



Coates Wildlife Tours

*Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986*

## Trip Dossier

### 12 Day Wild Coastlines of the South East



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers  
Perth to Perth 23 February - 6 March 2022

#### Itinerary Highlights:

- Wave Rock area and Indigenous rock art
- Visits to Peak Charles, Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid National Parks
- Cruise the Recherché Archipelago to the waters around Woody Island Nature Reserve
- Pink Lake - an important bird area due to its populations of Hooded Plovers and Banded Stilts
- Fitzgerald River National Park
- Bremer Bay Canyon - Orca (Killer Whale) Tour
- Stirling Range National Park
- Dryandra Woodland

Our coastline is just beautiful - sandy coves, rolling hills leading down to the water's edge, and offshore islands with their abundant marine life - birds, seals, Orcas, and dolphins. We will showcase the natural diversity of the regions between Perth and Esperance, particularly the coastline either side of Esperance.

### **Day 1 Perth - Wave Rock - Hyden**

This morning we'll leave Perth around 7.30 am and head south-east to Hyden to catch one of Australia's biggest waves, which is nowhere near the ocean. The famous rock formation called 'Wave Rock' has been 2,700 million years in the making and rises 15 metres above the outback plain. We will take you into this ancient landscape where you'll discover a wide variety of striking geological features. Many are also the subject of fascinating Indigenous Dreamtime stories and showcase beautiful Indigenous rock art. On the way, we will pass through the wheatbelt towns of York, Quairading and Corrigin.

Accommodation: Motel Hyden LLD

### **Day 2 Hyden - Norseman**

Today we take a scenic drive on the Hyden Norseman Road through the Greater Western Woodlands and numerous granite outcrops. We will be stopping at McDermid Rock and the interesting Breakaways.

Accommodation: Motel Norseman BLD

### **Day 3 Norseman - Esperance**

This morning we'll head south to Esperance via a visit to Peak Charles, a 651m high granite peak standing majestically above the surrounding pancake-flat countryside. The view from the base of the peak is very impressive. The vegetation around Peak Charles is a mixture of shrub and low mallee eucalypt trees. This habitat also supports many different species of birds and reptiles. There will be time this afternoon to have a look around the Esperance townsite and some of its magnificent beaches.

Accommodation: Motel Esperance BLD

### **Day 4 & 5 Esperance**

We will spend the next two days exploring the national parks in the Esperance area, visiting Cape Arid and Cape Le Grande National Parks. Cape Arid lies at the eastern extremity of the South-Western botanical province and overlaps the boundary of the Eremaean botanical province (the arid zone). Therefore, alongside beaches and the Thomas River and estuary, the area includes both south-western and arid zone vegetation types, providing a broad array of bird habitats.

Wild coastal scenery, rugged granite peaks and sweeping heathlands characterise Cape Le Grand National Park. It's attractive bays with wide sandy beaches are set between rocky headlands.

Accommodation: Motel Esperance BLD

### **Day 6 Esperance - Recherche Archipelago Cruise and Pink Lake - Esperance**

Today we'll set off on a cruise through the Recherche Archipelago to the Woody Island Nature Reserve, approximately 15km off the coast of Esperance. The Island is one of one hundred islands in the Recherche Archipelago, known to locals as the Bay of Isles. The waters around the island make for great sightings of spectacular wildlife. All sorts of marine life thrive in these waters including fur seals, sea lions and dolphins, as well as a range of birds including Cape Barren Geese and White-breasted Sea Eagles.

This afternoon we will travel to Pink Lake just outside of Esperance. The unique pink colour after which the lake is named is the result of Green Algae and/or Brine Prawn. Unfortunately, the lake hasn't been pink for over ten years. The lake is also well known for its birdlife, being recognised by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA) due to its populations of Hooded Plovers and Banded Stilts.

Accommodation: Motel Esperance BLD

### **Day 7 Esperance - Hopetoun**

We'll leave Esperance this morning and begin our journey westward to the Fitzgerald River National Park. Our drive takes us past Stokes National Park and Stokes Inlet, one of the most picturesque estuaries along WA's southern coast.

