Rowley Shoals, Ningaloo Reef & Komodo Island
November 12 – 29, 2017
Color abounds on this journey along the coasts and islands of Western Australia and Indonesia. From the red-hued landscapes of the Kimberley, to the kaleidoscopic coral reefs of Australia’s Rowley Shoals and Ningaloo, to the pink sand beach on Komodo Island, this trip is a visual feast, both above and below the water. Dive and snorkel among thousands of colorful reef fish, turtles, sharks, Manta Rays and schools of tuna and Maori Wrasse. Visit exquisite corners of Western Australia’s Outback and see rare Black-footed Rock Wallabies and birds galore. Walk among prehistoric-looking Komodo Dragons on Rinca Island. Join Apex on this 18-day adventure to some of the world’s most vibrant marine environments and coastal parks.
Itinerary

Sunday, November 12: Arrive Broome, Australia
Arrive in this frontier town, clinging to the Kimberley’s far western edge, and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy a welcome dinner with fellow travelers and your expedition leaders. Overnight at Cable Beach Club Resort.

Monday, November 13: Broome / Embark Great Escape
After a leisurely breakfast, head to Willie Creek Pearl Farm to get to know the processes involved in the area’s cultured pearl industry, from the seeding of an oyster to the grading of a pearl. After lunch back at the hotel, set out for an afternoon of prime area birding. Over 300 species have been found in the mangroves, mudflats, pindan woodlands and coastal scrub around Broome, the area being particularly renowned for its shorebirds, boasting over 50 species, a full quarter of the world’s total! Watch for the sought-after Asian Dowitcher and Broad-billed Sandpiper amongst the vast throngs of migrant waders, along with dashing White-bellied Sea-Eagle, and diverse mangrove and woodland birds, from fantails and flycatchers to honeyeaters and whistlers, or perhaps even the elusive Little Bronze-Cuckoo. Late this afternoon, head to the harbor to embark the Great Escape, your mobile base for exploring Rowley Shoals. Be on deck as you set sail into the aquamarine Indian Ocean.

Tuesday–Friday, November 14–17: Rowley Shoals
Wake up this first morning about 170 miles west of Broome, in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park, encompassing some of the world’s most pristine coral atolls. For the next four days, dive and snorkel in the warm, clear water and see many of the over 200 species of coral and almost 700 species of fish that have been recorded here. Explore the underwater caves, walls and alleys around Clerke Reef, and take in the sunset on the beach at Bedwell Island, enjoying the songs of its glamorous Red-tailed Tropicbird colony. Next, head to Mermaid Reef Marine Reserve for more
marine exploration. Hawksbill and Green Turtles are delightfully common, and the likes of indicator species like Giant and Potato Groupers, Leopard and Spotted Coralgroupers, Humphead Wrasse, schools of tuna and mackerel. Numerous Giant Clams bear testimony to the protected nature of these remote reefs. We may even be lucky enough to find the endemic (and rare) Western Australian Sculpin, or Great Hammerhead Shark. Enjoy a twilight dive on the last night, before cruising back to Broome.

Saturday, November 18: Broome / Perth
After breakfast, disembark in Broome and transfer to the airport for the flight to Perth. Dinner and overnight at International on the Water Hotel.

Sunday, November 19: Perth / Learmonth / Exmouth
Transfer back to the airport this morning for a flight north to Learmonth, then an overland drive to nearby Exmouth, gateway to the 2,700-square-mile Ningaloo Coast, deemed a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2011 for its staggering geological and biological diversity. After lunch, set out to enjoy your first glimpse of the underwater world of the Ningaloo Marine Park by snorkeling along one of its renowned beaches. Dinner and overnight at Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort.

Monday, November 20: Exmouth
Light out on a boat this morning for a full-day of snorkel and dive activities on the spectacular Ningaloo Reef. At 160 miles long, it is Australia’s largest fringing coral reef and the only large reef positioned very close to land. Known as a biodiversity hotspot, it harbors colorful profusions of reef fish, turtles, dolphins, nudibranchs, and more. Afterwards, head to Vlamingh Lighthouse for a picnic dinner and unforgettable view of the sunset over the Coral Coast, followed by a turtle rookery tour, with a good chance of finding nesting turtles. Overnight at Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort.

Tuesday, November 21: Exmouth
Enjoy a full-day exploration of the massive and endlessly dramatic Cape Range National Park, with its limestone cliffs, deep canyons and pristine beaches. Start out early for a boat tour of the Yardie Creek Gorge. See Black-footed Rock Wallabies on the sheer cliffs above, as well as Ospreys and bowerbirds flying overhead. Visit Mangrove Bay Bird Hide to see Collared Kingfishers, Mangrove Whistlers, and Yellow White-eyes, or enjoy a refreshing snorkel in the crystalline waters of Turquoise Bay or Oyster Stacks. In the late afternoon, head to Giralia, a former sheep station-turned-national park perfectly situated on the Exmouth Gulf. Enjoy a special Aussie barbeque dinner under the stars in this exquisite Outback setting. Overnight at Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort.

Wednesday, November 22: Exmouth
This morning, an hour-long boat trip will take you to the Muiron Islands, known as the “Magical Muirons” for their exceptional snorkeling. En route, look for dolphins and Dugongs—like manatees, and most closely related to the now-extinct Stellar’s Sea Cow. If sea conditions allow it, the drift snorkel between the two main islands is stunning, and affords you the chance to see the many soft corals, Gorgonian sea fans and sponges that are unique to these islands, as well as turtles, Manta Rays, and glassfish. Enjoy lunch onboard, and return to town for dinner and overnight at Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort.
Thursday, November 23: Exmouth / Learmonth / Perth
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a flight back to Perth. Take a guided tour of Kings Park, a botanical garden with beautiful displays of Western Australia’s varied and spectacular flora. Dinner and overnight at Pan Pacific Hotel.

