



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

15-Day Western Wanderer Expedition



Easy Camping Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers

Perth to Broome 15 - 29 May 2024

Itinerary Highlights:

- 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
- Visit *Coral Bay*, a small settlement where the coral starts right at the water's edge and spend the day as you please; swimming, snorkelling, diving, touring or relaxing
- Experience the beautiful *Ningaloo Reef* - World Heritage area and one of the world's largest fringing coral reefs
- Visit *Karijini National Park* - A vast wilderness area with spectacular natural wonders such as Dales Gorge, Fortescue Falls, Handrail Pool and Oxer Lookout
- Explore iconic *Marble Bar*, known as 'the hottest town in Australia'
- Visit *80 Mile Beach*, not actually 80 miles but 220km long and an extremely important feeding ground for small wading migratory birds

The Pilbara is fascinating at any time. The wildlife is plentiful, and the scenery is spectacular; 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 world's most important seabird breeding sites. 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 or swim with a whale shark. 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 continent's oldest rocks, 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 (Ningai timealeyi) and the Little Red Antechinus (*Dasykaluta rosamondae*). Other marsupials that call the park home include the Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*), Rothschild's Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale rothschildi*), Red Kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*) and the Common Wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*).



Itinerary:

Day 1 Perth - Geraldton

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

Accommodation: Campsite, Geraldton

LD

Day 2 Geraldton - Abrolhos Islands - 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 look at the wildlife, including various birdlife. There will be time for a swim and a snorkel, and you may even spot bottle-nosed dolphins and sea lions.

Accommodation: Campsite, Geraldton

BLD

Day 3 Geraldton - Hamelin

This morning we will 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. We should arrive at Hamelin this afternoon with enough time to look around the Bush Heritage property.

Accommodation: Camp Site, Bush Heritage Centre Hamelin BLD

Day 4 Hamelin - Monkey Mia – Hamelin (Shark Bay area)

Today we start our exploration of the Shark Bay Peninsular with a visit to Monkey Mia. We may be lucky enough to see the last dolphin feeding event. However, the timing and appearance are not guaranteed as the dolphins are wild. The rest of the day will be spent visiting the interpretation centre in the Francois Peron National Park, known for its contrasting red cliffs, white beaches and blue waters. On the way back to the campsite, we will stop at Eagle Bluff to have a look at the marine life from the lookout, Shell Beach Conservation Park (a stretch of coast totally made up of small shells) and the Stromatolites in the Hamelin Pool Marine Reserve.

Accommodation: Camp Site, Bush Heritage Centre Hamelin BLD

Day 5 Hamelin - Bullara Station

An early start this morning as we continue towards Coral Bay. We will stop in Carnarvon on the way for a quick look at the town before arriving at Bullara Station (north of Coral Bay) in the late afternoon.

Accommodation Camp Site, Bullara BLD

Day 6 Coral Bay

Another early start this morning as we head to Coral Bay for an optional (at passengers' own expense) all-day Whale Shark Cruise (7.45 am). For those who don't wish to join the cruise, there is plenty to do:- undertake an optional glass bottom boat/snorkelling cruise over the famous Ningaloo Reef, enjoy a swim or do some relaxing and sightseeing.

Accommodation: Camp Site, Bullara BLD

Day 7 Bullara Station - Tom Price

Leaving Coral Bay, 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: Camp Site, Tom Price BLD

Day 8 Tom Price - Hamersley Gorge - Tom Price

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 swim in its refreshing waters. Mid-afternoon we head back to Tom Price, where there will be free time while the crew restock the fresh provisions.

Accommodation: Camp Site, Tom Price BLD

Day 9 Tom Price - Karijini National Park

Today we travel to the Dales Gorge area of the national park. Our drive will take us past the second tallest peak in WA, Mt Bruce. There will be time here to walk part of the way to the summit and experience the expansive views. The Dales campground will be our home for the next two days.

Accommodation: National Park Camp Site, Karijini BLD

Day 10 & 11 Karijini National Park

We will spend the next two days exploring the central and eastern sides of the park, including Dales and Kalamina Gorges. We will take walks, swim in water holes and enjoy one of Western Australia's most spectacular natural attractions. Time permitting, we will also call into the visitor centre.

Accommodation: National Park Camp Site, Karijini BLD

Tour Costs

Cost: \$7,350.00 Per Person
Free Single Supplement

Departs: Perth 15 May 2024

Finishes: Broome 29 May 2024

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

Tour Payments:

Deposit: At the time of booking, \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 15 April 2024

Note: The deposit is non-refundable. The final payment is non-refundable if cancelled within 30 days of the departure date. Travel Insurance is strongly recommended.

Included

- 4 crew members consisting of a naturalist guide, driver guide and 2 camp support crew members
- Easy Camping included (camp is set up and packed away each day for you)
- Abrolhos Island flight
- Well maintained vehicle with front-facing, seat-belted, mostly reclining, coach style seats
- 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 Coral Bay
- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended)
- Pillows
- Sleeping bags (can be purchased for \$125.00 each)
- Travel expenses to Perth and from Broome
- 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

If you travel with Coates twice in the same calendar year, you will receive a 5% discount off the cheaper tour.

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 on tour within Australia.

Tour Information

Tour Leader: TBA

Naturalist Guide: TBA

Camp Support Crew: TBA

Easy Camping:

The easy camping concept has been introduced to make the whole camping experience more enjoyable. The camp support crew will travel in a separate vehicle and have your camp set up when you arrive—no more erecting tents, beds or unpacking camping equipment. Just pick up your bag and spend time exploring the campsite, freshening up or relaxing before dinner.

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. Passengers are required to supply their sleeping bags and pillows, or a sleeping bag can be purchased from us for \$125.00. Purchased sleeping bags can be taken home after the tour or returned to us, and we will donate them to charity.

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 at 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 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; others 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 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 can 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 the 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 necessary, and an old pair of sneakers or reef-style boots that can be worn in the water is 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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