

KIMBERLEY COAST ADVENTURE CRUISE

AN UNFORGETTABLE DARWIN TO
DARWIN KIMBERLEY COAST CRUISE

5 – 15 JULY 2027



HERITAGE
EXPEDITIONS



BETCHART
EXPEDITIONS INC.

with AAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS
17050 Montebello Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014





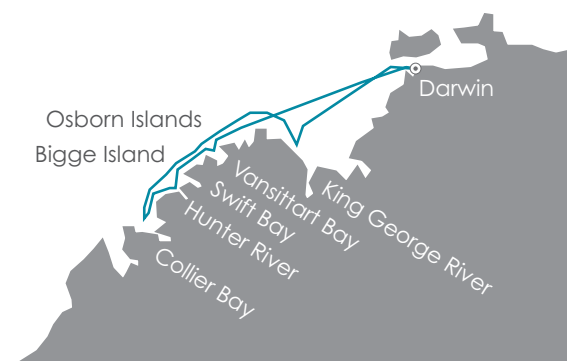
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© Stephen Bradley



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Explore Australia's iconic Kimberley Coast, where ancient rock art galleries and traditions meet time-forgot landscapes home to unique wildlife and endless adventures with pioneering small ship expedition cruise company Heritage Expeditions.

Best explored by expedition vessel, our luxurious, 140-guest expedition ship *Heritage Adventurer* was purpose-built for adventures like cruising Australia's wild and remote Kimberley Coast. Her smaller size allows for an intimate, up-close exploration and immersion of this rugged wilderness dwarfed by nature on an unfathomable scale.

During our voyage, we plan to discover the unforgettable spectacle of King George Falls cascading 80-metres down 2,000-million-year-old towering cliffs. We also expect to explore the outdoor galleries showcasing the 60,000-year-

old Aboriginal rock art of the Gwion Gwion and Wandjina people, World War II relics and early European explorer history. At Talbot Bay experience the power of the region's massive tidal movements and the world's only Horizontal Falls, described by David Attenborough as "one of the greatest wonders of the natural world".

Marvel at the world's largest inshore reef system at nearby Montgomery Reef, which 'rises' out of the water with the falling tide. On Boongaree Island, look for Monjon (the smallest member of the rock-wallaby family), Northern Quoll, Scaly-tailed Possum and the Northern Leaf-nosed Bat as we explore stunning weather-worn landscapes, while the little-known Osborn Islands promise an authentic expedition adventure.

Hidden among jagged sandstone monoliths, the final resting place of the remarkably preserved WWII Douglas C-53 Skytrooper awaits discovery at Vansittart Bay. Enjoy astounding wildlife encounters and observations of the region's iconic saltwater crocodiles and marsupials and explore one of the world's largest and most pristine mangrove systems along the Hunter River, home to White-bellied Sea Eagles, Ospreys, Red-headed Honeyeater, Blue-spotted Mudskippers, Fiddler Crabs and more.

Discover and explore ancient landscapes like no other as we expedition cruise the untouched beauty of the Kimberley on this unforgettable adventure.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Darwin

Join *Heritage Adventurer* this afternoon at Darwin Port, Australia's 'northern gateway' famous for its glittering harbour, World War II history and enviable tropical outdoor lifestyle. The captain and expedition team will be waiting to greet you on arrival and show you to your accommodation. You will have time to settle in and familiarise yourself with the ship; we will also take the opportunity to introduce you to your expedition team and our voyage plans. You are invited to join the expedition team in the Observation Lounge and up on the Observation Deck as we set sail for King George River.

