

— Expedition Cruising: The Kimberley, Australia —

Experience one of the world's last true wilderness areas





FRONT COVER: KING GEORGE FALLS, (KIMBERLEY EXPEDITIONS)

INSIDE FRONT COVER: HORIZONTAL FALLS (CORAL EXPEDITIONS)



The Kimberley, Western Australia

Its coastline is so pristine, dinosaur footprints still smatter the rocks. Its oceans are so untouched, whales nurse their young in its warm waters. Its living indigenous culture is so ancient, no other can match it.

The Kimberley is a beguiling wilderness of UNESCO World Heritage-listed rock formations rising skyward, weathered karst systems that have harbored ancient Aboriginal rock paintings for millennia and thousand-island archipelagos that spread out like confetti on water.

Seasonal rainfall flows from the outback and spills over

the very crust of the Australian continent. It feeds some of the biggest tropical tides in the world, which in turn create the largest and most spectacular pearls on the planet.

Just as it exists in dreamtime stories, the Kimberley lingers in the minds of those yearning to discover Australia's last true wilderness. A trip to the Kimberley is one of the world's genuine, once-in-a-lifetime adventures. Combined with the accessibility and exclusivity of a cruise boat journey, it simply doesn't get any better.

A how-to guide

Western Australia's Kimberley region sprawls across the top of the country, where dry and wet seasons characterize the landscape.

The best time to visit is between April and October, when the skies are blue, the sun shines constantly and temperatures range from 82 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit. Departures are limited in March and November, but you can be assured the Kimberley shines year round.

The richly multicultural holiday town of Broome is the main hub for daily flights from Perth and seasonal services from the east coast of Australia, with Kununurra, a tropical center, at the Kimberley's eastern end.

Legend



Helicopter onboard



Select drinks included



Meals included



Fishing tours



Photographer on board



Naturalist on board

A natural wilderness with an ancient story

There's a deep, intangible presence in the Kimberley that is at once powerful, yet calming. It emanates from the rocky landscapes; aged at more than two billion years, they're among the oldest on Earth. The mottled cliff faces, regal mesas and twisted formations glower with rusty red hues, contrasting dramatically against the turquoise blue ocean. In remote coves and hidden rivers, the water turns white with the rush of cascades. A gravity-defying oddity – Horizontal Falls – churn between twin mountain ranges, powered by immense tides that rise and fall by up to 40ft repeatedly throughout the day. The 260ft-tall King George Falls provide another perspective on Mother Nature's extremes, thundering down to wet you to the skin. Those same tides flow around the tri-coloured

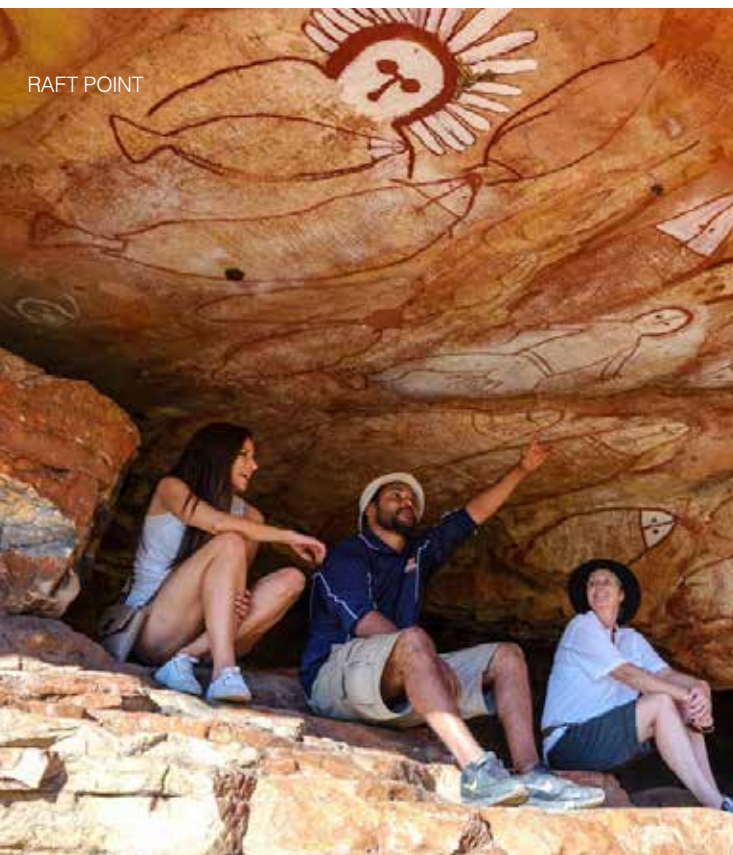
isles of the Buccaneer Archipelago, retreating to reveal bands of cream and brown beneath ochre tops. At Cape Leveque, the ocean slips away to be left with nothing but sand, alone beside rugged cliffs that glow like embers against the sunset.

