



Coates Wildlife Tours  
*Specialist in nature tours since 1986*

## Trip Dossier

### 8-Day Christmas Island Tour



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers  
Perth - Perth      19 - 26 November 2024

## Itinerary Highlights:

- Potential to see the phenomenal Red Crab migration
- A boat trip just off the Christmas Island coast, great for spotting birds and marine life.
- Enjoy a relaxing cool off at 'The Grotto'
- White sands of Greta and Dolly beaches
- Spectacular views from Margaret knoll lookout
- Blowholes on the southern coast
- Unique wildlife including Robber Crabs and endemic birdlife

The naturalists' paradise of Christmas Island is located 360 km south of Java. It is the tip of an Everest-sized undersea mountain, a limestone-capped extinct volcano that emerged from the sea about 60 million years ago. The island's perimeter is rocky and steep and formed in a series of steps and terraces created by sequential uplifts off the island from the ocean floor. This surrounds a flatter central plateau. Its rugged shoreline and mountainous character combined to prevent human colonisation until the late 1800s.

The discovery of commercially viable quantities of phosphate led to the exploitation of this resource, which continues today. However, 63% of the island is designated as a National Park, and this is dominated by rainforest, which is substantially modified by the presence of millions of land crabs. The most prolific of these is the endemic Red Crab (*Geocarcoidea natalis*). It is estimated that 100 million Red Crabs inhabit the island, and these still require the ocean as an integral part of their breeding cycle. The crabs migrate from the central plateau to the shoreline and pay no heed to any obstacle, be it natural or man-made.

The tour has been scheduled to hopefully coincide with this unique natural phenomenon. David Attenborough, the renowned Naturalist, is recorded as saying 'the migration was the most amazing sight I have seen'.

The island is also home to much more endemic flora and fauna; nine species of birds, including the Christmas Island Frigate bird and the rare Abbott's Booby; reptiles and bats and many species of plants, including palms, ferns, vines and pandanus.



## Itinerary

### **Day 1            Tuesday 19    November    Perth - Christmas Island**

Meet the group at Perth International Airport at 9.30 am for your early afternoon flight to Christmas Island. We arrive on Christmas Island late afternoon, where we will transfer to the accommodation and settle in. This evening, we will have a welcome to Christmas Island BBQ.

Accommodation: CI Apartments

D

### **Day 2            Wednesday 20 November    Christmas Island**

Today is an introduction to the wildlife, history and culture of Christmas Island. A morning visit to The Settlement will include Flying Fish Cove, Smith Point and the cliff tops where Red-tailed Tropic Birds and Brown Boobies breed. The Red Crab migration could be underway so that crabs may be everywhere. An afternoon walk at the National Park Headquarters along a rainforest trail will reveal such species as true endemic Arenga Palm, Strangler Fig, epiphytic ferns and Tahitian Chestnut. The endemic Golden Bosun Bird, a highlight of the Christmas Island avifauna, can be seen from the lookout here.

Accommodation: CI Apartments

D

### **Day 3            Thursday 21 November        Christmas Island**

A full-day outing will take us to Greta and Dolly beaches via shaded forest walk trails. Enjoy lunch and a swim on palm-fringed Dolly beach. The impressive Robber Crabs, Blue crabs, Nippers, and the ubiquitous Red crab can be seen here. Returning via Margaret Knoll lookout will give us superb views of the rainforest on the coastal terraces and some old phosphate mines.

Accommodation: CI Apartments

D

### **Day 4            Friday 22 November            Christmas Island**

Weather permitting, we will undertake a boat trip from Flying Fish Cove and travel along the coast. During the trip, we should see a diverse array of birdlife, and there will be time to look for marine life and have a swim off the back of the boat. In the afternoon, a visit to 'The Grotto', a natural limestone feature connected to the ocean, is suitable for a swim, followed by a visit to a small wetland with a population of White-breasted water hens, a recent colonist from Indonesia.

Accommodation: CI Apartments

D

### **Day 5            Saturday 23 November        Christmas Island**

This morning, we will start with a swim at Flying Fish Cove or a look around The Settlement. After lunch, we will visit the southern part of the island, where much of the island's phosphate mining took place and still does. This is followed by a walk on a forest trail on the central plateau where large emergent trees such as Syzygium, Pisonia and Planchonella occur. Their associated epiphytes and vines include an endemic Hoya. Another endemic, Pandanus pelatus with stilt-like roots, also grows here.

