



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

10-Day South Australian Lake Eyre & Flinders Range Tour



Camping/Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers

Alice Springs to Adelaide 19 - 28 June 2025

(Max. 6 passengers in 2 lead vehicles, 4 participants in 2 tag along vehicles)

Itinerary Highlights:

- The unique and memorable opal mining town of Coober Pedy, where homes, hotels and churches are built below-ground ('dugouts')
- Lake Eyre - a vast, dry, shimmering salt pan which crosses three state borders and contains the lowest natural point in Australia
- Muloorina Station lies on the banks of the Frome river; a great area for wildlife spotting
- Coward Springs - enjoy a 29°C natural spa under the stars
- 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
- Flinders Ranges - the largest mountain range in South Australia; dusty red roads wind through towering cliffs and deep craters

This adventure is a must for all who long to experience the Australian outback. From the massive expanse of Lake Eyre, as it spreads out before you, to the striking landscape and impressive ruins of early European settlement in the southern and northern Flinders Range. This adventure showcases some of South Australia's most spectacular outback scenery and unique wildlife.

We will travel on the Oodnadatta Track, steeped in history, natural wonders and rich cultural heritage, it is perhaps one of our most fascinating and historic outback trails.

A trip to the outback would not be complete without a visit to some of South Australia's iconic outback towns, including Maree, William Creek and Coober Pedy.



Itinerary

Day 1 Alice Springs - Marla

An early start this morning as we depart Alice Springs and head south for the small community of Marla, with a population of just 70 people.

Accommodation: Motel - Marla LD

Day 2 Marla - Painted Desert - Coober Pedy

We depart Marla this morning and travel to Coober Pedy, via the Painted Desert (located northeast of Coober Pedy). The area is notable for its distinctive mesas, mountains, and geological formations. The best-known of these geological wonders are the colourful Arckaringa Hills, with many shades of orange, yellow, and white shale on the slopes. Dinner tonight is not included as we will visit a local hotel.

Accommodation: Motel - Coober Pedy BL

Day 3 Coober Pedy - William Creek

This morning we explore the wonders of Coober Pedy. We discover the underground way of life, including a visit to an underground mine, a church and a look at the above-ground town from the main lookout. Late morning, we will head out of town to William Creek. We will arrive in William Creek in time for any one who wishes to undertake an optional flight over Lake Eyre.

Accommodation: Cabins - William Creek BLD

Day 4 William Creek - Lake Eyre - Coward Springs

An early start this morning as we visit the banks of Lake Eyre. We travel via an amazing moonscape, arriving at the lake with plenty of time to look for birds and reptiles that inhabit the area around the lake. Wet or dry, the lake is an amazing sight. Returning back to William Creek, We will rejoin Oodnadatta Track in the afternoon and head south to Coward Springs.

Accommodation: Campsite - Coward Springs BLD

Day 5 Coward Springs

Today is a mixture of exploring the station's wetland, discovering its historical past and enjoying the campground surrounds and wildlife. We will also visit the nearby Wabnma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park. Unique springs include Blanch Cup and The Bubbler, aptly called as it does bubble, but not how you would expect. These springs are significant water sources for the fragile ecosystem in the area and were used by Arabana (Aboriginal) people for several thousands of years.

Accommodation: Campsite - Coward Springs BLD

Day 6 Coward Springs - Maree

We depart Coward Springs and call into the old abandoned railway siding of Curdimurka, before driving along the banks of Lake Eyre South. Maree was the rail head where goods in the very early days would travel from the south of the state and then be transferred onto camels for delivery to surrounding stations. Later on people like Tom Cruise (the legendary outback mailman would use old two wheel drive to make the deliveries. Evidence of the early Afghan cameleers and Tom Cruise's truck can still be seen in the town today.

Accommodation: Hotel Maree BLD

Day 7 Muloorina Station - Leigh Creek

This morning we will visit Muloorina Station Bore on the banks of the Frome River. There will be time to explore the area and discover the wildlife around the edge of the billabong. After morning tea we will head back into Maree before continuing south to Leigh Creek. The next part of the journey will take us to the former settlement of Farina; now uninhabited, major restoration works on parts of the settlement have been restored to their former glory.

Leigh Creek was a major mining town until the closure of the local coal mine in 2015. Since the mines closure the population of the town has dwindled from over 2,000 to around 100 people.

Accommodation: Leigh Creek Resort BLD

Day 8 Leigh Creek - Wilpena Pound

Leaving Copley, we head South to Wilpena Pound via the Prairie Hotel in Parachilna. We will also spend time at the Heysen Trailhead (usually an excellent place for birds and other wildlife). The drive will also take us through the spectacular Bunyeroo Valley, with its magnificent lookouts, and Brachina Gorge, where there is a strong chance of spotting Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies.

Accommodation: Campsite - Wilpena Pound BLD

Day 9 Wilpena Pound Area

Today we explore the area around Wilpena Pound. After an early breakfast, those who wish can 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, and explore areas that will delight photographers.

Accommodation: Campsite - Wilpena Pound BLD

Day 10 Wilpena Pound - Port Augusta - Adelaide

An early start this morning as we depart Wilpena Pound. We will spend time visiting Port Augusta. The Australian Arid Lands Botanical Gardens with its wonderful display of plants and birdlife. Our adventure ends in Adelaide late this afternoon, where you will be dropped off at your chosen accommodation in the city.

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

Tour Costs

Cost: \$8,345.00 per person in lead vehicles
\$475.00 Single Supplement
\$4,095.00 per person in own tag along vehicle

Departs: Alice Springs 19 June 2025

Finishes: Adelaide 28 June 2025

Max No. Of Participants: 6 passengers in 2 lead vehicles & 4 passengers in 2 tag along vehicles

Tour Payments

Deposit: At time of booking \$700.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 19 May 2025

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 on tour within Australia.

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;
- Accommodation as per the itinerary;
- Campsite and accommodation fees;
- Morning tea each day;
- All national park entrance fees;

Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);
- Pillows (while camping);
- Sleeping bags (can be purchased for \$145.00 each);
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to Alice Springs and from Adelaide;
- 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.

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 \$145.00. 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 varies 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.

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 head into 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 further information please contact

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