew worked hard before refloating the vessel. The ship's carpenter carved the name of the vessel and the year into a conspicuous boob tree. The famous boob tree is now 3 metres wide and National Heritage listed. A reminder of a by gone era of exploration!

Day 7

Hunter River

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. 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

Swift Bay

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 9

Vansittart Bay

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 10

King George River

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. 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 11

At sea

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day 12

Darwin

This morning disembark and make your own way to the Argus Darwin Hotel where you will have a 1 night stay. The day is yours at leisure to explore Darwin.

Day 13

Darwin

This morning check out of your hotel and make your way home.

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- 1 Night in a Guest Room in a 4 star property in Broome
- 10 night cruise on Le Soleal in a Superior Stateroom Deck 3, including all meals, most drinks, and daily shore excursions
- 1 night in Darwin in a King Guest Room at a 4 star property.

The cruise itinerary is given as an indication only. Based on tide times and weather conditions, the Captain and the Expedition Leader may need to switch the order of certain ports of call around to ensure guests have the best possible experience.

Covid19 policy: Guests must have a medical check 7 days prior to boarding and a PCR Test

Child policy (4 to 18 years) Children are not permitted on this tour package.

Your ship: *Le Soleal* reaffirms PONANT's signature approach: to take passengers to the farthest reaches of the planet onboard modern ships offering top-of-the-range services. An elegant appearance and refined interior design combine with cutting-edge technology to offer a new type of cruising: adventure in a luxury setting. With 132 staterooms and capacity for 264 guests, the ship also features two restaurants, a range of common areas, a pool, spa, excursion desk, theatre, library and more.

Images courtesy of Ponant.

Exclusions

- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Flights
- Travel insurance

ID: A Passport with 6 months validity is required to be taken with you to board the cruise ship.

Currency: on board is Euros

Insurance: All guests must have travel insurance to participate on this tour and will be required to show this prior to departure. (including Remote Area Evacuation). We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).

Level of fitness: All participants should be in good general health, able to walk reasonable distances over sometimes uneven terrain, and stand during excursions.

All guests must be able to make their own way up and down stairs in case of emergency.

UPGRADES - special offer!

We have special upgrade offers available on request basis. Please enquire at info@traveldream.com.au, or call us on 1300 893 404.