

PASPALLEY RATHMINES EXPEDITION 2019  
ITINERARY





RATHMINES CATALINA FESTIVAL  
YOUR EXCLUSIVE INVITATION

Please join us for this once-in-a-lifetime adventure across Australia in a vintage Amphibious Grumman Mallard.

We look forward to welcoming you.



# THE JOURNEY

Experience a once-in-a-lifetime adventure and cross Australia in a Vintage Amphibious Grumman Mallard

DARWIN

MT ISA (FOSSIL CENTRE)

LONGREACH (QANTAS MUSEUM)

HAMILTON ISLAND (WHITEHAVEN, GREAT BARRIER REEF)

FRASER ISLAND (LAKE MCKENZIE, RAINFOREST)

LAKE MACQUARIE RATHMINES

  
PASPALEY  
— AVIATION —





SUNDAY 19 MAY

- TBA      Arrival into Rathmines  
*Your Paspaley host will meet you at the hotel and welcome you to Rathmines*
- 17:30     All guests to meet in hotel lobby to walk to dinner
- 18:00     Welcome Dinner and Drinks Rathmines





## MONDAY 20 MAY

- 07:00 Breakfast at Hotel
- 07:45 Meet in hotel Lobby to embark on an incredible adventure aboard the majestic Grumman Mallard VH-PPT
- 08:00 Car transport from Hotel to Rathmines Aircraft Ramp
- 08:30 Depart Rathmines in Grumman Mallard for Fraser Island
- 11:00 Arrive Fraser Island and transfer to Kingfisher Bay Resort

*Visit Fraser Island to be dwarfed by the ancient, gravity defying rainforests growing out of only sand and to explore the freshwater lakes and spectacular sand formations of one of the most incredible islands on earth.*

*World Heritage-listed Fraser Island has the absolute best that one island can offer – cool towering rainforests to walk through; over 100 freshwater lakes to swim including the iconic Lake McKenzie and huge sand blows to climb.*

- 11:30 Kingfisher Bay Resort for lunch at Maheno Restaurant
- 12:00 4 hour Fraser Island 4WD adventure encompassing both Lake McKenzie and Central Station

*Located 100 metres above sea level, Lake McKenzie on Fraser Island is one of the most beautiful and well-known freshwater lakes in Australia. The lake is a “perched lake” meaning it exists well above the water table and is thus comprised of pure rainwater only.*

- 16:30 Sunset Drinks at Sunset Beach
- 19:00 Seabelle Restaurant Degustation Menu



## TUESDAY 21 MAY

- 07:30 Breakfast at Kingfisher Bay Resort
- 08:30 Transfer from Fraser Island to the Grumman Mallard for departure to Hamilton Island
- 09:00 Grumman Mallard Flying Boat departs
- 11:30 Arrive in the beautiful Whitsunday Islands, landing on Hamilton Island
- 11:45 Transfer to the Reef View Hotel for check-in and lunch
- 13:00 Board the Grumman Mallard for a scenic flight to Whitehaven Beach
- Whitsunday Island's famous beach stretches for seven kilometres and is washed by swirls of turquoise, blue and green water. The sand is 98 per cent pure white silica, which gives it a brilliant, near luminescent colour.*
- Spend 3 hours on one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Fly by Mallard Flying Boat to Whitehaven Beach whilst taking in the breathtaking aerial view of the Whitsunday Islands and Hill Inlet. Soak up the sun at Whitehaven and enjoy lunch baskets and sparkling wine.*
- 16:00 Board the Grumman Mallard to depart Whitehaven back to Hamilton Island
- 17:00 Transfer to One Tree Hill for Sunset drinks
- 19:00 Transfer to the Bommie Restaurant for the Chef's Daily Tasting Menu Dinner



## WEDNESDAY 22 MAY

- 06:30 Breakfast in the hotel
- 07:30 Meet in hotel lobby for transfer to the Airport
- 07:45 Check in to Hamilton Island Air
- 08:00 Departure with Hamilton Island Air on a Reef Comber Tour in a Cessna Caravan  
*Enjoy the stunning Whitsundays and the Great Barrier Reef on our own reef glass bottom boat. You will fly over the Whitsundays before arriving at Hardy Lagoon and transferring onto the Coral Gardens Explorer glass bottom boat, with only a select few guests. You will spend approximately 2 hours experiencing Hardy Lagoon including snorkelling and glass bottom boat tour before boarding the seaplane for your scenic flight back to Hamilton Island.*
- 11:00 Return to Hamilton Island
- 12:30 Late check out of hotel for departure
- 13:00 Board the Grumman Mallard for departure to Longreach
- 15:00 Arrival into Longreach after a short 1.8 hour flight
- 15:15 Transfer to the Saltbush Retreat
- 16:00 Starlight Cruise and Sounds and Light Thomson River Cruise & Riverside Dinner



## THURSDAY 23 MAY

- 06:30 Breakfast Baskets on the balcony at Saltbush Retreat
- 07:15 Check out of hotel
- 07:30 Qantas Museum and Jet Platinum Experience

