



Coates Wildlife Tours
Specialist in nature tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

11 Day Christmas & Cocos Island Tour



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers
Perth - Perth 19 - 29 November 2019

Itinerary Highlights:

- The phenomenal Red Crab migration
- A boat trip along the coast, great for spotting birds and marine life
- Enjoy a relaxing cool off at 'The Grotto'
- White sands of Greta and Dolly beaches
- Spectacular views from Margaret knoll lookout
- Take a revitalising shower under a waterfall
- Blowholes on the southern coast
- Unique wildlife including Robber Crabs and endemic birdlife
- Motorised outrigger canoe trip touring the Southern Islands

The naturalists paradise of Christmas Island is located 360 km south of Java. It is the tip of an Everest-sized undersea mountain; a limestone capped extinct volcano that first emerged from the sea about 60 million years ago. The perimeter of the island is rocky and steep and formed in a series of steps and terraces created by sequential uplifts off the island from the ocean floor. This surrounds a flatter central plateau. Its rugged shoreline and mountainous character combined to prevent colonisation by humans until the late 1800s.

The discovery of commercially viable quantities of phosphate led to exploitation of this resource which continues to this day. However, 63% of the island is designated as National Park and this is dominated by rainforest which itself is substantially modified by the presence of millions of land crabs. The most prolific of these is the endemic Red Crab (*Geocarcoidea Natalis*). It is estimated that 100 million Red Crabs inhabit the island and these still require the ocean as an integral part of their breeding cycle. The crabs migrate from the central plateau to the shoreline and pay no heed to any obstacle, be it natural or man made.

The tour has been scheduled to coincide with this unique natural phenomenon. David Attenborough, the renowned Naturalist, is recorded as saying 'the migration was the most amazing sight I have seen'.

The island is also home to much more endemic flora and fauna; nine species of birds including the Christmas Island Frigate bird and the rare Abbott's Booby; reptiles and bats and many species of plants including palms, ferns, vines and pandanus.

We conclude this Indian Ocean experience by spending time on some of the various islands that make up the Cocos group. These islands offer a great mixture of birding, marine life and the absorbing history that makes up the colourful past of the islands.



Itinerary

Day 1 19 November Perth - Christmas Island

Meet group at Perth International Airport at 11.00am for your afternoon flight to Christmas Island. We arrive on Christmas Island in the late afternoon where we will transfer to the lodge and settle in. This evening we will have a welcome to Christmas Island BBQ.

Accommodation: Lodge

D

Day 2 20 November Christmas Island

Today is an introduction to the wildlife, history and culture of Christmas Island. A morning visit to the settlement will include Flying Fish Cove, Smith Point and the cliff tops where Red-tailed Tropic Birds and Brown Boobies breed. The Red Crab migration should be underway so there will be crabs everywhere. An afternoon walk at the National Park Headquarters along a rainforest trail will reveal such species as true endemic Arenga Palm, Strangler Fig, epiphytic ferns and Tahitian Chestnut. The endemic Golden Bosun Bird, a highlight of the Christmas Island avifauna, can be seen from the lookout here.

Accommodation: Lodge

B

Day 3 21 November Christmas Island

A full days outing will take us to Greta and Dolly beaches via shaded forest walk trails. Enjoy lunch and a swim on palm fringed Dolly beach. The impressive Robber Crabs can be seen here as well as Blue crabs, Nippers and the ubiquitous Red crab. Returning via Margaret knoll lookout will give us superb views of the rainforest on the coastal terraces as well as some of the old phosphate mines.

Accommodation: Lodge

B

Day 4 22 November Christmas Island

Weather permitting, we will undertake a boat trip leaving from Flying Fish Cove and traveling along the coast. During the trip we should see a diverse array of birdlife and there will be time to look for marine life and have a swim off the back of the boat. In the afternoon, a visit to 'The Grotto', a natural limestone feature connected to the ocean is good for a swim followed by a visit to a small wetland that has a population of White-breasted water hens, a recent colonist from Indonesia.

Accommodation: Lodge

B

Day 5 23 November Christmas Island

This morning's highlights will commence with a swim at Flying Fish cove or a look around the settlement. After lunch we will visit the southern part of the island where much of the islands phosphate mining did, and still does take place. This is followed by a walk on a forest trail on the central plateau where large emergent trees such as Syzigium, Pisonia and Planchonella occur. Their associated epiphytes and vines include an endemic Hoya.

Another endemic, Pandanus pelatus with stilt like roots, also grows here.

Accommodation: Lodge

B

Day 6 24 November Christmas Island

Another full day out takes us to the western side of the island, firstly to Murray Hill, the highest point at 361m and then on to the Dales. Here the Non-porous volcanic basalt meets the porous limestone on the surface, and streams flow all year round. This provides good habitat for the blue and robber crabs and also offers the rare opportunity on Christmas Island for a shower under a waterfall. We return to the settlement via a breeding area of the rare and endemic Abbots Booby which nests in the canopy of the emergent forest.

