



Wildlife Walkabout

Big animals of the wild coast four day tour

Tour code:	EG3
Tour Duration:	Four day journey
Style:	Small group FIT eco-touring. Minimum passengers: 2 adults; Maximum: 8 adults
Operates:	Sunday to Wednesday, on request September to May (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
Tour Destination:	roughly halfway between Melbourne and Sydney on the south-east coast of Australia.

Overview

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

Most of our big mammals, many reptiles and over 300 bird species make their home in the wild forests beside the rivers, estuaries and coastline of south-eastern Australia. Journey into the home of the Kangaroo, Wallaby, Wombat, Koala, Gliding Possum, Cockatoo, Lyrebird, Fairy-wren, Honeyeater, Goanna, Water Dragon and much more!!

During our quest we visit magnificent stands of giant eucalypt forest, walk in rainforest, along endless untouched ocean beaches and beside secluded rivers and waterways. Your accommodation throughout is at a genuine Australian homestead.

Over four relaxing but fascinating days this journey investigates the abundant wildlife of far East Gippsland. Because much of Australia's wildlife is best seen in the late afternoon and evening, some activities on this tour deliberately begin later in the day and go on into the evening. This allows participants to enjoy a restful morning after a late evening.

Overnight in a delightful B&B and get to know the locals.

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

NOTE: this itinerary is an indication only. Due to conditions on the day, weather and National Parks requirements, it can change slightly to maximise wildlife viewing opportunities

Day 1 - SUNDAY: We transfer you from Melbourne to East Gippsland. We travel past internationally acclaimed RAMSAR wetlands of the Lakes District of East Gippsland before travelling by ferry to an island sanctuary in the wetlands with a thriving colony of Koalas. We take a walk through the forest spotting many of these delightful animals in the wild. Dinner tonight is in a local restaurant. Tonight we travel deep into a eucalypt forest with our spotlight in search of 3 species of rare gliding possums. Tonight's accommodation is a B&B in a small town where you will stay for three nights. (LD)

Accommodation: Snowy River Homestead B&B, Orbost, or similar

Day 2 - MONDAY: After a relaxing breakfast we travel into the rugged mountain forests of East Gippsland. Your Wildlife Guide provides detailed information of the formation of these mighty forests, and helps you search for Lyrebirds, parrots and honeyeaters. We take a walk alongside a creek to a waterfall on the famous Snowy River. Birds and reptiles are abundant, but other human visitors are few. We finish the day with a classic Aussie cook-out (fireside) dinner at our B&B. (BLD)

Accommodation: Snowy River Homestead B&B, Orbost, or similar



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Day 3 - TUESDAY: Our activities today are at a great river estuary on the Wilderness Coast. First we walk into a large lowland (warm temperate) rainforest in search of birds. Then we walk through a heathland and along a forest-lined river to its estuary on the Wilderness Coast. We search for Sea Eagles, cockatoos, kingfishers, swans and huge goanna lizards. We visit a quiet beach with a complex dune system and frequently see beach and ocean-going birds. After lunch we take a walk on the nearby rocky headland, peering into rock pools, walking past wind-sculpted coastal shrubs looking at the expanse of the 90 mile beach. Our dinner tonight is a picnic in the bush overlooking the beach (weather permitting). On our way back to our B&B we search the plains for wallabies, kangaroos and wombats. (BLD)

Accommodation: Snowy River Homestead B&B, Orbost, or similar

Day 4 - WEDNESDAY: This morning we depart East Gippsland after a relaxing breakfast. On the way back to Melbourne we visit the Krowathunkoolong Keeping Place, an informative Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Bairnsdale, then transfer to Melbourne arriving in the afternoon (B,L)

Location: East of the city of Melbourne in south-east Australia. Visit Raymond Island, Lake Tyers Forest Park, Snowy River National Park, Cabbage Tree Palms Flora Reserve, Cape Conran Coastal Park and the Mouth of the Snowy River.

