



Luxury Small Ship Expeditions

Exploration of the Kimberley Coast

Cruises in May, June, July and August 2020





An Expedition like no-other

The Kimberley, one of the world's last great wilderness frontiers, is best experienced on a luxury small expedition ship where you can get right into the heart of the destination.

With PONANT explore one of the oldest of regions aboard the newest of ships, *Le Lapérouse*, the youngest and **most environmentally sustainable vessel** in the Kimberley.

In a Zodiac®, accompanied by an **experienced Expedition Team**, explore the dense mangroves of the Hunter River, home to saltwater crocodiles, venture beneath the towering King George waterfalls, marvel at extraordinary tidal movements at Montgomery Reef, and see ancient Aboriginal Gwion Gwion rock art galleries at Jar Island. You may even get the chance to witness migrating humpback whales on your journey. In 2020, you will also be able to choose one of our two new **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC & PONANT Expeditions**. You will enjoy the enrichment of a NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Expert and Photographer onboard who will share their knowledge and insights with you.

Choose our **optional excursions** and experience a helicopter flight over the majestic Mitchell Falls, or a PONANT exclusive, a scenic flight in a vintage Paspaley Grumman Mallard over the picturesque North Kimberley Coast or the Buccaneer Archipelago. Thrill seekers can also take a fast boat ride through the Horizontal Falls! Back onboard your **luxurious floating base camp**, enjoy PONANT's signature French luxury and ambiance, cool off in the pool, and with an Open Bar, relax with a champagne whilst admiring the stunning sunsets, before enjoying fine cuisine on deck or in the dining room.

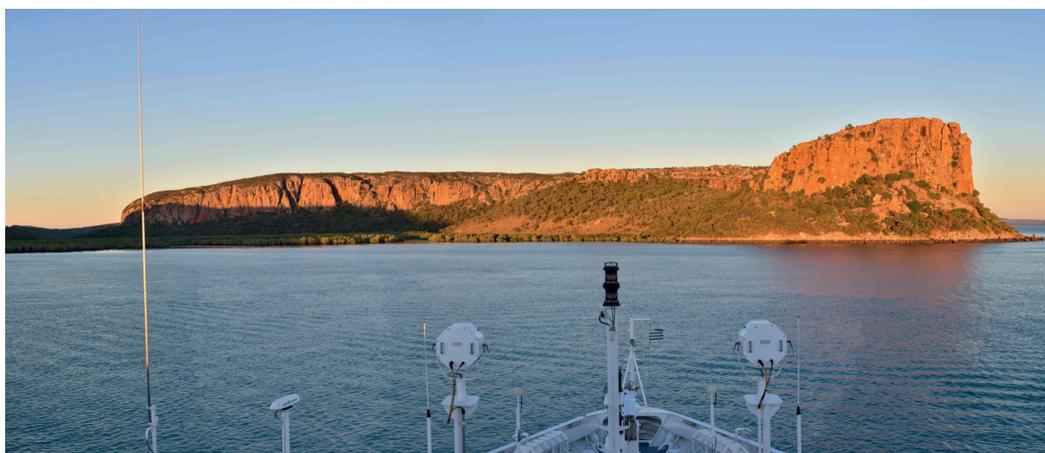


An unforgettable journey on an exceptional ship

Le Lapérouse: A luxury small expedition ship

Featuring innovative and environmentally-friendly equipment, elegantly designed staterooms, spacious suites with large windows, and lounge areas that flow to the outside, this new intimate ship boasting just 92 staterooms and suites will offer you a truly unique cruising experience.

As the first ship in a new series of 6 Explorer ships being constructed, *Le Lapérouse* will embody the unique atmosphere that is the cruise line's hallmark: a subtle blend of refinement, luxury, intimacy and comfort.



Whichever cruise you choose, you are assured of PONANT's trademark exceptional comfort and service

- The comfort of luxuriously spacious staterooms and suites, all with a private balcony.
- Facilities including an infinity pool, a world-first multi-sensory underwater lounge and a moveable marina for convenient access to your Zodiac®.
- Refined design, an intimate atmosphere and a delightfully French lifestyle.
- Delicate gastronomy prepared by French chefs and accompanied by a selection of French & international wines.
- A discreet, considerate bilingual French-English speaking crew who attend to your every wish.

