



# 2022 TRIP NOTES

## 13 DAY KIMBERLEY EXPLORER



### Itinerary

#### DAY 1 BEAGLE BAY, LOMBADINA & THE BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO

The Dampier Peninsula is an extraordinary blend of pristine beaches and dramatic coastlines, rich in traditional Aboriginal culture. Travelling north, learn about the region's fascinating history from our guided commentary. Our first stop is the Beagle Bay Aboriginal Community, home of the Beagle Bay Church with its glimmering pearl shell altar, for morning tea. Next, we visit the garden community of Lombadina, home to an old bush church, a local craft shop and a delightful community bakery – enjoy their fresh wood-fired bread for our picnic lunch. Across the peninsula we discover the remote Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm. In 1946 Dean Brown skipped a rickety wooden lugger into an unknown frontier to discover this hidden paradise: his descendants continue to operate what is now the oldest Pearl Farm in Australia. Embark on an extraordinary Sea Safari through the Islands of the Giant Tides to experience the remarkable tidal flows of King Sound. (LD)

#### DAY 2 CYGNET BAY PEARL FARM & ONE ARM POINT

This morning we gain an insight into this remote pearling industry on the Farm Tour, concluding with an in-depth pearl grading and appreciation session that will leave you feeling like a pearl expert. We then journey further north to the One Arm Point Aboriginal Community to tour a local aquaculture hatchery perched right on the tip of One Arm Point overlooking the impressive Buccaneer Archipelago. We also enjoy the company and cultural insight of our local guide, as he shares stories of growing up in the remote Bardi Jawi community and a few bush tucker secrets. After a picnic lunch visit the Round Rock viewpoint to search the bay for dolphins and turtles, while a refreshing dip at nearby Jologo Beach is a great way to finish up. On the return journey to Broome, keep an eye out for wildlife, such as dingoes, wallabies and wild donkeys, before arriving at your accommodation at approximately 5.00pm. (BL)

#### DAY 3 TUNNEL CREEK

As we travel through the remote and beautiful Kimberley landscape, our guide shares stories of local history, people and the environment. Enjoy a morning tea break by the Fitzroy River and visit the Derby 'Boab Prison Tree' before we hit the Gibb River Road. Visit the fascinating Mowanjumb Aboriginal Art & Cultural Centre for an insight into the culture of the Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunumbal tribes and their supreme spirit being, the Wandjina. The afternoon is

devoted to exploring Tunnel Creek, with our local Bunuba guide. In this 750-metre cave system carved through the Napier Range, we discover stalactites, secret caves and a large variety of wildlife. It is here we also learn the legend of Jandamarra, an Aboriginal freedom fighter who used the tunnel as a hide-out in the late 1800's. Don't miss a refreshing swim in an idyllic water-hole. That night we settle into our first night under the Kimberley night sky. (BLD)

#### DAYS 4-5 WEST KIMBERLEY GORGES

The Napier Range is over 350 million years old and home to the geological wonder of Windjana Gorge. Beneath gorge walls rising 90m, we spend the morning searching for freshwater crocodiles, local birdlife and indigenous bush tucker. In the afternoon we head off for Bell Gorge, a hidden highlight of the West Kimberley. This idyllic retreat, considered amongst the most beautiful in the area, boasts cascading waterfalls and crystal clear pools formed over millions of years – an easy place to while away a few hours! Spend the next day swimming in paradise: further up the Gibb River Road, we discover the cool waters of water lillie-laden Galvans Gorge and stunning Adcock Gorge. Amid the rugged beauty of Manning Falls we swim in deep clear waters, relax, explore wandering streams, encounter local wildlife and take a dip in the waterfall pools. Overnight we camp by a billabong on Mt Barnett Cattle Station. (BLD/BLD)

#### DAYS 6-7 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

Our journey up the Gibb River Road continues to the iconic El Questro Wilderness Park. Two nights in our private campsite here allows free time join one or more of the many activities on offer. We include a refreshing dip in the Zebedee Springs and walk into Emma Gorge while a cruise on Chamberlain Gorge, bush tucker walk or bird watching tour are amongst the many optional activities. You may choose to simply explore this beautiful wilderness park at your own leisure. (BLD/BL)

#### DAYS 8-9 KUNUNURRA & LAKE ARGYLE

We emerge from the Gibb River Road for a few hours free time in Kununurra. In the afternoon, travel on to the shores of the expansive Lake Argyle, the heart of the Ord River Irrigation System which has transformed this dry region into a lush agricultural oasis. There is free time to join a sunset boat cruise on the lake (approx AU\$100pp), visit the historic Durack Homestead Museum or take on one of the many bush trails to explore the area. (B)

