

## JEWELS OF THE KIMBERLEY & FARAWAY BAY

### DARWIN - BROOME

#### SAMPLE ITINERARY

*This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.*

#### DAY 1 – Darwin

Upon arrival in Darwin today you will be met and greeted by our friendly and professional Tour Director. This afternoon enjoy a city sights tour including a visit to the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Later in the afternoon we check in to the Hilton Garden Inn Darwin (Formerly The Doubletree by Hilton), enjoying harbour view rooms along the Darwin Esplanade.

Tonight, enjoy our first dinner together as we get ready to embark on our Kimberley adventure! (D)

#### DAY 2 – Scenic Flight to Faraway Bay

This morning we depart Darwin on our scenic flight to Faraway Bay. Our aircraft for the morning is Outback Spirit's state-of-the-art Cessna Grand Caravan, featuring a high wing for excellent visibility, air-conditioning and turbine reliability. This morning's flight will hug the coastline to Joseph Bonaparte Gulf and then over King George Falls before touching down at Faraway Bay, the northernmost lodge in Western Australia. Upon setting down we'll be greeted by their friendly team and transferred to the camp, where we spend the next two nights in rustic yet comfortable accommodation. All cabins feature ensuite bathrooms and stunning views of the bay.

Faraway Bay is an award winning coastal lodge nestled on a rocky hilltop overlooking the turquoise Timor Sea. Located 280 kilometres north-west of Kununurra, this far north area of Western Australia is a remote and spellbinding part of the Kimberley. With King George Falls only a short boat trip away, this unique wilderness retreat offers an experience you will never forget.

Later this afternoon we meet for sunset drinks before dinner in Eagle Lodge. (B,L,D)

Note: Passengers will need to pack down to 1 bag between 2 due to weight restrictions on the flight to Faraway Bay. Single passengers will need to re-pack into a smaller bag.

#### DAY 3 – King George Falls Marine Adventure

It's now time for one of the major highlights of your adventure: King George Falls. After waking up to birdsong and breakfast made with produce from the Ord river region, we'll head off with the lodge's expert skipper and guides for an unforgettable marine adventure.

The King George River is one of WA's most magnificent treasures, famous for its enormous twin waterfalls that stand over 70m high and descend into the Timor Sea. From a cultural point of view, the river is highly significant to the Balangarra people. To them the Falls are the male and female Wunkurr (Rainbow Serpents).

Along the coast to the King George River we travel past Koolama Bay where the merchant vessel 'Koolama' was bombed by the Japanese during World War II. Hear about the amazing story of survival and mutiny, and the untimely and unfortunate end to the 'Koolama'.

When we get to the entrance of the King George River, you can't help but feel dwarfed by the towering red rocky cliffs rising high above us. From here, we'll meander up river to the incredible Falls, and if conditions permit you'll be able to take an invigorating waterfall shower as the boat edges to within metres of the rock face.

After some time to soak up the spellbinding Falls, we'll start heading back to the lodge. Enjoy some fishing on the way and keep an eye out for other marine life including crocodiles, dolphins, dugong and manta rays to name just a few. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 4 – Faraway Bay - Mitchell Plateau

This morning we head to the airstrip for our scenic flight over the Kimberley coast to the Mitchell Plateau, and arrive at our exclusive Ngauwudu Safari Camp, the most luxurious tented camp in the Kimberley. Featuring deluxe safari suites with ensuite bathrooms, quality furnishings and

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large balconies, the camp is a magical spot for the next two nights of our adventure and the ideal base from which to discover the Mitchell Plateau and Mitchell Falls. (B,L,D)

Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights

### **DAY 5 – Exploring Punamii-Uunpuu (Mitchell Falls)**

A big walk today, but also a big highlight! After a short drive to the ranger station we'll set off on a guided 4km walking tour to the incredible Mitchell Falls (good level of fitness and mobility required). Along the way we'll discover rarely seen Gwion and Wanjina rock art galleries, accompanied by a local expert guide from Kandiwal Community. The walk also takes us past Mertens Falls before arriving at the top of the Mitchell Falls, one of the most awe-inspiring wonders of the Kimberley.

After a picnic lunch and enough time to admire the falls we'll take to the skies for a spectacular helicopter flight (included) back to where the walk started. Viewing the falls and surrounding landscape from the air is an absolute highlight, and a great way to finish off the experience! Once we're on the ground at the ranger station, we return to the camp for a well earned rest and perhaps a swim in the palm fringed creek. (B,L,D)

Please Note: For passengers not wishing to do the Mitchell Falls walk there is an option to fly down by helicopter. An Outback Spirit guide will still escort you. The flight cost is \$189.00 per person (own expense).

Please note: Weight limits apply to all scenic flights

### **DAY 6 – King Edward River - Drysdale Station**

This morning we depart the Mitchell Plateau and head back to the Kalumburu Road. Along the way we'll visit several exceptional Wanjina rock art galleries near the King Edward River and enjoy a picnic lunch.

This afternoon we arrive at Drysdale River Station, a pastoral lease which runs over 9000 head of cattle across more than a million acres. We spend the night in comfortable station cabins with private ensuite bathrooms. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 7 – Drysdale - Gibb River Road - El Questro Wilderness Park**

This morning we farewell Drysdale Station and re-join the Gibb. We then continue east and cross the Durack River before arriving at the mighty Pentecost River at the foot of the Cockburn Range. We stop to admire the view of the stunning escarpment before continuing on to the world renowned El Questro Wilderness Park where we'll spend the next two nights at Emma Gorge Resort in unique tented cabins. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 8 – Exploring El Questro**

This morning we head deeper into this iconic Kimberley wilderness park to Chamberlain Gorge, a beautiful three-kilometre-long fresh waterhole bound by towering escarpment. Enjoy a 90 minute gorge cruise and feed some of the cheeky Archerfish before visiting Zebedee Thermal Springs for a swim in the warm, crystal clear water. We then return to Emma Gorge Resort via the Station township.