Chic, stylish and intimate, imbued with French ambiance, this is a PONANT Luxury Expedition cruise.



Highlights*

1. The Lacepede Islands

The Lacepede Islands are Western Australia's **most important breeding habitat for Green Turtles** (*Chelonia mydas*), and have been named by BirdLife International as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)**. The breeding colony of Brown Boobies is possibly the largest in the world. Up to 20,000 Roseate Terns have also been recorded here. Other birds breeding on the islands include Masked Boobies, Australian Pelicans, Lesser Frigatebirds, Eastern Reef Egrets, Silver Gulls, Crested, Bridled and Lesser Crested Terns, Common Noddies, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers.

2. Prince Frederick Harbour

Arguably one of the most scenic parts of the Kimberley coast, Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River are lined with **ancient rainforest pockets, pristine mangroves and mosaic sandstone cliffs**. They are considered to be some of the most pristine mangrove forests in the world, containing up to 18 different species, supporting a rich and diverse fauna. The sandstone escarpment at the river mouth, known as "**Kampamantiya**" rises over 200 metres high before giving way to extensive mud banks and mangrove forests home to numerous bird species and the iconic saltwater crocodile.

3. Talbot Bay - Collier Bay Region

Located within the Collier Bay region and described by Sir David Attenborough as "**One of the greatest wonders of the natural world**", the "**Horizontal Waterfalls**" are an iconic location and one of the premier tourist attractions of the West Kimberley. They are a pair of stunning breaks in the McLarty Range approximately 300m apart. With massive tidal differences of up to 9m on a spring tide, the "Horizontal Waterfalls" are created as seawater builds up faster on one side of the gaps than the other, creating a **waterfall up to 3m high** on a King tide.

4. Vansittart Bay

At the lower end of Vansittart Bay lies Jar Island. Jar Island contains **ancient rock art galleries** depicting the Gwion Gwion style **unique to the Kimberley region**. Mainly neglected by, or unknown to, the early European researchers of Aboriginal culture in the Kimberley in favour of the dominant & more dramatic Wandjina art, Gwion Gwion art has in recent years gained world prominence. It is generally thought that this art may **date back to over 30,000 years**, representing the first wave of seagoing colonisers of the Australian continent. As it is, these are the oldest detailed depiction of human figures in the world.

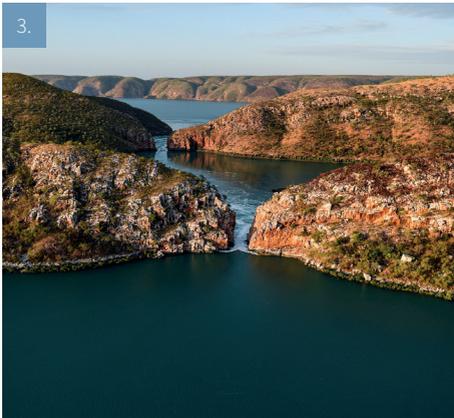
5. King George River

The journey up the King George River is nothing short of breathtaking. The **80m high sides** of the gorge display varying degrees of weathering of the ancient Warton sandstone. The colours and textures of the gorge change with the light as you travel further up the river creating a continual changing wallpaper of passing scenery that is simply stunning. The journey culminates at the **King George twin falls; the highest single-drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley** (80m or 260ft).

6. Montgomery Reef - Collier Bay Region

The tidal movements in the Kimberley are nothing short of massive, in fact the Kimberley has the third **largest tidal range of anywhere on the planet**. Sitting in the heart of the Collier Bay region, Montgomery Reef is a spectacular example of the impact of these tides as the entire **reef appears to rise from the ocean**. As the tide drops a raging torrent of water cascades off the top of the reef. At just under **400km² in size** it is **Australia's largest inshore reef**, containing large areas of shallow lagoon, seagrass beds and corals.

**Subject to tide and weather conditions. The expedition highlights described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.*



Iconic Kimberley Coast



Set out to discover the wild, magnificent landscapes of the Kimberley.