At Purnululu National Park, the rock fades to burnt orange, interchanged with unusual black stripes. The sandstone domes of the 360 million year old Bungle Bungle Ranges are so unique, UNESCO moved to protect them not long after Europeans first learned of their existence – only in the 1980s. Aboriginal rock art dated at up to 60,000 years old paints the interiors; its sacred figures are found in every part of the Kimberley, from the islands to the gorge-pocked outback.

“The Kimberley is one of the last wildernesses left on the planet. It's also steeped in indigenous history and culture, which I find truly fascinating.”



Oli Oldroyd,
True North Guide
and Photographer



RAFT POINT



KING GEORGE FALLS (APT KIMBERLEY CRUISES)

Masters of the land, water and sky

It's little known that Kimberley cruise boats travel through one of the largest whale birthing zones in the world. Thousands of humpback whales migrate to Lalang-garram, or Camden Sound, to safely deliver their young. From June to September, cruise passengers witness the gentle giants in this precious sanctuary, which was protected with marine park status in 2012. Named one of the most biologically significant regions in the world, the sound extends to the Prince Regent River where magnificent saltwater crocodiles – the world's largest reptile – lazily bask in the sun. Where there are crocs, there are fish: hooking a mighty barramundi is regarded as a rite of passage in the Kimberley. The shimmering fighting fish is a more elusive prize but other delicacies, such as tuna and mangrove jack, are happily received by the cruise kitchen – nothing beats fresh sashimi by sunset.

Along the coastline's ocean stretches, turtles dart while dugongs – affectionately called sea cows – bob just beneath the surface. These species are shy, unlike the placid tawny nurse sharks that inquisitively visit boats. Large birds such as the mighty white-breasted sea eagle and graceful jabiru can be seen gazing across the wilderness; huge osprey nests crown ledges. Even the trees are big: quirky, bottle-shaped boabs edging rocky escarpments live for up to 2000 years.

Increasingly, Kimberley boats also travel to the Rowley Shoals, coral atolls where 700 tropical fish species cluster as if in an aquarium. Dive enthusiasts name it as among the best dive spots in the world, home to sea fans, potato cod and hammerhead sharks. Meanwhile, flying fish and playful spinner dolphins break the surface.



SNORKELING AT ROWLEY SHOALS
(THE GREAT ESCAPE CHARTER COMPANY)



WALLABY MOTHER AND JOEY (MICK FOGG WITH PONANT)



JABIRU (MICK FOGG WITH SILVERSEA EXPEDITIONS)



BOAB TREE



KINGS CASCADES (TRUE NORTH ADVENTURE CRUISES)



CULINARY DELIGHTS (KIMBERLEY PEARL CHARTERS)

Outback coastal luxury

Like the rare pink diamonds dug from the eastern Kimberley, a cruise expedition through one of the world's last true wilderness areas is exclusive and intimate. Multi-day, all-inclusive experiences range from boutique vessels imbued with Australian charm to big boat comforts complete with five star service. Several high-end boats are topped with a helicopter, allowing unrivalled access to cliff top waterfall pools, expansive views of island archipelagos and thrilling rides between the red rock curtains lining long rivers. Inflatable or tin boats are used to explore remote island beaches, select fishing spots and narrow river reaches. Historians, naturalists and geologists who travel on board many vessels guide excursions, unlocking the country's secrets. Galleries of indigenous rock art would never been seen, nor understood, without their expert knowledge.

Above and below deck, rooms are hotel standard, fitted with double beds, flat screen televisions and private bathrooms. Some boats offer butler service. WiFi internet is available to those who want it; most prefer to relax in the deck spa with views either side. The larger cruise operators also have pools, gyms, libraries, bars and beauty centers.

