

23 DAY WEST COAST AND THE KIMBERLEY

DEPARTING WEDNESDAY 22ND AUGUST TO THURSDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – SAFARI STYLE & RESTAURANT MEALS



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HIGHLIGHTS

DARWIN # KATHERINE
ORD RIVER CRUISE # HALLS CREEK
EL QUESTRO STATION
ZEBEDEE SPRINGS
FITZROY CROSSING
GEIKIE GORGE NATIONAL PARK & CRUISE
WINDJANA GORGE
BOAB PRISON TREE # DERBY
BROOME 3 NIGHTS # EIGHTY MILE BEACH
PORT HEDLAND # MT TOM PRICE MINE TOUR
KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK
HAMERSLEY RANGES # EXMOUTH
CORAL BAY # SHARK BAY
CARNARVON # MONKEY MIA DOLPHINS
KALBARRI WILDFLOWERS # PERTH 3 NIGHTS
CITY CENTRE ACCOMMODATION IN DARWIN & PERTH

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 22ND AUGUST HOME TO DARWIN

After pick up from your home town, travel to Tullamarine and join your flight to Darwin where our luxury coach will meet you and take you to your accommodation, home for the next two nights.

Accom: Travelodge Mirambeena Resort Ph 08 8946 0111

DAY 2: THURSDAY 23RD AUGUST B. DARWIN

Free day to just relax, or do your own exploring and be amazed by the City of Darwin. Tonight you may wish to visit the famous Mindil Beach Market, taste the many foods or watch the marvellous Mindil Beach sunset.

DAY 3: FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST B.L.D. DARWIN TO KATHERINE

This morning we tour parts of the city visiting Fannie Bay Gaol Museum. The gaol was in use for nearly 100 years before the last prisoners were transferred to the Berrimah complex in late 1979. The gaol is now used as a museum which represents a time capsule. Displays include interests such as the "Gallows" which were constructed for the last execution in the Northern Territory in 1952. Next stop is the Botanical Gardens and Christ Church Cathedral, constructed in 1977 to replace the original stone church destroyed by Cyclone Tracy, Christmas 1974. A section of the old Cathedral, the porch, has been incorporated in to the new building. Farewelling Darwin and joining the Stuart Highway travelling south, we visit the Adelaide River War Cemetery. This cemetery is the most visited war cemetery in Australia with over 1 million visitors per year. It is the site where 434 service men and women who served in the Second World War are buried. Continue south to Katherine for our overnight stop.

Accom: Knotts Crossing Resort Motel Ph: 08 8972 2511

DAY 4: SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST B.L.D. KATHERINE TO KUNUNURRA

The dramatic landforms and colours of this region will surprise you at every bend as we travel the 520km Victoria Highway between Katherine and Kununurra. This fully sealed Territory Tourism Drive meanders past spectacular ranges, escarpment country and the north-west's endemic boab trees. It is the gateway to the Kimberley, the fish-rich Victoria River, superb Gregory and Keep River National Parks and Lake Argyle. The drive passes through the Victoria River districts sprawling cattle country, and historic Timber Creek. Continue on crossing the Western Australian border and on to Kununurra, home for the next three nights.

Accom: Lakeside Resort Ph: 08 9169 1092

DAY 5: SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST B.L.D. EL QUESTRO-ZEBEDEE SPRINGS - WYNDHAM

A breathtaking day today as we travel west of Kununurra and join the Gibb River Road where our first stop is Zebedee Springs. Zebedee Springs is a warm inviting thermal spring nestled in a small pocket of lush rain forest and spectacular Livistona palms. A magical place where we can go for a swim in the springs. The spring is fed from a permanent supply of water, deep within the earth's interior, which maintains a water temperature between 28 to 32 degrees Celsius all year round. Continuing on we travel the short distance to El Questro Station, a one million acre cattle station developed in 1991 to provide a truly Australian holiday destination. The Kimberley region extends from Broome in the west to Kununurra and Lake Argyle in the east, and from the sea to just south of the main Great

