

## **Luxury Cruise & Stay | The Kimberley with Ponant | Broome to Darwin | 2024 Early Bird**

Darwin - King George River - Vansittart Bay - Careening Bay - Swift Bay -  
Hunter River - Collier Bay - Lacepede Islands - Broome - Berkeley River

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From **\$24,799** pp twin share

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**10 night PONANT luxury expedition cruise on '*Le Jacques-Cartier*'**

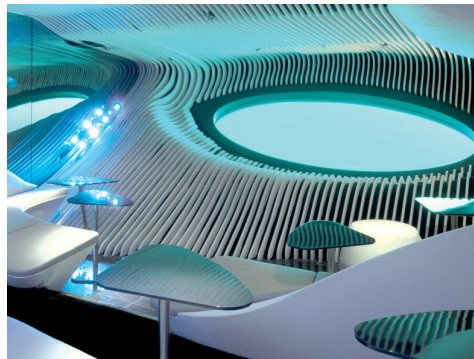
**Expeditions, tours & activities exploring the incredible Kimberley region**

**1 Night at the Darwin Waterfront Apartments**

**5 nights of luxury accommodation at the Berkeley River Lodge**

## Description

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Secure your **EARLY BIRD** deal today with just a 50% Deposit! **Book by November 2023** and get a **free Bottle of champagne Veuve Cliquot**.

Visiting The Kimberley with Ponant and staying at the Berkeley River Lodge is an unforgettable experience that combines luxury, adventure, and breathtaking natural beauty. The Kimberley region in Western Australia is known for its rugged landscapes, pristine coastline, and ancient Aboriginal rock art. Ponant, a renowned cruise company, offers an exceptional way to explore this remote wilderness aboard their luxurious expedition ships. From the moment you step on board, you are treated to impeccable service, elegant accommodations, and world-class cuisine. As you cruise through the stunning Kimberley coast, you'll witness towering cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and vibrant wildlife, including crocodiles, dolphins, and rare bird species. The expert guides on board provide informative lectures and lead excursions to hidden gems, allowing you to immerse yourself in the region's rich history and natural wonders.

At the Berkeley River Lodge, nestled in the heart of The Kimberley, you'll experience unparalleled tranquility and exclusivity. Accessible only by air or sea, this remote wilderness retreat offers an oasis of comfort amidst the rugged surroundings. Each private villa at the lodge boasts panoramic views of the Berkeley River and the surrounding bushland. The elegant accommodations feature modern amenities and spacious interiors, allowing you to unwind and reconnect with nature in style. From the lodge, you can embark on thrilling activities such as guided walks through ancient gorges, scenic helicopter flights over the dramatic landscapes, or fishing expeditions along the remote coastline. After a day of adventure, indulge in gourmet dining at the lodge's restaurant, savoring delicious cuisine made from locally sourced ingredients. Whether you're seeking relaxation, adventure, or a

blend of both, a visit to The Kimberley with Ponant and a stay at the Berkeley River Lodge promises an extraordinary journey that will leave you with lifelong memories.



## Itinerary

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### Day 1

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#### Broome

On arrival into Broome, make your way to the port.

Embarkation commences from 3:30PM to 4:30PM

Departure will be at 8PM.

Located in the northwest of the Kimberley region and in the far north of Western Australia, the town of Broome is reputed for its history and its glorious pearling era. The fascinating Chinatown district, which is the historic city centre, and the famous Japanese Cemetery, dates back to 1896, and has a past marked by the immigration of numerous Chinese and Japanese workers, attracted by the prosperous pearl industry at the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century. Broome is also famous for the “Staircase to the Moon”, an optical illusion created by the Moon reflecting on the sand banks at low tide, like a staircase climbing up towards the sky, a unique spectacle provided by nature.

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*

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### Day 2

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#### Lacapede Islands

The Lacepede Islands are Western Australia's most important breeding habitat for Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), and have been named by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The breeding colony of Brown Boobies is possibly the largest in the world. Up to 20,000 Roseate Terns have also been recorded here. Other birds breeding on the islands include Masked Boobies, Australian Pelicans, Lesser Frigatebirds, Eastern Reef Egrets, Silver Gulls, Crested, Bridled and Lesser Crested Terns, Common Noddies, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers. Join your expedition team for a guided zodiac tour to view the prolific wildlife. Due to the sensitive nature of the environment, landings are prohibited on the Lacepede Islands.

