2020 VOYAGES

THE KIMBERLEY
WITH CAPE YORK & ARNHEM LAND

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THE KIMBERLEY
CAPE YORK & ARNHEM LAND
THE EXPEDITION EXPERIENCE

We explore remote locations that are hard to get to or not often touched by tourists. Our shore excursions are designed to promote cultural exchange and learning, and our small group size ensures that excursions are comfortable and personal, with minimal impact on the communities and environments that we visit.

Expect one or two activities or excursions each day, all included in your cruise fare. Expedition Leaders and lecturers who are experts in the region accompany every voyage, providing commentary on culture, geology, conservation, history, and the region’s unique plants and wildlife.
Remote Destinations

THE KIMBERLEY
The Kimberley Region is named for its most imposing landmark - an ancient mountain range visible from the rugged sea coast. It is a place acknowledged as one of the world’s most beautiful wilderness areas. Witness magnificent coastal vistas created by towering rock ridges, silent secluded gorges, plunging waterfalls, abundant wildlife, and massive tidal movements.

CAPE YORK & ARNHEM LAND
Across the top of Northern Australia, you’ll experience cultures unchanged for centuries, world-renowned Indigenous art centres, and some of the continent’s most remote islands. This is a land steeped in ancient Aboriginal culture and legends of our pioneering past.

MEET SOME OF OUR GUIDES

Sandy Scott
Expert Lecturer
Sandy is a scientist and former university lecturer who has spent many years studying the biology of plants and animals. Working with Coral Expeditions since 1998, Sandy is passionate about understanding the geology of the Kimberley coast. Seeing a pod of Pilot Whales in Prince Frederick Harbour, and visiting Aboriginal art sites are among his favourite Kimberley experiences.

Jamie Anderson
Expedition Leader
Jamie has been with Coral Expeditions since 2003. With a long career as a naturalist, guide, and teacher in environmental science, Jamie has travelled and worked all over the world. He has extensive experience in diving and photography, and has a tireless energy and love for our destinations. The Kimberley is his favourite place, and he is delighted to share his extensive experience in the region.

THE EXPEDITION SHIPS
Discover the Kimberley in 2020 aboard the classic small ship Coral Discoverer, or the brand new Coral Adventurer. The Coral Discoverer also explores Cape York & Arnhem Land.

Coral Adventurer and Coral Discoverer are custom-built for environmentally responsible small-ship cruising, with refined steering capabilities, shallow draught, and nimble Xplorer tenders, bringing you closer to remote coasts and communities.

With an intimate atmosphere, warm Australian hospitality, and personal service, you quickly feel at home. All staterooms are outside facing and many have private balconies. Spacious lounge areas, communal dining, and open decks provide relaxation and the opportunity to spend time with old and new friends.

INCLUSIONS
› All excursions and sightseeing
› Use of Xplorer and inflatable tender vessels
› Daily lectures and briefings
› Small-batch meals prepared by our chef
› Showcase wines, selected beers, juices, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
› All coffee and selection of teas
› All entrance fees to National Parks and Ports

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED
› Pre and post flights, accommodation & travel insurance
› Entry visas to Australia
› Alcoholic beverages outside of lunch and dinner service
› Telephone and internet services
› Laundry
› Optional Mitchell Falls helicopter flight
Expedition Highlights

> Experience the Horizontal Waterfalls, created by a unique tidal phenomenon
> Marvel at King George River and get in close to the soaring 80m high King George Falls
> Learn from expert interpretation of ancient Wandjina and Gwion Gwion rock art
> Spot crocodiles, tawny nurse sharks, sea turtles, humpback whales, and rock wallabies
> Watch as Montgomery Reef ‘emerges’ from the sea as the tide recedes
> Follow in the wake of Phillip Parker King on a cruise up the Prince Regent River to King Cascade Waterfall

“Here the Brown Boobies thrive, along with Lesser Frigate-birds, Caspian Terns, and Pied Cormorants to name but a few. Green Sea Turtles, literally in their thousands, use the sandy beaches on the northern side as their nesting area, and we saw many of the juveniles whilst we cruised the shallow waters of the lagoon and along the southern shore.”

Lecturer Chris Done at the Lacepede Islands

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FARES

**Coral Adventurer**

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**Coral Discoverer**

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Prices are per person, listed in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST. *Limited sole use occupancy available.

