

it's in our nature to explore

MYSTERIES OF ARNHEM LAND

Do just once what others say you can't do,
and you will never pay attention to their limitations again.

James Cook

There are some journeys well marked on the traveller's map as "must do". There are other journeys whose highlights are not marked on any map, yet the experiences linger in our memories longer than any other. These are journeys for which there are no postcards. Journeys where the people of the places you will visit are as excited and intrigued by your arrival as you will be. Join *Orion* in Australia's Top End on her voyage to explore the Mysteries of Arnhem Land.

The underlying attraction of Arnhem Land remains its remoteness, difficulty of access and frontier image as a little known part of Northern Australia.

Orion provides the ideal medium to taste a little magic from the comforts of 5 star expedition cruising in an unobtrusive manner that touches land and people ever so lightly. The journey is a story that will link and connect you to a dynamic culture, intriguing landscapes and an interesting history of Australia few have the opportunity or privilege to visit.

CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND – embark

Latitude: 16°55'S | Longitude: 154°13'E

The Cairns region is internationally recognised for world class attractions, superb natural features and friendly north Queensland hospitality. It is the focal point for the magnificent World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and is surrounded by tropical rainforests. Visitors enjoy browsing at indigenous art galleries, shopping at the night markets and dining out on multicultural cuisine in the many restaurants along the esplanade.

STANLEY ISLAND, QUEENSLAND – wet landing

Latitude: 14°9'S | Longitude: 144°14'E

Orion will anchor in the shelter of picturesque Stanley Island, part of the Flinders group. The local Aborigines jointly administer these islands in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife and our landing today is only undertaken with the permission of both.

Stanley Island is renowned as the site of a significant Aboriginal rock art gallery, which can be viewed from the boardwalk and viewing platforms provided. The artwork is by the Yithuwarra people, members of whom will be guiding you today. A boardwalk has been built to preserve the island's ecology and each lookout includes interpretive displays to afford visitors an insight into the importance of the area and artwork of the Yithuwarra people.

THURSDAY ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT – wet landing

Latitude: 10°34'S | Longitude: 142°13'E

Thursday Island (traditionally known as Waiben) is recognised as one of the last frontiers in Australia. At the Torres Strait Museum, learn about the feared Russian invasion of 1898. Had it eventuated, the invaders would have been greeted with a salvo from the 6-inch guns which still peer out over the ocean approach from Green Hill Fort, now home of the museum. Wander through pearlers' cemeteries where stories of this once dangerous occupation are revealed. Or take in brilliant panoramic vistas of the surrounding islands and tropical seas from Lions Lookout.

The Gab Titui (Star of our Journey) Cultural Centre is a place where *Orion* guests can discover the rich diversity of the Torres Strait Islander people. It is the region's first public keeping place for historical and cultural artifacts and tools, as well as both modern and traditional art.

GROOTE EYLANDT, NORTHERN TERRITORY – wet landing

Latitude: 14°0'S | Longitude: 136°53'E

For thousands of years this island was inhabited by Aborigines who had made their way from Arnhem Land, settling the island and living a simple hunter gatherer existence. Early art works from this region strongly feature Macassan links and Groote has a good array of rock art which forms the link to the bark and contemporary art of today. Local artists feature their works at the Anindilyakwa Art Gallery established in 2005.

YIRRKALA, NORTHERN TERRITORY – wet landing

Latitude: 12°244'S | Longitude: 136°883'E

Arriving by Zodiac at Shady Beach we will be met by a local Yolngu family who will greet and "cleanse" us with a traditional smoke ceremony followed by traditional face painting and tasting of local delicacies – oysters, freshly cooked mud crab and speared fish.

Orion guests will receive first hand insight into the Yolngu culture and share some of the distinctive cultural experiences as we split into groups for "women's business" and "men's business". Women will learn the secret mysteries of Arnhem Land, while the men will learn how to make spears and how to use them.

The Buku – Larrangay Mulka Art Centre is one of the most prominent indigenous art centres in northern Australia; while the adjoining museum houses the famed 'Church Panels', an iconic art work. Hear stories about local history and the close link between art and land.

ELCHO ISLAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY – wet landing

Latitude: 11°55'S | Longitude: 135°45'E

This is a scenic and historic location. Local stories reflect the close association between the sea and the local Yolgnu clans, who regularly travelled between islands in bark and (later) dugout canoes.

