

Trip Dossier

13 Day Pilbara Reef and Ranges Expedition



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers
Perth to Newman 25 April - 7 May 2022

Itinerary Highlights:

- Visit Nambung National Park and the Pinnacles Desert to see the thousands of limestone formations called 'pinnacles'
- Fly to the Abrolhos Islands and explore this unique marine area and its abundant wildlife; 122 islands, crystal blue waters, tropical and temperate marine life, over 2 millions birds
- Explore the Shark Bay peninsular (World Heritage Area) and visit Monkey Mia to experience the dolphin feeding
- Visit Exmouth, a small town located right on the doorstep of Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range National Park - we spend one day in the National Park and you have a second day to spend as you please
- Explore Cape Range National Park and enjoy a cruise on Yardie Creek; with rocky red gorges, blue winding rivers, limestone cliffs, rugged green vegetation and abundant wildlife
- Experience the beautiful Ningaloo Reef - World Heritage area and one of the world's largest fringing coral reefs
- Two full days in Karijini National Park - A vast wilderness area with spectacular rugged scenery, ancient geological formations such as Dales Gorge, Fortescue Falls, Handrail Pool and Oxers Lookout

The Pilbara is fascinating at any time. The wildlife is abundant, and the scenery is striking; green covered hills, red soil and refreshing rock pools.

The Abrolhos Islands consist of 122 islands, approximately 60 km off Western Australia's coast. The marine environment surrounding them is a meeting place for tropical and temperate sea life. It is also one of the most important seabird breeding sites in the world. More than 90 seabird species have been identified on the islands.

Ningaloo Reef is one of the world's most extensive fringing reefs and is home to 200 species of hard coral, 50 species of soft coral and over 500 species of fish. It's a great place to swim, snorkel and enjoy a cruise in a glass-bottomed boat. Colourful coral communities make up the reef while sea creatures thrive; sharks, dolphins, whales, whale sharks, birds, turtles, fish and more!

Karijini National Park has some of the oldest rocks on the continent and contains many beautiful gorges and rock formations. The park is also home to approximately 800 plant species. Two small, carnivorous marsupials are endemic to the area, the Pilbara Ningai and the Little Red Antechinus. Other marsupials that call the park home include the Western Pebble-mound Mouse, Rothschild's Rock-wallaby, Red Kangaroo and the Common Wallaroo.

Itinerary

Day 1 Perth - Geraldton

Early this morning we head north, passing through the northern Kwongan (sandplain heath) to Nambung National Park and the Pinnacle Desert. We continue north, passing through Dongara and historic Greenough to Geraldton.

Accommodation: Hospitality Inn Geraldton LD

Day 2 Geraldton

Today's flight to the Abrolhos Islands will give us panoramic views of the island group. We will land on one of the islands and take a look at the wildlife, including a variety of birdlife. There will be time for a swim and a snorkel, and you may even spot bottle-nosed dolphins and sea lions.

Accommodation: Hospitality Inn Geraldton BLD

Day 3 Geraldton - Denham

Before leaving Geraldton, we'll visit the HMAS Sydney memorial where a guide will take us through the Sydney story, and the Maritime Museum which has a great display of the Batavia and Abrolhos islands. After morning tea, we continue north to the quaint seaside town of Denham.

Accommodation: Heritage Motel Denham BLD

Day 4 Denham - Monkey Mia – Denham

Today we start our exploration of the Shark Bay Peninsular with a visit to Monkey Mia, in time to see the dolphin feeding. (As the dolphins are wild, their appearance cannot be guaranteed).

We will then visit the interpretation centre in the Francois Peron National Park before returning to Denham in the mid-afternoon for some free time. You can either relax, explore the town or visit the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery Centre.

Accommodation: Heritage Motel Denham BLD

Day 5 Denham - Carnarvon

We leave Denham early this morning and visit Eagle Bluff (the lookout here is a good place for spotting marine wildlife), Shell Beach Conservation Park (a stretch of coast made up entirely of small shells) and the Stromatolites in the Hamelin Pool Marine Reserve. We will arrive in Carnarvon mid-afternoon with plenty of time to have a look at the town and to do some shopping.

Accommodation Hospitality Inn Carnarvon BLD

Day 6 Carnarvon - Exmouth

This morning we continue north to Exmouth, stopping in at Coral Bay for lunch on the way. There will be free time in Exmouth to explore, relax or catch up with messages or washing.

Accommodation Potshot Hotel BLD

Day 7 Exmouth

Today is a free day in Exmouth. You may want to take an optional Whale Shark Cruise or one of the many other shorter trips that are available (at own expense), or just relax and do some sightseeing.

