



From
\$24,607 NZD

Single Room
 \$30,581 NZD

Twin Room
 \$24,607 NZD

Prices valid until
 30th December 2023

14 days
 Duration

Northern Territory, Victoria
 Destination

Level 2 - Moderate
 Activity

Kimberley and Pilbara explored by air

Apr 10 2023 to Apr 23 2023

Kimberley and Pilbara explored by air

The Kimberley and Pilbara air charter tour for seniors explores in a fixed wing aircraft central Australia first on its way to the Bungle bungle range in World heritage listed Purnululu National park in the east Kimberley region of Western Australia. Our Kimberley air tours continue throughout the duration of the air safari of learning from the Aboriginal communities of Western Australia from the first day to the last day of this air charter tour. The sharing of stories and knowledge of country and the spectacular rock art in the wilderness of the desert region to the



Kimberley coastline on the edge of the Mitchell plateau of North Western Australia of the Gwion Gwion or Bradshaw's rock art leaves the senior traveller in awe on this Kimberley tour.

There are places where it is just difficult to reach and a 12 seater plane is the perfect solution. I recently finished reading Peasley's "The last of the Nomads" which was made into a film, "Footprints in the sand" A touching story of a couple who lived in the Gibson desert. They are buried together in Wiluna WA. On the Kimberley and Pilbara tour we have included a day with people from country to share stories of the desert and to visit the place Warri and Yatungka now rest. The small group tour by plane gives these remote area tours the opportunity to bring distances and experiences closer and to explore more unique experiences and stories of the outback whilst supporting regional areas that rarely share in the benefits of tourism or their stories and craft. Bringing these places to a few people a year is part of what we like to do.

Aircraft type

The aircraft selected Odyssey Traveller has sought to charter with either be and use a Beechcraft Super King or the Cessna Caravan. The configuration enables up to 10 passengers plus crew to be seated in air-conditioned comfort.

Travelling at speeds in excess of 500km per hour and certified for all weather flight your private plane is all about performance, versatility

and passenger comfort for the senior traveller.



Tour Outline

This escorted small group air charter tour of the Pilbara and Kimberley region is limited to 10 travellers. The group spend time after the Bungle Bungle ranges crossing the Ord River, the Argyle diamond mine, now closed and the magnificent Lake Argyle on their trip to Kununurra. The overnight stay in Kununurra includes a visit to the Aboriginal communities art centre before starting the next section of this spectacular air safari. Flying out over Wyndham and the Gulf to see the iconic destinations associated with the Mitchell plateau, crossing spectacular gorges and seeing at least one majestic waterfall such as King George falls or the iconic Mitchell falls in the Kimberley Wilderness from the air as we travel to Mitchell Plateau landing strip. At the Mitchell plateau the group transfers by private helicopter to the Kimberley

Kimberley and Pilbara explored by air

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coastline, a place where explorers have foundered and been rescued and the Indian ocean for two nights exploring and learning about the history of the Aboriginal people in this part of Western Australia before this section of our Kimberley air tours program takes us to Derby and a day in tropical Broome.

After Derby the flight takes over the pristine beaches on the Pilbara tour section of this small group tour. As we follow the coast there maybe opportunity to spot a whale shark, manta ray or wild dolphins or other marine life as we follow the west coast. Close to the export port of Port Headland the flight path heads south east towards the rugged Pilbara landscape with its breathtaking gorges that define the Pilbara region. Your flight path may take you the town of Marble bar. Marble bar is considered to be the hottest town in the East Pilbara region, if not Australia.

This small group tour spends two nights immersed in the rugged Pilbara Landscape in the Karijini National park with an organised guided tour. The local Aboriginal people are our guides for our private Karijini tour to learn and understand country including the breathtaking gorges that are often a very deep gorge cut into the Pilbara landscape that define the Pilbara region. From here this section of the Pilbara tour ends and we head to Wiluna in the Gibson desert, via Newman, the worlds largest open pit gold mine. Wiluna in the Gibson desert is the resting place for the last nomads. A love story of two people who followed their hearts than Kinship, leaving for the desert. Dr William Peasley, who wrote a book about the couple and two others headed out to find this ageing couple after their family had left to go into civilisation. Their story is unique. From Wiluna, we fly to Alice Springs and then onto Melbourne where this private air tour finishes.