Step on board *Le Lapérouse* for its second season of Expedition cruises from Darwin to Broome or Broome to Darwin. This modern, eco-friendly small expedition ship will take you all along this shoreline, one of the most spectacular coastal zones in the whole of Australia. Come and discover the long stretches of white sand, alternating between mangroves and tropical forest, and unspoilt rivers flowing between spectacular gorges.

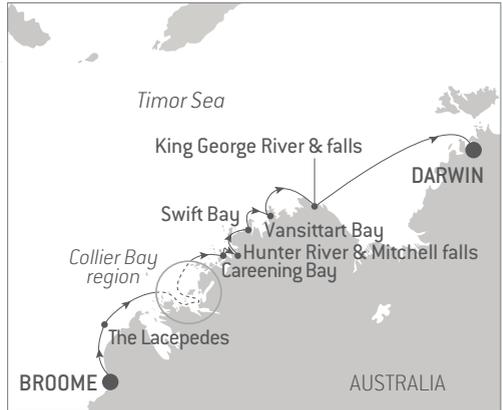
We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and tide conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, whilst complying with the necessary safety rules and precautions.

Darwin - Broome - 10 nights
 28th May 2020: classical music theme
 8th May, 17th June, 7th & 27th July, 16th August 2020
 From A\$11,250pp* in a Deluxe Stateroom for the cruises departing 8th May, 17th June & 7th July 2020

Broome - Darwin - 10 nights
 18th May, 17th July, 6th August 2020
 From A\$11,250pp* in a Deluxe Stateroom for the cruise departing 18th May 2020



DAY	ITINERARY
1	Darwin (Australia). Embarkation
2	At sea, Pulau Meatimiarang (Indonesia)
3	Wyndham (Australia)
4	King George River & Falls (Australia)
5	Vansittart Bay (Australia)
6	Swift Bay (Australia)
7	Hunter River & Mitchell Falls (Australia)
8, 9	Collier Bay region (Australia)
10	The Lacepedes (Australia)
11	Broome (Australia) - Disembarkation.



DAY	ITINERARY
1	Broome (Australia). Embarkation
2	The Lacepedes (Australia)
3, 4	Collier Bay region (Australia)
5	Careening Bay (Australia)
6	Hunter River & Mitchell Falls (Australia)
7	Swift Bay (Australia)
8	Vansittart Bay (Australia)
9	King George River & Falls (Australia)
10	At sea
11	Darwin (Australia) - Disembarkation.

Choice to participate in one of three complimentary tours in Wyndham; Ord river experience, Bungle Bungle scenic flight or El Questro experience (subject to availability, on a first in first serve basis).



Broome - Darwin - 11 nights
 6th June 2020: includes 1 night pre cruise program to discover Broome Historical Museum, Cable Beach, the Japanese and Chinese cemetery & Cygnet Bay Pearly Pioneers Exhibition.
 From A\$14,940pp* in a Deluxe Stateroom

Broome - Darwin - 13 nights
 26th August 2020
 From A\$15,970pp* in a Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



DAY	ITINERARY
1	Pre cruise program in Broome (Australia).
2	Broome (Australia). Embarkation
3	The Lacepedes (Australia)
4, 5	Collier Bay region (Australia)
6	Careening Bay (Australia)
7	Hunter River & Mitchell Falls (Australia)
8	Swift Bay (Australia)
9	Vansittart Bay (Australia)
10	King George River & Falls (Australia)
11	At sea
12	Darwin (Australia) - Disembarkation.



DAY	ITINERARY
1	Broome (Australia). Embarkation
2,3	Rowley Shoals (Australia)
4	The Lacepedes (Australia)
5, 6	Collier Bay Region (Australia)
7	Careening Bay (Australia)
8	Hunter River & Mitchell Falls (Australia)
9	Browse island (Australia)
10	Ashmore Reef (Australia)
11	Jar Island (Australia)
12	King George River (Australia)
13	At sea
14	Darwin (Australia) - Disembarkation.

