

8 top tips for booking your Kimberley Cruise.

A Kimberley cruise is a once in a life time experience; use our 8-top trusted tips to guarantee you have all the information you need to make the right decision for YOU.

Here's why:

- **Independent advice:** You need unbiased information and advice. There are so many different cruise companies sailing out of Broome, Wyndham and Darwin. Before you decide on your cruise there are things you need to know so you can be confident you are getting the best product to suit your needs, budget and time scale.
- **How are we experts?** My name is Jenny Flower. I have been in the travel industry since 1988 and my love of the Kimberley made it an obvious choice of to become a Kimberley Cruise specialist. I love cruising the Kimberley coast line, as well as 4WD touring inland and hiking the incredible trails. **Most importantly to you though;** I have cruised the Kimberley, (sailed on four different boats – seen the rest) taken the 4WD tours and hiked the trails.

All of my colleagues have also cruised on at least one vessel, inspected many others and taken tours in different parts of the Kimberley. So, when I say we have first-hand knowledge; that is what you are going to get. I also understand how important it is for you to have all the information together in one place to help you make the right choice for your holiday. So here it is.

We are not a 'Cruising company' selling worldwide cruises; we only specialise in the Kimberley.

Impartial advice cruising the Kimberley [Click here for dates and Prices](#)

> What your cruise offers: What's important to you?

- Maximum passenger numbers
- Inclusive alcohol or Range of wines
- Fine Dining
- Active hiking
- Swimming holes
- Fishing in the best locations
- Access to a helicopter
- Experts onboard who offer informative lectures
- Balcony cabins
- Easy to board expedition vessels

All cruises offer their own individual style of cruising and it's important you know what to expect on board and during the off-cruise expeditions.

> Your time scale your budget: Getting this wrong would be an expensive mistake

A Kimberley cruise is not like any other ocean cruise you may have been on in the past with hundreds, maybe thousands, of passengers on board. They are expeditions on smaller vessels, smaller numbers, with excursions included during a limited season. Prices reflect this and we want to help you find the best fit for you to save you time and stress. We are offering independent advice on what is best for YOU and **your** holiday. Very few of us are looking for the cheapest or the most expensive; what we want is the cruise that fits our needs. There is no 'one size fits all' when it comes to Kimberley Cruising.

> What else should we be including? What else should I see and do?

The **Kimberley** is an area of 423,517 square kilometres (163,521 sq mi), which is about three times the **size of England**, twice the **size** of Victoria, or just slightly smaller than California. There is so much to see and do you need advice on making the most of your time away. Kimberley cruises travel to and from different parts of the Kimberley and Northern Territory. It is good to know what the destinations have to offer and what the touring options are when you are there.

PLUS
Our Exclusive Offer valid with all our cruise ships*

★
2 Free nights in a 4 star hotel
IN BROOME OR DARWIN
OR 1 NIGHT IN EACH IF YOU PREFER

★
Free sightseeing tour in
Darwin or Broome
YOUR CHOICE!

Remember this special is only available through Kimberley
Travel and Cruise [CLICK HERE](#) FOR ALL OUR SPECIAL OFFERS



1. Why cruise the Kimberley? Let's start with the burning question:

A cruise along the Kimberley coastline is genuinely a trip of a lifetime. This truly is one of the last great wildernesses; you will be amazed that you are still in Australia. You will fall in love with:

- The grandeur of the rugged limestone cliffs,
- Spectacular gorges and swimming holes
- Stunning waterfalls,
- Unforgettable ancient art sites (believed to be the oldest in the world)
- Extraordinary natural phenomenon's due to some of the biggest tidal movements in the world
- Unbelievable fishing
- Millions of stars that light up the night sky

To name a few!!!! There is no end to the beauty and vastness of this beautiful land.



2. What do you want to see?

It sounds so simple but the answer to this question will quickly narrow down the choices you need to make.

➤ **Darwin to Broome v.v.**

Our most popular route; these 10-night cruise are on the bigger boats but don't worry their numbers range from 72 to 180; there is a size to suit all. NO fishing options on these trips and the activities are not as challenging as the small boats. Some mobility issues can be catered for on these cruises. The exception is [Eco Abrolhos](#). She has 14 day itineraries between Broome and Darwin v.v. Eco's relaxed and laid-back style includes fishing, hiking and more freshwater swimming offered.

The Darwin to Broome v.v itinerary also allows you to include the 'Top End' in your itinerary. Kakadu and Katherine are definitely worth a visit as is Arnhem Land and the wilderness luxury accommodations on offer there. See the [Kakadu's Ancient Secrets](#) for a great trip. Many clients also choose to combine [The Ghan Expedition](#) from Darwin to Adelaide sells out every year as it is such a popular option to add on.

