



From  
**£8,804** GBP

Single Room

£9,582 GBP

Twin Room

£8,804 GBP

Prices valid until  
 30th December 2023

14 days

Duration

Western Australia

Destination

Level 2 - Moderate

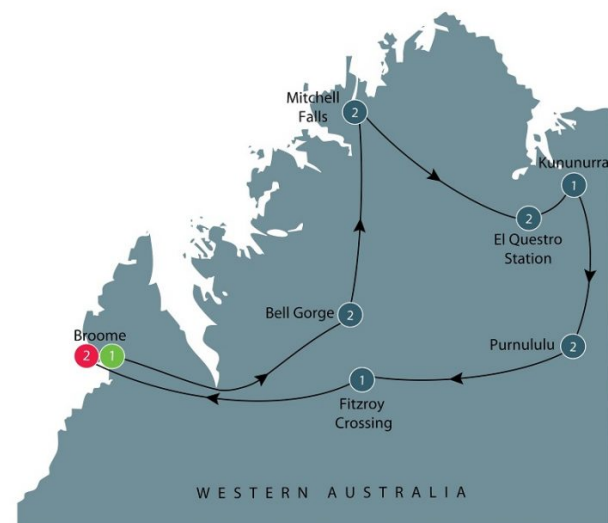
Activity

## Small group tour of Australia's Kimberley

May 30 2023 to Jun 12 2023

### Small Group Tour of the Kimberley.

Odyssey Traveller is pleased to announce our new small group tour of the Kimberley, Western Australia. Our tours of mature and senior travellers for couples and solo travellers of up to 12 people leave at the best times to visit the Kimberley: the dry season, June to September, or at the end of the wet season in April and May when the landscape is lush and the gorges – Bell Gorge, Cathedral Gorge – and rivers – Gibb River, Fitzroy River, and Tunnel Creek – all flow with water. Seeing masses of water flow in a place where the landscape is dry for most of



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the year is one of the delights of a trip in the Australian outback.

This small group tour of the Kimberley has a minimum participant requirement of five people per departure of this fifteen-day adventure. We have scheduled departures, typically commencing in April through to early November. We do not operate trips to the Kimberley region during the wet season.

***This Odyssey Traveller small group tour is limited to just 10 people. (Other groups are typically 20 +)***

## **What you can expect to experience and see on a trip in the Kimberley.**

Unlike other areas of Outback Australia, the corrosive effect of the wet season has defined the landscapes, vegetation, and cultures of the Kimberley. Gorges such as Galvans Gorge and Emma Gorge have been geologically defined by the impact of water over millennia. The contrast between wet and dry season influences the native vegetation of the national park(s) in the Kimberley Region, and the lifestyle of local Aboriginal communities. On this small group tour of the Kimberley, we learn about the unique adaptations and management approaches that have ensured a sustainable occupation for Indigenous Australians for over 40 000 to 65 000 years. On each of our Kimberley outback tours, these stories and geological features are a crucial part of our learning and exploration of the region. The remote location of the Kimberley has given it a long history of Aboriginal civilisations to learn about, long separated from European and Asian cultures (with the exception of the Portuguese crash-landing on the Kimberley Coast during the 17th century race for spices!).

### **Bell Gorge and Mitchell Plateau**

After a second night in Broome this small group tour of the Kimberley joins the infamous 4WD-only Gibb River Road, heading to Bell Gorge and Mitchell Plateau. At the Mitchell Plateau we enjoy a short helicopter scenic flight, over the Mitchell River and the Mitchell Plateau, placing the landscape within its regional setting in Western Australia. We

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observe how the landscape changes, reflecting on the underlying geology and weathering processes that shaped what we see today. At times, the landscape is dominated by boab trees, an unusual tree with a hollow centre. On a side trip to the infamous Boab Prison Tree at Wyndham, we see how these were sometimes used by local police as a gaol.