Day 2: King George River

Our approach to the King George River gorge is not to be missed and best experienced out on the Observation Deck as the towering 2,000-million-year-old Warton Sandstone cliffs dwarf our vessel. Navigating this scenic stretch of water by Zodiac, there's much to take in, passing the ever-changing eroded rockfaces as we cruise deeper into the gorge, marvelling at the untouched beauty of this iconic waterway. As we reach the end of the gorge, nothing will prepare you for the grand scale spectacle of the Kimberley's highest single-drop waterfall, King

George Falls. The King George River plummets 80 metres over the edge of towering ancient red sandstone cliffs into tidal waters. This is undoubtedly one of Australia's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. The twin falls, known as male and female Rainbow Serpents, or Wunkurr by the Balanggarra people, are fed by wet season rains and rightly hold a special place in indigenous lore. While here, we will learn about how this natural wonder was created and enjoy a closer look.

Day 3: Osborn Islands

Today is an authentic expedition day of adventure as we sail into Admiralty Gulf, location of the Osborn Islands. During our time here, we plan to explore the islands and discover their rich Indigenous history through ancient rock art galleries, pearl farming and look

for a swimming hole to cool down in. We also plan to search for the historic 1892 wreck of steam yacht *SS Sunbeam*, which accidentally ran aground on a mud bank while its captain raced an irreparable leak, trying to run the vessel ashore.

Day 4: Swift Bay

Today, our Kimberley expedition cruise sees us navigating the scattered islands known as the Bonaparte Archipelago, which stretches almost 150 kilometres along the dramatic coastline. Our destination is the remote and unspoiled inlet of T-shaped Swift Bay with its sandy beaches, ominous sea-worn caves and mangroves we plan to explore, including Lucifer's Labyrinth. A Zodiac cruise here allows a closer look at this incredible coastline, where we will also likely observe saltwater crocodiles. On land, several rock art galleries display the unique Wandjina and Gwion Gwion styles on a large scale, denoting the region's cultural importance. There is also the opportunity to experience the grandeur of the iconic Mitchell Falls on a thrilling scenic heli-flight (optional extra). This is the only way to experience the Kimberley's famous four-tiered falls and includes a landing on the stunning Mitchell Plateau, one of the most scenic and biologically important areas in Australia. Here we will explore this incredible



sandstone landscape carved by the Mitchell River.

Day 5: Bigge Island

This morning we explore the sites of ancient Aboriginal rock art on Bigge Island and the historic Mermaid Boab Tree, which bears the name of the *HMC Mermaid*. This was famously carved into its trunk while the ship was beached there undergoing emergency repairs during Philip Parker King's third voyage of discovery of the region in 1820. Now measuring some 3 metres wide and National Heritage listed, the tree offers a glimpse into Australian colonial history, while an old Makassan Islamic prayer alcove can be found behind the tree. During our time here, we will also explore the jaw-slackening, otherworldly sandstone coastline of York Sound with its incredible sea caves and fascinating wildlife.

Days 6 & 7: Collier Bay

Located at the eastern end of the Buccaneer Archipelago, and only accessible by sea, we have two days to explore the ancient land- and seascapes of Collier Bay and its astounding natural attractions. At Talbot Bay, we will experience the power of the region's massive tidal movements which have shaped the landscape, most famously at