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**2020 SAILING SCHEDULE**

**Coral Adventurer**

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ITINERARY: 10 NIGHTS BETWEEN DARWIN & BROOME

DAY 1: DEPART DARWIN OR BROOME
Board in Darwin at 8:00am for a 9:00am departure.
Board in Broome at 4:00pm for a 5:00pm departure.
Meet and mingle with fellow guests and crew at the Captain’s Welcome Drinks.

DAYS 2-10:
No two Kimberley cruises with Coral Expeditions will be the same, each expedition is crafted by our experienced Masters and Expedition Leaders around the astounding 10+ metre tidal range, weather and sea conditions. Below is a selection of the key destinations we visit.

KING GEORGE RIVER & FALLS
At over 80 metres, King George Falls are the highest twin falls in Western Australia. Feel humbled by nature’s awesome force as thousands of tonnes of water cascade over the ancient sandstone cliffs. Early in the season, you may cruise under the mist of the falls, while in later months we get up close to the sandstone walls to view the honeycomb erosion patterns.

VANSITTART BAY
Vansittart Bay contains many sites of cultural and historical significance. Here we have opportunity to view the remarkable Gwion Gwion galleries and Macassan sites at Jar Island. On the Anjo Peninsula, discover the wreckage of the downed C-53 Skytrooper, well-preserved since it crashed in 1942.

MITCHELL FALLS, WINYALKAN, & SWIFT BAY
Carved through layers of sandstone, Mitchell Falls descends over four tiers, creating pools of emerald green on each level. The option to take a scenic helicopter flight will give you a breathtaking view, or alternatively explore the sandstone caves of Hathway’s Hideaway or enjoy a catch and release fishing excursion. Swift Bay reveals a series of fine Wandjina art galleries.

PRINCE FREDERICK HARBOUR
At the southern end of the York Sound lies one of the most spectacular locations in the Kimberley: Prince Frederick Harbour. It is home to many islands, mangroves and monsoon rainforests, set against a backdrop of steep red escarpment. White-bellied sea eagles and other birds of prey are often seen here, and at low tide expansive mudflats reveal large populations of various mudskippers and mangrove crabs. Spot massive saltwater crocodiles on a cruise up Porosus Creek, visit art sites, and marvel at rock formations.

PRINCE REGENT RIVER & CAREENING BAY
Running on a fault line, this straight river is a haven for native species. If the tide is right, there may be an opportunity for swimming at Camp Creek, and here we visit the beautiful King Cascade.

See the National Heritage Listed ‘Mermaid Tree’ at Careening Bay. It still bears the name carved by the crew of Phillip Parker King’s ship HMS Mermaid when the ship was repaired here in 1820.

MONTGOMERY REEF
Montgomery Reef is a biologically diverse area covering over 300 sq km. Named by Phillip Parker King, this marvelous reef is home to several species of marine turtles, dolphins, dugongs, and crocodiles. As the reef emerges from the sea at low tide, we get up close in the Xplorer and inflatables to witness the spectacular. Our guides will share their knowledge on the formation of the reef and the myriad wildlife here.

DOUBTFUL BAY
Raft Point guards the entrance to this iconic area, with a host of destinations such as the mighty Sale River, Steep Island and Ruby Falls at Red Cone Creek. There may also be an opportunity to meet the Worrora people and experience the wondrous Wandjina art of Raft Point.

HORIZONTAL FALLS & BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO
The visual delight of the Buccaneer Archipelago reveals Talbot Bay. Here we find the natural wonder of the Horizontal Falls. The changing tide thunders through narrow gorges in the McLarty Ranges, and you can experience the thrill of traversing the falls at high speed aboard inflatable tenders.

At Cyclone Creek, view evidence of massive geological forces in the impressive rock formations, or take an Xplorer cruise through the Iron Islands, past Koolan Island, before enjoying sunset drinks at Nares Point.

THE LACEPEDES
Subject to weather and tides, we 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, from where we may spot many species of birds and marine wildlife.

