



## **High Season Cruise Package 9: 14 days/13 nights** Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - \$9,490 pp

### **This High Season Package includes:**

- a night's accommodation in Broome on July 4<sup>th</sup>
- a taxi/shuttle transfer from your accommodation to Broome or Derby Airport on July 5<sup>th</sup>
- a light air scenic flight from either Broome or Derby to the Mitchell Plateau on July 5<sup>th</sup>
- a scenic helicopter flight from Mitchell Plateau Airstrip to Naturalist Island on July 5<sup>th</sup>
- a 13 day/12 night cruise from the Hunter River to Derby from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>
- a bus transfer from Derby jetty to your accommodation in Derby or Broome on July 17<sup>th</sup>

**For those with vehicles, we suggest you travel to Derby where you can store your vehicles at our expense for the duration of the cruise. This replaces the accommodation in Broome.**

## **Cruise 9: 13 days/12 nights - The Mitchell Plateau to Derby** Friday July 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**This spectacular cruise is designed so that you view the magnificent Kimberley by sea in one direction, and by air in the other. You're likely to see some whales too!**

### **Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>: The Mitchell Plateau**

This morning you will be picked up by taxi/shuttle from your accommodation and taken to the airport for a scenic light air flight from Broome or Derby to the Mitchell Plateau. This is followed by a helicopter flight over the Mitchell Plateau and the spectacular Mitchell Falls. The helicopter will land on Naturalist Beach where the crew will transport you to the boat. You will be welcomed on board Discovery One and then it's time to settle in, get acquainted with the boat and relax as you take in the beauty of the Hunter River and York Sound. Your cruise of a lifetime is about to begin.

### **York Sound and 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.

### **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 viewable today.

### **Saint George Basin and 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 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 splendor.

### **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.

### **Samson Inlet & Langgi Beach:**

Samson 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. Travelling south, we reach Langgi Beach – a very significant Aboriginal site. Kimberley sandstone has eroded into amazing rock formations that nature has carved over millions of years with a multitude of shapes and colours.

### **Montgomery Reef:**

Approximately 15kms SW of Langgi, and at the beginning of the Buccaneer Archipelago, is Montgomery Reef. This 400 sq km reef can emerge up to 4mts 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. This is home to some ancient and well preserved Wandjina cave paintings. We take a walk to the caves, where you will take in the breathtaking views over Doubtful Bay and Steep Island

### **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 10mts of height difference between the waters of each of the two inland bays and the sea, as the water pushes through to two chasms it creates 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 (Iron, 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. This means that, despite the name of the creek, the pools have no crocodiles so are an ideal place for a swim.

### **Silvergull Creek & Squatters Arms:**

Travelling down Silvergull Creek brings you to Squatters Arms, where a unique 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 Silica Island, boasts pure white sands and clear blue water. It's the kind of beach one imagines to be found in an island paradise and is a lovely place to take a dip in the shallows.

### **Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup> : Derby & Broome**

Relax on the top deck and soak up the 360 degree views as we enjoy the final stretch of cruising to the township of Derby. Here the crew will bid you farewell, hoping that you will take with you memories to last a lifetime. A bus will be waiting for you at the jetty to take you to your accommodation in Derby or Broome.

**Please Note:**

**This itinerary lists all the places you can reasonably expect to visit on your cruise between the Hunter River & 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 during his 12 years of travelling the Kimberley Coast. 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 days on the Kimberley coast. In this sense, every cruise is a little different and each passenger's experience is unique.**