

TRUE NORTH

The Art of Adventure





*That's the best holiday
I have ever had!*

North Star Cruises Australia offers adventure-cruises all around the magnificent Australian coastline and, in the stunning waters of West Papua Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Your taste for adventure and our carefully crafted sailing schedule will ensure every destination is at its stunning best! Regardless of whether you are witnessing breathtaking majesty in the Kimberley, being humbled by the overwhelming hospitality of the South Pacific or, kicking up your heels in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, you will be in the right place at the right time!

The **TRUE NORTH** is purpose built to sail deep into the very heart of wilderness – we visit areas that larger ships simply cannot access. Our itineraries specifically exclude lengthy periods at sea and feature frequent daily excursions and, an Australian crew that will uniquely chaperone your holiday experience.

We deploy comfortable expedition boats (not rubber boats) and discover wilderness in small groups. And to add yet another dimension to adventure, most cruise options feature an onboard helicopter.

Beware of imitations and discover for yourself why our eminently qualified guests consistently remark *“that’s the best holiday I have ever had!”*





Unequaled Style

The **TRUE NORTH** allows discerning adventurers to experience wilderness in surroundings more akin to one of the world's most exclusive hotels!

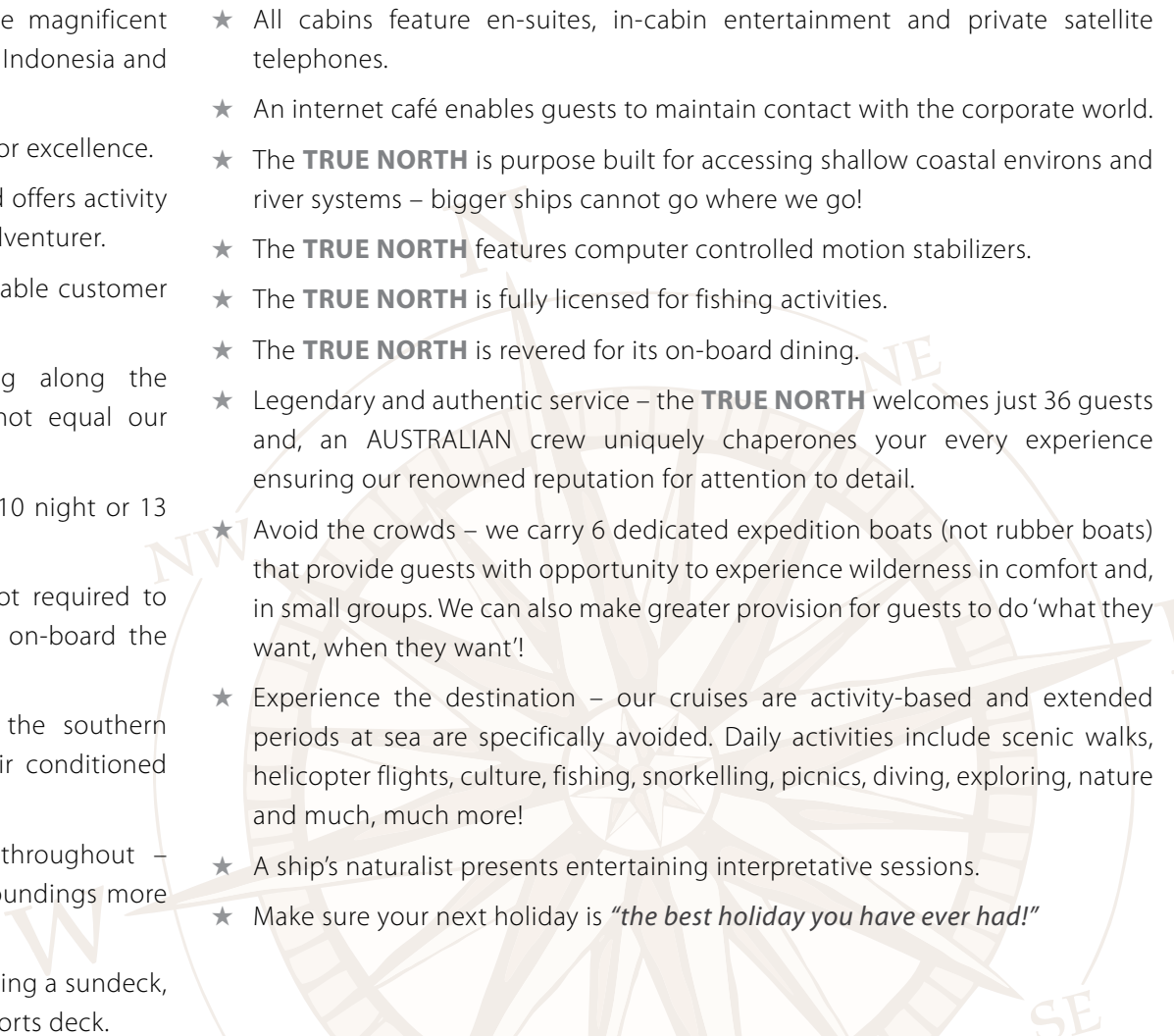
Guests are able to take advantage of several lavish vantage points including a sundeck, a forward observation lounge, a ship's lounge, an alfresco bar and a sports deck. The ship's naturalist presents interpretative information on plasma screens and, an internet café enables convenient communication with the outside world. A popular venue on any **TRUE NORTH** cruise, the lower deck dining room offers the ultimate in comfort and uninterrupted vistas - large panoramic windows ensure that guests never miss any of the action, even when they are enjoying the ship's renowned fare.