➤ **Broome to Wyndham (Kununurra)**

This is a great option that still allows you to include the [Iconic King George Twin Falls](#) in your cruise. You can also Kununurra, the perfect base to explore the Heart of the Kimberley including Bungle Bungles, El Questro & the Ord River to your land itinerary. This option also cuts out the open water sailing to/from Darwin. These itineraries tend to be run by the smaller cruise companies; for example [True North](#), however there are large boat options. These cruises vary greatly, it may be good to chat about the different options.

➤ **Broome/Hunter River v.v (aka Cruise/fly v.v.)**

This option includes a spectacular scenic flight over some of the Kimberley icons and a sensational helicopter flight over the Mitchell Falls (which is an optional extra on other cruises). It's an amazing way to start or finish your cruise. This shorter route means the coast is explored in more depth. The boats that offer this itinerary are small and more active. [Kimberley Quest](#), for example. These itineraries generally start early to mid-June.

There are always exceptions and variations, however, the above information gives you a good guide to the main routes. As always; we are happy to chat about **the best option for you**. You can book a **Discovery call to arrange a time that suit you**. [Click here to book a call](#)



We appreciated your excellent organisation of our trip and your recommendation of the hotel in Darwin. The two nights and tour that you included in Darwin for us seemed to be a bonus for us over other passengers.

Martin T. Bilpin, NSW

3. What to expect day to day?

This is where your cruise will vary a lot. Generally speaking, though you start your morning relatively early with breakfast and an excursion off to sightsee. Most excursions are land based so you will disembark your tender vessel (often into the water) to begin your adventure. You are usually out for a few hours; returning to the big boat for a rest and lunch. The afternoon follows the same format but on return to the boat passengers often fresh up and head for the pre-dinner drinks with some offering 'photos of the day' slideshows. Other days, if there is a bit

of time spent steaming, some vessels will have guest lecturers onboard who give fascinating talks on the flora, fauna and history of the Kimberley. Excursions include, rock art sites, swimming holes, hikes to waterfalls depending on your specific cruise.

4. Are you fit enough for these Cruises?

The main worry I hear from my clients is how easy will it be getting into, and out of, the tenders (the smaller boats that take you to the shore, exploring the estuaries or fishing). The crew on the smaller vessels are very much aware of this concern and there is always crew on hand to assist you in and out; one in the tender and one either on the ship or on solid ground. On a recent I took we had an 88-year-old gentleman and a lady in need of a hip reconstruction and they both coped beautifully.

If this is still sounding a little more than you would like then you need to opt for one of the larger vessels that has hydraulic lifts that bring the tenders up to floor level and, on the very largest ship, lifts. As for the walks/hikes; it is more about steadiness on your feet than endurance. The ground can be quite pebbly/rocky. however, at the minimum you must be able to use stairs, unaided except for one walking stick, in case of emergency. If you have mobility issues it's best to book a **Discovery Call** so we can work out the **best option for YOU**

But no matter what the day holds you will always be given information and choices so there will always be an activity for you to participate in. (Sometimes that might be sitting on the deck with a drink and a book perhaps watching the world go by!)

Keep in mind some ships offer helicopter tours also so that you can be whisked up to the top of the highest waterfall effortlessly. If you have any concerns about this, again we urge you to book a Discovery Call so we can give you all the information you need to make the best choice.

[Book your Discovery Call here](#)

Hi Jenny, We returned home yesterday. Thank you all so much for helping to make our holiday an absolutely awesome experience. Words cannot express how we have enjoyed this adventure. All flights, hotels, tours etc. were all stress and hassle free. The Kimberley is such an amazing place. We wondered whether we would consider this holiday as 'value for money', but how can you put a price on what we have experienced. Australia is so huge and we were in very remote areas with limited outside contact. We have

returned with big smiles on our faces, new friends and lots of stories & photos and very fat tummies etc.

Di Z Burrum Heads, QLD

5. When should you travel?

MAY-AUGUST: The most popular time to travel is in the dry season; usually May through to August. During this time the heat is usually clear with limited humidity and daytime temperatures are about 30c.

MARCH-APRIL: 'Waterfall Cruises' - March & April. Just after 'The wet'; these cruises start early to showcase the amazing waterfalls. Over the [King George twin Falls](#) thousands of litres of water thunder down around 216 meters into two emerald pools. These cruises can sometimes encounter unsettled weather however, seeing the colours and characters of the Kimberley during this time of year is truly breathtaking.

