



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialist in Nature Tours since 1986

Trip Dossier

12-Day Western Explorer Expedition



Easy Camping Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers
Broome to Perth 17 - 28 July 2024

Itinerary Highlights:

- Camping on the peaceful banks of the De Grey River
- Visit Marble Bar, the 'hottest town in Australia' and Chinaman's Pool, a great spot for birdwatching
- Karijini National Park has many beautiful gorges and sites, including Oxers Lookout, Weano Gorge and Dales Gorge
- Mount Bruce - enjoy great views over the surrounding Hamersley Range and Marandoo mine
- Mount Augustus - magnificent views, Aboriginal rock art, shady waterholes and abundant wildlife
- Cattle Pool - swim and relax in the shade of the River Gums while looking for birds
- Kennedy Ranges - impressive gorges, flora and birds
- Coalseam Conservation Park - spectacular wildflowers, birdlife and history; this was the site of the first mined coal deposit in Western Australia

Easy Camping

The easy camping concept has been introduced to make the whole camping experience more enjoyable. The camp support crew will travel in a separate vehicle and have your camp set up when you arrive. No more erecting tents, beds or unpacking camping equipment. Just pick up your bag and either explore the campsite or freshen up and relax before dinner.

We travel from Broome to Perth through WA's typical outback country. Rugged ancient landscapes including Karijini National Park, Mt Augustus and the Kennedy Ranges, are not places you can just swing by. Our 12 day tour from Broome to Perth, which coincides with the northern wildflower season, is an ideal way to explore all three in one go.

We spend three nights at the magnificent Karijini National Park, famous for its spectacular gorges, waterfalls and cool swimming holes. It boasts an abundance of plant life and is also home to a variety of marsupials, including the endemic Pilbara Ningai (Ningai timealeyi) and Little Red Antechinus (*Dasykaluta rosamondae*).

Measuring at over twice the size of Uluru, Mt Augustus is a dramatic peak. The stunning colours change at dawn and dusk; bright pink, orange and red with the occasional green reflect. The vegetation is open mulga shrubland with several endemic plant species, including a native hibiscus, a Mulla-Mulla and a striking native foxglove.

Kennedy Range is one of the world's most ancient land formations, with delicate patterns on rock faces due to water and wind erosion. The area is a biological hotspot, from twisted fig trees in its gorges and spinifex atop the plateau, to the wattles, mallee and wildflowers across the surrounding plain. You may also be lucky enough to see Euros and rock-wallabies living in caves.

Itinerary

Day 1 Broome to De Grey River

Departing Broome early this morning, we'll begin our journey south. We will travel via the Great Northern Highway and the Boreline Road to the De Grey River to set up camp. The water holes formed in the river during the dry season are a great place to view wildlife and birds visiting the water for a drink.

Accommodation: Bush camp De Grey River

LD

Day 2 De Grey River to Karijini National Park

On our journey this morning, we'll pass through Marble Bar. We'll look around this well-known Pilbara town and then head to Karijini National Park. We should have time to swim at Fern Pool, a picturesque swimming spot fed by a natural spring. Lush green ferns surround the pool, and a cascading waterfall completes the oasis.

Accommodation: National Park Camp

BLD

Day 3 & 4 Karijini National Park

We'll spend the next two days exploring and photographing the natural features of Karijini National Park, including Oxers Lookout, Weano Gorge and Dales Gorge. As some of the most spectacular sights in WA, they are not to be missed.

Accommodation: National Park Camp

BLD

Day 5 Karijini National Park to Tom Price

This morning we'll explore Mt Bruce (Western Australia's second-highest mountain) and then head to Tom Price, where you can enjoy some free time while the crew restock our fresh food supplies.

Accommodation: Campsite Tom Price

BLD

Day 6 Tom Price to Mt Augustus

Leaving Tom Price, we'll continue south, passing through station country as we travel towards Mount Augustus. We should arrive at our campsite late afternoon, our base for the next two nights.

Accommodation: Campsite at Mt Augustus Caravan Park

BLD

Day 7 **Mt Augustus**

Today we will undertake a variety of walks, including one up Mount Augustus to enjoy magnificent views, one to an Aboriginal rock art display and a walk to visit a shady waterhole.

