

Waterfall – Darwin to Broome

Cruise 3: 15 night package

Thursday April 1 to Friday April 16, 2021 - \$9,990pp

Waterfall Cruise Package includes:

- a morning flight from Darwin to Kununurra on April 1
- a coach transfer from Kununurra Airport to the Kununurra Country Club Resort on April 1
- one night's accommodation in Kununurra on April 1
- a one hour seaplane flight from Kununurra to the Berkeley River on April 2
- april 2 cruise starts (see below)
- 13 night cruise from the Berkeley River to Derby from April 2 to April 15
- a coach transfer from Derby to Broome on April 15
- one night's accommodation at Broome Time Resort, Broome on April 15
- check out of hotel and depart Broome on April 16

Explore the untouched wilderness of Australia's Kimberley coastline – a myriad of beautiful bays, inlets, beaches, reefs, rivers and of course spectacular waterfalls.

Friday 2 April 2020: Kununurra to the Berkeley River

You will be picked up from the hotel by a shuttle bus and then flown by seaplane to the Berkeley River where you will be welcomed aboard Discovery One. Settle in, become familiar with your surroundings and relax. You are about to begin the journey of a lifetime!

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.

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.

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. Be prepared for a shower! At this time of year the spray from the falls reach up to 500 meters down the gorge and the thundering noise of the falls adds to the excitement.

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.

Bigge Island:

Bigge Island is at the start of the Bonaparte Archipelago and 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.

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.

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 - 200 years on!

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.

Hanover Bay & Camden Harbour:

Within Hanover Bay are the pristine sands of Hanover Beach. It is here, in 1838, where 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.

Sampson Inlet:

Sampson Inlet 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.

Montgomery Reef:

Located at the beginning of the Buccaneer Archipelago, 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.

Raft Point:

ESE of Montgomery Reef is Raft Point so named because of the Indigenous people who were seen there with their rafts used for hunting turtles, rays and dugongs.

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, the 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.

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.

Silvergull Creek & Squatters Arms:

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

Silica Beach:

Silica Beach, on Hidden Island, boasts pure white sands and clear blue water. It's the kind of beach one imagines you'd find on an island paradise. It is a lovely place to take a dip in the shallows.

Thursday 15 April 2021: Derby & Broome

This morning we wake up in Derby. After goodbyes, an air-conditioned coach will be waiting to take you to the accommodation in Broome which has been arranged for you - or to the Kimberley Entrance Caravan Park in Derby to continue your land adventures.

Something extra... This itinerary lists all the places you can reasonably expect to visit on your cruise between the Berkeley River and Derby. 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 the Discovery One crew in 2006 and became the Captain in 2010. It is his aim to maximize 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 passenger's experience unique.

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