

**Orion Voted 'Best Cruise/Sailing Experience'**

**Judged by an international panel of Premier Aussie Specialist travel agents, Orion Expedition Cruises' Kimberley voyages has been voted Best Cruise/Sailing Experience in *Travelling in Australia* magazine's 20 Best Experiences Awards.**

"We're seeing a strong shift towards tourism product that demonstrates a genuine commitment towards sustainability," explains Chantal Dunbar, Editor of *Travelling in Australia* magazine. "This is not solely on an environmental level, but also a cultural one too. This is where Australia's future lies, as our nature-based and Indigenous experiences cannot be replicated by other countries competing for the tourism dollar."

Of Australia's 20 ultimate tourism experiences, 18 were either eco or Indigenous. Today's highly educated traveller has a social and environmental conscious and sees travel as a learning opportunity, seeking a sense of community engagement and authenticity.

As a country with the oldest living culture in the world and one of the highest levels of biodiversity, savvy travellers have realised that this is what the Australian Experience is really about. It's something impossible to replicate elsewhere and something that's becoming increasingly hard to find.

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**May 2010 will see Orion in Arnhem Land.** This has become a regular annual event, and no wonder. Typical of every Orion Expedition, guests enjoy cultural interaction, on this occasion with indigenous groups in Jensen Bay, Yirrakala, Elcho Island, Maningrida and Pirlangimpi – important indigenous art centres. Specialist lecturers will help guests understand their various cultures, often displayed through dreamtime stories and artworks (highly sought after by art collectors worldwide). This voyage provides access to artists at the very source of their artistic inspirations.

If you have not yet marveled at **the mighty Kimberley coastline** then the milder months of **May through September** provide the best time of the year to see the Kimberley. After the 'Big Wet', in May and June, while the run-off

continues, the massive waterfalls are spectacular and the sheer power overwhelming. Later in the season, as the waterfalls diminish, you can get closer to the sheer cliff faces, especially to the towering King George Falls. In August the Kimberley coast becomes a watery highway for migrating whales.

Orion's guests will visit amazing Wandjina and Gwion Gwion rock art sites many thousands of years old, where wide eyed spirit gods stare down from caves and overhangs. For many this is a spiritual moment, matching any church fresco or painting.

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***Ranked #2 expedition cruise ship in the world in the current Berlitz Cruise Guide, Orion is the world's latest purpose-built luxury expedition cruise ship, featuring an unmatched range of onboard facilities.***

***With 75 crew and a maximum of just 106 passengers Orion offers the highest staff to guest ratio and guest to public space ratio of any ship based in Australian waters.***

Information on all Orion Expedition Cruises to Antarctica, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia, Asia, New Zealand, the Kimberley and Arnhem Land can be obtained by visiting the website [www.orionexpeditions.com](http://www.orionexpeditions.com)

For reservations or to obtain a 2010 brochure and DVD call Orion Expedition Cruises: 61-2 9033 8777 (Sydney callers) 1300 361 012 (regional and interstate) or your travel agent. Email: [info@orioncruises.com.au](mailto:info@orioncruises.com.au)

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