



Luxury Small Ship Expeditions
Australia's Kimberley Coast
April to September 2021

*Uncover Australia's
Best Kept Secret!*





Your Luxury Kimberley Expedition with PONANT awaits!

The Kimberley is one of Australia's greatest natural assets and is also one of the world's last great wilderness frontiers. Larger than 75% of the world's countries, it is a wild stretch of land with remote and spectacular scenery spread over a huge area of 424,517 km². Due to its remote location and vastness, there really is no better way to visit the Kimberley coast than aboard a small expedition ship, that can take you right into the heart of this incredible destination. With PONANT you can do this, exploring in depth one of the oldest of regions, whilst aboard the newest of ships, that are also the most environmentally friendly in the Kimberley!

Join us in the Kimberley in 2021!

In 2021, *Le Lapérouse* will return to the Kimberley and will be joined by our sistership, *Le Soléal*. Not only will you have the choice of PONANT's classic 10 night itinerary between Darwin and Broome, you will also be able to choose from two new PONANT & NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Expeditions offering brand new extended itineraries that will be further enriched by the presence of a National Geographic Expert and a Photographer on board.

No matter which itinerary you choose, an expedition along the Kimberley coast promises to provide an exceptional adventure.

See you on board soon!

Unforgettable Experiences

Our Kimberley voyages are true expeditions, where each day's activities are uniquely determined by the Expedition Leader and Captain considering the tide, season, weather and sea conditions. Below you will find some of the incredible locations and activities you may experience on a luxury expedition with PONANT in 2021.



▲ ENJOY THE THRILL OF THE HORIZONTAL WATERFALLS

Described by Sir David Attenborough as “one of the greatest wonders of the natural world”, the Horizontal Waterfalls in Talbot Bay are an iconic Kimberley sight. The falls are created when seawater builds up faster on one side of the breaks in the McLarty Range than the other, due to different tidal differences, creating a waterfall. A Zodiac® excursion will take you up close to observe this phenomena while an optional* ‘fast boat’ ride through the falls will offer a more exhilarating experience.

► EMBARK ON A WILDLIFE ZODIAC® SAFARI

Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River have some of the most pristine mangrove forests in the world and you will be lucky enough to explore this incredible area in Zodiac® boats. As you navigate through ancient rainforest pockets, around mud banks and mosaic sandstone cliffs, which contain up to 18 different species of rich and diverse fauna including numerous bird species, make sure you are also on the look out for the earth's largest and deadliest living reptile, the saltwater crocodile!



► WITNESS MIGRATING HUMPBACK WHALES

The Kimberley offers the prime viewing location to spot Humpback whales. Between May and December each year they make their way from the Southern Ocean along Australia's west coast to the warm breeding grounds north of the Kimberley. So keep those binoculars handy at all times and if you are lucky you may get the chance to observe these giants up close, breaching and tail-slapping or swimming with their calves.



▲ OBSERVE THE MAGNIFICENT TIDAL MOVEMENTS OF MONTGOMERY REEF

The Kimberley has the third largest tidal range on the planet - Montgomery Reef. At just under 400 km² in size it is Australia's largest inshore reef. On a Zodiac® excursion you will get the chance to witness the incredible tidal movements of this reef, seeing the exposed reef system, when the tide drops, with its cascading mini waterfalls.

▲ MARVEL AT ANCIENT ABORIGINAL ROCK ART

Join your expedition team ashore for guided walks to visit two Aboriginal rock art galleries. The first at Jar Island in Vansittart Bay to see ancient Gwion Gwion style rock art, unique to the Kimberley region, and believed to date back over 30,000 years making it the oldest depiction of human figures in the world. The second is at Swift Bay where an abundance of heavily fractured sandstone rock shelters plays host to Wandjina style rock art.



