

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA TOUR- 9 DAYS

### 4WD Kimberley Tour: Broome to Darwin Itinerary

Dates: 20<sup>th</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> September

#### Day 1, 20<sup>th</sup> Sep'07

Fly from Brisbane to Broome. Stay the night in Broome. En-route we have 3 hours in Perth, enough time for us to take a taxi and have a quick look around the City, visit King's Park the main Lookout point. **Breakfast provided.**

*Flight QF 589 at 08:20 Hrs from Domestic. Arrive Perth at 11:40 Hrs (terminal 2)  
Flight QF 1928 from Perth at 15:10 Hrs Terminal 2. Arrive Broome at 17:35 Hrs*

**Hotel:** Seashells Resort Broome

**Hotel Address:** 4-6 Challenor Drive Cable Beach Broome WA 6726

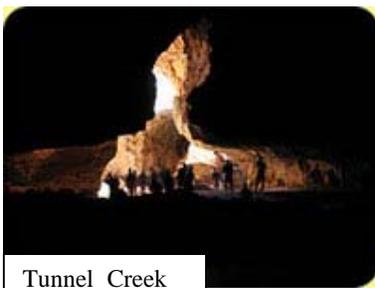
**Hotel Phone:** +61 8 9192 6111

#### Day 2, 21st Sep'07

Day in Broome, sightseeing. See Information sheet about Broome attached.

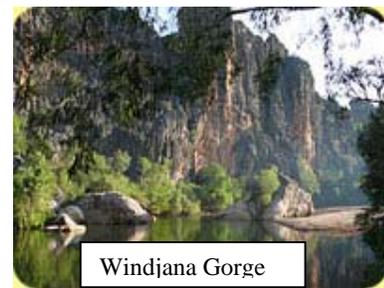


#### Day 3, 22nd Sep'07- start of 4WD tour - Windjana Gorge & Tunnel Creek



Tunnel Creek

Pick up from your accommodation starts at 6:30am and our first stop for the day is to take in some great scenery as we hike along the rivers edge of and our first stop for the day is Windjana Gorge to take in some great scenery as we hike along the rivers edge of Windjana Gorge. This is an amazing gorge created over millions of years as the



Windjana Gorge

Lennard River has slowly cut through an ancient reef to create the spectacular vertical cliffs. We hike along the edge of the gorge where there is always lots of bird life and freshwater crocodiles. Tunnel Creek is a 750 metre long cave system through which a creek flows, we grab the torches and walk the full length of the creek in waste deep water, it's a fantastic experience swimming underground and the bats flying around do their best to scare even the bravest adventurers!

From Tunnel Creek we head to our first Kimberley campsite **Lunch, Dinner provided.**

Camp: Bush Camp; Walking: 5km

#### **Day 4, 23rd Sep'07- Bungle Bungles; Echidna Chasm**



From here the 5 day 4WD Kimberley Tour heads out to the Victoria Highway where you can enjoy the smooth ride via the sealed highway through Fitzroy Crossing and Hails Creek. We turnoff at Turkey Creek and head into the Bungle Bungles on a track that is slow and rough, taking 2 hours to do the 50km stretch.. The ranges consist of 200— 400 metre high rounded beehive-shaped domes with horizontal coloured bands of orange, black and grey. Their

distinctive shapes have been produced by uplift and erosion over the last 20 million years and they can only be described as spectacular. This afternoon we head over to the northern side of the Bungles and visit Echidna Chasm, a long narrow gorge with 150 metre high sheer rock faces which you can walk between for a considerable distance.

We go to a nearby lookout and as the sun sets you can watch the magnificent stripped domes of the bungles changing color, totally awesome. Tonight you can enjoy a candlelit dinner in the heart of the Kimberley then have a go at playing the didgeridoo. **Breakfast, lunch, dinner Provided**

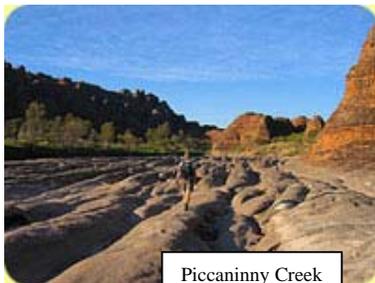


Bungle Bungle

Camp: Bungle Bungles Kurrajong Campsite (toilets/showers), Walking: 3km

#### **Day 5, 24th Sep'07- Bungle Bungles, Piccaninny Creek , Cathedral Gorge**

Today we spend the morning exploring around the southern end of the Bungles. Start the day with an optional helicopter flight over the area (own expense).



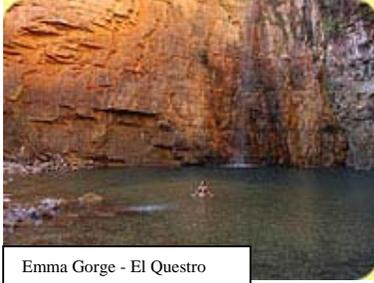
Piccaninny Creek

The first stop is a spectacular “Domes Walk” amongst the colourfully banded domes as we hike through Piccaninny Creek. Enjoy a magnificent view from the lookout in this area then take an easy hike that leads to the huge pool at base of Cathedral Gorge. This afternoon we make our way back to the highway and up towards Kununurra where after setting up camp this evening you can spend some time stargazing under the southern skies.