#### DAYS 10-11 PURNULULU NATIONAL PARK: BUNGLE BUNGLES

After a leisurely morning, head south down the Great Northern Highway to Purnululu National Park, home of the magnificent Bungle Bungles. Two nights here, staying in our private Bungle Bungle Safari Camp in the heart of the Park, allows a full day to explore the highlights of this extraordinary National Park, the most famous of which, are the Bungle Bungle domes. Rivers created this landscape of unique orange and black striped 'beehive' geological formations over a period of 20 million years. Unbelievably, only the locals knew it existed until the early 1980's; once discovered by others, the area was made a national park in 1987. We explore Echidna Chasm (2km), known for its towering Livistonia Palm trees, and take a short walk (2-3km) into stunning Cathedral Gorge, where towering rocks create a natural amphitheatre. There is time in the afternoon to take an optional scenic helicopter flight and enjoy a birds-eye view of the beehive domes (approx \$450pp, own expense) to put it all into perspective. (BLD/BLD)

#### DAY 12 CHINA WALL & FITZROY CROSSING

Enroute to Fitzroy Crossing, we break the long journey with a visit to the gold rush town of Halls Creek to see the remarkable China Wall. We also enjoy lunch at Marys Pool and visit the remote Laarri Aboriginal Art Gallery, before an evening by the Fitzroy River at Fitzroy Crossing. (BLD)

#### DAY 13 DANGGU (GEIKIE GORGE)

A morning cruise through the majestic Geikie Gorge is a great start to our last day. Nature carved this wonder through the Geikie and Oscar Ranges during the Devonian geological period. Learn of the fascinating geology of this natural wonder and discover the huge array of wildlife including freshwater crocodiles, birds and fish. Explore Old Fitzroy Crossing and enjoy lunch by the river before we return to Broome, hopefully in time to enjoy the sunset on Cable Beach. (BL)



[www.kimberleywild.com.au](http://www.kimberleywild.com.au)



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### Itinerary Facts

Please note that this is an indication only. All details are subject to change according to local conditions, itinerary updates and other circumstances beyond our control. It is important to remember that this is a remote area wilderness, and we need to expect the unexpected!

#### DAY 1 BROOME TO CYGNET BAY

**Day Highlights:**

Beagle Bay, Lombadina & the Giant Tides Cruise (or Kimberley Island Explorer, depending on the tides)

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 250km / 3 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Ensuited Cabins, Cygnet Bay (All Travellers)

#### DAY 2 CYGNET BAY TO BROOME

**Day Highlights:**

Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm Tour & One Arm Point

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 250km / 3 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

The Oaks Broome Resort (All Travellers)

#### DAY 3 BROOME TO TUNNEL CREEK

**Day Highlights:**

Boab Prison Tree & Tunnel Creek

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 400km / 4.5 Hours

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Windjana Gorge National Park (All Travellers)

#### DAY 4 TUNNEL CREEK TO MT BARNETT

**Day Highlights:**

Windjana Gorge & Bell Gorge

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 250km / 3 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Mt Barnett (All Travellers)

#### DAY 5 EXPLORING GORGES

**Day Highlights:**

Manning Gorge, Adcock Gorge & Galvans Gorge

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 40km / 1 Hour Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Mt Barnett (All Travellers)

#### DAY 6 MT BARNETT TO EL QUESTRO

**Day Highlights:**

Gibb River Road & the Pentecost River Crossing

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 400km / 5 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, El Questro (Camping Travellers) OR El Questro Station Tents (Camping Plus Travellers)

#### DAY 7 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

**Day Highlights:**

Zebedee Springs & Emma Gorge

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 40km / 1 Hour Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, El Questro (Camping Travellers), El Questro Station Tents (Camping Plus Travellers)

#### DAY 8 EL QUESTRO TO LAKE ARGYLE

**Day Highlights:**

Kununurra & Lake Argyle

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 110km / 2.5 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Lake Argyle (Camping Travellers) OR Lake Argyle Resort Cabins (Camping Plus Travellers)

#### DAY 9 LAKE ARGYLE

**Day Highlights:**

Lake Argyle

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 10km / 0.5 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Lake Argyle (Camping Travellers) OR Lake Argyle Resort Cabins (Camping Plus Travellers)

#### DAY 10 LAKE ARGYLE TO THE BUNGLE BUNGLES

**Day Highlights:**

Durack Ranges & Bungle Bungles Sunset

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 400km / 6 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Bungle Bungles Safari Camp (All Travellers)

#### DAY 11 THE BUNGLE BUNGLES

**Day Highlights:**

Echidna Chasm, Cathedral Gorge & the Bungles Domes

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 60km / 2 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Bungle Bungles Safari Camp (All Travellers)

#### DAY 12 THE BUNGLE BUNGLES TO FITZROY CROSSING

**Day Highlights:**

China Wall

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 450km / 6 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Fitzroy River Lodge Campground (Camping Travellers) OR Fitzroy River Lodge Safari Cabins (Camping Plus Travellers)

#### DAY 13 FITZROY CROSSING TO BROOME

**Day Highlights:**

Geikie Gorge Cruise

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 400km / 5 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

Not Included.





