



Coates Wildlife Tours
Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

15 Day Karlamilyi (Rudall River) National Park Expedition



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers

Perth to Perth 7 - 21 September 2022

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

Itinerary Highlights:

- Four nights in Western Australia's largest and most remote National Park, Karlamilyi National Park; we camp at two spectacular campsites and explore the remote area
- Visit Tjinkulatjatjarra Pool; a picturesque waterhole along the Rudall River that is shaded by white trunked gums and is a great spot for wildlife spotting
- Camp at Desert Queen Baths, a series of permanent spring fed freshwater rock pools known for their Aboriginal art, gorge walks and waterholes for swimming
- Two nights at Carawine Gorge, a great spot for bird watching due to the abundant birdlife or for a swim in the crystal clear water
- Visit and take a swim at Running Waters, an oasis in the bush
- Visit historic Marble Bar ("Australia's hottest town") and dine at the iconic Iron Clad Hotel, the only pub in town
- Visit the historic towns of Cue, a gold rush town with a rich heritage, and Big Bell, now a ghost town but once a flourishing gold mining town
- Visit Walga Rock, Australia's second largest monolith containing the largest gallery of Aboriginal rock paintings in Western Australia

Join us as we head to the very remote yet beautiful Karlamilyi (Rudall River) National Park. Situated approximately 400 km east of Newman in Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert, this is one of the most remote wilderness areas in the world. At 1,283,706 hectares, the park is the largest in Western Australia.

Vegetation in the park is a mixture of desert Bloodwood, Feathertop Spinifex, Kanji and Cork tree. River Red Gums and Coolabah trees are found on the river flats. After a good rain wildflowers also appear (Mulla Mullas, Grevillea's, Sturt's Desert Pea and Hakea's), adding their beautiful colours to the landscape.

Over 90 species of bird have been recorded in the park. Most are located around the river and in streams. Many of the species reflect the more arid areas of Australia; Spinifex Pigeons, Painted Finches, Peregrine and Brown Falcons. An assortment of honeyeaters also come to drink at the pools. The White-winged Fairy-wren can also be seen, and in good seasons, Crimson Chats and Button-quail can be spotted in the area.

Seventeen different mammals have been recorded in the park; mainly small creatures such as the Hairy-footed Dunnart and the Spinifex Hopping Mouse. Camels and dingoes can be found but other larger mammals seem to have disappeared over time.

Our trip will take us northwards through Meekatharra, Newman and onto the national park via the Talawana Track. Entering Karlamilyi National Park from the south, we head to our campsite on the banks of the Rudall River. This will be our base for the next two nights. We will explore many natural wonders of the area, including Kalkan Kalkan Soak, Tjinkulatjatjarra Pool and Curran Curran Rockhole. We then continue on to Desert Queen Baths.

Leaving the national park behind we move onto Christmas Pool. We then travel westwards along the Telfer Road to Carawine Gorge and the Oakover River. We will camp here for two nights and have plenty of time to enjoy the natural beauty and birdlife. We will also visit the remote waterhole known as Running Waters. Surrounded by paperbarks, this is fabulous spot to spend the day.

Our journey from Carawine Gorge continues westwards to Marble Bar. We intend to explore the natural wonders found close to this historic town. Our homeward journey to Perth takes us via the outback towns of Meekatharra, Cue and Mt Magnet, as well as the ghost town of Big Bell and the natural wonder of Walga Rock.



Itinerary

Day 1 Perth - Mt Magnet Area

We depart Perth around 7.30 am this morning and commence our journey north. We travel via the Great Northern Highway to our bush campsite in the Mt Magnet area.

Accommodation: Bush Camp LD

Day 2 Mt Magnet Area - Kumarina

Today we continue to travel north via Cue and Meekatharra. Cue has many impressive buildings erected during the gold rush, while Meekatharra's gold mining continues to this day (on a small scale). Tonight we will be camping at Kumarina roadhouse. This will be our last opportunity for a shower before we head out into the bush tomorrow.