Northern Highway. It covers about 421,000 square kilometres -- slightly larger than Japan and much larger than United Kingdom or New Zealand. The Kimberley has only three towns with a population of more than 2,000 (Broome, Derby and Kununurra). Relax and marvel at the scenery as we enjoy a leisurely cruise through the magnificent sandstone cliffs of Chamberlain Gorge. Departing El Questro wonder at the views of the Cockburn Range, which stands majestically beside the Gibb River Road and completely within the bounds of El Questro Station. Fringed by steep escarpments along the perimeter, the Cockburn Range rises to 586 metres at its highest point. We travel to Wyndham, the most northerly town in Western Australia situated off the north coast of Western Australia on the Cambridge Gulf. Although Wyndham is off the main route, it is a pleasant town with a nearby port. From the top of Mt Bastion at the Five Rivers Lookout, we will see where the five rivers, Dirac River, Forrest River, King River, Ord River and Pentecost River, join the Cambridge Gulf. The view is fantastic and well worth our drive to Wyndham. After an amazing days sightseeing we will return to Kununurra.

**DAY 6: MONDAY 27TH AUGUST B.L.D.
ORD RIVER CRUISE**

Today if you wish you can take an optional early morning flight over the vast lost world of the Bungle Bungles with spectacular views of Lake Argyle and the Argyle Diamond Mine (passengers own expense). Following breakfast, we cruise the pristine waters of the Ord River System. The area is a bird watchers paradise, has varying fauna, salt and freshwater crocodiles and is a photographer's delight. During the afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore the shops in Kununurra.

**DAY 7 TUESDAY 28TH AUGUST B.L.D.
KUNUNURRA TO FITZROY CROSSING**

We join the Great Northern Highway this morning and travel via Turkey Creek to Halls Creek situated on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert. Continuing west arriving at Fitzroy Crossing a centre for the surrounding cattle stations for our overnight stop. Fitzroy Crossing was a creation of necessity when early settlers to the Kimberley needed a place to ford the mighty Fitzroy River. The old crossing was the shortest and safest route but focus shifted from the original town site of Fitzroy Crossing when a modern stilted bridge was built downstream in 1974.

Accom: Fitzroy River Lodge Ph:08 9191 5141

**DAY 8: WEDNESDAY 29TH AUGUST B.L.D.
FITZROY CROSSING - GEIKIE GORGE - DERBY**

Enjoy a town tour this morning before taking a short drive north to Geikie Gorge National Park. Cruising the Fitzroy River is a wonderful chance to see the gorge and wildlife up close. Fresh water crocodiles, all manner of birdlife and other native animals like dingoes and wallabies are resident at Geikie Gorge National Park. The main attraction is the multi-coloured cliffs of Geikie Gorge where the Fitzroy River, has cut through the fossil reef over millions of years. Further on to the narrow Windjana Gorge, a spectacular area where you can see the 5 km gorge containing some of the best examples of fossil reef complexes in the world. Continue via the Gibb River Road to Derby, heart of much of the state's most spectacular scenery and our home for our overnight stop. The main street of Derby is lined with boab trees as old as the town itself.

Accom: King Sound Resort Hotel Ph: 08 9193 1044

**DAY 9: THURSDAY 30TH AUGUST B.L.
DERBY TO BROOME**

Today we enjoy the sights of King Sound where the highest of all Australian tides and the second highest tide in the world happens in late March and again in late April. We see the Boab Prison Tree, large enough to hold twelve people and believed to be over 1,000 years old, before joining the Great Northern Highway to Broome, home for the next three nights. Broome's climate is something to thoroughly enjoy. After lunch we take a drive to Willie Creek Pearl Farm. On the way, you may see some of the local wildlife. At the picturesque pearl farm, you will enjoy a tour, seeing how cultured pearls are created and the seeding of a live shell. You will have the opportunity to explore and purchase jewellery from the showroom.

Accom: The Oaks Resort Ph: 08 9192 9500

**DAY 10: FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST B.
BROOME - CABLE BEACH**

Today we explore the "Pearls of Broome". First visit is to Chinatown that was built to support the pearlers, see the wooden pearling luggers used earlier this century, Streeters Jetty where the luggers discharged their hard won treasure, and the Japanese cemetery, which reminds us of the toll taken on the Japanese pearl divers in the industry. Other "Pearls of Broome" include the Dinosaur Footprints and Anastasia's Pool. Enjoy a visit to Cable Beach - the "pearl" of Australian beaches.