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*

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## Day 3

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### Collier Bay

Lying to the east of the Buccaneer archipelago, the ancient landscapes of Collier Bay have been shaped by the massive tidal movements the region is renowned for, creating a photographer's paradise. With a tidal range exceeding 14 metres, recorded near Yule entrance at the southern end of the bay, they are among the largest in the world. This massive daily movement of water creates unique phenomena that occur nowhere else in the world. Nestled in the centre of the Bay is Montgomery Reef, the world's largest inshore reef system. As the tide falls a raging torrent of water cascades off the top of the reef, creating turbulent 'rivers' and mini waterfalls. At the Southern end of the Bay, Talbot Bay is home to the world's only 'Horizontal Falls' described by Sir David Attenborough as "One of the greatest wonders of the natural world." Hidden in the many caves and grottos of this ancient landscape are a multitude of ancient Rock Art galleries. Here you can find spectacular examples of the Wandjina and Gwion Gwion styles.

*As we are at the mercy of weather and tide conditions in this region, the activities mentioned above are only possible experiences and can't be guaranteed.*

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** 'Le Jacques-Cartier'

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## Day 5

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### Careening Bay

Careening Bay was named by Lieutenant Phillip Parker King after his ship, HMC Mermaid, was careened there during his third voyage of discovery in 1820. King surveyed the western coast to complete the map initiated by Flinders 20 years earlier. The Mermaid had been leaking badly and King needed to find a shallow sandy bay where he could careen his boat to undertake repairs. At a high tide, on a warm September afternoon, he ran the Mermaid onto the sands. For ten days the Mermaid crew worked hard before refloating the vessel. The ship's carpenter carved the name of the vessel and the year into a conspicuous boob tree. The famous boob tree is now 3 metres wide and National Heritage listed. A reminder of a by gone era of exploration!

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*

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## Day 6

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### Hunter River

Arguably one of the most scenic parts of the Kimberley coast, Prince Frederick Harbour and the Hunter River are lined with ancient rainforest pockets, pristine mangroves and mosaic sandstone cliffs. They are considered to be some of the most pristine mangrove forests in the world, containing up to 18 different species, supporting a rich and diverse fauna. The sandstone escarpment at the river mouth, known as "Kampamantiya" rises over 200 metres high before giving way to extensive mud banks and mangrove forests home to numerous bird species and the iconic saltwater crocodile. Our expert Expedition Team will share their knowledge with you as you explore this pristine mangrove environment by zodiac keeping a constant lookout for wildlife. You will also have the opportunity to reach the Mitchell Falls by helicopter from Naturalist Island beach.

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*

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## Day 7

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### Swift Bay

The Bonaparte Archipelago, is a stunningly rugged maze of islands stretching almost 150 km along Western Australia's remote Kimberley coast. Its colour and scale conspire to take ones' breath away. Its distant location has meant it has remained an unspoilt and remarkably pristine location to explore and experience. Phillip Parker King named "Swift's bay" after Jonathon Swift (1667-1745) the author of Gulliver's travels. The 'T' shaped bay is composed of heavily fractured sandstone providing an abundance of rock shelters. On the walls of these shelters are examples of both Wandjina and Gwion Gwion style rock art. Join your expedition team ashore for a guided walk to a number of rock art galleries depicting these unique rock art styles.

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*

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## Day 8

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### Vansittart Bay

Jar Island contains ancient rock art galleries depicting the Gwion Gwion style unique to the Kimberley region. Mainly neglected by, or unknown to, the early European researchers of Aboriginal culture in the Kimberley in favour of the dominant and more dramatic Wandjina art, Gwion Gwion art has in recent years gained world prominence. It is generally thought that this art may extend back to over 30,000 years before our time and represents the first wave of seagoing colonisers of the Australian continent. As it is, these are the oldest detailed depiction of human figures in the world. Join your Expedition Team ashore for a short walk, past some fascinating rock formations, to the site of the Gwion Gwion art galleries.