After lunch, enjoy a guided walk up to the stunning Emma Gorge waterfall (2.5 hours return – a good level of fitness required, but well worth it!). Enjoy a swim in the large rock pool at the base of the falls and marvel at the beauty of the gorge, one of the best in the Kimberley. Upon returning to the resort, the rest of the afternoon can be spent at your leisure before regrouping for dinner. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 9 – El Questro - Kununurra**

Depart El Questro this morning and travel along the Gibb River Road to Wyndham and the spectacular Five Rivers Lookout, boasting dramatic views over Cambridge Gulf.

This afternoon we visit the Argyle Homestead Museum en route to Lake Argyle, the departure point for our sensational three-hour cruise down the Ord River. Enjoy the mesmerising scenery and diverse wildlife as your skipper takes you downstream to Kununurra, providing expert commentary along the way. We arrive back into Kununurra at sunset and make our way to the Kununurra Country Club for our overnight stay. (B,L,D)

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### DAY 10 – Kununurra - Bungle Bungles

This morning we depart Kununurra and head south to the World Heritage Listed Purnululu National Park (the Bungle Bungles) where we'll check in to the Bungle Bungles Savannah Lodge for our two night stay, owned by Outback Spirit in partnership with Aviair/Helispirit. The lodge features comfortable cabins with ensuite bathrooms. (B,L,D)

### DAY 11 – Exploring the Bungle Bungles

Today we explore the wonders of Purnululu, including its unique orange and black beehive shaped domes. First up, enjoy a breathtaking 18 minute scenic helicopter flight over the park with a bird's eye view of its astounding natural features. Afterwards enjoy a walk along Piccaninny Creek to the mind boggling natural amphitheatre of Cathedral Gorge. Then follow the 'dome trail' for a closer inspection of the park's unique geological formations.

This afternoon we'll head to the northern region of the Bungle Bungles to visit Echidna Chasm before returning to the lodge. (B,L,D)

### DAY 12 – Bungle Bungles - Halls Creek - Fitzroy Crossing

We depart the Bungle Bungles early this morning and back track along the infamous Bungles track. From here, we join the Great Northern Highway and head into Halls Creek.

After lunch, we turn off the highway to Mt Pierre Station where we will veer onto a track that will lead us to Mimbi Caves.

Your local guide will take you through this natural wonder which is part of the 350 Million-year-old Devonian Reef system. This amazing cave system will take your breath away with its vivid colours and limestone rock formations.

Listen to Dreamtime stories and learn about one of the most significant Devonian fossil sites in the world from the local Gooniyandi people. Enjoy freshly brewed tea and damper made the traditional way by your guides using native seeds.

Later, we head to the town of Fitzroy Crossing, the site of where the unprecedented flood events occurred in 2023.

We overnight at the Fitzroy River Lodge (B,L,D)

\*The walk into the Mimbi Caves is uneven and you will need to be reasonably confident on your feet. In the caves the light can be poor and in some places non-existent. Those suffering a fear of close spaces should be mindful of this.

### DAY 13 – Tunnel Creek & Windjana - Broome

First up this morning is a visit to Tunnel Creek National Park for a fascinating underground river walk. Next it's onto the awe-inspiring Windjana Gorge, one of the most spectacular gorges in the Kimberley. In places, the water-streaked walls of the gorge rise majestically to stand 100 metres above the floodplain. After a guided walk through the gorge we'll depart for Broome, arriving late afternoon to check in to the iconic Cable Beach Club Resort and Spa for our two night stay. (B,L,D)

\* We recommend packing water/reef shoes to take part in the Tunnel Creek walk.

### DAY 14 – Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures

Start your day early as we set off on an unforgettable full-day adventure to Horizontal Falls and the Dampier Peninsula. Your day includes a breath-taking seaplane flight, offering panoramic views of the stunning Buccaneer Archipelago, before landing in the calm waters of Talbot Bay. Enjoy either a delicious hot breakfast, or locally sourced barramundi lunch prepared by your expert hosts at the Horizontal Falls houseboat.

Throughout the day, experience a scenic cruise through the Horizontal Falls, followed by a refreshing swim in the marine viewing enclosure, where you can get up close to the local marine life. You'll also visit the renowned, third-generation Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm, learning about the rich history and culture of this family-owned business, and explore the Beagle Bay Aboriginal Community, home to the iconic Mother of Pearl Church. After a day full of adventure and discovery, we make our way back to Broome, where the Horizontal Falls team will transfer you back to your accommodation.

Later today, join us for dinner again at the Sunset Bar & Grill. (B,L,D)

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*Note: this tour may be done as drive first/fly second or fly first/drive second depending on the itinerary offered on that day. The same inclusions and activities are provided in both directions.*

*Horizontal Falls Seaplane Adventures seaplanes are governed by individual guests' weight and therefore all guests must declare their accurate weights (with clothes on) at the time of booking. All guests are weighed upon boarding for weight verification and safe loading of the aircraft. In addition to the individual weights, they also have an upper weight limit of no more than 120kg.*

*What to pack: 2kg hand luggage weight allowance is applicable per guest. Please bring water bottle, sun protection, camera and light towel.*

### **DAY 15 – Broome**

Your tour concludes after breakfast this morning and you will be transferred. (B)

*Every effort will be made by your crew to ensure that the above itinerary is followed. However, Outback Spirit reserves the right to alter the itinerary once on tour as required due to weather and track conditions or other operational considerations.*