

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DARWIN – FREEMANTLE



The beauty of an Expedition cruise is the depth of knowledge that it gives. This 17-day adventure is no exception: beginning with the impressive Kimberley region of Northwest Australia, enjoy immersive excursions over the breathtaking Bungle Bungle range and speeding through the waters of the phenomenal Horizontal Falls in the Buccaneer region. Follow this by some superlative wildlife spotting in the ruby red, turquoise waters of Dampier before sailing south to the lovely Ningaloo Reef - a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



DATES:

2023 – Aug 08, 25*

DURATION: 20 DAYS/19 NIGHTS

EMBARK: DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

DISEMBARK: FREEMANTLE (PERTH)

**Reverse Itinerary*

SHIP: Silver Explorer

FROM: \$19,300

*Free Economy or reduced rate Business Class Air
Pre- and Post-Cruise transfers and hotel.
All-Inclusive.*

ITINERARY

DAY 1 – DARWIN, AUSTRALIA - ARRIVAL

Your included transfer will whisk you from airport to your deluxe hotel. Australia's capital of the north is a uniquely tropical city, and a historically isolated outpost of this vast, diverse country. Two thousand miles from Sydney and Melbourne, the city was named in honor of Charles Darwin by the British settlers who established a frontier outpost here.

DAY 2 – EXPLORE DARWIN, EMBARKATION

Enjoy your free time to explore the city and surrounds. Transfer to the pier for embarkation and departure.

DAY 3 – DAY AT SEA

DAY 4 – MATAKUS ISLAND, INDONESIA

The eastern part of Indonesia is a true paradise on Earth. Home to countless beautiful, unexplored destinations that have not enjoyed the tourism boom that many other parts of the country have. Matakus Island is one such destination. Part of the Tanimbar archipelago, just over two miles in length and less than a mile across, it is one of the smaller islands, with a population of just 100).

DAY 5 – DAY AT SEA

DAY 6 – WYNDHAM, AUSTRALIA

Wyndham is a small settlement with the spirit of a Kimberley outback township. It was established in 1886 with the Halls Creek gold rush and sits on the Cambridge Gulf where several rivers converge. Today Wyndham has a population of roughly 900 people and operates largely as a port exporting cattle, servicing the mining industry and hosting a few small ships, and is a gateway to the breathtaking Bungle Bungle mountain range and the nearby Ord River.

DAY 7 – KING GEORGE RIVER

The King George Falls is one of the Kimberley's most magnificent natural wonders. At 80 meters (260 feet), the thundering spectacle of twin cascades are among the highest in Australia. The river weaves through an amazing landscape of near vertical red rock formations and a parade of wildlife — carnivorous saltwater crocodiles and amazing birdlife, including giant raptors and the Brahminy Kite.

DAY 8 – THE HUNTER RIVER

The Hunter River is home to an immense mangrove system surrounded by soaring red sandstone cliffs.

Narrow mangrove channels shelter numerous bird species, mudskippers, fiddler crabs and the infamous saltwater crocodile; the most aggressive crocodile species known to man. Naturalist Island at the mouth of the river has a stunning stretch of sandy beach that makes a perfect landing site for small helicopters that can pick up visitors wishing to explore some of the Kimberley's vast interior. The highlight inland is the famous Mitchell Falls where four tiers of waterfalls plunge into deep pools that flow out into the mighty Mitchell River. The headwaters of the falls are cool and a dip in the fresh water is a welcome reprieve from the heat of the heartland.



DAYS 9 & 10 - THE BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO

Set off the coast of Western Australia, the Buccaneer Archipelago is one of the Kimberley's finest secrets. The Archipelago, 50 k2 (19 sq mi), is made up of around 800 islands and protect the mainland from the huge 12 meter (40 foot) tides and the astonishing speed of the Yampi Sound current. The speed and power of the water results in fantastic natural phenomena such as the horizontal reversible waterfall in Talbot Bay. The tidal pull is responsible for the "reversible" nature of the "falls", however, this also hides narrow gaps between the islands, making for treacherous sailing conditions.



DAY 11 – LACEPEDES ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA

Enjoy a Zodiac cruise in the lagoon looking out for Green Turtles, Brown Boobies, Shovel Nose Rays, Frigate Birds, Oyster Catchers and Pied Cormorants, some in very large and impressive amounts.

DAY 12 – DAY AT SEA

DAY 13 - DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO, AUSTRALIA

Rust colored rocks contrasting with pale Spinifex grass, white beaches and aquamarine seas create a scenic kaleidoscope in the Dampier Archipelago. Forty-two islands lie around the similarly colored Burrup Peninsula. The archipelago is named after William Dampier, the English pirate turned explorer, who was the first European visitor in 1699. But the occupation of the area is ancient. The area contains the greatest concentration of rock engravings in the world. Engravings are in excellent condition and date back 20,000 years, a hard time span to comprehend. Four turtle species live in these waters including Flatback and Hawksbill Turtles. Snorkeling reveals a rich sample of this treasure trove of life.

DAY 14 - MONTEBELLO ISLANDS

Montebello is Italian for ‘beautiful mountain’. What a misnomer! The islands are low, flat and arid. They were named by French Explorer Nicolas Baudin in 1801 after a battle in Italy. The war-like name may suit, as the British used the islands for three nuclear bomb tests in the 1950s. Today visitors must avoid two radioactive islands. Other islands are okay to explore. The 170 islands are 120 kilometers (75 miles) off mainland Australia. Aboriginal people visited until eight thousand years ago, when rising sea levels after the last ice age made them too far offshore to reach. The next visitors were in 1622 when survivors of the wrecked British ship *Tryall* reached the arid islands.

