



Coates Wildlife Tours
Specialist in nature tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

17 Day Costa Rica Wildlife Safari



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers
San Jose - San Jose 5 - 21 November 2019

Itinerary Highlights:

- Small Group with only a maximum of 12 travellers and lead by expert naturalist leaders.
- Carara Biological Reserve and a boat trip on the Tárcoles River and observe one of the largest populations of American Crocodiles on the continent
- Boat cruise through the mangroves at the La Ensenada National Wildlife Refuge
- Cerro de la Muerte mountain. This magnificent mountain is part of the Cordillera de Talamanca range, which extends from eastern Costa Rica to western Panama, and is home to many endemic plants and animals.
- Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge is 25,100 acres and is part of the Arenal Huetar Norte Conservation Area. The refuge includes wetlands that host record numbers of migratory waterfowl. While here you will enjoy two wetland cruises where you will have the opportunity to see sloths, crocodiles, basilisks and many species of water bird.
- Savegre River is known as Central America's cleanest river. Lush rainforest, waterfalls and canyons surround this stretch of coastal whitewater. Many tropical birds call the rainforest home, including egrets, osprey, toucans, parrots, kingfishers and cormorants.

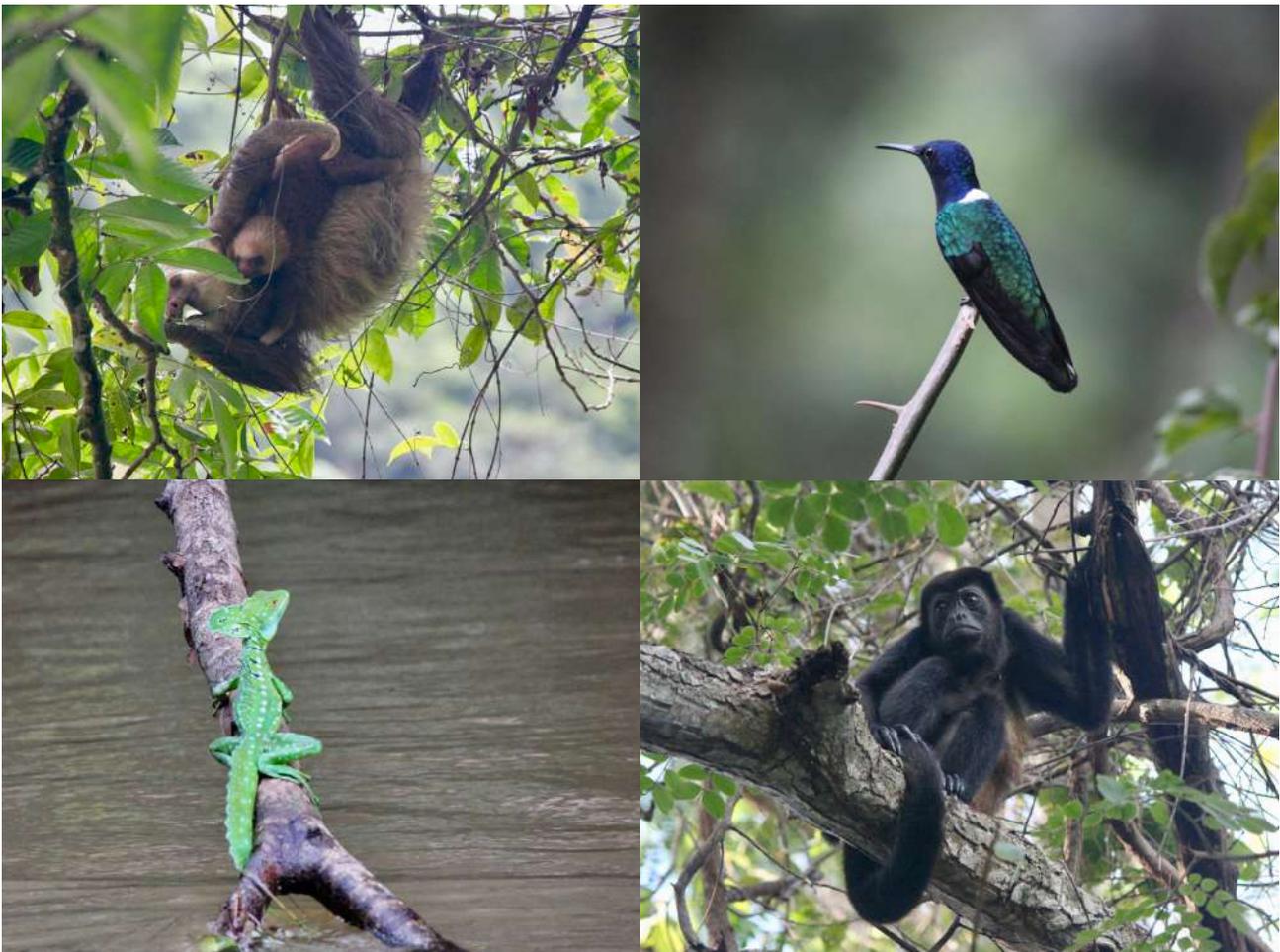
Costa Rica's name comes from the Spanish language meaning 'rich coast' as early explorers believed the mountains of Costa Rica to be filled with gold. Although they were wrong about the gold, Costa Rica truly is the 'rich coast' when it comes to flora, fauna and biodiversity. It may be a small country but it is huge on nature, natural history and investment in the environment. A true paradise for lovers of the natural world! It has extraordinary biodiversity with over 500,000 different species so it is little wonder that it is known as the birthplace of ecotourism.

