



# KIMBERLEY SEABIRDS & CETACEANS

## EXPEDITION CRUISE

11-20 Sept 2013

Deluxe Cabin \$5,500 twin share

Standard Cabin \$4,800 twin share

KIMBERLEY



BIRDWATCHING

Wildlife & Natural  
History Tours





# SEABIRDS & CETACEANS

**Join us for a unique opportunity to explore the Kimberley coast and its islands for the wildlife experience of a lifetime. You will share the excitement with local guides Richard Costin and George Swann whose impressive knowledge is gained from years of onground and onboard research.**

Our vessel the MV Odyssey is spacious, air-conditioned and very comfortable with plenty of open deck space ideal for wildlife viewing and photography.

Cetacean (whales & dolphins) experiences are what we're after, so who better than Richard to guide and interpret these fascinating mammals for us. Magical views of Humpback whales with calves, bow riding Dwarf Spinner Dolphins or to chance on a pod of Short-finned Pilot Whales, The Kimberley coast has such great diversity that we may record up to half a dozen or more

species  
of  
Cetaceans  
throughout  
the trip.

A number of islands on the Kimberley coast became infamous during the late nineteenth Century; the mining and extraction of 'guano' (phosphate) was a lucrative



"extra" for Whalers exploiting Humpback, Sperm and Blue whales in the region. These Islands supported tens of thousands of seabirds that over time created these riches. The birds are still here and recovering, their numbers steadily on the increase due to the successful eradication of rats on the Lacepedes in 1986 (inadvertently introduced by whalers and Pearlers) and protection afforded by Class A Nature Reserve status.

We visit two of these important seabird breeding islands; The Lacepede Islands and Adele Island; both islands are spectacular places to visit as they support the largest colonies of Brown Booby and Lesser Frigatebird in the Indian Ocean. The volume of birds on both islands is staggering and the diversity of species offers the birdwatcher an experience that's hard to beat.



The species list is mouth watering and includes Red-footed Booby, Masked Booby, Greater Frigatebird, Common and Black Noddy, Roseate Tern and Lesser Crested Tern. Large numbers of migratory shorebirds (20 species) will also have arrived recently from the Arctic and Central Asia so the photographic opportunities are endless. Make sure you pack an extra memory card or laptop so you can download your shots.

The Kimberley coast itself adds another dimension to the rich birdlife. Mangrove adventures using a dingy are amazingly productive and close encounters with exciting species such as Great-billed Heron, Chestnut Rail, Mangrove Golden Whistler and Mangrove Robin are exhilarating. Land based excursions will also give us the opportunity to see plenty of bush birds, birds of prey and rainforest specialists.





# ITINERARY

## Day 1

Pick up at 8 am from your accommodation to transfer to the MV Odyssey. Once aboard you will meet the crew and guides and fellow passengers. Following a safety briefing the guides

and identify so it's a good idea to have your digital camera handy.

We sail North West following the coast of the Dampier Peninsular up towards The Lacepede Islands our destination for day two. En route we pass the proposed

will run through the plans for the next ten days. Once we are under way the recording of Whales, Dolphins and Birds and other animals will commence.

If you are interested to know about anything you see, please ask a guide to help. Also remember to share your sighting with other people who may not have seen it. Don't be shy about pointing out things that you are unsure about, the more people who are actively looking the better chance we have of seeing interesting stuff. Some unusual and rare cetaceans are notoriously difficult to spot

James Price Point Gas Hub site, a good place to see the recently described inshore Dwarf Spinner Dolphins. These animals love bow riding. In October 2012 they were recorded bow riding for over a nautical mile, affording plenty of opportunity to get that special shot! We can also expect to see good numbers of Humpback whales on this leg.



Dwarf Spinner Dolphin



## Day 2

Having arrived at the Lacepede Islands the previous evening we will anchor close enough to West Island to see female Green Turtles returning to the ocean having laid eggs on the beach overnight. They are greeted by amorous males once back in the water and its not unusual to witness a frolicking menage a trois. This is not a good place to be in the water as Tiger Sharks are attracted to the activity and are known to take these massive reptiles.

