

**VOYAGE INFORMATION**

Voyage Name	Arnhem Land & the Arafura Sea
Voyage Code	ARN170621G
Dates	17 – 24 June, 2021
Duration	8 days / 7 nights
Embark	Darwin, Northern Territory
Disembark	Darwin, Northern Territory
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Forms Due	17 March, 2021

Experience the thrill of ancient cultures and tropical adventures as you set sail across Van Dieman Gulf, following in the wake of Macassan sailing fleets harvesting edible sea cucumbers. Scan glassy waters for turtles, curious dolphins and silent crocodiles. Study melancholy ruins of failed pioneering attempts at Port Essington and Victoria Settlement on Cobourg Peninsula, only to be cheered by birdsong of this world-renowned wetland. Visit Aboriginal art centres and galleries across the Arafura Sea, examining 'Morning Star' poles on Elcho Island, and seeing world-famous artists at work at Maningrida, fabric designers at Babbarra Women's Cooperative and possibly even performance art. Gain insight into traditional homeland life in Yolngu Country at Bawaka, and explore the remote Crocodile Islands with local rangers. Onboard experts add context and linking all is the rising and falling sea. Enjoy cool dawn breezes and sundowners beneath a flaming sky.

**ITINERARY OVERVIEW**

Day 1	Embark the <i>Greg Mortimer</i> in Darwin and set sail
Day 2	Cobourg Peninsula
Day 3	Maningrida
Day 4	Elcho Island
Day 5	Bawaka, Yirrkala
Day 6	Crocodile Islands
Day 7	Croker Island
Day 8	Disembark Darwin

**VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Cruise through Northern Territory's largest marine park; alive with dolphins, turtles, sharks, stingrays and crocodiles.
- Explore Cobourg Peninsula's Ramsar-listed wetlands, a major destination for sandpipers, plovers, terns and the great knot.
- Watch acclaimed artists create works, from bark paintings to woven mats at the Maningrida Arts and Cultural Centre.
- Learn how Crocodile Island Rangers combine traditional knowledge with contemporary conservation practices to protect their culture and country.
- Awaken to glorious tropical dawns, enjoy days of adventure and learning ashore, evenings ablaze with sunset and nights punctuated by the ghostly glow of crocodile eye-shine.

## EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival transfer from airport to Greg Mortimer on Day 1
- Departure transfer from Greg Mortimer to airport or hotel on last day
- Onboard accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic
- Complimentary spray jacket
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Gratuities for ship crew

## EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights not mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, gratuities, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges.

## **Day 1 Darwin**

Embark the *Greg Mortimer* in the afternoon. After boarding, take time to settle into your cabin before our important safety briefings. In the evening, meet your expedition team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner as the sun sets over Van Diemen Gulf.

## **Day 2 Cobourg Peninsula**

Awake to the glassy waters of Cobourg Marine Park, a habitat for dugongs, marine turtles, seabirds, saltwater crocodiles, reef fish and a variety of other animals that inhabit the sea and coastal areas. Zodiac ashore to Garig Gunak Barlu National Park where local rangers guide us through Ramsar-listed wetlands, a major destination for sandpipers, plovers, terns and the great knot, to the haunting ruins of failed pioneering attempts at Port Essington's Victoria Settlement. After lunch, visit Black Point Interpretation Centre, full of artefacts and information about interactions between Aborigines and seafaring Macassans who came to harvest sea cucumbers.

## **Day 3 Maningrida**

Enjoy a dawn approach to the mouth of the Liverpool River then to anchorage off Maningrida. Zodiac ashore to visit the Maningrida Arts and Culture Centre, where local artists produce works destined to feature in galleries throughout the world. As well as paintings, there are woven baskets, mats, dillybags and bark paintings on display (and for sale). At nearby Babarra Womens Cooperative, be engrossed by local artists screen printing stunning designs on fabric.

## **Day 4 Elcho Island**

Visit Elcho Island's Galwin'ku community and the Marthakal Arts Centre where locally made art, including carvings, weavings and paintings are on display. 'Morning Star' poles – long staffs decorated with paintings and exotic feathers, are particularly fascinating. After repositioning to the island's north coast, visit the remote Gawa community to view remarkable films and art produced by the local schoolchildren.