Duration: 4 days, 3 nights

Departs : Sundays on request from Melbourne September through May (except Christmas Day, December 25)

Returns: to Melbourne

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

Wildlife

East Gippsland is famous for its forest wildlife, particularly big mammals, birds and reptiles. This tour is a great chance to see some very shy forest-dwellers: Yellow-bellied, Sugar and Greater Gliders, Koalas, Wombats, Swamp Wallabies, Superb Lyrebirds (best seen and heard in Spring and Autumn), Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, King-Parrots and Eastern Whipbirds. In the warmer months we enjoy watching Lace Monitors (Goannas) prowling the forest floor for food, and Gippsland Water Dragons sunning themselves on waterfalls. We often see Satin Bowebirds, Rufous Fantails, Laughing Kookaburras, Golden Whistlers, Yellow and Rose Robins, and up to 14 species of honeyeater.

Along the coast and estuaries we often see Australian Fur Seals, White-bellied Sea-Eagles, Pelicans, Gannets, cormorants, oystercatchers, herons, Black Swans and many species of duck. We sometimes see an Echidna, a whale or a Bottlenose Dolphin.

The wildlife of the plains lives here too – we often see Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Red-necked Wallabies, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Emus, Galahs, Eastern Rosellas, ibis, Australian Magpies, Magpie-larks and Willie Wagtails. We rarely see snakes or spiders, though we are as interested in them as in all wildlife, and will look out for them.

For more information on wildlife species seen on past Wildlife Walkabout tours go to: [Wildlife Walkabout Species List](#)

Note: we go to enormous effort to ensure great wildlife sightings on every tour. Our Guides prepare for each tour by studying recent sightings and seasonal trends, and then compile a comprehensive list of species at the conclusion of the tour for future reference. Some species are migratory or seasonal – contact us about the best time to come if you would particularly like to see a certain animal group. Note, we do not guarantee sightings of any wild animal.



Wildlife Walkabout

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 \$1500pp Child: (up to 13 years) AUD \$1125pp S/S: AUD \$279pp

Inclusions

- Tour includes: Full interpretation by an experienced Wildlife Guide, all transport, meals and accommodation as described below and entry fees.
- Wildlife notes will be provided to people who travel on this tour

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. By joining the tour you will help gain a greater understanding of the wildlife of East Gippsland's magnificent forests and national parks.

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.

Accommodation - Get to know the Locals: Accommodation is at a Homestead-style Bed and Breakfast in far East Gippsland. B&B's are carefully selected for friendly, first class hospitality and service - they are run by the owner so you will get to know the locals during your morning relaxation time. All rooms have ensuite bathrooms.

Meals on tour: All meals are included, from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4. 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.

What to bring: Strong walking shoes or boots, outdoor clothing to suit variable weather conditions (please check weather forecast for accurate predictions), sun hat, rainproof coat, small torch (flashlight), insect repellent, 15+ sunscreen, daypack and 1 litre water bottle. Camera and binoculars are recommended. You can also bring swimming gear.

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.



Wildlife Walkabout

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 East Gippsland Wildlife Guides – Martin, Paul and Janine & Roger 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 Gunnai 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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Wildlife Walkabout

TRAVEL AGENT'S PAGE

Suggested Brochure/website text:

Wildlife Walkabout. Four day fully accommodated wildlife journey

[8 words, 64 characters]

Most of our big mammals, many reptiles and over 300 bird species make their home in the wild forests beside the rivers, estuaries and coastline of south-eastern Australia. Journey into the home of the Kangaroo, Wallaby, Wombat, Koala, Gliding Possum, Cockatoo, Lyrebird, Fairy-wren, Honeyeater, Goanna, Water Dragon and much more!!

During our quest we visit magnificent stands of giant eucalypt forest, walk in rainforest, along endless untouched ocean beaches and beside secluded rivers and waterways. Your accommodation throughout is at a genuine Australian homestead.

Tour includes 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners and 3 nights at a friendly, very comfortable B&B.

[101 words, 669 characters including spaces]

Updated: July 2011 For more details about this tour contact: roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au