



Australian Fur & Feathers – in the wild

Kangaroos, koalas and penguins

Echidna Walkabout Fact Sheet

AUSTRALIAN FUR & FEATHERS

Quote tour code: AFF

Three Day Ecotour from Melbourne

Departs Melbourne on request all year

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

Returns to Melbourne

(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 - [see page 3 for suggested brochure/website text]

This relaxing 3 day Melbourne module showcases the very best wildlife of southern Australia. Your expert Nature Guide will help you find mobs of wild Kangaroos, track down wild Koalas (as part of a special Koala Research Project), and walk quietly beside wild Little Penguins as they emerge from the ocean in the evening. But that's not all. During this tour your guide will introduce you to many more wild animals and birds. That's why we've named this tour Australian Fur and Feathers - in the wild!

As part of this experience you will have a relaxing night on Phillip Island near Melbourne, and an opportunity to learn about the early history and culture of this region.

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

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

See Kangaroos and Koalas IN THE WILD! Your naturalist-guided journey begins with a detailed introduction to Australia's iconic mammals. Watch the natural behaviour of wild kangaroos and koalas. Get involved in koala research in the You Yangs Park. The Parks are also home to emus, parrots, cockatoos, kookaburras and plenty of waterbirds and your Nature Guide will help you find them. A delicious bush lunch is included.

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



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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)

INCLUDES:

Full interpretation by experienced Nature Guides, meals and accommodation as described below, entry fees and transport. **OPTION** – transfer to Melbourne Airport on Day 3 as required at extra cost.

Expert Nature Guides: You will be guided on this journey by our 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 Nature Guides have an in-depth working knowledge of the wildlife and environments you will see. Nature Guides carry two way radios which link them to our office and to emergency services at any time.

Easy walking: Although this tour is vehicle based, most of each 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 each day.

Accommodation - Get to know the Locals: Accommodation is at a Bed and Breakfast (with ensuite). 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. Breakfasts are convivial and often enjoyed with your hosts.

Meals on tour: Meals are provided as detailed in the itinerary above. Dinner is 2 courses. Note: Alcoholic beverages are not included in the price.
NB Vegetarian or other food preferences should be noted at the time of booking.

Transport: In our comfortable air conditioned vehicle.

What to bring: Strong walking shoes or boots, clothing to suit variable weather conditions (please check weather forecast for accurate predicted temperatures), sun hat, rain proof coat, small torch, insect repellent, 15+ sunblock, day pack and 1 litre water bottle.



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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:

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 Nature Guide will help you find mobs of wild Kangaroos, track down wild Koalas (as part of a special Koala Research Project), and walk quietly beside 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 and culture of this region. During this tour your Nature 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. *[114 words, 651 characters incl. spaces]*

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