

VOYAGE INFORMATION

Voyage Name	Kimberley Coast
Voyage Code	KIM200721G
Dates	20 – 30 July, 2021
Duration	11 days / 10 nights
Start	Broome
Finish	Darwin
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Optional Activities	Heli-flight to Mitchell Falls Seaplane flight over Horizontal Waterfalls
Forms Due	20 April, 2021

VOYAGE SUMMARY

Step on board and become entranced by the Kimberley Coast's rugged beauty, the power of its waters, and the potency of its landscape. Visit indigenous rock art galleries, sit quietly alongside lush mangrove forests listening to morning birdsong, and Zodiac cruise vast rivers and meandering creeks, searching the banks for the mighty saltwater crocodile. Birdlife abounds, so scan the skies and shorelines for Brahminy kites, white-bellied sea eagles, frigatebirds, terns, oystercatchers, herons and egrets. At sea, keep an eye out for breaching humpback whales, bobbing heads of curious green sea turtles, sleek manta rays, shy dugongs and the endemic snubfin dolphin. At the end of each day, drink in the spectacular Kimberley sunset and reflect on your new adventures.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1	Embark ship in Broome
Day 2	Lacepede Islands
Days 3–4	Collier Bay, Montgomery Reef, Horizontal Falls, Yampi Sound Area
Days 5–6	Prince Regent National Park, Prince Frederick Harbour, Hunter River
Days 7–8	Northwestern Kimberley, Montague Sound, Vansittart Bay
Day 9	Koolama Bay, King George River
Day 10	At sea, crossing Joseph Bonaparte Gulf
Day 11	Disembark in Darwin

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Montgomery Reef – Australia's largest in-shore reef – and the diversity of its lively marine life.
- Experience the natural phenomenon of the Horizontal Falls, described by David Attenborough as "one of the greatest natural wonders of the world"
- Zodiac-cruise alongside lush mangrove forests listening to a morning birdsong chorus.
- Look for some of the estimated 40,000 humpback whales returning from Antarctica to give birth in the warmer waters of Lalang-Garram/Camden Sound Marine Park.
- Discover the remote Prince Regent National Park – a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve – with its range of bird species and striking scenery.
- Enjoy the untamed beauty of the far northwestern reaches of the Kimberley coast.
- Contemplate enigmatic *Wandjina* and *Gwion Gwion* beings at Aboriginal rock art galleries.
- Cruise the majestic King George River, below towering sandstone cliffs, to the 80-metre-high King George Falls.

EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival transfer from airport or hotel 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
- Fast boat ride through the Horizontal Waterfalls
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic
- A spray jacket per person
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- 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, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1 Embark in Broome**

You're welcomed aboard the *Greg Mortimer* this afternoon, and shown your cabin before mandatory safety drills are carried out. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet fellow expeditioners at our voyage briefing, and Captain's Welcome Dinner. Enjoy the rich colours of our first Kimberley sunset as we depart Broome and set sail on our Kimberley adventures.

Day 2 At sea, Lacepede Islands

Enjoy a morning at sea, and perhaps an informative talk to introduce you to the magic of the Kimberley coast. Be sure to keep an eye out for some of the estimated 40,000 humpback whales returning from Antarctica to give birth in these warmer waters, as well as the sea snakes, dugongs, sea turtles, and dolphins that call the Kimberley home. In the afternoon – weather permitting – make your first foray off the 'mother ship' and delight in the thousands of brown boobies that breed on the small, offshore cays known as the Lacepede Islands. The brown booby colony is possibly the largest in the world, with an estimated 18,000 breeding pairs. Other seabirds may also be spied, including lesser frigatebirds, crested and roseate terns, eastern reef egrets, and pied oystercatchers; as well as the bobbing heads of curious green turtles or sleek shovel-nosed rays in the waters around you. While landings are not possible on this designated Class A Nature Reserve, exceptional Zodiac cruising along the island's shores will thrill.

Days 3–4 Collier Bay and Talbot Bay Area

Over these next expedition days, the nature and timing of our outings will be dictated by the tides and tidal currents.

The striking landscape and natural wonders around Collier Bay provide a myriad of adventures. Discover Montgomery Reef - Australia's largest in-shore reef, covering some 400 square kilometres – and the diversity of its lively marine life. On a falling tide, witness the extraordinary phenomenon as the reef appears to 'rise' from the sea as foaming water cascades off it, and seabirds arrive to forage as the reef's tasty inhabitants are exposed. Be enthralled by the unique geology and massive tides that create the Horizontal Waterfalls in Talbot Bay where you have the opportunity to take a thrilling boat ride through the falls*. Quietly cruise the meandering waterways of Cyclone Creek, and remain alert for glimpses of shy rock wallabies.

**Please note that while Zodiacs are not permitted to pass through the Horizontal Falls, our explorations will include views from the outer waters of Talbot Bay. We plan to offer you the opportunity to pass through the falls on a fast boat with a local operator (included in expedition cost). You may also have the option to spy this unique landscape from above on an optional seaplane flight (additional cost).*

Day 5 Prince Regent National Park

Enjoy forays into the coastal fringes of the Prince Regent National Park, and explore the outstanding biodiversity that earned it 'UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve' status. Experience picturesque Careening Bay – the place where Phillip Parker King chose to careen and repair His Majesty's Cutter *Mermaid* in September 1820 – and discover the large boab tree on which King's crew carved, 'HMC Mermaid' some 200 years' ago. Visit this slice of early Australian history; look for vibrant *mulla mulla*, ancient cycads and spiralling pandanus in the surrounding woodland; and enjoy a gentle stroll along the wide sandy beach.