**DAY 11: SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER B.
BROOME**

This is a free day today to put your feet up and relax by the pool, explore Broome and its great shopping or perhaps go for a stroll along famous Cable Beach. Perhaps you would like to take a scenic flight along the WA coast to the amazing Horizontal Waterfalls.

**DAY 12: SUNDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
BROOME TO AUSKI VILLAGE**

Farewelling Broome with a very early start and a big day ahead we join the Great Northern Highway travelling south through some of Australia's most remote countryside. After visiting Eighty Mile Beach where the Great Sandy Desert stretches to the ocean we travel further south past Port Hedland, one of the largest ports by tonnage in Australia. The town revolves around the mining and shipping of the Pilbara's most valuable commodity; iron ore. On the Port Hedland Highway again and continuing south we arrive at Auski Village situated on the northern slopes of the Hamersley Ranges. This whole area is noted for its scenic grandeur and rugged beauty.

Accom: Auski Tourist Village Ph 08 9176 6988

**DAY 13: MONDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
AUSKI VILLAGE TO MT TOM PRICE**

A much shorter day travelling today, and after passing the now ghost town of Wittenoom stop off to explore the picturesque Hamersley Gorge. The town of Mt Tom Price beckons and it is our home for the next two nights.

Accom: Tom Price Hotel/Motel Ph: 08 9189 1101

**DAY 14: TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
TOM PRICE - MINE TOUR - KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK**

Tour Mt Tom Price mine this morning and see the huge equipment and scale of operations. The Mt Tom Price Mine

produces iron ore yielding about 19-20 million tonnes of ore each year. The mine was developed in 1966, and is a massive ore body eight km long and more than one km wide. Free time for the remainder of the morning. We spend this afternoon admiring the scenery of Karijini National Park renowned for its spectacular mountains, gorges and watercourses. The Oxer Lookout offers breathtaking panoramic views of four amazing gorges. This is one of the most spectacular vantage points within the Karijini National Park. The lookout stands at the junction of the Joffre Gorge, Weano Gorge, Red Gorge and Hancock Gorge.

**DAY 15: WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
MT TOM PRICE TO EXMOUTH**

Today we travel through the stunning rich red earth and spinifex landscape of the Pilbara, passing Mt. Stuart. The Pilbara region in the north of Western Australia is known for its vast mineral deposits, in particular iron ore. Join the North West Coastal Highway and stop at Nanutarra Roadhouse before leaving the highway to travel to the coastal town of Exmouth which is located on the tip of the North West Cape.

Accom: Potshot Court HolidayResort. Ph: 08 9949 1200

**DAY 16: THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
EXMOUTH TO CARNARVON**

Travel south this morning to Coral Bay, home to one of the world's major reef systems. We visit Ningaloo Marine Park where you can view life forms of the reef through a glass bottom boat. Ningaloo Reef has gained an impressive reputation as one of earth's last ocean paradises. It's one of the largest fringing reefs in the world, and unlike many others, you can get to it just by stepping off the beach. It will be hard to leave, but we travel further south and join the North West Coastal Highway to Carnarvon. Dinner tonight is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Fascine Lodge Ph: 08 9941 0600

**DAY 17: FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
CARNARVON TO DENHAM**

This morning we travel to the Shark Bay region which is the most westerly point of the Australian continent. Shark Bay with its islands and the land surrounding it has exceptional natural features. Its vast sea-grass beds, which are the largest and richest in the world; its dugong ('sea cow') population; and its stromatolites (colonies of algae which form hard, dome-shaped deposits and are among the oldest forms of life on earth). We can wander along the shores of Shell Beach and take in the dramatic views from Eagle Bluff before continuing to Denham. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Heritage Resort Shark Bay . Ph: 08 9948 1133

**DAY 18: SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
DENHAM - MONKEY MIA TO KALBARRI**

We visit Monkey Mia, which is world famous for its dolphin interaction experience, a rare encounter with wild animals that has become a major tourism attraction. However, Monkey Mia is not just about dolphins. The area is beautiful in its own right, later this morning we continue south to Kalbarri renowned for extraordinary river gorge scenery, soaring sea cliffs, and heath wildflowers and is our home for the next two nights.