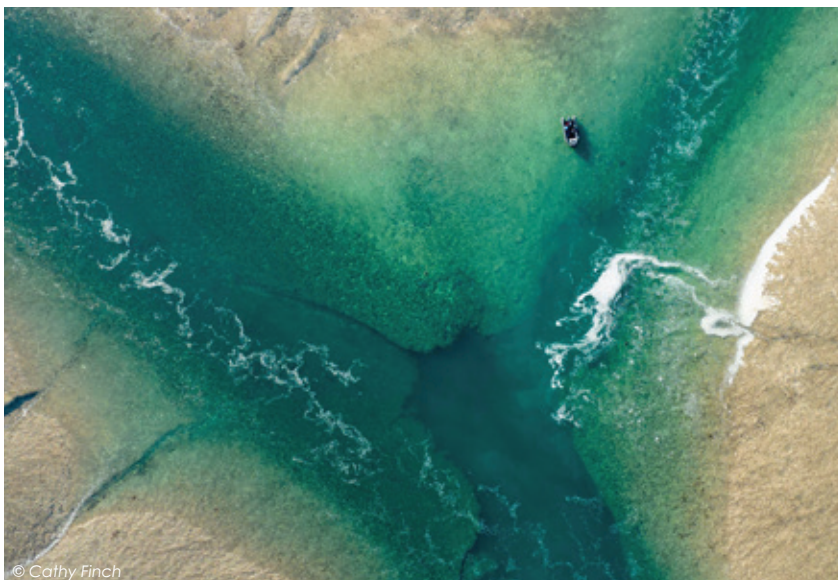
© Jessa Thurman

the world's only Horizontal Falls. Here we will witness what David Attenborough described as "one of the greatest wonders of the natural world", as water trapped in an inland bay thunders between two narrow chasms as the tide drops more than 14 metres on the other side. This creates spectacular falls, whirlpools and boiling white water. At nearby Cyclone Creek, we will explore the twisted geological folds of the ancient seabed and hope to see the inquisitive Tawny Nurse Sharks among the incredible marine life on display. Another tidal spectacle awaits at Montgomery Reef at the bay's centre, the world's largest inshore reef system, we plan to capture the magic of observing this enormous reef 'rise' from the ocean as the tide falls. This creates torrents and waterfalls

up to 3-metres high, displacing marine life igniting a feeding frenzy as predators above and below the water descend. At Freshwater Cove, shoreline explorations of the caves and grottos reveal a multitude of ancient landscapes and rock art galleries.

Day 8: Hunter River

During our explorations of the Hunter River today it will quickly become apparent why this winding, 30-kilometre stretch of water is widely considered to be one of the highlights of the Kimberley Coast. Tucked into the north-east corner of Prince Frederick Harbour, an enormous bay puts the Kimberley's epic scale into perspective. This scenic wonderland is dotted with islands and flanked with wildlife-filled mangrove-lined rivers, savanna woodlands and patches of lush monsoon rainforest, courtesy of receiving the lion's share of the region's rainfall, and soaring red cliffs. At the river's mouth the unrestrained grandeur of 200-metre-high sandstone escarpment, Kampamantiya, keeps silent sentry, welcoming us into this otherworldly realm we will be exploring today. Fed by two 90-metre waterfalls, the Hunter and the Donkin, Hunter River is home to one of the largest and most pristine mangrove systems in the world. Zodiac cruising Porosus Creek could see us spotting diverse



© Cathy Finch

wildlife, including White-bellied Sea Eagles, Ospreys, Great-billed Herons, Eastern Reef Egrets, Red-headed Honeyeaters, Blue-spotted Mudskippers, Fiddler Crabs and more. As well as the iconic saltwater crocodile *Crocodylus Porosus*, of which the Hunter River boasts the Kimberley's largest population. While here we will also explore Boongaree Island (Wunundarra or Bunjinii), home to Monjon (the smallest member of the rock-wallaby family), Northern Quoll, Scaly-tailed Possum, Northern Leaf-nosed Bat, stunning sandstone landscapes and unexplored mangrove channels.

Day 9: Vansittart Bay

Beautiful islands, pristine white sand beaches lapped by turquoise waters, secluded coves and stunning scenery abound in Vansittart Bay. It is also the location of a historical World War II site and incredible ancient Aboriginal rock art. Named after the Chancellor of Exchequer by early explorer Rear Admiral Philip Parker King, this striking, naturally protected bay is framed by scattered jagged sandstone monoliths. The Bay is also the final resting place of the preserved skeleton of a WWII Douglas C-53 Skytrooper (DC-3), which crash landed onto the

saltpan after running out of fuel during a mercy mission to evacuate four Dutch citizens from Java. On Jar Island, the location of ancient outdoor Aboriginal Gwion Gwion art galleries set among fascinating caves and rock formations. Much of the rock art tucked under ledges and featured on cave walls is estimated to be up to 40,000 years old. They are remarkably preserved, protected from the elements. The island is also home to some interesting flora and fauna, including the Golden-backed Tree Rat, echidnas and birdlife. Discover a bounty of anthropological and historical wonders in Vansittart Bay.

