



## Kimberley Expedition Cruise Frequently Asked Questions

Please note that Coral Princess Cruises offers a choice of two vessels in the Kimberley; Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess.

### General

#### **Does Coral Princess Cruises offer transfers?**

Answer: Guests are required to arrange their own transfers when joining their cruise. Transfers are provided at the end of the cruise in Darwin and Broome to the airport and central hotels.

#### **How do I get from the Airport/Hotel to the ship?**

Answer: Broome – Guest are required to make their own way to ship when joining their cruise - Broome Taxis will be able to transfer you between your hotel and Broome Wharf (Deep Water Port). Some hotels also provide a transfer service, however we recommend you check availability of this service directly with your hotel. Transfers are provided for guests upon disembarkation at the end of the cruise in Broome to the airport and central hotels.

Darwin – Guest are required to make their own way to ship when joining their cruise - Taxis are readily available between your hotel and Darwin Wharf (Fort Hill). Some hotels also provide a transfer service, however we recommend you check availability of this service directly with your hotel. Transfers are provided for guests upon disembarkation at the end of the cruise in Darwin to the airport and central hotels.

#### **How much will the taxi cost?**

Answer: In Broome, a taxi from either Cable Beach or Broome township hotels to the wharf is approximately AUD15.00. In Darwin a taxi from your hotel to the wharf is approximately AUD15.00. Your Coral Princess Cruises purser is able to assist in organising onward hotel and airport transfers on your behalf following your cruise.

### Meals

#### **Are all meals provided onboard and what style of dining is available?**

Answer: Throughout your Coral Princess expedition cruise you will savour three delicious, healthy meals per day as well as tempting morning and afternoon teas. Buffet style meals are served aboard Coral Princess, whilst onboard Oceanic Discoverer, breakfast and lunch are buffet style and dinner is table d'hote. Post mix soft drinks are included in the price of the cruise and a complimentary tea and coffee station is open 24 hours. A selection of Australian and New Zealand wines, beers and spirits are available at additional expense.

\*The galley will attempt to meet special dietary requirements, however a minimum of three weeks notice must be provided prior to departure to allow us to provide this service.

## **Onboard Accommodations**

### **What are the facilities in your room?**

Answer: All rooms are air-conditioned and equipped with en suite, wardrobe, suitcase cupboard and windows or portholes for expansive ocean views (Main Deck staterooms feature portholes on Oceanic Discoverer and on D Deck Cabins on Coral Princess), settee (Oceanic Discoverer - (except Promenade B Staterooms)) and desk. Bathrooms feature a hairdryer, shower, toilet and power point (240 volt for Australian plugs.) There is a shaving outlet in each bathroom.

### **What staterooms/cabin categories are available?**

Answer: Onboard Coral Princess there are various categories of accommodation, including; Staterooms, Upper Deck Staterooms and Deluxe Staterooms, whilst the more budget conscious may select a Cabin. Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, there are five categories of accommodation including; Main Deck B and Main Deck A Staterooms, Promenade Deck B and Promenade Deck A Staterooms, and Bridge Deck Staterooms.

### **Can we 'push' two twin beds together to make a double?**

Answer: All beds are fixed and cannot be interchanged onboard Coral Princess. Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, we are able to change bedding configuration from Twin Beds to Junior King Beds or v.v. in Main Deck A and B, Promenade Deck A and Bridge Deck Staterooms.

### **What size are the beds in a double stateroom?**

Answer: Coral Princess cabins feature a choice of twin beds or double beds. Oceanic Discoverer has Junior King Beds in Promenade Deck B Staterooms, and Twin Beds or Junior King Beds in all other categories.

## **Children**

### **Do you cater for children?**

Answer: When joining a Coral Princess Cruises Kimberley expedition, children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Coral Princess Cruises does not provide services of entertainment, supervision or care of children. Our Kimberley itineraries are quite adventurous and we therefore recommend children aged above 12 years of age will enjoy the challenge and experience the most.

### **Can we put two adults and two children in one room?**

Answer: Should a family of four guests be travelling together, two separate rooms will be required, two adults in one room and the two children in another. Please ask for the same grades of accommodation to ensure that rooms are located together on the same deck.

### **Can we put two adults and one child in one room?**

Answer: Yes you can. On Coral Princess, the third person (child only) will be accommodated on a Divan. This is applicable in a Stateroom or Upper Deck Stateroom only. Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, the third person (child only) will be accommodated on the settee as we do not have Pullman bunks in any staterooms. This is applicable in a Main Deck A or Main Deck B Stateroom only.

## **Inclusions**

### **What extras will we be paying for onboard?**

Answer: During your Kimberley cruise you will find that most activities are included within the price of your cruise. Items incurring additional expense include; All bar and shop charges (with the exception of post mix soft drinks), ship to shore phone/fax calls, laundry facilities and internet access (onboard Oceanic Discoverer). Guests may also choose to join an optional helicopter flight and scenic tour of Mitchell Falls which may be organised onboard with the Expedition Leader (additional expense applies).

## **Miscellaneous**

### **What do we pack?**

Answer: There is no formal dress code in place during your cruise; however we recommend smart-casual attire for the evenings on board and comfortable active wear during your days of exploration. We recommend that you bring shorts, swimwear, T-shirts, collared and long sleeve shirts to avoid sunburn and a light jacket or windcheater and long pants for cooler evenings whilst at sea. A good pair of hiking boots is recommended, along with some shoes that you don't mind getting wet, such as river walkers or aqua soles. Don't forget to bring a sun hat, sunglasses, sun block and all necessary toiletries.