Accommodation: CI Apartments

D

### **Day 6            Sunday 24 November        Christmas Island**

Another full day out takes us to the island's western side, firstly to Murray Hill, the highest point at 361m, and then to the Dales. Here, the Non-porous volcanic basalt meets the porous limestone on the surface, and streams flow all year round. This provides a suitable habitat for the blue and robber crabs. We return to The Settlement via a breeding area of the rare and endemic Abbots Booby, which nests in the canopy of the emergent forest.

Accommodation: CI Apartments

D

**Day 7            Monday 25 November            Christmas Island**

The morning will be spent visiting several beach areas and their distinctive vegetation: coastal pandanus, coconut palms, Hibiscus, Scaevola and the Helicopter Tree, Gyrocarpus. Frigate birds, including the endemic Christmas Island Frigate bird and Red-footed Boobies, are ever-present. An afternoon visit to the blowholes on the southern coast will allow us to witness the extent of the Red Crab migration from the central plateau to the coastal terraces and shoreline and perhaps see some Spinner Dolphins. Bird highlights include the endemic Goshawk, Christmas Island Thrush and Emerald Dove.

Accommodation: CI Apartments

D

**Day 8            Tuesday 26 November            Christmas Island - Perth**

Free time this morning before we check in for our afternoon flight to Perth. Our Flight takes us via Cocos Island and is due to arrive in Perth around midnight.

*Note: The above itinerary should only be used as a guide. Day-to-day activities may be varied according to conditions and advice.*



## Tour Costs

Cost:	\$6,975.00 Per Person Twin Share
Starts:	Perth International Airport: 19 November 2024
Ends:	Perth International Airport: 26 November 2024

## Tour Payments

Deposit:	At time of booking \$1,000.00 per person
Final Payment:	On or before 01 October 2024

Note: The \$1,000.00 deposit is non refundable.  
The final payment is non refundable after 01 October 2024  
Travel insurance covering all payments is available, and strongly recommended.

## Included

- Return Airfare from Perth to and from Christmas Island;
- Twin share accommodation
- Meals as per itinerary (D = dinner);
- All national park entrance fees;
- Christmas Island coastal boat trip with use of snorkelling equipment;

## Not Included

- Travel expenses to and from Perth;
- Pre & post tour accommodation;
- Breakfasts & lunches;
- Entrance Fees or activity costs other than those included above;
- Snorkeling Equipment (General use. Can be hired);
- Travel Insurance (Very Strongly Recommended);
- All other private expense (e.g. laundry, telephone calls, camera batteries);
- Entrance fees or activity costs other than those included in the itinerary.

## 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 tours within Australia.

## Tour Information

Naturalist Guide: Neil Hamilton

Tour Leader TBA

Driver Guide: TBA

Vehicle: 4WDs

### Accommodation:

CI Apartments, twin/double share only; 2 bedroom apartments with one bathroom. No single supplements are available.

### Meals:

Dinner is included on days one to seven.

Meals not included on the itinerary are at the passenger's own expense. They are available from the island's restaurants, coffee shops and taverns depending on the group's preferences on the day. Each apartment has a kitchen to prepare meals at your accommodation.

### Trek Grading:

Medium-grade bushwalking on most days. All treks are optional and will be as strenuous as you wish to make them. A few involve some rock scrambling and or steep inclines. If the weather is wet, walks can also be slippery. You could expect to walk for 0.5 - 2 hours for maximum enjoyment.

### Weather:

Tropical climate. The wet season occurs between November and May. The monthly average temperature is 27 degrees Celsius and a range of 21 - 32 degrees Celsius. Humidity is high and is generally over 80% during the wet season. As the wet season suggests, there is likely to be rain during the trip. Depending on the season, this could be intermittent light rain or heavier continual rain.

### Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information sent to you about one month before departure.

Comfortable casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts. Light trousers and shorts.

Don't forget your bathers. Snorkelling gear can be hired on the island if you don't wish to bring your own.

Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes and wet weather gear are essential.

**NOTE:** Travelling to Christmas Island. Christmas Island is an Australian territory, and a passport is not required to visit. However, all flights to and from Christmas Island use the international terminal at Perth Airport, and you will pass through immigration and customs. A photo ID (e.g. driver's license) is all that is required to clear immigration and board your flight. However, we recommend that if you do have a passport, you bring it in the rare event that the flight is diverted from Christmas Island (i.e. due to poor weather), as it may be sent to Jakarta, Indonesia. A passport will be needed to clear immigration if the flight is significantly delayed.

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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