

VOYAGE INFORMATION

Voyage Name	Kimberley Explorer
Voyage Code	KIE090821G
Dates	09 – 19 August, 2021
Duration	11 days / 10 nights
Start	Broome
Finish	Broome
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Optional Activities	Heli-flight to Mitchell Falls Seaplane flight over Horizontal Waterfalls
Forms Due	09 May, 2021

VOYAGE SUMMARY

The spectacle of the western Kimberley coast beckons. Marvel at the contortions of a rocky landscape that's been sculpted across an implausible geological timescale. Be awed by the power of its waters, with massive tides, foaming whirlpools and rapid currents. Visit Aboriginal rock art galleries to meet enigmatic beings of *Wandjina* tradition. Zodiac-cruise mighty rivers and meandering creeks while you search the muddy banks for a sunning saltwater crocodile or gaping mudskipper fish, or sit quietly alongside lush mangrove forests delighting in a morning chorus of birdsong. At sea, keep an eye out for breaching humpback whales, bobbing heads of curious green sea turtles, sleek manta rays, shy dugongs and the endemic snubfin dolphin. At the end of each day, drink in the spectacular Kimberley sunset and reflect on your new adventures.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1	Embark ship in Broome
Days 2–3	Yampi Sound, Collier Bay, Montgomery Reef
Day 4	Prince Regent National Park
Day 5	Northwestern Kimberley, Montague Sound
Day 6	Prince Frederick Harbour, Hunter River
Day 7	Brunswick Bay Area
Days 8–9	Northern Collier Bay, Talbot Bay, Horizontal Falls
Day 10	Lacepede Islands
Day 11	Disembark in Broome

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy Mother Nature's artistry displayed in the contorted and weathered rock sculptures around Yampi Sound.
- Discover Montgomery Reef – Australia's largest in-shore reef – and the diversity of its marine life.
- Visit Careening Bay's iconic 'Mermaid' tree, and discover the outstanding biodiversity of the Prince Regent National Park.
- Keep an eye out for some of the estimated 40,000 humpback whales returning from Antarctica to give birth in the warmer waters of Lalang-Garram/Camden Sound Marine Park.

TRIP NOTES



- Marvel at the thousands of brown boobies that call the Lacedpede Islands their breeding home.

EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival transfer from airport or hotel to Greg Mortimer on Day 1
- Departure transfer from Greg Mortimer to airport or hotel on last day
- Onboard accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Fast boat ride through the Horizontal Waterfalls
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic
- A spray jacket per person
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Gratuities for ship crew

EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights, not mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Embark in Broome

You're welcomed aboard the *Greg Mortimer* this afternoon, and shown your cabin before mandatory safety drills are carried out. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet fellow expeditioners at our voyage briefing, and Captain's Welcome Dinner. Enjoy the rich colours of our first Kimberley sunset as we depart Broome and set sail on our Kimberley adventures.

Days 2-3 Yampi Sound, Collier Bay

Over these next expedition days, the nature and timing of our outings will be dictated by the tides and tidal currents.

Explore a maze of jewel-like islands encircled by foaming whirlpools and rapid currents; and marvel at Mother Nature's artistry in the contorted sculptures of a rocky landscape around Yampi Sound and Strickland Bay. Discover Montgomery Reef – Australia's largest in-shore reef, covering some 400 square kilometres – and the diversity of its lively marine life. On a falling tide, witness the extraordinary phenomenon as the reef appears to 'rise' from the sea as foaming water cascades off it, and seabirds arrive to forage as the reef's tasty inhabitants are exposed.

Day 4 Prince Regent National Park

Enjoy forays into the coastal fringes of the Prince Regent National Park, and explore the outstanding biodiversity that earned it its 'UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve' status. Experience picturesque Careening Bay – the place where Phillip Parker King chose to careen and repair His Majesty's Cutter *Mermaid* in September 1820 – and discover the large boab tree on which King's crew carved 'HMC Mermaid' some 200 years' ago. Visit this slice of early Australian history; look for vibrant *mulla mulla*, ancient cycads, and spiralling pandanus in the surrounding woodland; and enjoy a gentle stroll along the wide sandy beach.

Day 5 Northwestern Kimberley, Montague Sound

In the remote north-western reaches of the Kimberley, we plan to explore the treasures around Montague Sound. The series of rugged sandstone shelters, caves and overhangs whose surfaces are adorned with largely *Wandjina* style rock art, as well as large middens, reflect the significance of the site to the *Wunambal* people.

Day 6 Prince Frederick Harbour, Hunter River

Delight in the breath-taking scenery of Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River – from the colossal sandstone escarpments and full palette of greens in the lush mangrove forests, to the rhythmic flitting of a friarbird, soaring flight of a white-bellied sea eagle, and flicker of a sunning saltwater crocodile's eye. Join the expedition team to explore these dynamic waterways by Zodiac.

An optional scenic heli-flight may be on offer today, allowing for visit to Mitchell Falls as well as spectacular bird's eye view of the diverse colours, textures and patterns of the landscape from the turquoise-blue waters of the coast to the rugged Mitchell Plateau.

Day 7 Brunswick Bay Area

Brunswick Bay's hidden inlets and quiet estuaries provide a host of opportunities to excite our inner explorer, before we sail south into the Lalang-Garam/Camden Sounds Marine Park. Considered the most important humpback whale nursery in the southern hemisphere, it's a seasonal sanctuary for an estimated 40,000 humpback whales returning from Antarctica to give birth in these warmer waters. Keep watch for the sea snakes, dugongs, sea turtles, and dolphins that also call it home.

Days 8-9 Northern Collier Bay & Talbot Bay

Over these next expedition days, the nature and timing of our outings will be dictated by the tides and tidal currents.

The striking landscapes around Collier Bay provide a myriad of adventures. Be enthralled by the unique geology and massive tides that create the Horizontal Waterfalls in Talbot Bay where you have the opportunity to take a thrilling boat ride through the falls*. Quietly cruise the meandering waterways of Cyclone Creek, and remain alert for glimpses of shy rock wallabies.

**Please note that while Zodiacs are not permitted to pass through the Horizontal Falls, our explorations will include views from the outer waters of Talbot Bay. We plan to offer you the opportunity to pass through the falls on a fast boat with a local operator (included in expedition cost). You may also have the option to spy this unique landscape from above on an optional seaplane flight (additional cost).*

Day 10 Lacepede Islands; At sea

Weather permitting, delight in the thousands of brown boobies that call the Lacepede Islands – a group of offshore sand and coral cays – their breeding grounds. The brown booby colony is possibly the largest in the world, with an estimated 18,000 breeding pairs. Other seabirds may also be spied, including lesser frigatebirds, crested and roseate terns, eastern reef egrets, and pied oystercatchers; as well as the bobbing heads of curious green turtles or sleek shovel-nosed rays in the waters around you. While landings are not possible on this designated Class A Nature Reserve, exceptional Zodiac cruising along the island's shores will thrill.

As we set sail for Broome, toast your adventures in the wash of a final Kimberley sunset and celebrate with friends – both new and old – at the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Day 11 Disembark in Broome

In Broome – the 'port of pearls' – farewell the crew, expedition team and fellow travellers before your transfer to the airport or your hotel accommodation.

Important note: *In the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage exploration and adventure offering flexibility in challenging environments. This itinerary is only a guide and is subject to change due to tides, weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.*