JULY-SEPTEMBER: The later part of the season, from July to September, is a fantastic time to escape the Southern States and NZ and great time to see whales. Wildflowers of all colours, sizes are out; many of which you do not see in other parts of the country.

LATE AUGUST-SEPTEMBER: Once you hit August/September the water starts to warm up and Barramundi seem happier to bite. I caught a 70cm beauty!

The scenery was, as expected, magnificent and I look forward to looking at our collection of photographs once we are home. Thank you for organising this holiday for us, we will recommend you to all our friends.



Tom and Jean L, Mooloolaba, QLD

6. What about food and drink on board?

Yum; the food is great. It is amazing how they can prepare such beautiful meals in such a small space. Whether you opt for 'Fine Dining' by onboard chefs or freshly prepared local produce you will enjoy your culinary experience.

Breakfast: Start your day with an array of continental & Hot breakfast options. Freshly prepared bakery delights plus fresh fruits and yoghurts are sure to tempt all. *

Lunches: Hot and cold dishes are usually offered with salads, soups, cold cuts, seafood and tropical fruits on offer.

Dinner: these can vary from 'farm to table' fine dining to Seafood evenings, beach BBQ's or LA 'cart. All dependent on the boat you choose. What I can guarantee is that all the food I have experienced has been sumptuous, plentiful and making you look forward to the next meal. *

Morning and afternoon tea: often on offer but definitely not needed. Having said that they looked so yummy we often succumbed to ½ a piece of cake each. *

Beverages: Options for beverages including 'fully inclusive', range of fine wines, drinks with meals, drinks at bar prices to BYO (pre arranged and delivered to the boat.) Each boat has their own list of what is available and we are happy to chat with you about this.

Dietary requirements: most dietary needs can be catered for with at least 1 months' notice. Please book a **Discovery Call** if you would like to discuss your individual needs.

Coffee, Tea & Water: always available.

[Book your discovery call here](#)



7. What should you take?

Remembering you are on a boat with limited space and that (with a few exceptions) there is no need to 'dress for dinner' there is no need to overpack.

Here is a basic checklist of what to bring:

- > A reasonable number of casual trousers, shorts, shirts and tee shirts
- > Remember the sun and bring at least one long sleeved shirt
- > Sun hat and sunscreen/sunblock and sunglasses
- > Comfortable walking shoes
- > Shoes you are happy to get wet
- > Insect repellent
- > Bathers

> Personal toiletries and medication 

> Remember pack light! 

8. What else should you consider?

Health and safety

Hygiene has always been paramount on Kimberley cruises however it is now more so than ever. Different boats have introduced their own version of enhanced methods however, all are following the Western Australian Government's Safety Guidelines. Here is some of the measures being taken:

- A pre-departure screening for all guests and crew; some self-assessed others also asking for a form, completed by a GP no more than 7 days prior to departure.
- You may be asked by certain companies to undergo a COVID test 72 hours prior to sailing with proof of the result.
- Some vessels will have a medical professional onboard to deal with any issues that might arise.
- All boats will be temperature scanning guests and crews before they join the cruise
- Hand sanitizer and hand washing stations throughout the vessels
- Some vessels have advised that often used furniture and equipment, including handrails will be cleaned up to 4 times a day.
- Physical distancing will be managed by the individual boats with greater distance provided during dining, excursions and lectures, where possible. Further outdoor dining options may be offered on some vessels.
- Dining service will uphold the highest food preparation standard. Again, these will vary from boat to boat however very few, if any, buffets will be offered or crew assisted buffets may be an option.
- Some vessels may require contact recording or have other tracing protocols in place.
- Port visit will be individually risk assessed and may be changed or altered if necessary.

- Practical staff training will take place. Most boats will have their staff trained to protocols and understood and practiced and will include the use of PPE.

Identification/Passport

Most cruises stay in Australian coastal waters so a license or other form of photograph ID is all that will be required. There are, however a few vessels that are internationally registered and require a valid passport (with at least 6 months validity from the time you return from your cruise) be carried.

Who will be on my cruise?

Cruises in the Kimberley attract mainly other Australians and Kiwis. Occasionally we have guests from the UK & US but for the most part you will meet other, like minded and active, Australians out to discover their home country.

Insurance Cover

Even though most of the cruise ships departing from Broome, Wyndham and Darwin do not leave Australian Coastal waters; we have been advised that ambulance cover does not apply in the case of emergency. A private helicopter service may be required to evacuate you to medical help. It is essential that you have adequate insurance cover that will cover you for the very significant cost of an emergency medical evacuation from sea. Standard domestic insurance policies are usually not enough; some insurance companies offer a 'domestic cruising' option to fill this gap.