The Safari visits the Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge. It is 25,100 acres and is part of the Arenal Huetar Norte Conservation Area. The refuge includes wetlands that host record numbers of migratory waterfowl. The forests, grasslands and marshes in the area are home to a variety of endangered species.

Visit Cerro de la Muerte mountain, which is part of the Cordillera de Talamanca range and extends from eastern Costa Rica to western Panama. It is home to many endemic plants and animals.

Next discover Savegre River, which is Central America's cleanest river. Lush rainforest, waterfalls and canyons surround this stretch of coastal whitewater. You will see many tropical birds that call the rainforest home, including egrets, osprey, toucans, parrots, kingfishers and cormorants.

Given the vastly different geography you find in Costa Rica, from coastal mangroves to forests in the clouds, the vast variety of plants and animals you will see in one day is jaw dropping in this compact country. It's varied ecosystems are bursting with life!



Day 5 Punta Leona - La Ensenada National Wildlife Refuge

Before breakfast you will have the opportunity to join our local guide on a guided walk of the grounds. Early morning is a great time to see birds waking up for the day and nocturnal mammals heading home after a long night of foraging.

After breakfast you will continue to the east coast, following the Pan-American Highway on the road to Punta Morales, Coyolitos and Abangaritos where we will arrive at the La Ensenada Lodge for lunch.

La Ensenada National Wildlife Refuge is 1000 acres, located on the pacific coast in the province of Puntarenas, on the gulf of Nicoya. It is an ideal place for birdwatchers and nature lovers. The most important aspects of this ranch are their cattle, horses and the production of salt and fruit. It is also a paradise, where you'll find the perfect point of balance between adventure and relaxation. The gulf of Nicoya, the mangroves and the salina offer those who love birds and photography many different species and variety of birds such as pelicans, herons, parrots, Montezuma oropendula, bellbird, white iris, great egret, etc.

After lunch the group will have free time to enjoy the pool, go for a walk or just sit in your hammock and enjoy the views over the gulf. Later in the afternoon there is an optional walk to the salt pans on the property. These salt pans provide great habitats for shore birds and the trees around them provide habitat to a whole other range of birds as well as Howler Monkeys and Iguanas.

