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OCEAN TOURS

TO
DERBY AND PORT DARWIN

BY
T.S.M.V. "KOOLINDA"



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For full particulars apply

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THE GREAT NORTH-WEST

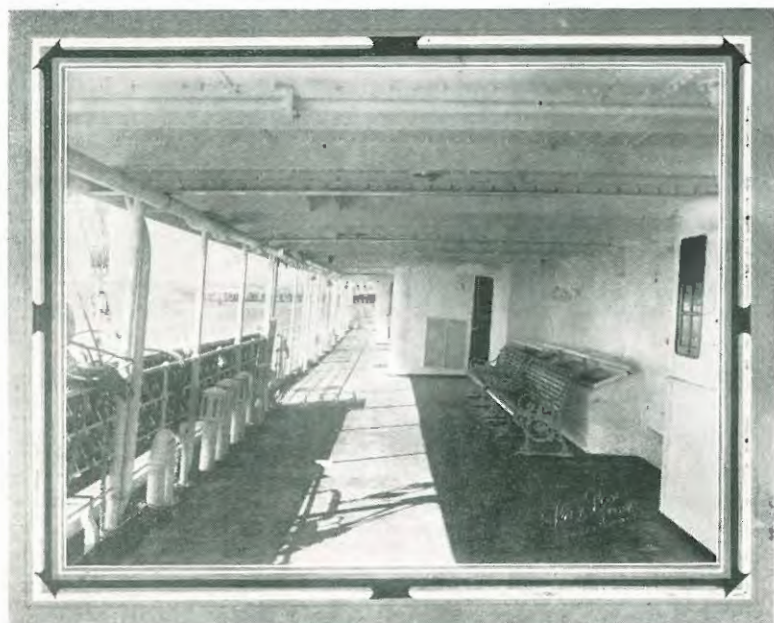


THE NORTH-WEST of Western Australia, comprising practically one-half of the State's territory, is still a *terra incognita* to ninety-five per cent. of the people of the South. Indeed, until the latter half of the last century it was unknown to all save the savages who roamed over its vast domains. Yet it lay for centuries in contiguity to lands teeming with life, for its northern shores reach almost to those tropic lands whose history is lost in the mists of time. Just over the rim of the warm blue seas are islands of mystery, antiquity and romance, to which travellers have gone ever since man learned to sail upon the bosom of the sea. But of the New World, of which we are to-day the inheritors, very little is known. Yet the North-West is also a land of mystery and romance, of beauty and of great unknown wealth. The journey along its coasts is one of enchantment and absorbing interest. Hundreds of years ago, mariners from the Old World sailed out of the Indian Sea in crazy craft and crept along the unknown and, to them, inhospitable coasts, some to disappear forever from the ken of their fellows, others to leave behind them historic records of their travels, and almost every mile of the journey from Fremantle to Port Darwin contains a geographical reminder of those early voyagers. As the tourist lounges on the deck of the swift and comfortably-equipped modern vessel and gazes at the sentinel points of history, he cannot but reflect in admiration of the great daring of those early adventurers, who, in primitive ships, and searching for a new prize of earth, missed the great treasure we to-day know as the North-West of Australia.

The Tourist Bureau has endeavoured to introduce the fascination of the North to tourists from the South. The special trips which have now been arranged with the State Shipping

Service offer an exceptional opportunity for anyone desiring to become acquainted with the North under the comfortable conditions of modern sea travelling, and at a minimum of expense. The tourist is assured that he will not lack for interest and entertainment, for the round trip from Fremantle to Port Darwin, covering nearly 5,000 miles, and occupying more than three weeks, presents new features at every point touched. The round trip to Derby takes 16 days. Moreover, as the greater portion of the journey is made through the calm waters of the tropics, it can have no terrors for those who do not ordinarily regard a sea voyage with pleasurable anticipation.

Deck games are provided on the after end of the promenade deck. A smoke room, with bar attached, will accommodate those who desire to spend their time more leisurely.



FOREWARD PORTION OF PROMENADE DECK.



CORNER OF LOUNGE MUSIC ROOM.



DINING ROOM.

The Ports of Call.

For the information of the prospective tourist, a brief record of the attractions at each of the ports visited by the tourist vessel is appended:—

GERALDTON.

The first port of call on the northerly run is Geraldton, which the tourist can also reach by rail if he or she so desires. Geraldton is fast increasing in importance as an overseas port, the great wheat and pastoral hinterland providing loading for vessels trading to the markets of the Old World. To meet this increasing business, a big scheme of harbour improvement is now in progress. In the brief time available whilst the vessel is in port, the tourist can reach many points of interest within, or adjacent to, the town.

AN ISLAND OF HISTORY.

Leaving Geraldton, the next point to invite attention is Cape Inscription, at the north end of Dirk Hartog Island, famous for the fact that Dirk Hartog landed there in 1616. The Island is a self-contained sheep station.

SHARK BAY.

Passing Cape Inscription, the vessel proceeds to Shark Bay, where Marine Products, Limited, have just commenced a shark fishing industry. Shark Bay is said to have obtained its name because of the great number of sharks noticed by the discoverer, these monsters being attracted by teeming millions of fish, which inhabit the waters and provide excellent sport. The Bay is marked by a number of identifications, and if one were to follow the coastline from the southern point of entrance to the port of Carnarvon, approximately 1,000 miles would have been traversed. Pearl shell fishing is also an industry carried on at Shark Bay.

