

WONDERS

..... of Western Australia



Horizontal Falls ©Lauren Bath

By Kaeli Conforti

There's a feeling of extreme humility that sets in the moment you first catch a glimpse of ancient rock art, painted by Aboriginal people 45,000 to 60,000 years ago. Or when you're face-to-face with a mighty waterfall or a massive rock formation that has been there for millions of years. It's also very humbling to realize how lucky you are to be exploring a part of Australia so remote other people rarely get a chance to see it.

You will easily find yourself in the presence of beauty in the Kimberley, a 163,000-square-mile region in the northernmost corner of Western Australia. This region boasts national parks full of scenic gorges, towering cliffs of red earth proudly displaying powerful waterfalls, and otherworldly Australian landscapes only accessible — or able to be viewed at all — by air or sea.

It's one thing to base yourself in Kununurra or Broome and only venture into the Kimberley by helicopter to peek at the Horizontal Falls or the unusual Bungle Bungle Range from above. It's another thing entirely to get in there and absorb it all from the ground up.

On an expedition cruise, you can experience the best parts of the Kimberley over the course of several days while enjoying the comforts of a luxury small ship. There's the majesty of King George Falls and Aboriginal rock art commemorating the first time tall ships were seen in the area.



Margaret River wine region ©Frances Andrijich

There are massive mangroves that are home to an array of Australian wildlife including saltwater crocodiles, nature reserves only accessible by Zodiac boat, and a memorable ride through the region's legendary Horizontal Falls.

Nature also comes together in the most wonderful ways in the Margaret River region on the southwestern tip of Western Australia. Cooling breezes from the Indian Ocean create the perfect conditions for grape growing, and this region has taken center stage in the wine world. Make your way between vineyards and wineries to savor award-winning cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay and signature blends of sauvignon blanc and semillon.

Outdoor lovers are also astounded by the raw beauty of Karijini National Park, a sprawling area situated in the northwestern part of the state. Over 2 billion years in the making, Australia's second-largest national park is abundant with plunging gorges streaked with rusty red and cool, emerald-hued pools of water.



Karijini National Park ©Tourism Western Australia

Whether you're hiking into a gorge, clambering up rocks or spending a night under a canopy of brilliant stars, every point of view will take your breath away.

The vast and remote region of Western Australia occupies a third of the nation's land, creating unlimited possibilities to connect with nature, ancient heritage and the pure essence of the Outback and beyond.

Kaeli Conforti is a digital nomad who has lived and traveled throughout Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia. Her work has appeared in Budget Travel, CNN Travel, The Points Guy and Forbes, among others.

WHERE NATURE COMES FIRST. Get to know more about Western Australia's unique natural wonders (starring the friendly quokka!) in our digital publication. Visit our website, found on the back cover, and enter **OFFER EW22243** to read more.

PUT PERTH ON YOUR LIST

The western city of Perth is buzzing with new activity, making it the perfect place to explore before or after your Kimberley expedition.

- Dine at Hearth, The Ritz-Carlton, Perth's new waterfront restaurant in Elizabeth Quay, where local flavors meet fresh twists on seasonal fare.
- Enjoy views from QT Perth's 18th-floor bar, Rooftop at QT, or Quay Perth's 10th-floor HQ Bar & Kitchen, as you imbibe.
- Stroll through lively Yagan Square for the best nightlife in town.
- Laze the day away at Scarborough or Cottesloe Beach, or venture out to Rottnest Island to meet the quokka, an adorable marsupial made famous by Instagram.
- No trip to Perth is complete without a walk in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, a 400-hectare oasis where you can learn from an Aboriginal guide.



Quokka on Rottnest Island ©Tourism Western Australia

We RECOMMEND

GRAND KIMBERLEY COAST WITH PERTH SAMPLER

TRAVEL2 - INDEPENDENT VACATION

Travel the Kimberley coast in style on board this luxury small-ship expedition cruise, and ride the massive tide at the spectacular Horizontal Falls. Explore the sandstone gorge carved by King George River to the 80-meter cascade of King George Falls, the highest in Western Australia. Start and end your cruise in style, with a pre- and post-stay in Perth exploring this coastal bustling city.

VACATION INCLUDES: Three-night deluxe hotel accommodations; eight-night cruise accommodations; all meals on board cruise; wide range of onboard beverages; all-inclusive sightseeing experiences; expert 10-member expedition team; daily excursions on Zodiac vessels; national park fees and airport transfers.

12 NIGHTS from **\$8995**

Select travel dates through 7/26/21

OFFER 1367444

UNTAMED PILBARA & WEST COAST

TRAVEL2 - INDEPENDENT VACATION

Between laid-back Broome and bustling Perth, you'll journey along the rugged blue coastline and through the remote outback to experience the wonders for which the west coast of Australia is most famous. From a magical Cable Beach sunset and rich Pilbara to Coral Bay and the startling landscape of Karijini, this is a journey unlike any other. **VACATION INCLUDES:** Deluxe accommodations; most meals; stay at Cable Beach Club Resort and Karijini Eco Retreat; guided excursions of Yanchep National Park and Kalbarri National Park; swim with whale sharks at Exmouth; luxury coach travel and roundtrip airport transfers.

12 NIGHTS from **\$9377**

Select travel dates through 9/22/21

OFFER 1382523

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