

# THE KIMBERLEY'S COASTAL WILDERNESS

PIONEERS IN THE KIMBERLEY  
ALL AUSTRALIAN ETHOS AND CREW  
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2023 AND 2024



## EXPEDITION DIARY

### YOWJAB (MONTGOMERY REEF)

"As we travelled up the inlet into Montgomery Reef, the coral reef was beginning to appear on both sides of us. The origins of the reef were explained and we began to see some of the wildlife associated with the reef, such as turtles and birds. We spotted grey-tailed tattlers and eastern reef egrets. Very soon the reef was well above us as the tide continued to fall. The spectacle of the water pouring off the reef in great cascades was awesome. This was another of the unique icons of the Kimberley, made possible by the huge tidal movements."

GUEST LECTURER / MIKE / 28 JUNE 2022



## EXPEDITION DIARY

### LACEPEDE ISLANDS

"The most prominent bird species was the brown booby and a few of these had produced chicks some of which were fluffy white and as big as their parents. Some of the other species we saw included the Australian pelican, pied oyster catchers, common noddies, eastern reef egrets, ruddy turnstones, Caspian terns, crested terns, silver gulls, lesser frigate birds, pied cormorants, and a number of water species. We also saw innumerable green turtles, black-tipped reef sharks and shovel-nose rays in this offshore estuary haven."

EXPEDITION LEADER / MELANIE / 8 APRIL 2022



## EXPEDITION DIARY

### PRINCE REGENT RIVER & MAMBULBADA (KING CASCADES)

"It made a spectacular sight as we rounded the mangroves and into the small bay where the falls cascaded over a series of ledges into the water below. As we moved in for a closer look, we spotted a crocodile watching us from a rocky ledge. Many photos were taken as we enjoyed the spectacle of the cascades. We then moved under the falls so that those needing a wash could go to the bow of the Xplorer and stand under the cascading water."

GUEST LECTURER / MIKE / 30 JUNE 2022



## EXPEDITION DIARY

### WUUYURU (BIGGE ISLAND)

"Bigge Island and the surrounding bay encapsulate the Kimberley and its rich history of human contact. Here we experienced more of the Wandjina style rock art. Upon climbing up from the beach the first thing we saw was a posing figure, gazing out over his country. This 'father' Kaiva Wandjina and his retinue of smaller 'children' figures maintained a serene vigil."

GUEST LECTURER / GREG / 20 MAY 2021



## CREW REFLECTION

### SECOND OFFICER / JO

"Sharing such a beautiful, remote, culturally significant part of our country that few people have experienced is fulfilling in a way that is hard to describe. I feel myself bursting with pride."

## EXPEDITION DIARY

### BANJAL (VANSITTART BAY)

"This morning we headed for Jar Island or Ngula as it is called by the local Wunambal Gaambara people. The name Jar Island was given by Explorer Phillip Parker King in 1819 after the shards of pottery and other evidence he found of Makassans from Indonesia. These seafarers visited this coastline for centuries — mainly to collect trepang (sea cucumbers)."

GUEST LECTURER / ANNE / 11 SEPTEMBER 2022



## EXPEDITION DIARY

### OOMARI FALLS (KING GEORGE FALLS)

"We enjoyed the discovery of a sea eagle's nest and spoke about the various creatures that lurk in the area. We cruised along the mangroves looking for crocs and to get an up-close look at the honeycomb weathering on the towering cliffs above. As we meandered down the river, we enjoyed the reds and oranges of the rocks against the beautiful lush green plants around the area. We reached the end and were greeted with the enormous flow of water over the two waterfalls. Everyone was in absolute awe and delight as we were sprayed with water from the force of the falls."

EXPEDITION LEADER / ASHLEIGH / 28 MARCH 2022



## CREW REFLECTION

### GUEST LECTURER / IAN

"No two trips are ever the same. The same applies to human history. My Indigenous friends here on the north coast feel the same way. They are proud that finally their culture is now being presented to the outside world in a way that reflects their values and who they really are."



## DARWIN

## WILDLIFE LIST

- Black-faced cuckoo shrike ✓
- Blue-spotted mudskipper ✓
- Brahmany kite ✓
- Brown booby ✓
- Caspian tern ✓
- Chestnut rail ✓
- Crested tern ✓
- Double-barred finch ✓
- Eastern osprey ✓
- Eastern reef egret ✓
- Elegant fiddler crab ✓
- Estuarine crocodile ✓
- Flatback sea turtle ✓
- Fruit bat ✓
- Green sea turtle ✓
- Great bower bird ✓
- Hawksbill turtle ✓
- Hermit crab ✓
- Humpback whale with calf ✓
- Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin ✓
- Kimberley rock monitor ✓
- Little friarbird ✓
- Mangrove whistler ✓
- Monjon rock wallaby ✓
- Pied imperial pigeon ✓
- Rainbow bee-eater ✓
- Red-tailed black cockatoo ✓
- Reef manta ray ✓
- Sacred kingfisher ✓
- Sea snake ✓
- Short-eared rock wallaby ✓
- Snubfin dolphin ✓
- Striated heron ✓
- Tawny nurse shark ✓
- Western shovel-nose ray ✓
- White-bellied sea eagle ✓
- White-gullied rock pigeon ✓

## CREW REFLECTION

### GUEST LECTURER / MARK

"My best memory from a Coral Expeditions trip is watching the hunting strategy of snubfin dolphins in the Kimberley. They often hunt late at night in the muddy waters of the saltwater rivers. The dolphin will spit a stream of water to land in front of the fish they are pursuing, startling it into making a u-turn straight into the dolphin's mouth."



## EXPEDITION DIARY

### WINYALKAN

"The tide was very low during our visit to the first Island where we found ourselves dwarfed by the huge intertidal range, marked by the black stains of cyanobacteria. By the water's edge, some of us saw some living corals that rarely feel direct sunrays. The second beach had some interesting ripple rock, and we passed some igneous dolerite rock that long ago intruded through the dominating sandstone."

GUEST LECTURER / STEVE / 12 SEPTEMBER 2022



## EXPEDITION DIARY

### GARAANNGADDIM (HORIZONTAL FALLS)

"Guests whipped through on zodiacs as our talented skippers navigated the wide gap and ripping tide. Excited and grinning ear to ear guests then re-joined in the dining room and chatted amongst each other over lunch about the exciting adrenaline-filled morning they just had."

EXPEDITION LEADER / ASHLEIGH / 25 MARCH 2022



## CREW REFLECTION

### GUEST LECTURER / TERRY

"No two trips are ever the same. I have done more than 50 Kimberley cruises with Coral Expeditions since 1998, and I still rate this as my favourite destination. I feel lucky to be present when people's jaws are dropping and their eyes light-up as they first experience Kimberley's magic."

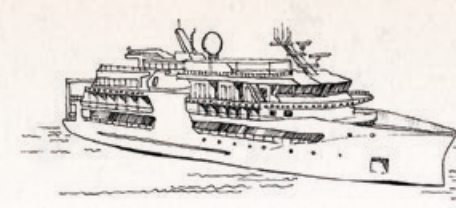


## EXPEDITION DIARY

### VERANDAH BEACH

"We were taken across to Verandah Beach where the wonderful hospitality staff were waiting for us with cold drinks and tasty canapés. The sunset over the Kimberley produced amazing reds and oranges in the sky and onto the red rocks above. We relaxed with the sand beneath our toes and a spirit of friendship amongst us all."

GUEST LECTURER / TERRY / 26 MARCH 2022



coral expeditions  
AUSTRALIA'S PIONEERING CRUISE LINE