

# ITINERARY



## 11 DAY KIMBERLEY CRUISE FROM DARWIN TO BROOME



### Day 1: Welcome Aboard Reef Prince.

Your Kimberley Cruise from Darwin begins today. A charter coach will pick you up in the morning and transport you to board your vessel MV Reef Prince. Our crew will welcome you aboard, introduce you to your cabin and give you a detailed briefing. After a tasty morning tea we'll wave good-bye to the city of Darwin.

This evening as we steam towards the setting sun, you can meet your fellow travellers and friendly crew as you enjoy the view from the decks and the fresh sea air.

Relax while the Northern Territory coastline disappears as we start our journey across the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf and sail into Western Australian waters.



### Day 3: King George River

With our movements governed by nature's time keeper – the sun and moon will allow us to catch the high tide out over the sand bars.

We sadly depart the amazing King George River this morning.

Within Koolama Bay lies many hidden treasures for us to explore. A fascinating mangrove system brimming with life or an idyllic fresh water pool for a dip or perhaps a morning walk on the first of many isolated Kimberley Beaches.

Departing Koolama we cruise through the night on calm waters to arrive at our next destination.



### Day 2: Koolama Bay – The entry to King George River.

Wake in the tranquil setting of Koolama Bay. Over breakfast we'll discuss the days activities. On the high tide we'll enter the first of the Kimberley's 'big' rivers, the mighty King George. Within the King George River we'll marvel at the soaring cliffs leading to two breath taking falls of mammoth proportions. The best views are from the upper sun deck and bow. Feel the spray mist produced from billions of litres of water falling hundreds of feet as MV Reef Prince or its expedition tender is steered expertly to the majestic falls.

Those after a challenge may wish to climb the escarpment to take in the views from above and take some unforgettable photographs of the vessel and falls below.

We'll enjoy a night anchored at the base of these perfect falls.



### Day 4: Jar Island & a WWII aircraft crash site.

Our crew will lead you to several stunning displays of the distinctive Aboriginal rock art in beach caves. These easily accessible paintings are very early Bradshaw art, now known to be around 20,000 years old.

Within Vansittart Bay lies a more recent reminder of our past. After running out of fuel on its way to Broome in 1943 a DC 3 crashed. We'll go ashore to explore this well preserved site.

Departing Vansittart Bay we'll cruise west within a multitude of Kimberley Islands.

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## Day 5: Bigge islands Aboriginal Art

We awake at the northern end of Bigge Island. When the tide allows, we can go ashore to visit a very significant aboriginal art gallery on Bigge Island. Here we will discover examples of the first contact with sailing ships and pipe-smoking European seafarers of the 19th century. Keep an eye out for small rock wallabies and large salt water crocodiles. The lack of feral predators makes the Kimberley islands an ideal habitat for vulnerable mammal species.

Departing Bigge Island we cruise into Prince Fredrick Harbour then further up into the Hunter River and Porosus Creek. On the low tide we can all investigate the ecosystems hidden within the mangroves and mud flats from the comfort of our 11m expedition tender – "Regent". This ecosystem is a favourite for those who enjoy our native birds. We have a chance to spot a Great Billed Heron, White bellied sea eagle or a Chestnut Rail. For the keen fisherperson, the chance to flick a lure into the low tide run offs.



## Day 7: Prince Regent River.

On the high tide we take our vessel Reef Prince many miles up the Prince Regent River to discover a spectacular waterfall cascading over terraced rock formations. We can nose the bow of our expedition tender Regent, under the cascading falls to indulge in an unforgettable wash in the cool fresh water.

This afternoon opens many other option for us. We may choose to explore another hidden water fall further up the Regent or take a steep climb up the banks of the river to reveal the mysterious Aboriginal Bradshaw Paintings (Gwion Gwion), thought to be some of the world's oldest indigenous art, dating back 20 to 60, 000 years or climb to the top of King Cascades water fall – the choice is ours. Tonight we ride the tide out of the river to anchor just off a perfect little Kimberley beach.



## Day 6: Naturalist Island with optional scenic flights & Careening Bay

Enjoy the solitude as the Kimberley sun rise over the spectacular sandstone cliffs and invites you to share another day in Kimberley Country. This morning we move a short distance to Naturalist Island. Many try their luck in our favourite fishing patch on the incoming tide. Departing after lunch we steam for Carreening Bay.