### **What are river walkers/aqua soles and do we need to wear them?**

Answer: River walkers/aqua soles or reef shoes are thick-soled mesh socks for wet landings (a wet landing is when you arrive to the shore by the Xplorer/Zodiac and may get your feet wet). Sturdy rubber sandals which are strapped around your ankles and toes are also suitable for this purpose.

### **Do you supply beach towels?**

Answer: Yes, towels are provided should the opportunity arise for swimming in some of the freshwater rivers and lagoons we visit during the cruise.

### **Are there laundry facilities onboard?**

Answer: There is a limited laundry service onboard the vessels, although drip dry, wash and wear clothing is recommended. A small fee applies for the laundering of garments.

### **Do we need spending money onboard?**

Answer: All purchases onboard will be charged to your room account, which must be settled with the purser prior to disembarking. Payment of your onboard account may be made by Cash, Credit Card or Australian Dollars Travellers Cheque.

### **Will my mobile telephone work? What communications are available?**

Answer: During your Kimberley cruise we will explore some of Australia's most remote and spectacular coastal scenery. Given the remote nature of the cruise, mobile telephone service will not be available. Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess are both equipped with a new state-of-the-art onboard communications system, making it easy to remain in contact with your friends and relatives at home during your cruise. Phone calls home from the ship are cost effective, and guests also have the opportunity to access high quality wireless internet.

Guests are able to purchase a pre-paid internet card aboard the ship and then connect to the internet through either a laptop computer, a PDA or the ship's onboard computer. In addition, to help you keep in touch with news from home and abroad during your cruise, we subscribe to a daily news service and copies of this publication are made available to guests each day.

Should your family need to contact you during your cruise our Helpful Hints booklet supplied in your documentation will provide direct dialing contact telephone numbers for both Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess.

**Where will the vessel depart from?**

Answer: Darwin cruises depart from Fort Hill Wharf; Broome cruises depart from Broome Wharf (also known as Deep Water Port).

**What time can we board the vessel?**

Answer: Darwin departures onboard both Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess board at 1000 for an 1100 departure. Broome departures onboard Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess board at 1700 for an 1800 departure.

**Can we store our luggage prior to boarding?**

Answer: Most hotels in Broome or Darwin will allow you to store your luggage in their secured luggage room after hotel check out. Your luggage may then be collected just before transferring to the Wharf to join your cruise.

Alternatively, in Darwin, Mitchell Street Transit Centre - which is located a short taxi ride from the Wharf - has lockers in which to store your luggage prior to departure at a small cost. In Broome, you may store luggage at 'Luggage Luggers' (located close to Broome Airport at 20 Napier Terrace) at a small cost.

**Do we need to take out Travel Insurance?**

Answer: It is highly recommended that all passengers purchase appropriate travel insurance prior to departure. In addition to cancellation, curtailment and baggage protection please ensure that your policy provides coverage for remote area evacuation.

**What if we have a special occasion whilst onboard?**

Answer: Should you be celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary or any other special occasion during your cruise please let us know at the time of booking.

**When is the best time to cruise the Kimberley Coast?**

Answer: Our Kimberley cruise season is from April to October – the best time to travel to the region ensuring ideal weather conditions and calmer seas. April and May offer the opportunity to view the waterfalls at their most powerful, whilst June-August features the most pleasant weather and cruising conditions. September and October features the migration of whales to the cooler Southern Ocean waters, a truly unforgettable event should we be lucky enough to encounter these breath-taking creatures.

**Will the weather/seas be rough?**

Answer: Every effort is made to ensure that we travel at times and in areas where it will be most pleasant although this can not always be guaranteed. For the majority of your cruise, we will be cruising close to shore and in protected river systems where waters are generally quite calm.

**What is the Xplorer and how does it work?**

Answer: Both Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess are equipped with an 'Xplorer' (or 'Explorer') - a unique, specially designed aluminium excursion vessel used for the majority of our excursions. This vessel has high horsepower engines and will accommodate all passengers at one time. The 'Xplorer' will be used for landings and for extensive exploration of rivers and tributaries. For your added convenience and comfort, the 'Xplorer' is equipped with an awning and toilet. These excursion vessels sit on a hydraulic lift at the rear of the ship (Main Deck onboard Oceanic Discoverer and Deck C onboard Coral Princess). Following boarding, the unique hydraulic lift gently lowers the excursion vessel into the water, negating the need to clamber aboard unstable tenders.

**What is a wet landing?**

Answer: Many shore excursions and activities aboard the excursion vessels require a 'wet landing', and this is part of our expedition adventure. Your feet may get wet in this instance, therefore we recommend wearing aqua soles/river walkers or reef shoes/sandals for these excursions. Hiking boots or sturdy footwear may be carried separately and worn once dry land has been reached.

**Is there an Elevator or Lift aboard the Ship?**

Answer: Neither Oceanic Discoverer or Coral Princess have elevators to move between the various decks. Each vessel features both internal and external staircases. When booking your cruise, if you do not wish to move around too much between decks we recommend booking your accommodation on the Main Deck (Oceanic Discoverer) or Deck C (Coral Princess) as the dining room is located on these decks and they are also the main departure point for all of the activities and shore excursions utilising the 'Xplorer'.