## **Day 5 Bawaka, Yirrkala**

Having rounded the Gove Peninsula overnight, enjoy a unique opportunity to visit the traditional homelands of the Yolju people at Bawaka with your local guide. In the afternoon, discover the Yirrkala community and the extraordinary Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre, which holds works ranging from historical photos and message sticks, to contemporary Yolju paintings and digital art.

## **Day 6 Crocodile Islands**

Spending a day exploring the picturesque Crocodile Islands with the Crocodile Island Rangers. Learn how the rangers combine traditional knowledge with contemporary conservation practices to protect their culture and country. Keep an eye out for the large reptiles from which the islands gained their name, and scan the islands' coastal fringes – recognised as an 'Important Bird Area' by BirdLife International – for a variety of shorebirds including pied oystercatchers, grey-tailed tattlers and eastern curlews.

## **Day 7 Croker Island**

Explore Croker Island, across Bowen Strait from the Cobourg Peninsula. Some believe the island to be the birthplace of the creation being, the Rainbow Serpent. Wandering from grassland to tropical rainforest, watch for dancing brolgas and hunting jabirus, and learn the epic WWII tale of survival – the Croker Island exodus. Featuring in a 2018

documentary of the same name, it's the story of 95 Aboriginal children and their three carers who escaped a Japanese invasion to make an incredible journey from the Top End to Sydney. Back on board, delight in last night celebrations beneath a tropical sunset.

### **Day 7 Darwin**

After breakfast, farewell your expedition team and disembark to be transferred to the airport or hotel.

**Important note:** *In the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage exploration and adventure offering flexibility in challenging environments. This itinerary is only a guide and is subject to change due to tides, weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.*

**VOYAGE INFORMATION**

Voyage Name	Arnhem Land & the Arafura Sea
Voyage Code	ARN240621G
Dates	24 June – 01 July, 2021
Duration	8 days / 7 nights
Embark	Darwin, Northern Territory
Disembark	Darwin, Northern Territory
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Forms Due	24 March, 2021

Experience the thrill of ancient cultures and tropical adventures as you set sail across Van Dieman Gulf, following in the wake of Macassan sailing fleets harvesting edible sea cucumbers. Scan glassy waters for turtles, curious dolphins and silent crocodiles. Study melancholy ruins of failed pioneering attempts at Port Essington and Victoria Settlement on Cobourg Peninsula, only to be cheered by birdsong of this world-renowned wetland. Visit Aboriginal art centres and galleries across the Arafura Sea, examining 'Morning Star' poles on Elcho Island, and seeing world-famous artists at work at Maningrida, fabric designers at Babbarra Women's Cooperative and possibly even performance art. Gain insight into traditional homeland life in Yolngu Country at Bawaka, and explore the remote Crocodile Islands with local rangers. Onboard experts add context and linking all is the rising and falling sea. Enjoy cool dawn breezes and sundowners beneath a flaming sky.

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**VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Cruise through Northern Territory's largest marine park; alive with dolphins, turtles, sharks, stingrays and crocodiles.
- Explore Cobourg Peninsula's Ramsar-listed wetlands, a major destination for sandpipers, plovers, terns and the great knot.
- Watch acclaimed artists create works, from bark paintings to woven mats at the Maningrida Arts and Cultural Centre.
- Learn how Crocodile Island Rangers combine traditional knowledge with contemporary conservation practices to protect their culture and country.
- Awaken to glorious tropical dawns, enjoy days of adventure and learning ashore, evenings ablaze with sunset and nights punctuated by the ghostly glow of crocodile eye-shine.

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## Day 2 Cobourg Peninsula

Awake to the glassy waters of Cobourg Marine Park, a habitat for dugongs, marine turtles, seabirds, saltwater crocodiles, reef fish and a variety of other animals that inhabit the sea and coastal areas. Zodiac ashore to Garig Gunak Barlu National Park where local rangers guide us through Ramsar-listed wetlands, a major destination for sandpipers, plovers, terns and the great knot, to the haunting ruins of failed pioneering attempts at Port Essington's Victoria Settlement. After lunch, visit Black Point Interpretation Centre, full of artefacts and information about interactions between Aborigines and seafaring Macassans who came to harvest sea cucumbers.

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## Day 5 Bawaka, Yirrkala

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Voyage Code	ARN010721G
Dates	01 – 08 July, 2021
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Embark	Darwin, Northern Territory
Disembark	Darwin, Northern Territory
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Forms Due	01 April 2021

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