



Art Expedition with Idris Murphy East Kimberley, Far North Western Australia

Join leading Australian contemporary landscape painter Idris Murphy on a 10 day painting adventure and wilderness experience in the remote East Kimberley
(June 4 - 13, 2021)

EAST KIMBERLEY

The Kimberley region, in Western Australia, is the stuff of Outback dreams. An ancient landscape covering hundreds of thousands of square kilometres, the Kimberley is one of the most ancient places in Australia. The remote proximity and isolation of the Kimberley only adds to the complex beauty of its landscape. One of Australia's last frontiers, the Kimberley is a land of remote and spectacular scenery made up of a huge central plateau of dissected sandstone ranges and an extensive limestone range, formed from an ancient barrier reef. Here you'll find majestic canyons, freshwater swimming holes and several outback stations, as well as one of Australia's greatest 4WD road trips.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leading Australian contemporary landscape painter, Idris Murphy, is one of the most individual and highly respected artists working in Australia today. Recently, he was one of the featured artists in the SBS documentary Two Thirds Sky Artists in Desert Country.

Murphy is a respected educator and artist who has been the driving force behind the promotion and building of a series of accommodation and studios for both Australian and International artists in the outback of NSW.

Idris Murphy's work is held in the public collections of the National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, Federal Parliament House Art Collection and the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of New South Wales and the State Library of Queensland. Idris is represented by King Street Gallery, Sydney.



THE LANGUAGE OF LANDSCAPE

Idris has a deep connection with the wild, empty spaces of the Australian landscape. In his work he aims to capture its spirit rather than its physicality. Bridging the gap between figurative and abstraction, and inspired by Indigenous painting and storytelling, his paintings are dreamlike, expressionistic and raw.

LANDSCAPE PAINTING EXPEDITION

This 10 day outback expedition focuses on getting a feel for the landscape through exploration both by driving through the country and painting and drawing directly from nature. Participants will improve their skills under the guidance of artist and experienced educator, Idris Murphy. During the workshop, Idris will expose the students to a variety of ideas and approaches with a mix of one-on-one tuition, demonstrations and informal discussions over meals in the evenings. Non painting partners are very welcome.

KUNUNURRA

Kununurra is the gateway town to the East Kimberley, and a great place to begin our adventure. The area is home to ancient landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, strangely shaped boab trees and gorgeous swimming holes. It's easy to see why the name means "Big Water" in the language of local Aboriginal people, who have roamed this landscape for thousands of years. From here our 4WD adventure begins.

HOME VALLEY STATION

Owned by the Indigenous Land Corporation on behalf of the Balangarra people of the East Kimberley, Home Valley Station is a working cattle farm which hosts an onsite training program for Indigenous men and women from the region, who are studying tourism, hospitality and a range of pastoral operations. Set against the rugged beauty of the Cockburn Range, Home Valley Station starred in the 2008 Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman movie *Australia*. The property has a breathtaking combination of towering gorges, sparkling waterfalls, billabongs, ancient landforms and ranges and incredibly stunning sunsets each night.

ACCOMMODATION

The **Kununurra Country Club** is a four-star, centrally located resort, at the gateway to the amazing East Kimberley region, where we will be staying for three nights at the beginning of our journey and one at the end.

At **Home Valley Station** you have a choice of two styles of accommodation, where we will be based for the rest of our trip. You can choose to stay in the spacious and ultimate comfort of the Grass Castles on idyllic Bindoola Creek or in comfortable Guesthouse rooms. The **Grass Castles** are designed for guests seeking the ultimate in luxury. Shaded by towering eucalypts abundant in birdlife, the Grass Castles are reminiscent of sturdy steel and timber homesteads designed by the Kimberley's early pioneering settlers with an ultra-modern fitout. The **Guesthouse** rooms offer an insight into the the cattle station history. Although new and very comfortable, there use of similar materials helps to retain the sense of history.

10 DAY LANDSCAPE PAINTING EXPEDITION IN THE EAST KIMBERLEY, WA (JUNE 4 - 13, 2021)

DAY 1: FRIDAY JUNE 4 - ARRIVE KUNUNURRA

Guests will be met at Kununurra airport and transferred to the Kununurra Country Club Resort, where they will be met by their host, Kerri Ainsworth. Your adventure begins this evening with dinner at the restaurant, where we will be met by the artist, Idris Murphy who will outline the workshop content over the next 9 days. (D)

3 nights Kununurra Country Club Resort

DAY 2: SATURDAY JUNE 5 - KUNUNURRA

Today after breakfast, we will be met by our guide from Waringarri Aboriginal Arts Centre (cultural centre celebrating the unique creativity of the Miriwoong artists), who will take us on an Art Trail in Mirima National Park. Mirima NP is a place where you can step back in time, feel the silence and hear the ancient ancestors. Locals refer to Mirima as the mini “Bungles” owing to the 350 million year old sandstone domes which are reminiscent of their big brother to the south, Purnululu. Experience a Manta (traditional welcome), learn about the Dreamtime stories and understand contemporary Aboriginal histories from the people themselves. Share conversations with indigenous artists while they paint and enjoy a taste of the delicious home-made damper and bush foods.