Conditions permitting we will go ashore and spend several hours exploring the Island and birdwatching. We can see and photograph nesting Brown Boobies



and Lesser Frigatebirds, and marvel at enormous rafts of Common Noddy and Roseate Tern loafing on the beaches. Spotting scopes are provided for people to use to get that close up view of terns and shorebirds. Back on board for lunch we head for Cape Leveque and the Buccaneer Archipelago. As we round Cape Leveque Humpback Whales will be evident and its also a good place to see Roseate Terns and Bridled Terns that follow predatory fish like Tuna. Amongst these terns and Boobies we may see some true pelagic seabirds (Tube Noses) like Streaked Shearwater, Hutton's Shearwater and Wilson's Storm Petrel. We continue our journey to Talbot Bay passing through a web of islands including the Iron Ore mines on Koolan and Cockatoo.

## Day 3

Talbot Bay has become famous in recent times as home to the "Horries", the Horizontal Waterfalls, a double set of pinch rapids. This Kimberley icon is well worth a visit for the adrenalin rush, but Talbot bay also has other attractions. Australian Snubfin Dolphins occur here. Formerly thought to be the Irrawaddy Dolphin, they were recognised as a unique Australian



species in 2005. They are difficult to spot so keep your eyes peeled for this elusive species.

Extensive Mangroves abound in nearby Cyclone Creek and we can expect to see Shining Flycatcher, Striated Heron, Azure Kingfisher, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher and Large-billed Gerygone. The Rocky precipices are home to White-quilled Rock Pigeons and Sandstone Shrike Thrush. A visit to Dugong Bay for a safe freshwater swim is well worth it. This beautiful place is home to numerous Merten's Water Monitor if you feel like a swim with a friendly lizard.





Montgomery Reef

## Day 4

Today we use the tide to our advantage and visit Secure Bay passing through a narrow passage known as 'The Funnel'. In fact we navigate two spectacular sets of narrows to enter the bay. Here the tidal movement of water form massive whirlpools as the tide rushes in or out. The bay has spectacular scenery including some extraordinary geological features, in particular prominent dark hills of Dolerite at the southern end of the bay, massive piles of black looking rocks devoid of vegetation. Huge tracts of mangroves are worth exploring and the odd vine thicket is worth a look for interesting birds. From Secure Bay we make our way north through Collier Bay and Humpback Whale heaven to Montgomery Reef.

## Day 5

Montgomery Reef is a fascinating place, a huge reef system that is exposed on low tide. We dingy up a natural channel in the south eastern corner of the reef to see Green Turtles and if we're lucky Logger Head Turtles. Dugongs are seen occasionally and also Sharks and Salt water Crocodiles.

Two mangrove dominated central islands are difficult to get to unless you have a big enough tide. Not a good idea to get stranded by the tide at this location, lots of Sandflies and some very large crocs call this home! We can visit High Cliffy Island as it often has plenty of shorebirds. Nankeen Night Herons, Eastern Reef Egrets, Little and Great Egrets roost there on the high tide.

From Montgomery we sail east to Red Cone Creek in Doubtful Bay.

## Day 6

Red Cone Creek supports one of the largest tracts of mangrove forest in Australia so it's a great place to explore for mangrove birds. First light is the time to be amongst it so an early start is essential for the intrepid birders. For those who are not such early risers a leisurely morning fishing expedition is one of several options.

The birding should be excellent and we can expect to see Mangrove Golden and White-breasted Whistler, Mangrove Robin, Shining Flycatcher, Red-headed Honeyeater, Mangrove Grey Fantail, Large-billed and Mangrove Gerygone, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Collared Kingfisher, Chestnut Rail and Great-billed Heron. Birds of prey should include White-bellied Sea Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Osprey, and if we are lucky Grey Goshawk.