**Breakfast, lunch, dinner Provided**

Camp: Bush Camp. Walking: 6km

### Day 6, 25th Sep'07- El Questro Station, Emma Gorge El Questro Gorge



Emma Gorge - El Questro

This morning we make our way back onto the Gibb River road to reach El Questro Station. A couple of the magnificent gorges on El Questro station are Emma Gorge and El Questro Gorge. Both of these gorges feature great scenery and cool, clear water. Take some time exploring one of these gorges and enjoy swimming in the crystal clear pools. Stop at Ivanhoe Crossing for lunch and then on into Kununurra before crossing into the Northern Territory on our way to Victoria River for our overnight camp. The evening is open to Wildlife spotting,

playing didgeridoo or just relaxing - the choice is yours.

**Breakfast, lunch, dinner Provided**

Camp: Bush Camp, Walking: 4km

### Day 7, 26th Sep'07 – Edith Falls



We stop in at Katherine this morning for a short break on the way through to Edith Falls. Enjoy a swim in the cool water here and take a hike to the upper pools as we have about 3 hours exploring this area and having a relaxing lunch. From here it's a 2.5 hour drive through to Darwin finally arriving at your accommodation in the early evening. **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Provided.**

Hotel in Darwin. Walking: 4km

**Hotel:** *City Gardens Apartments*

**Hotel Address:** *93 Woods Street, Darwin, NT 0800.*

**Phone:** *(08) 8981-2888*

**Fax:** *(08) 8981-2934*

### Day 8, 27th Sep'07

Full day in Darwin, sightseeing/ relaxing.

The 'capital' of northern Australia is closer to Jakarta than it is to Sydney, and closer to Singapore than it is to Melbourne, so it should come as no surprise that it looks outward to Asia as much as it looks inland to the rest of Australia.

This proximity and familiarity with Australia's northern neighbours is reflected in the town's relaxed, cosmopolitan, tropical atmosphere. In a country that prides itself on its ethnic diversity, Darwin may be the most multicultural city of all.

### Day 9, 28th Sep'07

Sight-seeing in the morning. Fly back to Brisbane from Darwin.

### **Lunch Provided**

*Flight QF 825, boarding from Darwin at 13:35 hrs- reach Brisbane at 17:45 hrs, domestic Terminal on 28<sup>th</sup> Sep 2007.*

## **SOME INFORMATION ABOUT BROOME**

### **NATURAL & LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

If you like to unwind, Broome is your ideal holiday. Stroll on the world famous 22 kilometres of pristine white sand that is Cable Beach, and let the clear warm tropical waters of the Indian Ocean refresh you.

Visit Gantheaume Point, home of the 130 million year old Dinosaur Footprints which can be seen at very low tides. While there, marvel at Anastasia's Pool, this almost perfectly round pool was hand built by a former lighthouse keeper for his wife, Anastasia. She was crippled with arthritis and found relief in the pool. For tide times please contact the Broome Visitor Centre.

On negative tides, the Dutch Flying Boat wrecks are visible. These wrecks remain as evidence of the flying boats sunk by the Japanese air raid on Broome during WWII in March 1942. At the time there were 16 flying boats at anchor in Roebuck Bay. Located 1km offshore from Town Beach the low tides reveal the corroding hulls of flying boats. Please check tide times with the Broome Visitor Centre.

Relax on Town Beach and witness the spectacular "Staircase to the Moon", a natural phenomena caused by the rising of a full moon reflecting off the tidal flats of Roebuck Bay. (Only visible during the months of March – October for 3 nights per month). Markets are held on the first 2 nights, to coincide with this event – a great place to absorb in the atmosphere. Please contact the Broome Visitor Centre for "Staircase" times or check the Events page.

At the intersection of Short Street and Carnarvon Street a sculptured bronze commemorative plaque has been erected in honour of the lives lost when Japanese Navy Aircraft struck the Flying Boats at anchor in Roebuck Bay on 3rd March 1942.

Four life size statues are placed on the grassed area in Carnarvon Street – The Cultured Pearl and Hard Hat Diver Monument. The statues pay tribute to their involvement in establishing Broome as the centre of the world's pearling industry in the early 1900's.

Balancing the memory of those who died in the air raids, Broome's Japanese Cemetery is a poignant reminder of the Japanese contribution to Broome and pearling. Reflect on the dangers of the early days of diving, the final resting-place for over 900 pearl divers.

For those who enjoy bushwalking, the Minyirr Park has a number of self guided colour coded walk trails to offer. Stroll through the bush and on to the beach and enjoy the cooling breezes and panoramic views of Minyirr (Broome).

Be amazed by the ever-changing colours created by the ebb and flow of the tide in Roebuck Bay. The scenery is spectacular. Find a cool place to sit back, relax and ... let yourself go.

### **LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

Soak up the laid back atmosphere of a town with no traffic lights. Treat your taste buds to the eclectic east meets west cuisine, and at the end of the day, why not take in another glorious sunset.

