

Northern Kimberley Sailing Expedition

From **28/04/2023**
to **05/05/2023**

Ship: **LE PONANT**

From **Kuri Bay**
to **Wyndham**



Night in Kununurra + Flight Kununurra/Kuri Bay +
Transfer Wyndham/Kununurra + Night in
Kununurra

PONANT invites you to experience Australia's unique and spectacular **Kimberley coast** in a remarkable new way, under sail aboard its emblematic yacht *Le Ponant*. The majestic three-masted yacht, with elegant lines and an intimate atmosphere for only 32 like-minded guests, is redefining barefoot luxury expeditions. A crew to guest ratio of more than 1 to 1 and **an expedition staff** to guest ratio of 1 to 8, combine to provide the pinnacle Kimberley expedition sailing experience. Unique to the experience, PONANT has partnered with the Paspaley group to include **a spectacular scenic flight over the Kimberley landscape** aboard their Grumman Mallard amphibious aircraft between Kununurra and Kuri Bay.

Often referred to as the "Antarctica of the tropics," the Kimberley is renowned for its natural beauty and cultural significance. It is the pristine environment, wild, rugged and remote landscapes that gives rise to the comparison. The ancient landscape is the epitome of a sunburnt country, the vast plains and rugged red sandstone gorges are quintessentially Australian and like nowhere else. The Kimberley is **one of the world's last great Wilderness areas**, and **one of Australia's greatest natural assets**.

The 13,000km of remote isolated coastline boasts more than 2,600 islands and is home to **the oldest continuous culture on earth, the world's largest living reptile, the only two 'Horizontal Falls' on the planet, the world's largest inshore reef**, extensive undisturbed **mangrove forests, wild rivers**, important seabird and **marine turtle breeding colonies** and **the largest population of migrating humpback whales on the planet**. It is a national biodiversity hotspot and listed in the top 4% of least impacted marine environments worldwide.

Our Barefoot luxury sailing expeditions are fully flexible itineraries with no predetermined destinations. With a maximum of 32 guests, we are able to create bespoke itineraries showcasing the changing environment throughout the dry season from April to September. Each day's activities will be determined by the Captain and Expedition Leader, taking into account the season, prevailing weather, tide and sea conditions to deliver the best experience possible.



The information in this document is valid as of 18/08/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

KURI BAY

Embarkation 28/04/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 28/04/2023 at 18:00

Located 370km north of Broome and 460km west of Kununurra, Kuri Bay lies at the heart of the **Lalang – Garram/Camden Sound Marine Park**. It was the location of Australia's first cultured pearl farm and is named after the company's first principal, **Tokuichi Kuribayashi**. Today it is the home of Paspaley, the world's most important producer of cultured pearls. Such is the superior and widely recognised quality of the gems they are in their own category and recognised simply as **Paspaley Pearls**.

Kuri Bay is the ideal location for starting or ending your Kimberley sailing expedition combining a **spectacular scenic flight** over the Kimberley landscape aboard a Paspaley Grumman Mallard amphibious aircraft between Kuri Bay and Broome or Kununurra

NORTHERN KIMBERLEY COAST

Arrival 29/04/2023

Departure 04/05/2023

Whilst there is no standard itinerary, our sailing expedition will feature the iconic destinations of **King George Falls** and **Prince Frederick Harbour**. Additional destinations that may be visited include the **Prince Regent River** home to the spectacular terraced waterfall of **Kings Cascades** and **Camp Creek**. Part of the Prince Regent National Park is the National Heritage listed Mermaid Boab at **Careening Bay**, recording the repairs undertaken by Philip Parker King and his men in September 1820 to Her Majesty's Cutter, Mermaid. Prince Frederick Harbour is one of the largest and most scenic inlets of the Kimberley coast. Here, the **Hunter River** and **Roe River** curl through an awe inspiring landscape of flat top mesas, ancient folded mountains, deep gorges, craggy sandstone cliffs and spires. Just to the North lies the Mitchell River National Park known for its rugged scenery and First Nations Peoples heritage. From the cascading freshwater of the **Mitchell Falls** the **Mitchell River** has carved breath-taking gorges into the sandstone as it winds its way to the waters of the **Admiralty Gulf**. Within the gulf, the **Low Rocks** and **Sterna Island** Important Bird Area in the **Montesquieu Islands** support 4,000 breeding pairs of Roseate terns. The coastal embayments and offshore Islands of the **Bonaparte Archipelago** are rich in First Nations Peoples culture and heritage. Ancient rock art galleries depicting both the Wandjina and Gwion Gwion styles unique to the Kimberley region can be experienced at **Bigge Island**, **Winyalkan Island**, **Swift Bay** and **Jar Island**. To the North, the mangrove lined **Drysdale River** provides the ideal environment to spot crocodiles and an abundance of birdlife. Fed by wet season rainfall the nearby **Glycosmis Falls** and **Casuarina Falls** on the **Berkeley River** are at their most spectacular at the start of the season. No voyage along the North Kimberley coast could be complete without visiting the Iconic **King George River**. The colours and textures of the 80m high gorge change with the light as you travel further up the river creating a continual changing wallpaper of passing scenery that is simply stunning. Culminating in the **Twin Falls of King George**, the highest waterfall in Western Australia.

WYNDHAM

Arrival 05/05/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 05/05/2023 at 07:00

Wyndham is the northernmost town in Western Australia and in many ways is the gateway to the **Kimberley**. It is surrounded by some of the most spectacular landforms, rivers and wetlands in the Kimberley.