

Trip Dossier

15 Day Gibson Desert Expedition



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers Perth to Alice Springs 21 April - 5 May 2021

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

Itinerary Highlights:

- Follow in the footsteps of Len Beadell and his road construction party. Travelling from Perth to Alice Springs we will follow the Gunbarrel Highway, Great Central Highway, Gary Junction Road, Sandy Blight Junction Road and Tanami Road.
- Explore remote and pristine Gibson Desert Nature Reserve.
- Visit Mangkili Claypan. After the summer rains, the pan should still be holding water and be home to a range of migratory birds.
- Carnegie Station, an outback oasis
- Travel on the Sandy Blight Junction Road, Len Beadell's Central Australian Showcase.

Rarely visited by tourists, The Gibson Desert is vast, with undulating sand plains, dune fields and gibber plains. The vegetation is mainly mulga and other mixed shrubs over spinifex. On this 4WD adventure, we will travel on the iconic Len Beadell's outback roads. But don't let 'road' tag fool you, the majority of these roads are unkept outback tracks. Our trip will focus on the arid zone plants, birds, other wildlife and the diverse geology and history of the track builders themselves. We will visit remote Aboriginal communities and the occasional bores providing water in the heart of the desert country.

Join this small group and experience the country in almost the same natural state as the early explorers Carnegie and Giles saw it but without the hardships that they endured.

Itinerary

Day 1 Perth - Mt Magnet Area

We depart Perth around 7.30 this morning for a full day's drive north via the Great Northern Highway to our campsite in the Mt Magnet area.

Accommodation: Mt Magnet Caravan Park Campsite LD

Day 2 Mt Magnet Area - Wiluna Area

Today we travel via Meekatharra to Wiluna, a small outback town and the gateway to the two iconic roads, The Canning Stock Route and the Gunbarrel Hwy. Wiluna is our last touch of civilisation for some time as we will be travelling on the Gunbarrel Highway, which officially started a few hundred km's further east. After we resupply in Wiluna, we will head east for 12km to our camp.

Accommodation: Gunbarrel Laarger Travellers Rest Campsite BLD

Days 3 Wiluna Area - Mingol Camp (Wongawol Station)

We start our main journey eastwards along the Gunbarrel highway/ Wongawol Road, stopping along the way for arid zone plants and wildlife sightings. Passing Wongawol Homestead, we head towards Lake Carnegie and our bush camp on the western edge of the Gibson Desert.

Accommodation: Mingol Camp BLD

Day 4 Mingol Camp - Carnegie - Mangkili Claypan Area

This morning we visit Carnegie Station where we will fuel up and then travel on the Gunbarrel Highway, where we start our journey into the Gibson Desert and the Mangkili Claypan Nature Reserve (also known as Mungilli Claypan).

Accommodation: Mangkili Claypan Area Bush Camp BLD

Day 5 Mangkili Claypan Area

We will spend today exploring the area that surrounds our campsite. After peak rains in February and March, the pan should still be holding water and will be home to a range of migratory birds. Late summer rains should also bring new life to the vegetation surrounding the pan.

Accommodation: Mangkili Claypan Area Bush Camp BLD

Day 6 Mangkili Claypan Area - Everard Junction

We continue along the Gunbarrel Highway to Everard Junction, which is the meeting point of the Gunbarrel Highway and Garry Highway. Another track made by Len Beadell.

Accommodation: Everard Junction Bush Camp BLD

Day 7 Everard Junction - Lake Cohen - Everard Junction

Today we leave the trailers behind at our camp for a day trip to Lake Cohen on the northern boundary of the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve. After a good wet season when Lake Cohen is holding water, it can be an excellent site for birdwatching and other wildlife.

Accommodation: Everard Junction Bush Camp BLD

Tour Costs

Cost: \$6,585.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$2,225.00 per person in tag along vehicles
Free Single Supplement

Departs: Perth 21 April 2021
Finishes: Alice Springs 05 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 21 March 2021

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 strongly recommended.

Special Offers

Book Multiple Tours

Save 5% per person on the second and subsequent tours if more that 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 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);
- 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 (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to 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.

*** NOTE: Due to the Federal Government's intervention with Aboriginal communities alcohol has been totally banned on all Aboriginal land. Much of this trip will be spent traveling through these lands and we are required to abide by these laws.

Tour Information

Tour Leader: TBA

Naturalist Guide: TBA

Vehicle & Equipment:

Our vehicles for the tour will consist of two Toyota 4WD Prado's 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.

Tag Along Participants

If requested when booking we can supply tents, seating and eating utensils but they will need to be carried in your own vehicle.

Single Travellers:

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

Accommodation:

Accommodation on this tour 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 apart from a long-drop bush toilet. We carry adequate water for washing.
- Private campsites vary significantly. Some have full ablution blocks with showers and flushing toilets; others only provide a long-drop toilet.

Meals:

All meals are included throughout the tour - ie breakfast, lunch, dinner and morning teas. 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 will undertake light to medium bush walking on most days. All walks are optional and will be able to be conducted at your own pace. There may also be some optional rock scrambling.

Weather:

Days are expected to be dry and warm with temperatures around 20 - 25 degrees Celsius. The nights can be cold, with minimum temperatures around 0 - 8 degrees Celsius.

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information, sent to you on full payment of tour costs. Generally, comfortable, casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts are appropriate for during the day and warmer jumpers and jackets may be required for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes or boots are essential.

To make a booking or for 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 this tour 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 21 March 2021: Deposit is non-refundable however any other payments may be refunded

On or between 21 March 2021 and 21 April 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 2 x air-conditioned 4WD vehicles, 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 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 maximum weight of the bag should not to exceed 15 kilograms. A small day pack is also permitted.

WILDLIFE: - Sighting of wildlife mentioned in the itinerary 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.

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.