After Red Cone we head north to the spectacular Sale River. Access up the Sale is tide dependent so timing is important. The dinghy ride takes us up the tidal gorge festooned with ferns, rainforest plants



and rare Grevilleas; a Kimberley version of Babylon. Our destination a small spring fed and very pretty tributary of the Sale River. Fresh water pools large enough to bath in are shaded beneath some of the most beautiful gallery forest you can find; this really is the true magical Kimberley. Rufous Owl, Rainbow Pitta, Figbird, Yellow Oriole, Varied Triller and Little Shrike Thrush are all found here amongst a host of other species.

## Day 7

We spend the day whale watching as we cruise north through Camden Sound on our way to Augustus Island where we can swim in beautiful freshwater swimming holes and explore beaches and reefs, good spots to find Beach Stone Curlew, Common Sandpiper and Whimbrel. Pockets of vine thicket and adjoining mangroves are always good habitat for Arafura Fantail. There are never any shortages of spots to explore on the Kimberley Coast; one could spend a lifetime exploring this beautiful part of the world.

## Day 8 & 9

We leave the Kimberley coast, sailing due west over night to our final destination

Adele Island. As we approach Adele large congregations of seabirds become apparent. Many of these birds breed on the island throughout the year. During the dry season (austral winter) Australian Pelican, Pied Cormorant, Great, Little, Intermediate and Eastern Reef Egret breed in loose colonies amongst large numbers of Brown Booby and Lesser Frigatebirds, later in the year around late October Common and Black Noddy and Bridled Tern start to breed.

Adele is also an important breeding site for the less common Red-footed Booby and Great frigatebird; both species prefer to nest in trees or shrubs, Adele offers Indian Lantern flower (*Abutilon indicum*) an annual woody shrub that grows to about 2.5 metres. Masked Booby breed right on the high tide mark and we will see the fluffy white chicks waiting for the adults to return with crops stuffed full of fish. There is anecdotal evidence that these chicks have been taken on the odd occasion by Salt Water Crocodiles that also occur on the Island.

Both Lesser and Greater Frigatebird are often seen hounding Boobys and Terns returning to the island with their full crops of fish. Frigatebirds are specialized robbers, or to use the technical term

“klepto-parasitic”. These birds are magnificent aerialists, enabling them to chase and shake birds such as Masked Booby in mid flight, using their bills to force the hapless booby or tern to regurgitate food.

The Reef that surrounds Adele is vast and we have to use the incoming tide to access the islands safely. This can be a great time to fish or just marvel at the number of fish species including sharks and rays. Turtles and Sea Snakes are also common. The water can be quite clear allowing for some great views of creatures in the water.

## Day 10

Having sailed overnight we continue our journey south to Broome passing the Lacepedes Islands onward down the coast of the Dampier Peninsular. We will enjoy plenty more whale sightings and hopefully see dolphins. There are often large numbers of terns on this final leg of our journey for the bird enthusiast and we may get lucky and see Wilson's Storm Petrel and Streaked Shearwater. We arrive in Broome mid morning, to be met by the transfer back to your accommodation.