Day 10: At Sea

At sea en route to Darwin Port, relax and reflect on our amazing adventure. This is also a good opportunity to edit any remaining photos while they are fresh in your mind, and you have the experience of our expedition team on board for questions about the Kimberley. We will recap the highlights of our expedition and enjoy a farewell dinner tonight as we sail to our final port.

Day 11: Darwin

This morning sees *Heritage Adventurer* returning to Darwin Port. After breakfast there will



be a complimentary coach to a central hotel or to Darwin International Airport. To allow time for disembarkation procedures and travel from Darwin, we do not recommend booking flights departing before 1300 hours. During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed. Please note: Voyages are planned and scheduled pending final regulatory approval.





© Michael Tropiano



© Fiona Wardle



© Nathan Russ

HERITAGE ADVENTURER

Heritage Adventurer is a true pioneering expedition vessel of exceptional pedigree often referred to as the 'Grande Dame of Expedition Cruising'.

Purpose built for adventure in 1991 at Finland's Rauma shipyard and specifically designed for Polar exploration, *Heritage Adventurer* (formerly known as *MS Hanseatic*) is 124-metres long, boasts the highest passenger-ship ice-class rating (1A Super) and an impressive history of Polar and remote region exploration making her perfect for *Heritage Expeditions* signature experiential expedition travel.

Originally designed to accommodate 184 guests, we now welcome just 140 expeditioners to create a spacious, comfortable on board experience and continuation of the exceptional, personalised expedition experience synonymous with the company. While a fleet of 14 Zodiacs ensures

all guests are able to maximise their expedition experience. On board, enjoy stylish, sophisticated accommodations spanning 4 decks, visit the captain and crew in the Bridge with our Open Bridge Policy and dine on gourmet fare from leading chefs.

Watch your adventure unfold from numerous spectacular indoor and outdoor viewing locations including *Heritage Adventurer's* famed Observation Lounge resplendent with 270-degree views and join our world-renowned team of naturalists, botanists, historians and experts as they interpret the natural and human history discovered during each voyage, as well as hosting regular lectures.

And should you require a little R&R, unwind in the library, pool, gym, hot tub, sauna and steam room, indulge in some retail therapy or find a quiet place to enjoy a coffee or cocktail from the café and bar.

DATES

Voyage #HA270705
5 – 15 July 2027
Darwin, return

PRICES USD\$

Heritage Suite **\$16,800 pp***

Located on Deck 6, *Heritage Suites* are an expansive 44m² and feature large double panoramic windows, king bed, large living area with a sofa, coffee table and chairs and grand marble bathroom with a double basin, bathtub and shower, large writing desk, floor to ceiling cabinetry for storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

Worsley Suite **\$13,300 pp***

Located on Deck 6, *Worsley Suites* are a spacious 22m² and feature large panoramic windows, king or two single beds, comfortable chaise-style lounge suite, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

Superior Single **\$13,300 pp***

Superior Single Cabins on Deck 5 are a spacious 22m² and feature large panoramic windows, king bed, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

Superior Triple **\$8,300 pp***

Superior Triple Cabins on Deck 5 are a spacious 22m² and feature large panoramic windows, two single beds and one Pullman bed which folds down from the wall, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

Superior Deck 5 **\$10,250 pp***

Superior Cabins on Deck 5 are a spacious 22m² and feature large panoramic windows, king or two single beds, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

Superior Deck 4 **\$9,800 pp***

Superior Cabins on Deck 4 are a spacious 22m² and feature large panoramic windows, king or two single beds, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

Main Deck Single **\$12,700 pp***

Main Deck Single Cabins on Deck 3 are a spacious 22m² and feature two porthole windows, king bed, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

Main Deck Triple **\$7,750 pp***

Main Deck Triple Cabins on Deck 3 are a spacious 22m² and feature two porthole windows, two single beds and one Pullman bed which folds down from the wall, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

* The price listed includes the discovery fund local payment of USD\$580 (All prices are per person in USD\$).

