



Coates Wildlife Tours

*Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986*

## Trip Dossier

### 15 Day Tanami Expedition



#### Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers Kununurra to Alice Springs 31 July - 14 August 2021

##### Itinerary Highlights:

- The Tanami Road crosses the vast expanse of the Tanami Desert and will delight nature lovers and bird watchers.
- Enjoy an early morning bird watching cruise on Lake Argyle.
- Keep River National Park. A relatively small park but the scenery and landforms are just as dramatic as in the larger parks.
- Visit Wolfe Creek Crater, a well-preserved 880-metre-wide meteorite crater that is over 300,000 years old (the second largest crater in the world)
- Birdwatching at Lake Stretch
- Lake Gregory's (Paruku) remote freshwater wetlands is renowned for its prolific birdlife, supporting over 70 species of waterbirds.
- Newhaven Reserve is a hotspot for the wildlife of Central Australia and the scenery there is spectacular.
- The West MacDonnell Ranges are known for their beauty and scenic gorges. They also provide refuge for many plants and animals.

Join us as we explore some of the most isolated areas in northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The scenery is spectacular, with ancient landscapes, scenic gorges, extensive dunes, lakes, wetlands and clear starry night skies.

Our adventure has many highlights, but our detour off the Tanami Road to Mulan and Lake Gregory is one of the most exciting. This lake system is a RAMSAR site, due to the vitally important role it has for migratory birds travelling to and from Australia. The Black Necked Stork, large groups of Brolgas, Black Swans and Spoonbills are regularly seen on and around the lake, which is also home to Dingoes and a variety of other mammals.

We visit Newhaven Station, a wildlife sanctuary managed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Situated on the junction of three bioregions (the Great Sandy Desert, MacDonnell Ranges and Burt Plain), it is home to a diverse array of arid zone plants and at least 138 species of birds.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Kununurra to Lake Argyle

A very early start this morning as we depart Kununurra and head to lake Argyle. This morning we will undertake a morning bird watching cruise on the lake.

Accommodation: Campsite Lake Argyle LD

### Day 2 Lake Argyle to Keep River National Park

Only a short drive this morning as we cross the state border into the Northern Territory and Keep River National Park. After setting up camp we will explore the park - we will visit Aboriginal art sites and discover the wildlife found here, including the Short-eared Rock-wallaby, White-quilled Rock-pigeon and Sandstone Shrike-thrush.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite Keep River BLD

### Days 3 & 4 Keep River National Park to Halls Creek

We head down the Duncan Highway and travel north along the east side of the Bungle Bungle Range to Halls Creek. There are many highlights to be enjoyed during these two days including visits to the Old Ord River Homestead, Saw Tooth Gorge, Palm Springs and the Old Halls Creek Settlement where the crew will restock our fresh provisions. Tonight's dinner will be in the Halls Creek Hotel (at passengers own expense).

Accommodation: Bush Camp Duncan Highway & Campsite Halls Creek BLD & BL

### Day 5 Halls Creek to Wolf Creek Crater to Lake Stretch

Back on the road this morning as we start our journey down the Tanami Road with a detour to the 300,000-year-old Wolf Creek meteorite crater. It is the second-largest crater in the world, and we spend time walking on the rim exploring its natural history. After lunch, we continue onto Lake Stretch where we will set up camp.

Accommodation: Bush campsite at Lake Stretch BLD

### Day 6 Lake Stretch to Lake Gregory

Leaving Lake Stretch, we take the backtrack to Mulan and then onto our campsite at Handover on the banks of Lake Gregory. There'll be time this afternoon to explore the area around our campsite.

Accommodation: Bush campsite at Lake Gregory BLD

### Day 7 Lake Gregory

Today we will explore the area around Lake Gregory (Paruku). This permanent brackish lake is part of a spectacular wetland system and is internationally renowned for its birdlife. The Traditional Owners of this area held the native title handover ceremony on the shores of the lake, symbolising the significance of this place to local Aboriginal people. They believe the system was formed when a star fell from the sky into the lake and then transformed itself into a man becoming the very first Traditional Owner of this place

Accommodation: Bush campsite at Handover - Lake Gregory BLD

### Day 8 Lake Gregory - Mullan - Balgo- Tanami Desert Bush Camp

Back on the Tanami this morning as we travel west heading into Western Australia. In the morning we will call into the remote Aboriginal Community Balgo where we will fuel up before heading to our bush camp located just off the Tanami Desert Road.