Wander around Chinatown, once the bustling hub of pearl dealers, billiard saloons, entertainment houses and Chinese eateries. Discover the unique character of Broome and the distinctive iron buildings, some dating back to the 1880's. The finest pearl showrooms, galleries, retail outlets and sidewalk cafes will provide you with a great shopping experience and time to immerse yourself in the charm of old and new Broome.

Check out the history of pearling in Broome, cruise the bay on a Pearl Luger or be whisked back in time to the high seas and drama of the early days of pearling. Ask the Broome Visitor Centre about tour options.

Meander through the famous Courthouse Markets on a Saturday morning held in the grounds of the Old Courthouse built in 1888. Enjoy a tasty bite to eat as you make your way through the amazing collection of local produce, arts, crafts and mementos.

Learn of the unique role the sea and river systems of the Kimberley have played in the life of the Aboriginal people at an Aquaculture and Discovery Centre.

Go with friends for a leisurely camel ride along Cable Beach at morning, twilight or sunset. Or you can just watch them come up from the beach across the grassed amphitheatre after sunset, a delightful sight.

Have the adventure of a lifetime and escape with an extended Cruise along the Kimberley Coast or perhaps a 4WD Safari into the rugged and majestic beauty of the Kimberley Gorges and Dampier Peninsula.

Sit back in a deck chair and enjoy the new release movies at the oldest operating outdoor picture gardens in Australia (90 years old). Daily tours are run as well as nightly picture shows of this Guinness Book of Records holder.

Roam through the Broome Historical Society Museum; explore the fascinating pieces of history. Other historic sights include the Australian and Allied War Memorials in Bedford Park on Hamersley St. Also in the park is Dampier's Chest and several other plaques regarding Broome.

Venture out to the Broome Bird Observatory, on the shores of Roebuck Bay. This area is regarded as one of the best locations in Australia to view some of the 310 species of migratory wader birds that arrive each year from the breeding grounds in Siberia.

The fishing is great in Broome so board a fishing boat and go catch your dinner off the shores of Roebuck Bay or Cable Beach. Or try your hand at landing a big one from the Port of Broome's Deep Water Jetty.

Play a round of golf at the Broome Golf Clubs fully grassed 18-hole course and take in the awesome view from the Club-house.

Browse through one of the many Pearl Showrooms or Art Galleries offering unique local and indigenous works of art, handicrafts and artifacts. The variety on offer is stunning. Grab a detailed list from the Broome Visitor Centre.

View some of the largest Crocodiles in captivity and witness their true nature during crocodile feeding tours.

Let the serenity of Buddha's Sanctuary invigorate you. Enjoy the ornamental gardens, pavilion and the magnificence of a crystal Buddha measuring nearly 4 metres. Reflect, meditate, read or simply ... let yourself go.

## TRAVEL TIPS

The Kimberley is a remote, rugged destination and the distance between attractions can be vast. Allow enough time when planning your itinerary to comfortably travel the distances involved.

Broome enjoys a tropical climate with warm days and balmy nights for most of the year. During the summer months temperatures and humidity are high and it is important that enough fluids are consumed to avoid dehydration, especially when physically active. During exercise such as bushwalking or hiking it is recommended that a litre of water per person per hour is carried. Year round it is advisable to wear a hat and sunscreen when outdoors.

During the months of November to April there is a possibility of **cyclones** off the Kimberley and Pilbara coasts. It is important that visitors are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of a cyclone alert. These procedures are provided in all accommodation houses and are also available at the Broome Visitor Centre or the Shire of Broome office. For cyclone watch and warning messages you can call 1300 659 210 or look at the website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**Mosquitos** are at their most prevalent during the Tropical months of November to April. To avoid the discomfort of mosquito bites and any risk of infection it is advisable to cover up at dawn and dusk and apply insect repellent. Mosquito candles or coils are useful for burning if outside, but it is still advisable to cover exposed skin, as this is the best protection.

**Sandflies** become more active in Broome on high tides, however the same prevention methods are applicable as for mosquitos.

Tropical waters can contain various stingers. The two types of potentially dangerous jellyfish are the **Chironex Box Jellyfish** (this large but almost transparent Box Jellyfish is up to 30cm across and has up to 15 ribbon-like tentacles from each of the four corners) and **Irukandji** (A tiny transparent jellyfish 1-2cms across with four thin tentacles, this jellyfish is almost totally invisible in water) during the summer months of November to May. Care should be taken when swimming (wear protective clothing - wet suit or lycra stinger suit to reduce exposure to potential stings) and signs displayed on the beaches should be obeyed at all times. Medical advice (pour vinegar onto the sting and call 000 for an ambulance) should be sought should a person be stung whilst swimming.

**Saltwater crocodiles** are found in estuaries throughout the Kimberley and freshwater Johnsons crocodiles in some freshwater gorges and lakes. To a certain degree there are signs warning if there are signs warning if there is danger and these should be strictly adhered to. However, if not signposted, advice from a reliable local authority should always be sought before swimming in rivers and waterholes.