## El Questro Wilderness area

This small group tour spends a day in the El Questro Wilderness area, another national park dominated visually by the Cockburn Range. The group will walk up through the spectacular Emma Gorge. After just over a week of travelling, having spent the day in the El Questro Wilderness Park, we make the short trip up the Gibb River Road to stay overnight in the El Questro station. This is the most eastern point of the trip, almost reaching Kununurra township and the Northern Territory border. Instead of crossing over into the Northern Territory, our small group tour heads south on the Gibb River, crossing over the Wilson River (a feeder to Lake Argyle), and then travels on to the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Purnululu National Park.

## Purnululu National Park

The Bungle Bungles in Purnululu National Park are, by far, the most outstanding example of cone karst in sandstones anywhere in the world and are unique to Western Australia. This small group tour of the Kimberley spends almost two days in Purnululu National Park. On the first day, we explore the Bungle Bungles with a local guide, and on the second we enjoy a day tour, walking through Echidna Chasm, Cathedral Gorge, and the Piccaninny Creek lookout before transferring from the national park to the gold rush town of Halls Creek for the night.

## Halls Creek

While the outback makes you think of empty space, the Kimberley is packed full of fascinating things to discover and learn about! The history here is fascinating: Aboriginal rock art dating back 60, 000 years (the oldest in the world), giant nuggets that start a gold rush, and meteorite craters dating back 120, 000 or more years. On our last few days we

uncover these hidden histories, heading from Halls Creek to Fitzroy Crossing, where we spend our last night in the outback before returning to Broome. We start this day tour early with a short trip to the 'China Wall' (known in the Jaru language as *Burraluba* and the Kija language as *Mulugunjiny*). Named by settlers for its resemblance to the Great Wall of China, the China Wall is a natural vein of sub-vertical white quartz rising up to six metres, transecting the country for many kilometres, rising high out of the ground and then disappearing back into the earth again.

## Fitzroy Crossing

Set on the banks of the mighty Fitzroy River, Fitzroy Crossing is a true outback town, and a great base for exploration of the nearby Tunnel Creek National Park, where we explore and learn about and visit Tunnel Creek, Windjana Gorge, and Geikie Gorge, on a boat trip down the Fitzroy River. For the those seeking a short adventure you may make your way to Tunnel Creek, known as such because it flows through a water-worn tunnel beneath the limestone of the Napier Range. Tunnel Creek is part of the 350-375 million-year-old Devonian Reef, formed when most of the Kimberley was covered by the sea and gradually exposed as the sea fell to its present level. In the late morning, the group returns to Broome for two nights.

## Broome

The last full day of this small group tour of the Kimberley is spent with a local guide learning about the history of Broome. This day trip includes visits to the local museums and exploring the township including Cable Beach. The afternoon is at your leisure. Broome is where this outback adventure in the Kimberley region will draw to a close following breakfast the following day.

For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, please call or send an email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

## Articles about Australia published by Odyssey Traveller:

- [The Kimberley: A Definitive Guide](#)
- [Uncovering the Ancient History of Aboriginal Australia](#)
- [Aboriginal Land Use in the Mallee](#)
- [Understanding Aboriginal Aquaculture](#)
- [Mallee and Mulga: Two Iconic and Typically Inland Australian Plant Communities](#) (By Dr. Sandy Scott).
- [The Australian Outback: A Definitive Guide](#)

For all the articles Odyssey Traveller has published for mature aged and senior travellers, click through [on this link](#).

## External articles to assist you on your visit to the Kimberley:

- [Australia.com: Guide to the Kimberley](#)
- [10 Must Visit Attractions in the Kimberley](#)
- [Broome's History in a Pearl Shell](#)
- [The West Kimberley, Western Australia](#)
- [The Kimberley](#)
- [Broome, the pearl of Western Australia](#)
- [Kimberley's hidden world of Indigenous rock art revealed by researchers](#)

## Tour Notes

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- Single accommodation is not available where we use Safari Tent style rooms. You will be paired with another traveller of the same gender.
- Due to the nature of this tour, the order of the itinerary may be changed however all sights will still be visited or a suitable alternative provided.

