



# Coates Wildlife Tours

15 DAY  
FLINDERS RANGE & LAKE EYRE BASIN  
*Camping* EXPEDITION

Alice Springs to Adelaide

1st May - 15th May 2012



## Highlights:

Wilpena Pound - Coongie Lake (Innamincka) - Birdsville  
(Goyders Lagoon) - Lake Eyre - Coober Pedy - Painted Desert

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Join us as we take in the spectacular scenery and geological wonders of the southern Flinders Range and the massive expanse of Lake Eyre.

After the prolonged wet of the past two years and the resulting explosion of wildlife activity in the region, we expect to see a diverse display of flora and fauna throughout the trip. We expect many of the birding and wildlife highlights to be found at Coongie Lake, Goyders Lagoon and Frome Creek.

We'll visit some of Australia's iconic outback towns, including William Creek, Coober Pedy, Birdsville and Innamincka. We'll also see some historic sites of explorers Burke and Wills. These will include Burke's Grave and the Dig Tree.

During this fifteen day outback adventure we will travel on three of Australia's best known outback tracks - the Strzelecki Track, the Birdsville Track and the Oodnadatta Track.

## Itinerary

**Day 1**            **1 May**            **Alice Springs - Cadney Park**  
We'll have an early start this morning as we travel on the Sturt Highway, heading for Cadney Park.  
**Accommodation:**            **Campsite, Cadney Park**            **LD**

**Day 2**            **2 May**            **Cadney Park - Painted Desert - Coober Pedy**  
Today we'll head to the spectacular Painted Desert. We'll then travel to Coober Pedy and have a look around this interesting town.  
**Accommodation:**            **Campsite, Coober Pedy**            **BLD**

**Day 3**            **3 May**            **Coober Pedy - William Creek - Coward Springs**  
Today you'll have the opportunity to take an optional flight over Lake Eyre at William Springs.

The Coward Springs area offers us the opportunity to visit some mound springs. These springs played a large part in enabling European explorers to open up the area.

**Accommodation:**            **Campsite, Coward Springs**            **BLD**

**Day 4**            **4 May**            **Coward Springs - Maree - Mulloorina Station**  
Today we'll skirt around Lake Eyre South, calling into the old abandoned railway siding of Curdimurka.

After calling into Maree for some fresh provisions, we'll follow the Old Ghan Railway Line, where we'll see ruins of old stations and railway bridges.

Our campsite at Mullorina Station is right on the banks of the Frome River. This afternoon we'll explore the wildlife around the billabong.

**Accommodation:**            **Bush Camp, Mullorina Station**            **BLD**

**Day 5**            **5 May**            **Mulloorina Station**  
Today we'll explore around our campsite, situated on the banks of Frome Creek. We'll also investigate the Goyder Channel and the eastern side of Lake Eyre North.

**Accommodation:**            **Bush Camp, Mulloorina Station**            **BLD**

**Day 6**            **6 May**            **Mulloorina Station - Maree - Mungerannie**  
Today we'll continue our trip on the Birdsville Track, travelling into Maree and then on to Mungerannie.

**Accommodation:**            **Campsite, Mungerannie**            **BLD**

**Day 7**            **7 May**            **Mungerannie - Birdsville**  
We'll leave Mungerannie this morning and head to Goyders Lagoon.

This afternoon we'll move on to our campsite at Birdsville. Tonight's dinner will be at the Birdsville Hotel - a great place to experience true outback hospitality.

**Accommodation:**            **Campsite, Birdsville**            **BL**

**Day 8**            **8 May**            **Birdsville - Innamincka**  
Our camp is situated on the banks of a wildlife filled billabong, which is a perfect place for an early morning birding walk. Today we'll travel to Innamincka via Cordillo Downs Station. We will spend time during the day exploring the many creeks on our way.

**Accommodation:**            **Campsite, Innamincka (Burke's Grave Campsite)**            **BLD**

**Day 9**            **9 May**            **Innamincka - Lake Coongie**  
Leaving early this morning, today we'll head to Lake Coongie. We'll visit the Dig Tree and Burke's grave - two great sites which are part of our Australian history.

**Accommodation:**            **Bush Camp, Lake Coongie**            **BLD**

**Day 10**            **10 May**            **Lake Coongie**  
Today we'll spend the day exploring the area around the lake, looking for the wildlife that has been drawn to the area with the arrival of water.

**Accommodation:**            **Bush Camp, Lake Coongie**            **BLD**

**Day 11**            **11 May**            **Lake Coongie - Innamincka - Montecollina Bore**  
After breakfast today we'll pack up and travel on the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka. We'll then head out to Montecollina Bore. There will be time this afternoon to study the wildlife that is found around the bore's wetland.

**Accommodation:**                      **Bush Camp, Montecollina Bore**                      **BLD**

**Day 12**            **12 May**            **Montecollina Bore - Copley**  
Early morning birding around the bore is a great way to start the day! Today we'll travel to Copley.

