

Excursion Footwear

Your excursion footwear is probably the most important consideration when deciding what to bring.

With 11m tides in the Kimberley and no wharfs to disembark onto, getting ashore will be different at each location. For the most part we bring the tenders as close to the shore as possible and you will be required to wade into shore through shallow water over sand, crushed coarse coral and rocks. Other options included disembarking onto rocky banks, dirt banks, dried mud banks and in one case, even onto a ladder.

The walks and climbs are also through varied terrain such as coarse and undulating rocks, spinifex grasslands, salt flats, mud flats, rough dirt paths and watercourses & waterfalls. Often during the tours we will be walking through water both in fresh and salt at many locations.

So with this in mind, the correct expedition shoe is critical.

We would strongly suggest you invest in a pair of trekking sandals from a brand like Keen or Teva.

There are many options in both mens and womens styles and when choosing consider a closed in toe, a solid sole with good tread, a decent arch support and quality straps that create a snug fitting around the top of your foot so it still remains firm and supportive when wet.

The advantage of these shoes is that they dry quickly when on the dedicated shoe rack onboard Reef Prince. This means they are usually dried are ready to go for the next activity.

As an alternate option you could use an old pair of sneakers or a pair of zip up dive booties but both don't allow your foot to breathe during the excursions and they are slow to dry out. They won't smell great by the end of the trip...

It is not uncommon to go ashore from the tenders multiple times during an excursion so with this in mind, it is not worth taking separate wet and dry shoes and swapping them over when you get to the beach. It simply takes too long and we don't always finish where we start so you would have to carry them along with you.

Cheaper neoprene reef walking shoes, thongs and crocs are NOT suitable.

Sounds daunting? It's not. Simply invest in a set of these shoes for your own comfort and safety and life aboard will be a lot easier. Whilst they available from many retailers, Anaconda has an extensive range of both brands.



Excursion Clothing

Please bring at least one long sleeve Hiking shirt with you. There are lots of these available and consider a quick drying nylon with a high UV rating and mesh panels for ventilation. An alternate option is one of the many brightly coloured long sleeve fishing shirts that are on the market.

If you plan to fish a lot during the trip – bring both!

Brands like Columbia, Shimano, Kathmandu, Samaki, Mountain Designs and Gondwana all have these shirt styles. Again Anaconda and BCF have excellent options.

We have a limited selection of the light blue Shimano Shirts (embroidered with our Kimberley Expedition logo) for purchase onboard.



Excursion Hats

Baseball Caps are popular but they don't offer sun protection at the sides and rear. Wide brimmed hats are great but many are floppy and not suitable when flying along at 20 knots in our high speed tenders or if it is a windy day. Consider a hat that has a stiff brim at the front and possibly even an under-chin strap or lanyard.

We have found the Sunsmart hats from Sun Protection Australia excellent and reasonably priced. They are very functional and you can wear them in a number of different ways depending on the conditions. Another excellent option is the Ocean and Earth Stiff Peaked Surf Hats.



Other Excursion Items

Any style of short is fine for the walks but we are swimming at many of the locations so quick dry board shorts are a great option.

Bring your swimming costumes.

Long pants are generally not required however if you tend to sun burn easily and are sensitive to cuts & abrasions or rashes from tall grasses, then maybe a set of lightweight hiking pants may be an option for you.

If you are a little concerned about the undulating terrain we will be walking on and you may be a little unsteady on your feet, then maybe consider a set of collapsible hiking poles for your walks.

Whilst we provide a small drawstring bag and a 800ml alloy water bottle for you, you may wish to bring your own small hiking backpack and an insulated water bottle of at least 1 litre.

We do provide beach towels but they are bulky during walks and you may wish to bring a small microfibre towel with you to dry off after a swim.

If you have a set of binoculars – please bring them, particularly if you are a keen bird or wildlife watcher.

Some people even bring a light set of swimming goggles to use in the freshwater swimming holes so they can see the underwater life.

Polarizing sunglasses in our opinion are a must if you wish to see the marine life of the Kimberley.

Sunscreen is provided but we recommend you bring your own tube to carry in your excursion backpack.

Cameras are a worthwhile consideration although most people just use phones these days. Phones are great for the wide angle and scenic photos but lack the zoom range for the wildlife and birds. If you have a camera with a zoom lens, consider bringing it along.

Paul our resident Tour Director is a pro photographer and can assist you with your photography onboard. If there are enough people interested, he can even run a photography course (which is complimentary) over the course of the 11 days. It proved to be very popular during the 2021 season.

During the trip your Tour Director will usually ask for photo contributions from all the guests and crew onboard. They will be compiled into a folder (along with a large selection of Paul's photos) and used to create a Photo USB stick. These will be available to purchase.

Onboard Considerations

All linen and towels are provided. We also provide soap and toiletry items on your ensuite. However if you have a favourite shampoo and Conditioner consider bringing that along.

For the most part we all generally walk around the Reef Prince in bare feet, even at meal times. However if you would feel more comfortable in a light pair of shoes, then bring them along. It can get hot on the outside carpet on the midday sun something light outside may help with that.

For breakfast and lunches it is a bain-marie style meal and we generally just wear casual clothes or even our excursion clothing (as it's not uncommon to return from an excursion at 11:58am to be back for a lunch at noon...).

However dinner is different. We encourage you to go and have a shower and get changed into nice clean clothing as dinner is a sit down occasion and you will be waited upon.

You don't need a dinner suit but we would expect the men to wear a nice collared shirt and the ladies a nice blouse or light dress. Shorts and bare feet are still fine.

There are one or two nights where we like to take it to the next level with alfresco dining and would expect the ladies to have a nice dress (our 3 hostesses usually wear a light but full length strapped dress on these nights) and the men to have a nice collared shirt and cargo style shorts.

We often have themed party nights so one very brightly coloured dress and shirt would be great to have. The more lairy and fun the better.....

Bring one light jumper as it may get cooler in the evenings or if we head out early on a sunrise tour.

We offer a laundry service onboard at around the middle of the trip. So we would expect you to have 4-5 changes of casual clothing onboard.

Please bring your own medications as required.

Fishing

We usually like to offer a fishing excursion as an alternate option to the scenic tour or walk. Additionally there are locations where we may troll lures for pelagic fish as the Reef Prince has two game chairs located in each rear corner of the vessel.

For the fisherman we have an extensive selection of fishing gear onboard. However if you feel you would like to bring your own rod and reel for bottom fishing or lure casting then you are welcome to do so. Please remember though that this is an Expedition boat that has options for fishing. We are not a fishing charter boat that fishes from dawn till dusk every day. So please don't hop on with bundles of rods and reel and multiple boxes of lures and tackle.

All fish caught onboard is consumed onboard and you will not be able to take whole fish or fillets when you depart.