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## Australia Nullarbor Wildlife Tour

Adventure



Relaxation



Culture



**Trip Name:** Australia Nullarbor Wildlife Tour    **Trip Code:** OZNR    **Duration:**

### Trip Highlights

- Cape le Grand National Park: you can go swimming, snorkelling or just relax on the beach with the kangaroos
- Bush camping under the stars
- Whale-watching and spectacular coastline
- Swimming with sea-lions and dolphins (own expense)
- Sand-boarding, hiking and bushwalking
- National Parks, tree top walks and a large tree climb
- Learn to surf on a pristine footprint free beach



### Overview

For many years travellers on a gap year in Australia have whizzed down the East coast, oblivious to the hidden treasures the West coast of Australia has. Free spirited travellers in particular will love this Australia wildlife tour with camping and adventure, from braving the tree top walk through the 'Valley of the Giants' to strolling along the beautiful white sand beaches, this tour has everything!

### Destination Info

Australia attracts many visitors each year due to its broad range of things to see and do. The varying landscape offers many beautiful attractions and fantastic activities, from surfing and white water rafting to trekking and skiing. As well as natural beauty, Australia's cosmopolitan cities offer a wide variety of cultural attractions from sports to art.

Adelaide is just a quick ride away from the hiking haven of the Mt Lofty Ranges and other tourists flock there for its access to the surrounding wine regions, surf lessons and Kangaroo Island that is just a stone's throw away.

### Itinerary



## Day 1 - Flinders Ranges/Gawler Ranges

Journey into the rustic, rugged gorges, abandoned homesteads and ghost gums of the southern Flinders Ranges National Park. Experience life of the early pioneers with a camel trek then experience a stunning landscape extreme at Lake Gairdner, a salt lake in the Gawler Ranges National Park.

Pickup is from your Adelaide accommodation between 6.30 am and 7.00 am in front of the hotel/hostel. Please have your checkout finalised by 6.30am and wait at the designated pickup point (advised at your reconfirmation). You will meet your fellow group members on board the vehicle as many of them may be staying at other accommodation.

We head north to one of earth's oldest mountain ranges, the Flinders Ranges where we will meet our camels for a trek through this gorgeous landscape. Camels have a long history in Australia as they were the premier form of transport in this harsh environment. Today Australia boasts the largest wild camel population on the planet.

After lunch we wind our way through the Outback to a sunset of contrasts at Lake Gairdner in the Gawler Ranges national Park.

Tonight we set up bush camp for the first time. There are only toilet facilities at this bush camp. No showers, electricity and limited Telstra mobile phone reception (best done before leaving Port Augusta).

**Lunch and Dinner included.**

## Day 2 Eyre Peninsula/Coodlie Park

The Eyre Peninsula is one of those great secrets not many people have yet discovered. Teeming with some of Australia's most amazing and outstanding real wildlife experiences, the lack of a nearby major airport and too far to drive for most domestic travellers, this piece of paradise is one that only those who have been, can give that knowing smile of discovery of a very special place indeed.

# Australia Nullarbor Wildlife Tour

Today we travel through the Gawler Ranges National Park and wonder at the abundant wildlife casually grazing in this majestic landscape. We have lunch in the shadows of South Australia's own Wave Rock. After 1 hour drive we visit the fishing village of Venus Bay and do the South headland walk.

Our overnight accommodation is a farm stay. This working farm of traditional cropping and a project of tree planting on their own land to offset their own carbon emissions.

In the evening we head out in search of some wildlife on land. In this remote and undisturbed country it is quite possible to see all of kangaroos, emus and wombats. That's a possible 5 real wildlife encounters in the one day!

Tonight you are in a dorm bed style accommodation with limited shower and toilets. No Mobile phone reception. Global Gossip internet available.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.**



## Day 3 Coodlie Park

This morning we head off to do a 2 hour surf lesson at Scaeles Bay and then lunch at Baird Bay before having the opportunity to experience one of Australia's most unique wildlife experiences of swimming with dolphins and sea lions. This incredible optional wildlife experience involves a four hour boat cruise. We find the friendly populations and can swim and snorkel amongst them. There is nothing that can parallel the feeling of communing with wild creatures such as these. Tonight you will stay in dorm style accommodation with limited shared toilets and shower facilities. No mobile phone reception. Global Gossip Internet available.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.**

## Day 4 The Great Australia Bight/Koonalda Homestead

Today we blend one of the world's great road trips with the chance of more wildlife encounters. The Nullarbor Plain and the Great Australian Bight are two of the icons of Australia. Today we are heading into some of the remotest country on the planet.