All cabins feature stylish décor, en-suite facilities, in-cabin entertainment and satellite telephones. The Explorer and River Class staterooms offer king size beds that can be converted to singles whilst the Ocean Class twins feature roomy singles.





*Why you should cruise
with North Star Cruises*

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- ★ North Star Cruises conducts adventure-cruises all-around the magnificent Australian coastline and in the stunning waters of West Papua, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.
 - ★ North Star Cruises Australia is the winner of numerous awards for excellence.
 - ★ North Star Cruises Australia is an undisputed market leader and offers activity based itineraries especially designed for the most discerning adventurer.
 - ★ North Star Cruises Australia consistently operates with impeccable customer satisfaction rates.
 - ★ North Star Cruises Australia pioneered adventure-cruising along the Kimberley coast more than 25 years previous. Others cannot equal our experience and knowledge!
 - ★ Explore the magnificent Kimberley coast on either a 7 night, 10 night or 13 night voyage of discovery.
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** is an Australian registered ship and is not required to exit territorial waters during Australian voyages – every day on-board the **TRUE NORTH** is an activity day!
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** is the ONLY adventure-cruise ship in the southern hemisphere that travels with an on-board helicopter – an air conditioned Eurocopter.
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** features enhanced levels of comfort throughout – allowing guests opportunity to experience wilderness in surroundings more akin to one of the world's most exclusive hotels!
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** features several lavish vantage points including a sundeck, an observation lounge, a ship's lounge, an alfresco bar and a sports deck.
 - ★ All cabins feature en-suites, in-cabin entertainment and private satellite telephones.
 - ★ An internet café enables guests to maintain contact with the corporate world.
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** is purpose built for accessing shallow coastal environs and river systems – bigger ships cannot go where we go!
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** features computer controlled motion stabilizers.
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** is fully licensed for fishing activities.
 - ★ The **TRUE NORTH** is revered for its on-board dining.
 - ★ Legendary and authentic service – the **TRUE NORTH** welcomes just 36 guests and, an AUSTRALIAN crew uniquely chaperones your every experience ensuring our renowned reputation for attention to detail.
 - ★ Avoid the crowds – we carry 6 dedicated expedition boats (not rubber boats) that provide guests with opportunity to experience wilderness in comfort and, in small groups. We can also make greater provision for guests to do 'what they want, when they want'!
 - ★ Experience the destination – our cruises are activity-based and extended periods at sea are specifically avoided. Daily activities include scenic walks, helicopter flights, culture, fishing, snorkelling, picnics, diving, exploring, nature and much, much more!
 - ★ A ship's naturalist presents entertaining interpretative sessions.
 - ★ Make sure your next holiday is *"the best holiday you have ever had!"*