Note: The order of the itinerary is subject to change and will depend on local accommodation availability. Final itinerary details will be advised in advance to those travelling.

Tour Notes

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- Itinerary order is subject to change depending on local accommodation availability.

Highlights

1. Visit Warburton Gallery and Rock art.
2. Learn about Purunulu and the Bungle Bungle Ranges in Western Australia.
3. The Bradshaws and Waringarri Aboriginal Arts at Kununurra.
4. Explore by air the Kimberley plateau and the Pilbara.
5. Go to Wiluna, for the story of the last nomads of the Gibson desert.

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Melbourne

Overview:

This afternoon we meet as a group.

There is a welcome dinner and tour briefing this evening.

Accommodation:

Melbourne city -TBA

Day 2

Locations: Alice Springs

Overview:

We head north today to Alice Springs. Itinerary TBC.

Accommodation:

TBC

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Day 3

Locations: Derby

Overview:

Today we fly to the historic town of Derby. We start the day with a Helicopter flight back to Mitchell plateau and then depart for a scenic flight along the Kimberley coastline for Derby.

Our guides from Country share with us the history of the region at the Mowanjum Aboriginal Art & Culture Centre. We spend time learning about the colonial settlement of Derby with a local historian including a visit to one of the Boab prison trees.

Accommodation:

Derby Lodge or similar

Day 4

Locations: Derby

Overview:

Today the group travels to Broome and back as an excursion. There are no scheduled activities, essentially a early departure and returning late afternoon from Broome back to Derby.

Accommodation:

Derby Lodge or similar

Day 5

Locations: Kimberley Coast

Overview:

The group leaves Derby in the early afternoon for the Kimberley plateau . The flight heads north-west to the Kimberley Coast, touch down at Mitchell Plateau, known for its Livistona fan palms. Here you'll join a helicopter flight for the final leg into the Kimberley Coastal Camp – accessible only by helicopter or boat.

Nestled on the pristine shores of the Admiralty Gulf and the Indian ocean, in the heart of the Kimberley wilderness you feel like you are

one of very few people for hundreds of kilometres. Fabulous scenery, gourmet food, unique beachfront accommodation, amazing fishing and ancient rock art of the indigenous people – all combined with unparalleled hospitality in a remote wilderness location in North Western Australia.

There are Saltwater crocodile active in the Indian ocean along the Kimberley coast. You should remain vigilant and swim or enter the water where it is advised that it is safe. The Saltwater crocodile does kill.

Accommodation:

Kimberley Coastal Camp or similar

Day 6

Locations: Kimberley coast

Overview:

Today the group enjoys a day on land and a cruise on the waters of the beautiful Kimberley coastline. Throw in the crab pots, fish several different areas, stop at the islands for a picnic lunch of your fresh-caught fish, see some of the biggest rock oysters in Australia, then return looking for the local wildlife that can include; the Saltwater crocodile Wild dingoes, sea eagles, olive pythons, endangered quolls, and many other native animals share this country known to traditional owners as Yalrundair.

We also on land have time to take a short walking tour with your tour guide to see the intriguing Wandjina and Gwion Gwion (Bradshaw) rock art which has been part of this landscape and the lives of its traditional owners for thousands of years, with Tub, the camp's owner. Tub has spent many years with the local people and has a great depth of knowledge and respect for the art and stories he has been privileged to be told first hand. The rock art of the Aboriginal people is overlain with the stories of Europeans particularly the Dutch becoming shipwrecked on coral reefs in the Kimberley region.

Accommodation:

Kimberley Coastal Camp or similar

Day 7

Locations: Halls Creek

Overview:

Today we travel out early to see the rock art with a local guide from country.

