



Green turtles mating in the shallow waters of Ashmore Reef.

If you are only going to do one pelagic in your life then this is it!

A 9 day jaunt out into the seas north west of Darwin in search of cetaceans, sea snakes, seabirds and turtles. Sailing through reefs and over banks where we hope to see over 35 species of seabird, around 10 species of cetacean, in excess of 6 species of sea-snake and if we are lucky 3 species of turtle. A truly magical journey.



Olive-headed sea snake and an unidentified fish with the same patterning.



Matsudaira's Storm Petrel showing characteristic white flashes in the primaries that distinguish it from similar species.

All photographs courtesy of Simon Mustoe



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NORTH-WEST SHELF AUSTRALIA-PELAGIC



Fraser's Dolphin bow riding



Spinner dolphins breaching on the Sahul Banks.

Day 1 -21st September:

- Arrive in Darwin, meet guide and board the **AURIGA BAY**. The tide will determine the departure time but we hope to be away some time in the evening.

Days 2 - 8 - 22nd - 28th :

- Spent at sea traveling from Darwin out into the Timor Sea northwest to Ashmore Reef and across the Sahul Banks, an incredibly rich area for seabirds, sea snakes and dolphins. On the way back we will loop south into deeper water looking for seabirds like Tahiti Petrel and the scarce but regular Jouanin's Petrel before heading back to Darwin
- Matsudaira's Storm Petrel is almost guaranteed and other sea birds include Bulwer's and Leach's Petrel, Streaked Shearwater, Swinhoe's Storm Petrel several species of tern plus Red -tailed and possibly White-tailed Tropicbirds, both frigatebirds, skuas, and boobies are amongst the birds we will be watching for and of course, at this time of year, we have the chance of some interesting migrants crossing the Timor Sea.
- About 15 species of whales and dolphins have been seen in the area with 8-10 being seen each trip. Usually the smaller whales such as Melon-headed Whale are the most common but sometimes exotics such as Dwarf Sperm and Blue Whale are seen.
- Dolphin's which may be seen include Indo - Pacific Humpback near Darwin. Spinner and, what is possibly a new species of Bottlenose Dolphin, are abundant. Risso's, Rough-toothed and Fraser's Dolphins are also distinct possibilities.
- Turtles which may be seen include Loggerhead, Flat-backed and Hawksbills, particularly across the Sahul Banks .
- With 25 species of sea snake in the area we hope to see at least 6 including Spectacled, Olive-headed, Golden and Stokes Sea Snake.

Day 9 - 29th September:

- Return to Darwin and disembark late afternoon. Overnight in Darwin hotel.

Cost : AU\$4890.00 pp (twin share)

This includes 8 nights / 8 days at sea with all meals form dinner on day 1 to dinner on Day 9. 1 nights accommodation in Darwin

It does not include flights, visas, insurance, drinks, any extra nights accommodation though we are happy to arrange this for you.