Accom: Kalbarri Beach Resort Ph: 08 9937 1061

**DAY 19: SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER B.L.D.
KALBARRI SIGHTSEEING**

Kalbarri National Park is famed for its spectacular scenery and red rock gorges that were cut from the landscape by the mighty Murchison River. We experience views of the gorges from the many lookouts including the famous Nature's Window where the vista is seen through a massive red rock frame. The Loop and Z Bend, are also popular for views over the sandstone cliffs. From July to October Kalbarri National Park is ablaze with colour as wildflowers like banksias, grevilleas, kangaroo paws and feather flowers spring to life. The park is rich in bird life and other animals but many are nocturnal. The remainder of the day is free to put your feet up and relax, or discover the Kalbarri shops.

**DAY 20: MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER B.L.
KALBARRI TO PERTH**

There is an early start this morning as we continue south through Geraldton to Nambung National Park and the remarkable Pinnacles Desert. Nambung National Park features beautiful beaches, coastal dune systems, shady groves of tuart trees and low heathland rich in flowering plants. Here thousands of small and huge limestone pillars rise from the shifting yellow sands. After leaving the eerie landscape resembling that from a science fiction movie, we continue on to Perth, our home for the next four nights.

Accom: Kings Hotel Ph: 08 9325 6555

**DAY 21: TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER B.
PERTH SIGHTSEEING**

The morning is spent sightseeing in this marvellous city. You will see the very best Perth has to offer. After touring Scarborough Beach, City Beach and picturesque Kings Park featuring 400ha of gardens and views over the Swan River, we will continue the day by visiting historical Fremantle. We follow the Swan River and enjoy the spectacular views of the Perth skyline.

**DAY 22: WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER B
PERTH**

A free day for you to do some shopping, maybe an optional tour to New Norcia or Rottnest Island, or perhaps just sit back and relax.

**DAY 23: THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER B.
PERTH TO HOME**

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to Perth Airport where you will join your flight back to Tullamarine. Once again you will be met at Tullamarine Airport and transferred to your home town after a memorable twenty-three days touring the far west.

Option 2: With this tour, you have the option of not flying to Darwin, but coaching all the way from home via Coober Pedy, Uluru, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Kakadu National Park to Darwin.

Option 3: Alternatively with this tour, you may choose not to fly home from Perth, but remain with the coach and tour home via the South West Coast, Kalgoorlie and the Nullarbor. Should you be interested in either of these options, please enquire with your local travel agent or Brendan's Australian Tours Freecall 1800 981 187.

Accommodation for the above tour is motel, hotel on a twin share basis. All linen supplied.

Meals as per the itinerary are prepared outdoors by our specially trained tour cook out of our fully equipped safari trailer with on board fridge/freezer which ensures an abundant supply of fresh food is always available.

You will be surprised at the quality of the meals. The day begins with a cooked breakfast, picnic lunches with fresh salads, dinner is always a three course meal and supper is always available. Enjoy the camaraderie and fun social atmosphere of dining together outdoors (weather permitting) or you may take your meal to your own room if you feel like some privacy.

Breakfasts while in Broome are supplied by The Oaks Resort and in Perth are supplied by the Kings Hotel.

Lunches and Dinners while in Broome and Perth have not been included. This allows you the flexibility to try different eating places in the central city area.

PRICE: \$8680.00 per person
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$2350.00

Prices include GST

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Luxury Coach Travel.
 - Accommodation: Motel, Hotel, Villas or Apartments as specified. (Twin Share)
 - Admissions to Attractions and Cruises as per the itinerary.
 - Air Fare Melbourne to Darwin
 - Air Fare Perth to Melbourne
 - All Meals as Specified.
- B: Breakfast**
- L: Lunch**
- D: Dinner**
- Pick up & return to your home.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended and is the responsibility of each passenger.

**The majestic wedge tailed eagle seen on the
23 day West Coast tour**

