

Great Rivers: Broome to Darwin

Cruise 14: 14 night Package

Saturday September 4 to Saturday September 18 2021 - \$9,490pp

Great Rivers Cruise Package includes:

- one night's accommodation in Broome at Broome Time Resort on September 4
- coach transfer from Broome to Derby on September 5
- cruise commences September 5
- 13 night cruise from Derby to Wyndham September 5 to September 18 (details below)
- coach transfer from Wyndham to Kununurra on September 18
- flight from Kununurra to Darwin on September 18

Our final cruise of the season explores the rugged northern coastline and the estuaries and waterways of the King George and Berkeley Rivers. Admire the many bird species and marine life.

September 5: Broome & Derby

After a night's accommodation in Broome you will be picked up by a bus and transferred to Derby to board *Discovery One*. Enjoy a welcoming drink and a briefing by the Captain before you settle in, become familiar with your surroundings and relax as we cruise to the top of King Sound and the start of the Buccaneer Archipelago. You are about to begin the journey of a lifetime!

Silica Beach:

Near the entrance to King Sound on Hidden Island lies Silica Beach which boasts pure white sands and clear blue water. It's the kind of beach one imagines should be found in an island paradise. It's a lovely place for a dip.

Silvergull Creek & Squatters Arms:

Travelling down Silvergull Creek brings you to Squatters Arms, where an intriguing couple, Phil and Marion, made their home for around 20 years, after they sailed in one day and discovered this beautiful spot with its freshwater springs.

Yampi Sound & Crocodile Creek:

Yampi Sound contains islands (Irvine, Koolan and Cockatoo) which boast some of the richest iron ore deposits in the world. When mining operations existed on Koolan Island, the miners would get away to Crocodile Creek with its beautiful rock pools fed by fresh waterfalls. Situated above the creek, access is via a ladder bolted into the rock. The pools are an ideal place for a swim.

Talbot Bay & the Horizontal Falls:

Talbot Bay is home to the famous Horizontal Falls. The region's massive tides create a spectacular scene, sending huge volumes of water pouring through two narrow chasms in the land formation when the tides reach peak flow in both rising and falling conditions. With up to 10m of height difference between the waters of each of the two inland bays and the sea, water gushes through creating a mass of whirlpools, boils and raging currents. In Cyclone Creek, the incredible marine life includes impressive Tawny Nurse sharks which often come to greet Discovery One.

Raft Point:

Raft Point was so named because of the Indigenous people who were spotted with their rafts used for hunting turtles, rays and dugongs.

Montgomery Reef:

North West of Raft Point is Montgomery Reef. This 400 sq km reef can emerge up to 4m above the waterline at low tide, creating a visual spectacle of waterfalls and sea life. Several small islands dot the reef and support rich mangroves, crocodiles, turtles, birds and fish.

Sampson Inlet:

Further north is Sampson Inlet which leads into a monsoonal rainforest pocket with almost permanent fresh water. Many previous passengers have called this the most beautiful spot on the Kimberley coast. Keen photographers should remember their cameras!

Hanover Bay & Camden Harbour:

Within Hanover Bay are the pristine sands of Hanover Beach. It is here, in 1838, that Lt. George Grey unloaded his Timor ponies and began the first land based expedition of North West Australia in search of the great inland sea. The journey soon ended when he was speared by Aborigines. Despite this, Lt Grey reported back positively describing the area as 'lush and fertile'. This glowing report encouraged a group of optimistic farmers to establish a new settlement in Camden Harbour in 1864. This was a total disaster from the start. The ruins of that settlement, which lasted only 9 months, can still be seen and the graves of some of these tough pioneers can be found on nearby Sheep Island.

