



Detailed: Kimberley Ranger Experience

Tour Description

Discover the stories of country through the eyes of the Kimberley's Indigenous Rangers.

The Kimberley region is home to a variety of stunning landscapes and fascinating cultural attractions that will leave you with a profound appreciation of the rugged natural beauty of the Kimberley and the strength and resilience of its traditional cultures.

The Kimberley covers about 423,000 square km with an estimated population of 35,000 people – half of whom are Indigenous. The Kimberley region is nationally and internationally recognised for its outstanding natural and cultural values and highly intact landscapes with extensive biodiversity.

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) have a strong history of collaboration on cultural and environmental management projects.

In 2011, after years of cooperative work by ACF and the KLC, the federal government listed over 19 million hectares of the West Kimberley as National Heritage. The KLC and ACF have roles and responsibilities in delivering services within the Kimberley region. Both organisations recognise that *The Kimberley Ranger Experience* trial tour gives rise to opportunities for indigenous enterprise development.

The start-up of new sustainable tourism initiatives like The Kimberley Ranger Experience assists Traditional Owners to protect and manage the natural and cultural heritage of the Kimberley. The Rangers combine traditional knowledge with science and new technology to look after their country. Through this Kimberley Ranger Experience you will learn the stories of country and how the Kimberley's Traditional Owners are continuing to look after these culturally and ecologically rich landscapes.

The Kimberley Land Council

KLC was formed in 1978 by Kimberley Aboriginal people as a political land rights organisation and has grown to become the peak Indigenous body in the Kimberley region working with Aboriginal people to secure native title recognition, conduct conservation and land management activities and develop cultural business enterprises. The KLC's mission is to enable Aboriginal people to get back their country, look after country and secure their future.





The Kimberley Ranger Network

The Kimberley Ranger Network employs Indigenous land and sea managers to undertake cultural and natural resource projects to improve and enhance the unique biodiversity and cultural values of the region. Facilitated by the KLC, the Kimberley Ranger Network is comprised of 13 ranger groups and works to realise Indigenous aspirations to look after and manage country using a combination of traditional cultural knowledge, western science and modern technologies.

The Kimberley Ranger Network is supported by the Australian Government and is proving to be a successful business model through integrating ecological, social and cultural values to generate economic growth in remote Aboriginal communities. The Network is creating not only jobs in remote communities but long-term career paths in the conservation and land management sector. The network employs about 90 full-time Indigenous rangers, six part-time administrative staff and almost 100 casual rangers and cultural advisers. Indigenous ranger positions are real jobs that require accredited conservation and land management qualifications.

The Kimberley Ranger Network is underpinned by cultural values and the positive benefits of the program have been far and wide reaching. It has significantly improved community wellbeing, is working to reduce poverty through creating economic opportunities and is building leadership in communities.

Kimberley Indigenous rangers hold a unique and influential position within the region. In remote communities with high unemployment and comparably low educational achievements the Rangers represent an aspirational career goal for many within the community. They are well trained, reliable, have high visibility within the community and a strong connection to their country and the flora and fauna within it. Historically, the Ranger operations have been fully resourced by government however with changing political and economic environments there is growing pressure to diversify revenue streams and improve the level of financial self-sustainability for the program.

Detailed Tour Description

ACF welcoming breakfast

To start our adventure into the world of Indigenous Rangers and West Kimberley Indigenous culture we will meet for breakfast at the award winning, Matso's Brewery, overlooking the Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park. Where we will meet fellow participants and get a detailed rundown of the adventure to come. Senior Traditional Owners from the West Kimberley as well as Wade Freeman, ACF Kimberley Project Officer, will welcome you and answer any questions while we admire the views over a morning coffee and breakfast. (link; <https://www.matsos.com.au/about-us/>)



Wundargoodie Aboriginal Safaris

Wundargoodie proprietors, Colin and Maria will be our guides throughout *The Kimberley Ranger Experience* and help us see the Kimberley through the eyes of the Traditional Owners as they share the ancient beauty, mystery and diverse culture of traditional people and their lands.

Established in 1994 and with combined tourism experience that spans more than 40 years, Colin and Maria share a deep affinity for their homeland in the Kimberley and a passion for sharing the rich and ancient culture of their people.

Operating with involvement of their children, Colin and Maria will be responsible for most of the catering, transport and camp logistics. They will teach you about the ancient culture of the Indigenous peoples of this amazing country while camping out under a million stars, or while travelling in comfortable, air-conditioned 4WD vehicles.

Camping with Wundargoodie will be in tents with the option to remove the rain cover to watch the stars as you sleep. Mattresses, linen and pillows will be provided and with choices for larger family tents available. (link; <http://www.wundargoodie.com.au/>)

Bart Pigram Narlijia Cultural Tour

Bart Pigram is a Yawuru man from the West Kimberley. Born and bred in Broome Bart has a passion for telling the complete story of life in Broome. Drawing on knowledge gained from living a saltwater lifestyle as well as professional training as a curator Bart started Narlijia Tours in 2015. Narlijia means ‘true for you’ in the Yawuru language reflecting Bart’s wish to tell the ‘entire’ story sharing his Aboriginal and multicultural perspective first hand.

