

# THE KIMBERLEY

## AUSTRALIA

### BROOME- DARWIN



The Kimberley region of Australia was originally explored by Europeans after 1881, yet its history dates back over 60,000 years. The vast gap between these two dates mean that the region's Aboriginal heritage is largely intact, from its ancient rock art to its tales of legend and lore, passed down from generation to generation. There's never been a better time to explore the wonders of the Kimberley. For adventure of a truly epic spirit, the Kimberley has few equals: thundering waterfalls, plunging gorges, Aboriginal rock art, deserted beaches, a plethora of wildlife and fewer people per square mile than almost any other place on earth. Discover the wonder of the Kimberley on an all-inclusive luxury Expedition cruise.



**DATES:** 2022 – Jun 03, 13\*, 23 |

Jul 03\*, 13, 23\*

2023 – May 30\* | Jun 09, 19\* | Jul 09, 19\*

Round-trip Darwin – Jun 29, Jul 29

**DURATION:** 13 DAYS/12 NIGHTS

**EMBARK:** DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

**DISEMBARK:** BROOME, AUSTRALIA

\*Reverse Itinerary

**SHIP:** Silver Explorer

**FROM:** \$11,600

Free Economy or reduced rate Business Class Air

All -Inclusive

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – DARWIN, AUSTRALIA - ARRIVAL

Your included transfer will whisk you from airport to your deluxe hotel. Australia's capital of the north is a uniquely tropical city, and a historically isolated outpost of this vast, diverse country. Reaching up towards the equator, a full 2,000 miles from Sydney and Melbourne, the city was named in honor of Charles Darwin by the British settlers who established a frontier outpost here. With a unique history, beautiful islands nearby, and a palette of sizzling pacific flavors, colorful Darwin is an enchanting and exotic Australian destination. Crocodiles patrol the jungled waterways and tropical rainforests surround Australia's gateway to the Top End. The sounds of chattering birdlife and the gentle splash of fountains and waterfalls will fill your ears in George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. The sunshine and famous tropical pink sunsets mean many visitors naturally gravitate to the city's soft sands to relax at spots like pretty Mindil Beach, as evening approaches. The adjoining market is filled with souvenirs and crafts stands and is the perfect great place to enjoy some fiery Asian flavors. It may be remote, but Darwin found itself on the front line during the Pacific War, as the Japanese air force unloaded their bombs onto the city in 1942. This relaxed unassuming city has a deeply resilient backbone, however, and you can explore the museums to learn more of the war's impact on Darwin, as well as the devastating effects of one of Australia's worst natural disasters, Cyclone Tracy in 1973.

### DAY 2 – EXPLORE DARWIN, EMBARKATION

Enjoy your free time to explore the city and surrounds. Transfer to the pier for embarkation and departure.

### DAY 3 – DAY AT SEA

### DAY 4 – MATAKUS ISLAND, INDONESIA

The eastern part of Indonesia is a true paradise on Earth. Home to countless beautiful, unexplored destinations that have not enjoyed the tourism boom that many other parts of the country have. Matakus Island is one such destination. This makes it a perfect place for those who have a sense of adventure and truly want to explore off the beaten path. Matakus is a small island and part of the Tanimbar archipelago. At just over two miles in length and less than a mile across, it is one of the smaller islands but, despite its small size, its proximity to the regional capital city of Saumlaki just to the north ensures that the island is inhabited (current population 100). The tourism infrastructure is practically non-existent, so don't expect to be souvenir shopping here – ordering a lunch of delicious freshly caught and

grilled fish from one of the local fishermen that line the shore is about the maximum! The island is surrounded by fine, white-sand beaches and is a marine paradise, with fields of staghorn coral and schools of cardinalfish visible in its crystal clear waters. Grab your underwater cameras and snorkels and dive in! Birds including the Tanimbar starling, Moluccan masked owl, Fawn-breasted thrush and Blue-streaked lorry all call the island home.