TRUE NORTH

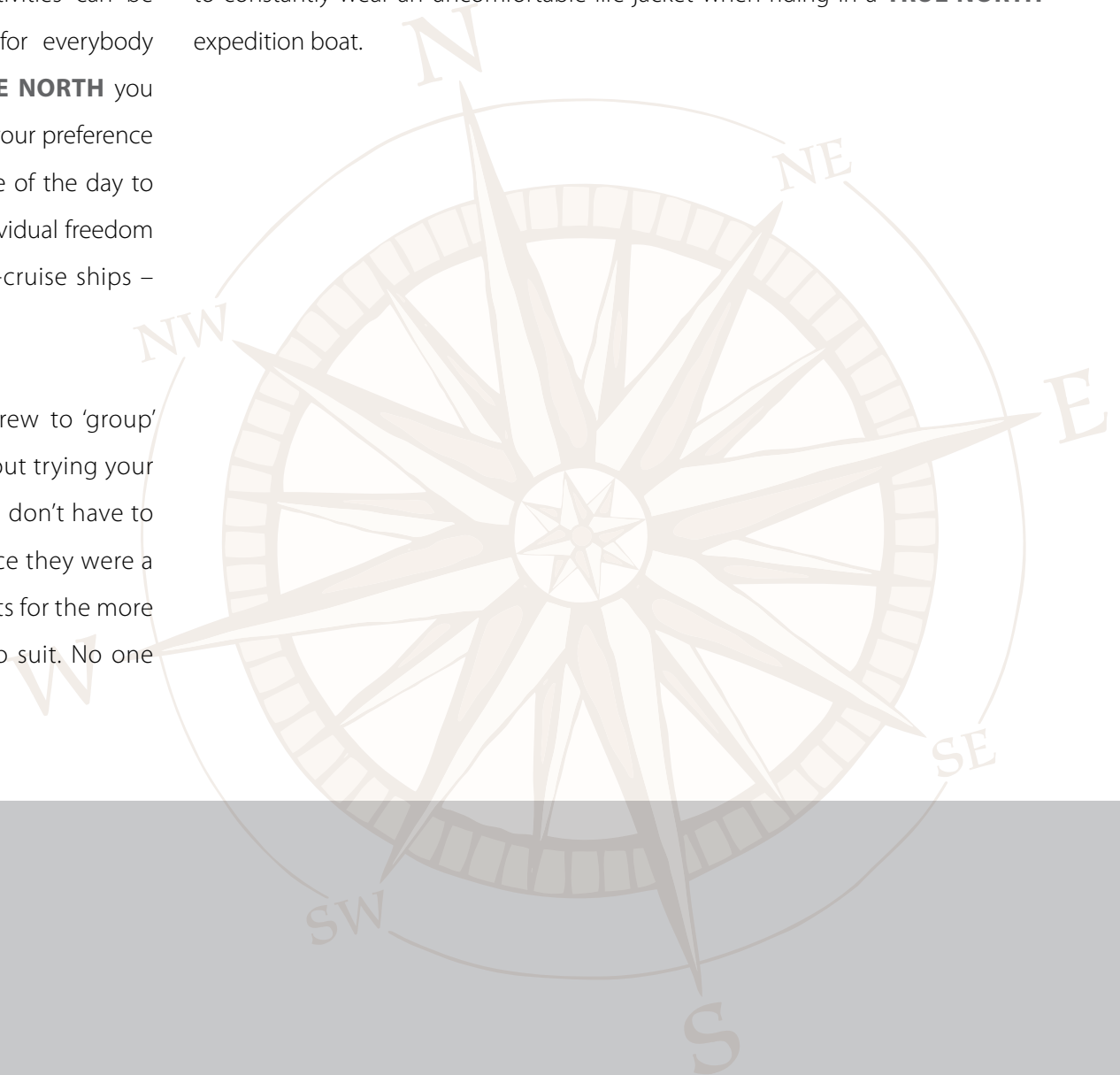
Expedition Craft

The **TRUE NORTH** carries six dedicated expedition boats that allow our guests to experience wilderness up close!

