

# ACROSS THE TOP OF AUSTRALIA

AN EXPEDITION CRUISE OF AUSTRALIA'S KIMBERLEY  
REGION ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY  
25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2020

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Raft Point

The Kimberley region of Western Australia was the last great empty section of Australia to be explored, with European settlers only arriving just over 100 years ago. Ignored by the early settlers, the Kimberley is today one of the richest areas of the continent with record gold and diamond rushes, great cattle drives and hauls of pearl shells having put the region well and truly on the economic map. However, for all its latterly discovered wealth, it still remains one of the most untouched areas in the world. Covering nearly 423,000 square kilometres, the region has fewer people per square kilometre than almost any other place on earth and is truly one of the world's last great wilderness areas with a complex landscape which encompasses spectacular gorges and waterfalls, fascinating cave systems and an incredibly diverse variety of wildlife.

Due to its wild and undeveloped nature, the Kimberley is a wonderful place for the genuine traveller to explore and it is perfect for expedition style cruising. There are so many highlights, it is difficult to know where to begin when extolling its virtues. From the tidal phenomena at the Montgomery Bay Reef to the Horizontal Waterfalls near Talbot Bay, from the hundreds of islands in the Buccaneer Archipelago to the gorges of the King George and Hunter rivers. The whole vast area offers a cornucopia of natural world delights on a scale seldom witnessed anywhere else in the world.



## Expedition Highlights

- Witness the tidal phenomenon and marine life of Montgomery Reef
- Marvel at the incredible indigenous rock art of Bigge Island
- Admire King George Falls, the tallest single drop falls in Western Australia
- Discover the ancient aboriginal art on Jar Island - some dating back over 17,000 years
- Explore in small groups ashore on expert-led guided walks

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Perth, Australia.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight via Singapore.

**Day 2 Perth.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay.

**Day 3 Perth.** After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a tour of Perth which will include a guided walk of Kings Park, perched on Mount

Eliza. Absorb impressive views of the city and the Swan River and visit Caversham Wildlife Park. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore at your own pace before we meet tonight for a welcome dinner.

**Day 4 Perth to Broome.** This morning enjoy a cruise along the Swan River to Fremantle which is famous for its wonderful beaches and well-preserved colonial



Flying fox, King George River



Boab tree



Humpback whale



Mitchell Falls



Horizontal falls, Talbot Bay

architecture. We have time to explore before returning to Perth airport for our scheduled flight to Broome. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and sail this evening.

**Day 5 Lacepede Islands.** Arrive this morning at the Lacepede Islands, a series of low islands consisting of coarse sand and coral rubble lying atop a platform reef. This nature reserve has been identified by Birdlife International as an Important Bird Area as it supports up to 18,000 breeding pairs of brown boobies and roseate terns, possibly the largest such population in the world. Board the Zodiacs and explore the

island's lagoon, keeping an eye out for many species of marine birdlife including Australian pelicans, frigate birds, egrets, gulls and terns. The islands are also renowned as Western Australia's most significant breeding grounds for the green turtle, often seen nesting on the islands.

**Day 6 Adele Island, Buccaneer Archipelago.** Cruise through the Buccaneer Archipelago, home to more than 800 islands and arrive at Adele Island, a hook-shaped island off the central Kimberley coast. It is an important location for breeding seabirds including the lesser frigatebird and the brown booby.

