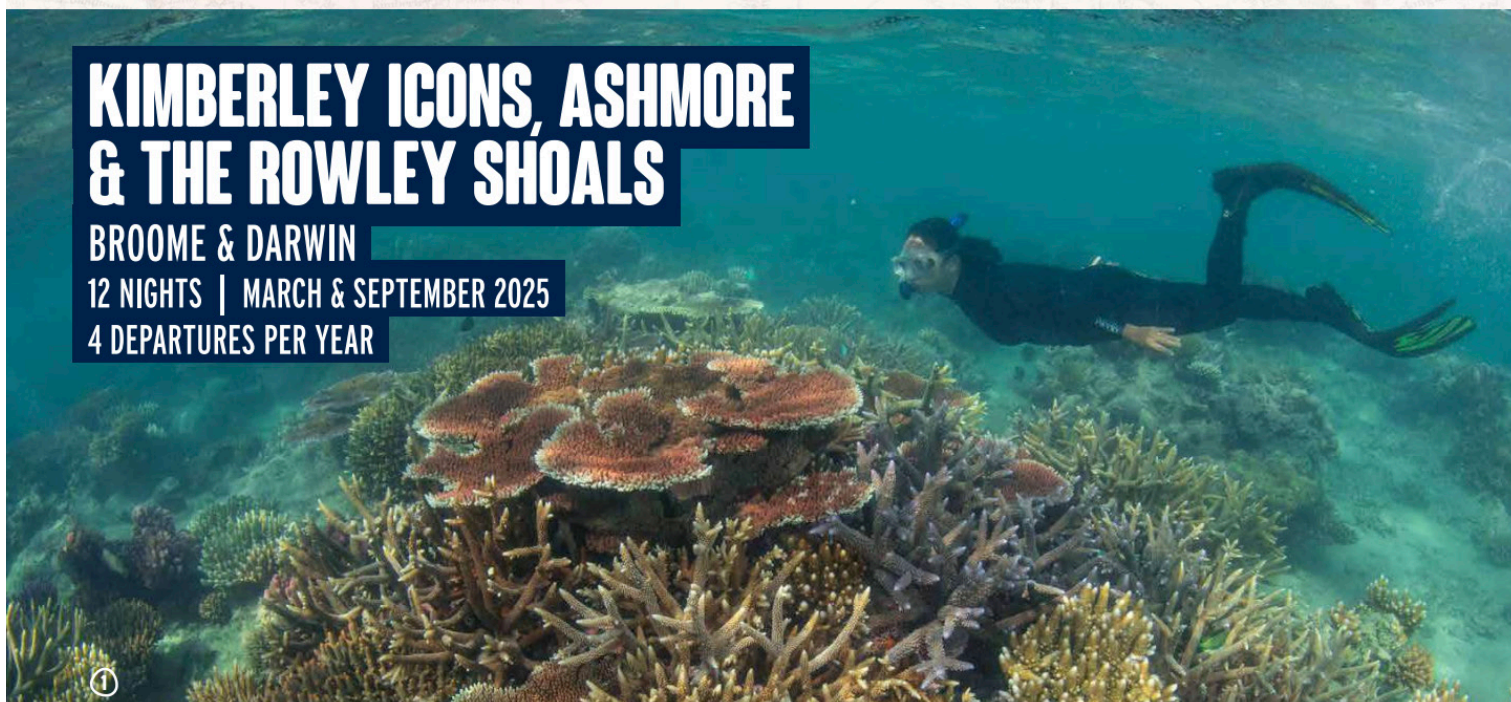


KIMBERLEY ICONS, ASHMORE & THE ROWLEY SHOALS

BROOME & DARWIN

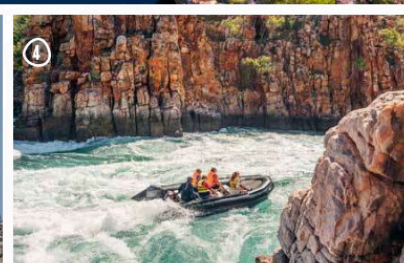
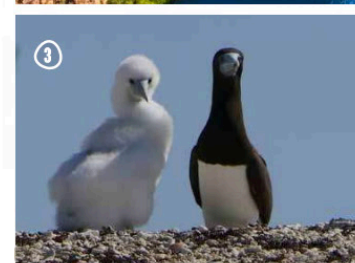
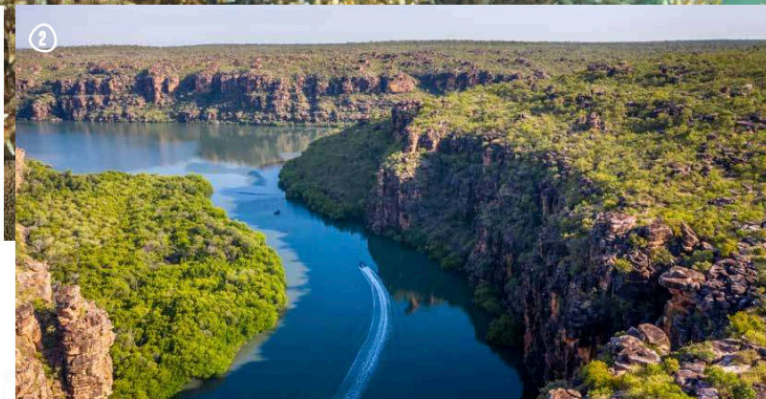
12 NIGHTS | MARCH & SEPTEMBER 2025

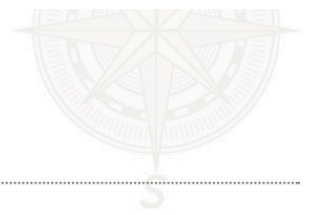
4 DEPARTURES PER YEAR



Expedition Highlights

- > Cruise down scenic King George River getting up close to 80m tall sandstone cliffs
- > Experience the thrill of riding the Horizontal Falls in inflatable Zodiac tender vessels
- > Visit Indigenous rock art galleries and learn about ancient Wandjina and Gwion Gwion art
- > Birdwatch at Ashmore Reef and look out for turtles at Adele Island
- > Get up close to Montgomery Reef and discover the tidal reef's diverse marine life
- > Snorkel or dive the pristine and rarely visited Rowley Shoals Marine Park and Scott Reef, accompanied by our onboard Marine Biologist





ITINERARY: 12 NIGHTS > BETWEEN DARWIN & BROOME

DEPART DARWIN OR BROOME

Board in Darwin at 8:00am for a 9:00am departure.
Board in Broome at 4:00pm for a 5:00pm departure.

KEY DESTINATIONS OF YOUR EXPEDITION

This expedition visits remote outer reefs & islands. Access to these locations will be subject to weather conditions.

KING GEORGE RIVER & FALLS