The luxury of numerous tenders also means that different activities can be accommodated simultaneously providing greater opportunity for everybody onboard to do “what they want, when they want!” On the **TRUE NORTH** you don’t have to do what everybody else is doing – you can indicate your preference for a particular activity and, you can also indicate a preferred time of the day to engage in that activity. There are limitations of course, but this individual freedom is something that you may not encounter on other adventure-cruise ships – it is a hallmark of what we do.

Having multiple expedition boats also allows our attentive crew to ‘group’ guests with similar abilities and interests. If you are thinking about trying your hand at fishing, perhaps for the first time in your life – then you don’t have to worry about getting in the way of someone who has fished since they were a child! The cruise director will assign boats for beginners and boats for the more experienced and, our fishing guides will adjust presentation to suit. No one misses out on the **TRUE NORTH**.

And our expedition boats are not rubber boats – they are fully surveyed vessels able to legally operate independent of the main vessel. They are fast, comfortable and well suited for use in crocodile habitat. And best of all – there is no requirement to constantly wear an uncomfortable life jacket when riding in a **TRUE NORTH** expedition boat.





Expedition Craft (cont)

Adding yet another dimension to adventure, most cruise options on the **TRUE NORTH** also feature an onboard helicopter!

Carrying guests in air conditioned comfort, the ship's helicopter provides unique opportunity to witness grandeur; unique opportunity to fish billabongs that have never been fished; unique opportunity to discover your very own wilderness!

Now it's not uncommon for our guests to embark with some uncertainty about flying in a helicopter – however it's always a different story when the time comes for disembarkation.

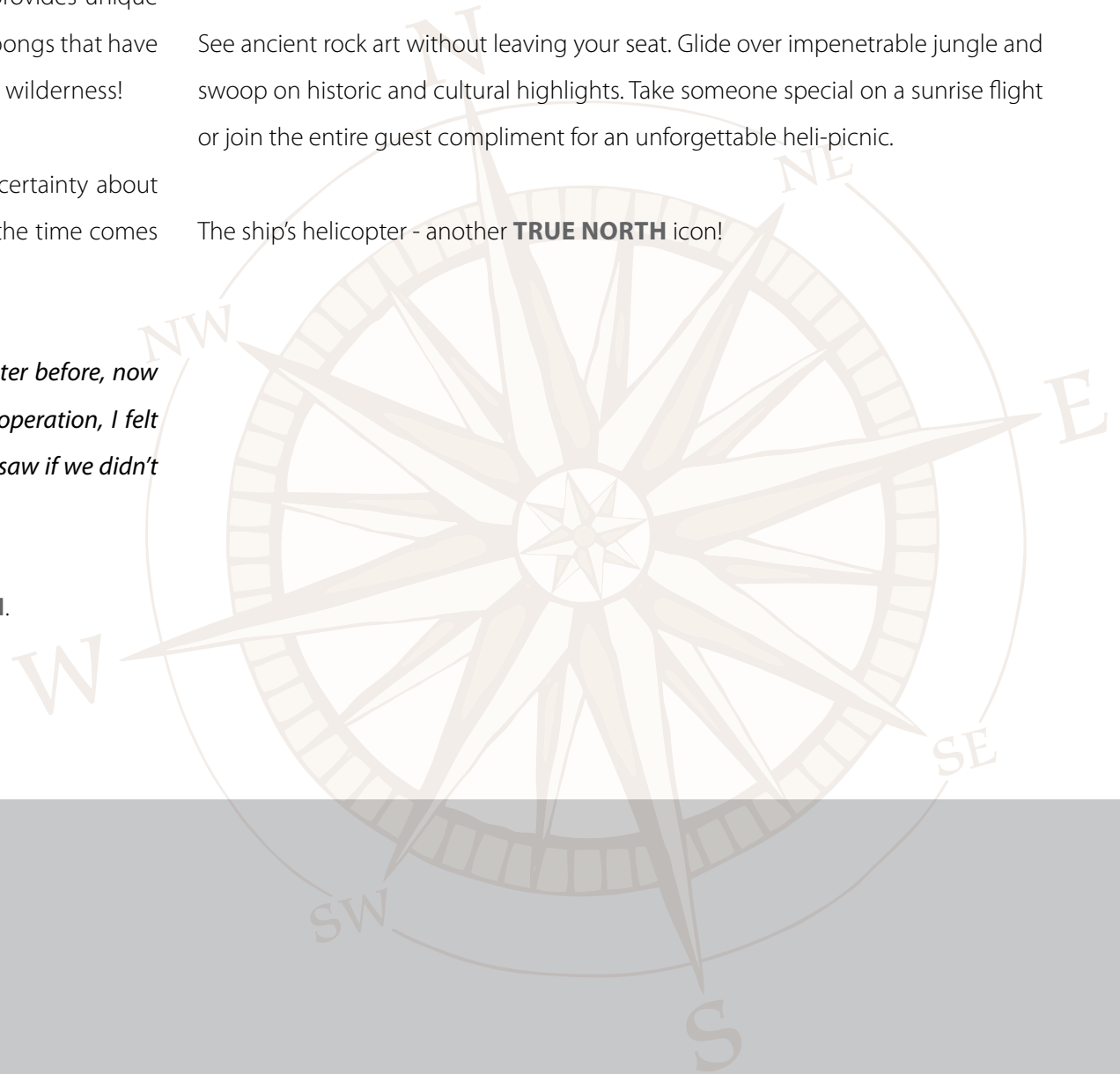
“Wow – who would have thought, I have never flown in a helicopter before, now I can't get enough. I can't speak highly enough about the whole operation, I felt completely safe and I could not have hoped to have seen all that I saw if we didn't have a helicopter onboard.”

