



Information on The Horizontal Falls

The Horizontal Falls

The Horizontal Falls is a natural phenomenon that is tide dependent and the flow varies. We fly every day of the year and do not guarantee the amount of water flowing through the Horizontal Falls at the time and on the day of your tour.

The Horizontal Falls is the name given to a natural phenomenon on the coast of the Kimberley region in Western Australia.

The Horizontal Falls is a fast-moving tidal flow through two narrow, closely aligned gorges of the McLarty Range, located in Talbot Bay. The direction of the flow reverses with each change of tide. As tides in the Kimberley can reach 10 metres, a peak tide gives rise to a significant difference in the sea level on either side of each gorge.

The northern, most seaward gorge (16°22'35"S 123°57'34"E) is 20 metres wide and the southern, more inland gorge (16°22'59"S 123°57'29"E) is 12 metres. Above each of the gorges are natural reservoirs between six and eight kilometres long which fill and empty with seawater through the gorge openings. The inner gorge is also partly fed by fresh water from Poulton Creek.

As the flow varies with the tide, we cannot guarantee that every time we view them, they will be flowing at their peak. The flow at the Horizontal Falls is very small during neap tide.

Neap Tide

Neap tide occurs when the difference between high and low tide is least; the lowest level of high tide. Neap tide comes twice a month, in the first and third quarters of the moon. When it is neap tide, the flow at the Horizontal Falls is very small, as there is not much difference between high and low tide, resulting in little water movement through the gaps.

Horizontal Falls, Neap Tide and Kimberley Aviation Air Safaris

Most of our air safaris include a fly over the Horizontal Falls.

The Irresistible Islands half-day air safari is the only air safari where we can time it best to experience good tidal flow at the Horizontal Falls (except during neap tide). This is because we can alter our departure time each day to best suit the tidal flow. As our full day air safaris are too jam packed with other features, including ground components and tours, we are unable to alter our departure time to best suit the tidal flow at the Horizontal Falls.

During neap tides we fly, too. We view the Horizontal Falls during calm water. The scenery is spectacular and the islands and Kimberley coast is divine.