Saint George Basin & the Prince Regent River:

Within the St George Basin are two flat topped hills, Mt Trafalgar and Mt Waterloo, which provide a spectacular backdrop as you cruise to the mouth of the Prince Regent River. This river is the eroded remains of the longest single straight lineament in Australia, making it yet another geological wonder. Get your cameras ready as you experience some spectacular scenery, flora and fauna on our journey down this remote and pristine waterway, concluding at the majestic King Cascade Falls. This spectacular site is where American model, Ginger Meadows, was fatally attacked by a crocodile in 1987, a horror story which has been retold around the world. Keep an eye out for crocodiles as you view these magnificent falls which cascade over fern covered tiers in breathtaking splendour.

Careening Bay:

Careening Bay is within the southern part of Nelson Bay where, in 1820, Phillip Parker King careened the vessel HMC 'Mermaid' for repairs whilst surveying the Australian coastline. His carpenter carved the vessel's name into an ancient boab tree which is still visible today.

York Sound & the Hunter River:

Prince Frederick Harbour lies within York Sound and it is here that we find the Roe and Hunter River estuaries. This area boasts sensational scenery, with cathedral-like gorges and eroded sandstone features such as the Indian Head at the entrance to the Hunter River. Naturaliste Island is situated here and, during the cruise season from April onwards, it is possible for our passengers to enjoy a helicopter flight from Naturaliste Island over the geological wonder of the Mitchell Plateau with its stunning tiered falls.

Bigge Island:

Bigge Island is the second largest island on the Kimberley coast. The island is made up of ancient quartzose sandstone and is relatively flat with small steep sided hills. Fantastic shapes have been carved by nature into the sandstone along the coastal areas. The Aboriginal people have visited Bigge Island for thousands of years so it is home to some amazing rock art galleries, including Bradshaw (Gwion Gwion) and Kaiara art (a form of Wandjina Art of the Wanabul people.)

Vansittart Bay:

Vansittart Bay was named by Phillip Parker King for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Although small (about 30kms across) it has some amazing places to visit, including ancient Bradshaw or Gwion Gwion paintings. Joseph Bradshaw was the first European to record these amazing paintings in 1891, some of which have been dated at over 40,000 years old, predating the famous Wandjina figures. There is also a site where a DC3 aircraft crashed on the beach during WWII after running low on fuel. You can explore the almost intact remains of this aircraft, getting a feel for this important time in Australia's history. If there is time, you may also visit Jar Island which is the western part of the Bay. This was named by King after he found some old earthenware jars there. This is a lovely scenic island with good beaches and more Bradshaw art.

King George River:

The King George River flows into Koolama Bay and is bordered by wonderful sandstone coloured cliffs. It is here you will see the spectacular King George Falls; the tallest falls in Western Australia.

Koolama Bay:

Originally named Rulhieres Bay, Koolama Bay was re-named for the ill-fated 340ft vessel 'Koolama' that was attacked by the Japanese during WWII. After the attack she made her way into the Bay, dropped off her passengers and then travelled to Wyndham where she sank after another bombing raid.

The Berkeley River:

The stunning red ochre cliffs bordering the Berkeley River dominate the scenery as we cruise through this magical region of beautiful waterfalls and freshwater pools. The Berkeley has extensive smaller creeks feeding into it and drains the Seppelt and Collison Ranges and Gardner Plateau.

September 18: Wyndham, Kununurra & Darwin:

It is here that the cruise concludes. A bus will be waiting to take you to Kununurra for a short tour and lunch prior to your afternoon flight to Darwin.

Something extra... This itinerary lists all the places you can reasonably expect to visit on your cruise between Derby and Wyndham. It is likely, however, that there will be additional places of interest visited on the actual cruise, time and tides allowing, which is why we prefer not to give you a day by day itinerary. Some of these places are well known, but others have been charted by our Captain. Captain Lennie joined Discovery One in 2006 and has been our Captain since 2010. He has many fabulous, lesser-known spots that he loves to share with passengers - discovered during his years of travelling the Kimberley Coast. It is his aim to maximise the cruising experience for all passengers, so he will decide when and where he will take you during your 13 nights on the Kimberley coast. In this sense, every cruise is a little different and each passengers experience unique.