



## Australian Fur & Feathers

### Kangaroos, koalas and penguins three day tour

**Tour code:** AFF  
**Tour Duration:** Three day journey  
**Style:** Small group FIT eco-touring. Minimum passengers: 2 adults; Maximum: 8 adults  
**Operates:** daily on request all year (Note: no tours run on or through Christmas Day)  
**Departs:** Melbourne city – guests' hotel or agreed convenient location  
**Returns to:** Melbourne city – same location as pickup *Note: for an added cost this tour can drop off at Melbourne Tullamarine Airport on Day 3 for domestic flights departing after 4.00pm, and for international flights departing after 6.00pm)*

### Overview

[Travel Agents please see last page for suggested brochure/website text]

See the famous wildlife of Melbourne in the wild – Kangaroos, Koalas and Penguins! Your expert Wildlife Guide will help you find mobs of wild Kangaroos, join our wild Koala Research Project, and walk quietly near wild Little Penguins as they emerge from the ocean in the evening. Enjoy a relaxing night on Phillip Island, near Melbourne, and learn about the early history of this region. During this tour your Guide will introduce you to many more wild animals and birds.

**Day by Day Description** (Note meal inclusions shown thus: B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner )

#### Day 1 Kangaroos and Koalas in the Wild (The Savannah Walkabout)

This fully guided journey begins with a detailed introduction to Australian wildlife starting with a visit to the You Yangs Park to search for Koalas in the wild. After lunch we search for wild Kangaroos and many birds in open range grasslands and woodlands nearby. Late in the afternoon you return to your Melbourne accommodation. (L) *Accommodation by others*

#### Day 2 The Little Penguins of Phillip Island – overnight on the island

After a relaxing morning your Guide will pick you up at your hotel in the afternoon (timing dependent on season – pick up time provided at time of booking). Drive to Phillip Island south-east of Melbourne. This island is famous for its large colony of the Little Penguins – the smallest penguin in the world – which come ashore in a delightful “parade” each evening at dusk. After taking in the fascinating Koala Conservation Centre on the island you will join a small group of people and get close up and personal with the penguins as they walk from the sea to their burrows. Dinner and accommodation are on the island. (D)

*Accommodation: Holmwood B&B, Phillip Island, or similar*

#### Day 3 Historic Churchill Island – transfer to Melbourne

This morning your Guide picks you up mid morning for a short drive to Pyramid Rock overlooking the wild Southern Ocean where we often see rare ocean-going birdlife. Next we travel a short distance to Churchill Island historic homestead. Run by the National Parks Service this homestead and surrounding farm date back to the original discovery of the Melbourne region. Here you can walk in the footsteps of the early settlers in this part of the world. After lunch on Churchill Island you will be transferred back to Melbourne (B,L)

#### (option – transfer direct to Melbourne Airport for ongoing travels – extra cost)

**Location:** West and east of the city of Melbourne in south-east Australia. Visit Serendip Open Range Sanctuary or Mt Rothwell Conservation Park, You Yangs or Brisbane Ranges National Park, Phillip Island Nature Park.

**Duration:** 3 days, 1 night (first night accommodation by others)

**Departs:** on request all year from Melbourne (except Christmas Day, December 25)

**Returns:** to Melbourne

**Minimum passengers:** 2 adults Maximum: 8 adults



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### Wildlife

This tour is a great way to see wild Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Koalas, Swamp Wallabies and many birds – waterbirds (especially Little Penguins) and birds of the forests. We often see Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Short-tailed Shearwaters, Galahs, Laughing Kookaburras, Superb Fairy-wrens, White-winged Choughs, Emus, Cape Barren and Magpie Geese; New Holland and White-plumed Honeyeaters, ibis, ducks, cormorants, Whistling Kites, Australian Magpies, Magpie-larks, Red-rumped Parrots, rosellas, Bronzewing and Crested Pigeons, Red and Little Wattlebirds and Willie Wagtails. We sometimes see Echidnas, fur-seals, Wedge-tailed and Little Eagles, falcons, goshawks and Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos. We rarely see snakes or spiders, though we are as interested in them as in all wildlife, and will look out for them.

Note: we go to enormous effort to ensure sightings of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Koalas and have a very high success rate with these species. However, we do not guarantee sightings of any wild animal.

### Retail Prices

Prices are per person, are in Australian dollars and are retail (rack/recommended sell) rates.

Note that all departures are from the city of Melbourne and all trips return to Melbourne. Price is for twin share accommodation; S/S = single supplement must be added for all single travellers.

