



Coates Wildlife Tours

*Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986*

## Trip Dossier

### 15 Day Tanami Expedition



#### Camping Small Group Tour - Max 9 passengers Kununurra to Alice Springs 16 -30 April 2022

##### Itinerary Highlights:

- The Tanami Road crosses the vast expanse of the Tanami Desert and will delight nature lovers and bird watchers.
- Enjoy an early morning bird watching cruise on Lake Argyle.
- Keep River National Park. A relatively small park but the scenery and landforms are just as dramatic as in the larger parks.
- 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)
- Birdwatching at Lake Stretch
- Lake Gregory's (Paruku) remote freshwater wetlands is renowned for its prolific birdlife, supporting over 70 species of waterbirds.
- Newhaven Reserve is a hotspot for the wildlife of Central Australia and the scenery there is spectacular.
- The West MacDonnell Ranges are known for their beauty and scenic gorges. They also provide refuge for many plants and animals.

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.

Our adventure has many highlights, but our detour off the Tanami Road to Mulan and Lake Gregory is one of the most exciting. This lake system is a RAMSAR site, due to the vitally important role it has for migratory birds travelling to and from Australia. The Black Necked Stork, large groups of Brolgas, Black Swans and Spoonbills are regularly seen on and around the lake, which is also home to Dingoes and a variety of other mammals.

We visit Newhaven Station, a wildlife sanctuary managed by 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.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Kununurra to Lake Argyle

A very early start this morning as we depart Kununurra and head to lake Argyle. This morning we will undertake a morning bird watching cruise on the lake.

Accommodation: Campsite Lake Argyle LD

### Day 2 Lake Argyle to Keep River National Park

Only a short drive this morning as we cross the state border into the Northern Territory and Keep River National Park. After setting up camp we will explore the park - we will visit Aboriginal art sites and discover the wildlife found here, including the Short-eared Rock-wallaby, White-quilled Rock-pigeon and Sandstone Shrike-thrush.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite Keep River BLD

### Days 3 & 4 Keep River National Park to Halls Creek

We head down the Duncan Highway and travel north along the east side of the Bungle Bungle Range to Halls Creek. There are many highlights to be enjoyed during these two days including visits to the Old Ord River Homestead, Saw Tooth Gorge, Palm Springs and the Old Halls Creek Settlement where the crew will restock our fresh provisions. Tonight's dinner will be in the Halls Creek Hotel (at passengers own expense).

Accommodation: Bush Camp Duncan Highway & Campsite Halls Creek BLD & BL

### Day 5 Halls Creek to Wolf Creek Crater to Lake Stretch

Back on the road this morning as we start our journey down the Tanami Road with a detour to the 300,000-year-old Wolf Creek meteorite crater. It is the second-largest crater in the world, and we spend time walking on the rim exploring its natural history. After lunch, we continue onto Lake Stretch where we will set up camp.

Accommodation: Bush campsite at Lake Stretch BLD

### Day 6 Lake Stretch to Lake Gregory

Leaving Lake Stretch, we take the backtrack to Mulan and then onto our campsite at Handover on the banks of Lake Gregory. There'll be time this afternoon to explore the area around our campsite.

Accommodation: Bush campsite at Lake Gregory BLD

### Day 7 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 itself into a man becoming the very first Traditional Owner of this place

Accommodation: Bush campsite at Handover - Lake Gregory BLD

### Day 8 Lake Gregory - Mullan - Balgo- Tanami Desert Bush Camp

Back on the Tanami this morning as we travel west heading into Western Australia. In the morning we will call into the remote Aboriginal Community Balgo where we will fuel up before heading to our bush camp located just off the Tanami Desert Road.

Accommodation: Bush campsite Rabbit Flats area BLD

**Day 9 Tanami Desert Bush Camp to Mt Doreen Station Area**

Continuing on the Tanami Road, we will travel through this harsh, isolated area. Tonights campsite is on the abandoned Mt Doreen Station.

Accommodation: Bush campsite Mt Doreen Station

BLD

**Day 10 Mt Doreen Station Area to Newhaven Station**

We have an early start today, after which we will call into the remote aboriginal community Yuendumu for fuel and supplies. We then leave the Tanami Road behind and take local tracks out to Newhaven Station. Once the campsite is set up there should be time to explore the area around the camp. You may also like to enjoy the sunset from the hill overlooking the camp.

Accommodation: Campsite at Newhaven Station

BLD

**Day 11 & 12 Newhaven Station**

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

Accommodation: Campsite at Newhaven Station

BLD

**Day 13 Newhaven Station to Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges)**

Today will be an early start as we leave Newhaven and move onto the West MacDonnell Ranges. We will travel via the Aboriginal Community of Papunya and then onto Redbank Gorge.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite at Redbank Gorge

BLD

**Day 14 Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges) and surrounds**

We will spend the day exploring Redbank Gorge and some of the other areas nearby. 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 at Redbank Gorge

BLD

**Day 15 Redbank Gorge (West MacDonnell Ranges) to Alice Springs**

We leave Redbank this morning and spend the day exploring Stanley Chasm, Serpentine Gorge and Glen Helen in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Our outback adventure ends with our mid-afternoon arrival in Alice Springs, where you will transfer you to your chosen central city accommodation.

BL

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



## Tour Costs

Cost:	\$8,095.00 per person in lead vehicles Free Single Supplement	
Departs:	Kununurra	16 April 2022
Finishes:	Alice Springs	30 April 2022
Max No. Of Participants:	9 participants	

## Tour Payments

Non- Refundable Deposit:	At time of booking \$500.00 per person
Final Payment:	On or before 16 March 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

- Three well-maintained 4WD vehicles;
- 3 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: B (breakfast), L (lunch), D (dinner);
- 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
- 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 Prado's with trailers or similar. We will supply all the necessary camping equipment, but you will be required to provide your sleeping bag and pillow, or you can purchase a sleeping bag from us for \$100.00, which you can take home after the tour or we can donate them to charity if you prefer.

### Single Travellers:

If you are travelling alone, you will have your own tent.

### Accommodation:

We will be camping at bush camps and campsites.

We choose the bush camps 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 campsites are operated by national park managers 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 which include entire ablution blocks; other sites only have a long-drop toilet.

### Meals:

All meals are included throughout the tour - i.e. breakfast, lunch, dinner and morning teas. There is also 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 need, as a surcharge may apply.

### Trek Grading:

We undertake moderate to challenging bushwalking on most days. All walks are optional and will be able to 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 during the 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 Condition** please click [HERE](#) to visit the FAQ page on our website

To make a booking or for further information please contact  
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