A typical reaction from a first-time flyer onboard the **TRUE NORTH**.

The ship's helicopter helps you to climb mountains and volcanoes in air conditioned comfort. Even if you are not as spritely as you once were – the helicopter will deliver you without fuss to even the most inaccessible locations.

See ancient rock art without leaving your seat. Glide over impenetrable jungle and swoop on historic and cultural highlights. Take someone special on a sunrise flight or join the entire guest compliment for an unforgettable heli-picnic.

The ship's helicopter - another **TRUE NORTH** icon!





Uniquely Australian

The crew of the **TRUE NORTH** are generally young Australians which makes for a truly authentic onboard experience.

And our crew are very much part of onboard life - you may even feel as though they are having just as much fun as you are! That's because they are – everyday is an adventure for the crew as well and you will not be able to resist their enthusiasm and passion!

Unlike more conventional cruise experiences – crew members on the **TRUE NORTH** are encouraged to interact with our guests. They will uniquely chaperone your every experience providing assistance, interpretation and genuine company. They will bait your hook and carry your SCUBA tank but they will also join you for dinner and entertain in the ship's lounge.

And not forgetting that they will also prepare fine meals of distinction, maintain your cabins with a renowned degree of attention and, safely navigate ship, boat and helicopter to each destination.

Guests on the **TRUE NORTH** never fail to recognize the outstanding involvement of the crew - they are what makes a **TRUE NORTH** cruise one of the world's most unique holidays.





Testimonial

For me there is no better ship than the TRUE NORTH. It is a small luxury liner with just 18 cabins – serving delicious gourmet food and wine with a staff of 20 young, attractive and extremely efficient crew members. It is a top class operation whether you enjoy hiking through wilderness with their biologists, admiring the plants and birds or fishing for giant barramundi. Cruising along the Kimberley coast on the TRUE NORTH is the trip of a lifetime.

Jerry Hall. International Actress and Model.

Spectacular! The excursions were beyond our expectations, the food was divine and the TRUE NORTH crew made us feel like family. Overall, I rank the TRUE NORTH experience as one of the best holidays I have ever had. We will be bringing our family along on one of their other cruises in the near future as I think it is a perfect family bonding experience.

Ian Swain. President, Swain Tours.

WOW, what a trip! Up there with the best! Great camaraderie amongst the guests and the team. No stone is left unturned. Will be back again! Thank you for a great holiday.

Betty Croft. Owner, Harvey World Travel, Noosa.

Anything involving North Star Cruises is going to be good.

Bob Ansett.

Business entrepreneur and author.

