



**Media Release: 1 January 2011**

## **Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive**

Home Valley Station is offering its inaugural Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive from June 10 to July 12. “We offer a window into the past to a way of life that is now a great part of our cultural heritage, join us and live your dreams” – John Rodney “JR”, Pastoral Manager, Home Valley Station.

From \$3,805 pp, all-inclusive of Homestead & Stock Camp accommodation, all meals, most beverages, entertainment, cattle droving activities as per [Kimberley Heritage Cattle Muster Itinerary](#), and 4WD transfers. (w) [www.hvstation.com.au](http://www.hvstation.com.au) (t) +61-8-9161-4322



**This is JR – John Rodney**

Please consider for immediate release the following information for the new Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive, managed by Home Valley Station – now online and ready to sell... and a wonderful and exciting new product for WA and the Kimberley region. We are clearly taking on South Australia’s Great Australia Outback Cattle Drive, the all-new Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive is set to take our guests on an authentic journey into the past following the old stock routes and using the same stock camp locations as the old pioneers once did when moving cattle from the West to East Kimberley on route to the Port of Wyndham. This new Home Valley Station experience is an all-new annual event for WA and the Kimberley and we are certain it will become an Australian Icon experience for all Australians and our overseas visitors!

## Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive

"We offer a window into the past to a way of life that is now a great part of our cultural heritage, join us and live your dreams" - John Rodney, Pastoral Manager, Home Valley Station.

Home Valley Station welcomes you to make history with us when taking part on the Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive. Join the Home Valley Station drovers as you herd cattle along the famous Barclay Stock Route that links the West Kimberley from the Canning Stock Route to the Karunjie Track in the North East to the Port of Wyndham. Secure your spot and be ready to mount your horse riding high in your Australian stock saddle for a once in a lifetime experience in the Kimberley outback.

Introducing John Rodney, aka "JR", the boss drover who is responsible for all guests and his team of Drovers. Together JR will instil the importance of having fun and learning throughout the duration of the cattle drive while caring for the entire plan of horses and of course the welfare and well being of the herd of cattle.

This epic journey provides guests with an array of experiences including the immense beauty of the Kimberley landscapes and its natural wonder – from the unique Boab trees and other local flora to the technicoloured birdlife, curious mammals and ancient geological formations. The New York Valley area is a beautiful section of Home Valley Station which, combined with its two Outstations of Durack River Station and Karunjie Station, offers an enormous 3.5 million acres.

With a blanket of stars to gaze upon while drifting off to sleep in your comfy swag, to the sweet smell of spinifex warming in the early morning sunlight, your senses will be heightened by the adventure and excitement of this epic 3 day cattle drive through quintessential Australian outback terrain.

The entire cattle drive itinerary, including transfers from Kununurra, hospitality services, entertainment and overnight accommodation while at each stock camp and back at the Home Valley Station Homestead has been designed to ensure our guests are very well catered for. All at Home Valley Station, from its managers and staff to its Indigenous trainees and Traditional Owners welcome our guests in advance of what is set to become a truly legendary event. Be quick to secure your place, limited dates and availability applies with a maximum of 20 riders on each leg of the cattle drive, minimum numbers also applies.

2011 marks the inaugural year of this annual event that is designed to educate, entertain and inspire our guests as they experience the remote pastoral landscapes and history of northern Australia that have strong associations and social values for local Indigenous communities and Traditional Owners.

For more information contact (t) +61-8 9161 4322 or [email Chris Fenech](mailto:chris.fenech@homevalleystation.com.au).







## Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive Itinerary

### *Day 1 - Arrival, introduction and overnight accommodation and hospitality at Home Valley Station Homestead*

Guests are welcomed at their selected Kununurra hotel or at the Kununurra airport prior to a 4WD road transfer to Home Valley Station.

Upon arrival at the Homestead, guests are greeted and assisted with check-in and porter service to their Guesthouse Room. Guests are then provided with an overview of the Homestead and the Station's facilities and are encouraged to cool down with a swim, or explore the grounds of the Homestead.