Careening Bay was named by an early explorer Phillip Parker King after his ship, 'HMC Mermaid', was careened for repairs during his first voyage of discovery in the Kimberley. Our crew will lead you ashore to the site of a large boab tree, inscribed by the ships carpenter "HMC Mermaid – 1820", still clearly visible almost 200 years later.

This evening we enjoy yet another Kimberley sunset as we cruise towards The Prince Regent River. Awaiting the incoming tide we anchor in St George Basin for the night.



## Day 8: The beautiful Ruby Falls following a morning walk to a scenic aboriginal art gallery.

Within Collier Bay lies many Kimberley gems for us to enjoy. We'll plan our day around the huge 12m tides rising and falling every 6hrs. On the mornings low tide, after a healthy breakfast, we can stretch our legs and walk to the top of an escarpment to view a special gallery of modern Wandjina style art. Some may like the optional Indigenous tour were local aboriginals will welcome you to their land with a smoking ceremony and ochre face painting followed by story telling and a walk to their significant cyclone cave. Register your interest upon booking.

On the high spring tide we can explore Red Cone Creek for a refreshing swim within Ruby Falls. Red Cone Creek may also entice us to try our luck for a mud crab or barramundi.

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### Day 9: Montgomery Reef reveals it secrets as it 'rises' out of the ocean on the ebbing tide.

Within the heart of Collier Bay lies 400 square kilometres of Kimberley Reef System. Many consider Montgomery Reef to be their most memorable experience during their Kimberley Expedition. Join a reef cruise in our expedition tender to study the marine life.

Leaving Montgomery we cruise to Talbot Bay for the evening, the location of the commanding Horizontal Falls.

After we drop anchor we'll be greeted by our resident tawny nurse sharks who come for a friendly snuffle at our transom.



### Day 11: We've shared some amazing experiences together.

We've made some great new friends. Unfortunately today is the end of your Kimberley Cruise from Darwin and we disembark in Broome at around 10.00am. We will arrange transfers to your hotel.

To undertake some of the shore based excursions you will need to have a moderate level of fitness. You are however, quite welcome to enjoy the views from the vessel without going ashore. Please call us to discuss your requirements further.



### Day 10: Experience the Horizontal Falls

Within Talbot Bay, the region's 12 metre tides create an amazing spectacle.

This morning we'll experience the awesome power of the Horizontal Falls. On a trip through the falls our attention will be taken by the incredible geology that abounds this area. Our cruise director will point out the changes that have occurred in this region over the last 2000 million years to form the water ways we now enjoy.

Cruising through Yampie Sound witness the effects of the iron ore mining operations on Koolan and Cockatoo Islands. Visit Crocodile Creek to enjoy a fresh water swim under a cool water fall. Finally we toast to our Kimberley Expedition and enjoy afternoon drinks as the sun sets over the Buccaneer Archipelago.

### Visitors Pass (North Kimberley Region) - Wunambal Gaambera Country

The traditional indigenous owners of the Wunambal Gaambera Country of the North Kimberley Region and their representatives have recently introduced a 'Visitor's Pass' for all guests entering their lands.

As you may be aware there has been many discussions with the Aboriginal Corporations regarding the Visitor's Pass (VP). A visitor pass is now required for all passengers to access areas and visit the natural and cultural assets of the Wunambal Gaambera Country of the North Kimberley Area. The fee for 2019 has been set at \$105.00 per passenger.

This Visitor Pass fee for 2019 has not been included in our cruise fares and will, therefore, be charged over and above the cruise fare effective from 16/03/19. All fees collected are forwarded directly to the relevant traditional owners. We have been informed the fees will increase in future years. This fee of \$105 will be invoiced upon booking. We thank you for your understanding.

**Please note: This itinerary is subject to change. The skipper will customize your cruise depending on weather and tidal conditions. To undertake some of the shore based excursions you will need to have a moderate level of fitness. You are however, quite welcome to enjoy the views from the vessel without going ashore. It's your cruise so you can do as little or as much as you would like.**