



Coates Wildlife Tours
Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

14 Day South Australian Outback and Channel Country Expedition



Camping Small Group Tour - Max 6 passengers
Adelaide to Alice Springs 2 - 15 May 2023

(Max. 6 participants in 2 lead vehicles)

Itinerary Highlights:

- Wilpena Pound - an iconic Australian landmark found in the heart of the Flinders Ranges, described as a natural amphitheatre of mountains covering over 8000 hectares
- Visit outback towns Innamincka & Birdsville, and Boulia.
- Visit Coongie Lakes and Diamantina National Park

From the striking landscape and impressive ruins of early European settlement in the southern Flinders Range to the massive expanse the Channel Country around Birdsville and Boulia, this adventure showcases some of the South Australian and Southern Queensland outback's most spectacular scenery and unique wildlife.

A trip to the outback would not be complete without a visit to two of Australia's most iconic outback towns, Innamincka and Birdsville.

Coongie Lake and the Diamantina National Parks are excellent for birding and wildlife spotting. Innamincka is steeped in the Explorers Burke and Wills history and we visit some of their historical sites, including gravesites and the Dig Tree.

Itinerary

Day 1 **Adelaide to Wilpena Pound**

We depart Adelaide this morning and head north to Wilpena Pound. On the way, we will spend time in Port Augusta and visit the Wadlata Centre and its unique exhibits with a journey through the history of the Outback.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Wilpena Pound LD

Day 2 **Wilpena Pound**

Today we explore the area around Wilpena Pound. After an early breakfast, there will be a walk to the Old Homestead and Wangara Lookout. The lookout provides panoramic views across the pound. After an early lunch, we will drive through the ranges to one of Australian artist Hans Heysen's favourite sites. Areas explored within the Flinders Range National Park are a photographer's paradise.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Wilpena Pound BLD

Day 3 **Wilpena Pound to Copley**

We leave Wilpena behind and drive through the southern Flinders Ranges with its stunning scenery and excellent wildlife spotting possibilities. We visit Brachina Gorge to view its brilliant array of shale, limestone and quartzite. There are also ruins of old shepherd huts that reflect the hard times endured by the early settlers.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Copley BLD

Day 4 **Copley - Montecollina Bore**

This morning we make our way to the Strzelecki Track and onto Montecollina Bore to see the wildlife found around the bore's wetland. Our campsite has a hot bore that overflows into a dam and then into a wetland, attracting an abundance of birdlife.

Accommodation: Bush Camp - Montecollina Bore BLD

Day 5 **Montecollina Bore - Innamincka**

Early morning birding around the bore is a great way to start the day. After breakfast, we pack up and continue on the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka, located beside the mighty Cooper Creek, which will be home for the next three nights.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Innamincka BLD

Day 6 Innamincka - Lake Coongie - Innamincka

Today we will explore the area around Lake Coongie, a freshwater wetland system made up of channels, lakes, deltas, floodplains and corridors. We will look for wildlife drawn to the area with the arrival of the water.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Innamincka BLD

Day 7 Innamincka

Today we will explore the many sites related to the historic Burke & Wills expedition. We will visit the Dig Tree, the gravesites of both Burke and Wills and a memorial to King. This interesting part of our Australian history unfolds as we learn about this tragic expedition.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Innamincka BLD

Day 8 Innamincka To Birdsville

Leaving Innamincka behind, we travel via Cordillo Downs Station to Birdsville (technically in Queensland), where we spend time exploring the many creeks along the way. Tonight we experience genuine outback hospitality with dinner at the Birdsville Hotel (at passengers' expense).

Accommodation: Camp Site - Birdsville BL

Day 9 Birdsville

We spend the morning birding around the campground billabong and the old crossing before heading out to have a look at the Waddi Trees found just out of town. This afternoon is free for you to have a look at this historic town, do some washing or just relax.

Accommodation: Camp Site - Birdsville BLD

Day 10 Birdsville - Monika

After Breakfast, we will travel East to Betoota. This Small Town became a ghost town in 2014 when the last permanent resident passed away. From Betoota, we will continue north to our final destination for today, Monkira, on the banks of the Diamantina River.

Accommodation: Bush camp near Monkira BLD

Day 11 Monika - Diamantina National Park - Boulia

Today we will continue to push north, following the Diamantina River towards the Diamantina National Park. We will have the afternoon to explore the park before moving to our accommodation at Boulia. Dinner is not included tonight; we will join the locals at the Boulia Hotel (at passengers' expense).

Accommodation: Cabins Boulia Caravan Park BL

Day 12 Boulia - Tobermory - Jervois

Today the journey back to Alice Springs begins. We will travel west along the Donohue Hwy towards Jervois. Along the way, we will cross the Georgina River at Glenormiston Station.

Accommodation: Campsite Jervois BLD

Tour Costs

Cost: \$7,825.00 per person GST Inclusive
Single Supplement \$70.00

Departs: Adelaide 02 May 2023

Finishes: Alice Springs 15 May 2023

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 2 April 2023

Note: The final payment is non refundable if canceled within 30 days of the departure date.

Travel Insurance covering all payments is strongly recommended.

Included

- 2 crew members consisting of a naturalist guide and driver/cook;
- Well maintained vehicles with front-facing, seat belted seats;
- Easy-to-erect tents and camping 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 tea each day;
- All national park entrance fees.
- Wadlata Centre fees

Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows (while camping);
- Sleeping bags;
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to Adelaide and from Alice Springs
- 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
- Optional William Creek flight

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.

Tour Information

Vehicle & Equipment:

Our vehicles for the tour will consist of two Toyota 4WD Prados 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 \$100.00. 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:

Is at a combination of bush camps, campsites and motel/cabin accommodation.

Bush camps are at locations chosen by the tour guide for their suitability and natural benefits. There are usually no facilities available, other than a long drop bush toilet. We do carry adequate water for washing.

Private campsites vary. Some provide full facilities including ablution blocks, other sites only have a long drop toilet.

National Park campsites are operated by National Park managers. They have a mix of flushing or long drop toilets, fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some provide showers.

Cabin/Motel accommodation Privately run accommodation that vary in comfort level but all will have clean rooms with bedding and hot showers.

Meals:

Meals as per the tour itinerary are included. i.e.(B) breakfast, (L) lunch, (D) 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 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 walks.

Weather:

The weather at this time of the year is usually dry, with a minimum average daily temperature around 17-20 degrees Celsius. The nights are much cooler and have been known to drop to approx. 3-5 degrees Celsius. There may also be a risk of showers in the Flinders and as we leave Adelaide.

Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on tour will be included with our pre-departure information. This will be sent to you about one month before 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 needed for the evenings. Don't forget your bathers. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity and an old pair of sneakers or reef style boots which can be worn in the water are highly recommended.

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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