### DAY 5 – DAY AT SEA

### DAY 6 – WYNDHAM, AUSTRALIA

Wyndham is a small settlement with the spirit of a Kimberley outback township. It was established in 1886 with the Halls Creek gold rush and sits on the Cambridge Gulf where several rivers converge. Today Wyndham has a population of roughly 900 people and operates largely as a port exporting cattle, servicing the mining industry and hosting a few small ships. For these vessels Wyndham is a gateway to the breathtaking Bungle Bungle mountain range and the nearby Ord River. The Bungle Bungle Mountains in Purnululu National Park are now a World Heritage Site. In excess of 350 million years have shaped geological formations of giant orange and black striped domes rising out of the ground into a landscape unlike any other. Known to the local Aboriginal people for thousands of years, the Bungles were only discovered by the outside world in the mid-1980s. Conversely, cruising the peaceful and tree-lined Ord River is a chance to look for freshwater crocodiles, fruit bats, short-eared rock wallabies and a variety of birds, including Mangrove Herons and Mangrove Gerygones.



### DAY 7 – KING GEORGE RIVER (KIMBERLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA)

The King George Falls is one of the Kimberley's most magnificent natural wonders. At 80 meters (260 feet), the thundering spectacle of twin cascades are among



the highest in Australia. The river weaves through an amazing landscape of near vertical red rock formations and a parade of wildlife — carnivorous saltwater crocodiles and amazing birdlife, including giant raptors and the Brahminy Kite.

#### **DAYS 8 & 9 – THE HUNTER RIVER**

The Hunter River is home to an immense mangrove system surrounded by soaring red sandstone cliffs. Narrow mangrove channels shelter numerous bird species, mudskippers, fiddler crabs and the infamous saltwater crocodile; the most aggressive crocodile species known to man. Naturalist Island at the mouth of the river has a stunning stretch of sandy beach that makes a perfect landing site for small helicopters that can pick up visitors wishing to explore some of the Kimberley's vast interior. The highlight inland is the famous Mitchell Falls where four tiers of waterfalls plunge into deep pools that flow out into the mighty Mitchell River. The headwaters of the falls are cool and a dip in the fresh water is a welcome reprieve from the heat of the heartland.



#### **DAYS 10 & 11 - THE BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO**

Set off the coast of Western Australia, the Buccaneer Archipelago is one of the Kimberley's finest secrets. The Archipelago, 50 k2 (19 sq mi), is made up of around 800 islands and protect the mainland from the huge 12 meter tides and astonishing speed of the Yampi (or, in traditional Aborigine, "Yampee") Sound current. The speed and power of the water may not make for pleasant bathing, but does result in fantastic natural phenomena such as the horizontal reversible waterfall in Talbot Bay. The tidal pull is responsible for the "reversible" nature of the "falls", however, this also hides narrow gaps between the islands, making for treacherous sailing conditions. Isolated graves of sailors and divers are testimony to the danger. William Dampier sighted the Archipelago in 1688 but it would not be until 1821 that the Archipelago would become known as Buccaneer (a term coined by Captain Phillip Parker King) "in commemoration of

William Dampier's visit to this part of the coast ". Enterprising individuals were initially attracted to the Buccaneer Archipelago in the 1800s due to the superior pearling as well as the rich iron ore deposits. Pearling conducted by luggers in the 1880s was concentrated in Cygnet Bay, Cascade Bay, Cone Bay and Strickland Bay. More recently, mining operators established open-cut mines on Koolan Island on the east side of the Sound. Some of the richest iron ore in the world is extracted here to this day.