Accommodation: La Ensenada Lodge, Standard Room BLD

Day 6 La Ensenada National Wildlife Refuge

Today you will rise early for a boat tour of the Gulf before breakfast. This boat tour is a great opportunity to see new mangrove wildlife but you will also have the opportunity to see coastal birds including Magnificent Frigate-birds and Royal Terns. After Lunch there is also the opportunity to join our local guide on a walk through the sounds of the lodge looking for bird, mammals and reptiles.

Accommodation: La Ensenada Lodge, Standard Room BLD

Day 7 La Ensenada - La Anita Rainforest

Today you will again before breakfast have the opportunity to undertake a nature walk before breakfast of the grounds. After Breakfast you will be transferred to the northern mountains and volcanic area of Guanacaste province, where you will be staying at the La Anita Rainforest Lodge. The lodge is surrounded by lush vegetation in a flat area between three volcanoes, the Miravalles, Rincon de La Vieja and Santa María.

In the heart of this remarkable rainforest at La Anita locals have grow and harvest macadamia nuts, heart of palm, taro, cardamom, organic tropical fruits and vegetables, medicinal herbs, together with thousands of tropical flowers. Now La Anita grows cacao (chocolate) and is the only place in the world that cacao is grown, processed and sold as chocolate. La Anita is part of La Colonia Libertad town, where 55 families work in agriculture to support themselves. La Anita is also committed to working in harmony with the environment and the local community.

Accommodation: La Anita Rainforest Lodge, Standard Room BLD

Day 8 La Anita Rainforest

Today before breakfast you will be able to undertake a nature walk with our local guide around the property. After breakfast the the group will be treated to a chocolate tour! From growing right through fermenting, drying, roasting, grinding and finally combining with other ingredients to make the chocolate this tour shows it all not to mention free samples! After lunch there is an optional walk from the local village to investigate how the landscape has change from the coastal plain now we have moved to the foothills or just relax in the porch hammock and watch the sunset over the volcanoes.

Accommodation: La Anita Rainforest Lodge, Standard Room BLD

Day 14 Turrialba - San Gerardo de Dota

After breakfast your naturalist guide will escort you to the Cerro de La Muerte Mountain Range. Dependent on weather we will visit above the tree line where the group will find a totally new eco system. The group will descend from an altitude of 3,400m to the San Gerardo de Dota Valley floor at an altitude of 2,300m.

San Gerardo de Dota is a tiny community in the Talamanca Mountains, settled in the fresh mist of a mountain valley, surrounded by deep cloud forests and filled with massive tropical trees. It is also a paradise for birdwatchers as it's home to more than 170 bird species, including some of the most rare and endangered bird species in Central America. It is a special place for watching the Resplendent Quetzal bird, one of the most ornate birds in the wild.

Various migratory species arrive in different seasons, joining the native species to add to the colourful views for birdwatchers. Among the visitors are the Orioles, Warblers, Tennessee's and Raptors. Their native hosts include the Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher, Yellow-winged Vireo, the Flame-throated Warbler, Black-cheeked Warbler, Yellowish Flycatcher, Barred Becard, Tufted Flycatcher, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Zeledonia, Torrent Tyrannulet, Collared Trogon, Scintillant Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, Fiery-throated Hummingbird and Spotted Wood-Quail. We will check into our hotel for Lunch after which we will visit local hot spots in search of the Resplendent Quetzal.

Accommodation: Trogon Lodge, Standard Room BLD

Day 15 San Gerardo de Dota

Before breakfast you can join our local guide for a nature walk of the hotel grounds followed by breakfast and free time until lunch. After Lunch you will have the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful Savegre Waterfall surrounded by a dense cloud forest. Your guide will take you through the forest and show you the gorgeous flora and fauna that spreads alongside the crystal waters of the Savegre River, until the point where it turns into an amazing white veil, the Savegre River Waterfall is definitely one more reason to fall in love with San Gerardo de Dota.

