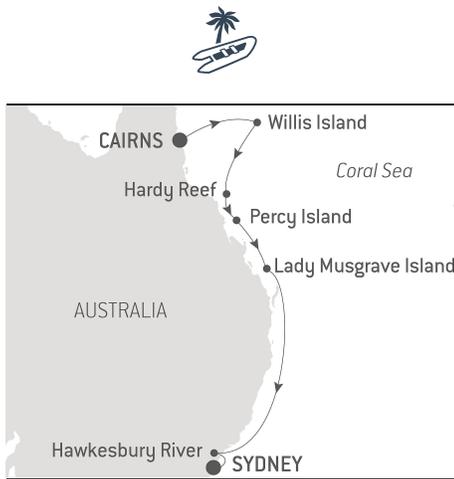


Exploring Australia's East Coast Islands

From **7/12/2022**
to **16/12/2022**

Ship: **LE LAPEROUSE**

From **Cairns**
to **Sydney**



Allow yourself to fall under the spell of this **itinerary in Australia** that has been specially designed for travellers looking for unspoiled islands and turquoise lagoons. You will set sail aboard Le Lapérouse for an **10-day expedition cruise** with **PONANT** to discover **the treasures of the Great Barrier Reef**.

Starting in **Cairns**, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, set sail towards **Willis Islets** in the **Coral Sea Territories** featuring not less than 30 separate reefs along with the spectacular **Coral Sea Marine Park**, as well as **Willis Island** where a monitoring station was established in 1921 to provide cyclone early warnings services to Queensland.

Lying some 50 km to the north-east of the Whitsunday Islands, you will reach **Hardy Reef**, which boasts **the unique marine biodiversity** of the area.

You will continue your exploration of the Australian coast with the discovery of Percy Island, whose shallow waters beckon you in for a dip, and Lady Musgrave Island, which is ideal for snorkelling. Both are located in the heart of the **Great Barrier Reef**, a gigantic ecosystem of coral reefs.

Your next call will be the **Hawkesbury River region** in New South Wales, famous for its colourful cliffs and historic townships, and join your expedition team to explore the area in our fleet of Zodiac®.

The end of your cruise will be marked by a disembarkation in the irresistible city of **Sydney**.



The information in this document is valid as of 4/12/2021

Exploring Australia's East Coast Islands

YOUR STOPOVERS :

CAIRNS

Embarkation 7/12/2022 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 7/12/2022 at 6:00 pm

Washed by the Coral Sea, the harbour town of **Cairns** is located on Australia's north-east coast. The seafront esplanade is a popular place for locals and visitors to walk, swim and picnic under the shade of swaying **palm trees**. The hills surrounding Cairns form the gateway to the **Queensland Rainforests**, proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage site for their fauna and flora from the Gondwana era.

WILLIS ISLAND, CORAL SEA TERRITORY

Arrival 8/12/2022

Departure 8/12/2022

The **Coral Sea** Islands Territory is an territory of Australia extending east and south from the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef, with 51 islets and cay along with 30 separate reefs and atolls, Willis Island being the only permanently inhabited island. The **Willis Island** weather monitoring station was established in 1921 to provide a cyclone early warning service for Queensland, and four weather observers usually live on the island. The recently established Coral Sea Marine Park is one of the world's largest marine parks, and protects 16 different seafloor, 15,000 km² of reef systems an abundance of corals, reef fishes, sea stars, clams and sea cucumbers. Whilst landings are prohibited. If time and weather permit, you will have the opportunity to explore the Willis Islets from our fleet of Zodiac[®].

AT SEA

Arrival 9/12/2022

Departure 9/12/2022

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

HARDY REEF

Arrival 10/12/2022

Departure 10/12/2022

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system, composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,300 kilometres along Australia's tropical East Coast. It supports a wide diversity of life and was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981. **Hardy Reef** is home to the innovatively designed Reefworld pontoon, ideally situated in shallower waters with protection from the surrounding sea conditions. You will be transferred by Zodiac® to the pontoon which provides easy access to the aquatic realm either by semi-submersible, underwater viewing chamber, snorkelling or diving. There is also undercover seating and tables, sun decks, freshwater showers and change rooms.

PERCY ISLAND

Arrival 11/12/2022

Departure 11/12/2022

The explorer Matthew Flinders described the cove at West Bay on **Middle Percy Island** as "one of the prettiest little places imaginable". The largest of the three islands in the group, Middle Percy is a favourite stop for cruising yachtsmen en-route between the tropical north and southern seas. An A-frame hut on the beach at West Bay is decorated with memorabilia and souvenirs from these yachts. After a short Zodiac® ride to the beach at West Bay, you can relax on this picture postcard beach or take a refreshing swim in the clear waters. For the more energetic, there are walking trails where you may catch a glimpse of some of the native and introduced wildlife.

LADY MUSGRAVE ISLAND

Arrival 12/12/2022

Departure 12/12/2022

Lady Musgrave is an uninhabited 14 hectares coral cay on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. This island is a nesting place for green turtles and loggerhead turtles. It also attracts large numbers of birds including Wedge-tailed shearwaters (Mutton Birds) which nest in burrows in the ground. Small white tip reef sharks and leopard sharks can be seen in the shallows around the island, while the coral lagoon, with its multitude of fish and coral species, is perfect for snorkelling.

AT SEA

Arrival 13/12/2022

Departure 14/12/2022

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

HAWKESBURY RIVER

Arrival 15/12/2022

Departure 15/12/2022

The tranquil **Hawkesbury River** has its origin at the confluence of the Nepean and Grose Rivers, flowing past honeycomb-coloured cliffs, historic townships and riverside hamlets for approximately 120 kilometres to its mouth at Broken Bay. The Bay comprises three arms, the estuary of the Hawkesbury River in the west, Pittwater to the south, and Brisbane Water to the north. Taking in over 100km of coastline along the southern edge of Broken Bay Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is a classic mix of sandstone, bushland and water vistas. You will have the opportunity to view the coastline and bays from our fleet of Zodiac®.

SYDNEY

Arrival 16/12/2022

Disembarkation 16/12/2022 at 7:00 am

Nestled around one of the world's most beautiful harbours, **Sydney** is both trendy and classic, urbane yet laid-back. Composed of ocean and light, of sailors and businessmen, this city alone inspires many travellers to visit the "Land Down Under". Located between the Pacific Ocean and the elegant silhouettes of the Blue Mountains, it encapsulates the Australian way of life: surfing beaches, quiet suburbs, skyscrapers, Victorian cottages and tropical gardens. Sydney is filled with history and harmoniously blends old world charm and ultra-modern architecture, with its sail-shaped Opera House which sits alongside the historic district of The Rocks as the Harbour Bridge stretches across the bay.