



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

## Trip Dossier

### 13-Day Kimberley Wonders Tour



#### Easy Camping Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers

Broome - Kununurra 6 - 18 June 2024

##### Itinerary Highlights:

- Camp at Silent Grove,
- Camping at Drysdale River Station, a family owned and operated million-acre cattle station
- Optional Flight (at your own expense) and hike to visit the iconic Mitchell Falls (Punamii-unpuu to the Wunambal people); a four-tiered waterfall
- Visit Parys Lagoon for wetland bird watching; this waterbird breeding and feeding area is also a stopover point for migratory waders.
- 3 nights at Purnululu (Bungle Bungles) National Park; one of Western Australia's most striking geological landmarks and home to remote wildlife
- 18 Minute helicopter flight over Purnululu to see the beehive-like mounds, hidden gorges and contrasting pools from above

##### **\*Easy Camping\***

*The easy camping concept has been introduced to make the whole camping experience more enjoyable. The camp support crew will travel ahead in a separate vehicle and will have our camp operational when the bus arrives with the group. No more erecting tents, beds or un-packing camping equipment. Just pick up your bag and either spend time exploring the campsite or freshening up and relaxing before dinner.*

The Kimberley region in the northwest of Western Australia is one of the most remote and unspoiled wilderness areas in the world. Its unique geology, vibrant Aboriginal culture and diverse flora and fauna have fascinated visitors for many years.

A highlight of this tour will be our visit to Purnululu National Park to see the Bungle Bungle Range. This World Heritage-listed site is one of the most fascinating geological landmarks in Western Australia. The beehive-like mounds are encased in a skin of silica and algae, creating a striking stripe pattern. More than 130 species of bird reside within Purnululu, including Rainbow Bee-eaters, flocks of Budgerigars and Australian Bustards. The Nail-tail wallaby and the Euro live around the massif, while Short-eared Rock wallabies live on top.

Bird enthusiasts will particularly enjoy our visit to Marlgu Billabong at Parrys Lagoon Nature Reserve. The reserve is a haven for a variety of waterbirds.

We will also spend two nights at Drysdale River station where, on the second day, it will be possible to undertake an optional flight (at your own expense) and hike to the Mitchell Falls. This trip will be visiting the magnificent Mitchell and Mertens Falls. Landscapes around the plateau vary from mangroves and swamps to woodlands and lush rainforest patches. A diverse array of wildlife populates the region. The rugged sandstone areas are home to some rare residents like the small rock wallaby called a monjon (*Petrogale burbidgei*), the Rough-scaled Python (*Morelia carinata*). The area also has a rich indigenous history. Wunambal Aboriginal people have lived in the vicinity for thousands of years, and the plateau offers many excellent examples of ancient rock art.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Broome to Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge)

This morning we depart Broome early and head for Windjana Gorge, passing Boab Trees (including prison tree) and the savannah plains.

Before arriving at camp, we will visit Tunnel Creek, which flows through a water-eroded tunnel in the limestone of the Napier Range, part of the 350 million-year-old Devonian Reef System.

We will walk through the tunnel to the other side of the Range. A short path takes us to the entrance, where we climb over and squeeze between boulders to get to the cave.

The tunnel is dark but very spacious. We turn on our torches and start wading through the several permanent pools of the 750-metre tunnel. At least five species of bats, including ghost and fruit bats, live in the cave, with some fish and the odd, harmless little freshwater crocodile. About halfway along, the roof has collapsed, letting the daylight in, and you will see interesting roots growing through the cave roof. At the end of the tunnel, you may want to take a dip in the water hole, look at the Aboriginal rock art or enjoy the surroundings.