Friday, November 24: Perth / Labuan Bajo (Flores) / Sebayur Besar
Bid farewell to Australia today as you travel by air, via Denpasar, to Labuan Bajo on Flores Island, Indonesia. A short boat trip will bring you to Sebayur Besar, a small private island located between Flores and Komodo. Dinner and overnight at Komodo Resort Diving Club, located just 200 meters from Komodo National Park.

Saturday–Tuesday, November 25–28: Sebayur Besar and Komodo
For the next four days, take full advantage of this pristine paradise. Dive and snorkel amongst Manta Rays and thousands of colorful reef fish, such as Humphead Wrass, Giant Trevally, and schools of fusiliers, emperors and surgeonfishes; walk the sugary white sand beaches of Sebayur and Komodo’s curious pink-hued beach; at sunset on Kalong, see hoards of Sunda Flying Foxes—fruit bats endemic to the area—as they head into the night in search of food. And, of course, feast your eyes on the eponymous dragons of Komodo National Park, as well as Timor Deer and wild pigs on Rinca Island. Dinners and overnights at Komodo Resort Diving Club.

Wednesday, November 29: Labuan Bajo / Depart
Enjoy one last breakfast on the island before transferring to Labuan Bajo’s airport for your independent international flights home.
Jonathan Rossouw

Jonathan Rossouw is one of the world’s most experienced expedition leaders, having guided wildlife trips in over 150 countries on all seven continents. He combines a legendary energy and enthusiasm with a broad knowledge of all aspects of natural history, gained from three decades spent in the pursuit of the world’s mammals, birds, reptiles and coral reef fishes. Indeed, having seen over 8,000 species of birds, 800 mammals and 2,000 coral reef fishes, he will likely experience more species of vertebrate animals than anyone in history!

A medical doctor by training, Jonathan was born and raised on South Africa’s east coast and spent his family vacations in the games reserves of Zululand. It was here that the foundation was laid for a lifelong passion for wildlife and wild places and, in 1996, a “short break” to cycle across South America from Buenos Aires to Cusco led to two years spent guiding at eco-lodges in the Amazon and doing bird surveys in the Andes. He returned to Africa to start a birding travel company, before joining Peter Harrison and Shirley Metz, to assist in expanding their global portfolio of natural history destinations. An accomplished photographer, Jonathan’s images have appeared in many books and magazines, and he has co-authored birding site guides to Uganda, Southern Africa and Madagascar.

Giovanna Fasanelli

A life-long love affair with the sea propelled Giovanna into the world of marine biology, conservation, underwater photography and natural history documentaries. From an early childhood exploring the rock pools of South Africa’s shorelines she immigrated to Australia and wasted no time in getting her PADI Dive Master certification. She has since logged over 1,000 dives throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Whilst completing her marine biology degree at Australia’s James Cook University, Giovanna worked at an underwater film company, gaining experience tagging Tiger Sharks and Green Turtles in the Coral Sea and assisting with film production. This opportunity spawned a decade-long career in television, presenting the latest developments in aquaculture and fisheries science. In 2013 Giovanna worked with National Geographic Channel in co-presenting a documentary series, Australia: Life on the Edge, as the marine biologist and submarine pilot showcasing stories from around the continent’s shores.

Giovanna’s passion for wilderness and animals has driven her to explore habitats around the world from Snow Leopards in the Himalayas to Komodo Dragons in Indonesia and Mountain Gorillas in Uganda. Fast approaching 100 countries visited, Giovanna has extensive experience as a guide and naturalist all over the world. A talented photographer and skilled writer, Giovanna’s work is regularly featured in several Australian magazines. Her deep love and concern for the environment has led her to be an advocate for conservation.

“When it comes to expedition travel, in particular, one needs to be led by a knowledgeable, enthusiastic, entertaining and confidence-inspiring professional. We have yet to meet anyone quite like Jonathan who so completely ticks all these boxes!”

– Pat G., Durban
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November 12 – 29, 2017
$16,970 Per Person Rate
$28,770 Solo Rate
18 Days Trip Length
12 Guests Group Size
Broome / Labuan Bajo Start/End

Included
Apex Expeditions’ rates include all accommodations; all meals, activities and excursions as described in the itinerary; air Broome/Perth, Perth/Learmonth/Perth, Perth/Denpasar/Labuan Bajo, as noted in the itinerary; services of two Apex Expeditions leaders and local guides throughout the itinerary; diving and snorkeling as noted in the itinerary; local beer & wines at lunch & dinner; all gratuities; airport transfers; permits and entrance fees; all taxes.

Not Included
Costs not included in the price of your Apex expedition include travel to and from the start and end point of trip; premium brand drinks and liquor; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance, are highly recommended); airport departure taxes; equipment rental; excess baggage fees; passport and/or visa fees; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms
20% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The solo rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published solo rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the applicable difference will be refunded at the time that the final trip payment is due for all participants. Please note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com/about/terms-conditions/

One-of-a-kind adventures to the world’s most fascinating places. Join us.
Reservation Form

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Person 1: (Primary Contact)
Passport Name:
Preferred Name:
Date of Birth:
Email Address:

Mailing Details:
Address:
City: State: ZIP Code: Country:
Phone: Fax:

☐ Double ☐ Solo

Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)
Passport Name:
Preferred Name:
Date of Birth:
Email Address:

Deposit Information:
☐ My deposit check is enclosed (20% of total tour fare)
☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express
Card #: Expires: CCV Code:
Name on Card:
Signature:

Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.
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