



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

14-Day Tanami Desert Expedition



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers

Alice Springs - Kununurra 22 June - 5 July 2024

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

Itinerary Highlights:

- The Tanami Road crosses the vast expanse of the Tanami Desert and will delight nature lovers and bird watchers.
- The West MacDonnell Ranges are known for their beauty and scenic gorges. They also provide refuge for many plants and animals.
- Newhaven Reserve is a hotspot for the wildlife of Central Australia, and the scenery is spectacular.
- Lake Gregory's (Paruku) remote freshwater wetlands are renowned for prolific birdlife, supporting over 70 species of waterbirds.
- Lake Stretch (Nyarna) is a good spot for birdwatching and a smaller lagoon in the Paruku wetland system.
- Visit Wolfe Creek Crater, a well-preserved 880-metre-wide meteorite crater that is over 300,000 years old (the second largest crater in the world).
- Keep River National Park - a relatively small park with a number of walks through beautiful scenery and landforms that are just as dramatic as in the larger parks.

Join us as we explore some of the most isolated areas in northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The scenery is spectacular, with ancient landscapes, scenic gorges, extensive dunes, lakes, wetlands and clear starry night skies.

We visit Newhaven Station, a wildlife sanctuary managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Situated on the junction of three bioregions (the Great Sandy Desert, MacDonnell Ranges and Burt Plain), it is home to a diverse array of arid zone plants and at least 138 species of birds.

From Newhaven, we head onto the Tanami Road and continue west. We will have two nights camping on the Tanami before arriving at the Indigenous protected area of Paruku. Here we have two nights at Handover (on the edge of Lake Gregory) and one night at Lake Stretch (Nyarna). Whist here we will search for the bird life found around the lake, including the Black Necked Stork, Brolgas, Black Swans and Spoonbills.

No Tanami trip would be complete without a visit to Wolf Creek Crater, which we visit on our way into Halls Creek. From Halls Creek, we head up the less travelled Duncan Highway to Keep River National Park. The park offers excellent walks, Aboriginal art, diverse wildlife and spectacular geology.

Itinerary

Day 1 Alice Springs to Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges)

We leave Alice Springs this morning and spend the day exploring Stanley Chasm, Serpentine Gorge and Glen Helen in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Our first night's camp will be at the stunning Redbank Gorge and Chasm.

Accommodation: Campsite Redbank Gorge

LD

Day 2 Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges) and surrounds

We will spend the day exploring Redbank Gorge and other nearby areas. The gorge is stunning and provides refuge for many threatened plants and animals, while the area offers excellent walks, plentiful wildlife and striking scenery.

Accommodation: Campsite Redbank Gorge

BLD

Day 3 Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges) to Newhaven Station

An early start this morning as we leave the West MacDonnell Ranges and move onto Newhaven Station via the Aboriginal Community of Papunya. This afternoon, there will be time to climb a local hill for a magnificent central Australian sunset.

Accommodation: Campsite Newhaven Station

BLD

Day 4 Newhaven Station

We will spend today touring and walking on the station's tracks, salt pans and dunes in search of birds, arid zone plants and other wildlife in this remote area.

Accommodation: Campsite Newhaven Station

BLD

Day 5 Newhaven Station to Mt Doreen Station Area

Today, we undertake an early Hill Side Tour of the enclosed area as we leave Newhaven before calling into the remote aboriginal community of Yuendumu for fuel and supplies. There should be time to visit the community's art centre for locally made artworks. We then continue westward to Mt Doreen Station, just off the Tanami Track.

Accommodation: Bush camp Mt Doreen Station

BLD

Day 6 Mt Doreen Station Area to Tanami Desert Bush Camp

We continue our drive through this harsh and isolated area on the Tanami Road today. Tonight's campsite is a bush camp in the Rabbit Flats area.

Accommodation: Bush camp Rabbit Flats

BLD

Day 7 Tanami Desert Bush Camp to Balgo to Mulan to Lake Gregory

Still on the Tanami Road, we travel west today, heading into Western Australia. Late this morning, we will call into the remote Aboriginal Community of Balgo before heading to our bush camp at Lake Gregory.

Accommodation: Bush camp Handover - Lake Gregory BLD

Day 8 Lake Gregory

Today we will explore the area around Lake Gregory (Paruku). This permanent brackish lake is part of a spectacular wetland system and is internationally renowned for its birdlife. The Traditional Owners of this area held the native title handover ceremony on the shores of the lake, symbolising the significance of this place to local Aboriginal people. They believe the system was formed when a star fell from the sky into the lake and then transformed into a man, becoming this place's very first Traditional Owner.