Accommodation: Trogon Lodge, Standard Room BLD

Day 16 San Gerardo de Dota - San Jose

This morning there will be a guided bird watching tour at the hotel reserve before being transferred to San Jose for the last night in Costa Rica.

Accommodation: El Rodeo, Standard Room BD

Day 17 San Jose - Home

Today marks the end of your Costa Rican experience. Your guide will transfer you to the international airport for your flight home.

B

NOTE: the above itinerary may be varied according to conditions and advice.

Tour Costs

Cost:	\$7,155.00	Per Person Twin Share
	\$1,145.00	Single Supplement
Departs:	San Jose - Costa Rica 5 November 2019	
Finishes:	San Jose - Costa Rica 21 November 2019	

Tour Payments

Deposit:	At time of booking \$1,000.00 per person
Final Payment:	On or before 5 August 2019

Note: The deposit is non refundable and the final payment is non refundable if cancelled after 5th August 2019. Travel Insurance covering all payments is available and is strongly recommended.

Special Offers

Early Bird Bookings

Save \$250.00 per person if booked and deposited by 15 January 2019

Group Booking

Save 7.5% per person for a group of 4 or more

Book Multiple Tours

Save 5% per person on the second and subsequent tours if more than one tour is booked in the same year. Applies to the cheaper tours.

Included

- Fully escorted tour
- Meals as per itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)
- Porterage on arrival
- Guided arrival transfer
- 17 days of naturalist guide
- 17 days of private transportation (Coaster Bus)
- Tipping of our Naturalist Guide and Driver only
- Bottled water daily
- Carara National Park
- Tarcoles River Boat safari tour
- Caño Negro boat tours
- Pacific Rain Forest Aerial Tram fees
- La Anita Chocolate Tour
- Entrance fees to La Tirimbina
- Night Walk at La Tirimbina
- Savegre Waterfall Hike
- Porterage on departure

Not Included

- International airfares and accompanying airport and airline taxes
- Any meals not included in the itinerary
- Any required visas
- Personal travel insurance
- All other personal expenses, such as laundry and drinks with meals
- Any pre and post tour accommodation.
- Any transit accommodation between Australia and Costa Rica
- Alcoholic or carbonated drinks.
- Tipping of Waitstaff, Bellboys and housekeeping .
- Costa Rica Departure Tax. (Many airlines include this in the price of their tickets.) Please check this with your travel agent when booking your flights.

Accommodation

Bougainvillea Hotel or similar:

The Bougainvillea Hotel offers contrasting brick textures, adobe-like surfaces, diverse hardwoods and artfully chosen changes in dimensions and wall angles. Quality modern paintings, pre-Columbian objects subtly displayed in niches in walls and a romantic fireplace give the hotel the cosy feel of a country inn.

The gardens are an inspirational paradise where you can relax and discover the beauty of many Costa Rican plants and birds. With its 8 acres of carefully tended tropical grounds, the Hotel Bougainvillea features over 50 species of bromeliads, Costa Rican native trees, numerous orchid species, herb and cacti gardens. Radiant hummingbirds also live within the grounds.

Hotel facilities: Tourist information centre, Souvenir shop, Restaurant and Bar, Swimming pool, tennis court, sauna and fitness centre, Laundry & Wireless Internet. All rooms offer Safety box, Cable TV, Radio alarm clock, Coffee maker, Fan, Hair dryer and Wireless Internet



Punta Leona Hotel & Club or similar:

Punta Leona Hotel & Club is a unique tropical rainforest and beach resort that combines environmental conservation and tourism. Part of the property has been officially declared a Wildlife Reserve thanks to its biodiversity in plant species and fauna such as whiteface monkeys, spider monkeys, sloths, coati, and armadillos. Each room is equipped with air conditioning, mini fridge, cable TV, telephone and a safe. Hotel and Club Punta Leona offers three different restaurants and two snack bars or light food restaurants. The Leon Marino Restaurant, next to the pool, offers snacks or light food. Carabelas Restaurant, located in the Selvarmar area, serves international and Costa Rican buffet style food.

