

KIMBERLEY & TOP END EXPEDITION

BROOME - DARWIN

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 – Broome

You'll receive a warm welcome from your friendly and professional Tour Director and enjoy a town tour and leisurely afternoon before viewing a spectacular sunset from the resort. Get ready to meet new friends at your welcome dinner. **D**

Stay: 2 nights at Cable Beach Club Resort and Spa

DAY 2 – Horizontal Falls Seaplane / Jet Boat Adventure

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 breathtaking 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 Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm, learning about the rich history and culture of this third-generation 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. **B.L.D**

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.

DAY 3 – Broome - Fitzroy Crossing

Leaving Broome and the Indian Ocean behind us, travel to Derby to visit the infamous Boab Prison Tree, a culturally significant site for the local Nyikina and Warrwa people and important in the early settlement and pastoral history of the region. A visit to Derby wouldn't be complete without seeing the horseshoe-shaped wharf, which remains important for trade in the town and surrounding region today. Experience local culture with a visit to the Mowanjum Aboriginal Art & Culture Centre. **B.L.D**

Stay: 1 night at Fitzroy River Lodge

DAY 4 – Fitzroy Crossing – Mt Hart Station

Our highlight for the morning is a visit to Dimalurru (Tunnel Creek), where water has carved a large tunnel through the limestone Napier Ranges. At 750m long and up to 20m high in places, this was formed 350 million years ago as part of an ocean reef system.

Our eventual destination is Mount Hart Wilderness Lodge in the King Leopold Ranges. Nestled in a hidden oasis along the famous Gibb River Road. Steeped in history, the property was established back in 1914 as a working cattle station until it was declassified in 2000. It sits on the lands of the Ngarinyin people.

Our stay for the next two nights is in unique safari-style tents and this evening we enjoy a few drinks at the Settlers Bar before dinner. **B.L.D**

Stay: 2 nights at Mount Hart Wilderness Lodge

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

DAY 5 – Mt Hart Station

Today we explore the beauty of Mt Hart's vast wilderness. Travelling in specially built open-back safari trucks for

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Outback Spirit, take in and marvel at the stunning natural landscape.

Your guides will provide commentary on Mt Hart's National Park programs when we visit Barker Pool a serene oasis fed by spring waters so remember to pack your swimmers. Time to explore a leisurely stroll to Dolerite Gorge to take in the breathtaking vistas of Mt Hart. After returning to camp, the remainder of the day is at leisure with the opportunity to relax and explore the lodge gardens. **B.L.D**

DAY 6 – Mt Hart - Bell Gorge - Drysdale River Station

Today we travel back along the Gibb River Road and through the Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges (formerly known as King Leopold Ranges) before visiting Dalmanyi (Bell Gorge), one of the most spectacular gorges in the Kimberley. Take a guided walk down to the falls (a good level of fitness and manoeuvrability is required) and enjoy a swim in the rock pools at the top of the waterfall. Admire the view down this enormous canyon that eventually flows into Walcott Inlet.

We continue along the Gibb through Mount Barnett and onto the Kalumburu Road 'Y' junction. From here we venture north to arrive at Drysdale River Station where we overnight in comfortable station cabins with private ensuite bathrooms. Enjoy the unique and authentic atmosphere of this privately owned one-million-acre station which runs 9,000 head of cattle. **B.L.D**

Stay: 1 night at Drysdale River Station

DAY 7 – King Edward Art Sites – Nguawudu (Mitchell Plateau)

Snaking our way along the Kalumburu Road sees us ford the King Edward River. Be prepared to be moved as we visit a series of ancient Wandjina rock art galleries these sacred sites are spectacular and are regarded as some of the best in the Kimberley.

Drive through ancient Livistona Palm forests before arriving at our exclusive Ngauwudu Safari Camp, the most luxurious tented camp with ensuite in the Kimberley. Featuring deluxe safari suites with ensuite bathrooms, quality furnishings, and 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**

Stay: 2 nights at Ngauwudu Safari Camp

DAY 8 – 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 4 km walking tour to the incredible Mitchell Falls (good level of fitness and mobility required). Along the way, discover unique Gwion and Wandjina rock art galleries, with interpretation provided by a local expert guide from the Kandiwal Community. The walk also takes us past Mertens Falls before arriving at the top of the magnificent Mitchell Falls, one of the most awe-inspiring wonders of the Kimberley.

