

Trip Dossier

15 Day Gibson Desert Expedition



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers

Perth to Alice Springs 14 – 28 June 2023

(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.

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 the 'road' tag fool you; most of these roads are unkept outback tracks. Our trip will focus on the arid zone plants, birds, and other wildlife and the diverse geology and history of the track builders. 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 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 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 further east. After we resupply in Wiluna, we will head east for 12km to our camp.

Accommodation: Gunbarrel Lager 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 various migratory birds. Late summer rains should also bring new life to the pan's vegetation.

Accommodation: Mangkili Claypan Area Bush Camp BLD

Day 6 Mangkili Claypan Area - Everard Junction

We continue along the Gunbarrel Highway to Everard Junction, 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

Day 8 Everard Junction - Warburton

Travelling on the Gunbarrel and Heather Highways, we continue our journey to the Great Central Road and Warburton, where we will enjoy a well-earned hot shower.

Accommodation: Campsite Warburton Roadhouse BLD

Day 9 Warburton - Giles (Warakurna)

Today we have a break from outback tracks and enjoy the well-constructed Great Central Road. This afternoon we will arrive at Warakurna and visit the Giles Meteorological station. We will also have a chance to do some laundry and relax at our campsite.

Accommodation: Campsite Warakurna BLD

Days 10 - 13 Warakurna - Sandy Blight Junction Road

We will spend the next four days travelling and camping along the Sandy Blight Junction Road, one of the trip's highlights, with its many ranges, dunes, desert Oaks, and spectacular scenery. Len Beadell called this road his Central Australian showcase. There will be plenty of time to experience and enjoy this beautiful area.

Accommodation: Bush Camps BLD

Days 14 Sandy Blight Junction - Mt Liebig Area

This morning we will call into Kintore (Walungurra) to refuel and re-stock before we travel on the Gary Junction Road to the Mt Liebig area for our last bush camp.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 15 Mt Liebig Area - Alice Springs

Travelling on the Gary Junction and Tanami Roads, we head into Alice Springs.

Our outback adventure ends this afternoon with your transfer to your chosen central Alice Springs accommodation. BL

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$7,215.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$2,925.00 per person in tag-along vehicles
Free Single Supplement

Departs: Perth 14 June 2023

Finishes: Alice Springs 28 June 2023

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 14 May 2023

Note: Deposit is non-refundable. The final payment is non-refundable if cancelled within 30 days of departure. Travel Insurance covering all costs 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 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 banned on all Aboriginal land. Much of this trip will be spent travelling through these lands, and we must 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 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 vehicle.

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:

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. 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 contact the office if you have a special 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 can 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 the 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 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 Conditions**, please visit the FAQ page on our website.



To make a booking or further information please contact

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