▲ EXPLORE KING GEORGE RIVER & FALLS

A Zodiac® excursion navigating the King George River will be nothing short of breath-taking. Travel up river past 80 metre high sides of ancient Warton sandstone gorges observing the varying degrees of weathering. Then while your naturalist guide enriches your knowledge of these magnificent geological formations, observe the changing colours and textures of the gorge with the light. The journey will then culminate at the King George twin falls, the highest single drop falls in the Kimberley and a spectacular sight to behold.



▲ GO BIRDING IN THE LACEPEDE ISLANDS

The Lacepede Islands have been named by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The breeding colony of Brown Boobies here is possibly the largest in the world. Up to 20,000 Roseate Terns have also been recorded here. Other birds breeding on the islands include Masked Boobies, Australian Pelicans, Lesser Frigatebirds, Eastern Reef Egrets, Silver Gulls, Crested, Bridled and Lesser Crested Terns, Common Noddies, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers. A Zodiac® safari with your naturalist guides will have you exploring the islands and spotting their prolific birdlife.

▼ SPOT GREEN SEA TURTLES

The green sea turtle is the most common species that can be spotted along the Kimberley coast, and is easily identifiable with its heart-shaped brown shell, which can be up to a metre long. With the Lacepede Islands being one of their most important breeding habitats, you might be lucky enough to see one during your Kimberley expedition.



► ENJOY A RIDE TO THE TOP OF MITCHELL FALLS

The Mitchell Plateau is one of the most scenic and biologically important areas of Australia. It contains small patches of rainforest growing around the margins of the plateau while the Mitchell River carves gorges and waterfalls into the underlying sandstone. The highlight of this area is the four tiered Mitchell Falls that flow continuously throughout the year. Accessible only by air, you will be given the option* of taking a helicopter tour to visit Mitchell Falls and the plateau, an unmissable experience!



▲ ENJOY RELAXING KIMBERLEY EVENINGS ABOARD

After a day of exploration and activities, enjoy relaxing evenings on board your luxurious floating base camp. Start with a refreshing dip in the outdoor infinity pool, celebrate a beautiful Western Australian sunset (some of the best in the world!) with a champagne or cocktail, then as dusk starts to fall, dine out on deck, watching as the light slowly disappears and is soon replaced by a magnificent sky full of stars.



▲ BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE SHORT-EARED ROCK-WALLABY

The rock-wallaby, a small, playful marsupial, can be recognised by its short grey coat. It particularly likes arid environments, where it seeks out cool caves and fissures and can be spotted leaping around the Kimberley's rocks and cliffs. Unlike most of its species, they prefer to live in small groups consisting of a single male and several females and their offspring. They are primarily nocturnal but are known to venture out during the day to sun themselves on the rocks, so keep your eyes out for them when you come ashore.

Welcome Aboard!

Sail the Kimberley on board PONANT's small luxury expedition ship, *Le Lapérouse*, purpose-built for exploring and experiencing this ancient coastline. With the ship's compact size and manoeuvrability she can easily navigate narrow waterways, more closely meander the pre-historic coast, and slip into smaller bays. Not only will you travel in luxurious style but you will also be on board the youngest and most sustainable vessel currently sailing the Kimberley coast.

Joining her in the Kimberley will be our sistership, *Le Soléal* - learn more about the ship [here](#).

OUTDOOR INFINITY POOL:

Enjoy the tropical Kimberley weather by cooling off in the outdoor infinity pool offering a panoramic view and counter-current swimming system. After, you can relax in deck chairs soaking up the sun, then later, watch the sunset whilst enjoying a refreshing drink at the outdoor bar and lounge.



WELLBEING CENTRE: On board find a dedicated space entirely devoted to your wellbeing. Luxury treatments at the spa, a fitness gym housing everything you need to stay fit while travelling, a panoramic sauna for relaxation and a hair salon to prepare you for evening events.



MARINA PLATFORM: A hydraulic platform with adjustable height enables convenient access to 10 Zodiac® expedition boats for in depth exploration and shore landings.