**Accommodation:**                      **Campsite, Copley**                      **BLD**

**Day 13**            **13 May**            **Copley - Wilpena Pound**  
Today we leave Copley and drive through the Flinders Ranges to Wilpena Pound. We'll visit Brackina Gorge and see a magnificent array of shale, limestone and quartzite. There are also ruins of early shepherds huts here, that give an insight into the hard times endured by the early settlers. Our drive also provides spectacular scenery and some great wildlife spotting opportunities.

**Accommodation:**                      **Campsite, Wilpena Pound**                      **BLD**

**Day 14**            **14 May**            **Wilpena Pound**  
Today we'll explore the area around Wilpena Pound. Wilpena Pound is a well known geological feature with massive quartzite outlines that show its basin shape. The areas we'll explore within the Flinders Range National Park are a photographers paradise!

**Accommodation:**                      **Campsite, Wilpena Pound**                      **BLD**

**Day 15**            **15 May**            **Wilpena Pound - Adelaide**  
We'll have an early start this morning as we depart Wilpena Pound and head south to Adelaide. We will spend time in Port Augusta at the Wadlata Centre, where there is a great historical display based on the Lake Eyre region.

You will be transferred to your chosen accommodation on our arrival in Adelaide around mid-afternoon. **BL**

**NOTE:** The above itinerary may be varied according to conditions or advice at the time.

### **Tour Costs**

**Cost:**                                      \$5,585.00 per person in Coates lead vehicles  
   \$2,825.00 per person in Tag Along vehicles  
   (two passengers per vehicle, maximum of 2 vehicles)

**Departs:**                                  Alice Springs      1 May 2012  
**Finishes:**                                Adelaide            15 May 2012

**Max No. of Participants:**            10 passengers + 2 crew.

### **Tour Payments**

**Deposit:**                                  At time of booking                      \$500.00 per person  
**Final Payment:**                        60 days before departure

**Note:** The deposit is non refundable and the final payment is non refundable if canceled within 60 days of the departure date. Travel Insurance covering all payments is available and is strongly recommended.

## Discounts

The following discounts are available (discounts cannot be combined):

### EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

5% discount if booked and paid for in full 4 months before departure.

### GROUP BOOKING DISCOUNT

7.5% discount if four or more people book together and pay in full 4 months before departure.

### MULTIPLE TOUR BOOKING DISCOUNT

7.5% discount if more than one tour is booked in the same year (discount applies to the second and any subsequent tours).

**Please note:**           Discounts cannot be combined;  
                                  Discounts are only available on bookings made directly with Coates.

## Included

- Two well-maintained 4WD vehicles;
- Two crew members - a Naturalist/Driver Guide and Driver/Cook;
- Easy to erect dome tents and camp chairs with armrests;
- A self-inflating air mattress and stretcher bed;
- All eating utensils;
- Meals as per itinerary B (breakfast), L (lunch), D (dinner);
- Campsite fees;
- Morning teas;
- All national park entrance fees;
- Travel permits as required;

## Tag Along Participants

If requested when booking we can supply tents, armchairs and eating utensils but they will need to be carried in your own vehicle.

## Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows;
- Sleeping bags (can be hired from us for \$33.00 each);
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to Adelaide and from Alice Springs;
- Pre and post tour accommodation;
- All other private expenses (e.g. laundry, telephone calls, camera batteries);
- Entrance fees or activity costs other than those included above.

## Tour Information

Lead vehicle passengers: **Lead vehicle passengers will be collected from their central Alice Springs accommodation around 7.30 am.**  
Tag Along Participants: **Meet at the entrance to the MacDonnell Range Holiday Park at 7.00 am**

Naturalist Guide: TBA

Driver Guide: TBA

### Vehicle & Equipment:

Two Nissan Patrol 4WD's with trailers or similar. All the necessary camping equipment is provided. Passengers are to supply their own sleeping bags and pillows. (Sleeping bag can be hired for \$33.00).

### Accommodation:

Is a combination of bush camps and campsites.

Bush camps are at locations chosen by the tour guide for their suitability and natural benefits. There are usually no facilities other than a long drop bush toilet there. We do carry adequate water for washing.

Private campsites vary - from providing full facilities which include ablution blocks, to sites which have only a long drop toilet.

National Park Campsites are operated by National Park managers. They have a mix of flushing or long drop toilets, fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some provide showers.

### Meals:

All meals are included throughout the tour - ie breakfast, lunch, dinner and morning teas. There will also be a plentiful supply of fresh fruit available throughout the day. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for. Please contact the office if you have a dietary requirement, as a surcharge may apply.

### Trek Grading:

We will undertake light bush walking on most days. All walks are optional and will be able to be conducted at your own pace. There may also be some optional rock scrambling.

### Weather:

The weather at this time of the year is usually dry, with a minimum average daily temperature of 29 degrees Celsius. The nights are much cooler and have been know to drop to approx. 7 degrees Celsius. There may also be a risk of showers as we leave Adelaide.

### Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information sent to you about one month before departure. Generally, comfortable casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts are suitable for during the day and warmer jumpers and jackets may be needed for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity.

To make a booking or further information please contact  
Tom or Sylvia Grove at Coates Wildlife Tours:

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