Cruise down the scenic King George River through steep-sided gorges carved by a flooded river system that carved a swathe through the Kimberley landscape many years ago. We will take the opportunity to get up close and view the honeycomb erosion patterns of the 80m tall sandstone cliffs.

A DAY OF ROCK ART

We land at either Jar Island, Swift Bay, Wollsatton Bay or Bigge Island. Each of these locations are home to fantastic Wandjina and Gwion Gwion Rock Art (Bradshaw) galleries. Stretch your legs and explore the magnificent sandstone structures, providing an abundance of rock shelters. On the walls of these shelters is where we will find examples of ancient rock art.

ASHMORE REEF

Spend time exploring Ashmore Reef, a very special stop on our voyage. The rich marine environment is revealed with snorkelling and diving expeditions to discover vibrant populations of sea snakes, turtles and complex coral reefs. Cruise the lagoons by tender to spot the colonies of seabirds.

SCOTT REEF

Located 300km off the coast of the Kimberley, Scott Reef has been treacherous to shipping. We will visit the wreck of the Yarra, where an iron barque was driven onto the reef in 1884, as well as go on a snorkelling or diving expedition to discover the outer walls of the reef.

ADELE ISLAND

150km off Cape Leveque, Adele Island is a Class A reserve and Important Bird Area due to innumerable birds that breed here. The turquoise waters surrounding the island are also home to fish, sharks, turtles, and stingrays.