RESTAURANTS: Delight in modern cuisine prepared by French chefs and accompanied by a selection of French and International wines that can be enjoyed at two restaurants, the panoramic à la carte restaurant and the alfresco grill.



REFINED SERVICE, LUXURY & COMFORT:

With a capacity of only 92 staterooms and suites, and 110 crew members, you can be assured that you will receive personal, friendly and attentive service, just one of the perks of being on board a small ship. You will also experience superior luxury and comfort and a relaxed French ambience, that is PONANT's indelible signature.



STATEROOMS & SUITES:

On board you will find 92 staterooms and suites ranging from a 19 m² Deluxe Stateroom to a 45 m² Owner's Suite. Each room has a private balcony, shower, free mini-bar, TV with video on demand, Hermès bath products, 24 hour room service and complimentary Wi-Fi.



LECTURES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

Days aboard will be enriched by informative lectures and daily briefings from your experienced expedition team. Regular activities and events will also keep you entertained and include food tastings, dinner events, dance classes, trivia games, movie screenings and evening performances.



LOUNGES & BARS: Multiple lounges on board offer a relaxed atmosphere to appreciate PONANT's Open Bar#. Choose from either the Panoramic Lounge located at the front of the ship on Deck 6 or the Main Lounge at the back of the ship on Deck 3.



BLUE EYE UNDERWATER LOUNGE:

Our Explorer ships are equipped with a world-first underwater lounge called *Blue Eye*. Located below water level, marine life can be viewed through two large windows while hydrophones capture the acoustic waves of the sea which are transmitted into the lounge and can be heard and felt through Body Listening sofas, offering a unique multi-sensory experience.

Our 2021 Kimberley Cruises



Australia's Iconic Kimberley

OUR MOST POPULAR ITINERARY

DARWIN • BROOME 11 days / 10 nights

LE LAPÉROUSE - 28 April, 18 May, 7 & 27 June, 17 July, 18 August & 7 September 2021.

LE SOLÉAL - 30 June, 20 July & 9 August 2021

From AUD 12,980 pp*¹ in a Deluxe Stateroom

BROOME • DARWIN 11 days / 10 nights

LE LAPÉROUSE - 18 April & 19 & 28 August.

LE SOLÉAL - 10 & 30 Jul & 19 August 2021



DAY	ITINERARY
1	Darwin (Australia). Embarkation from 16h00 to 17h00 Departure at 18h00
2	Pulau Meatimiarang (Technical Stop) (Indonesia)
3	Wyndham (Australia)
4	King George River (Australia)
5	Vansittart Bay (Australia)
6	Swift Bay (Australia)
7	Hunter River (Australia)
8, 9	Collier Bay (Australia)
10	Lacepede Islands (Australia)
11	Broome (Australia) - Disembarkation at 06h00

DAY	ITINERARY
1	Broome (Australia). Embarkation from 16h00 to 17h00 Departure at 20h00
2	Lacepede Islands (Australia)
3, 4	Collier Bay (Australia)
5	Careening Bay (Australia)
6	Hunter River (Australia)
7	Swift Bay (Australia)
8	Vansittart Bay (Australia)
9	King George River (Australia)
10	At sea
11	Darwin (Australia) - Disembarkation at 06h00

Please note: The itineraries on these pages are given as an indication only and cannot be guaranteed. Depending on tide times and weather conditions, the Captain and the Expedition Leader may need to change scheduled included daily activities or even the ports of call or their order around to ensure the safety of guests and to offer the best possible expedition experience.

EXPEDITIONS

Enrich your Kimberley exploration with National Geographic on board three exclusive new expeditions!

A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

They will share their photography tips and assist you in capturing those once-in-a-lifetime moments.