Accommodation: Campsite BLD

Day 3 Kumarina - Newman - Talawana track

We continue north to Newman. This will be our last opportunity to purchase supplies and contact home before leaving the main road and heading east via the Talawana Track. We move into the Little Sandy Desert and it's associated sand dunes. Our camp tonight is in a grove of Desert Sheoak's.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 4 Talawana Track - Karlamilyi National Park

Today we arrive in the national park and head north along the Kintyre Track. Our campsite for the next two nights will be at a waterhole located on the Rudall River. Across the waterhole from where we camp, is a quartz outcrop that glows in the setting sun.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 5 Karlamilyi National Park

Today we spend a full day in the national park to explore areas such as Kalkan Kalkan Soak, Curran Curran Rock Hole and Tjingkulatjarra Pool ('T' Pool!). There will be time to take short walks along the riverbed and enjoy the birdlife along the residual pools and billabongs.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 6 Karlamilyi National Park - Desert Queen Baths

This morning we continue up the Kintyre Track and head to Desert Queen Baths - a series of pools in a spectacular rocky gorge in the Broadhurst Range. If there has been sufficient recent rainfall, wildflowers should be abundant in this area and we hope to stop for this and other birding opportunities. On arrival at our campsite, we will set up camp and then start our exploration of the area.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 7 Desert Queen Baths

We will spend the day exploring the rocky pools and aboriginal art sites of this area. The main pool close to our camp is suitable for swimming and provides great refreshment after a long walk. This pool is also home to aboriginal rock paintings.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 8 Desert Queen Baths - Christmas Pool Area

Today we leave the national park behind and head north to Christmas Pool. William Rudall visited this pool (and left his mark) during his search for the last members of the 'Calvert Expedition'. Tonight we set up our bush camp in the area.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 9 Christmas Pool Area - Carawine Gorge

Today we head west along the Telfer Road to Carawine Gorge, located on the Oakover River. This will be our campsite for the next two days. This afternoon there will be plenty of time to discover the wildlife around the campsite. The permanent waters of the gorge makes it a hotspot for birdlife.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 10 Carawine Gorge - Running Waters - Carawine Gorge

A short drive takes us across the Oakover River to a shaded wetland known as Running Waters. This paperbark-fringed waterway is spring fed with crystal clear water. Ideal for a walking, bird watching or taking a swim before we return to Carawine Gorge.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 11 Carawine Gorge - Marble Bar

Our journey today takes us into Marble Bar, reputed to be the hottest town in Australia and famous for the banded red jasper bar across the Coongan River. There will be plenty of time to explore the natural wonders of the area. There will also be time for a long overdue shower and a meal (at your own expense) at the local Iron Clad Hotel. Here, you will get a true taste of country life.

Accommodation Camp site BL

Day 12 Marble Bar - Area South of Newman

Today we will begin our homeward journey to Perth travelling through some spectacular Pilbara scenery, stopping regularly to make the most of our time. We will restock in Newman and then head south on the Great Northern Highway to our campsite.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 13 Campsite South of Newman - Cue

After breakfast we will continue to the historic gold mining town of Cue. There will be time this afternoon to look around the town, exploring the history, or to enjoy a cold drink in the local hotel.