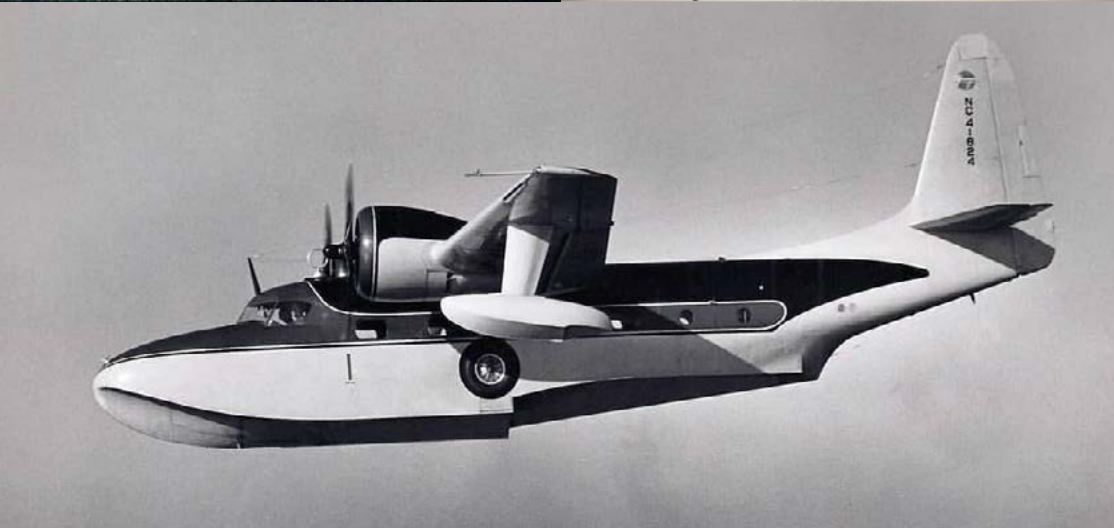
*The experience starts with a three-hour guided tour of the Boeing 747 and 707 including the Jet Tour, access to the private rooms of the 707, a walk around the exterior of the Super Constellation and a Wing Walk on the wings of the Boeing 747 and 707, the only place in the world to be able to offer such an experience!*

- 10:30 Depart Longreach in the Grumman Mallard
- 12:30 Arrive Mt Isa  
*Transported to the Fossil Centre for lunch and a discovery tour.*
- 14:30 Depart Mt Isa for the final leg in the Grumman Mallard
- 16:00 Arrive Darwin via a splash and dash on the Darwin Harbour.  
3.6 hour flight time from Mt Isa

*Disembark the magnificent vintage G-73T Grumman Mallard after taking in the beautiful city skyline of Darwin.*

- 16:30 Car transport from Darwin Paspaley Aviation Hangar to Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
- 17:30 Guests to meet in lobby of hotel to walk to dinner
- 18:00 Final dinner and drinks at Char





## G-73AT GRUMMAN MALLARD HISTORY

Originally designed in 1944, Grumman built 59 aircraft between 1946 and 1951. The G-73 was a step up from the smaller Goose and Widgeon aircraft with larger passenger capacity, additional fuel in wing float tanks, a double stepped hull, fully stressed skin and tricycle undercarriage. Although the Mallard was initially expected to serve in small harbour-based airlines, its major operations extended into the corporate and private sector, providing a level of luxury air travel for those that preferred an amphibious option to their flying destinations.

Powered by the Pratt & Whitney R-1340 radial, the Mallard soon established itself as a reliable, stable, strongly constructed aircraft and was liked by all that flew it. During the 1960s the idea of re-engineering the aircraft produced the modified Frakes G-73T Turbo Mallard, the first aircraft to be upgraded to Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6 engines.

The Mallard's development continued in Australia, when the three Grumman Mallards of Paspaley based in Darwin underwent Paspaley's G-73AT Turbo Mallard conversion and upgrade, which saw a renewing of the airframe life and installation of new engine nacelles housing PT6A-34 turbines, plus the associated engine instrumentation and modernised systems. The new turbine engines also drive 4-blade Hartzell propellers which improve performance of the aircraft both on water and when airborne. Additional modifications are constantly being implemented by Paspaley such as updated avionics and navigation systems.

Original airframe serial numbers J22, J23 and J26 are now registered to Paspaley Pearling Company as VH-PPE, VH-PPI and VH-PPPT, all having been constructed in 1947. Paspaley purchased VH-PPPT in 1994, which was originally owned by Christian Dior and spent its early days flying around Europe. All three aircraft are now primary utilised for flights throughout the Top End servicing Paspaley Pearling Company's extensive pearling operation.



## RATHMINES CATALINA FESTIVAL

All eyes will gaze to the sky when the 12th Catalina Festival soars over Rathmines on Sunday 19th May 2019.

The Rathmines Catalina Festival is held each year to celebrate the rich history of the WWII RAAF Base. Catalina flying boats arrived at the Rathmines RAAF Base in 1941 and it became the largest RAAF flying boat base.

The popular annual event attracts thousands of flying boat enthusiasts and families who come together to celebrate the Catalina and the rich history of the Rathmines WWII RAAF Base which by 1941, was the largest RAAF flying boat facility in the southern hemisphere. The Rathmines WWII RAAF Base was home to more than 3,000 personnel during WWII. Now in its 12th year, the festival promotes the significance of the Base.

Set on the western shore of Lake Macquarie at Rathmines Park the festival is one of largest in Lake Macquarie. With entertainment for the whole family, crowds are invited to enjoy live music, a classic car show and shine, market stalls, kids' activities and much, much more in a commemorative nod to Rathmines' unique history.

The highlight of the festival is the spectacular Paul Bennet air show featuring a formation aerobatic display that will have visitors in awe. Prepare to see breathtaking stunts and flying manoeuvres.





PASPALEY  
— AVIATION —