# Australia Nullarbor Wildlife Tour

We cross the dingo fence which runs a staggering 5320km from the Bight through to Southern Queensland and head through the Yalata Aboriginal lands. At the Head of the Bight we stop to take in the staggering sheer drop of the Bunda Cliffs where Australia suddenly and dramatically ends and drops into the ocean.

If travelling between June and October it is very likely you will get to see some giants of the ocean, the Southern Right Whales. A pod of about 100 whales come every year to this spot to give birth to whale calves. There is no need for a boat trip as the whales come right close to the sheer drop of the cliffs and use the sheltered waters below as their resting spot. This is a truly spellbinding sight and difficult to tear yourself away from these creatures as they breach, roll and tail slap just off the shore below the viewing platform.

This afternoon head towards Nullarbor with its famous wombat, camel and kangaroo road sign, a photo of which has become the metaphor for those who like to really get out there. We set camp in one of the original settlers homesteads and get prepared to be bedazzled by one of nature's greatest shows. Swag bush camping – no toilet, showers or electricity. Limited Telstra mobile phone reception.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.**

## **Day 5 The Nullarbor /Eucla /Newman Rocks**

See the way the desert can devour an entire town and head west across Australia's great plain. Check out the old town of Eucla which struggled and lost in its battle against the ever encroaching desert sands.

Today the reality of the Nullarbor really hits you – this huge expanse of karst limestone has many hidden secrets including the biggest underground lake system in Australia and is the source of many international divers who come here to explore this unique landscape. Today we settle in for a big days drive across the great plain of Australia before our next overnight camping. People say the sky in Australia looks bigger than elsewhere. Tonight you get an IMAX sized version of the great southern night sky. Pick out the star sign constellations, the Southern Cross, planets and be amazed by the show of shooting stars so prevalent in the clear skies of the desert plain. No photograph or movie could ever do justice to this night sky spectacular. This is something you can only experience. Swag bush camping – no toilet, showers or electricity. Limited Telstra mobile phone reception.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.**



## Days 6-7 Esperance

Esperance can seem like a huge metropolis after two full days out in the remoteness of the desert plain. The town is still remote but once you see the magnificent surrounds of the granite, bush and beach you can only wonder for how much longer this area can keep its quaint charm.

Get set for some of Australia's most beautiful scenery. This area of Western Australia has no less than 9 National Parks which is testament to its beauty and uniqueness. We take in the most spectacular of all, Cape Le Grand National Park. Stunning blue seas mix with powder white beaches and secluded bays allow for stops and swims in what can only be described as a nature lovers paradise.

In the afternoon we stretch our legs on Frenchman Peak which gives us a great overview of the bays and beaches and views to the islands offshore. This area is too spectacular to experience in one afternoon so we have a full free day for you to take in some hikes, go swimming or relax at the beach. You might even encounter a kangaroo on the beach - it doesn't get any more Aussie than that!

Our overnight location is the beautiful Cape Le Grand National Park with Limited toilet and shower facilities, no electricity. No phone reception. (Best coverage is in Esperance)

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.**

## Day 8 Stirling Ranges

Leaving the aptly named Lucky Bay behind, you'll be pleased to know that you haven't used up all your luck. More gorgeous country is in front of us and your guide will pick a fabulous stop for a hike if weather permits. A variety of different eco systems are in front of us and each has something special to offer.

We leave the day flexible as to which park we will visit as some are better than others depending on the time of year. We might seek out an abundance of wildflowers in the spring or a forested area with flowing rivers and waterfalls in the heat of the summer. Everywhere has its greatness at some point in the year and that is where we will take you whatever time you choose to travel.

Overnight in a private camping ground. Swag camping-toilets, showers, electricity and limited Telstra mobile phone reception.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.**



## Day 9 Shannon National Park

Albany, once the haven of whalers with its secluded harbours this town has a friendly ambience and an unbelievable history. Nearby Two People's Bay for example is named after a chance meeting between a French and American ship - in 1803!

Nature has done its amazing best on the coastline nearby Albany sculpting the granite into incredible formations that will have you reaching for your camera time and again.

It is not all about the coast however as the inland areas also are home to some unique and incredible endemic life. The tingle forests once dominated this area. Their ability to grow hugely tall and amazingly straight made them targets for the emerging timber industry. Thankfully many areas are now protected after a long and bitter struggle between conservation and economic factors and you get to experience the majesty of the forest in the Valley of the Giants. We take a tree top walk through the canopy of these huge trees almost 60m up in the air.

Tonight we camp in a National Park- Swag camp-Limited toilets and showers, no electricity. Limited Telstra mobile phone reception.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.**

## Day 10 Perth

First up we visit Margaret River then we share and learn from the local Aboriginal people before we explore a unique cave system near Yallingup, one of Western Australia's boom towns as folks from out East begin discovering the laid back lifestyle of this coastal paradise before we head into the capital of Western Australia, Perth.