The TRUE NORTH is a superb luxury cruising experience. The casual but elegant atmosphere on board, coupled with the utterly charming and hospitable personalities of the crew, lend the entire ship experience a sense of personal character that becomes as valuable as the destination visited. From the no-shoes policy to the gourmet dinners, the ship and the crew effortlessly straddle the fine line of making guests feel both at home and pampered at the same time – no easy task!

The ship itself is lovely and comfortable, the rooms perfectly sized and beautifully appointed. The common spaces are spacious and lend themselves to both group gatherings as well as the opportunity for some quiet time, if desired.

Onboard the ship, the crew keeps the areas and rooms spotless, constantly fussing (in a good way) to keep the ship in top form. This is done with smiles on their faces – remarkably with no trace of exhaustion or resentment despite long days of service.

The crew I met on both TRUE NORTH experiences is perhaps what sets the travel experience apart the most from other small cruise experiences that I have experienced. Their clear love of the destinations visited (particularly the Kimberley, which they know so well) practically glows. Shore excursion experiences are enhanced when the crew joins the travellers, enjoys themselves so thoroughly, and invites the travellers to join them in swims, mud baths, and small walks to see favourite rock art etc.

The overall effect for the traveller aboard the TRUE NORTH is that of being a guest onboard their home, welcomed to their part of the world. I feel that particularly for the American market this is an extraordinarily special opportunity to experience Australia's beautiful sites and its true warmth and character in a manner that would be difficult to duplicate elsewhere. In fact, I find that many weeks after this trip, I am left with a sense of nostalgia, of missing the entire experience of being on the TRUE NORTH – a sensation I have rarely experienced on the numerous trips that I have taken. The sense of community coupled with the spectacular destination are a winning combination.

Lauren Bruck Simon.