Accommodation: Bush campsite Rabbit Flats area BLD

**Day 9 Tanami Desert Bush Camp to Mt Doreen Station Area**

Continuing on the Tanami Road, we will travel through this harsh, isolated area. Tonights campsite is on the abandoned Mt Doreen Station.

Accommodation: Bush campsite Mt Doreen Station BLD

**Day 10 Mt Doreen Station Area to Newhaven Station**

We have an early start today, after which we will call into the remote aboriginal community Yuendumu for fuel and supplies. We then leave the Tanami Road behind and take local tracks out to Newhaven Station. Once the campsite is set up there should be time to explore the area around the camp. You may also like to enjoy the sunset from the hill overlooking the camp.

Accommodation: Campsite at Newhaven Station BLD

**Day 11 & 12 Newhaven Station**

We will spend the next two days touring and walking on the station's tracks , salt pans and sand dunes in search of birds, arid zone plants and the other wildlife that exists in this remote area.

Accommodation: Campsite at Newhaven Station BLD

**Day 13 Newhaven Station to Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges)**

Today will be an early start as we leave Newhaven and move onto the West MacDonnell Ranges. We will travel via the Aboriginal Community of Papunya and then onto Redbank Gorge.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite at Redbank Gorge BLD

**Day 14 Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges) and surrounds**

We will spend the day exploring Redbank Gorge and some of the other areas nearby. The gorge is stunning and provides refuge for many threatened plants and animals, while the area offers excellent walks, plentiful wildlife and striking scenery.

Accommodation: Campsite at Redbank Gorge BLD

**Day 15 Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges) to Alice Springs**

We leave Redbank this morning and spend the day exploring Stanley Chasm, Serpentine Gorge and Glen Helen in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Our outback adventure ends with our mid-afternoon arrival in Alice Springs, where you will transfer you to your chosen central city accommodation. BL

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



## Tour Costs

Cost: \$6,925.00 per person in lead vehicles  
\$2,125.00 per person in tag along vehicles  
Free Single Supplement

Departs: Kununurra 31 July 2021

Finishes: Alice Springs 14 August 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 30 June 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

- Two well-maintained 4WD vehicles;
- 2 crew members - a Naturalist/Driver Guide and Driver/Cook;
- Easy-to-erect dome tents and camp 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 teas;
- All national park entrance fees;
- Travel permits as required.

## Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows;
- Sleeping bags
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to Alice Springs and from Kununurra;
- 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

### Tag-Along Participants

If requested when booking, we can supply tents, seating and eating utensils which you will need to carry in your vehicle.

### Vehicle & Equipment:

Our vehicles will be two Toyota 4WD Prado's with trailers or similar. We will supply all the necessary camping equipment, but you will be required to provide your sleeping bag and pillow, or you can purchase a sleeping bag from us for \$100.00, which you can take home after the tour or we can donate them to charity if you prefer.

### Single Travellers:

If you are travelling alone, you will have your own tent.

### Accommodation:

We will be camping at bush camps and campsites.

We choose the bush camps for their suitability and natural benefits. There are usually no facilities except a long-drop bush toilet. However, we carry adequate water for washing.

National Park campsites are operated by national park managers and usually have a mix of flushing or long-drop toilets, fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some provide showers.

Private campsites vary significantly in the facilities they offer. Some provide full facilities which include entire ablution blocks; other sites only have a long-drop toilet.

### Meals:

All meals are included throughout the tour - i.e. breakfast, lunch, dinner and morning teas. There is also 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 need, 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 trails.

### Weather:

The tour is timed to coincide with the dry season. Days are usually dry and hot with temperatures around the high 20's to low 30's (degrees Celsius). Temperatures can drop as low as 3 or 4 degrees Celsius during the night. Rain is uncommon at this time of the year.

### Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on the tour will be included in our pre-departure information sent to you about one month before departure. Generally, we recommend comfortable casual clothing. Light shirts and T-shirts are suitable during the day, but you may need warmer jumpers and jackets for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity.

## 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 Tanami 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 30 June 2021: Deposit is non-refundable however any other payments may be refunded

On or between 30 June 2021 and 31 July 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.