Besides taking a walk along beautiful secluded white sand beaches, guests can also enjoy three swimming pools, lighted tennis court, butterfly garden, natural trails and in-site property canopy tour. Other services and facilities include: mini supermarket, souvenir shop, internet access and laundry services.



La Ensenada Lodge or similar:

La Ensenada National Wildlife Refuge, with 1000 acres. It is an ideal place for naturalists, bird watchers and nature lovers. The most important activities of this ranch are cattle and horses the production of salt and fruit.

The Lodge offers accommodations on Villas facing The Nicoya gulf with two beds, bathroom, closet and spacious terrace, from which you enjoy and unforgettable sunset relaxing in a hammock. The gulf of Nicoya, the mangroves and the salina offer those who love birds and photography many different species and variety of birds such as pelicans, herons, parrots, Montezuma oropendula, bellbird, white iris, great egret, etc.



La Anita Rainforest Ranch or similar:

La Anita Rainforest Ranch offers a spacious terrace, the 'rainforest deck', walking trails in the forest and the ranch, places designed for bird watching and other wildlife, internet access and a restaurant, offering meals prepared with fresh ingredients from local farms.

One of La Anita's highlights is their food. It is delicious and 100% natural with a high nutritional value. The ingredients are harvested in their own orchard or from local farmers. The meals are served on the main deck, which is surrounded by forest and has the best views of the Rincon de la Vieja and Santa María Volcanoes.



Cano Negro Natural Lodge or similar:

The lodge is located in the northern zone of Costa Rica, close to the small village of Los Chiles. It is surrounded by exuberant tropical vegetation, and has direct access to the pristine canals of the Refuge Natural Lodge Caño Negro. Its restaurant is named after one of the most exotic birds, Jabiru, with capacity for about 100 persons. The menu includes typical dishes as well as international. The hotel tries to use local products such as pineapple and vanilla are always part of the menu. The Bar offers a great variety of cocktails and drinks for the guests.

Hotel facilities: WiFi at the Bar and lobby area. Swimming pool. 42 deluxe rooms, each with elegant furniture, equipped with two full size beds, terrace, phone, Air Conditioning, Security box and complete bathroom with hot water.

With a focus on growth and natural development, Cano Negro Lodge has created jobs for locals, giving them new opportunities and allowing them to learn new skills. These wonderful people now make up the entire staff in the Cano Negro Lodge, where they offer you customized service that makes you feel at home.



Selva Verde or similar:

Selva Verde is more than a lodge and more than a rainforest reserve. It is your gateway into a magical world of towering Almendro trees, Mantled Howler Monkeys, and Keel Billed Toucans. Immerse yourself in tropical nature as you hike through deep green forest or reflect quietly in a comfortable hammock. Discover something new as you encounter Selva Verde's amazing wildlife and vibrant people. Rekindle your sense of wonder and experience the out-of-the-ordinary.

Located just 2 hours from San Jose, Selva Verde provides easy access to the wonders of the rainforest. For over 30 years, they have been a haven for nature enthusiasts from around the world. Come and explore Selva Verde's 500 acres of vibrant tropical nature in the heart of Costa Rica's Sarapiquí Canton.

As one of Costa Rica's legendary eco lodges, they are committed to a sustainable future - not only for Selva Verde, but for the people and wildlife that call the Sarapiquí home. They proudly carry and support Costa Rica's Certification for Sustainable Tourism. They actively work with conservation partners, including the Sarapiquí

Conservation Learning Centre, to promote conservation and environmental education throughout the local community. Learn more about their efforts when you visit Selva Verde!

Hotel facilities: Restaurant, bar, swimming pool, gift shop, laundry services and computer.



Rancho Naturalista or similar:

This comfortable lodge is also famous for its welcoming hospitality, stunning volcano views and excellent food, well prepared and made with the best fresh local ingredients, The weather is almost perfect year-round, not too hot and not too cold.

