



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 10 passengers

Adelaide to Alice Springs 30 May - 12 June 2024

(Max. 6 participants in 2 lead vehicles & 4 participants in 2 tag-along 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, Boulia and Birdsville
- Visit Coongie Lakes - the pristine waterways of this Ramsar Wetland attract a high diversity of waterbirds (205 species, including 87 wetland dependent species)
- Diamantina National Park - Another haven for waterbirds, this park includes wetlands, river channels, sand dunes, grass plains and weathered sandstone ranges
- Burke & Wills sites - gravesites of the first European explorers to cross Australia south to north, and their 'Dig Tree' (a 200-250 years old Coolibah inscribed with 'digging' instructions)

Day 3 Wilpena Pound - Copley

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

Accommodation: Campsite - Copley BLD

Day 4 Copley - Montecollina Bore

This morning we go to the Strzelecki Track, then onto Montecollina Bore to experience the wildlife 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: Campsite - Innamincka BLD

Day 6 Innamincka - Lake Coongie - Innamincka

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

Accommodation: Campsite - 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 the King. As we learn about this tragic expedition, this interesting part of Australian history unfolds.

Accommodation: Campsite - Innamincka BLD

Day 8 Innamincka - Birdsville

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

Accommodation: Campsite - Birdsville BL

Day 9 Birdsville

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

Accommodation: Campsite - Birdsville BLD

Day 10 **Birdsville - Monkira Area**

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 continue north to our final destination for today, Monkira, on the banks of the Diamantina River.

Accommodation: Bush Camp near Monkira BLD

Day 11 **Monkira - Diamantina National Park - Boulia**

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

Day 13 **Jervois - Ross River**

Today we detour off the Plenty Highway and head down the Pinnacle Road via the Arltunga Tourist Drive to Ross River.

Accommodation: Campsite Ross River BLD

Day 14 **Ross River - Alice Springs**

Our outback adventure ends today as we travel into Alice Springs along the Ross Highway. There will be time to enjoy a walk or two during the drive. We expect to arrive in Alice Springs by midafternoon. We will then drop you off at your chosen accommodation in town.

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



Tour Costs

Cost: \$7,985.00 per person
\$115.00 Single Supplement
\$3,515.00 Tag Along participants per person

Departs: Adelaide 30 May 2024

Finishes: Alice Springs 12 June 2024

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$500.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 30 April 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 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: breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D);
- Fruit for snacking throughout the day;
- Campsite fees;
- Morning tea each day;
- All national park entrance fees;
- Australian Arid Lands Botanical Garden.

Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows (while camping);
- Sleeping bags (can be purchased for \$125.00 each);
- 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.

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 tour within Australia.

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 \$125.00. 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 is 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. breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D) 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.

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 best tackle the tasks and to assist where required.

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.

To make a booking or further information please contact

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