MONTGOMERY REEF

Montgomery Reef covers over 300 sq km. As the sea recedes in mammoth tides, the reef rises from the ocean in a cascade of rushing water. Opportunistic birds take advantage of the marine life left exposed in rock pools, while turtles and larger marine life may also be spotted. Witness the spectacle up close, as our Expedition Team share their knowledge on the reef and wildlife.

DOUBTFUL BAY

Raft Point guards the entrance to sheltered Doubtful Bay, which harbours significant sites such as the ancient Wandjina rock art galleries. Visit Red Cone Creek and beautiful Ruby Falls and climb up the rock formations to reach the freshwater swimming hole. We may also visit Steep Island.

HORIZONTAL FALLS (GARAANNAGADDIM) & TALBOT BAY / BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO

Due to the mammoth tides for which the Kimberley is renowned, the Horizontal Falls are created as the ocean thunders through a narrow gorge in the McLarty Ranges. Experience a heart-pumping ride through the rapids aboard our Zodiacs.

Talbot Bay is at the heart of the Buccaneer Archipelago, where rocks on the 800 or so islands are estimated at over 2 billion years old. At Cyclone Creek, you will see evidence of massive geological forces in the impressive rock formations and cruise through the Iron Islands past Koolan Island.

THE LACEPEDE ISLANDS

Subject to weather and tides, we visit the Lacepede Islands. The low islands are a nature reserve and Important Bird Area, supporting up to 18,000 breeding pairs of Brown Boobies and Roseate Terns, as well as a significant breeding area for the Green Sea Turtle. We explore the island's lagoon by Zodiac and Xplorer to spot many species of birds and marine wildlife.

ROWLEY SHOALS

At the edge of the continental shelf, 170 nautical miles offshore, lie the Rowley Shoals, a chain of three coral atolls including Clerke, Mermaid and Imperieuse Reefs. The shoals offer some of the best snorkelling and diving opportunities in the world. Their shallow lagoons are inhabited by myriad coral species and marine life, including giant potato cod, Maori wrasse, at least 233 species of coral and 688 species of fish. Water clarity here is unparalleled, making for superb underwater photography opportunities. Conditions permitting, we will spend 1-2 days here for snorkelling and diving opportunities. Guided by our marine biologist, snorkel away the day in the coral gardens of the Aquarium at Clerke Reef, try a drift snorkel in the channel, or beach comb on Bedwell Island.

ARRIVE BROOME OR DARWIN

Disembark in Darwin at 8:30am
Disembark in Broome at 8:00am

A post cruise transfer to the city or airport is included.

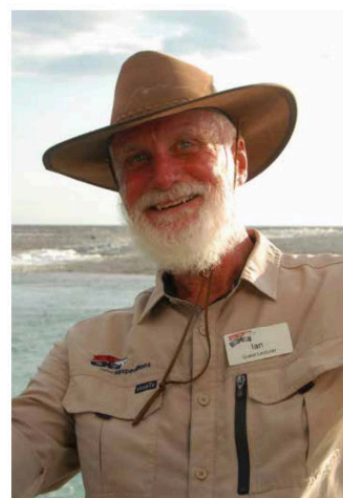
TRIP LOG

"Guests received a mandatory snorkelling brief to prepare one and all for our first expedition on the Kimberley Coast...

As we set off we could see a Humpback whale breaching and tail slapping beyond our destination - 'The Aquarium' at Clerke Reef, Rowley Shoals. The water was a lovely 26^o Celsius. We saw the most amazing reef; brilliant colours and so many fish."

Wildlife spotted: Sea cucumbers, blue links sea stars, and fish including rabbitfish, damselfish, parrot fish, unicorn fish, trevally, Maori wrasse, blue green chromis, surgeonfish, starry-eyed puffer fish, triggerfish, long tom, gar, eagle ray, white tip reef sharks, juvenile green sea turtles, and flying fish.

ROWLEY SHOALS, 14 SEPTEMBER 2023



Ian Herford
Guest Lecturer

Ian has a bachelor's degree in geology and a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Management. During his career Ian worked as a geologist, and later in national parks, reserve, and broader conservation management. Since retiring, Ian indulges in his love of sharing the wonders of the natural world with a wide range of audiences, including schools, universities, and community groups.