

CRUISING ADVENTURE

Off the Charts

Some of the planet's most spectacular spots are also among the most isolated. For travelers who want to see charismatic wildlife and awe-inspiring scenery in places that are difficult to access—without sacrificing comfort or security—an adventure cruise is the way to go. Here are a few of our favorite departures.

—Eric Rosen

On cruises with **True North**, passengers scout out Australia's King George River and its waterfalls.

1 Wild Waters

On the **National Geographic** "Alaska's Inside Passage" itinerary, travelers discover secluded coves using landing craft and kayaks, spot brown bears and orcas, and listen to humpback whale song over the ship's hydrophone.

The "Kimberley Ultimate" sailings with **True North** explore Australia's extreme northwest, where adventures range from helicopter flights over colossal waterfalls and swims in jade-green billabongs to views of the oldest rock art on Earth.

2 Animal Attraction

Trade a traditional land-only safari for **AmaWaterways'** "Wildlife and the Falls," which includes a four-night cruise along Botswana's Chobe River before visiting Zambia's Victoria Falls and South Africa's Kruger National Park.

In Peru, voyages aboard **Aqua Expeditions' Aria Amazon** stop at jungle villages and offer up-close encounters with pink river dolphins and toothy caimans. Riverside trees are home to sloths and several monkey species.

3 Below the Surface

Sailing to the remote reaches of Indonesia's West Papua, the five-cabin **Alila Purnama** gives scuba divers a chance to swim along the colorful reefs of Raja Ampat and with whale sharks in the protected waters of Cenderawasih Bay.

Explorer Ventures' Humboldt Explorer and new **Majestic Explorer**, each at 16 guests, offer bucket-list Galápagos dives with sightings of hammerhead sharks, manta rays, and penguins.