



Coates Wildlife Tours
Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

12 Day Central Australia Expedition



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers
Alice Springs to Alice Springs 27 June - 8 July 2022

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

Itinerary Highlights:

- Mac Clark Conservation Reserve is one of the few places on earth where you will find the rare *Acacia peuce*; this tree is only found in three locations worldwide.
- Dalhousie Springs is the perfect spot for a swim; this natural hot spring is large (with steps to get in and out) and the temperature ranges from 38 to 43 degrees Celsius.
- Finke Gorge National Park covers 46,000 hectares and is home to ancient landscapes and the Finke River (thought to be one of the oldest rivers in the world).
- Stunning Palm Valley has a diverse range of unique flora, including the rare Red Cabbage Palm which is a botanic remnant from a time when Central Australia was dominated by tropical forests.
- West MacDonnell Ranges National Park is known for its beauty and scenic gorges; the ranges also provide refuge for many plants and wildlife in the area.
- Glen Helen is surrounded by mesmerising landscapes and is a great location to view the West MacDonnell Ranges. It is also perfect for a refreshing dip and provides refuge for the local wildlife.

Join us and explore the remote deserts, gorges and wilderness areas of the Northern Territory and South Australia. It is isolated, harsh and mostly untouched, yet beautiful in its own right. The varied outback landscapes, unique wildlife and endless horizons never ceases to amaze.

Itinerary

Day 1 Alice Springs - Santa Teresa - Mac Clark Conservation Reserve - Old Andado

Leaving early this morning we head to the small community of Santa Teresa and the Aboriginal Art Centre. We then move on to the Mac Clark Conservation Reserve which protects rare Acacia Peuce trees. These trees are only found in three locations in the world; here, Birdsville and Boulia in Queensland. We then head down the Old Andado Track traversing through mountain ranges, rocky gibber plains, desert sand dunes and floodplains, before arriving at our first bush camp in the late afternoon.

Accommodation: Bush Camp LLD

Day 2 Old Andado – Finke River Crossing – Mount Dare – Dalhousie Springs

This morning we head south, crossing the Fink River and the South Australia - Northern Territory border into the Witjira National Park, home to over 120 freshwater mound springs. We will spend three nights at the National Heritage-listed Dalhousie Springs campsite, where you can swim in the main spring's warm waters. This area is also home to some unique species of fish such as the Dalhousie hardyhead and other rare aquatic life found nowhere else in the world.

Accommodation: Campsite Dalhousie Springs BLD

Days 3 & 4 Witjira National Park

We will spend two days in the park looking at some of the red mulga, gidgee, coolibah and whitewood trees along the creeks. Rare bird species like the Australian bustard, flock bronzewing and the plains wanderer, as well as dingoes, the central bearded dragon, Gould's sand goanna and red kangaroos can be found in the park.

Accommodation: Campsite Dalhousie Springs BLD

Day 5 Dalhousie Springs – Oodnadatta – Marla

This morning we will head south, passing through the ruins of Pedirka on the Old Ghan Railway. Then it's onto Oodnadatta where we will again meet up with the Old Ghan and follow the Oodnadatta Track to Marla.

Accommodation: Campsite Marla BLD

Day 6 Marla – Henbury Meteorites Cons Reserve – Running Waters Area

After breakfast we depart Marla and start our journey north towards Henry Meteorites Conservation Reserve. The reserve contains 12 craters formed by a meteor that hit the earth roughly 4,700 years ago. We observe the craters and explore their surroundings before continuing onto our bush camp.

Accommodation: Bush Camp Running Waters area BLD

Day 7 Running Waters Area to Finke Gorge National Park (Palm Valley campsite)

This morning we will explore Running Waters. It is one of the few permanent waterholes providing a remote haven for plants, fish, birds and animals before we make our way to Finke Gorge National Park. There will be time to stop and look for plants and wildlife along the way. Our camp for the next two nights is in the Palm Valley.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite Palm Valley BLD

Day 8 Palm Valley

We will spend the day exploring Palm Valley, home to a diverse range of plants and wildlife that are unique to the area including the Red Cabbage Palm which the valley is named after. We will enjoy some of the bushwalking trails that run alongside the slender palms, as well as the various sandstone amphitheatres, pinnacles and gorges scattered throughout the valley.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite Palm Valley BLD

Day 9 Palm Valley to Glen Helen

After a final exploration of Palm Valley this morning, we make our way to Glen Helen. The glen is a beautiful waterhole edged by red cliffs and is home to Black-footed rock wallabies, euros and reptiles. It is also an excellent spot for a refreshing dip while enjoying the view of the West Macdonnell Ranges.

Accommodation: Campsite Glen Helen BLD

Days 10 & 11 Glen Helen - West Macdonnell Ranges - Glen Helen

We will spend the next two days exploring Glen Helen, a beautiful waterhole edged by red quartzite cliff and the West Macdonnell Ranges. We will take trail walks, swim in waterholes and enjoy the spectacular scenery (photographers will be delighted). There will be plenty of opportunities to search for the various flora and fauna.

Accommodation: Campsite Glen Helen BLD

Day 12 Glen Helen to Alice Springs

The adventure ends today with a final drive into Alice Springs following the Namatjira Drive. We will stop and take time to explore Standley Chasm on the way. On arrival in Alice Springs, we will transfer you to your chosen Alice Springs city hotel. BL

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$6,435.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$2,675.00 per person in tag along vehicles
Free Single Supplement

Departs: Alice Springs 27 June 2022
Finishes: Alice Springs 8 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 26 May 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

- 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: breakfast(B), lunch(L), dinner (D);
- 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 (can be purchased for \$100.00);
- 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 totally banned on all Aboriginal land. Much of this trip will be spent traveling through these lands and we are required to abide by these laws.

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

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 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.

Tag Along Participants:

If requested when booking, we can supply tents, seating and eating utensils but they will need to be carried in your own vehicle.

Single Travellers:

On Coates Wildlife Camping Tours single travellers will be allocated a tent to themselves. If you are travelling with a friend and would like to share a tent please let us know.

Accommodation:

Accommodation on this tour 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 apart from a long-drop bush toilet. We carry adequate water for washing.

National Park campsites are operated by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT (PWCNT). They usually provide a mix of flushing or long-drop toilets; fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some campsites have showers.

Private campsites vary significantly. Some have full ablution blocks with showers and flushing toilets; others only provide a long-drop toilet.

Meals:

All meals are included throughout the tour - ie breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D) and morning teas. 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 will undertake light to medium bush walking on most days. All walks are optional and will be able to 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 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 for 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 for further information please contact

Tom or Sylvia Grove at Coates Wildlife Tours

P.O. Box 4502

Myaree BC, Myaree, WA 6960

Phone: 08 9330 6066 Free Call Country & Interstate: 1800 676 016

Email: coates@iinet.net.au Web: www.coateswildlifetours.com.au