



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

Broome to Perth 18 July - 1 August 2024

(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 its Aboriginal art, gorge walks and swimming waterholes
- Two nights at Carawine Gorge, a great spot for bird watching or swimming in crystal clear water
- Visit and take a swim at Running Waters, an oasis in the bush
- Visit 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 one of the largest galleries 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 combines desert Bloodwood, Feathertop Spinifex, Kanji and Cork trees. 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 birds 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 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 have disappeared over time.

Our trip begins as we head south to our campsite on the banks of the De Grey River, before we arrive in Marble Bar and explore the natural wonders found close to this historic town. We then travel 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 a fabulous spot to spend the day.

We then move on to Christmas Pool and Desert Queen Baths, before arriving in the national park and 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.

Leaving the park behind, we travel to Newman before starting our homeward trip to Perth. This journey south will take us through the outback towns of Cue, Mt Magnet and the ghost town of Big Bell, and we will explore the natural wonder of Walga Rock and the Dalgarama Meteorite Crater.



Itinerary

Day 1 Broome to De Grey River

Early today you will be picked up from your chosen accommodation in Broome and our journey south will begin. As we travel through the Roebuck Plains, we will keep our eyes peeled for water and coastal birds. After morning tea, we will turn off the main road and head inland. After passing through the abandoned town of Shay Gap, we will arrive at our campsite on the banks of the De Grey River.

Accommodation: Bush Camp LD

Day 2 De Grey River to Marble Bar

After breakfast, we will depart and head to our next destination, Marble Bar. We will arrive early afternoon and have lunch at Chinaman Pool before we explore the Jasper bar that gives the town its name. Tonight we will dine at the iconic Iron Clad Hotel (at your own expense) to get an authentic taste of country life.

Accommodation: Campsite BL

Day 3 Marble Bar to Carawine Gorge

Today we travel east through the Ripon Hills to Carawine Gorge, located right on the banks of the Oakover River. Today's drive will offer spectacular views of the rolling Ripon Hills and is a dream for photographers. Our Carawine Gorge campsite, home for the next two nights, is located right on the water and is a great location for birdwatching.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 4 Carawine Gorge to Running Waters to Carawine Gorge

A short drive takes us across the Oakover River to a shaded spring-fed wetland called Running Waters. This paperbark-fringed waterway is ideal for walking and swimming. We return to Carawine Gorge for the night.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 5 Carawine Gorge to Christmas Pool

Today we will travel east along the well-maintained Telfer Road, before turning south on the Kintyre Track towards Christmas Pool. William Rudall visited this pool while searching for the last members of the 'Calvert Expedition'.

Accommodation Bush Camp BLD

Day 6 Christmas Pool to Desert Queen Baths

This morning we continue south and head to Desert Queen Baths - a series of pools in a spectacular rocky gorge in the Broadhurst Range. If there has been recent suitable rainfall, the wildflowers should be abundant, and as usual we will stop for this and other birding/wildlife opportunities. Upon arrival at our campsite, we will set up and start exploring the area.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 7 & 8 Desert Queen Baths

We will spend the next two days exploring the area's rocky pools and aboriginal art sites. The main pool close to our camp is suitable for swimming.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 9 Desert Queen Baths to Rudall River

Today we continue heading south along the Kintyre Track to our campsite at a water hole on the Rudall River. This will be our campsite for the next two nights.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 10 Rudall River

Today we will explore Kalkan Kalkan Soak, Curran Curran Rock Hole and Tjingkutatjarra Pool ('T' Pool). There will be time to take short walks along the riverbed. The residual pools and billabongs are attractive to birds and other wildlife.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 11 Rudall River to Newman

Today ends our time in Karlamilyi as we travel west down the Talawana Track towards Newman. In Newman, we will be staying at the Newman Hotel, which will be our first opportunity for a shower since Marble Bar. We will also dine at the hotel restaurant tonight (at your own expense).

Accommodation: Newman Hotel BL

Day 12 Newman to Gascoyne River

Today we start our southward travels towards Perth. We will have an easy drive to the banks of the Gascoyne River, where we will be camping tonight. The Gascoyne is sometimes called the "upside-down river," as it only flows above ground for roughly 120 days of the year. For the remaining days, it only flows below the dry river bed.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 13 Gascoyne River to Cue

After breakfast, we will head to the historic gold mining town of Cue. From here, we will visit the ghost town of Big Bell and the natural wonder of Walga Rock, one of the largest monolith rocks in Australia.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 14 Cue to Paynes Find

On the way to Paynes Find, we will visit the Dalgaranga Meteorite Crater before travelling through the mining town of Mount Magnet.

Accommodation: Unit BLD

Day 15 Paynes Find Area - Perth

Today we conclude our journey with the final leg into Perth. Along the way, we will travel through 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:	\$7,325.00 per person in lead vehicles
Single Supplement	\$ 225.00 per person
	\$3,375.00 per person in tag along vehicles

Departs: Broome 18 July 2024

Finishes: Perth 1 August 2024

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 17 June 2024

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

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.

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 \$125.00 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 \$125.00. 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 (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:

Bush walks will be over several different surfaces, including rough tracks, rocky outcrops, hilly country and in and out of gorges. All walks are optional and can be conducted at your own pace. There may also be some optional rock scrambling. To ensure maximum enjoyment, participants on this trip will need a good fitness level.

Physical Fitness:

Remote camping tours require a level of fitness that enables participants to set up and pack down their own camping equipment, including tents, beds, mattresses and chairs.

Please note that the guides will be on hand to show you how to best tackle the tasks and to assist where required.

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 further information please contact

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