If you are relying on free insurance that may come with your credit card then you need to make sure that medical evacuation from sea is included. We would suggest that you ensure that your bank can actually point to this inclusion in writing on their website or product disclosure statement. We have found at times that call centre staff at banks may assure you that your cover is comprehensive but without understanding the specifics. Please also make sure you know who is covering you and who to contact in case of an emergency.

Communication

There is very limited mobile telephone reception out of the major towns in the Kimberley. Some of the larger boats have satellite facilities and you can purchase internet time. Some of the bigger ships do have phones in the cabin that you can pre purchase a phone card to use. Not a particularly cheap option but there if you need it. Let me reassure however, whilst being out of contact is part of the pure joy of being in the Kimberley, emergency contact is available 24/7.

Laundry

Usually charged, although a couple of the boats will happily include a couple of washes for you.

Impartial advice cruising the Kimberley
[Click here for dates and Prices](#)

Just to say we are back after finishing our Kimberley adventure. Thanks for organizing it for us. It all went very smoothly and we had a fantastic time... . We could not have had a better trip.



Sophie K, Gosford, NSW

Impartial advice and the best offers

Thanks for taking the time to download and read this guide. Chances are that you are interested in a Kimberley cruise of a lifetime and I would love to help you arrange it. I hope that this guide has shown you that I can provide expert and impartial advice on all the major cruise companies operating out of Broome, Wyndham and Darwin.

My business is Kimberley Travel and Cruise and we

- > Are a fully accredited travel agency and member of the AFTA Travel accreditation scheme
- > Always have access to the latest specials offered by all the main cruise operators in WA and the Northern Territory
- > Offer expert advice in accommodation and touring options for before and after your cruise

Please feel free to continue your research by browsing my website Kimberley Travel and Cruise make a Discovery Call for us to work together on a more individual basis.

As I have said I love this part of the country and am committed to getting everyone else to feel the same way!

Thanks again

Jenny Flower

[Book your Discovery call here](#)

P.S. I forgot to mention our **exclusive special** which is valid with specific cruise bookings from our Kimberley range.

For all cruise booking for 2021 and 2022 we extend our unbeatable and exclusive offers*

[Click here for dates and Prices](#)

Our Exclusive Offer valid with all our cruise ships*


2 Free nights in a 4 star hotel
IN BROOME OR DARWIN
OR 1 NIGHT IN EACH IF YOU PREFER


Free sightseeing tour in Darwin or Broome
YOUR CHOICE!

***Remember this special is only available through Kimberley Travel and Cruise**



Vessel	Coral Discoverer	Coral Adventurer & Geographer	Le Laperouse & Le Bellot
Passenger N ^o	72	120	184
Crew number	25	30	110
Excursion vessels	Shaded Xplorer vessel	Shaded Xplorer vessel x 2	Zodiacs
Vessel size	63m	93.4m	128m
Itineraries	Darwin to Broome VV	Darwin to Broome VV	Broome to Darwin VV
Individual	Hydraulic platform,	Lecture lounge,	Infinity pool, theatre,

Characteristic	Australian crew House alcohol	library	medical center, underwater lounge
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Vessel	Kimberley Quest	True North	Ocean Dream
Passenger N^o	18	36	12
Crew number	6	20	5
Excursion vessels	Jet boat with shade & toilet	Expedition tenders	Tender vessels
Vessel size	25m	50m	24m
Itineraries	Broome to Mitchell Falls, Broome to Broome	Broome to Wyndham vv	Broome to Wyndham vv, Broome to Mitchell Plateau vv
Individual Characteristics	Beautifully refurbished Australian crew, Heli pad, Fishing	En-suites in all cabins, 4.5m tenders	6 person spa, En-suites in all cabins

Vessel	Great Escape	Eco Abrolhos	MS Island Sky
Passenger N^o	14	38	118
Crew number	6	10	5
Excursion vessels	Expedition tenders	Tender vessels	Tender vessels

Vessel size	26m	35m	24m
Itineraries	Broome to Broome, Broome to Wyndham	Darwin to Broome VV	Broome to Wyndham v.v, Broome to Mitchell Plateau v.v
Individual Characteristic	Onboard helicopter, 8 person spa	En-suites in all cabins, 4.5m tenders	6 person spa, En- suites in all cabins

