



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

13-Day South West National Parks



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers

Perth - Perth 12 - 24 October 2024

Itinerary Highlights:

- Dryandra Woodland National Park - a scenic area with magnificent woodlands and spectacular wildflowers; also home to the iconic striped numbat and over 100 species of birdlife
- Hopkins Nature Reserve - a great patch of wheatbelt made up of sand plains, scrub & mallee vegetation and woodlands
- Wave Rock area and indigenous rock art
- Cruise the Recherché Archipelago to the waters around Woody Island Nature Reserve
- Fitzgerald River National Park - nearly 20 per cent of Western Australia's flora species are found in this park, many of which are endemic
- Stirling Range National Park - a striking feature of the landscape with five peaks over 3000 feet high
- Waychinicup National Park and Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve - boasting unspoilt coastal scenery & an excellent spot to locate the rare Noisy Scrub bird
- Karri forest - visit the Tree Top Walk and the Old Empire Walk in the Valley of the Giants

Few areas in Australia are blessed with the number and variety of national parks found in WA's south west. They offer breathtaking beauty and diversity - rugged coastlines, sandy beaches, magnificent wildflowers and some of the world's tallest forests.

It is also one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Almost 80 percent of the plant species are found nowhere else on earth. The varied range of wildflowers, forests and native animals all contribute to the rare and unique nature of the region. It is also renowned for its abundance of birdlife as most of WA's endemics occur here.

You will experience a vast array of habitats where you will see other wildlife. We'll be walking through open woodlands, outback arid areas, coastal heaths, peppermint trees, karri forests and on an offshore island.

Itinerary

Day 1 Perth - Dryandra - Narrogin

We'll leave Perth around 7.30 am and head southeast to Dryandra Woodland National Park. Dryandra is an incredibly scenic area with magnificent woodlands and spectacular wildflowers in spring. Many interesting eucalypt species and flora are found here; it is also of international importance for birds and mammals, including the most exquisite of marsupials, the striped numbat. Although the numbat is probably Dryandra's best-known inhabitant, woylies, tammar wallabies, brushtail possums, tawny frogmouths, kangaroos and wallabies are regularly seen by visitors to Dryandra. More than 100 species of birds live in the area, including the mound-building mallee fowl. We will spend the afternoon exploring the area before enjoying a BBQ dinner. After dinner, we will take a spotlight walk in Narrogin.

Accommodation: Motel Narrogin LD

Day 2 Narrogin - Wave Rock - Hyden

This morning we'll leave Narrogin and continue our journey eastward to Hyden. During the day, we will pass through the wheatbelt towns of Harrismith and Kulin. Kulin Shire has an abundance of excellent wildflower reserves. They are as rich and varied as any in the world. Hopkins Nature Reserve comes to life in early spring and is a critical flora conservation area. Roadside flora will also be abundant during the day.

When we arrive in Hyden, we'll have time to visit one of WA's biggest waves despite being far from the ocean. The famous 'Wave Rock' formation has been 700 million years in the making and rises 15 metres above the outback ground. Venture further into this ancient landscape and discover a wide variety of striking geological features. Many are also the subject of fascinating Indigenous Dreamtime stories and the site of beautiful Indigenous rock art.

Accommodation: Motel Hyden BLD

Day 3 Hyden - Norseman

We'll pass through a semi-arid zone on our travels from Hyden to Norseman. This area offers many interesting geological highlights, including McDermid Rock and the Breakaways.

Accommodation: Motel Norseman BLD

Day 4 Norseman - Esperance

This morning we'll head south to Esperance. We'll travel via the Old Coach Road, visiting some natural history and historical sites along the way.

Accommodation: Motel Esperance BLD

Day 5 Esperance

Today we'll visit Cape Le Grande, National Park. Cape Le Grand is characterised by wild coastal scenery, rugged granite peaks and sweeping heathlands. Popular features in the park include attractive bays with wide sandy beaches set between rocky headlands. This habitat is home to Western Grey Kangaroos and many shore birds.

Accommodation: Motel Esperance BLD

Day 6 Esperance - Recherche Archipelago Crusie - Woody Island - Esperance

Today we'll set off on a morning cruise from Esperance through the Recherché Archipelago to the waters around Woody Island. Woody Island Nature Reserve is approximately 15km off the coast of Esperance and is one of nature's wonders. The island is one of the one hundred islands in the Recherche Archipelago, known to locals as the Bay of Isles. The waters around the island make for great sightings of spectacular wildlife. All sorts of marine life thrive in these waters, including fur seals, sea lions and dolphins, and a range of birds, including Cape Barren Geese and White-breasted Sea Eagles.

