

Trip Dossier

10 Day Western Australia's Mid West Wildflower Tour



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers
Perth to Perth 22 September - 1 October 2020

Itinerary Highlights:

- Travel on WA's world famous wildflower route.
- Dalwallinu - renowned for having the largest variety of wattle (acacias) found anywhere in the world.
- Coalseam Nature Reserve - between sand plain and arid country for a wide range of annuals and perennials.
- Eneabba Wildflower Drive - one of the largest and most spectacular wildflower displays in WA
- Kalbarri - visit stunning gorges and walk amongst the coastal wildflowers.
- Northern Kwongan - sand plain heath of sweeping carpets of brightly coloured flowers
- Lesueur National Park - one of the richest sites for plant species in the world with over 800 species
- Nambung National Park - travel through the spectacular Pinnacles Desert, one of WA's best known landscapes.

Australia is renowned as one of the world's botanical 'hotspots' Following the winter rains Western Australian wildflowers burst into bloom and transform the beautifully rugged Golden Outback landscape into a brightly-coloured wonderland.

The reason for this unique storehouse of biological diversity, in particular the abundance and exuberant colours of this diverse and exotic flora, is the great age of the West Australian landmass. It is one of the most ancient and least geographically disturbed in the world. This has resulted in the survival of primitive forms of plants and the evolution of more specialised forms.

This tour has been designed to show you the magnificent diversity of flowering plants north of Perth when they should be at their colourful best.

The trip covers a diverse array of landscapes with the farm lands of the wheat belt, the highlights of the Kalbarri National Park and the northern sand plains around Eneabba, Badgingarra and the Lesueur National Park.

Our naturalist guides have conducted many Western Australia wildflower tours and will ensure you are guided and educated through the whole trip.

Itinerary

Day 1 Perth to Dalwallinu

Today we will leave Perth at 7.30 am. Traveling via Toodyay, Goomalling and Wongan Hills we will head through the wheat belt to Dalwallinu, which is the first town on WA's world famous wildflower route.

Accommodation: Motel Dalwallinu LD

Day 2 Dalwallinu

Today we will explore the wildflowers in the Dalwallinu area, which is also renowned for having the largest variety of wattle (acacias) found anywhere in the world. There are about 185 varieties within 100kms of Dalwallinu.

Accommodation: Motel Dalwallinu BLD

Day 3 Dalwallinu to Morawa

This morning we will continue our drive north, heading for Morawa. During the day we'll spend time looking at and photographing the wildflowers that grow along the side of the road.

Accommodation: Morawa Hotel BLD

Day 4 Morawa - Coalseam Reserve - Morawa

Today we will explore the Coalseam Nature Reserve. Coalseam is well known for its annual display of wildflowers, which come in a wide range of annuals and perennials due to the park's diverse habitat range and location between sandplain and arid country.

Accommodation: Morawa Hotel BLD

Day 5 Morawa - Three Springs - Eneabba - Geraldton

Today we'll leave Morawa and head to Geraldton. Our travels will take us via Three Springs and Eneabba, There will be time to visit and explore the diverse array of wildflowers at Western Flora.

Accommodation: Hotel Geraldton BLD

Day 6 Geraldton to Kalbarri

This morning we'll travel to Kalbarri via the coast road. There will be plenty of time today to visit some of the coastal gorges and walk amongst the coastal wildflowers.

Accommodation: Motel Kalbarri BLD

Day 7 Kalbarri

We'll rise early this morning so we can spend as much time as possible in Kalbarri National Park, which is famous for its wildflowers. The species-rich heath lands provide a spectacularly colourful floral display. Vivid gold and orange banksias, red white and yellow grevilleas, red kangaroo paws, many coloured shades of feather flowers and grey smoke bushes make an unforgettable picture. Twenty one plant species are unique to this area. We hope to find the Kalbarri catspaw, a small yellow and red plant usually found on recently burnt areas and confined to the Kalbarri area. We also hope to find several orchids including the Kalbarri spider orchid and the Murchison hammer orchid.

Accommodation: Motel Kalbarri BLD

Day 8 Kalbarri to Cervantes

Next, we start heading south travelling through farm lands where the road side verges should offer a diverse range of plants and colour. South of Dongara we enter the Northern Kwongan, a sand plain heath supporting sweeping carpets of brightly coloured flowers. During our drive to Cervantes there will be plenty of time to spend off the vehicle looking closely at the many wildflowers we find. Some of the wildflower displays will include Dryandra, Propeller Banksia, Painted and Scarlet Feather-flowers, Blue Smoke bush and Black and Yellow Kangaroo Paws.

Accommodation: Motel Cervantes BLD

Day 9 Cervantes - Lesueur National Park - Cervantes

Today we will continue to explore this magnificent wildflower area. The Lesueur National Park contains expanses of the northern sand plains region, with a wide range of geologic formations, landscapes and soil types. These vary from salt lakes in the west to laterite ridges in the east and partly explain the reason that it is a biodiversity hotspot, renowned for its wildflowers, birds and reptiles. This is one of the richest sites for plant species in the world with over 800 plant species. Nine of these are found nowhere else in the world. There is always something flowering in the park but in the months of September and October Lesueur erupts into colour with a range of species from Lechenaultias to Melaleucas bursting into flower.

Accommodation: Motel Cervantes BLD

Day 10 Cervantes to Perth

This morning we'll visit the Nambung National Park and travel through the spectacular Pinnacles Desert, one of WA's best known landscapes. A bizarre region in which thousands of limestone pinnacles rise, forest- like, from the shifting yellow sands. After lunch we we'll continue our journey down the coast to Perth arriving by late afternoon.

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$5,115.00 Per Person Twin Share
\$ 635.00 Single Supplement

Departs: Perth 22nd September 2020

Finishes: Perth 1st October 2020

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 22 August 2020

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

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: Above discounts cannot be combined.

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

- Coates tour leader/ driver;
- Coates Naturalist leader;
- Accommodation - twin share with private facilities in hotels and motels;
- Meals as per itinerary;
- Morning tea each day;
- Fresh fruit on board daily;
- All national park entrance fees.
- Kalbarri Wildflower Display entrance fee.

Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to and from Perth;
- Pre and post tour accommodation;
- All other private expenses;
- Other entrance fees or activity costs not listed

Tour Information

Naturalist Guide: TBA

Driver Guide: TBA

Vehicle & Equipment:

Air conditioned purpose built 4WD tour coach with all front facing, mostly reclining and seat-belted seats or mini bus

Accommodation:

Twin share rooms at hotels or motels with ensuite facilities. If you would prefer a single room, a single supplement will apply.

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:

Light bushwalking on most days.

Weather:

Days are usually mild, with temperatures around the mid 20 degrees Celsius. The nights are cooler, with minimum temperatures around 6-12 degrees Celsius. There is also the possibility of light showers during the tour.

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.

To make a booking or further information please contact

Tom or Sylvia Grove at Coates Wildlife Tours

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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 will 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:-

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

Where written notice is received:

31 days or more prior to departure: Deposit is non-refundable however any other payments may be refunded

30 days or less prior to departure: 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 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 affecting 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 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.