#### **DAY 12 – BROOME (KIMBERLEY), AUSTRALIA – DISEMBARK**

Gateway to the oldest and most elusive of all Australia's nine regions, Broome is where your Kimberley adventure begins. The ancient landscape has long held travelers spellbound: The Kimberley is three times larger than England but has a population of just 35,000, is over 65,000 years old and is home to 2,000 km of coastline. Almost impenetrable, incredibly remote, the red baked earth, prolific wildlife, majestic canyons and swimming holes are the stuff of Australian wilderness dreams. English explorer William Dampier was the first explorer to set foot in Broome in 1668. However, the land had long been used as a trading route between east and west Kimberley for Aboriginal families. These semi-nomadic tribes respected strict unwritten rules regarding ownership of the land. The Yawuru people remain the Native Title holders for the township of Broome to this day. Broome itself has over 84 Aboriginal communities affiliated to it, 78 of which are considered remote. The city grew from its nascent pearling industry of the late 19th century. Pearl diving was dangerous in the waters surrounding Broome and for many years divers were limited to Aboriginal slaves, skin divers who faced cyclones, sharks, crocodiles, ear and chest infections in order to bring up as many pearl shells as possible for their masters. Natural pearls were rare and extremely valuable, and when found, were placed in a locked box. At the peak of its industry, around 1914, Broome was responsible for 80% of the world's pearl trade.

Transfer to your included hotel after disembarkation.

#### **DAY 13 – TRANSFER TO AIRPORT**

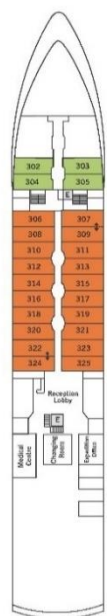
Catch return flight home, or to other areas of vast Australia.

**Pre- and post-cruise programs are available.**

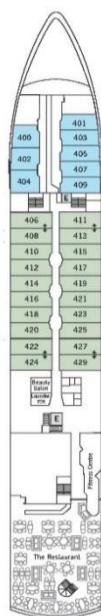
**Please note: All destinations on voyages in the Kimberley region, and the order in which they are visited, are subject to tidal variations and weather conditions.**



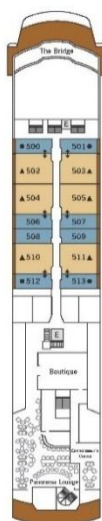
## SILVER EXPLORER – Deck Plans



**DECK 3**  
Reception Desk  
Medical Centre  
Changing Room  
Expedition Office



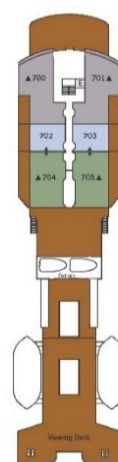
**DECK 4**  
Beauty Salon  
Laundrette  
Fitness Centre  
The Restaurant



**DECK 5**  
The Bridge  
Boutique  
Connoisseur's Corner  
Panorama Lounge



**DECK 6**  
Tor's Observation Library  
Explorer Lounge  
Zagara Spa  
The Grill



**DECK 7**  
Viewing Deck



### SUITE CATEGORIES

- Owner's Suite
- Grand Suite
- Silver Suite
- Medallion Suite
- Veranda Suite
- Vista Suite
- View Suite
- Explorer Suite
- Adventurer Suite

### SPECIFICATIONS

- I loyd's register
- Ice-class rating
- Crew
- Officers
- Guests
- Tonnage
- Length
- Width
- Speed
- Passenger Decks
- 3rd Guest Capacity
- Queen beds
- Connecting suites
- Refurbished
- Registry

## 2022-23 RATES: PER PERSON – DOUBLE – ALL INCLUSIVE\*

\*Port fees and taxes; gratuities to crew; open bar throughout ship; all excursions; team of Expedition leaders and guides.

Economy air fare, or \$1500 per person credit; Executive Private home-airport transfers (Or \$100 Credit), one night hotel both before and after the cruise; transfers; guided zodiac, sea and land tours.

SUITE	2022	2023 July	2023 May, June
Adventure – Deck 3	WAITLIST	\$11,600	\$12,100
Explorer – Deck 4	\$12,500	\$12,100	\$12,600
View – Deck 3	\$13,500	\$12,900	\$13,500
Vista – Deck 4	\$14,100	\$13,400	\$14,000
Veranda – Deck 5	\$19,900	\$18,400	\$19,300
Medallion – Deck 7	\$24,900	\$21,700	\$22,700
Silver – Deck 5	\$26,400	\$23,000	\$24,100
Grand – Deck 7	\$27,800	\$25,300	\$26,500
Owner's – Deck 7	\$30,600	\$27,600	\$29,000



## Reservations & Information

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