DAY 15 - EXMOUTH (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)

Ningaloo coral reef is a fringing reef that abuts the mainland shoreline south of the town of Exmouth. At 300 km (185 miles) long, it is the longest and most pristine fringing reef in the world. The coral even extends into the intertidal zone. This is where the desert meets the coral, and both are included in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. An arid climate means little rain and soil runs off from the land, leaving the sea turquoise clear and making snorkeling a dream. From June to October migrating Humpback Whales heading south pass close to shore. June to August is the peak time for a colorful variety of wildflowers like the

green Bird Flower, crimson Sturt's Desert Pea and purple Yardie Morning Glory which is found nowhere else.

DAY 16 – DAY AT SEA

DAY 17 - CAPE PERON, SHARK BAY

Shark Bay is Australia's largest bay, with a beach stretching over 1,000 kilometers. François Peron National Park lies within the Shark Bay World Heritage area and adjacent to the Shark Bay Marine Park. This is where the rust-red desert sand meets the dazzling white-sand beach and the azure waters of the sea. At the northerly tip of the national park is Cape Peron, sitting at the confluence of two major currents, the cape attracts an impressive array of marine life. Take a hike with the expedition team from Cape Peron to the Skipjack Point viewing platforms, perched on the cliff edge with views out across the marine park. Alternatively, join the expedition team for an interpretive nature walk through the impressive landscape of acacia-cloaked red dunes and arid shrublands surrounded by turquoise water with views over the coastline.

DAY 18 - ABROLHOS ISLANDS

Human drama and nature rival each other to be the most fascinating drawcards of the Houtman Abrolhos or Abrolhos Islands. In 1629 the Dutch ship *Batavia* was wrecked, with most crew and passengers reaching dry inhospitable Beacon Island. On one island, soldiers built a stone stockade which is the first European structure in Australia. The warm southward-flowing Leeuwin Current meets cool southern waters at Abrolhos creating homes for both tropical and temperate marine life. A diverse coral reef grows beside cool water algae. Two thirds of the 400 fish species are tropical, while cool water-favoring Australian Sea-lions and Western Rock Lobsters (Australia's most valuable fishery) are close to their northern limit.

DAY 19 - FREMANTLE (PERTH), WESTERN AUSTRALIA

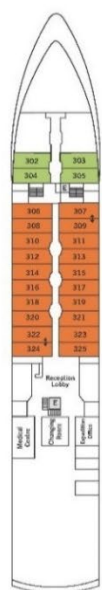
Fremantle was one of Australia's penal cities, vestiges of which can still be found in Fremantle Prison. Almost 10,000 convicts were condemned to life imprisonment here between 1850 and 1868, but the prison remained in use until 1991. Today, the memorable sandstone building is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and at just 15 minutes from port is well worth a visit. Overnight included at Perth hotel.

DAY 20 – TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

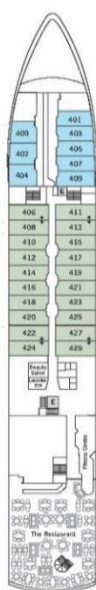
Depart to home or to other areas of Australia, or South Pacific.



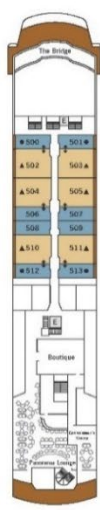
SILVER EXPLORER – Deck Plans



DECK 3
Reception Desk
Medical Centre
Changing Room
Expedition Office



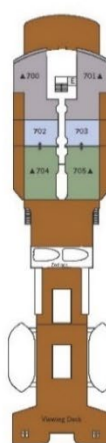
DECK 4
Beauty Salon
Launderette
Fitness Centre
The Restaurant



DECK 5
The Bridge
Boutique
Connoisseur's Corner
Panorama Lounge



DECK 6
Tor's Observation Library
Explorer Lounge
Zagara Spa
The Grill



DECK 7
Viewing Deck



SUITE CATEGORIES

- Owner's Suite
- Grand Suite
- Silver Suite
- Medallion Suite
- Veranda Suite
- Vista Suite
- View Suite
- Explorer Suite
- Adventurer Suite

SPECIFICATIONS

- I loyd's register
- Ice-class rating
- Crew
- Officers
- Guests
- Tonnage
- Length
- Width
- Speed
- Passenger Decks
- 3rd Guest Capacity
- Queen beds
- Connecting suites
- 702/704, 703/705, 500/502, 501/503, 504/506, 505/507, 510/512, 511/513, 307/309, 324/322, 406/408, 411/413, 427/424, 427/429
- Refurbished
- Registry

Suite diagrams shown are for illustration purposes only and may vary from actual square footage. Please refer to suite specific options for square footage.

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2023 RATES: PER PERSON – DOUBLE – ALL INCLUSIVE*

*Port fees and taxes; gratuities to crew; open bar throughout ship; all excursions; team of Expedition leaders and guides. Economy air fare, or \$1500 per person credit; Executive Private home-airport transfers (Or \$100 Credit); one night hotel both before and after the cruise; transfers; guided zodiac, sea and land tours.

SUITE	AUG 8	AUG 25
Adventure – Deck 3	WL	\$19,300
Explorer – Deck 4	WL	\$20,100
View – Deck 3	\$20,800	\$21,500
Vista – Deck 4	\$22,700	\$22,600
Veranda – Deck 5	\$29,400	WL
Medallion – Deck 7	WL	\$36,000
Silver – Deck 5	WL	WL
Grand – Deck 7	\$40,300	\$41,900
Owner's – Deck 7	\$44,000	WL



Reservations & Information
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