Karlamilyi (Rudall River) National Park Expedition

Start: Newman 26 June 2026 **Duration:** 13-Days

Ends: Perth 08 July 2026 **Passengers:** Max. 5 guests in lead 4WD vehicles plus 4 guests in 2 Tagalong Vehicles

Desert Rivers and Remote Waterholes of Karlamilyi

Join us on an exceptional journey into Karlamilyi (Rudall River) National Park, one of Australia's most remote wilderness areas.

Located in the Great Sandy Desert east of Newman, Karlamilyi is Western Australia's largest national park, featuring spinifex plains, desert woodlands and river red gums along the Rudall River. After rain, wildflowers bring vivid colour to the desert.

Over 90 bird species have been recorded here, including Spinifex Pigeons, Painted Finches, Peregrine Falcons and White-winged Fairy-wrens, with wildlife concentrated around permanent waterholes.

Travelling via the Talawana Track, we camp beside the Rudall River and explore highlights such as Desert Queen Baths and Kalkan Kalkan Soak. We then continue to Christmas Pool and Carawine Gorge on the Oakover River before returning to Perth via Marble Bar, historic outback towns and Walga Rock.

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 Tjingkulatjatjarra 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

Itineray Outline:

Day	1	Arrive Newman
Day	2	Head north along the Kintyre Track
Day	3	Kalkan Kalkan Soak and Tjingkulatjatjarra Pool
Day	4	Desert Queen Baths
Day	5	Rocky Pools & Aboriginal art sites.
Day	6	Christmas Pool
Day	7	Carawine Gorge
Day	8	Running Waters
Day	9	Marble Bar
Day	10	South of Newman via the Pilbara
Day	11	Cue - Golding Mining Town
Day	12	Town of Big Bell & Walga Rock
Day	13	Dalwallinu & the monastic town of New Norcia.

Itinerary:

Day 1 Newman - Talawana Track

This morning, you will be collected from your Newman accommodation at 8.00 am and travel to the Ophthalmia Dam for a morning birdwatching experience. Then, you'll travel via the Newman / Marble Bar road before turning onto the Ethel Creek / Balfour Downs Road. We will arrive at the start of the Talawana Track. Our journey continues into the Little Sandy Desert and its sand dunes. Tonight's camp is surrounded by sand dunes within a small grove of Desert Sheoak.

Accommodation: Bush Camp LD

Day 2 Talawana Track - Karlamilyi National Park

Today, we arrive at the national park and head north along the Kintyre Track. Our campsite for the next two nights will be beside a waterhole on the Rudall River, where we can watch the quartz outcrop glow in the setting sun.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 3 Karlamilyi National Park

Today, we spend the whole day in the national park exploring areas like Kalkan Kalkan Soak and Tjingkulatjatjarra Pool ('T' Pool!). There is time to take short walks along the riverbed and enjoy the birdlife around the residual pools and billabongs.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 4 Karlamilyi National Park - Desert Queen Baths

This morning, we continue along the Kintyre Track and head to Desert Queen Baths - a series of pools in a stunning rocky gorge within the Broadhurst Range. If there has been enough recent rain, wildflowers should be plentiful in the area, and we hope to stop for this and other birding opportunities. Upon arriving at our campsite, we will set up camp and start exploring the surrounding area.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 5 Desert Queen Baths

We'll spend the day exploring this area's rocky pools and Aboriginal art sites. You can enjoy a refreshing swim in the main pool near our camp. This pool also features Aboriginal rock paintings.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 6 Desert Queen Baths - Christmas Pool Area

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

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 7 Christmas Pool Area - Carawine Gorge

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

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 8 Carawine Gorge - Running Waters - Carawine Gorge

A short drive takes us across the Oakover River to a shaded wetland called Running Waters. This paperbark-fringed waterway is spring-fed with crystal-clear water—perfect for walking, birdwatching, or a quick swim before we head back to Carawine Gorge.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 9 Carawine Gorge - Marble Bar

Our journey today takes us to 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 time to visit the Jasper rock formation and the Commit Mine to learn about the local history, then enjoy a long-overdue shower, do some washing, and have a meal (at your own expense) at the local Iron Clad Hotel. Here, you will get an authentic taste of country life.

Accommodation Campsite BL

Day 10 Marble Bar - Area South of Newman

Today, we begin our journey home to Perth, driving through stunning Pilbara scenery and stopping often to enjoy the views. We'll restock in Newman before heading south along the Great Northern Highway to our campsite.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

Day 11Campsite South of Newman - Cue

After breakfast, we'll head to the historic gold mining town of Cue. This afternoon, there will be time to wander around the town, learn about its history, or enjoy a cold drink in the local hotel.

Accommodation: Campsite BLD

Day 12Cue - Mt Magnet - Paynes Find Area

From Cue, we will visit the ghost town of Big Bell. Abandoned in the 1950s, much of the town is gone. However, the ruins of some buildings remain, including the classic Art Deco-style Big Bell Hotel. We will also visit Walga Rock (one of the largest monoliths in Australia).

Accommodation: Unit BLD

Day 13 Paynes Find Area - Perth

Today, we finish our trip with the final stretch to Perth. Along the way, we'll pass through the wheatbelt town of Dalwallinu and the monastic town of New Norcia. Our journey ends upon arriving in Perth, where you'll be dropped off at your preferred central Perth accommodation.

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

Tour Cost:

Tour:	$8,375.00 per person
Single Supplement:	$ 135.00 per person
Tag Along Participant:	$3,255.00 per person

Tour Payments:

Deposit:	At time of booking $1,250.00 per person
Final Payment:	On or before 06 May 2026

Note: Deposit is non-refundable. The final payment is non-refundable if cancelled within 30 days of the departure date. Travel Insurance covering all payments is available and is strongly recommended.

Included

- Two well-maintained 4WD vehicles
- Coates Naturalist Guide
- Driver Guide and Driver Guide/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 a limited supply of your own)
- Pillows
- Sleeping bags (can be purchased for $150.00 each with prior notice)
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended)
- Travel expenses to Newman and from Perth
- Pre and post tour accommodation
- All other private expenses
- Entrance fees or activity costs not included above.

Tour Information

Tour Leader / Driver:	Barry Lee
Tour Cook/Driver:	Catherine (Kitty) Kendall
Naturalist Guide:	TBA

Vehicle & Equipment:

Our tour vehicles will be two 4WDs with trailers. All the necessary camping equipment is provided. Passengers are required to supply their own sleeping bags and pillows.

Accommodation:

Accommodation on this tour includes bush camps, campsites, and roadhouse cabins

Bush camps are chosen by the tour guide for their suitability and natural benefits. There are usually no facilities. We provide a camp toilet and a privacy tent. We carry adequate water for washing.

National Park campsites are operated by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions. They range from providing nothing to a mix of flushing or long-drop toilets, fire rings, and clearly defined camping areas. Some campsites have showers.

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

Meals:

All meals are included throughout the tour, i.e., breakfast, lunch, dinner 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. Please contact the office if you have a dietary requirement, as a surcharge may apply.

Trek Grading:

We will undertake light bushwalking on most days. All walks are optional and can be done at your own pace. There may also be some optional rock scrambling.

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 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. Nights can be cool, with minimum temperatures between 2 and 10 degrees Celsius. It will be cooler, with possible showers at the end of the trip.

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included in our pre-departure information, sent to you about one month before departure. Generally, comfortable, casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts are suitable for daytime wear, and warmer jumpers and jackets may be required for evenings. Don't forget your bathers! Sturdy, 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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