



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in nature tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

15 Day Kimberley Discovery Tour



New Easy Camping Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers **Broome - Broome 12 - 26 June 2019**

Easy Camping

The easy camping concept has been introduced to make the whole camping experience more enjoyable. The camp support crew will travel in a separate vehicle and will have our camp operational when the bus arrives with the group. No more erecting tents, beds or un-packing camping equipment. Just pick up your bag and either spend time exploring the campsite or freshening up and relaxing before dinner.

Itinerary Highlights:

- Geikie Gorge cruise,
- 2 nights at Purnululu (Bungle Bungles) National Park,
- Optional helicopter (at your own expense) over Purnululu,
- Ord River cruise,
- Visit Parrys Lagoon for wetland bird watching,
- 2 nights camping at Home Valley Station,
- 2 nights at Mornington Station in search of the Gouldian Finch and the Purple Crowned Fairy Wren. Visit and swim at Sir John Gorge or Dimond Gorge.

- Camp at Silent Grove & take a swim at Bell's Gorge,
- 2 nights at Windjana Gorge & explore Tunnel Creek

The Kimberley region in the northwest of Western Australia is one of the most remote and unspoiled wilderness areas in the world. It's unique geology, ancient limestone reef and rich Aboriginal culture has fascinated visitors for many years. It is home to some of Australia's most beautiful and rare bird life, diverse flora and exciting fauna.

A highlight is visit to Purnululu National Park to see the Bungle Bungle Range. This World Heritage listed site is one of the most fascinating geological landmarks in Western Australia. The beehive-like mounds are encased in a skin of silica and algae, creating a striking stripe pattern. A magnificent hidden world of gorges and pools lie within the range.

More than 130 bird species reside within Purnululu, including Rainbow Bee-eaters, flocks of Budgerigars and Australian Bustards. The Nail-tail wallaby and the Euro live around the massif, while Short-eared Rock wallabies are thought to live on top. Several species of rare animals also call Purnululu home.

Bird enthusiasts will particularly enjoy our visit to Marlgu Billabong at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve. These reserves are havens for a vast variety of sea and waterbirds.

Itinerary

Day 1 Broome to Fitzroy Crossing

We'll depart Broome early this morning and head for Fitzroy Crossing. There will be time this afternoon to have a look around the highlights of the town, including the Old Crossing Inn and the original crossing.

Accommodation: Campsite at Fitzroy Crossing LD

Day 2 Fitzroy River to Halls Creek

We'll visit Geikie Gorge National Park for a cruise on the Fitzroy River this morning (9:30 am). After our cruise we'll head for Halls Creek.

Accommodation: Campsite Halls Creek Caravan Park BLD

Day 3 Halls Creek to Purnululu (Bungle Bungles)

Today our wilderness experience continues, as we travel to the famous Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungles). As we drive into the park you'll be introduced to outback tracks - with creek crossings, wash aways, rough and slow sections. This afternoon we'll set up camp, have lunch and then begin to explore this exciting area with a visit to Echidna Chasm.

Accommodation: Purnululu National Park Campsite BLD

Day 4 Purnululu (Bungle Bungles)

We'll spend the day exploring the natural wonders of Piccanniny Creek and Cathedral Gorge. There will be time for an optional helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungle Range, to enjoy aerial views of this World Heritage Listed site.

Accommodation: Purnululu National Park Campsite BLD

Day 5 Purnululu to Kununurra

This morning we'll leave the Bungle Bungles and head for Kununurra. We expect to arrive in Kununurra by mid-afternoon, giving us time to see some of the town's highlights before dinner.

Accommodation: Campsite Kununurra BLD

Day 6 Kununurra

We'll start the day today with an early morning birding walk. After breakfast we'll have some free time to do some washing, write postcards or just relax. After an early lunch we'll take a cruise on the magnificent Ord River, home to an abundance of wildlife.

Accommodation: Campsite Kununurra BLD

Day 7 Kununurra to Home Valley Station

We'll set off early today on our journey to Home Valley. On the way we'll call in to the Marigu Billabong at Parrys Lagoon Reserve to see the wetland birds. We'll also briefly visit Wyndham.

Accommodation: Campsite Home Valley Station BLD

Day 8 Home Valley Station

Today will be spent exploring some of the stations many gorges and other highlights.

Accommodation: Campsite Home Valley Station BLD

Day 9 Home Valley Station to Manning Creek area

This morning we farewell the Pentecost River and the Cockburn Ranges and continue down the Gibb River Road as we travel to Mt Barnett Station. Once we arrive at our Manning Creek campsite there'll be plenty of time to explore this oasis and enjoy a swim.

Accommodation: Campsite Manning Creek BLD

Day 10 Manning Creek area to Mornington Station

We'll get a great start to the day today with an early morning birding session around the campsite. After breakfast we'll move on to Mornington Station.

