



Coates Wildlife Tours

15 DAY
FLINDERS RANGE & LAKE EYRE BASIN
Camping EXPEDITION

Adelaide to Alice Springs

22nd May - 5th June 2012



Highlights:

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

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** **22 May** **Adelaide - Wilpena Pound**
We'll have an early start this morning as we depart Adelaide and head north for Wilpena Pound. We will spend time in Port Augusta visiting the Wadlata Centre, where there is a great historical display based on the Lake Eyre region.
Accommodation: **Campsite, Wilpena Pound** **LD**
- Day 2** **23 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 photographer's paradise!
Accommodation: **Campsite, Wilpena Pound** **BLD**
- Day 3** **24 May** **Wilpena Pound to Copley**
Today we'll leave Wilpena and drive through the southern Flinders Ranges. We'll visit Brackina Gorge and see a magnificent array of shale, limestone and quartzite. There are ruins of early shepherd's 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, Copley** **BLD**
- Day 4** **25 May** **Copley - Montecollina Bore**
Early this morning we'll travel to the Strzelecki Track and then on to the 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 5** **26 May** **Montecollina Bore - Innamincka - Lake Coongie**
Early morning birding around the bore is a great way to start the day! After breakfast today we'll pack up and continue on the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka. We'll then head out to Lake Coongie.
Accommodation: **Bush Camp, Lake Coongie** **BLD**
- Day 6** **27 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 the water.
Accommodation: **Bush Camp, Lake Coongie** **BLD**
- Day 7** **28 May** **Lake Coongie - Innamincka**
Leaving the lake early this morning, today we'll head back to Innamincka. This afternoon we'll visit the Dig Tree and Burke's grave - two great sites which are part of our Australian history.
Accommodation: **Campsite, Innamincka (Burke's Grave Campsite)** **BLD**
- Day 8** **29 May** **Innamincka - Birdsville**
Leaving Innamincka behind, today we'll travel to Birdsville, via Cordillo Downs Station. We will spend time during the day exploring the many creeks on our way. Tonight's dinner will be at the Birdsville Hotel - a great place to experience true outback hospitality.
Accommodation: **Campsite, Birdsville** **BL**
- Day 9** **30 May** **Birdsville - Mungerannie.**
Our camp is situated on the banks of a wildlife-filled billabong, which is a perfect place for an early morning birding walk. We'll leave Birdsville mid-morning and head south to Goyders Lagoon. We'll move on to our campsite at Mungerannie this afternoon.
Accommodation: **Campsite, Mungerannie** **BLD**
- Day 10** **31 May** **Mungerannie - Maree - Muloorina Station**
Today we'll continue our trip down the Birdsville Track, travelling into Maree and then on to Muloorina Station. The campsite here is right on the banks of the Frome River. This afternoon we'll explore the wildlife around the billabong.
Accommodation: **Bush Camp, Muloorina Station** **BLD**
- Day 11** **1 June** **Muloorina 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, Muloorina Station** **BLD**

Tour Information

Lead vehicle passengers: Meet at the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, 125 North Tce. Adelaide at 7.15 am for a 7.30 am departure.

Tag Along Participants: Meet at 12.00 (midday) at the Wadlatta Centre in Port Augusta.

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.

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.

To make a booking or further information please contact
Tom or Sylvia Grove



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