## Highlights

1. Explore Broome on a guided walking tour of this town on the edge of the Kimberley region.
2. See, learn and develop an understanding about Indigenous Aboriginal rock art that may date back 45,000 years or more.
3. Visit and explore well known sites of beauty such as Mitchell's Plateau & Bell's Gorge.
4. Spend 2 days in the UNESCO World heritage listed Purnululu National Park which has the Bungle Bungle Karst formation.
5. Enjoy the serene surroundings of Emma Gorge Waterfall at El Questro and the many other natural wonders of the area.

## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Broome

**Overview:**

We meet in the late afternoon as a group for an introduction to the tour program. Followed by a group evening meal.

**Accommodation:**

Kimberley Sands Resort or similar



## Day 2

**Locations:** Broome - Derby

**Overview:**

Departing early, we will head towards Derby to see the Boab Prison Tree which is estimated to be over 1000 years old. Following morning tea, we take a short drive to the Mowanjum Aboriginal Art Gallery so you can peruse the exquisite pieces and learn about the traditional art history of this area. The journey now begins along the Gibb River Rd, passing through the King Leopold Range and onto our overnight stay at the Bell Gorge Wilderness Lodge.

**Accommodation:**

Bell Gorge Wilderness Lodge (ensuite safari tent)

## Day 3

**Locations:** Bell Gorge

**Overview:**

We begin the day with our hike of Bell Gorge. Eroded into the King Leopold Range, Bell Gorge is one of the most impressive gorges in the Kimberley. Bell Creek cascades down through a series of falls and pools. There is plenty of time to enjoy a swim, walk and relax at the falls. Our packed lunches are in order to enjoy as much time as required at the falls. The group returns to the lodge in the afternoon and relaxes on the grounds.

**Accommodation:**

Bell Gorge Wilderness Lodge or similar (ensuite safari tent)

## Day 4

**Locations:** Mitchell Plateau

**Overview:**

Following breakfast, we then head towards Galvans Gorge for a short walk and swim before stopping at Mount Barnett for fuel. We continue north along the Gibb River Road and onto the Port Warrender Road, which will be slow and steady to the Mitchell Plateau. The roads are a

good example of 4WD terrain. We visit two spectacular Aboriginal Rock Art sites (time permitting on the second site may be visited on Day 7 on way back past), we immerse ourselves back in time, followed by Lunch. We continue onto the Mitchell Falls Lodge, arriving late afternoon.

**Accommodation:**

Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge or similar (ensuite safari tent)

**Day 5****Locations:** Mitchell Plateau**Overview:**

Departing the lodge for the day, we arrive at the Mertens carpark where we embark on a short scenic helicopter flight over the Mitchell Plateau and the incredible Mitchell Falls. The scenery is remarkable, and it gives us a great perspective before seeing it on the ground. After exploring the top of the falls, and enjoying a swim, we hike 3.5km back to the carpark, stopping in at some Aboriginal Rock Art along the way. Once we arrive back at the vehicle, we take the short drive back to the lodge and relax.

**Accommodation:**

Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge or similar (ensuite safari tent)

**Day 6****Locations:** El Questro**Overview:**

Today is one of our biggest drive days (due to limited accommodation options). We make our way back to re-join the Gibb River Road. One of our scheduled stops is to Ellenbrae Station to meet the wonderful hosts and indulge in afternoon tea. Along the way we will be presented with fabulous views of the Kimberley and Cockburn Range. Our journey continues along the Gibb River Road to our evening destination at El Questro.

**Accommodation:**

El Questro Station or similar (Safari Tent)



## Day 7

**Locations:** El Questro

**Overview:**

Today we experience the beauty of El Questro Wilderness Park, firstly with a swim in the magnificent Thermal Pools of Zebedee Springs, followed by a 1.2km hike into Emma Gorge, in the heart of the Cockburn Ranges. Following the hike, we enjoy lunch before making our way to one of the most spectacular sunset views in the Kimberley for drinks and appetizers.

