



Across the Top of Australia Cruise Frequently Asked Questions

Please note that Coral Princess Cruises offers a choice of two vessels of the Across the Top of Australia cruise; 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 and also when disembarking in Cairns. Transfers to the airport and central hotels are provided at the end of the cruise in Darwin only.

How do I get from the airport/hotel to the vessel?

Answer: *Joining the Cruise in Darwin or Cairns* – Taxis are readily available between your hotel and Darwin Wharf (Fort Hill) and the Cairns Wharf (Trinity Wharf). Some hotels also provide a transfer service, however we recommend you check availability of this service directly with your hotel. *Disembarking the Cruise in Cairns* – Guest are required to arrange their own transfers when disembarking in Cairns, Taxis are readily available. Some hotels also provide a transfer service, however we recommend you check availability of this service directly with your hotel. *Disembarking the Cruise in Darwin* – Transfers to the airport and central hotels are provided.

How much will the taxi cost?

Answer: In Cairns, a taxi from your hotel to the wharf is approximately AUD10.00 or to the Airport is Approx AUD16.00, in Darwin a taxi from your hotel to the wharf is also approximately AUD10.00.

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 Accommodation

What are the facilities in your stateroom?

Answer: All staterooms 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) 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 Promenade Deck A Staterooms only.

What size is the bed 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' Across the Top of Australia 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 Across the Top of Australia 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 Across the Top of Australia 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).

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 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 Across the Top of Australia 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. Should the need arise to contact family and friends, guests may utilise the ship's satellite communications equipment (telephone and fax) at a set per minute rate. Oceanic Discoverer also features an internet booth which may be used to contact family and friends, again at a set per minute rate.

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 ship depart from?

Answer: Cairns cruises depart from Trinity Wharf, Darwin cruises depart from Fort Hill Wharf.

What time can we board the ship?

Answer: Cairns departures onboard both Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess board at 1500 for a 1600 departure, Darwin departures onboard both Oceanic Discoverer and Coral Princess board at 0700 for an 0800 departure.

Do we need to take out 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.

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 or lifts 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'.