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

Mitchell Falls Helicopter Flight **\$655 pp****

**Based on 2026 price, subject to change

PRICE INCLUDES

Landing fees, post cruise transfers, all on board ship accommodation with meals, house beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner and all expedition shore excursions. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists.

PRICE EXCLUDES

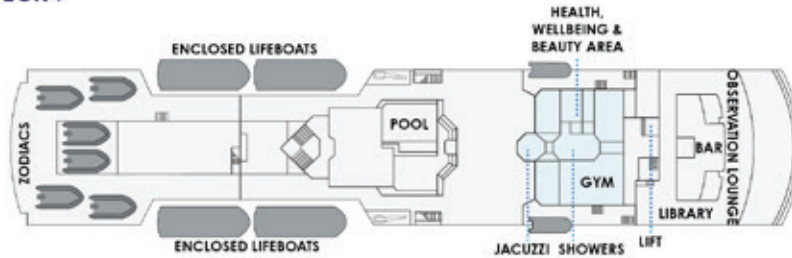
All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, gratuities. International/domestic flights, helicopter excursion, visas and travel insurance.

Heritage Adventurer Deck Plan

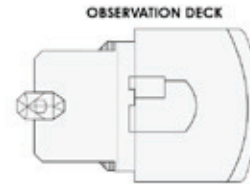


DECK 6: ● WORSLEY SUITE ● HERITAGE SUITE
DECK 5: ● SUPERIOR ● SUPERIOR TRIPLE ● SUPERIOR SINGLE
DECK 4: ● SUPERIOR
DECK 3: ● MAIN DECK TRIPLE ● MAIN DECK SINGLE

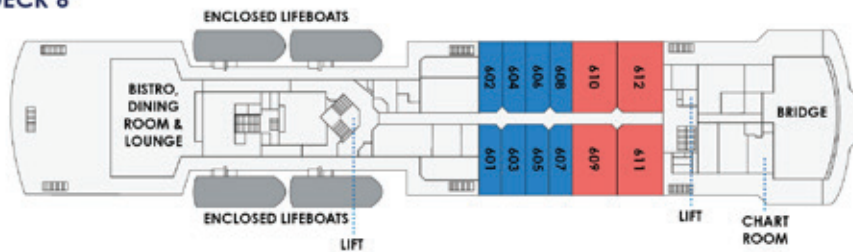
DECK 7



DECK 8



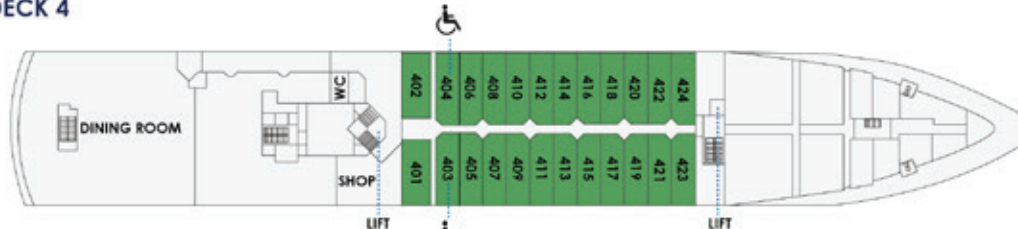
DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



DECK 2



SUITE CATEGORIES

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ● HERITAGE SUITE | ● SUPERIOR SINGLE | ● DECK 4 SUPERIOR | ● MAIN DECK SINGLE |
| ● WORSLEY SUITE | ● DECK 5 SUPERIOR | | ● MAIN DECK TRIPLE |
| | ● SUPERIOR TRIPLE | | |

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS INC.
with **MAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS**
17050 Montebello Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014



Call Betchart Expeditions with your questions and for reservations!
Phone (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910 or Email: info@BetchartExpeditions.com
Betchart Expeditions Inc. CST#2036304-40 - 17050 Montebello Road - Cupertino, CA 95014
www.betchartexpeditions.com