Director of Travel, Harvard Museum of Natural History

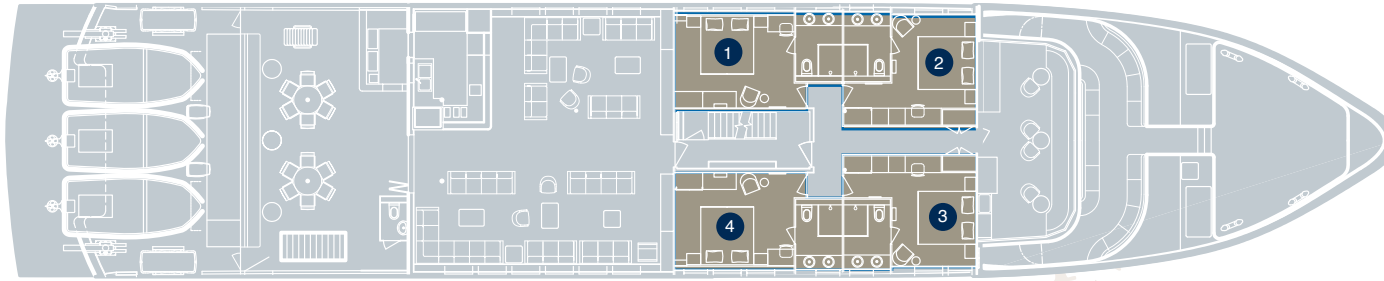


Unique Specification

UPPER DECK

Explorer Class

1. Bradshaw
2. Dampier
3. Durack
4. Parker King



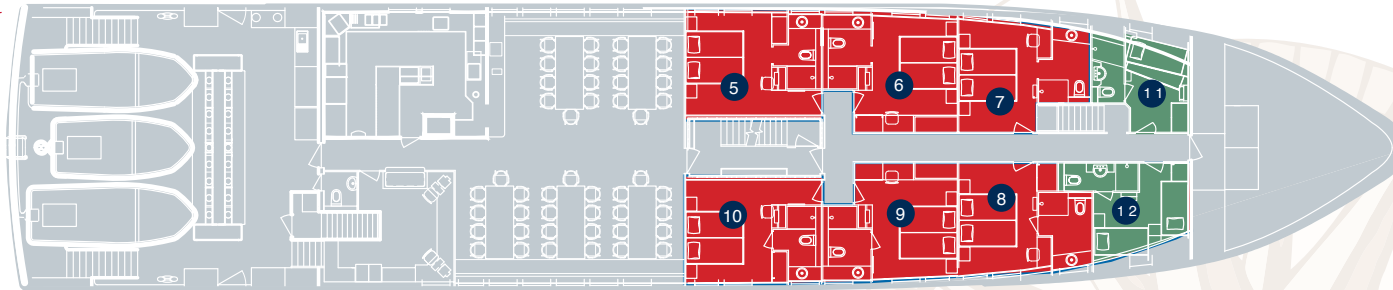
MAIN DECK

River Class

5. Prince Regent River
6. Mitchell River
7. Berkeley River
8. Drysdale River
9. Hunter River
10. King George River

Ocean Class

11. Camden Harbour
12. Lacepede Islands



LOWER DECK

Ocean Class

13. Koolama Bay
14. Montgomery Reef
15. Jackson Falls
16. Kings Cascade
17. Imperieuse Reef
18. Atlantis Bay



Commissioned: February 2005

Flag: Australian

Configuration: Mono-hull adventure-cruise ship

Length: 50 metres

Tonnage: 740 tonnes

Draught: 2.2 metres

Beam: 10 metres

Crew: 20

Passengers: 36

Propulsion: 2 x 786 kW

Bow Thruster: 100 kW

Auxiliary: 2 x 175 kW

Cruising Speed: 14 knots

Range: 2,000 miles

Fuel: 45,000 lts diesel/10,000 lts Jet A1/3,000 lts ULP

Water Making Capacity: 1,500 lts per hour

Motion Control: Computer controlled stabilizers

Safety: Full compliance under the International Marine Orders

Cabin Features: en-suite, in-cabin entertainment and satellite telephone

Cabin Power: 240 V and 110 V

Day Areas: sun deck, observation lounge, ship's lounge, alfresco bar, sports deck and dining room

Expedition Vessels: 6

Helicopter: Eurocopter
(6 pax all facing forward/air conditioned)



Itinerary



Kimberley Wilderness Cruise

North Star Cruises Australia is most well-known for conducting adventure cruises in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. We pioneered adventure-cruising in this remote part of the world and nobody knows the area like we do – we live here – it's our backyard! And importantly, the **TRUE NORTH** is an Australian registered ship and not required to exit territorial waters on domestic voyages – our Kimberley cruises are conducted entirely in the Kimberley! Experience a wild and beautiful panorama of rugged mountains, spectacular gorges, majestic waterfalls and much, much, more!



West Papua and Papua New Guinea

Each year the **TRUE NORTH** visits the spectacular Raja Ampat Islands in undiscovered West Papua. Frequently described as the 'home of corals' this area features stunning underwater landscapes and countless picture-perfect islands. Our time in West Papua also features Cenderawasih Bay – where the locals hand-feed whale sharks! The mighty **TRUE NORTH** then cruises pristine island-areas of Papua New Guinea encountering overwhelming hospitality, unchanged village life and some of the most highly regarded snorkelling and diving in the world! Climb mountains in the ship's helicopter and match wits with monster mackerel before returning each night to your floating boutique hotel!



Adventure Cruises on the Australian Coast

Fish, dive and snorkel the Abrolhos Islands, Ningaloo Reef and the marvellous Monte Bello Islands all in a single cruise! Discover the infamous wreck of the Batavia and swim with manta rays. Tick the very exclusive Rowley Shoals off your bucket list and catch a sailfish nearly as big as your expedition boat! Savour a Christmas Dinner with a difference and join the start of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Take the best seat in the house for the New Year's Eve fireworks in Sydney Harbour and, fly to the Blue Mountains for lunch. No need to call a taxi – you don't even need a reservation for dinner! Or visit must-see Kangaroo Island and take a seafood safari around the fabulous Eyre Peninsula.

See www.northstarcruises.com.au for itinerary details



North Star Cruises Australia wishes to gratefully acknowledge the many crew and guests who contributed to the images featured in this brochure.

NORTH STAR CRUISES — AUSTRALIA —

Tel: (+61 8) 9192 1829 | Email: cruise@northstarcruises.com.au
Website: www.northstarcruises.com.au