Feather-decorated funeral rite Morning Star poles are a feature, with each pole distinctive to their clan groups. Yolngu Art is a reflection of the past, based upon inherited designs which allow the individual to find and maintain a connection with the guiding presence of the spirit that represents the past, present and future.

Located on a cliff top south east of the Galiwin'ku town centre is an Art Centre with spectacular views over Mission Beach and the surrounding sea.

MANINGRIDA, NORTHERN TERRITORY – wet landing

Latitude: 12°2'S | Longitude: 134°13'E

Maningrida is a self-governing indigenous community in the heart of the Arnhem Land. The township dates back to just after WWII, with migration into Maningrida reflected in linguistic variety and cultural diversity evidenced by the different religious ceremonies and multitude of artistic forms in design, music and dance.

Recognised nationally and internationally, this is one of the powerhouse art areas of central Arnhem Land. Bark painting, pandanus weaving and wood carvings – especially the Mimi spirits - are all distinctive features of the artistic endeavour. The excellent Djim Museum is a highlight, showcasing the richness of the ceremonial apparel and intricacies of the material culture in this region.

DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY – disembark

Latitude: 12°28'S | Longitude: 130°49'E

Darwin is Australia's closest city to the equator and the gateway to the Top End. Following bombing during World War II, Darwin was more a frontier town of crocodile and buffalo shooters and pioneer cattlemen. After Cyclone Tracy wiped out the city in 1974 it was rebuilt as Australia's cosmopolitan northernmost tropical capital. Despite this, much architecture remains from the city's early periods, with museums, markets and an incredible diversity of restaurants to entertain you.

The harbour foreshore is a great place to discover the city's maritime links: take a relaxing cruise on an old pearl lugger, a thrilling flight in a seaplane or a gentle hovercraft trip.

You can spend a day out fishing for barramundi, jewfish, golden snapper and threadfin salmon, or go Scuba diving around shipwrecks. At sunset, savour a taste of Asia at the night markets at Mindil Beach, where you can browse the food stalls for a picnic dinner on the beach. For the ultimate Arnhem Land wilderness experience, book a two night post cruise Expedition to Mount Borradaile.

Optional Expedition – Davidson's Arnhem Land Safari Camp, Mount Borradaile

Mount Borradaile lies in the heart of Arnhem Land, the largest Aboriginal reserve in Australia. The reserve covers approximately 94,000 square kilometres. The region is considered so precious that visitor numbers to Davidson's Arnhem Land Safari Camp and the surrounding features are strictly controlled.

This area is not only home to beautiful wetlands and abundant wildlife, but arguably the most significant collection of indigenous rock art covering every period of time.

On your three day Arnhem Land Experience your expert guide will reveal remote and significant art sites, cruise the magnificent wetlands with the numerous species of birds and crocodiles and traverse the rugged country at the top end of Kakadu in open 4WD's learning of the Aboriginal uses of the local flora. Your time at Davidson's will be tailored to suit your needs and interests.

Accommodation at Davidson's Arnhem Land Safari Camp is in permanent tents with either twin or double beds. Delicious meals are served in the main building, and the camp is equipped with modern shower and toilet facilities. At night the sky is illuminated by a million stars as the sounds of the bush erupt.

Your Arnhem Land Safari includes transfer from *Orion* at Fort Hill Wharf to Darwin airport, return scenic flight from Darwin to Mount Borradaile, breakfast lunch and dinner for two days, twin share accommodation in a permanent safari tent, the services of an experienced guide for all touring including 4WD and wetlands cruise. www.arnhemland-safaris.com

9 Night Mysteries of Arnhem Land	
Day 1	Cairns, Queensland
Day 2	Stanley Island, Queensland
Day 3	at sea
Day 4	Thursday Island, Torres Strait
Day 5	at sea
Day 6	Groote Eylandt, NT
Day 7	Yirrkala, NT
Day 8	Elcho Island, NT
Day 9	Maningrida, NT
Day 10	Darwin, Northern Territory

2008: April 21

Expedition Fares		
Ctgy	Type	9nt
B	Stateroom	\$ 6,155
A	Stateroom	\$ 7,140
JS	Junior Suite	\$ 8,490
DS	Deluxe Suite	\$ 9,300
BS	Balcony Suite	\$11,095
OS	Owners' Suite	\$12,895
Optional Excursion		
Mt Borradaile 3 day, 2 night package		\$2900pp



Expedition Fares – per person in Australian Dollars

Early Booking Rewards are offered on a "First-in, best-dressed" basis - refer to page 5