As we finish our 4000km road trip by heading up the Western coast via Yallingup in the Margaret River region. Yallingup is a surfers paradise with strong but manageable waves that are a couple of sizes smaller than the death defying monsters its nearby Margaret River cousin. The tiny town is bordered by National Park meaning it has managed to keep its tiny town feel.

Surf is not the only reason this area is famed however. Wine and caves are the other big attractions and we visit one of the big show caves of the region to get the low-down on the underground world. See the crystalline features of the stalagmites and stalactites up close and personal.

We then get some insight from real experts on the country, the local Aboriginal people. This is a great opportunity to find out about the changes that have happened in the local environment and get a totally different perspective on the culture of the South West. Then we have a 300km drive before the trip finishes up on arrival in Perth.

## **Breakfast and Lunch included.**

**Please note:** Itineraries and activities are subject to change. We also offer this tour starting in Perth and ending in Adelaide. Please contact us for details.

## **Accommodation**

Accommodation consists of bush camping with no facilities, camp grounds with limited facilities and farm stay accommodation. When camping you will stay in swags - a swag is an Australian waterproof bedroll which you put your sleeping bag in. Sleeping in a swag under the blanket of the great Australian southern night sky is the ultimate Australian experience. If you do not have a sleeping bag you can easily hire one from the tour guide for \$20 AUD.

## **Programme Services and Facilities**

During some parts of the tour, particularly when in very remote areas, it may not be possible to communicate with home by email or telephone for a while. You should warn friends and family that you may be out of contact for several days at a time.

## **Internet**

Larger towns that you visit may have Internet cafes that you can use, but you should be aware that you might be unable to connect to the web for several days at a time.

## **Telephone**

The international telephone access code for Australia is +61.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

Larger villages and towns will have public phones. It is advisable to buy an international phone card, such as the one Real Gap offers.

The easiest option may be to take your mobile and purchase a pay-as-you-go SIM in Australia, or get a Real Gap SIM before you depart, to allow you to text and call cheaply, and keep track of your spending. Before you depart, please ensure that your mobile is set up with international roaming and unlocked, so you may use a pay-as-you-go SIM while you are away.

## Laundry

Some campsites may have basic laundry facilities but you should bring some travel wash with you so that you are able to wash essentials by hand if you need to.

## Meals

Meals are included as indicated in the itinerary. Please let us know of any special dietary requirements prior to your tour start date.

## What's Included

- Travel in air-conditioned mini coach
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- 7 nights camping
- 2 nights farm stay
- Use of camping equipment
- All national park entry fees



## What's Not Included

- Flights
- Tourist Visa
- Insurance
- Swim with sea-lions and dolphins
- Scenic flight around Head of the Bight



## What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

## Personal Admin

- Visa documents
- Passport
- Driving license
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service, or the German Krankenversicherungskarte
- Insurance policy document or card
- Credit card, for emergencies and booking internal flights



## General

- Journal or diary
- Towels
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush etc)
- Alarm Clock
- Torch & batteries (necessary for bush camp and caving)
- Sleeping bag (alternatively you can hire one for \$20 UAD when you get on the bus)
- Sun block
- Small padlock to secure luggage

## Clothing

- Clothing suitable for all weather conditions (remember long sleeved trousers and tops to protect you from the sun)
- Raincoat and/or waterproof clothing
- Sturdy walking shoes and thick socks.
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Casual clothes
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swimming costumes

## Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent

**Please note:** Bags are limited to backpack/soft travel bag per person, plus one small piece of hand luggage.

## Minimum Age

18 years.

## Flights

If you are starting the tour in Adelaide your flight to Australia should arrive at Adelaide Airport on your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date from Perth. Alternatively if you are starting the tour in Perth your flight to Australia should arrive at Perth Airport on your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date from Adelaide.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

**Please note:** If you are flying to Australia via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD\$14 to register. To register, please visit: [www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov](http://www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov)

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

## FAQs

1. **What is the average age of people on this trip?**

Although the majority of passengers are aged between 20 - 45 years of age, there is no real age limit. Our tours offer adventure for those who like to get really active, but there is also plenty of opportunity to relax and take in this unique part of Australia.

2. **Do I need to be fit?**

A reasonable level of fitness is required for the tour.

3. **What type of vehicle will the group travel in?**

You will travel in an air-conditioned Mini Bus (maximum of 21 passengers) with a purpose built camping trailer.

