

## Trip Dossier

### 15-Day Gibson Desert Expedition



**Camping Small Group Tour - Max 10 passengers**

**Perth - Alice Springs                      17 - 31 May 2025**

(Maximum 6 participants in 2 lead vehicles & 4 participants in 2 tag-along vehicles)

#### **Itinerary Highlights:**

- Follow in the footsteps of Len Beadell and his road construction party. Travelling from Perth to Alice Springs, we will follow the Gunbarrel Highway, Great Central Highway, Gary Junction Road, Sandy Blight Junction Road and Tanami Road.
- Explore the remote and pristine Gibson Desert Nature Reserve.
- Visit Mangkili Claypan. After the summer rains, the pan should still be holding water so we expect to see a range of migratory birds.
- Travel on the Sandy Blight Junction Road, Len Beadell's Central Australian

Rarely visited by tourists, the Gibson Desert is vast with undulating sand plains, dune fields and gibber plains. The vegetation is mainly mulga and other mixed shrubs, over spinifex.

On this 4WD adventure, we will travel on icon Len Beadell's outback roads. Don't let the "road" tag fool you however; most of these roads are unkept outback tracks. Our trip will focus on the arid zone plants, birds, and other wildlife, as well as the diverse geology along the roads and the history of the track builders. We will also visit remote Aboriginal communities and the occasional bore; these bores provide water in the heart of the desert country.

Join this small group and experience the outback in the same natural state (or just about) as the early explorers Carnegie and Giles saw it, but without the hardships they endured.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Perth - Mt Magnet

We depart Perth at around 7.30 am this morning for a full day's drive north via the Great Northern Highway to our campsite at Mt Magnet.

Accommodation: Mt Magnet Caravan Park Campsite LD

### Day 2 Mt Magnet - Wiluna Area

Today we travel via Meekatharra to Wiluna, a small outback town and the gateway to the iconic Canning Stock Route and Gunbarrel Hwy. Wiluna is our last touch of civilisation for some time as we begin our journey on the Gunbarrel Highway (which officially started a few hundred km further east). After resupplying in Wiluna, we will head east to our bush camp.

Accommodation: Bush Camp East of Wiluna BLD

### Day 3 Wiluna Area - Mingol Camp (Wongawol Station)

We start our main journey eastwards along the Gunbarrel Highway / Wongawol Road, stopping along the way for arid zone plants and wildlife sightings. Passing Wongawol Homestead, we head towards Lake Carnegie and our bush camp on the western edge of the Gibson Desert.

Accommodation: Mingol Camp BLD

### Day 4 Mingol Camp - Carnegie - Mangkili Claypan Area

This morning we visit Carnegie Station and fuel up. We then travel on the Gunbarrel Highway, journeying into the Gibson Desert towards Mangkili Claypan Nature Reserve (also known as Mungilli Claypan).

Accommodation: Mangkili Claypan Area Bush Camp BLD

### Day 5 Mangkili Claypan Area

We will spend today exploring the area that surrounds our campsite. After peak rains in February and March, the pan should still be holding water, so we expect to see various migratory birds. Late summer rains should also bring new life to the pan's vegetation.

Accommodation: Mangkili Claypan Area Bush Camp BLD

**Day 6 Mangkili Claypan Area - Everard Junction**

We continue along the Gunbarrel Highway to Everard Junction, the meeting point of the Gunbarrel Highway and Gary Highway; another track made by Len Beadell.

Accommodation: Everard Junction Bush Camp BLD

**Day 7 Everard Junction**

Today we leave the trailers behind at our camp and take a half-day excursion, heading north to Charlie's Knob. This afternoon there will be free time at the camp to either explore the area around the camp, do some washing, catch up on your diary or just relax.

Accommodation: Everard Junction Bush Camp BLD

**Day 8 Everard Junction - Bush Camp Heather Highway**

Travelling on the Gunbarrel and Heather highways, we continue our journey towards the Great Central Road. This section of these "highways" is usually quite rough, resulting in slow progress.

