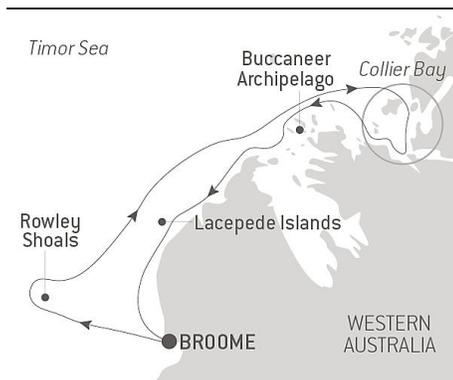


Rowley Shoals Sailing Expedition

From **16/9/2023**
to **24/9/2023**

Ship: **LE PONANT**

From **Broome**
to **Broome**

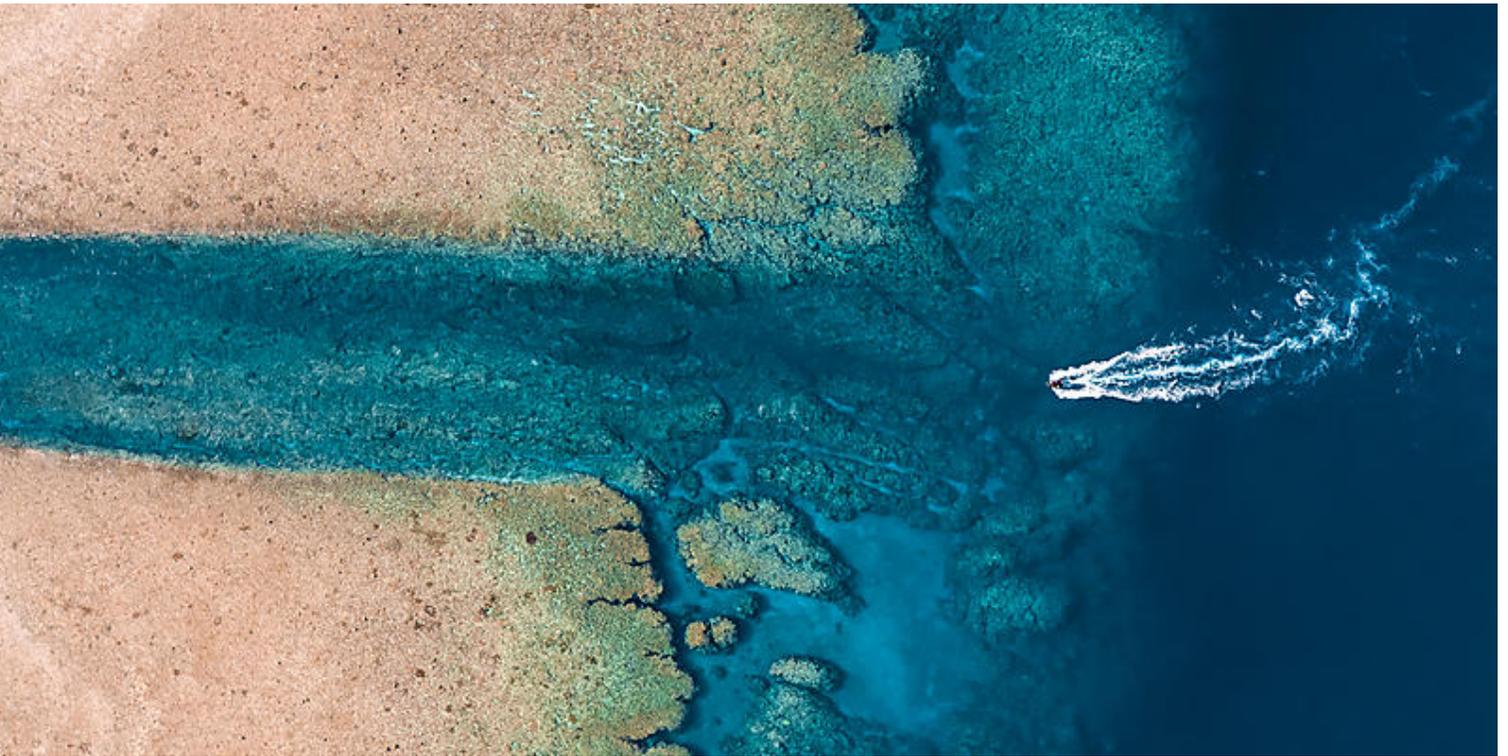


PONANT invites you to experience Australia's **Kimberley coast and spectacular Rowley Shoals** in a remarkable new way, under sail aboard its emblematic yacht *Le Ponant*. The majestic three-masted yacht, with elegant lines and an intimate atmosphere for only 32 like-minded guests, is redefining barefoot luxury expeditions. A crew to guest ratio of more than 1 to 1 and an **expedition staff** to guest ratio of 1 to 8, combine to provide the pinnacle expedition sailing experience.

