

HONG KONG HIGH LIFE | REDEFINING LUXURY | THE BEST OF ISTANBUL

# virgin australia

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## voyeur

# Kimberley Quest

DISCOVER A LAVISH MODERN EXPERIENCE  
IN AUSTRALIA'S LAST GREAT WILDERNESS

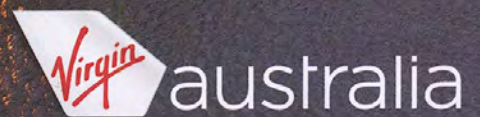
### THE FUTURE OF 5-STAR

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# Dawn of a New Era

*Australia has dramatically upped the luxury-resort ante in the past decade. Here's where to head to experience the ultimate in indulgence.*

WORDS CARRIE KABLEAN

The Saffire Freycinet luxury lodge is located on Tasmania's wild and beautiful Freycinet Peninsula.



(from top) *True North* at King George Falls in the Kimberley; a suite at Kims Beach Hideaway; the resort's pool.



breaking on the shore and smell the ocean, and suddenly you're in another world.

Three of the beach-side bungalows come with saunas, private pools and spas, and guest rooms are fitted with anything you could ever need: Bose sound systems, Japanese robes, ultra-comfy beds and Crabtree & Evelyn toiletries.

Nature provides the view; Kims takes care of the rest. General manager Diana Kershaw's idea of luxury is about, "being left alone... but cared for at the same time. It's about having your own place, with no one right next door, as well as beautiful food, spacious luxury bathrooms, along with good service".

Kims meals are sumptuous. The seafood couldn't be fresher (the lodge is licensed to buy direct from local fishermen), salmon is smoked on the premises, and homemade butters, preserves, pickles and jams are part of the comprehensive menus. Kims has been a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World since 1995, something that would come as no surprise to guests who return year after year to "a paradise where you can relax and do nothing". [www.kims.com.au](http://www.kims.com.au).

### **TRUE NORTH, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

International high-end cruiser company True North combines adventure and luxury — which could mean handfeeding

whale sharks in West Papua, exploring Aboriginal rock art in remote caves, or getting up close and personal under a waterfall in the Kimberley. The company's flagship *True North* is a luxuriously fitted cruiser, which carries a maximum of 36 guests at a time, and is purpose-built for accessing shallow waters — it goes to places bigger ships can't. And it has its own helicopter to spirit guests wherever they please. "On big ships, the focus is the ship, not the destination," says general manager Peter Trembath. "*True North* is the complete opposite. Our focus is on getting people off the ship."

Guests have the option of designing their own agendas. "Everyone gets together at the bar at the end of the day to swap stories and tell the cruise director what they'd like to do the following day," says Trembath. "Maybe barramundi fishing, exploring rock art or a sightseeing flight. We have six 20-foot expedition boats, and everything is customised."

The "vibrant, young and enthusiastic" Australian crew of 20 includes two chefs to take care of fine dining, the picnic lunch by a billabong or a romantic breakfast atop a mountain. As Trembath says: "Every trip is special." [www.northstarcruises.com.au](http://www.northstarcruises.com.au).

**GETTING THERE** To book your flights, visit [www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com) or simply call 13 67 89 (in Australia).