In the afternoon we will cruise the Ord River and its tributaries, one of the most significant waterways in Australia. Take your sketchbooks, as this is the perfect opportunity to capture the spectacular scenery, wildlife and dramatic colours from the water, as we literally cruise into the sunset. This is truly a unique experience. (B)

DAY 3 SUNDAY JUNE 6 - KUNUNURRA

Today we will be exploring ancient Aboriginal Rock Art sites with a traditional landowner, Ted Hall, a respected Miriwoong/Gidga man. Ted is passionate about tourism and the opportunity to show people his home and tell the stories of the country and explain the cultural values of his people. He will pick us up at the resort and drive us out to some very remote parts of the country, to sacred sites not normally accessible to tourists. (B,L)

DAY 4: MONDAY JUNE 7 - EMMA GORGE / HOME VALLEY STATION

After breakfast, we will drive out to Emma Gorge, on El Questro Station for a day of painting and drawing. Leaving Kununurra is quite an adventure via the Ivanhoe Crossing, a causeway built over the mighty Ord River. It was once part of the main road to Wyndham, but was flooded after the start of the Ord Irrigation Scheme in the 1960s.

El Questro is a magical and ancient landscape covering 700,000 acres. Bring your hiking boots to explore waterfalls, swimming holes and ancient gorges. Here you will capture it's ancient beauty with painting studies and drawings, which will be developed and finished during your stay at Home Valley Station. Idris will provide guidance at various locations when we stop to paint.

After lunch we set off for Home Valley Station, which will be our base for the next 5 days, stopping to take photographs of the spectacular Cockburn Ranges along the way. Tonight relax over dinner and drinks at the Dusty Bar & Grill, an iconic part of the station, serving quality Australian cuisine. (B,D)

5 nights at Home Valley Station

DAY 5: TUESDAY JUNE 8 - HOME VALLEY STATION

Over the next 5 days, we will explore this remote and ruggedly beautiful landscape which provides a variety of wonderful subjects for painting. During our stay at Home Valley Station we will take advantage of the local knowledge of qualified Indigenous tour guides and get an Indigenous perspective of the land. Lunch each day will be provided on location. In the middle of the day, when it is hot, Idris will give a painting demonstration or review your work in air-conditioned comfort. This is a perfect time, to ask questions and get feedback.

At the end of the day, a guide will take us to a lookout, made famous by film director Baz Luhrmann on a reconnaissance mission for the epic movie, Australia, for sunset drinks. The evening colours bring the Cockburn Range alive, painting it in brilliant reds, pinks and purples. Dinner is back at the Homestead. (B,L)

DAY 6: WEDNESDAY JUNE 9 - HOME VALLEY STATION

This morning traditional land owner Donald Campbell will take us to see some ancient rock art sites in the local area. In the late afternoon we will drive to a beautiful bird-watching location to paint. In the evening enjoy a drink at the bar with Idris for informal discussions about painting. (B,L)

DAY 7: THURSDAY JUNE 10 - HOME VALLEY STATION

Today we will go to the River Camp to paint either in the early morning or late afternoon when it is cooler. The rest of the day will be at your leisure to paint, swim or just relax or explore some of the many wonderful walks around the property. (B,L)

DAY 8: FRIDAY JUNE 11 - HOME VALLEY STATION

Today you will finish off your drawings and paintings around the Homestead, where Idris will give one-on-one guidance. In the evening after dinner show your artwork to the a group, followed by a discussion. (B,L)

DAY 9: SATURDAY JUNE 12 - KUNUNURRA

After breakfast, we will head back to Kununurra, to visit the Waringarri Aboriginal Arts Centre, where you have the opportunity to view and if you wish, buy, prints, paintings and craft by the local artists. Tonight will be our last dinner together celebrating a shared creative experience and new friendships. (B,L,D)

1 nights Kununurra Country Club Resort

DAY 10: SUNDAY JUNE 13 - KUNUNURRA

After a relaxing breakfast you will be transferred to the airport to meet their departing flights. (B)

TWIN SHARE PRICE	AU\$5,797.00
SINGLE ROOM	AU\$6,662.00
GRASS CASTLE - HOME VALLEY	AU\$225.00 (TWIN) & AU\$450 (SINGLE) - OPT EXTRA
NON PARTICIPATING PARTNER	AU\$5,145.00

INCLUSIONS:

- 6 DAYS TUITION BY RENOWNED LANDSCAPE ARTIST & TUTOR, IDRIS MURPHY
- PRIVATE AIRPORT TRANSFERS
- PRIVATE TRANSFERS FROM KUNUNURRA TO EL QUESTRO & HOME VALLEY STATIONS RETURN
- 9 X NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- ALL MEALS LISTED IN ITINERARY (B,L,D)
- ART TRAIL IN MIRIMA NP & ORD RIVER CRUISE
- SUNSET TOUR & ABORIGINAL ROCK ART TOUR AT HOME VALLEY STATION
- 9 X DAYS TRANSPORT IN 4WD VEHICLES TO LOCATIONS OF INTEREST
- PAINTING DEMONSTRATIONS, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS & ARTIST'S CRITIQUE
- WORKSHOP HOSTED BY KERRI AINSWORTH (ART TRAVEL ADVENTURES FOUNDER)

EXCLUSIONS:

- AIRFARES
- TRAVEL INSURANCE
- ALCOHOLIC & SOFT DRINKS
- ART MATERIALS
- MEALS NOT LISTED IN ITINERARY

NOTE: Travel Insurance is required to cover the high costs of emergency medical evacuations and a reasonable level of fitness is required.

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$800 IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING

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