

ABROLHOS ISLANDS & THE CORAL COAST

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Expedition Highlights

- > Discover the fascinating history and natural wonders of the Abrolhos Islands, as you swim with friendly sea lions and snorkel over the fringing reefs
- > Explore World Heritage Shark Bay with visits to Francois Peron National Park & Dirk Hartog Island, to discover the history and abundant wildlife of this region
- > Discover World-Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef with scuba diving and snorkelling from the beach at Turquoise Bay
- > Discover sites of cultural significance to Indigenous Australians, including the Dampier Archipelago petroglyphs, with expert interpretation
- > Learn about the coast's maritime history, with stories of the wrecks of the *Barque Stefano* off Northwest Cape, the *Trial* near the Montebellos, and *Batavia* at the Abrolhos
- > Birdwatch at the Muiron Islands and Montebello Islands, known for their large populations of nesting seabirds

DEPARTURE & FARES

12 Nights - Departs:

- > 10 March 2021 from Fremantle aboard *Coral Adventurer*
- > 27 October 2021 from Broome aboard *Coral Geographer*
- > 1 March 2022 from Fremantle aboard *Coral Adventurer*
- > 7 February 2022 from Broome aboard *Coral Adventurer*

<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	Bridge Deck Balcony Suite	Bridge Deck Stateroom	Explorer Deck	Promenade Deck	Coral Deck
Twin Share	\$21,690	\$16,490	\$15,490	\$12,390	\$9,290
Sole Use	n/a	n/a	\$23,235	\$18,585	\$13,935

<i>Coral Geographer</i>	Bridge Deck Balcony Suite	Explorer Deck	Promenade Deck	Coral Deck
Twin Share	\$20,490	\$15,490	\$12,390	\$9,290
Sole Use	n/a	\$23,235	\$18,585	\$13,935

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Prices are per person, listed in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST.
*Limited sole use occupancy available.

IMAGES ➦ 1 Snorkelling at Ningaloo Reef | 2 Birdwatching from zodiacs

3 Seal on Abrolhos Islands, credit Australia's Coral Coast | 4 Coral life, Ningaloo



ITINERARY: 12 NIGHTS FREMANTLE TO BROOME

DAY 1: DEPART FREMANTLE

Board your ship at 8:00am for a 9:00am departure.

DAYS 2-12:

Your Expedition Team may make changes to the itinerary in order to maximise your expedition experience. Below are the key destinations we visit.

THE ABROLHOS ISLANDS

Spend three days in the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, visiting historical sites, birdwatching, diving or snorkelling with the inquisitive Australian sea lions. This archipelago consists of 122 islands, clustered into three main groups. Enriched by the Leeuwin current, the marine environment is home to numerous species including Australian sea lions and bottlenose dolphins, and over 90 species of seabird have been identified. The treacherous reefs around these islands have claimed many wrecks over the centuries, the most famous being the *Batavia* in 1629 – whose Dutch crew swam ashore only to experience a brutal mutiny.

SHARK BAY REGION

Spend two days exploring the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, the first location in Western Australia to receive UNESCO World Heritage status in 1991. This is a region of colourful landscapes, rare flora and fauna, and home to a staggering 35% of all of Australia's bird species.

On Dirk Hartog Island, visit Dampier's Landing, where William Dampier came ashore in 1699, making the first scientific collection of Australian plants.

Later, snorkel over the coral reef from the beach at Louisa Bay. Cabbage corals dominate this area, but there are also staghorns and massive pocillopora. Spot coral trout, blue-lined emperor, scribbled angelfish and potato cod.

The next day, explore Francois Peron National Park, named after the naturalist on explorer Nicholas Baudin's expeditions. Go ashore by Xplorer to be met by local Indigenous guides and park rangers.

NINGALOO REEF & CAPE RANGE N.P.

The World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef is the turquoise jewel in the crown of the Western Australian coastline. Spanning over 5,000 square kilometres, this is one of the largest fringing reefs in the world. It's inner and outer reefs create a diverse range of habitats for vibrant corals and more than 500 species of fish including mega marine life such as humpback whales, manta rays, and whale sharks.

It is also a coastline with a fascinating heritage, where lonely whalers battled it out against the elements.

Snorkel from the beach and relax at stunning Turquoise Bay, visit Yardie Creek via a 1.2km Nature Walk, or visit Vlamingh Head lighthouse. There will also be free time in Exmouth.

MUIRON ISLANDS

The secluded Muiron Islands are located 10 nautical miles off North West Cape. Well known for an incredible reef, many turtles, and even sightings of manta rays, the islands offer a variety of dive sites. With fantastic bommies and protected reef, snorkellers will appreciate the variety of soft corals and gorgonians as well the incredible fish life. Birdlife is abundant – spot wedge-tail shearwaters, roseate terns, osprey, and black-shouldered kites.

MONTEBELLO ISLANDS

The Montebello Islands are an archipelago of more than 250 limestone islands and islets off the coast of the Pilbara. The islands are considered an Important Bird Area, as they support over 1% of the world populations of fairy and roseate terns, as well as Sooty Oystercatchers.

The islands have an 'explosive' past as the site of three British atomic weapons tests in the 1950s. Visit the plinth which marks Ground Zero at Trimouille Island, where you will now find a haven for wildlife.

Spend a full day exploring this island group, including wildlife spotting opportunities and beautiful beaches to enjoy a swim. You might spot the rare rufous hare-wallaby and lagoon rays in the tidal pools.

DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO

The 42 iron-red islands of the Dampier Archipelago stand in bright contrast to the turquoise waters which surround them, offering exceptional natural beauty and significant historic sites, many of which are in National Heritage Listed Areas. The earliest inhabitants, the Yaburara people, left thousands of rock engravings, shell middens and stone arrangements across the islands.

Here, search for ancient petroglyphs, swim in the vibrant blue water or paddle out for a leisurely kayak from the remote island beaches. Take some time to enjoy bird and wildlife spotting – bottlenose dolphins are regularly seen in this area, and the archipelago supports the largest hawksbill turtle rookery in the Indo-Pacific region. Birdwatchers will have the opportunity to see several species of migratory waders as well as sea eagles and ospreys. With some luck we may even see the elusive Rothschild's rock wallaby.

DAY 13: ARRIVE BROOME

This morning, we arrive in Broome at 7:00am to disembark at 8:00am.

