

## VOYAGE INFORMATION

Voyage Name	Ningaloo Reef Adventure
Voyage Code	NIN100921G
Dates	10 – 19 September, 2021
Duration	10 days / 9 nights
Embark	Broome, Western Australia
Disembark	Broome, Western Australia
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Forms Due	10 June, 2021
Optional Activities	Diving, Kayaking
Note	<i>Snorkelling is included in the expedition cost</i>

Explore above and below the turquoise waters of northwest Australia’s spectacular Indian Ocean coast. Sail overnight from Broome to Rowley Shoals Marine Park, three coral atolls swept by nutrient-rich deep ocean currents. Kayak, snorkel and dive lagoons and spectacular drop-offs in crystal-clear waters shared with turtles, manta rays, whales and dolphins. Discover the Montebello Islands, once the site of nuclear weapons testing, now a breeding ground for ospreys, white-bellied sea eagles, terns, and oystercatchers. On Barrow Island spot rare mammals like the spectacled hare-wallaby, golden bandicoot, black-flanked rock-wallaby and more. Immerse yourself in Ningaloo, the world’s largest fringing reef, and Coral Bay, where humpbacks, whale sharks, manta rays and sea turtles swim. Explore the riches of Cape Range National Park, including its stunning gorges, before returning north. Stroll pristine beaches and discover underwater treasures in the Muiron Islands Nature Reserve, and admire the Dampier Peninsula’s ancient landscape and seagrass beds where dugongs feed before disembarking in Broome.

## ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1	Embark the <i>Greg Mortimer</i> in Broome and set sail
Days 2-3	Rowley Shoals
Day 4	Montebello Islands, Barrow Island
Days 5-6	Ningaloo Reef, Coral Bay, North West Cape
Day 7	Muiron Islands
Day 8	Dampier Archipelago
Day 9	At sea
Day 10	Disembark in Broome

## VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Zodiac-cruise, snorkel or dive spectacular coral gardens, lagoons and canyons of Rowley Shoals Marine Park, hike to caves and nesting red-tailed tropic birds, ruddy turnstones, white-throated needle-tails and more.
- Snorkel, kayak and dive magnificent Ningaloo Reef – part of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, and designated Mission Blue ‘Hope Spot’. It is a migratory route for dolphins, dugongs, manta rays and humpback whales, and Coral Bay, is a nesting grounds for loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles.
- Explore Barrow Island, one of WA’s most important conservation reserves, watching out for rare and endangered mammals like the spectacled hare-wallaby, golden bandicoot and black-flanked rock-wallaby.
- Stroll pristine beaches and discover underwater treasures in the Muiron Islands Nature Reserve.

- Enjoy the Dampier Peninsula's maze of waterways alive with hawksbill turtles, dolphins and shy dugongs. Stroll remote, pristine beaches or strike off inland to admire breathtaking views across the archipelago.

## EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival transfer from airport to Greg Mortimer on Day 1
- Departure transfer from Greg Mortimer to airport or hotel on last day
- Onboard accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Snorkelling activities and use of snorkelling equipment
- **Whale shark or Humpback Whale swim**
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic
- Complimentary spray jacket
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Gratuities for ship crew

## EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights not mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, gratuities, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges.

## **Day 1 Broome**

Embark the *Greg Mortimer* in the afternoon. After boarding, take time to settle into your cabin before attending important safety briefings. Enjoy the thrill of departure as we pull away. In the evening, meet your expedition team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner as the sun sets over the Indian Ocean.

## **Days 2-3 Rowley Shoals**

Sail overnight to Rowley Shoals Marine Park, three pristine, coral atolls that rise from the seabed to the Indian Ocean surface (and above it at low tide). Renowned as one of the world's finest snorkeling and dive destinations, it features deep drop-offs festooned with soft coral, protected lagoons brimming with tropical fish and channels alive with larger marine animals, including sea turtles, manta rays, whales and dolphins. Spectacular kayaking and Zodiac-cruising await those who prefer their adventures above the sea, although warm water will entice everyone. Beach walk to caves where seabirds nest including red-tailed tropicbirds and the rarer white-tailed tropicbird and a host of other seabirds.

## **Day 4 Montebello Islands, Barrow Island**

Explore Montebello Islands, an archipelago of some 174 small limestone islands about 130 kms off the Pilbara coast. The site of nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s, including the United Kingdom's first ever atomic weapon, the islands are now the breeding ground for beach stone curlews, fairy and roseate terns, ospreys, white-bellied sea eagles and sooty oystercatchers. Mala, (rufous-hare wallaby) has been reintroduced to the islands. After lunch, we anchor off Barrow Island, one of the most important conservation reserves in WA where oil and gas fields coexist with rare and endangered mammals like the spectacled hare-wallaby, golden bandicoot and black-flanked rock-wallaby. Among the 43 species of reptiles on the island is the perentie, Australia's biggest lizard.

## **Days 5-6 Ningaloo Coast and Reef, Cape Range National Park**

Immerse yourself in UNESCO's Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, the world's largest fringing reef and major migratory route for dolphins, dugongs, manta rays and humpback whales. Swim, snorkel, dive and kayak Coral Bay's prime spots like Asho's Gap, where cleaner wrasse attend to the teeth and parasites of grey reef sharks, and loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles nest nearby; and discover why this part of the world is designated a 'Hope Spot' by Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue team. **Experience the unique thrill of a Whale Shark and/or Humpback Whale Swim where you will immerse yourself in these majestic creatures natural environment.** Please note that the in-water experience with animals is not guaranteed. A sunset walk to Point Cloates Lighthouse to finish the day. At Norwegian Bay, visit the ruins of its whaling station which harks back to the early 1900s, when a Norwegian whaling company ran whaling and factory ships before building the shore-based processing plant in 1915. In the afternoon, land on the western side of North West Cape and hike into stunning limestone gorges to discover pristine beaches of Cape Range National Park.

## **Day 7 Muiron Islands**

Explore the magnificent coral gardens of Muiron Islands that feature an abundance of soft corals, sponges and nudibranchs, and boasts a range of aquatic animals, including ospreys, shearwaters, turtles, manta rays, dolphins, dugongs and humpback whales.

## **Day 8 Dampier Archipelago**

Named after William Dampier, an English buccaneer and explorer who visited in 1699, the 42 islands feature brilliant sapphire waterways, set against the Pilbara's red and ochre-hued landscape, alive with hawksbill turtles, dolphins

and shy dugongs. Snorkel, dive or kayak, or land on sandy beaches to discover amazing Aboriginal rock engravings of turtles, fish, kangaroos and wallabies.

**Day 9            At sea**

Enjoy a day at sea as your Captain skirts the coastline back to Broome. Consolidate your appreciation of the Ningaloo Coast's compelling natural and human history with informative talks – anything from oceanography to natural history, maritime exploration and human history – from our team of experts. Toast your adventures in the wash of a lingering WA sunset, and celebrate with friends – both new and old – at the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

**Day 10           Broome**

In Broome – the 'port of pearls' – farewell the crew, expedition team and fellow travellers before your transfer to the airport or your hotel accommodation.

*Important note: In the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage exploration and adventure offering flexibility in challenging environments. This itinerary is only a guide and is subject to change due to weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.*