Accommodation: Lodge

B

Day 7 25 November Christmas Island

The morning will be spent visiting several beach areas and their distinctive vegetation- coastal pandanus, coconut palms, Hibiscus, Scaevola and the Helicopter Tree, Gyrocarpus. Frigate birds, including the endemic Christmas Island Frigate bird and Red-footed Boobies are ever present. An afternoon visit to the blowholes on the southern coast will allow us to witness the extent of the Red Crab migration from the central plateau to the coastal terraces and shoreline and perhaps see some Spinner Dolphins. Bird highlights will include the endemic Goshawk, Christmas Island Thrush and Emerald Dove.

Accommodation: Lodge

B

Day 8 26 November Christmas Island - Cocos Islands

Free time this morning before we check in for our afternoon flight to Cocos. After checking in we will visit one of the local restaurants for dinner.

Accommodation: Motel

B

Day 9 27 November Cocos Islands

Today we will explore the historic West Island including the Big Barge Art Centre, a Clam Farm, birding around a small swampy lagoon and a visit to the far side of the airport runway, also a great spot for birding. Mid Afternoon we will take the ferry to Home island and spend time exploring the community and wildlife. We return to West Island on the 6.00pm ferry.

Accommodation: Motel

B

Day 10 28 November Cocos Islands

An early start this morning with a 6.00 am transfer to Canoe Beach where we will jump onto motorised outrigger canoes and take a tour of the Southern Islands. We will have breakfast on an isolated island. The rest of the morning will be spent exploring the wildlife, historic sites and swimming. Late morning we return to West Island for lunch and a rest. Mid afternoon we will undertake birding and botanising the remote parts of West Island. Weather permitting this evening we will return to Canoe Beach and have a farewell beach BBQ.

Accommodation: Motel

BD

Day 11 29 November Cocos Islands - Christmas Island - Perth

An early start this morning as we check in for our flight to Perth at 7.30am for our 10.00am flight. After check in there will be time to have breakfast at the Early Morning Bakery. Our flight should be back in Perth around 5.25pm.

B

Note: The above itinerary should only be used as a guide. Day to day activities may be varied according to conditions and advice.

Tour Information

Naturalist Guide: Jolanda Keeble

Vehicle: 4WDs

Accommodation:

Christmas Island: Lodge with own facilities

Cocos Island: Motel with own facilities

Meals:

Cocos Islands - Meals as per the itinerary.

Christmas Island - Breakfast is included on all days.

Lunch and Dinner is at passenger's own expense and is available at the islands diverse range of restaurants, coffee shops and taverns depending on the group's preferences on the day.

Trek Grading:

Medium grade bushwalking on most days. All treks are optional and will be as strenuous as you wish to make them. A few involve some rock scrambling.

Weather:

Tropical climate. Wet season occurs between November and May. The monthly average temperature is 27 degrees celsius and a range of 21 - 32 degrees Celsius. Humidity is high and is generally over 80% during the wet season.

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information sent to you about one month prior to departure.

Comfortable casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts. Light trousers and shorts.

Don't forget your bathers. Snorkelling gear can be hired on the island, if you don't wish to bring your own.

Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are essential.

Traveling to Christmas and Cocos Islands:

Both Christmas and Cocos Islands are Australian territories and a passport is not required to visit. However all flights to and from the airport use the international terminal at Perth Airport and you will pass through immigration. Photo id is required to clear immigration and board your flight. We do however recommend that if you do have a passport you bring it in the event that the flight is diverted from Christmas Island (ie due to poor weather), as it is likely to be sent to Jakarta, Indonesia and a passport will be needed to clear immigration if the flight is significantly delayed.

Tour Costs

Cost:	\$5,400.00 per person Twin Share
	\$775.00 Single Supplement
Starts:	Perth Airport: 19th November 2019
Ends:	Perth Airport: 29th November 2019

Tour Payments

Deposit:	At time of booking \$1,000.00 per person
Final Payment:	On or before 4th October 2019

Note: The \$1,000.00 deposit is non refundable.
The final payment is non refundable after 4th October 2019
Travel insurance covering all payments is available, and strongly recommended

Special Offers

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

- Return Airfare from Perth;
- Twin share accommodation;
- Welcome to Christmas Island BBQ dinner on day one;
- Farewell BBQ dinner on Cocos Islands on last evening;
- Meals as per itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner);
- All national park entrance fees;
- Christmas Island coastal boat trip;
- Cocos motorised outrigger canoe trip.

Not Included

- Travel expenses to and from Perth;
- Pre and post tour accommodation;
- Lunches & Dinners (see itinerary for exceptions);
- Entrance Fees or activity costs other than those included above;
- Snorkeling Equipment (Can be hired);
- Travel Insurance (Very Strongly Recommended);
- All other private expense (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 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 the 4th October 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.