Accommodation: Campsite at Mt Augustus Caravan Park BLD

Day 8 **Mt Augustus to Kennedy Ranges**

Leaving Mt Augustus this morning, we'll head to the Kennedy Ranges. We will drive through the semi-arid Gascoyne region, where we should see plenty of Little Corellas, Pink and Grey Galahs, Wedge-tailed Eagles, and wildflowers. We'll set up camp in the shadow of the towering cliff face on the eastern side of the ranges. When camp is set up, we will go for a 2km walk on the Temple Gorge Trail. It has beautiful views up and into the towering red cliffs.

Accommodation: Kennedy Ranges Bush Camp BLD

Day 9 **Kennedy Ranges**

This morning a walk to the top of the range will reward you with stunning views over the plain and small tufted-covered sand dunes. This afternoon we will visit the intriguing Honeycomb Gorge, named after its honeycomb filigree pattern etched into the rock walls.

Accommodation: Kennedy Ranges Bush Camp BLD

Day 10 **Kennedy Ranges to Murchison**

Back on the road today, we'll continue south via Gascoyne Junction. We will be stopping along the way for wildlife and wildflower sightings.

Accommodation: Murchison Camp Ground BLD

Day 11 **Murchison to Coalseam Conservation Reserve**

Today we'll continue through Murchison country. With winter rains, the area should be lush and green, and wildflowers should be starting to emerge. There will be time this afternoon to take a walk through the reserve.

Accommodation: National Park Campsite BLD

Day 12 **Coalseam to Perth**

Today we head back to Perth via the coastal highway. We will have many opportunities along the way to stop and enjoy the sights. The tour ends with our mid to late-afternoon arrival in Perth.

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



Tour Costs

Cost:	\$6,675.00 per person Free Single Supplement	
Departs:	Broome	17 July 2024
Finishes:	Perth	28 July 2024

Max No. Of Participants: 12 passengers, Coates Naturalist Leader, Driver/Guide and 2 Camp support crew.

Tour Payments

Deposit:	At time of booking \$500.00 per person
Final Payment:	On or before 17 June 2024

Note: 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.

Included

- Well-maintained vehicle with all front facing, seat-belted, mostly reclining coach style seats
- 4 crew - naturalist guide, driver/cook and 2 camp support crew members
- **Easy Camping** included (camp is set up and packed away each day for you)
- Self-inflating air mattress and stretcher bed
- All eating utensils
- Meals as per itinerary: breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D)
- Morning teas
- Fruit available on board the vehicle throughout the day
- Campsite fees
- All national park entrance fees

Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own)
- Pillows
- Sleeping bags (can be purchased from us for \$125.00 each with prior notice)
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended)
- Travel expenses to Broome
- 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

Vehicle & Equipment:

Air conditioned purpose built 4WD tour coach with all front facing, mostly reclining, seat-belted seats, power facilities and all the necessary camping equipment. 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.

Single Travellers:

On Coates Wildlife camping tours single travellers will be allocated a tent to themselves. If you are travelling with a friend and would like to share a tent please let us know.

Accommodation:

Accommodation on this tour is a combination of bush camps and campsites.

Bush camps are at locations chosen by the tour guide for their suitability and natural benefits.

There are usually no facilities apart from a long-drop bush toilet. We carry adequate water for washing.

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

Private campsites vary significantly. Some have full ablution blocks with showers and flushing toilets, others only provide a long-drop toilet.

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 where prior notice is given. Please contact the office if you have a special dietary requirement as a surcharge may apply.

Trek Grading:

Bush walks will be over a number of different surfaces including rough tracks, rocky outcrops, hilly country and in and out of gorges. All walks are optional and will be able to be conducted at your own pace. There may also be some optional rock scrambling. To ensure maximum enjoyment, participants on this trip will need to have a good level of fitness.

Weather:

The tour has been timed to coincide with the dry season. Days are usually dry and hot with temperatures around the low to mid 30's (degrees Celsius). The nights can be cool with minimum temperatures around 10 - 15 degrees Celsius.

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. Generally, comfortable casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts are suitable for during the day and warmer jumpers and jackets may be needed for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes are a necessity.

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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