Accommodation: Campsite Warburton Roadhouse BLD

**Day 9 Heather Highway - Warburton - Giles (Warakurna)**

This morning, we complete our trip along the Heather Highway and join the Great Central Road to the West of Warburton. After a quick refuel, we continue along the well-constructed Great Central Road. This afternoon, we will arrive at Warakurna and visit the Giles Meteorological Station. We should also have time for a hot shower, to do some laundry and relax at the campsite.

Accommodation: Campsite Warakurna BLD

**Days 10 - 13 Warakurna - Sandy Blight Junction Road**

We will spend the next four days travelling and camping along Sandy Blight Junction Road. This should be a trip highlight due to the many ranges, dunes, desert Oaks, and spectacular scenery along the way. Len Beadell called this road his "Central Australian showcase". There will be plenty of time to experience and enjoy this beautiful area.

Accommodation: Bush Camps BLD

**Day 14 Sandy Blight Junction - Mt Liebig Area**

This morning, we will call into Kintore (Walungurra) to refuel and re-stock before travelling on Gary Junction Road to the Mt Liebig area for our last bush camp.

Accommodation: Bush Camp BLD

**Day 15 Mt Liebig Area - Alice Springs**

Our last day of travel as we head into Alice Springs will take us into Papunya for fuel, then on the Gary Junction Road and Namatjira Drive. Our arrival into Alice Springs should be mid to late afternoon. Our outback adventure ends with a transfer to your chosen central Alice Springs accommodation.

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

## Tour Costs

Cost: \$8,125.00 per person in lead vehicles  
\$3,595.00 per person in tag-along vehicles  
Free single supplement

Departs: Perth 17 May 2025

Finishes: Alice Springs 31 May 2025

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

Tour Payments:

Deposit: At the time of booking \$700.00 per person

Final Payment: On or before 17 April 2025

Note: The deposit is non-refundable. The final payment is non-refundable if cancelled within 30 days of departure. Travel Insurance covering all costs 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

- Two well-maintained 4WD vehicles;
- 2 crew members - a Naturalist/Driver Guide and Driver/Cook;
- Easy-to-erect tents and camp chairs with armrests;
- A self-inflating air mattress and stretcher bed;
- All eating utensils;
- Meals as per itinerary: breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D);
- Campsite fees;
- Morning teas;
- All national park entrance fees;
- Travel permits as required.

## Not Included

- Alcoholic & carbonated drinks (you are welcome to bring your own);\*\*\*
- Pillows;
- Sleeping bags;
- Travel insurance (very strongly recommended);
- Travel expenses to Perth 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.

\*\*\* NOTE: Due to the Federal Government's intervention with Aboriginal communities, alcohol has been banned on all Aboriginal land. Much of this trip will be spent travelling through these lands, and we must abide by these laws.



## 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 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 given back to us, and we will donate them to charity.

### Tag-Along Participants:

If requested when booking, we can supply tents, seating and eating utensils, but they will need to be carried in your own vehicle.

### Single Travellers:

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

### Accommodation:

Accommodation 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. We carry adequate water for washing.

**Private campsites** vary. Some provide full facilities, including ablution blocks, while others only have a long drop toilet.

**National Park managers operate National Park campsites.** They have a mix of flushing or composting toilets, fire rings and clearly defined camping areas. Some provide showers.

### Meals:

Meals as per the tour itinerary are included, i.e. breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D) and morning tea. A plentiful supply of fresh fruit will also be available throughout the day. Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for where prior notice is given. Please contact the office for special dietary requirements, as a surcharge may apply.

### Trek Grading:

We will undertake light to medium bush walking on most days. All walks are optional and can be conducted at your own pace. There may also be some optional rock scrambling.

### Weather:

Days are expected to be dry and warm, with temperatures around 20 - 25 degrees Celsius. The nights can be cold, with minimum temperatures around 0 - 8 degrees Celsius.

**Clothing:**

A suggested list of items to bring on the tour will be included with our pre-departure information, sent to you one month before the tour start date. Generally, comfortable, casual clothing is recommended. Light shirts and T-shirts are appropriate during the day, and warmer jumpers and jackets may be required for the evenings. Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes or boots are essential.

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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