One common theme is the importance placed on excellent food: qualified chefs are engaged to delight guests with restaurant-quality fare, night after night. The modern Australian menus, which embrace Asian influences and use local produce such as juicy mangoes, nutritious chia seed, delectable seafood and the day's catch, are an unexpected highlight of the journey.

APT Kimberley Cruises



 May to September  110



Explore the Kimberley Coast with APT, the Kimberley experts. We have been revealing this special part of Australia to guests for more than 40 years. Carrying a maximum of 110 passengers with an expert expedition team of 10, the MS Caledonian Sky offers an in-depth discovery with an all-inclusive lifestyle. Use Zodiac vessels to get close to the action including all the highlights. Explore King George Falls, the tallest single drop falls in Western Australia, take a fast boat ride through the tidal phenomenon of Horizontal Falls, see Montgomery Reef rise out of the ocean and discover Indigenous rock art.

Coral Expeditions



 March to September  72 - 120



For 34 years, Coral Expeditions has focused on small ship expedition cruises to faraway lands. Their fleet of three Australian-flagged and crewed ships were purpose-built for exploring. With no more than 120 guests, there are no queues. The cuisine is small-batch, the wines are Australian artisanal, and the service is personalized.

Coral Expeditions is the pioneer for exploring the Kimberley, over 23 years ago being the first cruise company to commence these itineraries. Operating from March to September each year, they have two ships exploring this majestic land.

Kimberley Expeditions



February to November



36



Experience the majesty and timelessness of the Kimberley on-board our unique catamaran; *Reef Prince*. Kimberley Expeditions takes guests on adventure cruises along the ancient Kimberley coast. Cruise alongside towering gorges and tributaries, enjoy majestic waterfalls such as Kings Cascade or King George Falls and wonder at the Horizontal Waterfalls. The 124 feet vessel offers guests a small ship experience with outstanding service and the perfect mix of comfort and adventure.

Also available are a range of coastal and diving/snorkelling cruises, including the pristine Rowley Shoals.

Kimberley Pearl Charters



April to October



12



The Kimberley Pearl is a beautifully restored pearling vessel, boasting six air-conditioned cabins with ensuites. The crew whisk guests off on inclusive activities aboard one of three tenders, spending the day exploring the rugged coastline finding rock art, admiring thunderous waterfalls, swimming in secret waterholes, catching fish until their heart's content and soaking up the Kimberley sun. To end the day, watch the sun go down with a drink in hand as your fresh fish is prepared by the on board chef. Cruises depart from the Dampier Peninsula and include extraordinary return scenic flight transfers from Broome to Cygnet Bay.

Kimberley Quest



 March to October  18



Cruise the Kimberley with multi award winning Kimberley Quest on an extended wilderness expedition along the stunning coastline between Broome and Wyndham. The Kimberley is prolific with islands, whirlpools, extensive waterfalls, pristine beaches and unforgettable scenery that will take your breath away in this ancient landscape.

The *Kimberley Quest II* with its custom design allows it to visit areas many other Kimberley cruises simply cannot reach, accommodating only 18 guests, 7 crew and carrying 3 excursion tenders and a shaded fast boat, our personalized service and attention to detail assures you an experience never to forget!

Ocean Dream Charters



 March to October  12



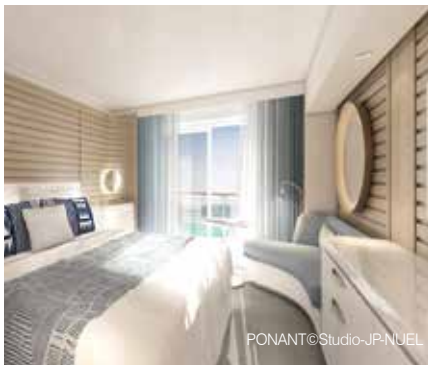
Ocean Dream Charters is an Australian small group charter company specializing in bespoke wilderness cruises in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Guests can expect an authentic Australian experience with daily excursions seeking out the many natural wonders unique to the area.

The captain and crew provide an exceptional service, as well as outstanding gourmet cuisine prepared by the onboard chef. The vessel is an 84 foot catamaran with helipad and state of the art buoyancy system for superior comfort out at sea. Taking a maximum of 12 passengers, there are 6 elegantly furnished staterooms each with their own private ensuite. Ocean Dream will feel more like a private vessel, with no queues and no crowds.

