



Savannah Walkabout – one day tour

Kangaroos and koalas in the wild

Echidna Walkabout Fact Sheet

SAVANNAH WALKABOUT

Quote tour code: SW

One Day Ecotour from Melbourne

Departs Melbourne daily on request all year

(Note: no tours run on or through Christmas Day)

Returns to Melbourne

BRIEF ITINERARY (see page 3 for detailed itinerary, & page 2 for suggested brochure/website text)

See Kangaroos and Koalas IN THE WILD! In small groups this naturalist guided ecotour gives you quality time to learn about wildlife and enjoy the wide open spaces of Australia. Watch the natural behaviour of wild kangaroos, koalas and abundant birdlife. Get involved in koala research with your naturalist Guide. A delicious bush lunch is included.

Walk amongst free ranging "mobs" (groups) of wild kangaroos. Spot Emus, Cockatoos and other unique Australian wildlife on the grasslands, in the bush and around the billabongs of Melbourne's Western Plains.

Visit an open forest in a National Park that is home to a large and healthy population of wild koalas. Our Koala Research Project ensures that on most days we have multiple sightings of these delightful creatures.

Within easy reach from the centre of the city of Melbourne, these environments provide the perfect introduction to Australia's unique wildlife and indigenous culture. During your journey your guide will share with you the great significance of the Western Plains to Aboriginal People.

Location: the Great Western Plains near Melbourne including Serendip Open Range Sanctuary or Mt Rothwell Conservation Park and the You Yangs or Brisbane Ranges National Park.

Duration: 1 Day Grade/Difficulty: easy (see note below "Easy Walking").

Departs: daily ex city of Melbourne 9am to 9:30am all year, except Christmas Day (December 25)

Returns: to Melbourne between 5 & 6pm.

Minimum pax: 2 adults Maximum pax: 8 adults (but larger groups can be catered for by special arrangement - please contact us)

INCLUDES:

Full interpretation by an experienced Nature Guide, meal as described below, entry fees and transport

Expert Nature Guides: You will be guided on this journey by a friendly, experienced and knowledgeable nature 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 Nature Guide training program ensures that all guides have an in-depth working knowledge of the wildlife and environments you will see. Guides carry two way radios which link them to our office and to emergency services.



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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 500m on uneven dirt surfaces to ensure they see the wildlife. There may be up to 5 walks of this duration during the day.

Meal on tour: A substantial bush lunch is provided which includes traditional Australian "Billy Tea". NB Vegetarian or other food preferences should be noted at the time of booking.

Transport: In our comfortable air conditioned vehicle.

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

About Us: Janine Duffy and Roger Smith are the founders of Echidna Walkabout, based in Melbourne, Australia. Our business is based upon a deep respect of nature, indigenous cultures and environmentally sustainable living. Our fantastic team of Nature Guides – Tim, Bill, Paul, Joanne, Martin and Janine & Roger – and Koala Researchers – Mary, Melinda and Alison – ensure that every tour is a special, once only experience. No two tours are ever the same with wild animals!

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

For the past 10 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. 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 yabbies - 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.

BOOKINGS/INFORMATION

Echidna Walkabout
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SUGGESTED BROCHURE/WEBSITE TEXT:

Savannah Walkabout. One day tour *[5 words, 32 characters incl. spaces]*
See Kangaroos and Koalas IN THE WILD! In small groups this naturalist-guided ecotour gives you quality time to learn about wildlife and enjoy the wide open spaces of Australia. Watch wild kangaroos, koalas and abundant birdlife. Get involved in koala research with your naturalist Guide. A substantial bush lunch is included. *[51 words, 328 characters incl. spaces]*

*This tour itinerary is the property of - Echidna Walkabout PO Box 370 Port Melbourne 3207 AUSTRALIA
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DETAILED ITINERARY FOR SAVANNAH WALKABOUT

NOTE: this itinerary is an indication only, due to conditions on the day it can change slightly to maximise wildlife viewing opportunities

We depart Melbourne at around 9.30am to travel just 45 minutes to the west to the bushland of You Yangs Park. The park is home to a large and healthy population of wild Koalas, which we research and monitor to ensure the best possible sightings. We take a very easy walk through the gum trees, searching for koalas, wallabies, kangaroos and birds in their natural setting. Your Nature Guide will point out plants and features of interest, explain some of the history of the area and, where possible, introduce you to known, named koalas that are part of our research project.

The area we walk through is of great significance to the local Aboriginal People of the Wathaurong Tribe. The granite rock formations of the You Yangs staged huge meetings of Aboriginal People from all over South-eastern Australia. Many signs of their occupation still remain. Your Nature Guide will share their knowledge with you. Though we will not be meeting any Aboriginal People on this tour, we act with the knowledge, consent and support of the Wathaurong Community.

Leaving the You Yangs, we travel just 10 minutes south to Serendip Open Range Sanctuary, where we are immediately amongst wild kangaroos and native birds. Often our entrance is heralded by the screeching of Cockatoos or the chattering of Honeyeaters. Our picnic lunch is served here, in an open-air setting, and includes gourmet sandwiches, fruit and cakes, and delicious Australian "Billy tea". Your Nature Guide will explain the history and recipe for the traditional tea of the Swagmen.

We drive, then walk through the gum trees, across grasslands and sometimes over a dry lake bed in search of wild mobs of kangaroos. They are wild and secretive, and we often walk quietly along kangaroo tracks, using trees and bushes as shelter. Sometimes we find them before they see us, and we can watch completely relaxed kangaroo social behaviour. Other times they find us first, and we enjoy the magnificent sight of a wild mob hopping, fast and powerful but silent as ghosts through the gum trees. We also look out for curious Emus, and take a short walk to the billabong, home to large populations of waterbirds.

We return to Melbourne between 5 and 6pm.

Updated: July 2009 For more details about this tour contact: roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au