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## Accommodation

On the 13 Day Kimberley Explorer, we offer the choice of comfortable Camping or Camping Plus, on which we assist you to make the most of basic upgrades where available: on nights 6, 7, 8, 9 & 12 (look for the symbol) as follows:



### NIGHT 1 CYGNET BAY

Enjoy a night in Cygnet Bay's new Cabins - complete with air-conditioning and a private ensuite. (Picture below is similar but not exact).



### NIGHT 2 BROOME

Rest up in a Private Room - with ensuite - at the Oaks Broome Resort before we depart for the adventure of the Gibb River Road.



### NIGHT 3 WINDJANA GORGE

Camping in the Windjana Gorge National Park involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



### NIGHTS 4 & 5 MOUNT BARNETT

Enjoy two nights in the comfort of our own private camp at Manning Gorge. The camp features tourer-style tents on raised platforms with twin stretcher beds, and our own sheltered kitchen area. Nearby shared ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



### NIGHTS 6 & 7 EL QUESTRO STATION

Travellers on our **Camping** option will enjoy our private camp on the grounds of El Questro, which also features large tourer-style tents on raised platforms with stretcher beds. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



Those who have chosen **Camping Plus** will retreat to the permanent Safari Tents (below), which offer an affordable upgrade option nearby. With twin beds, lighting and a quality ablutions block nearby, these tents ensure you have a comfortable nights sleep while still enjoying the outback essence of Kimberley camping.



### NIGHTS 8 & 9 LAKE ARGYLE

Enjoy two nights in the comfort of our own private camp, which features tourer-style tents on raised platforms with twin stretcher beds. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets. There is also a fabulous infinity pool overlooking the lake!

Those who have chosen **Camping Plus** will enjoy the comfort of the Standard Rooms (below) at Lake Argyle Resort each have a queen & single bed, private ensuite bathroom, a small fridge, tea/coffee making facilities, airconditioning and a private verandah to enjoy the beautiful surrounds.



### NIGHTS 10 & 11 BUNGLE BUNGLES

In the heart of Purnululu National Park, our travellers will love our eco safari tents at the Bungle Bungles Safari Camp which boasts views of the Bungles Massif from your door. The camp features modern facilities, a covered dining deck with panoramic views and an open air campfire around which you can relax beneath a sparkling Kimberley night sky: chatting, star-gazing and sharing the adventure with like-minded travellers.



### NIGHT 12 FITZROY CROSSING

Our **Campers** will set up the dome tents & swags in the grassy grounds of the Fitzroy River Lodge. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



Those on **Camping Plus** will settle into the Safari Cabins at the Fitzroy River Lodge. This traditional Kimberley-style accommodation is a great upgrade option for travellers looking for a little extra comfort. Similar to a regular motel room, they feature beds with pillows and linen, fans, power and private ensuite. Relax on the porch and enjoy the bush ambiance.



#### Important Notes!

- You will need to arrange your own pre- and post- tour accommodation in Broome, and advise our office where to pick you up from on the morning of Day 1. We can assist with recommendations.
- The optional Single Supplement does not include nights in our own private camps: due to capacity constraints single travellers may have to twinshare with another traveller of the same gender - this is a rare occurrence.
- You will need a Sleeping Bag - bring your own or we can provide for \$45pp if requested prior to travel.





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## Important Information

### Itinerary Updates

There are no recent itinerary updates to this trip.

### Meals

This tour includes: 12 x Breakfasts, 12 x Lunches, 9 x Dinners

Our healthy meals feature fresh ingredients, gourmet salads and local Kimberley flavours. We cater for necessary dietary requirements where possible, so please discuss with us when booking. Meals NOT included are: dinner at El Questro (1nt), lunch in Kununurra & dinner at Lake Argyle – allow approximately AU\$180pp.

### Inclusions

- Two Tour Hosts – including an Experienced Kimberley Tour Guide and Tour Assistant (on all tours with 8+ travellers)
- Meals as specified
- Camping Accommodation (Upgrade Options available)
- Community Entry Permits & National Park Entry Fees
- Cygnet Bay Sea Safari, valued at \$195pp
- Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm Tour
- Guided tour of One Arm Point Aquaculture Hatchery
- Indigenous guided Tunnel Creek experience
- 1 Hour Ranger Guided Geikie Gorge Boat Cruise
- Zebedee Springs Permit
- Bungle Bungles Safari Camp Stay (2nts)