A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT

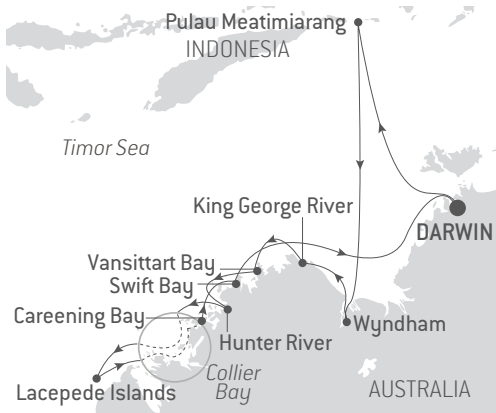
They will offer their knowledge and rare behind-the-scenes perspective on the Kimberley.

The Essential Kimberley

NEW ITINERARY

DARWIN • DARWIN 13 days / 12 nights
LE LAPÉROUSE - 6 August 2021
LE SOLÉAL - 29 August 2021
From AUD 14,170 pp*2 in a Deluxe Stateroom

This expedition cruise is our most comprehensive Kimberley itinerary, visiting all the emblematic Kimberley sights, and including visits to both Wyndham and Careening Bay.



DAY	ITINERARY
1	Darwin (Australia). Embarkation from 16h00 to 17h00 Departure at 18h00
2	Pulau Meatiarang (Technical Stop) (Indonesia)
3	Wyndham (Australia)
4	King George River (Australia)
5	Vansittart Bay (Australia)
6	Hunter River (Australia)
7	Collier Bay (Australia)
8	Lacepede Islands (Australia)
9	Collier Bay (Australia)
10	Careening Bay (Australia)
11	Swift Bay (Australia)
12	At sea
13	Darwin (Australia) - Disembarkation at 07h00



Aboriginal Art of the Kimberley and Tiwi Islands

NEW ITINERARY

BROOME • DARWIN
 14 days / 13 nights
LE LAPÉROUSE - 17 September 2021
From AUD 18,400 pp* in a Prestige Stateroom

This new expedition focuses on Aboriginal Art with an extra visit to the rock art gallery on Bigge Island and the Aboriginal Art galleries of Kununurra and the Tiwi Islands.

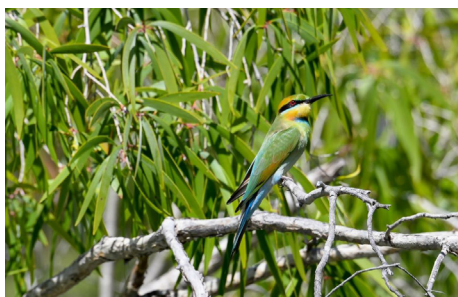


DAY	ITINERARY
1	Broome (Australia). Embarkation from 16h00 to 17h00 Departure at 20h00
2	Lacepede Islands (Australia)
3, 4	Collier Bay (Australia)
5	Bigge Island (Australia)
6	Hunter River (Australia)
7	Swift Bay (Australia)
8	Vansittart Bay (Australia)
9	King George River (Australia)
10	Wyndham (Australia)
11	Pulau Meatiarang (Technical Stop) (Indonesia)
12	Wurrumiyanga, Tiwi Islands (Australia)
13	Pirlangimpi, Tiwi Islands (Australia)
14	Darwin (Australia) - Disembarkation at 07h00

Explore the Wyndham Region

COMPLIMENTARY
EXCURSIONS!

Wyndham, the northernmost town in Western Australia, and in many ways the gateway to the Kimberley, is surrounded by some of the most spectacular landforms, rivers and wetlands. Guests on expeditions that visit Wyndham will choose one complimentary excursion^ from the three options below:



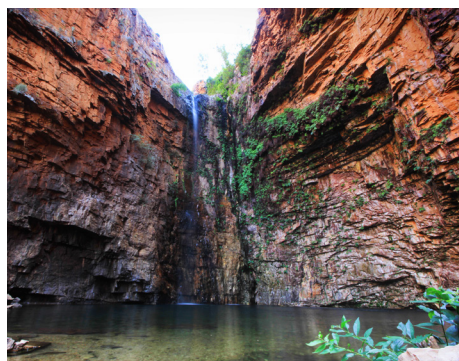
Ord River Tour (8 hours)

Cruise along the massive 55 km stretch of river between Kununurra and Lake Argyle (Ord River Dam), witnessing one of the most beautiful river ecosystems in Australia, created from the damming of the Ord River at two locations - Diversion Dam and an enormous wall further upstream which created Lake Argyle. What has resulted here is an area rich in wildlife, flora and scenic beauty. This is a must-do excursion for bird lovers or those wanting to spot freshwater crocodiles!

