



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

11 Day South Australia, Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers

Alice Springs to Adelaide 13 - 23 May 2021

(Max. 6 passengers in 2 lead vehicles, 4 participants in 2 tag along vehicles)

Itinerary Highlights:

- The unique and memorable opal mining town of Coober Pedy, where homes, hotels and churches are built below-ground ('dugouts')
- Lake Eyre - a vast, dry, shimmering salt pan which crosses three state borders and contains the lowest natural point in Australia
- Muloorina Station lies on the banks of the Frome river; a great area for wildlife spotting
- The Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary Ridge Top Tour will provide spectacular views of the Flinders Ranges and is home to Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby
- Wilpena Pound - an iconic Australian landmark found in the heart of the Flinders Ranges, described as a natural amphitheatre of mountains covering over 8000 hectares
- Flinders Ranges - the largest mountain range in South Australia; dusty red roads wind through towering cliffs and deep craters

This adventure is a must for all who long to experience the Australian outback. From the massive expanse of Lake Eyre, as it spreads out before you to the striking landscape and impressive ruins of early European settlement in the southern and northern Flinders Range this adventure showcases some of the South Australian outback's most spectacular scenery and unique wildlife.

We will travel on the Oodnadatta Track, steeped in history, natural wonders and rich cultural heritage, it is perhaps one of our most fascinating and historic outback trail.

A trip to the outback would not be complete without a visit to some of South Australia's iconic outback towns, including Maree, William Creek and Coober Pedy.

Itinerary

Day 1 Alice Springs- Marla

An early start this morning as we depart Alice Springs and head south for the small community of Marla, with a population of just 70 people.

Accommodation: Motel - Marla LD

Day 2 Marla - Desert Breakaways - Coober Pedy

Today we head to Coober Pedy with a stop on the way at the desert breakaways to take in the spectacular views. We will explore the unique mining town of Coober Pedy, including a visit to an underground Church, a tourist mine and a look at the above-ground town from a central lookout.

Accommodation: Motel - Coober Pedy BLD

Day 3 Coober Pedy - William Creek - Coward Springs

Leaving Cooper Pedy, we move onto William Creek for an optional flight over Lake Eyre. This small outback town is the closest settlement to Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre in outback South Australia and is on the largest cattle station in the world; Anna Creek Station. We then head for Coward Springs along the Oonadatta track.

Accommodation: Campsite Coward Springs BLD

Day 4 Coward Springs - Muloorina Station

We depart Coward Springs and call into the old abandoned railway siding of Curdimurka and visit the Wabnma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park and its unique springs. The Blanch Cup and The Bubbler aptly called as it does bubble but not how you would expect. These springs are significant water sources for the fragile ecosystem in the area and were used by Arabana (Aboriginal) people for several thousand years.

Our campsite tonight is at Mulooprina Station Bore on the banks of the Frome River, and this afternoon we examine the wildlife around the billabong.

Accommodation: Bush Camp - Muloorina Station BLD

Day 5 Muloorina Station

Today we will explore the Goyder Channel (which runs between Lake Eyre North and South), followed by the eastern side of Lake Eyre North. Flow in the channel is an infrequent event.

Accommodation: Bush Camp - Muloorina Station BLD

Day 6 Muloorina Station - Copely

Continuing on today, we travel to Copely. On the way we visit an ochre pit and the former settlement of Farina which is uninhabited; major restoration works on parts of the settlement have restored it to its former glory. Copely's Bush Bakery and Quandong Cafe are popular due to the various bush tucker products made from genuine Australian ingredients (quandong, emu and kangaroo, to name a few).

Accommodation Cabins - Copely BLD

Day 7 Copely - Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary

This morning we head to Arkaroola visiting the iconic Prairie Hotel in Parachilna. After a short look around we will follow the road through one of the most scenic gorges in outback South Australia, Parachilna gorge & the quaint little town Blinman. We will also spend time at the Heysen Trailhead, usually an excellent place for birds and other wildlife.

Accommodation Camp Site - Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary BLD

Day 8 Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary

Early morning start today as we join the sanctuary's Ridge Top Tour, one of the most scenic trips on offer anywhere with spectacular rugged and unique natural beauty. There will be time this afternoon for washing, relaxing or exploring the bush area around the sanctuary's campsite.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary BLD

Day 9 Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary - Wilpena Pound

Today we drive through south and head into the southern Flinders Ranges with its stunning scenery and excellent wildlife spotting possibilities.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Wilpena Pound

BLD

Day 10 Wilpena Pound

The Flinders Range National Park is a photographers paradise.