Discover **the Rowley Shoals**, located 260 kilometres west of Broome in the Timor Sea, regarded as one of **the world's most spectacular diving and snorkelling locations**. The **three coral atolls of Mermaid, Clerke and Imperieuse reefs** rise, near vertical, from the surrounding **crystal clear waters** on the edge of the continental shelf. Each atoll is approximately 80 to 90 square kilometres in size and contain **shallow lagoons inhabited** by a **diverse array of corals** and **abundant marine life**, ideal for exploration by snorkelers and SCUBA divers.

The 13,000km of remote isolated Kimberley coastline boasts **more than 2,600 islands** and is home to **the oldest continuous culture on earth, the world's largest living reptile, the only two 'Horizontal Falls' on the planet, the world's largest inshore reef**, extensive undisturbed **mangrove forests, wild rivers**, important seabird and **marine turtle breeding colonies** and **the largest population of migrating humpback whales on the planet**. It is a national biodiversity hotspot and listed in the top 4% of least impacted marine environments worldwide.

Our Barefoot luxury sailing expeditions are fully flexible itineraries with no predetermined destinations. With a maximum of 32 guests, we are able to create bespoke itineraries. Each day's activities will be determined by the Captain and Expedition Leader, taking into account the season, prevailing weather, tide and sea conditions to deliver the best experience possible.



The information in this document is valid as of 14/8/2022

Rowley Shoals Sailing Expedition

YOUR STOPOVERS :

BROOME

Embarkation 16/9/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 16/9/2023 at 6:00 pm

Located in the northwest of the Kimberley region and in the far north of Western Australia, the town of **Broome** is reputed for its history and its glorious **pearling era**. The fascinating Chinatown district, which is the historic city centre, and the famous Japanese Cemetery, dates back to 1896, and has a past marked by the immigration of numerous Chinese and Japanese workers, attracted by the prosperous pearl industry at the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century. Broome is also famous for the “**Staircase to the Moon**”, an optical illusion created by the Moon reflecting on the sand banks at low tide, like a staircase climbing up towards the sky, a unique spectacle provided by nature...

ROWLEY SHOALS

Arrival 17/9/2023

Departure 19/9/2023

Regarded as one of the world's most spectacular diving and snorkelling locations, the **Rowley Shoals** lie 260 kilometres west of Broome in the Timor Sea. The three coral atolls of Mermaid, Clerke and Imperieuse reefs rise, near vertical, from the surrounding crystal-clear waters on the edge of the continental shelf. The shallow lagoons inhabited by a diverse array of corals and abundant marine life are ideal for exploration by snorkellers and divers. To take full advantage of the location, your ship will spend one and a half days at the Rowley Shoals, allowing you to swim and snorkel from zodiac.

SOUTHERN KIMBERLEY COAST

Arrival 20/9/2023

Departure 23/9/2023

Whilst there is no standard itinerary, our sailing expedition will feature the iconic destinations of **Montgomery Reef** and the **Horizontal Falls**, described by Sir David Attenborough as “One of the greatest wonders of the natural world.” Additional destinations that may be visited include The **Lacepede Islands**, Home to the world's largest breeding colony of Brown Boobies and Western Australia's most important breeding habitat for Green Turtles. The iconic **Cape Leveque**, at the tip of the Dampier Peninsula, best known for its pristine white sand beaches and golden red sandstone cliffs. The 800 islands of the **Buccaneer Archipelago** provide an ideal sailing ground to explore. Scattered amongst the islands are secluded white sandy beaches including **Silica Bay**, historical pearling locations such as **Strickland Bay** and The **Edeline Islands** and the remarkable geological scenery of **Whirlpool Pass** and **Nares Point**. Further North **Collier Bay** showcases the massive tides that the region is renowned for at the Horizontal Falls and Montgomery Reef. Here the many outdoor rock art galleries including **Wijingarra Bard Bard** provide an insight into the remarkable history and culture of Australia's First Nations People. To the East lies **Doubtful Bay** providing access to

multiple river systems, including the **Sale River** and **Red Cone Creek**, lined with mangroves, creating the ideal environment to spot crocodiles and an abundance of birdlife. High above the saltwater influence freshwater waterholes provide the ideal locations for cooling off after a day of exploration.

BROOME

Arrival 24/9/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 24/9/2023 at 7:00 am

Located in the northwest of the Kimberley region and in the far north of Western Australia, the town of **Broome** is reputed for its history and its glorious **pearling era**. The fascinating Chinatown district, which is the historic city centre, and the famous Japanese Cemetery, dates back to 1896, and has a past marked by the immigration of numerous Chinese and Japanese workers, attracted by the prosperous pearl industry at the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century. Broome is also famous for the "**Staircase to the Moon**", an optical illusion created by the Moon reflecting on the sand banks at low tide, like a staircase climbing up towards the sky, a unique spectacle provided by nature...