Roseate Tern



Sub-adult male Greater Frigate Bird



Terns and shorebirds on Adele Island



Crested Tern breeding colony





The spectacular Horizontal Waterfalls in Talbot Bay





Horizontal Waterfalls



Freshwater, Dugong Bay



Cyclone Creek



The Sale River

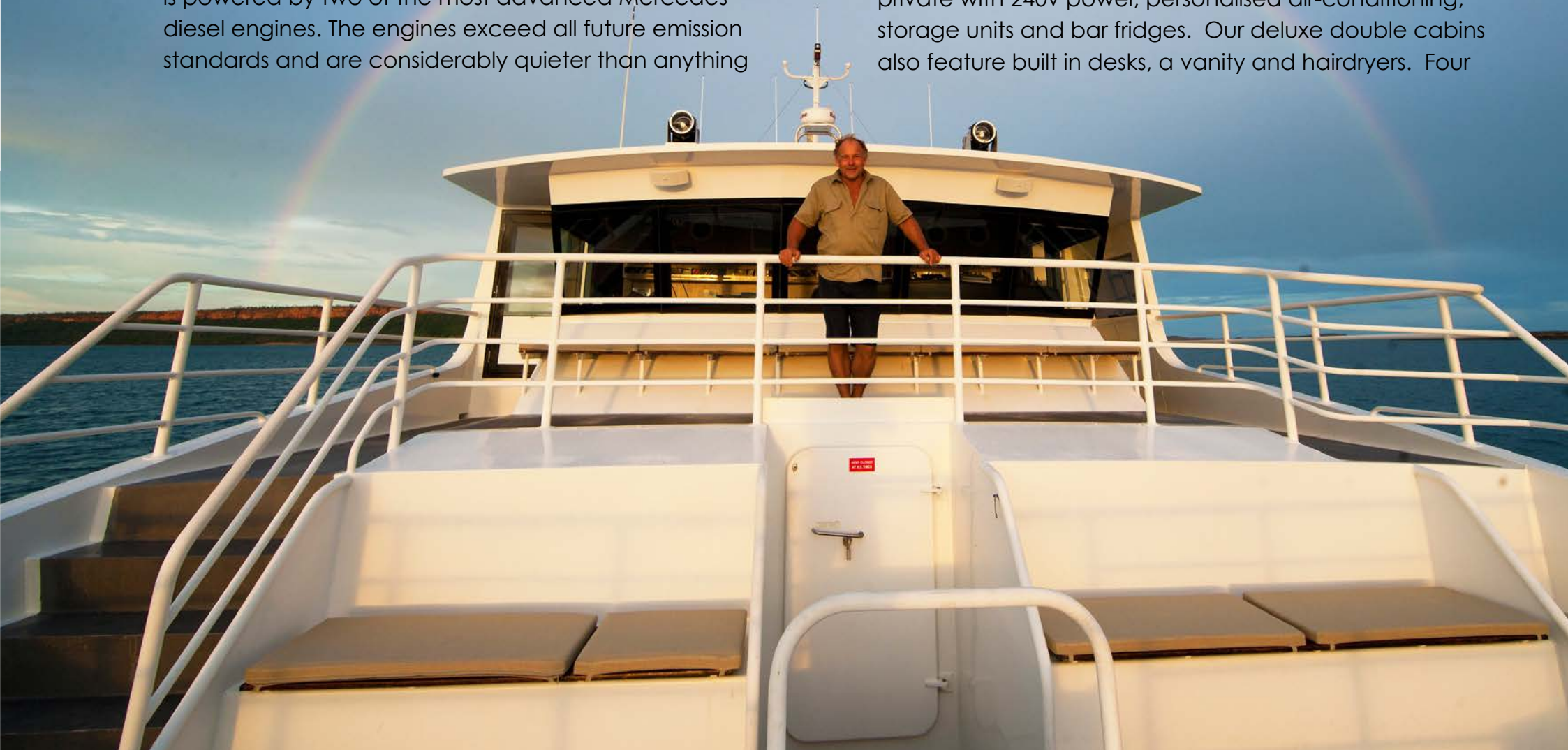


# THE VESSEL - ODYSSEY

The "Odyssey" is a custom built 24m expedition vessel launched in 2006. The advanced catamaran design ensures very quiet operation, spacious interior with phenomenal stability. Perfect for sneaking into secluded shallow bays she draws only 1.8 meters and is powered by two of the most advanced Mercedes diesel engines. The engines exceed all future emission standards and are considerably quieter than anything

comparable on the market. Twin engines also offer improved flexibility on long range voyages.

We cater for 20 guests. Our 6 deluxe double cabins and 4 twin share single cabins are well equipped and private with 240v power, personalised air-conditioning, storage units and bar fridges. Our deluxe double cabins also feature built in desks, a vanity and hairdryers. Four







spacious toilet and shower facilities are located very close to all cabins. If you have any special needs or requirements please do not hesitate to call, we are only too happy to help if we can.

The dining area can seat all passengers comfortably for meals or presentations. Outside on the upper deck all guests can be seated under shade for alfresco meals; there are 3 other comfortable outdoor viewing decks. The "Odyssey"

carries a compliment of the latest navigational equipment, radios, satellite communications and a full DVD entertainment system. Full digital and audio visual presentation equipment for corporate functions and a library of informative and fictional books.