While enjoying your coffee or tea on the balcony you will be amazed at the variety of tropical birds. Over 450 species of birds have been recorded in the area. Groups of Gary-Headed Chachalacas, Collared Aracaris, Passerine's Tanagers, and the impressive Montezuma Oropendolas will all provide quite a show. Other likely possibilities include Blue-crowned Motmot, Lineated and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, Golden-hooded and White-lined Tanagers, and Scarlet-rumped Cacique. Hummingbird feeders only a few feet away are usually buzzing with Green Thorntails, White-necked Jacobins, Green-crowned Brilliants, Green-breasted Mangos, and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds.

Provisions are also made for non-birding guests who will find Rancho Naturalista a relaxing retreat.



Savegre Natural Reserve & Spa or similar:

San Gerardo de Dota is located near the Cerro de la Muerte, one of Costa Rica's highest peaks. An amazingly stunning habitat for a plethora of bird and flora species, this region is most well known for being the primary habitat for the famous resplendent Quetzal. The unequalled beauty of the highland scenery provides a unique opportunity to experience the sounds and secrets of the tropical cloud forest. San Gerardo de Dota is within the largest extension of protected areas of the country, an area made up of 13 different units which together total 95,000 hectares... highly recommended to nature lovers.



El Rodeo Hotel or similar:

El Rodeo is a Costa Rican country inn, located only 10 minutes away from the Juan Santamaria International Airport, and in the heart of the latest, bustling business and commercial district, Santa Ana / San Antonio de Belen, and only 15 minutes away from downtown San Jose.

It is a charming and cozy hotel characterized for its exceptional service and well known thanks to its restaurant, one of the best in the capital city.

Their facilities are set in tropical gardens with views of the spectacular Poas and Barva volcanoes.

All rooms are equipped with cable TV, air conditioning, telephone, alarm clock, hair dryer, coffee maker and safe deposit box. A full Costa Rican style breakfast buffet is served every day at the hotel's terrace, from 6:30 AM. The restaurant, El Rodeo Steak House, serves some of the best cuts of export quality beef accompanied by local dishes and garnish (room service available). Other facilities and services include: swimming pool, Jacuzzi, free wireless internet connection laundry service and tennis court.



Tour Information

Coates Tour Escort: Tom Grove (if passenger numbers are met)

Wildlife specialist: Local guide

Accommodation:

Twin share rooms with ensuite in hotels and motels.

Meals:

Meals as indicated on the itinerary are included. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for. Please advise any special requirements at the time of booking. A surcharge may apply.

Trek Grading:

We undertake only light / medium bushwalking on most days. The walks are generally on well formed tracks or road and have minimal steps.

Weather:

Costa Rica is a tropical country situated between 8 and 11 degrees above the equator. It has only two seasons: dry and green! The dry season is generally between late December and April, and the green or wet season lasts for the rest of the year, but still offers an average of about 5 hours of daily sunshine. The Caribbean coast doesn't have this extended dry weather and stays green all year round. The humidity tends to be a little oppressive at times. However as the tour moves to higher elevations for the last few days of the tour nights can get very chilly. As we will still be in the green season rain is a risk

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information sent to you on full payment of tour costs. However comfortable casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts during the day and warmer jumpers and jackets will be needed for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes or boots are essential. As rain is always a risk a good rain jacket or umbrella is also a must bring.



To make a booking or further information please contact

Tom or Sylvia Grove at Coates Wildlife Tours

P.O. Box 4502

Myaree BC, Myaree, WA 6960

Phone: 08 9330 6066 Free Call Country & Interstate: 1800 676 016

Email: coates@iinet.net.au Web: www.coateswildlifetours.com.au

Terms and Conditions

Adina Nominees Pty Ltd (ACN 075 427 324) as trustee for the Grove Family Trust trading as Coates Wildlife Tours (hereinafter referred to as the tour operator) shall not be liable for any accident injury sickness delay irregularity or damage however caused or arising during any tour under its management or otherwise. Tours are often safari trips to isolated areas, they may include off road driving, bushwalking, snorkelling, swimming and other activities. These along with wildlife interactions, planned or otherwise involve a certain degree of risk. All travel involves some measure of personal risk that each passenger has to determine and accept.