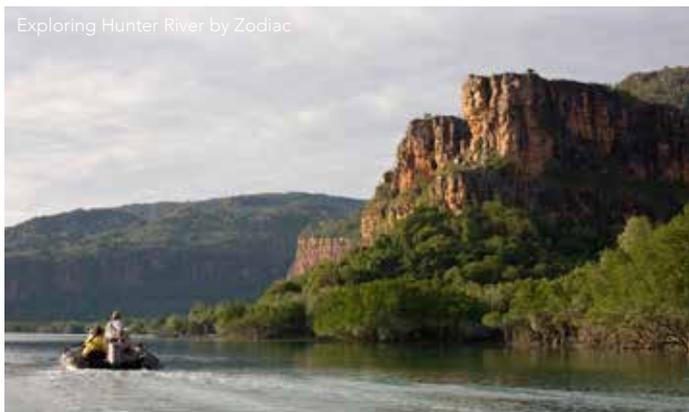
**Day 7 Horizontal Falls, Talbot Bay.** Talbot Bay is known for its massive 12 metre tides that create an amazing spectacle, the unique Horizontal Falls. David Attenborough described the phenomena as "one of the greatest natural wonders in the world". Subject to tidal conditions, we will board local boats for an exhilarating ride through the falls. This afternoon we will use our Zodiacs to explore Cyclone Gorge. Here we hope to see crocodiles and fiddler crabs in the waters whilst observing the unique geology and amazing rock formations.

**Day 8 Raft Point and Montgomery Reef.** This morning we arrive at Raft Point where we will use Zodiacs to land on the beach. Either enjoy time to relax or join the energetic and climb to a secluded Aboriginal rock art gallery to view Wandjina art which is over 4000 years old. Take in the spectacular views from the top before returning to the ship. Over lunch we position to the magnificent Montgomery Reef which 'rises' out of the ocean as the tidal waters cascade down into the surrounding deep channels in an awesome display of the power of nature. Join the expedition team and board a Zodiac to experience this

natural phenomenon up close and discover the reef's diverse marine life including turtles, manta rays and reef sharks.

**Day 9 Careening Bay.** Today we arrive at Careening Bay. Visit the iconic site of the ancient carved double-trunked Boab tree bearing the engraving 'HMC Mermaid - 1820'. Carved by one of the crew, the inscription commemorates the site where the ship was grounded and repaired.

**Day 10 Prince Frederick Harbour, Hunter River & Naturalist Island.** The Prince Frederick Harbour is home to some of the most spectacular scenery we will see. Soaring red cliffs, green rainforest and mangroves paint a beautiful canvas for our arrival as we sail through Nine Pin Head, the sandstone bluff that marks the mouth of the river. We follow the Hunter River to reveal the spectacular backdrop of Mount Trafalgar while to the north Mount Anderson rises to an impressive 480 metres. We will drop anchor at Naturalist Island and have the choice to join a Zodiac excursion around the island and mangroves looking for wildlife, especially crocodile, or an optional helicopter



Exploring Hunter River by Zodiac



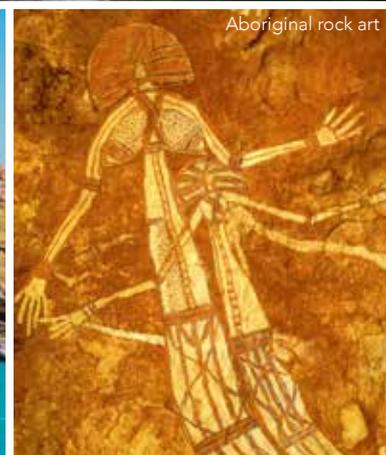
Banded honeyeater



Wangi Falls, Litchfield National Park



Bigge Island



Aboriginal rock art

excursion to Mitchell Falls. This amazing four-tiered waterfall drops 80 metres and is surrounded by the red escarpment lands of the Mitchell Plateau making the view from the air quite stunning. We will land at the top for a short walk to the lookout points and may even have a chance to swim in the river at the top of the falls.

**Day 11 Bigge Island.** Off the coast of the Kimberley, approximately six kilometres from the mainland, Bigge Island is filled with fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities and is well known for its Indigenous Australian rock art, created by the Wunambal people. In caves throughout the island you will be able to see paintings including fascinating examples of first contact art and Wandjina figures.

**Day 12 Vansittart Bay & Jar Island.** We have the whole day to explore Vansittart Bay but first we will use the Zodiacs to land on Jar Island to see the Gwion Gwion Aboriginal art gallery. Discovered by Joseph Bradshaw in 1891, some of the art has been dated back over 17,000 years and is unique to this region. We will walk to the two rock art galleries and see the rocky burial mound between the sites.

Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon land on the Anjo Peninsula. Our onboard naturalists will lead various walks over the mud flats, rock pools and sand dunes looking for wildlife, birds and plants.

**Day 13 King George River.** At dawn we will start our 12 kilometre journey through some of the world's most spectacular scenery along the mighty King George River. Millions of years of erosion have created vertical sheer walls that resemble stacks of sandstone. The highlight is sure to be King George Falls, the highest single drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley and our expedition team will get you to the cascading waters. Those feeling active may like to accompany some of the expedition team on a trek to the top of the falls for breathtaking views. For those that remain at the foot of the falls, we will run a series of Zodiac cruises through the gorge looking for wildlife such as flying foxes, dugong and crocodiles.

**Day 14 At sea.** Enjoy a day to relax at sea and attend a lecture or two.

**Day 15 Darwin.** This morning we arrive in Darwin. Enjoy a full day tour to Litchfield National Park

which is famous for its spectacular waterfalls. See Florence Falls and enjoy an interpretive bush and monsoon vine forest walk. Travel onto Tolmer Falls for a magnificent view of the water cascading down to the deep waterhole at the base of the falls. We will return via Wangi Falls with its large crystal-clear pool; maybe take a dip in the cool waters

and witness Litchfield's amazing stand of termite mounds.

**Day 16 Darwin to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your indirect flight to London.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£8295	£7795
Columbus	Superior	£8495	£7995
Marco Polo	Premium	£8995	£8495
Marco Polo	Corner	£9295	£8795
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£9795	£9295
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£10295	£9795
Explorer	Island Suite	£10995	£10495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£9995	£9495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£10295	£9795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Perth on a bed and breakfast basis • Dinner on day 3 • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, optional excursion to Mitchell Falls.

# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Club

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

## Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Egyptian cotton sheets, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

## Your Dining

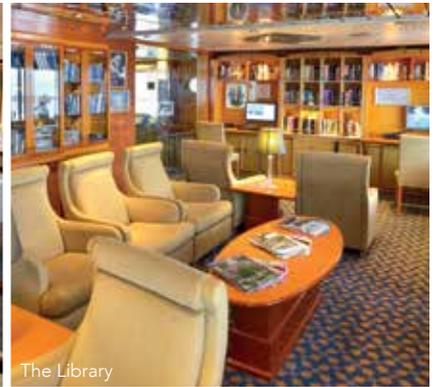
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



Standard Suite



The Restaurant



The Library

## Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo Deck which features the main bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Columbus Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A selection of games and two computers offering complimentary internet access can also be found in the Library. The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request. Throughout the vessel carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

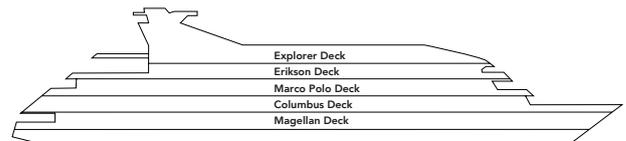
## Your Comfort

The MS Island Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

## Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

## MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



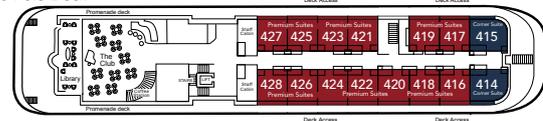
### Explorer Deck



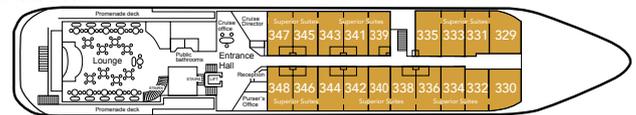
### Erikson Deck



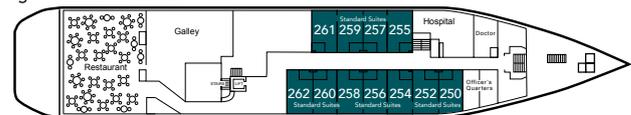
### Marco Polo Deck



### Columbus Deck



### Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Island Suite
- Premium Suites with Deck Access



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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