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THE KIMBERLEY – DARWIN TO BROOME

2018

11 days / 10 nights

Day 1 (D) DARWIN

Your Kimberley adventure begins with a transfer to the Darwin Central Hotel for two nights. Take some time to settle in and relax. Dinner will be at a waterfront restaurant.

Day 2 (B,D) DARWIN

Today is a leisurely one, exploring our northern most capital, including visits to the Cyclone Tracy Museum and the Australian Aviation Heritage Centre featuring a B52 Bomber display. This afternoon visit Stokes Hill Wharf to see the informative exhibitions of the Bombing of Darwin Harbour and Royal Flying Doctor Service. Enjoy a dinner cruise on the catamaran Charles Darwin, taking in the sunset over Darwin Harbour.

Day 3 (B,L,D) LITCHFIELD, KATHERINE

Heading south today, travel to Batchelor, gateway to Litchfield National Park. See fascinating magnetic termite mounds and Florence and Wangi Falls. Continue to Adelaide River and the War Cemetery, resting place of some 434 WWII service men and women, before arriving into Katherine for two nights at the Pine Tree Hotel.

Day 4 (B,L,D) NITMILUK GORGE CRUISE, KATHERINE

Experience the magnificent Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge on a two hour cruise through imposing sheer rock walls on two of the waterways which flow into the Daly River. (Note: Some walking is undertaken between the two gorges; reasonable fitness and sturdy footwear is required). This afternoon visit Katherine Museum and enjoy some cultural interaction at the Top Didj Art Gallery.

Day 5 (B,L,D) KATHERINE, KUNUNURRA

Travel to Victoria River and Timber Creek before crossing into Western Australia and the remote East Kimberley town of Kununurra for three nights at the Ibis Styles Kununurra. Entering the Western Standard time zone, you gain an extra 90 minutes.

Day 6 (B,L,D) KUNUNURRA

It's a gentle day of touring around Kununurra today. Visit Kelly's Knob Lookout with views over the town, the Ord irrigation area, Elephant Rock (aka the Sleeping Buddha), Kununurra Historical Society, the Sandalwood Factory and Lake Kununurra. Lake Kununurra was formed in 1963 after the completion of the Ord River Diversion Dam, and now harbours a large variety of flora and fauna including fresh and saltwater crocodiles. The surrounding wetlands, grasslands and woodland play host to a huge selection of birdlife.

Day 7 (B,L,D) MIRIMA, LAKE ARGYLE

An optional two hour sunrise Bungle Bungle Adventurer air tour may be pre-purchased. Fly over the lost world of unique and fascinating beehive-like striped rock dome formations of the Bungle Bungle Range in the World Heritage-listed Purnululu National Park, Lake Argyle, the Argyle Diamond Mine and Ord River Irrigation Area. Passengers booked on this spectacular tour will be provided with a boxed breakfast for a very early departure. Other passengers sleep in and enjoy breakfast at the hotel before meeting up with the flyers. Visit Mirima National Park (Hidden Valley) with its 300 million year old rock formations. Explore the historic Durack Homestead Museum, originally built in 1895 on Argyle Downs Station, which is now mostly submerged by the lake. After lunch, cross the retaining wall at Lake Argyle to join the Triple J cruise down the Ord River to Kununurra. At a distance of approximately 55 kilometres it's definitely a cruise to remember! Have your camera ready – an incredible 270 species of birds have been recorded in the Lake Argyle region.

Day 8 (B,L,D) ARGYLE MINE, HALLS CREEK

Travel to the Argyle Mine, the world's largest open cut diamond mine. View the mine site, tour the process plant and learn about the technology employed in diamond extraction. With 800m carats of diamonds mined, it's one of the world's largest suppliers of diamonds, including the stunning hues of Argyle Pink Diamonds. Following lunch in the staff village, there's time to view the History Museum. Continue south via Warmun (Turkey Creek) to the Halls Creek Motel.

Day 9 (B,L,D) FITZROY CROSSING, BROOME

Leave Halls Creek early this morning and travel to Fitzroy Crossing to join the Geikie Gorge Cruise. Carved by water through ancient coral reefs leaving colourful sculptured cliffs, the gorge is an amazing sight. Lunch at the Fitzroy River Lodge then continue to the coastal township of Broome for two nights at the Oaks Cable Beach Sanctuary.

Day 10 (B,D) BROOME

Explore the frontier-style town of Broome today. First visit Willie Creek Pearl Farm to learn about the pearling industry and have the opportunity to purchase your own Australian South Sea Pearl. Tour Chinatown and Gantheaume Point, home to Dinosaur Footprints. At very low tide, the 130 million year old footprints can be seen. In the afternoon, enjoy one of Australia's iconic experiences – a camel ride on Cable Beach. Afterwards, take in the scenic sunset over the ocean before dinner.

Day 11 (B) BROOME

This morning it's time to farewell newfound friends at the conclusion of a wonderful holiday in the magnificent Kimberley.

Note: Pre-book your Bungle Bungle Adventurer flightseeing tour with NRMA Travel before you travel and save. Please ask your consultant for details.