After returning through the tunnel, we will drive to our campsite for the next two nights.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite - Bandilngan LD

## **Day 2          Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge)**

Today we explore Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) with its varied bird life, the Devonian reef walls, and many freshwater crocodiles. We begin by walking through a small cave-like tunnel the path opens onto the flat ground between limestone cliffs of the Napier Range and the waters of the Lennard River. Tall broad-leaved leichardt trees, native figs and the paper-barked cadjeputs line the riverbank. These trees also provide shelter from the hot sun for many waterbirds, a colony of fruit bats and a large group of corellas. You will also find Freshwater crocodiles on the sand and in the pools. The rocky Cliffs also provide the perfect home for small macropods, including Agile Wallabies.

Accommodation:                  National Park Campsite - Bandilngan                                  BLD

## **Day 3          Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) to Dulundi (Silent Grove)**

A short early morning walk into the gorge before leaving Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge). We head through the Napier Range for our Dulundi (Silent Grove) campsite. Before we arrive, we will head to the Lennard River Gorge to enjoy a short walk and spectacular views of the waterfalls of the Lennard River, carving its way through the Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges. The walk from the car park will take us along the creek line and then up the sandstone of the range, finishing with a lookout over the falls. Mid-afternoon we will arrive at our campsite.

Accommodation:                  National Park Campsite - Dulundi                                  BLD

## **Day 4          Dulundi (Silent Grove) to Manning Creek**

Today we will continue along the Gibb River Road heading towards Manning Creek and Mt Barnett Station. Along the way, we will stop in at Adcock Gorge. At Adcock, we will undertake an easy-moderate walk over some rocky terrain to find a clear deep green pool and waterfall to shower under. Early afternoon we will arrive at our campground via Mt Barnett Roadhouse. There will be time to relax in the afternoon or have another swim at the campground.

Accommodation:                  Campsite - Manning Creek                                  BLD

## **Day 5          Manning Creek**

Today is spent exploring this lovely oasis. We will undertake the Manning Gorge Walk, where you must first cross Manning Creek to re-join the trail path on the other side. You can swim 40 metres across, or use the rope-guided dinghy. The trail follows a route overland with views over the ranges and savannah woodlands. The terrain is uneven, with some rock scrambling and an incline towards the end. It can be sunny and hot but well worth the effort when you reach the end and take a refreshing swim in a vast waterfall-fed pool.

Accommodation:                  Campsite - Manning Creek                                  BLD

## **Day 6          Manning Creek to Drysdale Station**

Leaving Manning Creek, we continue east along the Gibb before turning North up the Kalumburu Road, arriving mid-afternoon at our campsite for the next two nights.

Accommodation:                  Drysdale Station Campsite                                  BLD

### **Day 7          Drysdale River Station**

Today there is an opportunity for those that wish to undertake an optional flight and hike to Mitchell Falls.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a full-day side trip and will need to be booked when booking this tour. Details on the flight and hike are included at the end of this itinerary.

For those not wishing to undertake the Mitchell Falls trip, the day will be spent exploring the station, including the surrounding creeks and other waterways, looking for various birdlife, including the Gouldian Finch and the Purple Crowned Fairy-wren.

Accommodation:                  Drysdale Station Campsite    BLD

### **Day 8          Drysdale River Station to Home Valley Station**

Today we depart Drysdale and head back to the Gibb River Road. Continuing east today, our destination will be Home Valley Station. Our campsite will be on the banks of the Pentecost River with stunning views of the Cockburn Ranges.

Accommodation:                  Campsite - Home Valley Station    BLD

### **Day 9          Home Valley Station to Kununurra**

We Leave Home Valley this morning. We will visit Marlgu Billabong at Parry Lagoon Reserve to see diverse wetland birds. We will also call into Wyndham to look at the old Port before continuing to Kununurra. Tonight we will venture into town for dinner (at your own expense) to allow you to sample some local delights.

Accommodation:                  Campsite - Kununurra    BL

### **Day 10        Kununurra to Purnululu (Bungle Bungle)**

After resupplying in Kununurra this morning, we head for the Purnululu National Park. The journey from the highway to our accommodation takes around three hours. We will start our exploration of the national park by exploring the area around our camp. There will also be time to enjoy an incredible Kimberley sunset.