Accommodation: Potshot Hotel BLD

Day 8 Exmouth - Cape Range National Park - Exmouth

Today we will be visiting Cape Range National Park. We take a guided boat trip up Yardie Creek between sheer cliffs to enjoy the serenity of the gorge. Keep an eye out for Euros, wallabies, emus and perenties that are regularly found, and the threatened black-footed rock-wallaby may also be spotted on the cliffs.

Accommodation Potshot Hotel BLD

Day 9 Exmouth - Tom Price

Leaving Exmouth, we continue north to Nanutarra Roadhouse on the banks of the Ashburton River, where bustard and bush stone-curlew can be found along the banks. We then head east towards Tom Price, the highest town in WA ('Top Town in WA'). There should be several opportunities to stop for wildlife sightings during the day.

Accommodation: Station Stay Cheela Plains BLD

Day 10 Tom Price - Hamersley Gorge - Karijini National Park

This morning we drive along the west side of Karijini to Hamersley Gorge. There will be plenty of time to fully explore the gorge and enjoy a swim in its refreshing waters. After lunch, we head back to Tom Price where there will be some free time while the crew restock the fresh provisions before we head out to Karijini National Park.

Accommodation: Karijini Eco Retreat - Eco Cabins BLD

Day 11 & 12 Karijini National Park

We spend the next two days exploring Karijini National Park. We will visit Oxers lookout, Weano Gorge, Handrail pool, Kalamina and Dales Gorges. We will take walks, swim in water holes and enjoy one of Western Australia's most spectacular natural attractions.

Accommodation: Karijini Eco Retreat - Eco Cabins BLD

Day 13 Karijini National Park - Newman

We leave the national park behind this morning as head to the mining centre of Newman, arriving late morning marking the end of your outback adventure. We will transfer you to either the airport or your chosen accommodation. B

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$8,145.00 per person
\$1,225.00 single supplement

Departs: Perth 25 April 2022

Finishes: Newman 7 May 2022

Max No. Of Participants: 12 passengers, Coates Naturalist Leader and Driver/Guide

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 25 March 2022

Note: Deposit is non-refundable. The final payment is non-refundable if cancelled within 30 days of the departure date. Travel Insurance covering all payments is available and is strongly recommended.

Included

- 2 crew members consisting of a naturalist guide and a driver guide
- Accommodation as per the itinerary (more information on accommodation available in Tour Information section below)
- Abrolhos Island flight
- Well maintained vehicle with front facing, seat-belted, mostly reclining, coach style seats
- Yardie Creek Cruise
- Meals as per itinerary: breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D)
- Fruit for snacking throughout the day
- Morning tea each day
- All national park entrance fees

Not Included

- Optional activities at Exmouth
- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended)
- Travel expenses to Perth and from Newman
- 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

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.

Tour Information

Vehicle & Equipment:

Air-conditioned purpose built 4WD tour coach with all front facing, mostly reclining, seat-belted seats, power facilities and all the necessary camping equipment.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is twin share. If you would prefer a single room, a single supplement will apply.

At **Cheela Plains** the accommodation is at a station stay. The rooms are former sheers quarters that have been updated to include a comfortable bed and air-conditioning, utilising shared bathroom amenities and laundry facilities. We will also enjoy some great home-cooked meals.

In Karijini we will be staying at **Karijini Eco Retreat**. In the national park the Eco Retreat is the only accommodation available apart from camping, making it great for exploring the park in the most comfortable way. The Eco Retreat was set up to allow people to stay in the national park while staying in relative comfort. Cabins are solar powered and feature a small fan, individual lockers, reading lights, 12 volt power outlet (car cigarette lighter) and a shared outdoor seating area between cabins. Large windows offer stunning vistas towards Joffre Gorge. Guests staying in the Eco Cabins have the use of shared ablutions including flushing toilets, solar hot water showers and basins. Eco Cabins have no air-conditioning however there is natural ventilation.

All other accommodation is in traditional motel/hotel accommodation in rooms with private facilities and air-conditioning.

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 where prior notice is given. Please contact the office if you have a special dietary requirement as a surcharge may apply.

Trek Grading:

We undertake only light / medium bushwalking on most days. In Karijini National Park some extra effort is required on the ascents and climbs in and out of the gorges. All walks are optional and will be able to be conducted at your own pace. There will also be some optional rock scrambling.

Weather:

Our tour has been timed to coincide with the dry season. Days are usually dry and hot with temperatures around the low to mid 30's (degrees Celsius). The nights can be cool with minimum temperatures around 10 -15 degrees Celsius.

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 and any snorkelling equipment you may have. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity and an old pair of sneakers or reef style boots 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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