**Please note:** The Kimberley is a region of huge tidal variation which governs access to islands and gorges. This itinerary is intended as a guide but may be varied due to tides, winds, weather, or other considerations at the discretion of the crew of the vessel.

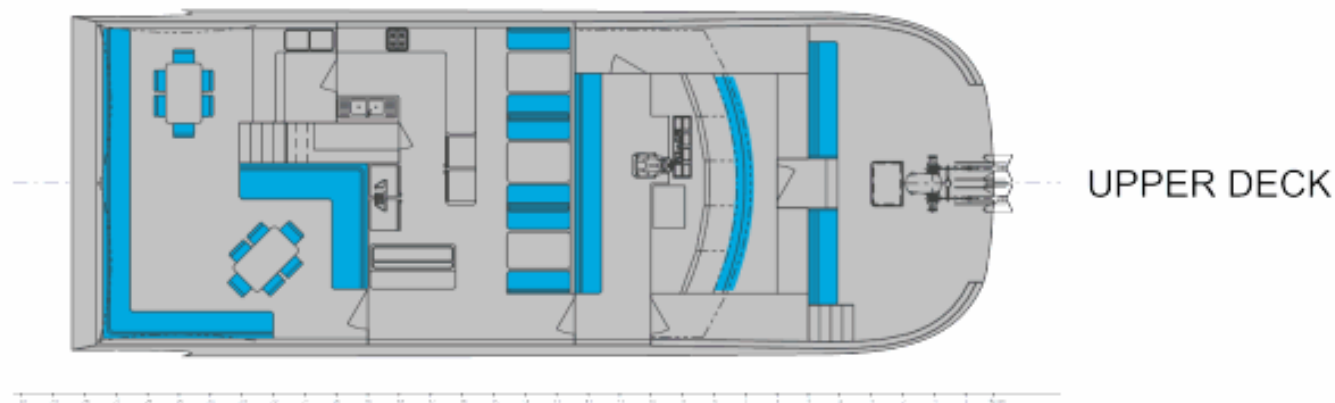






## UPPER DECK

VIEWING AND SEATING AREA



## MAIN DECK

### DELUXE CABINS

1. BOAB
2. JABIRU
3. FRANGIPANI
4. MELALEUCA
5. OSPREY
6. NAUTILUS

BATHROOM

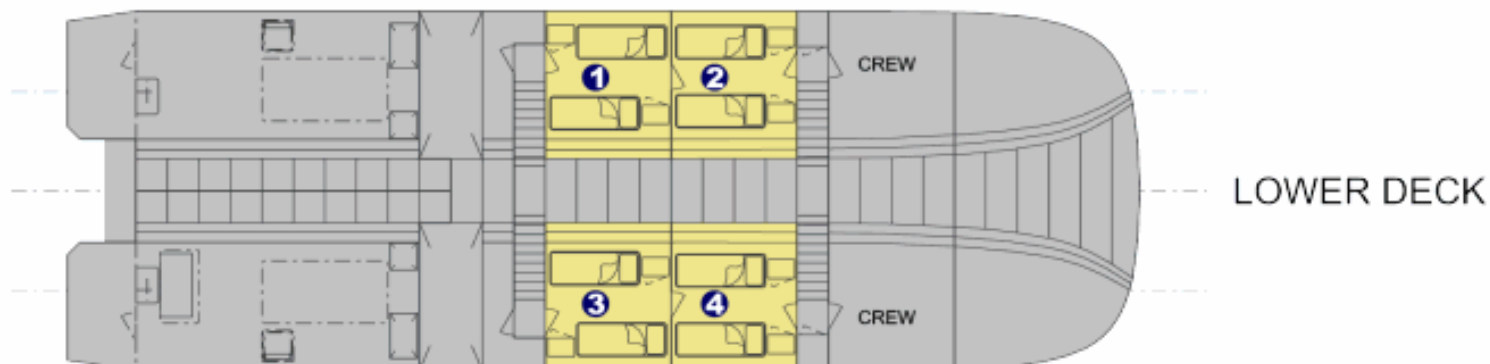
VIEWING AND SEATING AREA



## LOWER DECK

### STANDARD CABINS

1. CATALINA
2. MERMAID
3. BATAVIA
4. KOOLAMA





# ABOUT YOUR GUIDES

**Kimberley Birdwatching and Kimberley Whale Watching are based in Broome, in the southwest corner of the Kimberley, Western Australia, one of the most exciting and least explored regions for the birdwatcher and naturalist. We are both proud members of Wildlife Tourism Australia, a non-profit organisation established to promote the sustainable development of a diverse wildlife tourism industry that supports conservation.**

