



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

9 Day Golden Outback Expedition



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers

Perth to Perth 22 - 30 October 2022

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

Itinerary Highlights:

- Visit Lake Ballard and walk among the Gormley outback sculpture installation.
- Enjoy bird watching at Niagara Dam Conservation Park.
- Visit the infamous bush pub Ora Banda and enjoy a drink.
- Stay at Credo Station.
- Visit the recently protected Helena Aurora Ranges. This formation is one of the last examples of banded ironstone still left in Australia and is home to many endemic species.

Visit the old towns of the gold mining days; a region rich in history. In the 1890s thousands of locals and migrants tried their luck at gold prospecting. Relics from the past, equipment, old shanties, stone buildings, mine frames and their belongings are scattered throughout the early settlements. We will also visit the Kalgoorlie open cut mine and then move onto Lake Ballard.

We explore the Helena & Aurora Ranges (Aboriginal name 'Bungalbin'), a magnificent banded ironstone formation. This is one of the last ranges in the whole Yilgarn region that is 2.6 billion years old. It's ancient, it's unique, and there are species here that are not found anywhere else on the planet. At this time of the year, the area should still have a good display of wildflowers.

Itinerary

Day 1 Perth to Coolgardie area

We depart Perth from Wellington Street tourist pick up point at 8.00 am and head up the Great Eastern Highway towards Coolgardie. Our drive will take us up the Darling escarpment, through the forest, and then through some of our most fertile wheat and sheep farming areas. We will follow the Golden Pipeline to Western Australia's eastern goldfields, rich in gold, gold-rush history and scenery, whilst also revealing the story of a unique engineering feat; C.Y.O'Connor built the inspired Goldfields Water Supply Scheme in 1903. It took five years to construct and is still the longest freshwater pipeline in the world.

Accommodation: Bush Camp Coolgardie area LD

Day 2 Coolgardie area - Kalgoorlie - Lake Ballard

Leaving Coolgardie, it is only a short drive to Kalgoorlie which will take us through eucalypt woodland forests. There are about 14 different eucalypt species between Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, and over 50 around Kalgoorlie. We will visit the massive open-cut mine in Kalgoorlie before continuing onto our campsite at Lake Ballard.

Accommodation: Bush Camp Site Lake Ballard BLD

Day 3 Lake Ballard

We will walk out onto the lake this morning to see the renowned Anthony Gormley outback sculptures which form Australia's largest world-class art site. Gormley has fused nature and art in a striking display of 51 stark black steel sculptures scattered across seven square kilometres of the vast, flat salt lake. After lunch, we will travel via Menzies to Niagara Nature Reserve and Niagara Dam, a drawcard for the wildlife of the area.

Accommodation: Bush Camp Site Lake Ballard BLD

Day 4 Lake Ballard - Rowles lagoon - Credo Station

Today we travel to Credo Station via Rowles Lagoon, the only freshwater wetland within the Goldfields. 41 waterbird species have been recorded here, including eight protected by international treaties. The freckled duck, one of the world's rarest waterfowl, has been recorded breeding here twice.

Accommodation: Credo Station Camp Site BLD

Day 5 Credo Station

Today we return to Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park and spend the day discovering the local wildlife.

Accommodation: Credo Station Camp Site BLD

Day 6 Credo Station to Helena and Aurora Ranges

We will travel via Southern Cross to the Helena and Aurora Ranges where we will set up camp.

Accommodation: Bush Camp Helena Aurora Ranges BLD

Day 7 & 8 Helena Aurora Ranges

We will spend the next two days discovering the wildlife and natural history of these often overlooked and threatened ranges.

Accommodation: Bush Camp Helena Aurora Ranges BLD

Day 9 Helena Aurora Ranges - Baladjie Rock - Perth

This morning we pack up and start our return journey to Perth, stopping at the iron ore mining town of Koolyanobbing. We will stop to refuel at the historic gold mining town of Southern Cross and then head to Baladjie Rock (an extensive rock outcrop situated in an attractive woodland) for lunch. We should arrive back in Perth in the late afternoon. BL

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$4,675.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$2,625.00 per person in tag along vehicles
Free single supplement

Departs: Perth 22 October 2022

Finishes: Perth 30 October 2022

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 21 September 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.

Special Offers

Book Multiple Tours

Save 5% per person on the second and subsequent tours if more that 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

- 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 from \$100.00);
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to and from Perth;
- 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.

Tour Information

Naturalist Guide: TBA

Tour Leader: 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.

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

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 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:

Our tour has been timed to coincide with the spring wildflower season. Days are usually dry and warm with temperatures around the low to mid 20's (degrees Celsius). The nights can be cool with minimum temperatures around 5 - 10 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 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