Bungle Bungle Scenic Flight

(5 hours including a 2 hour flight)

Observe from the sky Lake Kununurra, the Ord River, the Carr Boyd Range, Lissadell Homestead, the Osmand Range, and the Purnululu National Park. Then, once reaching the Bungle Bungle Range you will witness an imposing sight of orange and black beehive-like mounds, encased in a skin of silica and algae, and surrounded by gorges, pools and fan palms. You will then return on an alternative route flying over the Argyle Diamond Mine.



El Questro Tour (12 hours)

After your scenic drive to El Questro, located on the eastern perimeter of the Kimberley, visit Emma Gorge, one of the most spectacular gorges in the region. Next take a 1 hour guided walk through the wilderness ending at a large waterhole with a droplet waterfall, perfect for a refreshing swim. Another short hike through Livistona Palms will have you arriving at Zebedee Springs, a series of rocky thermal pools, for another relaxing soak. In the afternoon enjoy a Chamberlain Gorge cruise along a fresh waterhole containing diverse flora and fauna, a location only accessible by boat.

Please note: These excursions are not available on the "Aboriginal Art of the Kimberley and the Tiwi Islands" expedition as it will have an alternative itinerary in Wyndham to better suit the cruise theme, visiting the Warungarri Arts Centre and Artlandish Gallery in Kununurra.

Add to Your Adventure

Whilst during your Kimberley expedition amazing activities are included at each port, why not enhance your Kimberley experience with the following optional* tours. Please contact your Travel Agent or PONANT for prices and to pre-book your tour.



Mitchell Falls Helicopter Flight & Landing (90 minutes)

The only way to access Mitchell Falls is by helicopter, so this is a must-do experience if you want to see the falls. This tour includes a 20 minute flight from Naturalist Island (accessed by Zodiac® boats) that will fly over the falls before landing on the Mitchell Plateau. Upon landing you will have approximately 50 minutes to explore the area before your return flight. From the landing site it is a short 10 minute walk to some great spots to photograph the quadruple drops of Mitchell Falls. You may even have time for a refreshing swim in the river. Your return flight will be via a different route providing an alternative view of the vast lands of the Kimberley region.



Fast Boat Ride through the Horizontal Falls (30 minutes)

From Talbot Bay, don't miss the opportunity to pass through the Horizontal Falls. While our included Zodiac® excursion will explore Cyclone Creek and the falls, due to the strength of the tides our Zodiac® boats don't pass through the Horizontal Falls during peak flow. So to experience the thrill of the falls in full tidal movement you need a larger, faster boat. This tour provides this, and on a rigid hulled inflatable boat you will enjoy an exhilarating ride on these turbulent waters, travelling at top speed through the gaps in the sandstone walls and experiencing the foaming rapids up close.

Please note: It is possible for guests to still go on the included Zodiac® excursion scheduled at both these ports as well as the optional tour but this cannot always be guaranteed.

Meet your Expedition Team

Selected for their knowledge and expertise, our Expedition Team of 12 naturalists will join you aboard and escort you on Zodiac® outings, guide you on shore, offer enriching lectures and provide daily briefings. Below are just some of PONANT's Expedition Team members that you may meet on board.



Mick Fogg - *Expedition Manager Asia Pacific*

Award-winning wildlife photographer and adventurer, Mick has spent the past 19 years leading expeditions and photographing some of the world's most remote destinations from Antarctica to South East Asia. He has contributed to articles on the Kimberley and had photographs published in newspapers and magazines around the world. Mick joined PONANT in 2014 as Expedition Manager Asia Pacific, bringing his years of experience in itinerary design and operation, having led more than 130 expeditions through the Kimberley.