Vessel	MS Caledonian Sky	Odyssey Expedition
Passenger N^o	110	20
Crew number	27	5
Excursion vessels	Zodiacs	“Homer” with bench seats, shade & toilet
Vessel size	90.6m	24m
Itineraries	Broome to Darwin VV	Broome to Mitchell Falls v.v
Individual Characteristic	Choice of Restaurants, Alcohol with meals, balconies	Onboard helicopter, Australian crew, flexibility with touring Shared facilities

Your Destination Guide

Broome

As well as being famous for the 22 km off Cable Beach, Broome offers many other attractions. Visit Gantheume Point to see the dinosaur footprints reputed to be 130 million years old, take in a movie at the longest running outdoor cinema in the world – Sun Pictures. Visit the pearl stores of Chinatown or view the incredible sunset over Cable Beach. 6 km from Cable Beach is Broome Township. The township itself provides the majority of shopping options, together with

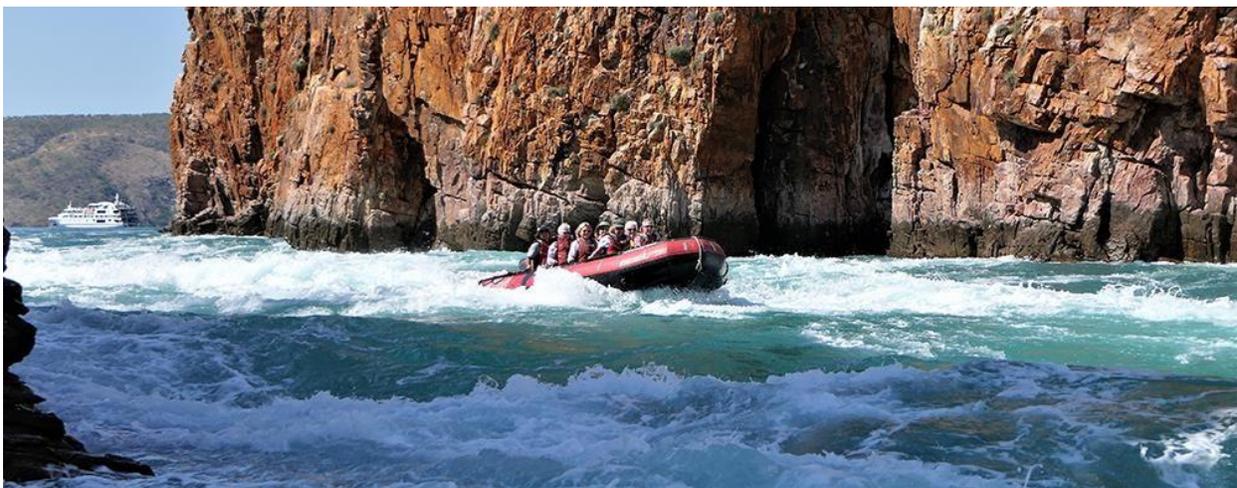
many art galleries & pearl showrooms. The town bus service operates every half hour May to October and on the hour for the remainder of the year between Cable Beach and Broome Township. Broome is also a great place to base yourself while you visit Cape Leveque, the Pearl Shell Alter and Eco Beach or take scenic flights to Horizontal Waterfalls or Mitchell Falls.

Kununurra

Kununurra is the largest town in Western Australia north of Broome, with the closest town being Wyndham, 100 kilometres (62 miles) away. The town is situated in among the scenic hills and ranges of the far north-east Kimberley Region, having an abundance of fresh water, conserved by the Ord River Diversion dam and the main Ord River Dam. Kununurra is a great base for you to tour the Bungle Bungles either by scenic flight, day trip or overnight stay.

Horizontal Waterfalls

Up to 10 meter tides create a spectacular scene, sending huge volumes of water pouring through a narrow chasm in land formation. Take an exhilarating ride through this natural phenomenon.



Mitchell Plateau

This region was formed over 1800 million years ago amidst volcanic eruptions and massive upheavals in the earth's crust. It is home to the spectacular four-tiered Mitchell Falls. The region is also biologically significant and contains over 50 species of mammals, 220 bird species and 86 species of amphibians & reptiles.



[Montgomery Reef](#)

Australia's largest inshore reef of 292 sq km provides a stunning panorama of white water rapids on the ebb tide. The reef is rich in marine life, including dugongs, turtles, manta rays and many species of sea birds.

[King George Falls](#)

A breathtaking cruise to the King George Falls, through vertically sided sandstone canyons, ends at the highest waterfall (80 metres) in Western Australia.

*Conditions apply –Free nights are up to the value of \$250 per night. Tours can only be booked in conjunction with accommodation booked through Flower Travel and will sometimes require two nights in one place to make them possible. Tours cost is not redeemable for cash or any other purchase. Offer may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

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