6.00pm - Pre-dinner drinks are provided at the Dusty Bar & Grill along with a special welcome address by the Manager - Daniel Lukritz, followed by an Itinerary Briefing (cattle drive preparation).

7.00pm - Dinner tonight will be served at the Dusty Bar & Grill. Live entertainment is provided both on stage and by the campfire featuring Dave Birch from local Indigenous band Rodeworx or solo artist Peter Brandy along with Mick Tippo on didgeridoo.

### *Day 2 - Starting point of the Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive*

7.00am - In readiness for the epic adventure ahead, guests are invited to tuck into a hearty breakfast at the Dusty Bar & Grill.

Guests will be transferred by 4WD along the famous Gibb River Road to the starting point of the Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive. Over the course of the morning all guests will undergo a horsemanship tuition session with John Rodney "JR" and be formally introduced to the team of Drovers, Wagon Drivers and Farriers who will accompany the guests on the cattle drive through New York Valley. JR will also explain the objective of this pastoral-based activity whereby the team of drovers and guests will cocher muster the mob through wild Shorthorn cattle country in an attempt to clear-up New York Valley's feral cattle numbers.

After a freshly made lunch at the stockyards it is time to get stuck into the real action on horseback. All guests take part in the handover and counting of the cattle marking the beginning of the cattle drive. Allocated their positions around the mob of cattle, it's time to get rolling as the drive descends into the picturesque New York Valley. Home Valley's experienced drovers will accompany each guest at the point, flank and tail of the herd as the mob is moved deeper into the valley, following the old Barclay stock route.

It is here guests will begin to appreciate the grandeur of the rugged landforms of the valley with its towering escarpments dotted with ancient boabs. The herd will travel the shortest leg of the drive today. Well before daylight starts to fade the drovers and guests must yard the cattle for the evening. With the cattle secured at water, as the dust settles and the sun sets, guests are invited to set up camp for the evening.

All will enjoy a well earned dinner and drinks around a roaring campfire, with live entertainment. After dinner and at leisure, guests can retire to their swag and while listening to the night time calls of the surrounding wildlife, drift off into a peaceful sleep under a blanket of Kimberley stars.

### *Day 3 - Full Day Cattle Drive*

On day three guests will awake to the pure beauty of first light offered up in the outback and the sweet smell of spinifex warming in the sun, not to forget the pleasure of a breakfast being cooked over the campfire. Following breakfast, the team will pack up camp and embark on the first full day of droving cattle.

Today the team of drovers and guests will begin to move the mob of cattle, up to 15km per day, for the next three days. Smoko will be provided in saddle bags for guests to graze on throughout the morning while continuing on until stopping for a well earned rest and lunch.

Today the group will encounter some of the more difficult terrain – including rocky rises, steep embankments and sandy creek beds – putting your cattle driving skills to the test. The trail will take the drovers, guests and their cattle along the exact same journey of the Kimberley pioneers who walked cattle through this country decades before.

Arrival at the second camp will be accomplished by 4pm, with the cattle yarded and watered for the night once again. Gourmet outback dinner fare with cold drinks and live entertainment accompanied by a host of new stories will be shared around the campfire prior to another night in a comfy swag under the stars.

### *Day 4 - Full Day Cattle Drive*

With the experience of another glorious sunrise in the Kimberley outback, an early morning breakfast is served to all drovers and guests prior to the second full day of the cattle drive.

Once again, today is all about putting what has been learnt into practice to guide the mob through a breathtaking section of New York Valley – featuring an amazing gully of ancient boabs. This tricky section will require all of the guests' newly acquired horsemanship and droving skills to maintain the mob on course to reach tonight's camp.

At each stage of the cattle drive local Indigenous Drovers will provide guests with an insight into the meaning of their country that the cattle drive passes through, and the link between the "old-time" pastoralists that impacted greatly on their families lives, today holding great pride in what it is like to be known as a Kimberley Stockman.

This evening's dinner and entertainment enjoys a cultural theme including a combination of traditional and modern "Bush Tucker" cuisine followed by a variety of Indigenous performances and storytelling.