Accommodation: Mornington Station Campsite BLD

Day 11 Mornington Station

Today we'll explore the wonders of this wilderness wildlife sanctuary. The sanctuary is home to two endangered bird species - the Gouldian Finch and the Purple Crowned Fairy Wren. Our time here would not be complete without a visit and swim at the spectacular Sir John Gorge or the beautiful Dimond Gorge.

Accommodation: Mornington Station Campsite BLD

Day 12 Mornington Station to Silent Grove

This morning we'll get back onto the Gibb River Road. We'll stop for fuel and enjoy morning tea at Imintji on the way to Silent Grove. On arrival we'll have time for lunch and to set up camp before we visit the magnificent Bell Creek Gorge. This gorge offers a short walk, great swimming and spectacular scenery.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite at Silent Grove BLD

Day 13 Silent Grove to Windjana Gorge

This morning we'll travel to Windjana. On the way we will journey through the King Leopold and Napier Ranges and learn about the history of the area. We'll set up camp and enjoy our first look at this ancient gorge.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite at Windjana Gorge BLD

Day 14 Windjana Gorge - Tunnel Creek - Windjana Gorge

This morning we'll continue our exploration of the gorge and its wildlife. After lunch we'll visit Tunnel Creek and walk through the range.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite at Windjana Gorge BLD

Day 15 Windjana Gorge to Broome

We'll explore the front of the range this morning, before commencing our trip back to Broome. During the day we'll call in to the Mowanjum Community to visit their art centre and spend some time in Derby. We should arrive in Broome by mid to late afternoon. We'll transfer you to your chosen accommodation, marking the end of your outback adventure.

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

Tour Costs

Cost: \$5,545.00 per person Twin Share

Departs: Broome 12 June 2019

Finishes: Broome 26 June 2019

Max No. Of Participants: 12 passengers, Coates Naturalist Leader, Driver / Guide and Support Crew.

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 12 May 2019

Note: The final payment is non refundable if canceled within 30 days of the departure date. 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.

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

Included

- 3 crew members consisting of a naturalist guide, driver guide and camp support crew member
- **Easy Camping** included (Camp is set up and packed away each day for you);
- Geikie Gorge and Ord River cruises
- Dome tents & chairs with arms;
- Well maintained vehicle with front-facing, seat belted, mostly reclining, coach-style seats
- Eating utensils
- Meals as per itinerary;
- Morning tea each day;
- Fresh fruit on board daily;
- All national park entrance fees

Not Included

- Optional Bungle Bungle Helicopter flight
- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks.
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended)
- Travel expenses to and from Broome
- 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

Naturalist Guide: TBA

Driver Guide: TBA

Camp Support Crew: TBA

Meeting Point in Broome

Meet at the Mercure Intercontinental Hotel foyer at 7.00am for a 7:15am departure or outside the Broome visitor centre at 7.20am for a 7.30 am departure.

Vehicle & Equipment:

Air conditioned purpose built 4WD tour coach with all front facing, mostly reclining, seat-belted seats, power facilities and all the necessary camping equipment. Passengers are required to supply their own sleeping bags and pillows, or a sleeping bag can be hired from us with prior notice for \$55.00.

Accommodation:

Is at 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 available, other than a long drop bush toilet. We do carry adequate water for washing. Private campsites vary. Some provide full facilities including ablution blocks, other sites only have a long drop toilet.

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

Meals:

Meals as per the tour itinerary are included, i.e. (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, (D) dinner and morning tea. There will also be a plentiful supply of fresh fruit available throughout the day. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for where prior notice is given. Please contact the office if you have a special dietary requirement as a surcharge may apply.

Trek Grading:

We undertake moderate to challenging bushwalking on most days. All walks are optional and will be able to be conducted at your own pace. There will also be some rock scrambling on a few of the walks.

Weather:

The tour has been timed to coincide with the dry season. Days are usually dry and hot with temperatures around the low to mid 30's (degrees Celsius). Temperatures can drop to as low as 3 or 4 degrees Celsius at night in the Bungle Bungle Ranges. Rain is not normally experienced at this time of the year.

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information. This will be sent to you about one month before departure. Generally, comfortable, casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts are appropriate for during the day and warmer jumpers and jackets may be needed for the evenings. Don't forget your bathers and any snorkelling equipment you may have. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity and an old pair of sneakers or reef style boots which can be worn in the water are highly recommended.



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

- 61 days or more prior to departure; \$250.00
- 60 - 31 days prior to departure; \$500
- 30 days or less prior to departure 100%
- 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 custom built 4WD tour coach or mini bus which ever is appropriate for the tour. Camping equipment suitable for each tour (except Sleeping bags and pillows) is provided. A second vehicle may accompany the group on tours to remote areas. In the case of breakdown or other unforeseen circumstances effecting the vehicle or guide, the operator reserves the right to substitute vehicles and guides other than those specified, to ensure the operation of a 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.