Accommodation:                  National Park Campsite - Purnululu    BLD

### **Day 11 & 12 Purnululu (Bungle Bungle)**

We spend the next two days exploring the park, including the beautiful and unique geological formations of Echidna Chasm, the beehive at Piccanniny Creek and Cathedral Gorge. You will also see the bee hive formations from a whole new perspective with an 18-minute flight over the Bungle Bungle Range to see the gorgeous mounds from above.

Accommodation:                  National Park Campsite - Purnululu    BLD

### **Day 13        Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) to Kununurra**

Today marks the end of our Kimberley adventure and our return to Kununurra. This wonderful outback experience will end on our arrival back in town, where you will be transferred to your chosen accommodation    BL.

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

## Optional Mitchell Falls Flight & Hike

The group will board an early morning flight to the Mitchell Plateau. After a short 4WD transfer, we will arrive at the Mitchell Falls Trail and begin the 4.5km walk to the falls. Along the walk (expected to take 2.5 hours with breaks), we will view some Aboriginal art sites and the Little and Big Mertens Falls. When we arrive at the falls, you will have a few hours to explore the area and take in the scenery. Early afternoon we will fly via helicopter from the falls to the start of the trail before transferring by 4WD back to the airstrip. The day will finish with a flight back to Drysdale station.

### Tour Costs

Cost: \$7,425.00 per person

Free Single Supplement

Optional Mitchell Falls Flight: \$1,180.00

Departs: Broome 6 June 2024

Finishes: Kununurra 18 June 2024

Max No. Of Participants: 12 passengers, Coates Naturalist Leader, Driver / Guide and Support Crew.

### Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 5 May 2024

Note: Deposit is non-refundable. The final payment is non refundable if canceled within 30 days of the departure date. Travel Insurance covering all payments is available and is very strongly recommended.

## 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 tour within Australia.*

## Included

- 3 crew members consisting of a naturalist guide, driver guide and camp support crew member
- **Easy Camping** included (Camp is set up and packed away each day for you);
- Tents, tall enough for most people to stand upright in, camp beds ,mattresses & chairs with arms;
- Well maintained vehicle with front-facing, seat belted, mostly reclining, coach-style seats
- Eating utensils and crockery.
- Meals as per itinerary;
- Morning tea each day;
- Fresh fruit on board daily;
- All national park entrance fees
- 18 minute Bungle Bungle helicopter flight

## Not Included

- Optional flight and hike to the Mitchell Falls
- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks.
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended)
- Travel expenses to Kununurra and from Broome.
- 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

### Pick up point in Broome and drop off in Kununurra:

Coates can pick up in Broome from any centrally located hotel from 7 am on day one. Coates will drop off in the late afternoon at any centrally located Kununurra hotel on the last day of the tour. Unfortunately, we can't give an exact time for drop-off due to changing conditions on the road. We recommend spending a night in Kununurra before any onward travel.

### Vehicle & Equipment:

Air-conditioned purpose-built 4WD tour coach with all front-facing, mostly reclining, seat-belted seats, power facilities and all the necessary camping equipment. Passengers are required to supply their sleeping bags and pillows, or a sleeping bag can be purchased from us for \$125.00. Purchased sleeping bags can be taken home after the tour or given back to us, and we will donate them to charity.

### Single Travellers:

On Coates Wildlife Camping Tours, single travellers will be allocated a tent to themselves. Please let us know if you are travelling with a friend and would like to share a tent.

### Accommodation:

It is a combination of bush camps and campsites.

Bush camps are at locations chosen by the tour guide for their suitability and natural benefits. There are usually no facilities 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 managers operate National Park campsites. They have a mix of flushing or composting toilets, fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some provide showers

**Meals:**

Meals as per the tour itinerary are included, i.e. (B) Breakfast, (L) lunch, (D) dinner 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 special dietary requirement, as a surcharge may apply.

**Trek Grading:**

We undertake moderate to challenging bushwalking on most days. All walks are optional and can be conducted at your own pace. There will also be some rock scrambling on a few of the walks.