Today we explore the area around Wilpena Pound. After an early breakfast, we will take a walk to the Old Homestead and Wangara Lookout which provides panoramic views across the pound. After an early lunch, we will drive through Bunyerroo Gorge to Aroona Valley, one of Australian artist Hans Heysen's favourite sites.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Wilpena Pound BLD

Day 11 Wilpena Pound - Port Augusta- Adelaide

An early start this morning as we depart Wilpena Pound. We will spend time in Port Augusta visiting the Wadlata Centre and its unique exhibits with a journey through the history of the Outback.

Our adventure ends in Adelaide today, where will drop you off at your chosen accommodation in the city. BLD

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

Tour Costs

Cost: \$5,985.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$235.00 Single Supplement
\$2,225.00 per person in own tag along vehicle

Departs: Alice Springs 13 May 2021

Finishes: Adelaide 23 May 2021

Max No. Of Participants: 6 passengers in 2 lead vehicles & 4 passengers in 2 tag along vehicles

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 13 April 2021

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

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.

Loyalty Program

Save \$100 per person on your second, third and fourth tour. Save \$150 per person when you have travelled on 5 or more tours. Tours must be operated by Coates Wildlife Tours.

Please note: Loyalty discount can be combined with other offers. Discounts are only available on bookings made directly with Coates.

Included

- 2 crew members consisting of a naturalist guide and driver/cook;
- Well maintained vehicle with front-facing, seat belted seats;
- Easy-to-erect tents and camping chairs with armrests;
- A self-inflating air mattress and stretcher bed;
- All eating utensils;
- Meals as per itinerary: B (breakfast), L (lunch), D (dinner);
- Fruit for snacking throughout the day;
- Campsite fees;
- Morning tea each day;
- All national park entrance fees.
- Wadlata Centre fees

Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows (while camping);
- Sleeping bags;
- Travel insurance (very 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
- Optional William Creek flight

Tour Information

Vehicle & Equipment:

Our vehicles for the tour will consist of two Toyota 4WD Prados with trailers or similar. All the necessary camping equipment is provided. Passengers are required to supply their own sleeping bags and pillows, or a sleeping bag can be purchased from us for \$100.00. Purchased Sleeping bags can be taken home after the tour or they can be given back to us and we will donate them to charity.

Accommodation:

Is at a combination of bush camps, campsites and motel/cabin accommodation.

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 long drop toilets, fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some provide showers.

Cabin/Motel accommodation Privately run accommodation that vary in comfort level but all will have clean rooms with bedding and hot 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. Please contact the office if you have a 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 weather at this time of the year is usually dry, with a minimum average daily temperature around 17-20 degrees Celsius. The nights are much cooler and have been know to drop to approx. 3-5 degrees Celsius. There may also be a risk of showers in the Flinders and as we head into Adelaide.

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. 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. Medical clearance from a registered medical practitioner may be required for participants wishing to join some tours. Some activities like scenic flights, boat cruises, helicopter flights are not operated by the tour operator, nor by persons or companies associated with the tour operator and may involve inherent risk of injury, death, accident and loss. Passengers assume all risks concerning 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, they may do so by shortening or varying the trip in which case the participant will make no objection or claim for compensation.

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 operator's conduct or the conduct of their employees or agents or for any ramifications of that conduct.

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

All care is taken to ensure this document is correct at the time of printing. Prices and services, as shown in the trip dossiers and website 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 before departure. However, some tours may require payment up to 4 months before departure. Please refer to the tour's trip dossier for exact details.

Payments can be made by Cheque, Direct Deposit, Visa or Mastercard.

N/B Visa and Mastercard payment will incur an additional bank credit card fee of 1.5%

CANCELLATIONS

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

Coates Wildlife Tours will not be considered to be in breach of this contract due to a delay or cancellation caused by a Force Majeure. "Force Majeure is any circumstance which is outside our reasonable control.

In these circumstances, Coates Wildlife Tours will use our best endeavour to re-schedule the tour to a date within 12 months of the original date. Coates Wildlife Tours shall not be held liable for amounts that cannot be retrieved from third parties.

In respect of cancellations by a passenger, specific to the South Australia, Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre Expedition the following cancellation time or penalties are in place plus any costs charged by other parties involved with the Tour will apply: -

Deposits are non-refundable for all tours at any time.

Where written notice is received:

Before 13 April 2021: Deposit is non-refundable however any other payments may be refunded

On or between 13 April 2021 and 13 May 2021: Full tour cost is non-refundable.

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 affected.

GENERAL INFORMATION

EQUIPMENT: - Transport by an air-conditioned custom built 4WD tour coach, minibus or 4WD vehicle; whichever 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 wildlife mentioned in the itineraries cannot be guaranteed as they are wild and therefore free to come and go as they please.

WILDFLOWER DISPLAYS: - Cannot 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.