Jamie Van Jones - *Expedition Leader*

Jamie is a passionate environmentalist and sustainable development practitioner. She has worked in international development and also in the Australian environmental sector with NGO's such as The Wilderness Society and Conservation Council. Jamie teaches eco-living courses and coordinates ocean health and citizen science adventure expeditions to raise awareness about ocean health. Jamie has a passion for nature and our planet and shares that with anyone she meets.



Sandrine Erwin-Rose - *Expedition Operations Manager Asia Pacific*

Born in the Mediterranean, Sandrine's first memories are of pouring over Jacques Cousteau's books. After migrating to North Queensland, with the Great Barrier Reef as her backyard, her curiosity for wildlife continued later pursuing studies in Tropical Zoology, Ecology & Marine Biology. Whilst at university Sandrine worked in areas rich in biodiversity from the tropical rainforests and reefs of North Queensland, to arid desert landscapes. Working for PONANT since 2014, Sandrine likes to share her passion for wildlife, conservation and the protection of the environment.



Sebastian Jones - *Assistant Expedition Leader*

Born in Western Australia, Sebastian's love for rocks and the Earth saw him become a Geologist. Spending 10 years exploring for minerals in Western Australia and the Tundra of Canada, his career highlights include being part of a team that discovered a major gold deposit. Besides rocks, Sebastian loves the ocean, has sailed around the world and has commercial maritime qualifications, so also skippers charter vessels and runs sailing courses. Sebastian is an experienced guide who is passionate about sharing his knowledge of the formation of the Earth.

Why Travel to the Kimberley with PONANT?

- PONANT is the World Leader of Luxury Expeditions with over 20 years' experience.
- The youngest fleet of state-of-the-art, small and environmentally-friendly ships in the world.
- Small ships with a maximum of only 132 staterooms and suites offering an intimate experience.
- Expeditions led by PONANT's experienced teams of naturalist guides and destination experts.
- Exciting Zodiac® outings and shore landings that bring you up close to the Kimberley's untamed landscapes and extraordinary wildlife.
- Expedition cruises are all-inclusive: staterooms with a private balcony, all meals, Open Bar#, free Wi-Fi, as well as all Zodiac® outings, shore excursions and lectures.
- French touch on board: luxury amenities, elegant decor, refined cuisine and wine selection.





*World Leader of
Luxury Expeditions*

INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

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reservations.aus@ponant.com

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* Advertised prices are based on the Ponant Bonus fare per person, in Australian Dollars (AUD), based on a double occupancy, including port taxes, yield managed, correct at time of writing – 24/02/2021. Refer to au.ponant.com for the latest fares and availability. Prices also include a transfer in Broome. On the Darwin to Broome cruises a transfer from the port to the airport or hotel is included while on Broome to Darwin cruises a transfer from Broome city to the port is included. (1) Based on 9 August 2021 cruise. (2) Based on 29 August 2021 cruise in a Prestige Stateroom Deck 5. * Optional tours include a surcharge and must be pre-booked and pre-paid a minimum of 90 days prior to departure. Limited space is available with bookings taken on a "first-in" basis. A minimum number of participants is required to confirm these tours. # Open Bar includes wine, beer, French champagne, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages. Premium beverages and brands available at an additional cost. ^ Due to the duration of these excursions, it is only possible to participate in one complimentary excursion in Wyndham. These excursions need to be pre-booked a minimum of 90 days prior to departure. Limited space is available with bookings taken on a "first-in" basis. A minimum number of participants is required to confirm these excursions. Photographs © PONANT Nick Rains, Mick Fogg, Christophe Dugied, Eva Robert, François Lefebvre / Studio PONANT: Laure Patricot, Lorraine Turci / iStock / Shutterstock: Matt Cornish. Release Date: February 2021.