Being part of the large Pigram-Puertollano family Bart belongs to a long tradition of pearling workers and musicians. This heritage enables Bart many rich and fascinating stories of life around the beautiful turquoise waters of Roebuck Bay, Broome. A natural entertainer you will join Bart on his unique tour of Broome and the Bay and see the country and lifestyle from his unique perspective including Dampier Creek and the rich pickings in the mangrove forests and on the jabalbal (mudflats) (link; <http://www.toursbroome.com.au/>)

Staying at Port Smith caravan park

Approximately 160 km south of Broome is one of the Kimberley region’s best kept secrets, Port Smith Lagoon and Caravan Park. The park is known Australia wide for its friendly service and happy atmosphere. Listen to the songs of the large array of bird life and spot the resident mopokes or frill necked lizards amongst the shade trees. Enjoy the sunset over the lagoon or a dip in the pristine waters. Watch the dolphins and turtles at play, or marvel at the whales as they travel past on their journey south.



Port Smith caravan park will be our base while staying on Karajarri country. The park has a history of supporting the work of the Karajarri Rangers and helps to sell permits to tourists travelling onto the Native Title lands of the Karajarri Traditional Owners. Accommodation at the park will be the classic Kimberley “donga”: clean, air-conditioned, with bedding provided and a shared bathrooms. Upgrades of accommodation are available, on request, to self-contained chalets with prior notice.

(link; <http://www.portsmithcaravanpark.com.au/index.html>)

Cultural Walk tour with Jimmy Edgar and the Karajarri Rangers

A legend of the Broome music scene and 2013 National NAIDOC Caring for Country Award Winner, Jimmy Edgar is a Yawuru and Karajarri man who has demonstrated his passion for country and culture over many years. Jimmy has always contributed and provided extensive cultural knowledge to schools, community organisations and government bodies that are interested in connecting to country and establishing the respect for country that his people have had since bugarrigarra (dreamtime).

On a daily basis he is engaged with the Yawuru and/or Karajarri Rangers, using his wealth of knowledge for all aspects of keeping country alive and fruitful for future generations. He also is a leading cultural advisor for many local projects and a Cultural monitor to ensure cultural protocols are adhered to and significant landmarks or sacred grounds are protected.

Jimmy is also a passionate musician and actor. It was in the 1980’s when a surge of Aboriginal theatre made its presence felt on stages throughout Australia that Jimmy got his break. Jimmy describes his emergence into acting as being ‘shanghaied’ by local playwright Jimmy Chi for the production of *Bran Nue Dae*. Jimmy auditioned and was cast in the characters of Pastor Flagon and Constable Goon goo noong.

Jimmy will lead our tour through Karajarri country and open our eyes to his culture and landscape. We will also be joined by the Karajarri Rangers who will talk about their Healthy Country management plans for the area and how they wish to open up and develop tourism enterprises to fund their *Caring for Country* work.

Karajarri cultural night with Mervyn Mulardy

Music is a big part of life in the community of Bidyadanga, south of Broome, and Mervyn Mulardy is using contemporary music to strengthen one of the oldest cultures in the world.

As a young man passionate about his Karajarri culture, Mervyn Mulardy was central to the struggle for native title over a large area south of Broome including the community of Bidyadanga. The legal case culminated ten years ago when the Federal Court determined that Karajarri as the traditional owners of their country. Mervyn was made the chairman of the Karajarri Native Title Corporation which he balanced with his other passion of celebrating and strengthening Karajarri culture through popular music.



As a boy, Mervyn listened to his parents sing traditional Karajarri songs. Now as a father himself, he uses contemporary music to pass on what he has learnt to the next generation.

Mervyn with his family and other dancers will share some traditional Karajarri dances and songs with us in an evening around the campfire few others have an opportunity to experience. (link; <http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2012/04/12/3475899.htm>)

Beagle Bay Black History Tour

The Nyul Nyul Rangers are based in Beagle Bay and manage a large area of land including coastlines and inland fresh water springs. Beagle Bay is located midway between Broome and One Arm Point on the Dampier Peninsula.

The Nyul Nyul Rangers are committed to helping create vibrant indigenous economies while maintaining respect for the culture and history of the local people. With ongoing increases to the Rangers operating costs and simultaneous reductions in Government funding, it is essential that new revenue streams are created to ensure that they are able to maintain the current high level of service that they provide to the community. *The Beagle Bay Historical Tour* is the first foray of the Rangers into the cultural tourism industry.

After a Welcome to Country *The Beagle Bay Black History Tour* will give you an introduction to the Nyul Nyul Rangers and their projects. During the 90min walk around Beagle Bay you will hear about Nyul Nyul traditions, culture and lifestyle before European settlement, then about “Blackbirding” and the arrival of white settlers. You will have an opportunity to look at traditional weapons and/or try bush food and learn about the arrival of the church in Beagle Bay and story of the farm, soda factory, gardens etc. After this there will be a discussion on current community status and stories for the future.