Tour participants should be in reasonable health and fitness and be carrying all required medications in ample quantities. A medical clearance from a registered medical practitioner may be required for participants wishing to join some tours. Scenic flights, boat cruises, helicopter flights etc. These activities are not operated by the tour operator, nor by persons or companies associated with the tour operator. These activities involve inherent risk of injury, death, accident and loss. Passengers assume all risks with regard to any misadventure death, injury or loss which occurs during or as a result of any such activity.

Should the tour operator deem it desirable for climatic or other reasons whatsoever to amend or vary any itinerary it may do so by shortening or varying the trip in which case no objection or claim for compensation will be made by the participant.

The tour operator and its employees are unable to guarantee exact arrival and departure times, and are not liable for any failure to make connections with any other services.

The tour operator does not own or operate any third party suppliers of air transportation, hotels, restaurants, cruise craft or local sightseeing companies. The tour operator is not responsible for any loss or expense due to overbooking of flights, accommodations, default of any third parties or any other cause beyond its control. The tour operator takes all reasonable care in selecting these operators, it cannot accept responsibility for the operators conduct or the conduct of their employees or agents or for any ramifications of that conduct.

Whilst all care is taken, The tour operator do not accept liability for loss or damage to baggage, sickness or injury, or additional expenses caused by factors beyond their control.

All care has been taken to ensure this brochure is correct at the time of printing. Prices and services as shown in this brochure are however subject to change or withdrawal without notice.

BOOKING DETAILS

DEPOSIT: See the relevant trip dossiers for the amount required.

FINAL PAYMENT: In most cases, final payment is required at least 30 days prior to departure. However some tours may require payment up to 4 months prior to departure. Please refer to the tour's trip dossier for exact details.

CANCELLATIONS

Coates Wildlife Tours reserves the right to cancel any tour in the event of minimum numbers not being reached, in which case all moneys will be refunded in full.

In respect of cancellations by a passenger, some tours have specified cancellation times and penalties, this specific information is available on the respective tours, trip dossier. Where no specific cancellation time or penalties are in place the following levies plus any costs charged by other parties involved with the tour will apply:-

Where written notice is received

- Deposit is non refundable
- Tour balance is non refundable after 5th August 2019
- No refunds are considered from the day the tour starts.

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that travel insurance against imposition of cancellation fees, loss or damage to baggage and extra costs arising from injury or illness be effected.

GENERAL INFORMATION

EQUIPMENT:- Transport by an air-conditioned our coach or mini bus which ever is appropriate for the tour.

GENERAL INFORMATION CONT.

SEAT ALLOCATION:- Seats on tour vehicle are not pre allocated. To ensure all participants get to enjoy forward positioned and window seats we have incorporated a daily seat rotation system.

LUGGAGE:- Please note that due to health and safety requirements luggage on tour is limited to one medium sized, soft sided bag per person. The sum of its length, width and height is not to exceed 140 cm. The maximum weight of the bag should not to exceed 15 kilograms. A small day pack is also permitted. International tours, some island tours and the Kimberley Coastal Cruises luggage limits may vary, please see the respective tours trip dossier for specific weight maximums.

WILDLIFE:- Sighting of birds, or animals mentioned in the itineraries can not be guaranteed as they are wild and therefore free to come and go as they please.

WILDFLOWER DISPLAYS:- Can not be guaranteed as they are dependent on seasonal rains.

MEAL SYMBOLS:- B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

GROUP SIZES

Minimum and maximum numbers apply to all tours. Generally tours have a maximum of 12 passengers. A camp cook and a naturalist leader will accompany camping groups with more than 6 passengers.