COSTS & CONDITIONS: KIMBERLEY COAST ADVENTURE CRUISE, JULY 5 – 15, 2027

Voyage Fee:

Category:	Published	20% Discounted Fare		Deposit due by
		Book by February 26, 2026		Feb 26, 2026
Heritage Suite, Deck 6	\$16,800.00	\$13,556.00	per person based on 2 per cabin	\$4,500
Worsley Suite, Deck 6	\$13,300.00	\$10,756.00	per person based on 2 per cabin	\$3,500
Superior Single, Deck 5	\$13,300.00	\$10,756.00	per person based on 1 per cabin	\$3,500
Superior Triple, Deck 5	\$8,300.00	\$ 6,756.00	per person based on 3 per cabin	\$2,500
Superior, Deck 5	\$10,250.00	\$ 8,316.00	per person based on 2 per cabin	\$3,000
Superior, Deck 4	\$9,800.00	\$ 7,956.00	per person based on 2 per cabin	\$3,000
Main Deck Single, Deck 3	\$12,700.00	\$10,276.00	per person based on 1 per cabin	\$3,500
Main Deck Triple, Deck 3	\$7,750.00	\$ 6,316.00	per person based on 3 per cabin	\$2,500
Optional Mitchell Falls Helicopter Flight \$655 pp** (**Based on 2026 price, subject to change)				

Voyage Fee Includes: On board ship accommodation with meals; house beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, landing fees and all expedition shore excursions. Program of lectures by noted naturalists.

Voyage Fee Does Not Include: Optional Helicopter flight. International/domestic flights; independent transfers; pre/post extensions; any ground services before and/or after the voyage other than those specifically mentioned; passport, visas, required travel insurance and all items of a personal nature; drinks, phone calls, laundry, gratuities, administration fees and cancellation/luggage/repatriation/medical insurance (required to travel).

Questions, Reservations, Deposits, and Payments: To reserve your place on the **Kimberly Coast Adventure Cruise July 5-15, 2027**, please phone Terri at Betchart Expeditions Inc (408) 252-4910 or (800) 252-4910 or email: betchartTerri@gmail.com

To confirm your place: Advance payment as listed above is payable by check to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Receipt of advance payment and reservation form and Booking Form, indicate your acceptance of Terms & Conditions. The final payment is due to Betchart Expeditions Inc by March 16, 2027.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable until January 4, 2027 less a handling fee of \$950 per person. Cancellation after A January 4, 2027 deposit is fully forfeited. There is no refund for any cancellation after March 16, 2027 and any unpaid balance is due immediately. No refunds are made for unused services.

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercises every care possible. Betchart can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Prices quoted in this brochure are per person, in USD. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Discounts on voyage only, not including \$580 discovery fund.

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CST#2036304-40

Please mail the reservation form, Booking Form and your deposit check for (see below) per person to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Published</u>	20% Discounted Fare Book by February 26, 2026	Deposit due by Feb 26, 2026
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Main Deck Triple, Deck 3	\$7,750.00	\$ 6,316.00	per person based on 3 per cabin \$2,500

RESERVATIONS

#1813

YES! I/We want to join the **Kimberly Coast Adventure Cruise July 5-15, 2027** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____ (see above) per person, payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership (please circle): AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society Other _____

Category (in order of preference 1st – 2nd – 3rd choice)

_____ Heritage Suite, Deck 6	_____ Superior, Deck 5
_____ Worsley Suite, Deck 6	_____ Superior, Deck 4
_____ Superior Single, Deck 5	_____ Main Deck Single, Deck 3
_____ Superior Triple, Deck 5	_____ Main Deck Triple, Deck 3

Cabin Occupancy: _____ **Twin** _____ **Single** _____ **Triple**

_____ **Share** (____with a friend, or ____pair with a room-mate or room-mates)

Please mail Reservation Form & Deposit Check to: **Islands of Kimberly Coast 2027**
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014