Accommodation: Motel Hopetoun BLD

### **Day 8 Hopetoun - Fitzgerald River National Park - Bremer Bay**

Today we'll find ourselves on the doorstep of the Fitzgerald River National Park, which is one of the largest and most botanically significant national parks in Australia. Nearly 20 per cent of Western Australia's flora species are found in the park, many of which only occur here. Our first point of interest is Mt Barren (which we'll visit if the access road is open). We'll continue travelling through the national park on the way to Bremer Bay.

Accommodation: Bremer Bay Motel BLD

### **Day 9 Bremer Bay - Bremer Canyon Whale Tour**

Today we will enjoy a full day out on the water. After breakfast, we will cruise from the Bremer Bay coast to the Bremer Canyon. This undersea canyon drop-off provides the perfect habitat for Orca (Killer Whales) that frequent the area on mass at this time of year, and will hopefully provide us with some spectacular sightings. Late this afternoon we will return to the port.

Accommodation: Bremer Bay Motel BLD

### **Day 10 Fitzgerald River National Park**

We will spend the entire day exploring the west end of the Fitzgerald River National Park. The park covers over 120,000 acres and houses a wide variety of habitats including heathlands, wetlands, shrublands and rugged mountains (by Australian standards).

We will walk the trails and climb one of the mountains to enjoy the excellent views (optional). The birdlife here is abundant, ranging in size from large Emus to tiny Emu-wrens, Fairy-wrens and Thornbills.

Accommodation: Bremer Bay Motel BLD

### **Day 11 Bremer Bay to Katanning via Stirling Range National Park**

Today we head to Stirling Range National Park. On route you will see a change in the vegetation from shrubland to tall species of Eucalyptus, Jarrah and Marri. The Stirling Ranges are a striking feature of the landscape, with five peaks over 3000 feet high that rise abruptly from the coastal lowlands. The area receives more rainfall than its surrounding districts, allowing unique plants not found anywhere else to thrive in the ranges. After exploring the national park, we will continue onto the historic town of Katanning.

Accommodation: Katanning Motel BLD

### **Day 12 Katanning to Perth via Dryandra**

After breakfast we will depart Katanning, bound for Perth. Along the way we will stop in at Dryandra woodland, where we may spot the endangered numbat if we are lucky! We hope to arrive back in Perth by the late afternoon.

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



## Tour Costs

Cost:	\$6,635.00 \$845.00	Per Person Twin Share Single Supplement
Departs:	Perth	23 February 2022
Finishes:	Perth	6 March 2022

## Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 23 January 2022

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.

### Included

- Coates tour leader/ driver;
- Coates Naturalist leader;
- Well-maintained vehicle with all front facing, seat-belted, coach style seats;
- Meals as per itinerary - breakfast (B), lunch (L) & dinner (D);
- Morning tea each day;
- Fresh fruit on board daily;
- All national park entrance fees;
- Woody Island Cruise.

### Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks;
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to and from Perth;
- Pre and post tour accommodation;
- All other private expenses;
- Other entrance fees or activities not listed.

## 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.

*Please note: Above discounts cannot be combined.*

### 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.*

## **Tour Information**

Naturalist Guide: TBA

Driver Guide: TBA

### **Vehicle & Equipment:**

Air conditioned purpose built 4WD tour coach with all front facing, mostly reclining and seat-belted seats or mini bus.

### **Accommodation:**

Twin share rooms at hotels or motels with ensuite facilities. If you would prefer a single room, a single supplement will apply.

### **Meals:**

Meals as per the tour itinerary are included. i.e. breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D) and morning tea. There will also be a plentiful supply of fresh fruit 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:**

Light bushwalking on most days.

### **Weather:**

Days are usually mild, with temperatures around the mid 20's (degrees Celsius). The nights are cooler, with minimum temperatures around 6-12 degrees Celsius. There is also the possibility of light showers during the tour.

### **Clothing:**

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

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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