Find the perfect spot for a picnic lunch while admiring the falls before taking to the skies for a spectacular helicopter flight (included) back to where the walk began. Viewing the falls and surrounding landscape from the air is an absolute highlight and a great way to finish this unforgettable day. After today's activities, you've earned a well-deserved rest and perhaps a swim in the palm-fringed creek. **B.L.D**

*Note: For guests not wishing to do the Mitchell Falls Walk, an optional helicopter transfer is available to the top of the falls with local operators (at an additional cost). You'll still be accompanied by an Outback Spirit guide for a relaxed exploration of this remarkable site. *Passenger weight restrictions apply.*

DAY 9 – Mitchell Plateau - El Questro Wilderness Park

Farewelling the Mitchell Plateau, return to the Kalumburu Road before re-joining 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 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**

Stay: 2 nights at Emma Gorge Resort

DAY 10 – Exploring El Questro

You'd be hard pressed to find a better way to start the day than a swim in the warm, crystal-clear water at Zebedee Thermal Springs! Spend a relaxing morning here before

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visiting the hub of El Questro - the station township. The afternoon can be enjoyed at your leisure. You can choose to relax in the surrounds of the resort or take a guided walk up to the stunning Emma Gorge waterfall (2.5 hours return - a good level of fitness required, but well worth it). Either way, you are sure to appreciate some time to yourself in this magnificent Kimberley setting. **B.L.D**

DAY 11 – El Questro - Bungle Bungles

Reaching the end of the Gibb River Road feels quite an accomplishment; however, it's onwards and upwards to Wyndham and the sensational Five Rivers lookout. Enjoy morning tea and admire the views over Cambridge Gulf before heading further south to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Purnululu National Park (the Bungle Bungles) and Bungle Bungle Savannah Lodge where we'll stay for the next two nights in unique eco-cabins with ensuite bathrooms. **B.L.D**

Stay: 2 nights at Bungle Bungle Savannah Lodge

DAY 12 – Exploring the Bungle Bungles

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 the astounding features of this environmental masterpiece. Afterwards, take a walk along Piccaninny Creek to the mind-boggling natural amphitheatre of Cathedral Gorge and 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 for another guided hike. This popular walking trail is known for its orange glow gorge walls. **B.L.D**

DAY 13 – Ord River Cruise - Kununurra

It's goodbye to the Bungle Bungles as we travel back up the Great Northern Highway, passing through Kununurra and head to Lake Argyle, with a visit to the historic Durack Homestead en route to learn about the early pastoral settlers of the region. This afternoon we board an exhilarating three-hour cruise down the spectacular Ord River and learn about the Ord River Irrigation Scheme from your knowledgeable skipper, arriving in Kununurra just as the sun seeks the horizon. **B.L.D**

Stay: 1 night at Kununurra Country Club

DAY 14 – Kununurra - Katherine

Another day on the road, our journey sees us travelling over 500km along the Victoria Highway towards Katherine, crossing over the border into the Northern Territory. We'll pass through Timber Creek and Victoria River before arriving in Katherine for a town tour to get our bearings. Enjoy modern comfort overnight at Cicada Lodge, which is located close to the Katherine "Nitmiluk" Gorge. **B.L.D**

Stay: 1 night at Cicada Lodge

DAY 15 – Katherine - Kakadu National Park - Cooinda

Embark on one of the most famous cruises in the Northern Territory, the Katherine River Gorge cruise in Nitmiluk National Park. Carved through ancient sandstone by the Katherine River, this deep gorge with towering sheer rock walls is one of the most stunning in the Territory. Enjoy a two-hour cruise in a canopied cruise boat (the cruise requires a moderate level of fitness with approx. 2 km of walking over rocky paths – guests are required to board and disembark boat unassisted) before making our way north along the Stuart Highway. The Kakadu Highway is our entry point into the iconic Kakadu National Park. This afternoon we check in to the Cooinda Lodge Kakadu for our two-night stay. **B.L.D**

Stay: 2 nights at Cooinda Lodge

DAY 16 – The Mystery of Arnhem Land

The day begins with breathtaking views over the Arnhem Land floodplains from Ubirr Rock, a sacred site where ancient rock art will be revealed. Then, ford the East Alligator River and venture into Arnhem Land for a visit to the Injalak Arts & Crafts Centre, a captivating hub of creativity nestled in the heart of Gunbalanya. Here, watch talented artists create exquisite pieces right before your eyes!

Returning to Cooinda, we'll take the highly renowned wildlife cruise on Yellow Water Billabong. Guided by knowledgeable locals you'll be amazed at the diversity of this extraordinary wetland ecosystem and associated wildlife. As the sun paints the water's surface with a warm golden glow, see basking crocodiles, vibrant birdlife, and settle into the tranquil rhythm of nature.

B.L.D

DAY 17 – Cooinda - Darwin

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Litchfield National Park awaits; it's one of mother nature's finest works where waterfalls cascade off the Tabletop Range into tranquil waterholes. You'll have time to explore Florence & relax in the spacious picnic area and watch Wangi Falls' twin falls cascade into the plunge pool below enticing you in for a refreshing swim.

Arriving in Darwin late afternoon, we check in to harbour view rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Darwin for our final night together; we'll board the Charles Darwin for a delicious Territory-style sunset dinner cruise and celebrate a truly amazing trip celebrating newfound friends on an epic adventure! **B.L.D**

DAY 18 – Darwin

Take in the city sights of Darwin on a tour that includes Cullen Bay, Stokes Hill Wharf, and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (subject to opening hours) before we bid goodbye to an amazing cross-country odyssey. **B**

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