DAY 11: ARRIVE DARWIN OR BROOME
Disembark in Darwin at 8:30am
Disembark in Broome at 8:00am
A post cruise transfer to city or airport is included.
CAPE YORK & ARNHEM LAND

Expedition Highlights

› Be immersed in the world’s oldest surviving culture in Arnhem Land
› Spend a day exploring historic Cobourg Peninsula
› Experience the history and way of life of the Tiwi people at Bathurst Island
› See Indigenous art being created at the remote art centres along the Arnhem Land coast
› Stand on the very tip of Australia at Cape York for a champagne sunrise or sunset
› Snorkel the clam gardens at Lizard Island, and coral gardens of the northern Great Barrier Reef
› Discover the renowned art, culture, and hospitality of the beautiful Torres Strait Islands

Themed Expedition: Indigenous Art

This voyage brings together cultural immersion with an understanding and experience of Indigenous art. Visit Yirrkala, Maningrida, Elcho Island, and Badu Island or Moa Island - art centres that have exhibited around the world and provide a deep and enriching understanding of Australia’s indigenous history.

Onboard, enjoy workshops exploring carving, printmaking, and sketching. Led by our guest artist, explore your creativity while drawing inspiration from the people, culture and landscapes you pass through.

2020 SAILING SCHEDULE

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ITINERARY: 11 NIGHTS BETWEEN CAIRNS & DARWIN

DAY 1: DEPARTS CAIRNS OR DARWIN
Board in Cairns at 4:00pm for a 5:00pm departure.
Board in Darwin at 7:00am for a 8:00am departure.
Meet and mingle with fellow guests and crew at the Captain’s Welcome Drinks.

DAYS 2-10:
No two Cape York & Arnhem Land cruises with Coral Expeditions will be the same, each expedition is crafted by our experienced Masters and Expedition Leaders around weather and community requirements. Below is a selection of the key destinations visited.

LIZARD ISLAND
Explore secluded Lizard Island, one of the most beautiful islands on the Queensland coast. Venture into the crystal clear waters for swimming and snorkelling or take a walk along the sparkling white beach. An energetic guided walk leads to Cook’s Look - from this peak, Captain James Cook was able to sight a navigable passage through the treacherous reef after repairing the HMS Endeavour.

FLINDERS GROUP & DAVIE REEF
Visit Stanley Island in the Flinders Group, and view the isolated Enadaen Aboriginal rock art depicting the first sailing ships to visit Queensland shores. At Davie Reef, enjoy swimming and snorkelling and observe the large seabird rookery.

FORBES ISLAND
Enjoy a day exploring Forbes Island, an excellent spot for swimming or snorkelling from the pristine sandy beaches. Take a walk to the grave of beche-de-mer fisherman Frederick Lancaster.

CAPE YORK & ISLANDS OF THE TORRES STRAIT
Go ashore at the northernmost point of the Australian continent as the sun rises, and sip champagne to welcome the new day. Later, anchoring at Thursday Island, learn about the historic pearlng fleet and the cultural differences between the Torres Strait and Aboriginal peoples. On our indigenous art themed expedition, visit the art centres at Badu or Moa Islands.

THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA
Enjoy a relaxing day at sea, with time to attend informative presentations by our guest lecturers.

WESSEL ISLANDS
We travel through the narrow channel between Raragala and Guluwuru Islands, known as the ‘Hole in the Wall’. The friendly locals of Elcho Island proudly welcome us to their community. Gain insight into their culture, and meet some of the local artists who have exhibited at art galleries around the world.

MANINGIRDA
Anchor in the mighty Liverpool River and travel ashore to explore the Maningrida Art Centre, museum, and the local boutique, where hand-painted textiles are able to be purchased.

COBOURG PENINSULA
Discover Garig Gunak Barlu National Park on the Cobourg Peninsula. Join Park Rangers in Port Essington, famous for the failed Victoria Settlement, and explore the ruins while learning about the fascinating history of this early colonial outpost.

TIWI ISLANDS
Visit remote Bathurst Island. With local Tiwi guides, we learn of the unique culture and visit the art centre. Be welcomed with a cultural performance and basket-weaving exhibition before enjoying a traditional Australian afternoon tea of damper and billy tea.

DAY 12: ARRIVAL DARWIN OR CAIRNS
Disembark in Darwin at 8:30am
Disembark in Cairns at 8:00am
A post cruise transfer to city or airport is included.
“The Kimberley region is spectacular and we were able to visit areas that would be totally unreachable by any other means - so extremely remote we did not see a single person on land anywhere - but lots of crocodiles, whales, turtles, waterfalls, Aboriginal cave art and stunning rock formations and colours. This cruise is a very special memory for us.”

Guest Testimonial