

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.
- 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.

For detailed **Terms and Condition** please visit the FAQ page on our website

To make a booking or for further information please contact

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