CARNARVON.

Carnarvon is the port for the Gascoyne district, one of the best laid out towns of the North. The Gascoyne River diverges as it enters the sea, forming what is known as Babbage Island, from which the jetty, about a mile long, juts into the sea. The town is some two or three miles inland, and it is here that the tourist has his first glimpse of tropical, or semi-tropical agriculture. A steam tramway runs from the vessel to the town.

ONSLow (BEADON).

A run of approximately 280 miles from Carnarvon brings the traveller to Beadon, the new site of the old town of Onslow. Particular points of interest passed are the Whaling Station at Point Cloates and the most Westerly point of the run at North-West Cape.

The vessel berths at a new concrete pile wharf.

COSSACK.

The vessels anchors off Cossack Creek, and launches and lighters deal with passengers and cargo. The town (Roebourne) is fourteen miles away and it is not often possible for travellers to go so far during the comparatively short stay of the vessel. Formerly Point Samson jetty was the landing place, but in 1925 the jetty was destroyed by a "willy willy."

PORT HEDLAND.

The next port of call is Port Hedland, where portion of the Northern pearling fleet has its headquarters. On the run between Cossack and Port Hedland, Depuch Island is passed, the vessel anchoring off the island to discharge cargo into lighters for Balla Balla and Whim Creek. Here one has a visible reminder of the North-West willy-willy season, which is during the months of November to March, for the remains of the barque "Crown of England" are piled on the shores of the Island. Many years previously the steamer "Eddystone" met with a similar fate on the opposite side of the anchorage. The influence of the tremendous tides, which ebb and flow every 12 hours, is here apparent, and the stay in port is governed by the tidal movement.

A railway runs East out to Marble Bar, 114 miles distant.

BROOME.

From Port Hedland to Broome, the distance is 265 miles. To the Southerner, Broome is the best known port of the North-West, being the home of the great pearling industry. The town itself is very scattered, the first portion comprising the residential area of the white population, with the business portion adjoining, and at the other end are the business and living areas of the coloured population. Most of the houses are of bungalow style, being built to suit the climatic conditions, and are beautified by lawns and gardens of tropical trees and shrubs of different variety. The pearling industry, which had produced up to June 30, 1926, pearl shell valued at £6,870,636, and pearls valued at £2,208,689, employs a fluctuating population of several thousand people, including a large number of Asiatics.

The vessel berths at a jetty and remains for about 12 hours.

DERBY.

The run from Broome to Derby is 213 miles. Derby is a picturesque little port on the eastern shore of King Sound, the earliest recorded visit to which appears to be that of William Dampier about 1686, when he landed and repaired his ship, the "Cygnets," and beached her on the shore of the Bay that to-day bears his name. Derby is the port of the pastoral industry, and, as at other ports, a certain amount of tropical agriculture, particularly in cotton and bananas, has been attempted with varying success. Cattle for the Metropolitan market are shipped from this port.

WYNDHAM.

The next stopping place is Wyndham, the most northerly port of Western Australia, a distance of over 560 miles from Derby. The coast line between the two ports is particularly rugged and picturesque, the many islands passed close by being of absorbing interest. At the entrance to Cambridge Gulf stands La Crosse Island, and away to the south, behind the town, are what are known as the Bastian Hills, which rise to a height of 1,200 feet, and are peculiar for the almost inaccessible knolls, which cap the summits. The town itself depends mainly upon the annual operations of the Wyndham Meatworks, which provide an outlet for the cattle of the Kimberleys, and are well worth inspection. If time permits, a journey along the King River provides a remarkable and interesting break in the sea travelling. The country is exceedingly beautiful, the banks of the river being clothed with tropical growth, whilst towering above the stream are the peculiarly shaped hilltops. A spice of adventure is imparted to the river trip, because of the number of crocodiles which inhabit its waters. Wild game, such as kangaroos, turkeys, and native companion birds, are seen in large numbers along the banks of the river.

PORT DARWIN.

Port Darwin is the cosmopolitan port of the Northern Territory and, as such, provides material for decidedly interesting and instructive reflection. The harbour, with tropical growth reaching right down to the water's edge, has the appearance of a Pacific island shore, and in the town cocoanut palms and pawpaws flourish. Lovely gardens surround the Residency. Situate about five miles from the town are the Botanical Gardens, the main attraction of which is an avenue of cocoanut palms. On the way to the Gardens, Vestey's Meat Works are passed. The tourist has ample time to become acquainted with the town, its places of interest and, if desired, its mixed population. Chinamen seem to predominate, but, representatives of many nationalities can be seen in the streets.

SPORT.

From the time the vessel enters tropical waters, sport of various kinds is available for the tourist, although fishing, naturally, predominates. The waters of the North are alive with fish—from flying fish to whales—and if one tires of catching small fry, there are plenty of larger variety. Dugongs and water snakes are plentiful, and huge turtles invite the adventurous to emulate De Rougemont, and crocodile hunting is a form of sport unknown in the South. Inland from the towns an abundance of native game provides excellent shooting.

CLOTHING.

Intending tourists are advised to take a good supply of light clothing suitable for wear in the tropics.



M.V. "KOOLINDA" HIGH AND DRY ALONGSIDE BROOME JETTY AT LOW TIDE.