After lunch we head north crossing the famous Ord River as we reach the UNESCO World heritage listed Purunululu National park, home of the Bungle bungle range.

This national park is one of the best stargazing spots in Australia with some of the most sparkling night skies in the world.

We stay at the bungle bungle wilderness Lodge, (or equivalent) everything at the lodge has been carefully designed to cause little impact on the environment and blend in with the surroundings, while still offering premium accommodation and excellent service. These are permanent campsites, each stand-alone cabin features an ensuite, luxury bedding and your own deck to enjoy the tranquillity of the surrounds. Chef-prepared meals are served in the dining room or under the stars on the outdoor deck area.

Accommodation:

Kimberley Hotel or similar

Day 8

Locations: Halls Creek

Overview:

Itinerary TBC

Accommodation:

Kimberley Hotel or similar

Day 9

Locations: Karijini National Park in the Pilbara.

Overview:

Karijini National Park in the Pilbara.

Known for red dirt, indigenous history and mining, the Pilbara is twice the size of the UK, with breathtaking natural landscapes dating back four billion years. The Karijini National Park has deep rocky gorges, crystal clear pools and stunning waterfalls. Landing inside the park, you'll be met with a cool drink and transferred about an hour to the resort.

Karijini Eco Retreat is nestled in the pristine bushland at Joffre Gorge in the heart of the National Park. The semi-permanent, secluded, deluxe eco tents feature comfy beds with quality bedding, ensuite with a shower under the stars, front and rear decks for lazing around and space to spread out. The restaurant offers outback-style hearty meals and a bar where you can mingle with other guests to share tales of your day's adventures.

Karijini Eco Retreat is owned by Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd represents the collective interests of the Niapiali, Bunjima and Innawonga Aboriginal people of the Pilbara region.

Accommodation:

TBC

Day 10

Locations: Karijini National Park in the Pilbara.

Overview:

Spend the day exploring the natural wonders of the Karijini National Park with local tour guides.

Located at the junction of four mighty gorges, Oxer Lookout offers one of the most stunning panoramas in Western Australia, displaying the sheer enormity and grandeur of Joffre, Weano, Hancock and Red Gorges. At Junction Pool Lookout, Weano, Hancock and Red Gorges meet at a viewing platform that is most spectacular in the mornings and

evenings when the sunlight deepens the red colour of the rock faces. Circular Pool, on the Frankland River, has rapids in the winter and a large, tranquil pool in summer.

Fortescue Falls, the park's only permanent waterfall, cascades down the gently sloped rocks into a pool. If you're feeling quite fit, you can walk down through the changing vegetation of the iron-rich gorge walls to the nearby Fern Pool. With its small twin waterfalls, it is one of the most beautiful spots in the park, where you can take quick dip.

After a day of extraordinarily impressive scenery, return to the resort

Accommodation:

TBC

Day 11

Locations: Wiluna, Gibson desert

Overview:

Before departing this morning we have a short reminder about the loss suffered in Wittenoom from Absestos in the 1960's.

We travel onto Wiluna to meet and spend with people from country. The people of the Gibson desert, who share their stories of their home. We also visit the resting place of the last nomads.

Accommodation:

TBC

Day 12

Locations: Warburton

Overview:

Itinerary TBC.

Accommodation:

TBC

Day 13

Locations: Melbourne

Overview:

Departing around lunchtime this small group tour continues to Melbourne.

There is a farewell dinner this evening.

Accommodation:

Melbourne city hotel -TBA

Day 14

Locations: Melbourne

Overview:

Tour concludes after breakfast this morning

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 13 nights accommodation.
- 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches often light picnic style lunch, 9 dinners.
- Transport by modern and comfortable aircraft and vehicle suitable for the highway conditions.
- Entrances and sightseeing as specified.
- Services of Tour Leader for the duration of tour.
- Detailed Preparatory Information.

What's not included in our Tour

- Return Domestic airfares to the starting point of the tour.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls and laundry.

Level 2 - Moderate

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.