4. **Where will I stay?**

Accommodation consists of bush camping with no facilities, camp grounds with limited facilities and farm stay accommodation. When camping you will stay in swags - a swag is an Australian waterproof bedroll which you put your sleeping bag in. Sleeping in a swag under the blanket of the great Australian southern night sky is the ultimate Australian experience. If you do not have a sleeping bag you can easily hire one from the tour guide for \$20 AUD.

## Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

## Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

## Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy

wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

## Money Matters

The unit of currency is the Australian Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout Australia or at licensed moneychangers.

Australia is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.37 \$

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 5.04 \$

Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 2.40 \$

Water (0.33 litre bottle) 2.14 \$

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

## Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

All visitors to Australia need a visa – only New Zealand nationals are exempt, however you will receive a 'special category' visa on arrival.

For entry into Australia you will require an eVisitor visa. UK passport holders can apply for a 90-day tourist visa online at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) All other nationalities should consult the relevant embassy.

If you intend to work after your week in Sydney you will be required to apply for a working holiday visa.

## Working Holiday Visa

To take part in this programme you will require a working holiday visa. The working holiday visa is available to anyone age 18-30. The emphasis is on casual employment: you are meant to work for no more than six months at any one job. If you want to stay in Australia for up to 24 months, this is now possible for some nationalities. Speak to one of our sales advisors for more information.

## To be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years at the time of application
- Have a valid passport for one of the countries listed at Australian Immigration, [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)
- Have no dependant children
- Have not previously entered Australia on a working holiday visa
- Meet health and character requirements
- Be outside Australia at the time of visa grant

## To be granted a working holiday visa you must also agree that:

- Your main reason for coming to Australia is to holiday
- You must not undertake studies or training for more than 4 months
- You will leave Australia at the end of your authorized stay
- You must have sufficient funds to support yourself for the initial part of your stay. AUD\$5000 minimum is regarded as sufficient. You may have to provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement.

For the most up to date information on visa requirements, please visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/>

## Cultural Considerations

Australia is a melting pot of different cultures. It has a population of over 21 million people with most of the population living on the east coast between Adelaide and Cairns. High waves of immigration from England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Malta and Eastern Europe have occurred during Australia's brief history, particularly after World War II, and the later waves from the Middle-East, East, and South-East Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent, have created a truly diverse population.

Although Australia has no official language, English is spoken by 80% of the population. Chinese, Italian and Greek are respectively the next most common languages, reflecting Australia's cultural diversity and concentration of nationalities. Australians have very strong attitudes and belief systems which are reflected in their culture. Australians traditionally have a very ironic sense of humour.

## Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

## Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- Do not pick up hitchhikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK and American customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

USA: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

## ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

## Language Guide

Here are some Australian terms and phrases that you might find useful:

Bottle Shop - *Off-licence/Liquor store*

Bonzer - *Good*

Bush - *Unsettled country area*

Dag - *Nerd*

Esky - *Portable insulated box to keep food/drink cold*

Fair Dinkum - *Honestly, truly*

Pokies - *Gambling machines*

Pom - *Person of English descent*

Singlet - *Sleeveless cotton vest*

Smoko - *Tea break*

Thongs - *Flip flops/Sandals*

Ute - *Utility vehicle/pick-up truck*

## Food & Drink

You will find food in Australia to suit all taste buds, with the larger cities in particular offering a great range of places to eat. Due to the large amount of British settlers, Australian food is reasonably similar to that in Western Europe, but if you are feeling particularly adventurous get involved in some bush tucker (kangaroo, emus) or the infamous vegemite. For less scary Aussie food, look out for fresh seafood and of course, a typical Aussie barbecue!

Please let Real Gap know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

## Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for Australia, please see the link below:

[www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/)

## Weather

Australia is located in the southern hemisphere, where seasons are the opposite of those in the northern hemisphere.

The summer months in Australia (November to March) can get very hot. Up north, in Queensland for example, the summer period brings the rainy season and the weather can be very hot and humid with lots of rainfall. The winter months (June to August) in Queensland bring much dryer weather but still heat. The further south you go the colder and wetter winter becomes and in some mountainous areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania skiing is possible.

## Time

Australia is such a big country that it has three time zones:

Eastern Standard Time (Queensland) – 10 hours ahead of GMT depending on Daylight Savings

Central Time – 9.5 hours ahead of GMT

Western Time - 8 hours ahead of GMT

## Electricity

Electricity in Australia is 240 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.



Sockets in Australia are V-shaped flat prongs.

## Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of recommended travel



# Australia Nullarbor Wildlife Tour

advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

## Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

**Phone:** 1-800-985-4852

**Email:** [info@realgap.com](mailto:info@realgap.com)

**Post:** Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960

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