### *Day 5 - Completion point of the Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive, return to the Home Valley Station Homestead*

This morning the team will enjoy a hearty breakfast before embarking on the final day of the cattle drive.

With the objective of the cattle drive complete, guests involved with this stage of the coacher muster pastoral-based tourism activity hand over their mount to their new found Drover friends and are escorted by 4WD back to the Home Valley Station Homestead.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided throughout the day. The final night of the cattle drive is a huge celebration, with dinner and drinks at the Dusty Bar & Grill and live entertainment both on stage and by the nearby campfire.

We cannot give away the surprises in store to mark the end of the cattle drive – but it's an event not to be missed!

Accommodation tonight is in the Homestead Guesthouse Rooms.

#### *Day 6 - Departure, transfer to Kununurra*

After breakfast at leisure at the Dusty Bar & Grill guests are transferred by 4WD to Kununurra – airport or next accommodation.

Guests are welcome to stay on at Home Valley Station for extra nights (at additional cost) and enjoy other activities provided at the property. Pre and post itineraries are available on application and include Barramundi Fishing, trips to the Bungle Bungle Range, Argyle Diamond Mine and Lake Argyle, Ord Valley highlights, Kalumburu and Mitchell Plateau – please add your additional requests on the Booking Form provided.

*Please note:* \*Special Dietary Requirements – please let us know if we must cater for any special dietary requirements.

\*\*Upgrading your accommodation to a Grass Castle Suite costs \$210 extra - per room, per night, subject to availability.

#### *Price Schedule and Dates*

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Day 6</b>
Overnight Home Valley Station	New York Valley	New York Valley	New York Valley	New York Valley/ Overnight Home Valley Station	Check Out Home Valley Station
June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15
June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22
June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29
June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5
July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12

**Cost per person twin share: \$3,805.**

**Cost per person single: \$4,045.**

Prices are per person, per itinerary, all-inclusive of Homestead Guesthouse Room accommodation & Stock Camp accommodation, all meals, most beverages, entertainment, horse & tack, horsemanship lessons, cattle droving activities as per Kimberley Heritage Cattle Muster Itinerary, and 4WD transfers to and from Kununurra and within Home Valley Station.

Subject to availability, normal terms and conditions apply. HV8 tour guides' discretion applies to all locations visited, valid 10 June to July 12 2011.

All rates are subject to availability and may change without notice.

Thank you in advance for your support, I trust this meets with your approval.

## Added Resources:

Booking Form: <http://www.hvstation.com.au/kimberley-heritage-cattle-drive/khcd-reservation-form.html>

Getting There: <http://www.hvstation.com.au/travelling-in-the-kimberley/getting-to-the-kimberley.php>

The Drover's Map: <http://www.hvstation.com.au/kimberley-heritage-cattle-drive/more-drovers-map.html>

Our History: <http://www.hvstation.com.au/about/more-history.html>

Gallery: <http://www.hv8.com.au/browseCategory.php?cat=heritage>

Historical Images: <http://www.hvstation.com.au/images/historical/gallery.php>

IMAGE LIBRARY – high resolution images <http://www.hv8.com.au/index.php>

**Happy travels & regards,**

*(no signature due to electronic transmission)*

**Chris Fenech**

**Director of Sales, Marketing & Public Relations**

**Home Valley Station**

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3.5 million acres of Kimberley wilderness, including Out Stations - Durack River Station & Karunje Station - Dusty Bar & Grill - Live Country Music - Luxurious Grass Castle Suites - Homestead Guesthouse Rooms - Swimming Pools - Eco Tents - Riverside Camping - The Kimberley Heritage Cattle Drive - Barra Fishing - Boating - Cattle Mustering & Drafting - Bronco Branding Displays - Overnight Packsaddle Treks - Scenic Horse Rides - Horsemanship Shows & Clinics - Children's Pony Rides - Darraru Cultural Tour - Waterfalls - Ancient Gorge Walks - Birdwatching - Bush Tucker Tours - Champagne Sunsets - 4WD Touring - or simply relax...

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