

# True North

## Guide



**If you have been thinking about sailing on the True North for your “Once in a lifetime” Kimberley Cruise, then this guide is perfect for you.**

### *Here's why:*

> There are many different cruise companies sailing out of Broome, Wyndham and Darwin. They all offer their own individual style of cruising so it can be hard to know which one is the best for you. The [True North](#) is one of the most iconic boats in the Kimberley and for good reason. Multi award winning she has been in the Kimberley for 30 years and consistently operates with impeccable customer satisfaction rates.

### *How I became an expert?*

My name is Jenny Flower. I am a lover of all things ‘Kimberley’. I love cruising the coast line, 4WD touring inland and hiking the incredible trails. I have been involved in marketing and selling Australia since 1992, both here and in the UK, and have never lost my passion. Most

importantly to you though; I have cruised the True North, (I have also sailed on four other boats – seen the rest) taken the 4WD tours and hiked the trails. All of my staff have also cruised on at least one vessel and taken tours in different parts of the Kimberley. When I say we have firsthand knowledge; that is what you are going to get

## **True North itineraries**

### **Kimberley Waterfalls (10 nights)**

From mid March to end April you can experience the beauty that accompanies the end of the wet season; the Kimberley's renowned summer storms and spectacular light shows! Experience thundering waterfalls and swollen billabongs. And, not forgetting unexplained rock-art, extraordinary wildlife and monster barramundi! Broome – Wyndham / Kununurra (or reverse)

### **Kimberley Ultimate (13 Nights)**

This is the most popular and long grunning of the True North's itineraries. The Ultimate is simply 2 weeks of lavish indulgence. All of the Kimberley coast's iconic attractions are included plus much, much, more and, all is enjoyed at a leisurely pace that ends with guests frequently remarking "that's the best holiday I have ever had!" Kununurra / Wyndham – Broome

### **Kimberley Snapshot ( 7 nights)**

For those pressed for time – the Snapshot is the Ultimate itinerary condensed into a single week. This is mostly achieved by steaming overnight. The Snapshot is a 'Kimberley's greatest hits' itinerary & features Kimberley icons including the King George Falls, the Hunter River, the Prince Regent River, Montgomery Reef and the Horizontal Waterfalls. Broome to Wyndham/Kununurra

### **Coast and Coral (13 Nights)**

The True North then heads to Clerke Reef in the Rowley Shoals. Snorkellers and divers will marvel at the crystal-clear waters teeming with life – clouds of fish and corals of every imaginable colour and shape. There will be plenty of opportunity for beach combing, relaxed snorkelling in tropical waist deep water, world-class SCUBA diving on the outer reef or perhaps some "catch and release" lagoon fishing using eco-friendly tackle. Broome – Wyndham / Kununurra

For dates and prices of all itineraries & cabins [click here](#)



### True North Vibe:

‘Go Wild in style’: is the True North’s moto & that’s definitely the feel on the boat. A relaxed style, friendly staff and open-door policies all combine to make you feel like you belong and are exactly where you want to be. When aboard most passengers live barefoot, in shorts and t-shirts, during the day and change to smart casual in the evening – there is never a time when you will be required to ‘dress’ for dinner. There is a great emphasis on knowledge and learning for those who are interested. Every TN itinerary features a ship’s biologist who leads a team of six; one for each tender vessel. The history of the region, the wildlife, ecology and how life is lived in this vast land are all topics covered. These experts in their field love to share their passion for the Kimberley.

## The activities:

While the TN is great at accommodating a range of their guests' abilities; you really need a reasonable level of fitness to make the most of your cruise. These are activity-based cruises where you will find yourself, swimming (after getting above the Croc line!) fishing walking, climbing, helicopter flights\* (including my favourite Heli picnic) and Aboriginal art viewings. Not to mention visiting the Kimberley Icons; Horizontal Falls, Montgomery reef, King George Falls and King Cascade Falls.

A typical day will see an early breakfast followed by a morning excursion. Back to the boat for lunch and freshen up then out again to see the amazing sceptical of the Kimberley. Sundowners will always be on offer; sometimes on the boat, some on the beach, others with the tenders all meeting up to watch the Sunset from a remote vantage point.

True North is one of very few boats in the Kimberley that permanently has a **helicopter on board**. All Helicopter flights are extra but **don't forget we include a \$500 per person credit to get you started**. Having the chopper on board really is a great advantage. Privileged access to areas rarely seen and visited, picnics in the most remote locations where swimming holes and waterfalls are for the exclusive use of True North passengers. Heli fishing is another WOW factor of the helicopter; fishing in rarely, if ever, visited sites.

The helicopter is great for those who don't like to climb and you can be whisked away to remote places without getting all hot and bothered. There's also a safety facet; a helicopter is never too far away to help if the need ever arises.

## The Food and drink

Chef prepared fine dining with an organic and modern flare. Everyone dines together, with breakfast and lunch usually served buffet style. Dinner is another story and taken very seriously.

Some examples to whet your appetite;

Brined shoulders of lamb, cooked sous-vide with goose fat and herbs, slowly roasted and then chilled, pressed and portioned ready to serve.

Confit garlic and thyme roasted lamb rumps sliced medium-rare, resting on wild mushroom potato puree and sticky lamb jus. With peppery watercress, yellow bean and hazelnut salad to finish.

Later, double-skin glasses are placed before one and all - topped with a disc of tempered white chocolate and five dots of burnt raspberry coulis. A drizzle of warm Kimberley honey then reveals cold-pressed seasonal nectarines and vanilla bean from Papua New Guinea.