George Swann was born in England and emigrated to Australia in 1984. He has lived in Broome since 1989 and established Kimberley Birdwatching in 1993.

Through many years of fieldwork, George has gained tremendous knowledge of the natural history of the Kimberley, including bird distribution and behaviour, with the emphasis on rare, endangered and poorly known species.

George is a professional bird guide, with a passionate interest in the natural history and ecology of the region. He is a resourceful bushman and an infectious enthusiastic travelling companion. George has been involved with Kimberley birding for over twenty years and his work as a consultant, counter, and guide on coastal trips offers participants a wealth of knowledge.



George Swann



Richard Costin

Richard Costin of Kimberley Whale Watching is a naturalist and photographer who has spent many years on the Kimberley coast with his partner, Annabelle Sandes, studying the Breeding Stock D population of Humpback Whales, the world's largest Humpback Whale population. Using high definition video, photography and hydrophones (underwater microphones), they have recorded the behaviour and markings of these magnificent cetaceans. Richard and Annabelle are firm believers in "citizen science", inviting passengers to join them on wildlife expedition cruises to participate in recording whale numbers and behaviour.

Over many years Richard has also explored vast tracts of coast on solo walking expeditions, and is always keen to share his extensive bush knowledge with his passengers.



# BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

Deluxe Cabin      \$5,500 twin share  
Standard Cabin    \$4,800 twin share

All cruises are sold upon the following terms and conditions - failure to make due payment in respect of bookings or instalments shall entitle Odyssey Expeditions, Trading as Regalwealth Pty Ltd & Regalpoint Pty Ltd to cancel a booking. At any time following overdue payment, Regalwealth Pty Ltd & Regalpoint Pty Ltd shall be entitled to consider a booking void and offer the booking to any other interested party.

Singles share policy – Cabin accommodation is based on double occupancy. If you are travelling alone a same sex roommate may be assigned to your cabin.

Deposit – a completed booking form and

30% non refundable deposit are required to confirm your reservation aboard Odyssey.

Final payment – Final payment is required no later than 60 days prior to departure. Failure to provide final payment 60 days prior to departure will result in cancellation of the booking and forfeit of any deposit. Cancellations – if a booking is cancelled less than 60 days prior to departure, or if a passenger fails to arrive, the total cruise value is forfeited. Regalwealth Pty Ltd & Regalpoint Pty Ltd cannot accept any responsibility for the actions of any carrier that might result in the purchaser failing to observe a booking condition.

Insurance – Regalwealth Pty Ltd & Regalpoint Pty Ltd strongly recommends passengers arrange comprehensive travel & cancellation insurance.

Liability conditions - Regalwealth Pty Ltd & Regalpoint Pty Ltd is an adventure travel organisation the nature of cruises offered, means that passengers may encounter physical discomfort or even potential danger, although no passenger will be forced to participate in any given activity a low to moderate fitness level would be beneficial. It is expected that every passenger understands and appreciates the risks involved in remote adventuring, and is prepared to accept those risks as part of the spirit of the adventure. Regalwealth Pty Ltd & Regalpoint Pty Ltd undertakes to deliver services with all due care however it is intended that passengers accept ultimate responsibility for any damage to, or loss of personal property, or any illness, injury or death.