**Accommodation:**

El Questro Station or similar (Safari Tent)

## Day 8

**Locations:** Kununurra

**Overview:**

Following breakfast, we take a short journey into Kununurra and surrounds where you will embark on a half day tour of the Ord River and Lake Argyle via boat, returning to Kununurra just after sunset.

**Accommodation:**

Kununurra Country Club or similar

## Day 9

**Locations:** Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungles)

**Overview:**

Following breakfast, we visit Ivanhoe Crossing, the Hoochery and Sandalwood Factory. The following leg of our journey takes us to the entrance of the World Heritage Listed Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungles). The Bungle Bungle Range is renowned for its striking orange and grey horizontal banded domes. The distinctive beehive-shaped landforms have been produced by uplift and erosion over the last 20 million years. We settle into the Yeeda Lodge, enjoy a drink or two,

followed by dinner.

**Accommodation:**

Yeeda Lodge Purnululu or similar (Bungle Bungles) (safari tent)

**Day 10**

**Locations:** Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungles)

**Overview:**

An early start, we spend the day walking and exploring the magnificent beehive formations of this World Heritage Listed region. This will include hikes into Echidna Chasm, Cathedral Gorge and Piccaninny Creek Lookout. Up until 1982 the region was largely 'undiscovered'. Prior to 1982 only local Aboriginal people and a handful of stockmen knew of the area and in 1987 it became a National Park. **An unforgettable helicopter flight over the Bungles is an optional extra and highly recommended.** We return to the lodge late afternoon.

**Accommodation:**

Yeeda Lodge Purnululu or similar (Bungle Bungles) (safari tent)

**Day 11**

**Locations:** Fitzroy Crossing

**Overview:**

Leaving Purnululu, we make our way to China Wall, an interesting quartz formation on the outskirts of town before enjoying morning tea and refreshments. We continue our last leg of the day along the Great Northern Highway to our evening destination, the Fitzroy River Lodge. The lodge is a beautiful oasis nestled along the banks of the Fitzroy River, where we join a scenic boat tour of the Fitzroy River.

**Accommodation:**

Fitzroy River Lodge or similar

## Day 12

**Locations:** Broome

**Overview:**

The final day on the road we make our way to Tunnel Creek which flows through a water worn tunnel beneath the limestone of the Napier Range. Tunnel Creek is part of the 350-375 million-year-old Devonian Reef, formed when most of the Kimberley was covered by the sea and gradually exposed as the sea level fell to its present level. Tunnel Creek was the hideout for Jandamarra (Pigeon) who led the Aboriginal resistance against the police and pastoralists until he was tracked down and killed by a police posse in 1897. We will walk 750 metres through the tunnel, wading through several permanent pools to the other side of Napier Range. Our next destination is Windjana Gorge, a stunning gorge cut through the Napier Range. This site holds special significance to the local Aboriginal people. The gorge is 3.5 km long and formed by the Lennard River as it winds its way through the Napier Range. There are primeval life forms fossilised within the gorge walls. Isolated pools in the 'dry' season, support an abundance of wildlife including freshwater crocodiles, water birds, corellas, and a colony of fruit bats.

We return to Broome late afternoon and take you to your evening accommodation.

**Accommodation:**

Kimberley Sands Resort or similar

## Day 13

**Locations:** Broome

**Overview:**

Today is a leisure day, taking in the sights of Broome, Willie Creek and James Price Point and join a cultural walk through town.

**Accommodation:**

Kimberley Sands Resort or similar

## Day 14

**Locations:** Broome

### Overview:

On our final day together, we will enjoy a leisurely farewell breakfast before dropping guests off at Broome airport for their departure flight. If guests are booked on late afternoon flights, we can arrange optional activities, or they are more than welcome to relax around the pool at the resort (check out usually 10am).

## Inclusions / Exclusions

### What's included in our Tour

- 13 nights accommodation.
- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners.
- Transport by modern and comfortable 4wd or other vehicle suitable for the highway conditions.
- Entrances and sightseeing as specified.
- Services of a local driver-guide for the duration of tour.
- Detailed Preparatory Information.

### What's not included in our Tour

- Return Domestic airfares.
- 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.

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