



Kimberley Society

Book Note

***Kimberley Cultural Trail*. Broome Arts & Music Foundation, Inc., Broome, 2005. Soft cover, 97 pages, colour illustrations, maps. ISBN 0-646-45391-2. RRP \$14.95.**

This book is a must not only for first-time visitors to the Kimberley but also for those who want to enhance their next visit. It showcases the region, with text compiled by Klari Kadar, numerous images assembled by Ruth Pearson, and information about language and music contributed by Bob Eagle. The images range from art and artists to buildings, people and scenery. There are also plenty of maps to show the location of the places mentioned in the book.

Kimberley Cultural Trail emphasizes indigenous culture and, for convenience, it divides the region into five geographical areas relevant to families of Aboriginal languages. That approach allows the book to present information about places, activities and people in a format that is both logical and practical.

In the first area, devoted to the Nyulnyulan languages, the cultural trail takes in Broome, Beagle Bay, Lombadina, Dampier Peninsula Tours, Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community, Myalls Bore, the Prison Boab Tree, Mowanjum, and Derby. The coverage of Dampier Land tours is excellent, with each descriptive passage accompanied by full contact details. If bushwalks and mud-crabbing don't appeal, the Outback Station Mail Run offered by Golden Eagle Airlines (Derby) might. Up to thirteen take-offs and landings in a single trip isn't my idea of fun but it certainly offers one way to see a lot of the Kimberley in a short time.

Area 2 (Bunuban family of languages) covers the country north and south of the Fitzroy River. The cultural trail takes in Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Darngku (Geikie Gorge), and Laarri Gallery. The gallery, situated in the Yiyili Community School, offers opportunities to meet artists and see them working.

Area 3 (Pama-Nyungan family of languages) extends across the southern Kimberley and along the Ord River into the Northern Territory. The cultural trail takes in Halls Creek, the China Wall, Old Halls Creek, Wolfe Creek Crater, Nyarna, Paruku Indigenous Protected Area, and Warlayirti Art Centre (Balgo). Visitors with the stamina to tackle the Tanami Road are welcome, on payment of a small fee, to camp at Nyarna (Lake Stretch), managed by the Mindibungu Aboriginal Community, or, further out, at Paruku (Lake Gregory), managed by the Walmajarri people.

Area 4 (Jarrakan family of languages) sweeps north-east to Cambridge Gulf with the cultural trail taking in Purnululu (Bungle Bungles), Warmun Art Centre, Doon Doon, Telegraph Hill, Wyndham, Zebra Rock Art Gallery, Kununurra, Mirima National Park, and Argyle Downs Homestead Museum. At Doon Doon, the Woolah Community's Tag-along Tours provide an opportunity for visitors who have 4WD vehicles to be taken to art sites, gorges, waterfalls, and fishing and swimming spots on the 400,000-hectare cattle station. Other tours operate out of Wyndham and Kununurra.

Area 5 (Worrorran family of languages) covers the central-north Kimberley where the cultural trail takes in rock art, the Gibb River Road, the Mitchell Plateau (Ngauwudu) and Kalumburu. Tours are available, and, for those who plan to stop off along the way, the Gibb River Road Express (a 4WD bus) sells a one-way ticket that allows unlimited stops over a three-month period.

Kimberley Cultural Trail can be purchased at the ABC shop in Broome, the Kimberley Bookshop in Broome, or direct from BAMF at bamf@westnet.com.au. Copies of the book will be available at the Kimberley Society meeting in February.

Cathie Clement (February 2006)