

## Trip Dossier

### 12 Day South Australia, Lake Eyre and Flinders Ranges Expedition



#### **Accommodated & Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers**

Alice Springs to Adelaide 18 - 29 July 2022

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

ACCOMMODATION:- Four nights motel accommodation and seven nights camping

#### **Itinerary Highlights:**

- The unique and memorable opal mining town of Coober Pedy, where homes, hotels and churches are built below-ground ('dugouts')
- Lake Eyre - a vast, dry, shimmering salt pan which crosses three state borders and contains the lowest natural point in Australia
- Muloorina Station lies on the banks of the Frome river; a great area for wildlife spotting
- The Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary Ridge Top Tour will provide spectacular views of the Flinders Ranges and is home to Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies
- Wilpena Pound - an iconic Australian landmark found in the heart of the Flinders Ranges, described as a natural amphitheatre of mountains covering over 8000 hectares
- Flinders Ranges - the largest mountain range in South Australia; dusty red roads wind through towering cliffs and deep craters
- Visit the Australian Arid Lands Botanical Garden in Port Augusta

This adventure is a must for all who long to experience the Australian outback. From the massive expanse of Lake Eyre as it spreads out before you, to the striking landscape and impressive ruins of early European settlement in the southern and northern Flinders Range, this adventure showcases some of the South Australian outback's most spectacular scenery and unique wildlife.

We will travel on the Oodnadatta Track, steeped in history, natural wonders and rich cultural heritage; it is perhaps one of our most fascinating and historic outback trails.

A trip to the outback would not be complete without a visit to some of South Australia's iconic outback towns including Maree, William Creek and Coober Pedy.

## **Itinerary**

### **Day 1 Alice Springs - Marla**

An early start this morning as we depart Alice Springs and head south for the small community of Marla, with a population of just 70 people.

Accommodation: Motel - Marla LD

### **Day 2 Marla - Desert Breakaways - Coober Pedy**

Today we head to Coober Pedy, with a stop on the way at the desert breakaways to take in the spectacular views. We will explore the unique mining town of Coober Pedy, including a visit to an underground Church, a tourist mine and a look at the above-ground town from a central lookout.

Accommodation: Motel - Coober Pedy BLD

### **Day 3 Coober Pedy - William Creek - Coward Springs**

Leaving Coober Pedy, we move onto William Creek for an optional flight over Lake Eyre. This small outback town is the closest settlement to Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre in outback South Australia and is on the largest cattle station in the world; Anna Creek Station. We then head for Coward Springs along the Oonadatta track.

Accommodation: Campsite Coward Springs BLD

### **Day 4 Coward Springs - Muloorina Station**

We depart Coward Springs and call into the old abandoned railway siding of Curdimurka. We also visit Wabnma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park and its unique springs, including Blanch Cup and The Bubbler, aptly called as it does bubble but not how you would expect. These springs are significant water sources for the fragile ecosystem in the area and were used by Arabana (Aboriginal) people for several thousand years.

Our campsite tonight is at Muloorina Station Bore on the banks of the Frome River. This afternoon we examine the wildlife around the billabong.

Accommodation: Bush Camp - Muloorina Station BLD

### **Day 5 Muloorina Station**

Today we will explore the Goyder Channel (which runs between Lake Eyre North and South), followed by the eastern side of Lake Eyre North. Flow in the channel is an infrequent event.

Accommodation: Bush Camp - Muloorina Station BLD

### **Day 6 Muloorina Station - Leigh Creek**

Continuing on today, we travel to Leigh Creek. On the way we visit an ochre pit and the former settlement of Farina which is uninhabited; major restoration works on parts of the settlement have restored it to its former glory.

Accommodation Motel - Leigh Creek BLD

**Day 7 Copley - Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary**

This morning we head to Arkaroola, visiting the iconic Prairie Hotel in Parachilna on the way. After a short look around we will follow the road through one of the most scenic gorges in outback South Australia; Parachilna gorge, and visit the quaint little town Blinman. We will also spend time at the Heysen Trailhead, usually an excellent place for birds and other wildlife.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary BLD

**Day 8 Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary**

Early morning start today as we join the sanctuary's Ridge Top Tour, one of the most scenic trips on offer anywhere with spectacular rugged and unique natural beauty. There will be time this afternoon for washing, relaxing or exploring the bush area around the sanctuary's campsite.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary BLD

**Day 9 Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary - Wilpena Pound**

Today we drive south and head into the southern Flinders Ranges with its stunning scenery and excellent wildlife spotting possibilities.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Wilpena Pound BLD

**Day 10 Wilpena Pound**

The Flinders Range National Park is a photographers paradise.

Today we explore the area around Wilpena Pound. After an early breakfast, we will take a walk to the Old Homestead and Wangara Lookout which provides panoramic views across the pound. After an early lunch, we will drive through Bunyeroo Gorge to Aroona Valley, one of Australian artist Hans Heysen's favourite sites.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Wilpena Pound BLD

**Day 11 Wilpena Pound - Port Augusta**

This morning we depart Wilpena Pound and head to Port Augusta. We will visit the Australian Arid Lands Botanical Garden, established in 1993. The Garden officially opening in 1996, for research, conservation and for promoting a wider appreciation of Australia's arid zone flora. Located on the shores of Upper Spencer Gulf, with spectacular views of the ancient Flinders Ranges, the Garden showcases a diverse collection of arid zone plants in a picturesque setting of more than 250 hectares. During its last survey, in addition to the botanical highlights, there were around 150 species of birdlife recorded. There is also a range of reptiles and mammals that can be found in the garden.

Accommodation: Motel - Port Augusta BLD

**Day 12 Wilpena Pound - Port Augusta - Adelaide**

A relaxed start this morning as we depart Port Augusta and head for Adelaide. Our outback adventure ends in Adelaide around mid afternoon. We will drop you off at your chosen city accommodation.

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

## Tour Costs

Cost:	\$7,150.00 per person in lead vehicles
	\$355.00 Single Supplement
	\$3,385.00 per person in own tag along vehicle
Departs:	Alice Springs 18 July 2022
Finishes:	Adelaide 29 July 2022

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 19 June 2022

**Note:** The 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 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

- 2 crew members consisting of a naturalist guide and driver/cook;
- Well maintained vehicles with front-facing, seat belted seats;
- Easy-to-erect tents and camping chairs with armrests;
- A self-inflating air mattress and stretcher bed;
- All eating utensils;
- Meals as per itinerary: breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D);
- Fruit for snacking throughout the day;
- Accommodation and Campsite fees;
- Morning tea each day;
- All national park entrance fees;
- Arid Lands Botanical Gardens.

## Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows (while camping);
- Sleeping bags (can be purchased for \$100.00);
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to Alice Springs and from Adelaide;
- 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;
- Optional William Creek flight.

## Tour Information

### Vehicle & Equipment:

Our vehicles for the tour will consist of two Toyota 4WD Prados 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.

### Accommodation:

Is at a combination of bush camps, campsites and motel/cabin accommodation.

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

**Cabin/Motel accommodation** Privately run accommodation that vary in comfort level but will all have clean rooms with bedding and hot showers.

### Meals:

Meals as per the tour itinerary are included. i.e. (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, (D) dinner 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. Please contact the office if you have a 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 weather at this time of the year is usually dry, with a minimum average daily temperature around 17-20 degrees Celsius. The nights are much cooler and have been known to drop to approx. 3-5 degrees Celsius. There may also be a risk of showers in the Southern Flinders and as we head into Adelaide.

### Clothing:

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

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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