Day 6 Prince Frederick Harbour, Hunter River

Delight in the breath-taking scenery of Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River – from colossal sandstone escarpments and full palette of greens in the lush mangrove forests, to the rhythmic flitting of a friarbird, soaring flight of a white-bellied sea eagle, and flicker of a sunning saltwater crocodile's eye. Join the expedition team to explore these dynamic waterways by Zodiac.

An optional scenic heli-flight may be on offer today (or possibly from Swift Bay), allowing for visit to Mitchell Falls as well as spectacular bird's eye view of the diverse colours, textures and patterns of the landscape from the turquoise-blue waters of the coast to the rugged Mitchell Plateau.

Day 7 Northwestern Kimberley, Montague Sound

In the remote north-western reaches of the Kimberley, we may explore either the treasures of either Swift Bay or Bigge Island. Both offer exceptional opportunities to explore rugged sandstone shelters, caves and overhangs whose surfaces are adorned with rock art of the *Wunambal* people, including the more recent *Wandjina* style.

Day 8 Vansittart Bay: Jar Island & Anjo Peninsula

Named by explorer Phillip Parker King due to the pottery shards he found there (likely from Macassan fishermen looking for *trepang*, or sea cucumber), Jar Island offers our first encounters with ancient rock art galleries, including the mysterious, human-like *Gwion Gwion* (also known as Bradshaw) figures. On the bay's eastern side, land on a pristine white beach of the Anjo Peninsula and take a short walk across salt flats leads to the well-preserved wreck of a C-53 (a cargo variation of the DC-3) that crash landed here in World War II.

Day 9 Koolama Bay, King George River

Wake to your final Kimberley dawn in Koolama Bay, and join the expedition team as we Zodiac to the mouth of the King George River. Cruise this majestic waterway below towering, rust-red sandstone cliffs to 80-metre-high twin falls, and enjoy exploring the striking surrounds before we set sail for Darwin.

Day 10 At sea

First sighted by Abel Tasman in 1644 - and named by French explorer Nicholas Baudin in 1803 after Napoleon's brother - the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf is an inlet of the Timor Sea with relatively shallow waters. As such, the seas can get quite choppy compared to the Kimberley's mostly protected waters. Enjoy informative talks to consolidate your appreciation of the Kimberley coast's compelling natural and human history. Toast your adventures in the wash of a Top End sunset and celebrate with friends – both new and old – at the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Day 11 Disembark in Darwin

In Darwin, farewell the crew, expedition team and fellow travellers before your transfer to the airport or your hotel accommodation.

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

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Voyage Code	KIM300721G KIM310821G
Dates	30 July – 09 August, 2021 31 August – 10 September, 2021
Duration	11 days / 10 nights
Start	Darwin
Finish	Broome
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Optional Activities	Heli-flight to Mitchell Falls Seaplane flight over Horizontal Waterfalls
Forms Due	30 April, 2021 31 May, 2021

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ITINERARY OVERVIEW

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Day 3	Koolama Bay, King George River
Days 4–5	Vansittart Bay, Northwestern Kimberley, Montague Sound
Days 6–7	Prince Frederick Harbour, Hunter River, Prince Regent National Park
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Day 11	Disembark in Broome

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise the majestic King George River, below towering sandstone cliffs, to the 80-metre-high King George Falls.
- Contemplate the enigmatic *Wandjina* and *Gwion Gwion* beings at Aboriginal rock art galleries.
- Enjoy the untamed beauty of the far northwestern reaches of the Kimberley coast.
- Discover the remote Prince Regent National Park – a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve – with its range of bird species and striking scenery.
- Zodiac-cruise alongside lush mangrove forests listening to a morning birdsong chorus.
- Explore Montgomery Reef – Australia's largest in-shore reef – and the diversity of its lively marine life.
- Experience the natural phenomenon of the Horizontal Falls, described by David Attenborough as "one of the greatest natural wonders of the world"

- Look for some of the estimated 40,000 humpback whales returning from Antarctica to give birth in the warmer waters of Lalang-Garram/Camden Sound Marine Park.

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An optional scenic heli-flight may be on offer today (or possibly from Swift Bay), allowing for a visit to Mitchell Falls as well as spectacular bird's eye view of the diverse colours, textures and patterns of the landscape - from the brilliant blue coastal waters to the rugged gorges of the Mitchell Plateau.

Day 7 Prince Regent National Park

Careening Bay takes its name as the place where Phillip Parker King chose to careen and repair His Majesty's Cutter *Mermaid* in September 1820. While there, the crew carved 'HMC Mermaid 1820' into a large boab tree. Visit this

slice of early Australian history; look for vibrant *mulla mulla*, ancient cycads and spiralling pandanus in the surrounding woodland; and enjoy a gentle stroll along the wide sandy beach.

Enjoy forays into the coastal fringes of the Prince Regent National Park, and explore the outstanding biodiversity that earned it 'UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve' status before we sail south into the waters of the Lalang-Garam/Camden Sounds Marine Park. Considered the most important humpback whale nursery in the southern hemisphere, be sure to keep an eye out for some of the estimated 40,000 humpback whales returning from Antarctica to give birth in these warmer waters, as well as the sea snakes, dugongs, sea turtles, and dolphins that call it home.

Days 8–9 Collier Bay & Talbot Bay Area

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Day 10 Lacepede Islands, At sea

Weather permitting, delight in the thousands of brown boobies and that call the Lacepede Islands – a group of offshore sand and coral cays – their breeding grounds. The brown booby colony is possibly the largest in the world, with an estimated 18,000 breeding pairs. Other seabirds may also be spied, including lesser frigatebirds, crested and roseate terns, eastern reef egrets, and pied oystercatchers; as well as the bobbing heads of curious green turtles or sleek shovel-nosed rays in the waters around you. While landings are not possible on this designated Class A Nature Reserve, exceptional Zodiac cruising along the island's shores will thrill.

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