11D10N : Australia’s Iconic Kimberley



Trip Overview

The Explorers Club
Australia's Iconic Kimberley
In collaboration with **The Explorers Club**, this exclusive expedition features environmental strategist, professional diver, and writer **Andi Cross**, leader of the *Edges of Earth* Flag Expedition, officially recognized by the UN and UNESCO's Ocean Decade.

Embark on an **11-day PONANT expedition** from **Darwin** to **Broome** and discover the untouched wilderness of **Kimberley**.

Experience the towering **King George River** and the spectacular **King George Falls**, explore the remote beauty of **Vansittart Bay** and **Swift Bay**, cruise through the wildlife-rich **Hunter River**, witness the natural wonder of **Montgomery Reef**, and encounter nesting seabirds and turtles at the **Lacepede Islands**. From dramatic waterfalls and rugged gorges to pristine coastlines and abundant wildlife, Kimberley promises an unforgettable expedition into one of the world's last great wildernesses.

Trip Highlights

- Outings and shore visits in zodiac inflatables with a team of experienced naturalist guides.
- Join our highly qualified local expedition team.
- Enjoy regular zodiac outings & shore visits to get close to Kimberley nature.
- Discover billions of years-old landscapes & ancient rock art.
- Listen to stories of the dreamtime from the oldest continuous culture on the planet.
- Explore pristine mangrove environments, home to the world's largest living reptile.
- Possibility to reach the Mitchell Falls by helicopter, from Hunter River.
- In Ashmore Reef, the opportunity to enjoy a zodiac cruise to view the abundant birdlife and marine life as well as swimming and snorkelling in the clear tropical waters.
- Witness unique tidal phenomena such as the Horizontal Falls.
- Experience the towering King George River and the spectacular King George Falls

Trip Itinerary

Destination:	Australia
Departure Location:	Darwin, Australia
Return Location:	Broome, Australia
Tour Validity:	16-26 June or 06-16 Jul 2027

Day 01: Darwin

Make your own way to pier. Embarkation from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Departure at 5:00 pm. **Darwin** is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End"

Day 02: King George River

The **King George River j**ourney is breathtaking, with 80-meter-high sandstone gorge walls showcasing ancient Warton sandstone weathering. The gorge's colors and textures change with the light, offering ever-changing, stunning scenery. The journey concludes at King George twin falls, the ***Kimberley's highest single-drop falls (80m/260ft)***. The Expedition Team guides you to the falls' base, explaining the canyon's remarkable geological formations

Day 03: 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 04: Ashmore Reef (technical stop)

Located 600km North of Broome, on the edge of the continental shelf, **Ashmore reef** consists of 3 low-lying tropical islands surrounded by coral reef. The islands have a combined land area of approximately 54 hectares and are a designated important bird area (IBA). Visitation to Ashmore reef and Islands is strictly controlled and most of the reef is designated as a sanctuary zone where access is prohibited. Our visit to Ashmore reef is required to ensure we comply with Australian government regulations. Should weather, sea and tide conditions permit there may be an opportunity for guests to undertake a zodiac tour to the vicinity of West Island.

Day 05: 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 boab tree. The famous boab tree is now 3 metres wide and National Heritage listed. A reminder of a by gone era of exploration!

Day 06: 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 07: 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 08: Collier Bay

Explore the ancient beauty of **Collier Bay**, where some of the world's highest tides create spectacular natural wonders. Witness the incredible **Montgomery Reef**, where cascading waterfalls appear as the tide recedes, and discover **Horizontal Falls**, famously described by David Attenborough as "one of the greatest wonders of the natural world." Hidden among the coastline are ancient caves featuring remarkable **Wandjina** and **Gwion Gwion** Aboriginal rock art.

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Day 10: 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 11: Broome

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 unique spectacle provided by nature…

What's included

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Full board from arrival to departure day
- High-end gastronomy in all restaurants
- All beverages in restaurants, bars, and minibars. All drinks are included[2] (a selection of champagnes, wines and spirits, beers, cocktails, water, soft drinks, hot beverages)
- 24-hour room service
- Butler service for certain suites[3]
- Unlimited internet access onboard
- Evening events, shows, and other entertainment
- Access to the fitness area and hammam or sauna, depending on the ship
- All port and security charges

PACKAGE EXCLUDE

- International air ticket
- Airport transfer
- Gratuities

Price & Cost

Date	Price	Ship
16 Jun - 26 Jun 2027	**RM 54,420**	**Le Jacques Cartier**
Superior Stateroom (pperson)	RM 54,420	Available
Deluxe stateroom (pperson)	RM 62,880	Available
Prestige Stateroom (pperson)	RM 75,120	Available
Grand Suite (pperson)	RM 93,180	Available
19 July - 29 July 2027	**RM 54,960**	**Le Jacques Cartier**
Superior Stateroom (pperson)	RM 54,960	Available
Deluxe stateroom (pperson)	RM 68,010	Available
Prestige Stateroom (pperson)	RM 78,450	Available
Grand Suite (pperson)	Fully Booked	Available