Price from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013:

Adult: AUD \$1160pp      Child: (up to 13 years) AUD \$870pp      S/S: AUD \$133pp

### Inclusions

- Tour includes: Full interpretation by an experienced Wildlife Guide, all transport, meals and accommodation as described below and entry fees.

**Expert Wildlife Guides:** You will be guided on this journey by a friendly, experienced and knowledgeable Wildlife Guide. Many hours of research work precede the tour to ensure that you see and learn about native wildlife in its natural environment.

First class standards in guidance are the hallmark of Echidna Walkabout. Our in-house Wildlife Guide training program ensures that all guides have an in-depth knowledge of the wildlife and environments you will see. Guides carry two way radios which link them to our office and to emergency services.

**Accommodation:** At friendly, comfortable B&B's in the region, all with ensuite rooms.

**Meals on tour:** Meals are provided as detailed in the itinerary above. Dinner is 2 courses. NB Vegetarian or other food preferences should be noted at the time of booking. We can only cater for allergies and special food preferences that we are informed of in advance.

**Easy walking:** Although this tour is vehicle based, most of the day is spent outside the vehicle on a number of easy, flat terrain, bushwalks so that you can get close to nature. Passengers must be able to walk unassisted at least 1km on uneven dirt surfaces to ensure wildlife sightings. There may be up to 5 walks of this duration during the day.

**Transport:** In our comfortable air conditioned vehicle.



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**What to bring:** Good walking shoes or boots, outdoor clothing to suit variable weather conditions (please check weather forecast for accurate predictions), sun hat, rainproof coat, insect repellent, 15+ sunscreen, daypack and 1 litre water bottle. Camera and binoculars are recommended.

As space is limited please keep luggage to 1 duffel bag OR 1 backpack OR 1 small suitcase per person.

Please note that whilst every attempt will be made to follow our planned route National Park Service requirements and weather conditions may cause amendments which will be clearly outlined to you by your Guide.

## About Us

Janine Duffy and Roger Smith founded Echidna Walkabout in 1993, to foster respect for Australia's wildlife and to ensure its wild and free-living future. Most tours depart Melbourne and travel to carefully chosen wildlife locations in south eastern Australia.

Our fantastic team of Wildlife Guides – Bill, Paul, Joanne, Martin and Janine & Roger – and Koala Researchers – Mary, Donna & Alison – ensure that every tour is a special, once-only experience. No two tours are ever the same with wild animals!

Our Wildlife Team provides support to our tours. Their research is passed on to you and to the National Parks Service, Field Naturalists Clubs and the Atlas of Australian Birds.

Echidna Walkabout respects our Indigenous Cultures, and is grateful to the Wathaurong and Gonnai communities for their support over many years.

Our tour groups are small (no more than 8 people) allowing for a personal experience and optimal wildlife viewing opportunities.

For the past 12 years, Echidna Walkabout has tracked and monitored the movements and lives of hundreds of wild koalas. The proceeds of each tour contribute to this important study and our guests are involved while on tour. The results of this study are made available to all our staff, the National Parks Service, Field Naturalists Clubs, wildlife veterinarians and wildlife carers.

We are also regenerating an old farming property west of Melbourne as a Wildlife Habitat – for the benefit of native wild birds, Kangaroos, Koalas and Wallabies, plus reptiles, frogs and invertebrates - to restore some lost habitat to these wild creatures that have given us so much. We have, and have always had, a serious commitment to running sustainable tours. Our comprehensive environmental code is available for viewing on our website: [Environmental Code](#)

## Bookings/More Information

Echidna Walkabout

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## Australian Fur & Feathers

### TRAVEL AGENT'S PAGE

#### Suggested Brochure/website text

Australian Fur & Feathers – in the wild! 3 day tour

[10 words, 52 characters incl. spaces]

See the famous wildlife of Melbourne in the wild – Kangaroos, Koalas and Penguins! On this 3 day, small group tour, your expert Wildlife Guide will help you find mobs of wild Kangaroos, join our wild Koala Research Project, and walk quietly near wild Little Penguins as they emerge from the ocean in the evening. Enjoy a relaxing night on Phillip Island, near Melbourne, and learn about the early history of this region. During this tour your Guide will introduce you to many more wild animals and birds. Tour includes 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and 1 night at a friendly, very comfortable B&B.

[105 words, 604 characters incl. spaces]

Updated: July 2011 For more details about this tour contact: [roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au](mailto:roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au)