Accommodation: Bush camp at Handover - Lake Gregory BLD

Days 9 Lake Gregory to Lake Stretch

We leave Lake Gregory and backtrack to Lake Stretch (Nyarna). Our bush camp is a lovely shaded area next to a permanent pool on Sturt Creek. It is also a good spot for birdwatching.

Accommodation: Bush camp Sturt Creek BLD

Days 10 Lake Stretch to Wolf Creek Crater to Halls Creek

After some early morning birdwatching around the lake, we continue our journey to Halls Creek. We stop at the 300,000-year-old Wolf Creek meteorite crater and walk around the rim. The crew will restock our fresh provisions this afternoon in Halls Creek. Tonight's dinner will be in the Halls Creek Hotel (at the passenger's expense).

Accommodation: Campsite Halls Creek BL

Day 11 & 12 Halls Creek to Keep River National Park

We travel to the Duncan Highway and head north along the east side of the Bungle Bungle Range to Keep River National Park. The geological formations are very similar to the Bungle Bungles, and although the park is relatively small, the scenery and landforms are just as dramatic as in the larger parks.

Accommodation: Bush Camp Duncan Highway & National Park Campsite Keep River BLD

Day 13 Keep River National Park

We will spend today in the national park. We will take a few walks visiting Aboriginal art sites and looking for wildlife, including the Short-eared Rock-wallaby, White-quilled Rock-pigeon and Sandstone Shrike-thrush. We may even find a Gouldian finch near the lake at the ranger's station.

Accommodation: Campsite Keep River National Park BLD

Day 14 Keep River National Park to Kununurra

After lunch, we will leave the national park and head west back into WA. We will arrive in Kununurra mid-afternoon and transfer you to your chosen accommodation. BL

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

Tour Costs

Cost: \$7,865.00.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$3,425.00 per person in tag-along vehicles
Free single supplement

Departs: Alice Springs 22 June 2024

Finishes: Kununurra 05 July 2024

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 21 May 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.

Included

- Two well-maintained 4WD vehicles;
- 2 crew members - a Naturalist/Driver Guide and Driver/Cook;
- Easy-to-erect dome 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);
- Fruit for snacking throughout the day;
- 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 \$125.00);
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to Alice Springs and from Kununurra;
- 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

Tag-Along Participants

If requested when booking, we can supply tents, seating and eating utensils, which you will need to carry in your vehicle.

Vehicle & Equipment:

Our vehicles will be two Toyota 4WD Prados with trailers or similar. We will supply all the necessary camping equipment, but you will need to provide your sleeping bag and pillow. However, you can purchase a sleeping bag from us for \$125.00, which you can take home after the tour, or we can donate it to charity.

Single Travellers:

If you are travelling alone, you will have your own tent. A single supplement applies to motel/hotel accommodation.

Accommodation:

We will be camping at bush camps and campsites.

Bush camps are chosen for their suitability and natural benefits. There are usually no facilities except a long-drop bush toilet. However, we carry adequate water for washing.

National park managers operate National Park campsites and usually have a mix of flushing or long-drop toilets, fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some provide showers.

Private campsites vary significantly in the facilities they offer. Some provide full facilities, including entire ablution blocks; other sites only have a long-drop toilet.

Meals:

All meals are included throughout the tour - i.e. breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D) and morning teas. A plentiful supply of fresh fruit will also be available throughout the day. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for. Please contact the office if you have any special dietary needs (a surcharge may apply).

Trek Grading:

We undertake moderate to challenging bushwalking on most days. All walks are optional and can be conducted at your own pace. There will also be some rock scrambling on a few of the trails.

Weather:

The tour is timed to coincide with the dry season. Days are usually dry and hot, with temperatures around the high 20's to low 30's (degrees Celsius). Temperatures can drop as low as 3 or 4 degrees Celsius at night. Rain is uncommon at this time of the year.

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on the tour will be included in our pre-departure information sent to you about one month before departure. Generally, we recommend comfortable casual clothing. Light shirts and T-shirts are suitable during the day, but you may need warmer jumpers and jackets for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity.

For detailed **Terms and Conditions**, please click [HERE](#) or visit the FAQ page on our website.

To make a booking or for further information please contact
Coates Wildlife Tours

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