Accommodation: Campsite BLD

Day 14 Cue - Mt Magnet - Paynes Find Area

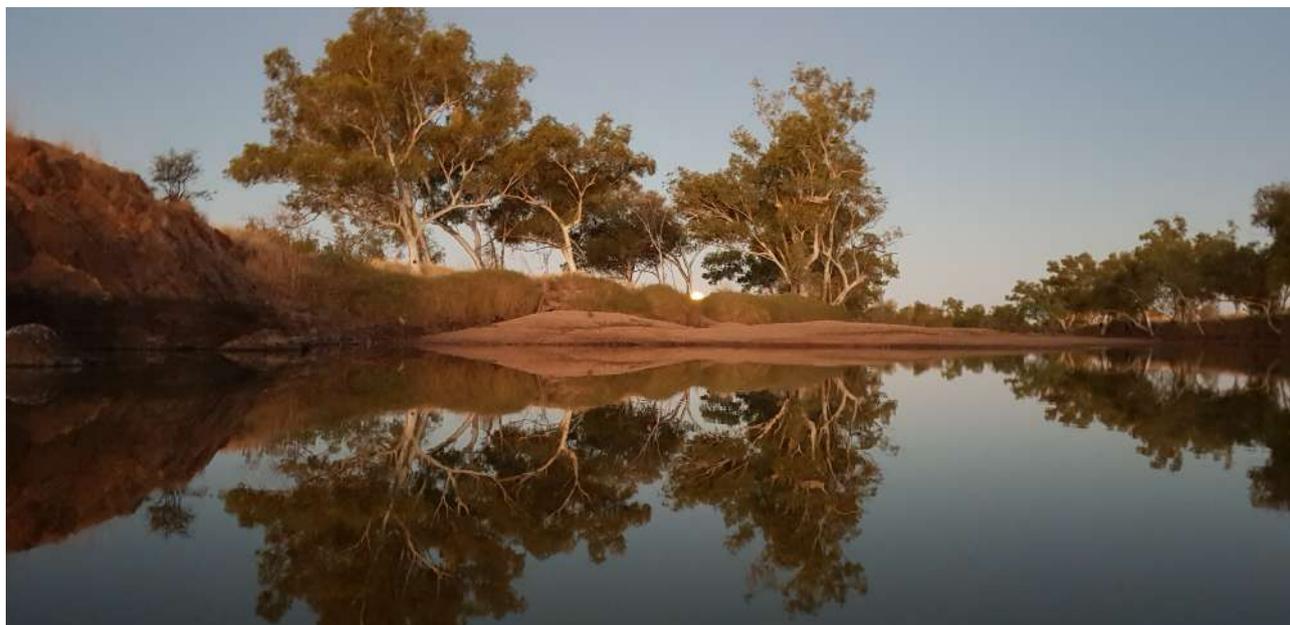
From Cue we will visit the ghost town of Big Bell. Abandoned in the 1950's much of the town is gone, however the ruins of some buildings remain including the spectacular Big Bell Hotel. We will also visit the natural wonder of Walga Rock (one of the largest monolith rocks in Australia) and the Dalgarranga Meteorite Crater.

Accommodation: Campsite BLD

Day 15 Paynes Find Area - Perth

Today we conclude our journey with the final leg into Perth. Along the way we will travel though the wheatbelt town of Dalwallinu and the monastic town of New Norcia. Our adventure ends with our arrival in Perth, where you will be dropped off at your chosen central Perth accommodation. BL

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$6,455.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$2,775.00 per person in tag along vehicles

Departs: Perth 7 September 2022

Finishes: Perth 21 September 2022

Max No. Of Participants is 6 passengers in lead vehicles & 4 passengers in tag along vehicles plus 2 crew

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 7 August 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 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

- Two well-maintained 4WD vehicles;
- Naturalist/Driver Guide;
- Driver/Cook;
- Easy-to-erect tents, camp chairs with armrests;
- Self-inflating air mattress and stretcher bed;
- All eating utensils;
- Meals as per itinerary: breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D);
- Campsite fees;
- Morning teas;
- Fresh fruit on board daily;
- All national park entrance fees & travel permits;
- **Tag Along Participants** - If requested when booking we can supply tents, armchairs and eating utensils but they will need to be carried in your own vehicle.

Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows;
- Sleeping bags (can be purchased for \$100.00 each with prior notice);
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to and from Perth;
- Pre and post tour accommodation;
- All other private expenses;
- Entrance fees or activity costs other than those included above.

Tour Information

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.

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 DoCBaA. They range from providing nothing, to a mix of flushing or long-drop toilets and 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, lunch, dinner 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 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:

The tour has been timed to coincide with the northern dry season. Days are usually dry and hot, with temperatures around 25 degrees Celsius. The nights can be cool, with minimum temperatures around 2 to 10 degrees Celsius. It will be cooler with possible showers at the beginning and end of the trip.

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information, sent to you roughly one month prior to 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 required for the evenings. Don't forget your bathers! 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

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