# THE KIMBERLEY

Adele Island

Augustus Island  
Camden Sound

Montgomery  
Reef

Buccaneer Archipelago

Cape Leveque

Horizontal  
Waterfalls

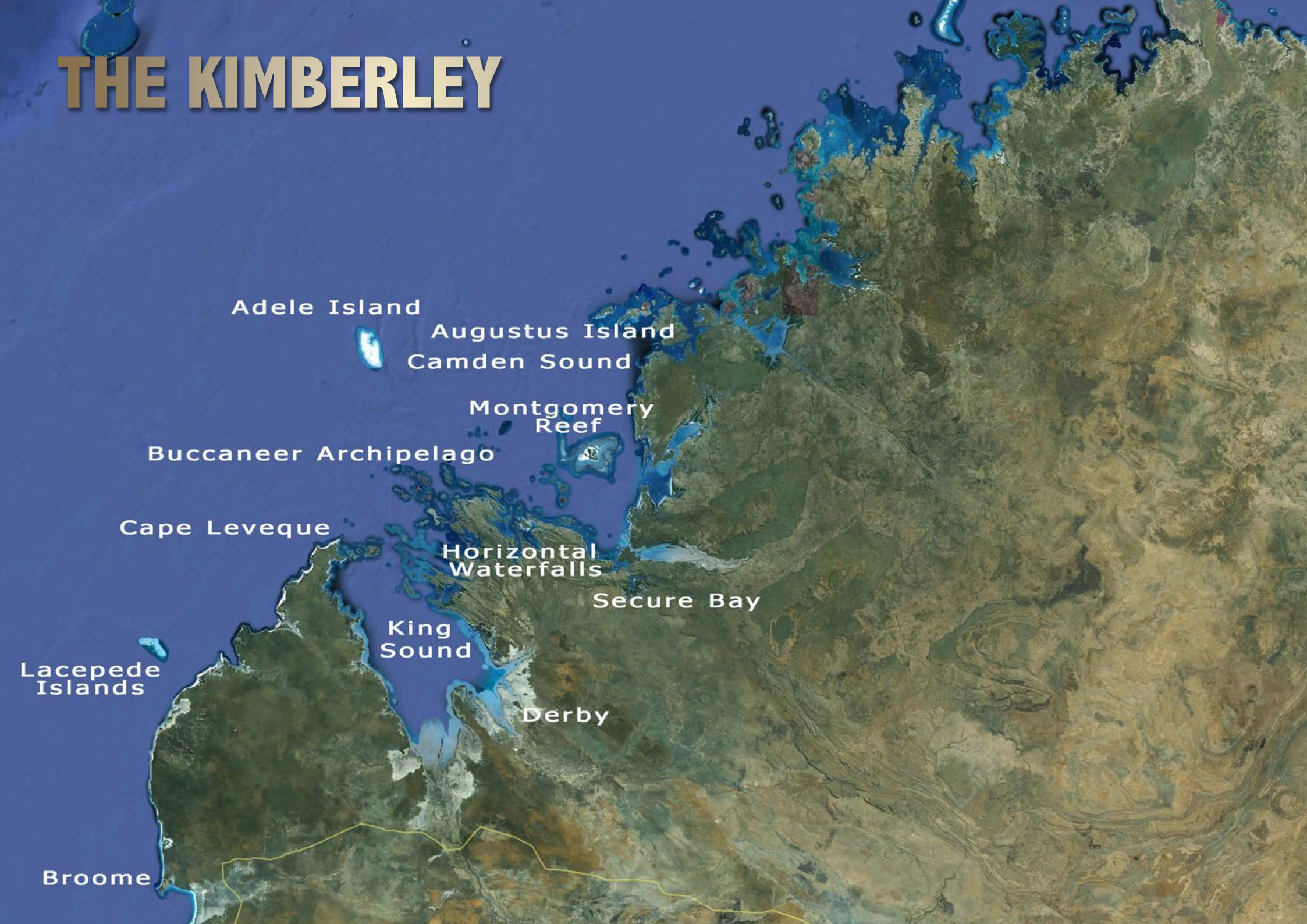
Secure Bay

King  
Sound

Derby

Lacepede  
Islands

Broome





# CONTACT DETAILS



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Please email us for a booking form, and don't hesitate to contact us with any queries regarding the trip.