



Private - Deluxe - Savannah Walkabout

Kangaroos and Koalas in the wild one day tour

Tour code:	SWP
Tour Duration:	One full day
Style:	Private party eco-touring.
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 – same location as pickup

Overview

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

Meet a WILD koala and learn about their history and social life, from your own private Naturalist Guide. Search for WILD kangaroos in their natural environment.

Stroll through a national park looking for wild koalas, cockatoos and kookaburras. Your Wildlife Guide and Koala Researcher will explain the behaviour and individuality of each of the Koalas you meet.

Walk quietly up to a wild mob of Kangaroos on the plains and in open Bushland. They are thrilling animals to watch. Their natural instinct is to flee humans, but with care we often get close enough to observe their complex social life.

We may also find parrots, fairy-wrens, emus, honeyeaters, wallabies and reptiles. Your Wildlife Guide will help you understand them. A delicious gourmet bush lunch is served in our special outdoor enclosure including Aussie wines and beer. Birds and cockatoos often gather in the surrounding trees during lunch. You'll also have the opportunity to taste some of our famous billy tea infused with some of the special flavours of the Australian bush.

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 (approx. 8 hours)

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

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

Returns: to Melbourne between 5 & 6pm.

Wildlife

Wild Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Koalas are the main focus of this tour. We also see a large variety of birds, which often include Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Galahs, Laughing Kookaburras, Superb Fairy-wrens, White-winged Choughs, Emus, Cape Barren and Magpie Geese, New Holland and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Australian White Ibis, Whistling Kites, Australian Magpies, Magpie-larks, Red-rumped Parrots, Crimson or Eastern Rosellas, Crested Pigeons, Red Wattlebirds and Willie Wagtails. We sometimes see wild Swamp (Black) Wallabies, Common Brushtail or Ringtail Possums, Common Blue-tongue or Jacky Lizards, Wedge-tailed and Little Eagles, falcons, goshawks, other parrots and cockatoos. We occasionally see an Echidna. 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.



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Inclusions

- Tour includes: Full interpretation by an experienced Wildlife Guide, meal as described below, entry fees and transport to and from pickup location.

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.

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.

Meal on tour: 3 course meal with starters, main and light dessert served with good quality Australian bottled wine and beer, coffee and tea all served in a relaxed free flowing atmosphere. Meals include the opportunity to try a cup of genuine "Billy" tea. 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.

Transport: In our comfortable air conditioned vehicle.

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 and 1 litre water bottle. Camera and binoculars are recommended.

Special Note: Cancellation Conditions

Private tours cancelled between 9 days and 48 hours before the tour will receive a 50% refund of full tour price. Tours cancelled between 48 and 0 hours before the tour will be charged full price.

OPTIONAL ADD ONS

Echidna Walkabout has a close relationship with the Aboriginal People of the Western Plains (of the Wathaurong Community) who have worked with us for many years planning and guiding a number of our tours. We can therefore provide the following authentic (genuine) indigenous cultural experience:

Note: substantial advance notice required.

Indigenous Stories & Music: Aboriginal stories and the evocative music of the Didgeridoo during/after lunch performed by local Aboriginal People.

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 Gunna communities for their support over many years.



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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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Detailed Itinerary/Full Day Description

NOTE: this itinerary is an indication only. Due to conditions on the day, weather or National Parks instructions, it may change 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 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 Wildlife 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 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 to Serendip Open Range Sanctuary or Mt Rothwell Conservation Park, 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 gourmet lunch is served in an open-air setting at the Sanctuary, and includes delicious slices & pastries, salads, bread, dips & cheeses, fruit and cakes, quality Australian wines & beer and authentic Australian "Billy tea". Your Guide will explain the history and recipe for the traditional tea of the Swagmen.

We drive, then walk through the gum trees and across grasslands in search of wild mobs of Eastern Grey 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 natural 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. 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.



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TRAVEL AGENT'S PAGE

Suggested Brochure/website text

Private Savannah Walkabout. One day tour

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