* Ponant Bonus discount subject to change based on availability. Ponant Bonus fare per person, in Australian dollars, based on a double occupancy, including port taxes and transfer (Ship to/from Broome town/airport), yield managed, correct at time of writing - 05/10/2018. Refer to au.ponant.com for the latest fares and availability.

Meet the Expedition Team

Before you embark, get to know some of the Naturalist Guides you will have the pleasure of meeting on board.



Mick Fogg - *Expedition Leader*

As an award-winning wildlife photographer and adventurer, Mick has spent the past 17 years leading Expeditions and photographing some of the world's most remote destinations from Antarctica to South East Asia. He has contributed to articles on the Kimberley to newspapers and magazines around the world. His photographs have been published in a long list of travel and natural history publications. Mick joined PONANT in 2014 as Expedition Manager Asia Pacific, bringing his years of experience in itinerary design and operation. Having led more than 120 Expeditions through the Kimberley, he is the perfect Expedition Leader.



Mark Watson - *Expedition team*

Mark has been working as a Naturalist & Field Guide for more than 20 years. After watching a Malcom Douglass documentary on the Kimberley, he packed his bags, landing a job as a Ranger at El Questro Wilderness Park. He immediately loved the rugged rusty ranges and the wildlife the Kimberley offers. He also worked on the pearl farms along the Kimberley coast and as an Adventure Guide, leading exclusive tours to inland gorges looking for ancient rock art. Mark looks forward to sharing his experience, passion and knowledge of this vast land, with all of PONANT guests.



Sandrine Erwin-Rose - *Expedition team*

Born on the shores of the Mediterranean, Sandrine remembers pouring over Jacques Cousteau's books as a child. After being expatriated to Australia, she grew up in the North with the Great Barrier Reef as her garden, where she went sailing and diving. Her passionate interest in wildlife led her to study zoology and marine biology at James Cook University in Australia. During this time, she visited the most varied regions in the world, from tropical forests to arid deserts, and dived in the colourful world of coral reefs.



Harry Christensen - *Expedition team*

Harry is a Marine Biologist by trade, with extensive experience in educating people about the biodiversity of Indo-Pacific Coral Reefs. For over 25 years he has worked within the Tourism Industry providing educational programs to visitors in the Torres Strait, Great Barrier Reef, Melanesia, Indonesia, Borneo, South Pacific and Kimberley regions. He has been employed for many years on Lizard Island and was responsible for bringing the diversity and fragile nature of the reef to the Island guests' attention. It was here Harry started producing a series of nature-based newsletters.

Enhance your Expedition

Make the most of your expedition with one of our optional excursions to become fully immersed within the spectacular Kimberley Coast.



| North Kimberley Scenic flight

From a vintage Paspaley Grumman Mallard, enjoy a scenic flight over the Paspaley Pearl farm and Vansittart Bay before continuing up the rugged Kimberley coastline to Eagle Falls. Your pilot will showcase the remarkably diverse coastline and ecosystems of the Top End before making an exhilarating aquatic landing back in Vansittart Bay.

Price: A\$495 per person.*



| Fast boat ride through the Horizontal Falls

Whilst our ships' Zodiac® can show you the falls up close, to experience the thrill of the falls in full tidal movement you will need a larger, faster boat. Board a fast rigid hulled inflatable for a short thrill ride through the fast-moving waters at the falls. Speed through the gaps in the sandstone walls and experience the foaming rapids up close.

Price: A\$135 per person.*



| Mitchell Falls Scenic Helicopter Flight

After a short Zodiac® ride to a wet landing on Naturalist Island you will be given a safety briefing by the helicopter pilot. After taking off from the beach enjoy a 20-minute flight to the stunning Mitchell Plateau. Your experienced pilots will keep you informed about one of the most scenic and biologically important areas of Western Australia.

Price: A\$885 per person.*

*Reservation and payment of pre-bookable tours must be made when booking your cruise or at least 90 days prior to your cruise departure date. Full tour program is available on our website au.ponant.com 12 months prior to your cruise. A minimum number of participants are required to confirm these programs.



INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

Australia: 1300 737 178 | New Zealand: 0800 767 018

reservations.aus@ponant.com

or contact your Travel Agent



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