Ponant Yacht Cruises & Expeditions



PONANT©Nick-Rains



PONANT©Studio-JP-NUEL



PONANT©Nick-Rains

 May to August  184



PONANT, the world leader of luxury expeditions has been sailing the seas for nearly 30 years. Onboard their magnificent new small expedition ship *Le Lapérouse* with just 92 staterooms and suites with private balcony, experience luxurious comfort, attentive service, sophisticated cuisine and discover an exceptional itinerary combining authentic experiences, cultural encounters, wildlife observation and stops in remote places inaccessible by larger ships. Accompanied by an experienced Expedition team, time ashore in this extraordinary Australian wilderness is maximised by Zodiac® outings and landings that enable guests to get close to nature.

Silversea Expeditions



 April to June  120



Exploration is exquisitely refined aboard the sleek, 120-guest *Silver Discoverer*. She's the perfect platform for viewing the world's most untamed landscapes, with all ocean-view suites, a cooling swimming pool and plenty of deck space so that a pod of dolphins or a daring saltwater crocodile is always within sight. Her shallow draft allows her to navigate closer to shore, and with a fleet of 12 Zodiacs, every guest can land on isolated shores and explore ecosystems, up-close and in-depth at the same time.

With a staff ratio of nearly one to one, your every wish is fulfilled in extraordinary style.

The Great Escape Charter Company



 April to November  14



The Great Escape Charter Company give their guests an amazing experience! A company based around ordinary people with a true passion for the Kimberley coast, it is an authentic Australian experience in an ancient remote wilderness landscape. The Great Escape Charter Company has a personality. A small local business; soon to celebrate 20 years, relaxed, fun and professional with a unanimous passion for what they do and how they make their 14 guests feel. You can call it relaxed luxury. Guests will feel like they are at home on the vessel, they will feel like they have stepped into an amazing wilderness and tread where very few have ventured!

True North Adventure Cruises



 March to September  36



An adventure with the multi-awarded True North Adventure Cruises is not just another expedition cruise!

The *TRUE NORTH* is purpose-built to go where other ships cannot and guests explore even further in six dedicated adventure boats. Daily activities can include fishing, mud crabbing, hiking, scenic tours, picnics, seeing pristine Aboriginal rock art, natural history interpretation and stunning flights in the ship's helicopter. Guest numbers are limited to 36, an Australian crew of 22 chaperones every experience and the *TRUE NORTH* also has a revered reputation for dining experiences.

It's little wonder that guests often remark "that's the best vacation I have ever had!"

BUNGLE BUNGLE RANGES (HELISPIRIT)



Before and after your cruise

Broome is the main departure point for Kimberley cruises, and perhaps the only reason you might willingly miss the boat. In early 2017, palaeontologists confirmed its ancient coastline bears the largest and most diverse dinosaur footprints in the world, describing it as the “Cretaceous equivalent of the Serengeti”. Place your foot inside 130 million year old fossilized prints during a hovercraft tour, or with an Aboriginal guide. The largest sauropod tracks measure 5.6ft long – taller than the average Australian female.

So little of this vast, wild place has been explored that Broome’s comical snubfin dolphins were only noticed a few years ago. Globally, snubfins are rarely seen, but the local species and their melon-shaped heads are so visible in Roebuck Bay that naturalist David Attenborough filmed them for his Blue Planet II series. While staying in Broome’s luxury and resort accommodation, you can ride camels at sunset on the powdery sands of Cable Beach, harvest farmed pearls from the water and observe the Staircase to the Moon light phenomenon to the warble of a didgeridoo.

Air safaris and 4WD tours whisk you to remote destinations where you might laze in a mud bath, go crabbing with an Aboriginal elder or visit an isolated cattle station. The Kimberley Aerial Highway grants access to the eastern hub of Kununurra with highlights at Argyle (pink) Diamond Mine, Lake Argyle and along the fabled Gibb River Road, which provides an adventurous outback experience, peppered with gorges adorned by waterfalls and unique stays that capture the spirit of the Kimberley. Not to be missed is the magical Purnululu National Park, with the Bungle Bungle Ranges its most celebrated geological wonder – so mystical that these striped, beehive-shaped domes lay undiscovered in Australia’s northwest corner until 1983, earning World Heritage status twenty years later.