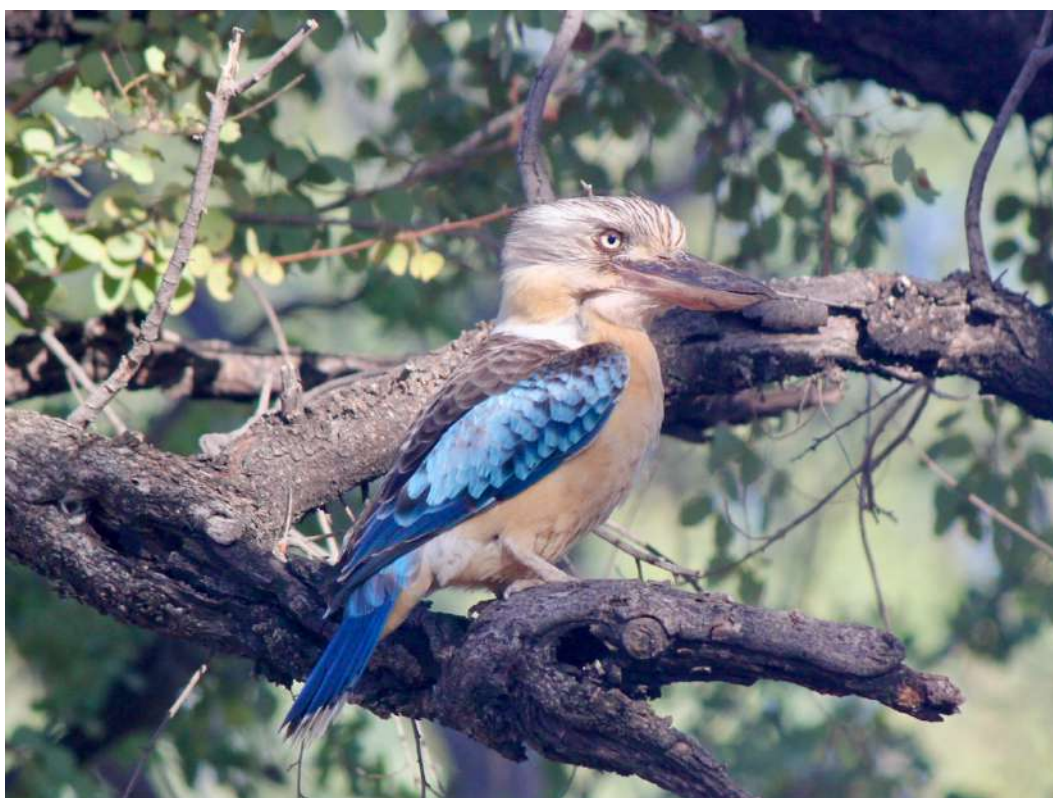
**Weather:**

The tour has been timed to coincide with the dry season. Days are usually dry and hot, with temperatures around the low to mid 30's (degrees Celsius). Temperatures in the Bungle Bungle Ranges can drop to as low as 3 or 4 degrees Celsius at night. Rain is not usually experienced at this time of the year.

**Clothing:**

Our pre-departure information will include a suggested list of items to bring on tour. This will be sent to you about one month before departure. Generally, comfortable, casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts are appropriate during the day, and warmer jumpers and jackets may be needed for the evenings. Don't forget your bathers and any snorkelling equipment you may have. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are necessary, and an old pair of sneakers or reef-style boots that can be worn in the water is highly recommended.

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



To make a booking or further information please contact

Tom or Sylvia Grove at Coates Wildlife Tours

P.O. Box 1208

Booragoon, WA 6954

Phone: 08 9330 6066 Free Call Country & Interstate: 1800 676 016

Email: [info@coateswildlifetours.com.au](mailto:info@coateswildlifetours.com.au) Web: [www.coateswildlifetours.com.au](http://www.coateswildlifetours.com.au)