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*

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## Day 9

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### King George River

The journey up the King George River is nothing short of breathtaking. The 80-metre-high sides of the gorge display varying degrees of weathering of the ancient Warton sandstone. The colours and textures of the gorge change with the light as you travel further up the river creating a continual changing scenery that is simply stunning. The journey culminates at the King George twin falls; the highest single-drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley (80 m or 260 ft). Fed by wet season run-off the level of water cascading over the falls varies from year to year. Your Expedition Team will escort you in either the zodiacs or ships tenders to the foot of the twin falls, and explain all about the stunning geological formations of the canyon.

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*

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## Day 10

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### At Sea

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

**Meals:** All Inclusive onboard

**Accommodation:** *'Le Jacques-Cartier'*



## Day 11

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### Darwin

Arrival will be early this morning.

Disembarkation will commence at 7AM.

Make your way to the hotel and check in. The rest of the day is yours at leisure.

Darwin is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End". It is the capital city and the most populated town of the Northern Territory. Darwin is a beautiful tropical city, a melting pot of people and cultures, over 50 different cultures live and work side by side that prides itself in its unique and friendly laid-back lifestyle. Come discover the town's still recent history through its emblematic buildings such as the new Parliament House opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture or Admiralty House declared heritage place, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** The Darwin Waterfront Apartments (or similar)

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## Day 12

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### Darwin ✈ Berkely River Lodge

Make your way to Darwin airport where you will be transferred by scenic flight to Berkeley River Lodge.

Your package at Berkeley River Lodge includes all meals prepared by world-class chefs and a good selection of beverages inclusive of an extensive wine list that showcases some of Australia's best. It also includes the opportunity to visit rock pools, waterfalls, see ancient aboriginal art, cruise the waters of the amazing Berkeley property and experience Kimberley coastal fishing at it's best whilst in the capable hands of experienced guides. Berkeley River Lodge will create a personalised itinerary for you on arrival to ensure you leave the lodge having created memories that will last a lifetime.

**Meals:** All Inclusive

**Accommodation:** Berkeley River Lodge

## Day 13

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### **Berkely River Lodge**

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**Meals:** All Inclusive

**Accommodation:** Berkeley River Lodge

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## Day 14

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**Meals:** All Inclusive

**Accommodation:** Berkeley River Lodge

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## Day 15

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**Meals:** All Inclusive

**Accommodation:** Berkeley River Lodge

## Day 16

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**Meals:** All Inclusive

**Accommodation:** Berkeley River Lodge

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## Day 17

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### **Berkely River Lodge ✈ Darwin**

Today after breakfast you will depart on your return scenic flight to Darwin. From here you depart for your flight home or onward journey.

**Meals:** Breakfast

## Inclusions & Exclusions

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### Inclusions

- 10 night cruise on 'Le Jacques-Cartier' in a Deluxe Stateroom, including all meals, most drinks, and daily shore excursions.
- 1 Night at the Darwin Waterfront Apartments in a 1 Bedroom Apartment.
- 5 nights at the all inclusive Berkeley River Lodge with return scenic flight transfers from Darwin.

### About your ship Le Jacques-Cartier:

In keeping with the philosophy of PONANT and the PONANT EXPLORERS, Le Jacques-Cartier is a modern ship with slender, tapered lines, it is environmentally friendly and equipped with innovative technology.

Tastefully decorated, Le Jacques-Cartier reflects the universe so dear to PONANT, with its light tones and open-to-the-sea design providing soft light and luminosity at every instant of the day. Its ethnic chic ambiance pays homage to the destinations we visit.

Located below the waterline, the Blue Eye, the first ever multisensorial lounge, offers a unique experience: the opportunity to enjoy undersea views and the sounds of the marine world whilst sharing a glass together.

### About your Cabin:

The cabin onboard is a Deluxe Stateroom (Deck 3). Upgrade to a Prestige Stateroom (Deck 4) at checkout.

*Images courtesy of Ponant.*

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### Exclusions

- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Flights
- Travel insurance

**ID:** A Passport with 6 months validity is required to be taken with you to board the cruise ship.

**Currency:** on board is Euros

**Insurance:** All guests must have travel insurance to participate on this tour and will be required to show this prior to departure. (including Remote Area Evacuation). We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).

**Level of fitness:** All participants should be in good general health, able to walk reasonable distances over sometimes uneven terrain, and stand during excursions.

All guests must be able to make their own way up and down stairs in case of emergency.

Guests must have at least 2 vaccinations for Covid19 to be able to board.