CABLE BEACH, BROOME (LAUREN BATH)

PEARL SHOPPING (WILLIE CREEK PEARLS)



Equally unmissable are the region's wild stylish retreats; their secluded surrounds are experienced only by the lucky few. Stay atop an ancient gorge in one of the world's leading luxury lodges, where unlike the landscape that surrounds it, there is nothing rugged about it. Complete with snaking river views from the freestanding bubble bath, you'll be surrounded entirely by nature. More traditional resort-style options abound in tropical, and laid back Broome, with time divided between the pool, Indian Ocean and short day trips.

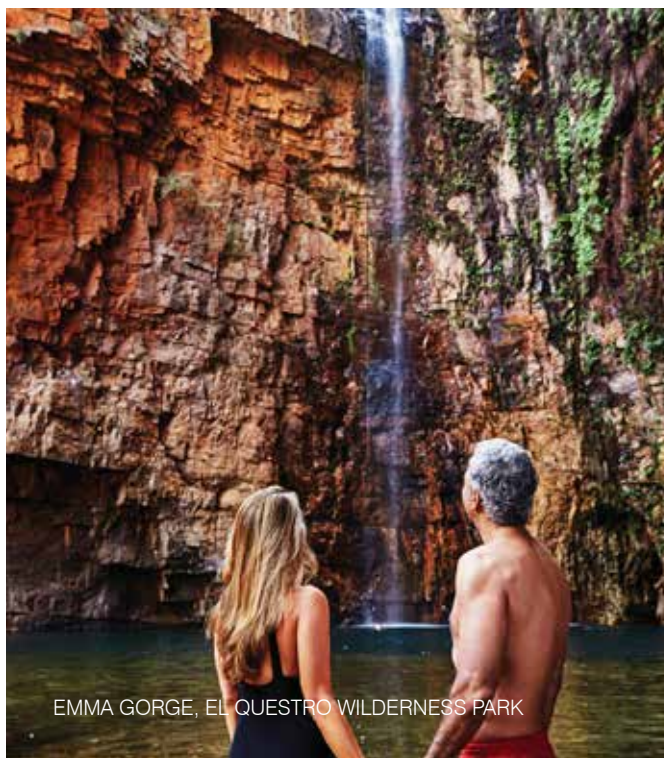
Glamping is available in exclusive locations such as private beaches with accommodation carefully designed and built to preserve the fragile beauty of the Kimberley coast. Share only migrating whales for company, or stay a stone's throw from magnificent waterfall wonders, and even by a pearl farm with access to giant tide tours on extraordinary Montgomery Reef. Australia's Kimberley region really is that adventure into the wilderness complete with all of the accompaniments.



EL QUESTRO HOMESTEAD



GANTHEAUME POINT, BROOME



EMMA GORGE, EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK



BERKELEY RIVER LODGE



PENTECOST RIVER, HOME VALLEY STATION

QUOKKAS ON ROTTNEST ISLAND, PERTH
(MAX COQUARD)



SWAN RIVER SEAPLANES, PERTH



THE BASIN, ROTTNEST ISLAND, PERTH
(ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY)



ELIZABETH QUAY, PERTH

Why you need to stop in Perth

It has more sunny days than any other Australian capital city, one of the world's largest inner city parks and a pristine line up of world class beaches that beggar belief. To miss Perth, enroute to the Kimberley, is to deny yourself a window into the fastest evolving city in Australia. Its natural charms are many, but its reimagined center packed with slick new restaurants, vibrant bars and lively laneways, provides hot competition.

A new urban precinct embracing the city's indigenous heritage is key in the current revitalization. Named after an Aboriginal warrior, pedestrian-friendly Yagan Square links the two halves of Perth's core for the first time in more than a century. This impressive public space is only a short walk to the many new hotels that are leading Perth's transformation as a holiday destination.

The city's waterfront area has also had a makeover. Lapped by the Swan River, Elizabeth Quay contains riverside promenades and statement sculptures, a curving bridge and water park, with hotels including The Ritz-Carlton to follow. From it, you can spy Kings Park, a massive stretch of native bushland that's bigger than Central Park, enveloping a botanic garden. From September to October, it's festooned with thousands of wildflowers.