### Optional Activities

- Chamberlain Gorge Cruise - approx \$60
- Lake Argyle Sunset Cruise - approx \$100
- Bungle Bungles Scenic Helicopter Flight - approx \$495

### What to Bring: Checklist

- A pair of shoes/sandals that you don't mind getting wet - and we mean fully immersed in water. Ideally, wet shoes or sandals.
  - A torch (ideally a head torch)
  - A broad-brimmed hat with sun visor for all round protection
  - Swimming costume and towel
  - Bath towel
  - Walking/trekking shoes
  - Personal water bottle (ideally 1.5L capacity)
  - Small day pack
  - Personal toiletries
  - Masks & R.A.T. Tests
  - Insect repellent & sunscreen
  - Long-sleeved cotton shirt (sun protection) and loose-fitting pants (warmth and insect protection for evenings)
  - Warm jumper (particularly in May-Aug)
  - Sleeping Bag \*Note: 10°C sleeping bags are available for sale at \$45pp - must be requested prior to travel and can be kept following your trip or donated to indigenous communities.
- Note: Maximum bag weight limit is 15kg - no suitcases**

### Itinerary Notes

**Fitness Level: Moderate-Advanced**

This itinerary involves some clambering over rocks, wading in water by torchlight, walking on rocky creek beds that are unstable underfoot and ascending/descending into gorges. The ability to swim and a reasonable level of fitness and being sure on your feet is required to participate.

Western Australia is a big state, so travelling significant distances is necessary to fully experience the highlights. You will soon discover that they are well worth the journey.

### FREE Hotel Pick Up

Kimberley Wild offers free pick up from selected hotels in Broome & Cable Beach between 6.30am and 7.30am. Please advise where you are staying and let us know if there are any changes. We appreciate your patience if we are running a little late. You being there on time will help make sure we are! Have your mobile phone turned on in the morning in case we need to reach you. Call 1300 73 88 70 if you are concerned you have missed pickup.

### Tour Style

This is a Kimberley Expedition: perfect for those seeking to experience the real Kimberley in depth - either with comfortable Camping or making the most of basic upgrades where available on the Camping Plus option.

### Important Notes!

1. It is essential that you call the Kimberley Wild office on 9193 7778, the day prior to departure to confirm pick up, and provide a mobile number for any late notifications.
2. Departures are all subject to regional weather conditions and road closures – usually only a concern in Apr & Oct / Nov.
3. Space in a 4WD is limited so please keep luggage light – bring only essentials in a small soft bag, MAXIMUM 15kg. Suitcases are NOT suitable. Excess luggage must be left in Broome or sent to a forward destination.
4. Due to distances covered, this trip involves early departures on some morning and frequent stops between destinations.
5. Kimberley Wild reserves the right to assess the fitness capability of passengers prior to tour departure.
6. It is your responsibility to advise Kimberley Wild if you have any dietary requirements or medical conditions (including allergies).
7. It is important that travellers participate in setting up camp each night, though the guide can assist where necessary. Kimberley Wild guides also appreciate the assistance or one or two group members in preparing/clearing meals. It is essential that all our groups leave the camps they stay in as they found them for the next travellers - the Kimberley is a pristine wilderness and it is our responsibility to ensure it stays this way.

### Vehicles

4WD tours are operated in custom-built, 21-25 seat 4WD trucks with a PA system and built-in storage (no risky trailers!). These comfortable, strong remote area vehicles allow our small groups extra space (including standing room), are fully air-conditioned and fitted with adjustable air-vents, reclining seats, map pockets and footrests. It is important that when booking a 4WD outback adventure in the Kimberley, you understand that the roads we travel on can be heavily corrugated. Rest assured, these are the conditions for which our 4WD trucks are designed.

### Power & Phone Reception

Telstra users will get phone reception in most towns and the occasional remote hot spot. There will be long stretches where we are out of phone range. Power points will be accessible on most nights for recharging cameras and other electronic equipment. We also recommend you bring a personal power bank.

### Travel Insurance

It is essential that you have travel insurance that covers medical expenses, including emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

### Alcohol

Alcohol is not provided. Travellers may bring a personal supply if desired – preferably no glass bottles as wine cannot be purchased in Broome. Enroute, alcohol can be purchased in some locations. Note: alcohol restrictions are in place throughout the Kimberley.

### Climate

The Kimberley has a Wet Season (DEC to MAR) and a Dry Season (APR to NOV). During 'the Wet' most 4WD roads and National Parks are closed. Our tours operate during 'the Dry', when it can get surprisingly cold overnight, depending on where you are – in Broome it can get down to 12°C, while in Purnululu, it can fall as low as 5°C! During the day, we usually enjoy 28 to 30°C. Note: in September and October, as 'the Wet' approaches, temperatures increase accordingly and it can be very hot during the day. It is essential that you are prepared for this – ask our office for advice prior to booking.