There's also the option to 'hunt and gather.' ThTrue North is licenced so fishing and mud crabbing are all part of the experience; then you get to savour your 'sea to plate' dining.

**Special Dietary needs are always happily catered for when notice is given.**

True North stocks a full range of beverages for sale at bar located in the lounge.

### *The True North features:*

- > Shallow draft – drawing just 2.5 metres we can go where larger ships cannot! This unique access enables guests to comfortably engage in activities that cannot be offered on larger ships or, that can only be offered following an arduous journey in a rubber boat!
- > Small group – just 36 guests. The convenience of just 36 guests also allows the crew of the TRUE NORTH to offer a much greater range of activities, for example fishing, mud crabbing, collecting oysters and sunset drinks on the beach. The small group also allows our crew greater opportunity to cater for personal preference and specific interests such as birdwatching and photography excursions. Personal service and attention to detail are hall-mark qualities - 22 crew members act more like chaperones.
- > Multiple adventure boats – we carry 6 dedicated expedition boats – greater opportunity for our guests to do what they want, when they want! The boats are much more comfortable than rubber boats. They feature ample seating and when the boat is not under way, it is possible to stand-up and walk around. This is a definite advantage when engaging in activities such as fishing and photography. The adventure boats are fully surveyed by the Australian maritime authorities which means the wearing of life jackets is not required and, we also believe that they are much safer than rubber boats when operating in crocodile country!



## True North exclusive offer\*

- > 2 nights' Accommodation in Broome with Breakfast
  - > Broome Sightseeing Tour
  - > \$500 Helicopter credit per person
- \*Conditions apply

### Cabins:



#### Explorer Class - 18m<sup>2</sup>

Located on the upper deck – Explorer Class staterooms feature a king size double (that can be converted to singles) and a twin basin en-suite. Cabin size is 18 square metres (193 square feet). Other features include large panoramic windows, amenities fridge, in-cabin entertainment and satellite telephone.



#### River Class - 18m<sup>2</sup>

Located on the middle deck – River Class doubles feature a king size double (that can be converted to singles) and en-suite. Cabin size is similar to Explorer Class. Other features include large panoramic windows, in-cabin entertainment and satellite telephone.



## Ocean Class - 12m<sup>2</sup>

Located on the lower deck – Ocean Class twins feature roomy singles and en-suite. Cabin size is approximately 12 square metres (129 square feet). Other features include 2 portholes, in-cabin entertainment and satellite telephone.

## Deck Plan:

### UPPER DECK

#### Explorer Class

1. Bradshaw
2. Dampier
3. Durack
4. Parker King



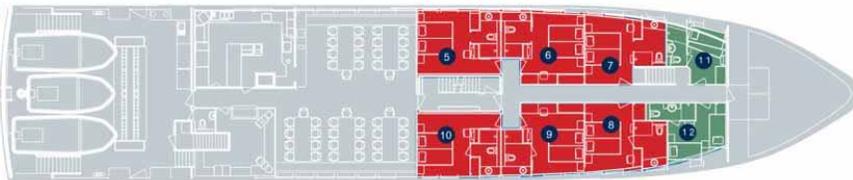
### MAIN DECK

#### River Class

5. Prince Regent River
6. Mitchell River
7. Berkeley River
8. Drysdale River
9. Hunter River
10. King George River

#### Ocean Class

11. Camden Harbour
12. Lacepede Islands



### LOWER DECK

#### Ocean Class

13. Koolama Bay
14. Montgomery Reef
15. Jackson Falls
16. Kings Cascade
17. Imperieuse Reef
18. Atlantis Bay



## *When should you travel?*

**MARCH-APRIL:** this is just after the 'big wet' - These cruises can encounter storms and unsettled weather however, seeing the colours and characters of the Kimberley during this time of year is truly breathtaking. The waterfalls are at their best.

**MAY TO JULY:** are peak months and Broome's population explodes with visitors. The rule is that the earlier in the season the more spectacular waterfalls, and more lush & green the vegetation is. During this time the heat is usually clear with limited humidity and daytime temperatures are about 30c.

**AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER:** This is the later part of the season and 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. This is also a great time to see whales passing and as the water starts to warm up and Barramundi seem happier to bite. I caught a 70cm beauty!

## *6. What should you take?*

To be honest all the cruise boats don't want you to take a lot of luggage and with the Kimberley climate you don't need to pack a lot of clothes. Also a number of the cruise ship itineraries involve a light aircraft trip and baggage is strictly limited in these instances, usually to a single soft case of no more than 10k.

Here is a basic checklist of what to bring:

- > A reasonable number of smart/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 (but not walking boots)
- > Shoes you are happy to get wet
- > Insect repellent
- > Bathers
- > Personal toiletries and medication
- > Remember pack light!

## *7. What else should you consider?*

### **Insurance Cover**

Even though most of the cruise ships departing from Broome, Wyndham and Darwin do not leave Australian waters ambulance cover does not apply in the case of emergency. It is essential that if you take one of these cruises 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 and most 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 assure - 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 let you use the laundry facilities yourself. Kimberley Quest, the Great Escape will do your laundry for free.



*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*

## 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.

## *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.

### **My business is Kimberley Travel and Cruise and we**

- > Are a fully licensed 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 [www.kimberleytravelandcruise.com.au](http://www.kimberleytravelandcruise.com.au) or call my office on free phone number **1300 654 861** and speak to me or one of my friendly colleagues and we will help you in any way we can.

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*

P.S. Don't forget.



### *True North exclusive offer\**

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