Mid-afternoon, on return to the mainland, there will be time to visit Lake Mortijinup, where the birdlife and wildflowers should be plentiful.

Accommodation: Motel Esperance BLD

Day 7 Esperance - Hopetoun

We'll leave Esperance this morning and begin our journey westward to the Fitzgerald River National Park. Our drive takes us past Pink Lake and Stokes National Park (featuring one of the most picturesque estuaries along WA's southern coast). We can also expect a great display of roadside wildflowers on the way to Hopetoun.

Accommodation: Motel Hopetoun BLD

Day 8 Hopetoun - Fitzgerald River National Park - Bremer Bay

Today we'll find ourselves on the doorstep of the Fitzgerald River National Park, one of Australia's largest and most botanically significant National Parks. Nearly 20 per cent of WA's flora species are found in the park, many of which only occur here. Our first point of interest is Mt Barren (which we'll visit if the access road is open). We'll continue our botanical journey travelling through the national park. We'll see many plant varieties here, including the Royal Hakea, Regelia Bottlebrush, Prostrate Banksia, Quaalup Bell, Whipstick Mallee and Trigger plant.

Accommodation: Bremer Bay Motel BLD

Day 9 Fitzgerald River National Park

Today we'll have the entire day to spend exploring the natural wonders of the west end of the Fitzgerald River National Park. The park covers over 120,000 acres and houses a wide variety of habitats, including heathlands, wetlands, scrublands and rugged mountains (by Australian standards). We will walk the trails and may climb one of the mountains to enjoy the excellent views. The bird life here is abundant, ranging in size from large Emus to tiny Emu-wrens, Fairy Wrens and Thornbills.

Accommodation: Bremer Bay Motel BLD

Day 10 Bremer Bay - Waychinicup N.P. - 2 Peoples Bay - Albany

We will have an early start this morning to allow for a trip to Waychinicup National Park. We'll visit Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve boasting unspoilt coastal scenery. We will look and listen for the rare Noisy Scrub bird.

Accommodation: Motel Albany BLD

Day 11 Albany - Stirling Range - Albany

Today we'll see the wonders of the Stirling Range National Park. On the way to the park, you can observe the change in the vegetation to tall species of Eucalyptus, Jarrah and Marri.

The Stirling Ranges are a striking feature of the landscape, with five peaks over 3000 feet high that rise abruptly from the coastal lowlands. The area receives more rainfall than its surrounding districts, allowing plants to thrive here that are not found elsewhere.

Accommodation: Motel Albany BLD

Day 12 Albany - Denmark - Manjimup

Leaving Albany, today we'll continue west and enter the main Karri belt near Denmark. We'll walk through the Karri forest, enjoying the wildflowers and wildlife. A visit to the Tree Top Walk and the Old Empire Walk in the Valley of the Giants will be a highlight of the day.

Accommodation: Motel Manjimup BLD

Day 13 Manjimup - Perth

Leaving Manjimup behind, we head to Perth. Our journey will take us through the coastal town of Bunbury, where we will explore the wildlife found at Big Swamp and then onto Mandurah. Our tour ends with our arrival in Perth in the late afternoon.

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$7,975.00 Per Person Twin Share
\$ 955.00 Single Supplement

Departs: Perth 12 October 2024

Finishes: Perth 24 October 2024

Tour Payments

Deposit: At the time of booking, \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 11 September 2024

Note: The deposit is non-refundable.
The final payment is non-refundable if cancelled within 30 days of departure.
Travel Insurance covering all payments is available and is strongly recommended.

Included

- Coates tour leader/ driver;
- Coates Naturalist leader;
- Well maintained vehicle with all front facing, seat-belted, coach style seats;
- Meals as per itinerary;
- Morning tea each day;
- Fresh fruit on board daily;
- All national park entrance fees;
- Woody Island Cruise;
- Tree Top Walk.

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 activities not listed.

Special Offers

Book Multiple Tours

If you travel with Coates twice in the same calendar year, you will receive a 5% discount off the cheaper tour.

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 on tours within Australia.

Tour Information

Vehicle & Equipment:

We will travel in an air-conditioned purpose-built 4WD tour coach with all front-facing, mostly reclining and seat-belted seats or minibus.

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. breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D) and morning tea. A plentiful supply of fresh fruit will also be available throughout the day. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for where prior notice is given. Please get in touch with the office if you have a particular dietary need, as a surcharge may apply.

Trek Grading:

Light bushwalking on most days.

Weather:

Days are usually mild, with temperatures around 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 the 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 during the day, and warmer jumpers and jackets may be needed for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity.

For detailed **Terms and Conditions**, please visit the [FAQ page](#) on our website.

To make a booking or further information please contact:

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