Bardi and Nyul Nyul man Albert Wiggan and the Nyul Nyul Rangers will lead you through the ruins of the old mission and remnants of the surrounding bush land while telling their story of survival and reconciliation.

Goobaragin Eco Retreat

Mid way on our journey we will escape to this beautiful coastal retreat to enjoy the spectacular panoramic ocean views of Pender Bay on the Dampier Peninsula and its rich culture. Goobaragin is just over two hour’s drive north of Broome, in the remarkable Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Our group camp will be well positioned to maximise coastal views right from your own tent. Enjoy long stretches of unspoilt private beaches, great swimming, snorkelling, sunsets, fishing and much more.



Kathleen and John will be our hosts for the night and will share their story around the fire about building an Indigenous tourism business and life in the remoteness of Pender Bay. Upgrades of accommodation are available, on request, to self-contained eco tents and eco chalets with prior notice. (link; <http://goombaragin.com.au/>)

Kooljaman at Cape Leveque

Kooljaman at Cape Leveque is a unique wilderness camp which is surrounded by a diversity of natural wonders. This will be our base while we explore this region and meet the Bardi Jawi Rangers. The amazing wildlife, the vast array of marine life and the stunning coastline, makes Kooljaman a truly unique experience.

The two surrounding indigenous communities of Djarindjin and Ardyaloon (One Arm Point) jointly own Kooljaman, making it proudly 100% indigenous owned. They have developed the camp in line with the community's aspirations and their inherent knowledge of the land. Kooljaman at Cape Leveque has been established for 20 years and has won numerous state and national tourism awards in categories for Indigenous Tourism, Eco Tourism, Unique Accommodation and Cultural Tourism. Here we will be group camping in individual or family tents, with shared camp facilities and amenities. Upgrades available, on request, to self-contained eco tents and eco chalets with prior notice (Link; <http://www.kooljaman.com.au/about-us/about-us-2>)

Bardi Jawi turtle tagging tour

The Bardi Jawi rangers, and Bardi Jawi Oorany (Women) rangers, were one of the first ranger groups to be established in the Kimberley region. They are a well-established, professional and capable team that works to protect and manage the land and sea country on the Dampier Peninsula. The Bardi Jawi Rangers use a combination of traditional knowledge and modern science to survey and research the coastline and surrounding islands. The Rangers have a focus on developing long-term management plans to ensure the future biodiversity and cultural health of their country.

The Bardi Jawi Rangers already operate several independent fee-for-service operations based on their existing skill sets and programs. Tourism has been recognised as a key growth sector within the region and Bardi Jawi rangers have identified their *Turtle Tagging Experience* as a cornerstone product from which their tourism ventures can be grown.

After a tour of the Ranger base and run down of their land and sea operations and programs the Rangers will take us to the community boat ramp where we will travel by boat to one of the nearby islands for lunch. From this base, small groups will be invited out on smaller water craft to spot and catch Green turtles.



These turtles will be taken back by boat to the base for recording. Turtles will be tagged with flipper tags before release. The Rangers will also fit a satellite tag that sends back vital information for the monitoring program. The Bardi Jawi Rangers have been tagging turtles with satellite transmitters to discover more about their genetics, life cycle, travel and feeding patterns.

Brian Lee Hunters Creek tagalong tour

We will join one of the Kimberley's most colourful characters on an amazing adventure based around the turquoise waters of Hunters Creek. Brian will share his country and unique Aboriginal perspective with us. It's an opportunity to take in the breathtaking scenery and meet some of the Peninsula's fascinating locals. As a Bardi Jawi Traditional Owner, Brian offers visitors a unique insight into the traditional ways of the Bardi people and delivers a Kimberley experience that you will never forget.

We will follow Brian down to the banks of Hunter's Creek and along the way learn some of the fascinating history of the region and hear some of the stories of the colourful characters who started white settlement on the Peninsula. Brian invites us to taste seasonal bush fruit and hear the ancient stories of a people who once walked this timeless landscape. Down at the creek the fun really starts, we will learn traditional fishing and crabbing methods and cook up our catch - Bardi style on an open fire. (link; <http://www.brianleetagalong.com.au/>)

Kimberley Land Council farewell dinner

After our drive back to Broome from Ardyaloon we arrive where we started for a farewell dinner at Matso's Brewery. Before we depart on our separate ways we will have the opportunity to hear more about the Kimberley cultural enterprise model. We'll have the opportunity to debrief on our trip to strengthen the ranger tourism experience which is an investment into securing the future Kimberley Ranger Network. (link: <http://www.klc.org.au/land-sea/kimberley-land-council-cultural-enterprises>)

Extra accommodation

For guests choosing to stay longer in Broome or arrive earlier, ACF has secured a special room and breakfast rate at Moonlight Bay Suites. When booking on phone please quote the *Australian Conservation Foundation - Indigenous Ranger Tour*. Availability is dependent on the time of booking. (link; <http://www.moonlightbaysuites.com.au/>)

ACF acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country this trip will visit and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to their elders both past and present and acknowledge the pivotal roles that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play in caring for country and wildlife across Australia.