The park's views almost stretch out to the Swan Valley – a peripheral region of family-owned wineries a 30 minute drive away. It takes the same time to ferry to Perth's favourite playground, Rottnest Island. Seaplane adventures to the island are also available. Only 10 miles over water, the Class A nature reserve is cherished for its car-free status, cute quokka marsupials and bike rides to any of 63 sandy beaches and 20 bays. What an extraordinary way to enhance your trip to one of the world's last true wilderness areas.



EXTRAORDINARY SHORE EXCURSIONS (THE GREAT ESCAPE CHARTER COMPANY)

Terms & Conditions

SOUTHERN WORLD

Pricing: All prices quoted are valid for the proposed dates of travel and services included in a quoted itinerary. If the travel dates or services change at the time of booking, a re-costing may be necessary. All services are subject to availability of space and contracted rates at the time of booking. Final itinerary pricing for a booking will be advised at the time of confirmation.

Any prices quoted in USD\$ will be based on exchange rates determined by Southern World Australia at the time of quoting and will be subject to change without notice until full payment is received by Southern World Australia, unless otherwise noted on the Customer's itinerary.

Deposits: An initial deposit of USD\$500 per person, plus any deposits required by Australian land suppliers, will be required at the time of booking. Payment of a deposit is acceptance of these Terms & Conditions.

Changes: Any changes to a confirmed booking are subject to availability and are subject to amendment fees imposed by any service provider. Any applicable amendment fees will be advised at the time any changes are confirmed.

Payment: Full payment for all tour arrangements must be received no later than 60 days prior to arrival, unless payment for specific services is required earlier or at the time of booking. For bookings inside 60 days, immediate payment is required to confirm reservations. Payment should be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard or American Express only) or telegraphic transfer.

Southern World Australia will invoice in local currency (AUD\$). If payment is remitted in a currency other than the local currency then Southern World Australia will set the rate of exchange to be applied for payment. Please request a rate just before payment is due.

Passports/Visas: A passport valid for six months beyond the date of return travel is required for entry into Australia. US and Canadian citizens require an Electronic Travel Authority to enter Australia. Your Travel Agent can advise how to apply for the relevant Travel Authority.

Cancellations: Cancellations must be advised in writing. The date of cancellation will be the first weekday date, excluding Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays, that Southern World Australia receives the written advice.

- More than 60 days prior to arrival date – loss of deposit plus any supplier charges
- Within 60 days of arrival date – 100% of total tour cost

Note that some suppliers, especially lodges, expedition cruise operators and properties in remote locations, have cancellation policies that fall outside the above policies. In these cases Southern World Australia will advise the agent of any special policies at the time of booking.

Refunds: There will be no refund for services not utilised once travel has commenced. Any refund requests will be considered on a case by case basis and will only be made to the agent. No refund requests will be processed or considered if made more than 3 months after completion of travel.

Insurance: We highly recommend ALL passengers are fully insured to protect themselves against the loss of travel deposits, cancellation charges, trip interruption, emergency medical and emergency evacuation/repatriation, full medical costs (including accident and sickness protection), baggage delay and disrupted travel arrangements. Without Travel Insurance, all expenses associated directly or indirectly with any of the above will be the Customer/Travellers personal responsibility. No refund will be made for any monies paid. Travel Insurance/Protection is available through your Travel Agent.

Documentation: Client documents are provided by Southern World Australia and include a detailed itinerary and general information on the destination. These documents will be available for collection from your first hotel booked through Southern World Australia. A cost per person per file is included in our pricing for this service.

Limitation of Liability: Southern World Australia shall not be liable for any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, delays, sickness, injury, or loss of enjoyment, of any nature or kind whatsoever, resulting from events beyond Southern World Australia's or a Service Provider's reasonable control. In no event will Southern World Australia's liability exceed the total amounts Customer paid Southern World Australia for Customer's travel. Southern World Australia assumes no responsibility for lost tickets, documents, passes, or coupons.

Validity: These Terms & Conditions are valid until further notice in writing from Southern World Australia.



Experience Extraordinary in Western Australia

Qantas flying you to Perth and beyond.



**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**
EXPERIENCE
EXTRAORDINARY

USA – Sales Office

Peter Askin & Aidan Askin
(1 630) 752 4474
askins@southernworld.com

southernworld.com/kimberleycruising

Australia

Level 5, 55 York Street,
Sydney NSW 2000
resaust@southernworld.com

