
An invitation to the Waterhouse Club's

Whale Shark Expedition with *True North*

27 October to 3 November 2018

This is your invitation to book a cabin and join the Club's expedition to Cenderawasih Bay in West Papua and, among other activities, to intimately study whale sharks. The forms that are attached allow you to secure one of the remaining cabins.

Overview

This is a special opportunity to study the gentle whale shark and to explore an exotic tropical coastline. The planned activities have broad appeal and include opportunities to swim, snorkel and scuba, fish, beach comb, enjoy stimulating scientific discussions, meet the Papuans and read in the shade.

Our Cruise Ship

Our ship the 18 cabin *True North* is exquisitely fitted out and its compact size allows access to intriguing sites unavailable to larger vessels. Your fellow passengers, mostly Club members will share your broad interests, while the crew are all young Australians. We will be looked after extremely well on our petite cruise ship; its own for-hire helicopter reflects the standard of facilities offered. The meals are of very high standard and the Chefs talk to each night's offering with pride.

Tributes

This fourth charter by your Club follows others so memorable that many have chosen to return. Some previous expeditioners have said that interpretations by the Museum's scientists changed the way they thought about the natural world.

Two more recent tributes:

Skipper Chad Avenell remarked that he had never seen the ship's lounge so continuously full as when our scientists were speaking.

Club Member Jane Axon, said she chose to return to the Waterhouse Club's charter of "True North" for the interesting people who are members and the quality of the scientific discourse.

Diving and Snorkelling

For the confident snorkeler or scuba diver the experiences of some of the world's best diving locations will be memorable; the water is clear and warm with much to see. The less confident can enjoy the water on their terms in the company of trained crew members who can be with them at all times.

What else do we do?

A diversity of experience is offered. On each day, typically three adventures are embarked on in the ship's boats. You can chose to explore the underwater world by snorkel or scuba and while the opportunities offered are largely in the water, *True North* has developed to an art-form, the provision of alternative activities.

- Fishing parties in the ship's boats will be available when we are outside marine parks.

- Sight-seeing parties in the ship's boats travel along the coast exploring and admiring the scenery.
- Organised events ashore may include visits to villages, scenic locations, birding, walks, beachcombing and sunset cocktail parties on deserted beaches.
- And importantly, lying on the fore deck reading.

Before dinner, with the bar open, we learn what has been seen that day and enjoy stimulating discourse with our Museum scientists.

Whale Sharks

The focus will be the whale-sharks, described as gentle as golden retriever dogs. Their presence on the surface allows easy viewing by both snorkelers and scuba divers. They feed on the small fish that spill from the permanent fishing platforms in the Bay. In the evenings we will learn much more of the life cycle of these giant fish.

How Do We Get There?

We get ourselves to and from Darwin where you book your choice of overnight hotel. A chartered jet flies us to and from Biak, West Papua. *True North* will be berthed close by. We thus avoid reliance on internal airlines and local accommodation. The flights are included in the price.

The Weather

The weather is stable. October is the warmest and driest month but it still rains. The diving conditions should be excellent.

Sea conditions can be expected to be calm as much of our cruising will be in protected waters.

The ship is fully air-conditioned and we can expect to be comfortable at all times.

Our Scientists

One of the Club's signature offerings is the quality of the Museum's scientists' discourses that are sprinkled with quirky asides. Pop-up talks will happen ashore. Scientists, Professor Greg Rouse, former curator of marine invertebrates at the South Australian Museum and now Professor at Scripps, California; and Professor Steve Donnellan, Evolutionary Biologist and Associate of the SA Museum are scheduled to join us. The on-board marine biologist will give us a daily update with images of creatures seen and our Indonesian guide will keep us informed on local matters.

Boats

The sturdy aluminium boats (not inflatables) that take us on excursions are very stable with robust boarding ladders - all most reassuring to the cautious. There are more seats than passengers, so every diversion can be catered for.

Outline of Our Itinerary

For this charter, we have taken as our starting point *True North's* cruise "The Whale Sharks of Cenderawasih Bay". Their web site gives an excellent overview of the locations and activities to be anticipated. To enjoy these and complete your understanding of the offering, please access:

<https://www.northstarcruises.com.au/cruise/png/whale-sharks/>

Next Steps

1. Fill out the Waterhouse Club Booking Form selecting the class of cabin and deposit to be paid guided by the table below. Cabin prices reflect size and outlook, a full description can be found at:

<https://www.northstarcruises.com.au/aboard/cabin-selection/> :

Berth Price and Non-Refundable Payment Schedule

Cabin Class	Price per person	1 st Deposit due now with the application	2 nd Deposit: 29 Sept. 2017	Final payment: 1 July 2018
Ocean	\$A16,995	\$A1,700	\$A2,550	\$A12,745
River	\$A20,995	\$A2,100	\$A3,150	\$A15,745
Explorer	\$A23,995	\$A2,400	\$A3,600	\$A17,995

Notes:

- (a) The above prices are per person, exclusions include personal items such as alcoholic drinks and helicopter rides.
 - (b) Returning passengers may be entitled to a discount, if so this will be calculated in your final payment.
 - (c) Single bookings can only be accepted conditional on a second person being found or the single supplement paid: we may be able to help, please call us.
2. Make your non-refundable deposit payment to the Waterhouse Club by credit card, cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer, if the latter please call the office.
 3. Read the "Booking Conditions" provided by *True North* and attached to this email.
 4. Complete the "Booking Form" provided by *True North* leaving the payment section blank and also attached to this email.
 5. Return all documents The Waterhouse Club, c/- SA Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000, or email: waterhouseclub@samuseum.sa.gov.au.

Mariners are warned

- While the outline of this Expedition is defined, many of the details of locations, activities and people are yet to be confirmed.
- Travel insurance including medical evacuation is strongly recommended.
- Health risks are abundant on ship-based expeditions in remote areas and if you are unsteady or have a significant infirmity, then regrettably, this is not for you.
- Future thought will need to be given to: accommodation in Darwin, medical matters and the currency of your passport.

Our past charters of *True North* have been great occasions and I am very much looking forward to your contribution.

Ant Simpson

Expedition Leader

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect of this Expedition please call me on 08 8332 1226 or 0407 715 562 or email me on asimpson537@gmail.com

Alternatively, call the Club Office on 08 8203 9802.

WATERHOUSE CLUB BOOKING FORM

Whale Shark Expedition with "True North"

27 October to 3 November 2018

My preferred Cabin or Class isand I understand that cabins will be allocated in order of receipt of application.

A 10% non-refundable deposit is now needed to secure your chosen class of cabin. If that is not available, we will hold your deposit and ask whether you would like revise your choice or receive your deposit back. Otherwise your deposit is non refundable.

Cabin Class	Price per person	1 st Deposit is now due
Ocean	\$A16,995	\$A1,700
River	\$A20,995	\$A2,100
Explorer	\$A23,995	\$A2,400

Surname.....Given Name.....

Surname.....Given Name:.....

Address.....

Email.....

Telephone: Home Mobile

Whale Shark Expedition with "True North"

PAYMENT: Non-refundable deposit of \$.....

Mastercard/Visa

|.....|.....|.....|.....|

Name on Card.....Expiry.....Total \$.....

Or cheque for \$ enclosed payable to The Waterhouse Club

Or EFT by arrangement with the Office.

Signature/s..... Date

Please return Booking Form to The Waterhouse Club, c/- SA Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000, or via email: waterhouseclub@samuseum.sa.gov.au