



## Wildlife Walkabout – 4 day tour

### Koalas, Wombats & Wallabies. Fully accommodated Wildlife Journey

Echidna Walkabout Fact Sheet

#### **WILDLIFE WALKABOUT**

Quote tour code: EG3

Four day wildlife journey from Melbourne – fully accommodated

Departs Melbourne on request Sundays from September to end of May

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

Returns to Melbourne on Wednesday afternoon

Tour Location: Halfway between Melbourne and Sydney on the south-east coast of Australia

**Overview** (see page 2 for detailed itinerary, and page 4 for suggested brochure/website text)

See and learn about Australia's birds and animals in depth and in the wild. Relax for three nights in a friendly bush homestead B&B. Learn about the history and culture of the local Aboriginal People. All in a region containing the highest concentration of National Parks and wildlife reserves in Australia.

Journey by vehicle and on foot in search of kangaroos & wallabies, wombats, three species of gliding possum, koalas and abundant birdlife in the forests, the estuaries and on the ocean. During our quest we visit magnificent stands of giant eucalypt forest, walk in rainforest, along endless untouched ocean beaches and alongside secluded rivers and waterways.

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.

Location: far East Gippsland near the city of Melbourne in south-east Australia.

Duration: 4 days, 3 nights

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

Returns: to Melbourne

Minimum pax: 2 adults Max: 8 adults



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#### **DETAILED ITINERARY FOR WILDLIFE WALKABOUT (EG3)**

*MODULE IDEAS: see Savannah Walkabout fact sheets for further information*

*\*\* EG3 can begin on the day before departing Melbourne with our Savannah Walkabout which is a 1 day wildlife trip out of Melbourne*

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

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

**Day 1 - SUNDAY:** We transfer you from your hotel 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:** Today we travel into the mountains of East Gippsland firstly into the towering eucalypt forests where giant gum trees soar into the sky - the tallest flowering plants on earth. Your Nature Guide provides detailed information of the formation of these mighty forests, and helps you search for Lyrebirds, parrots and honeyeaters. We take a walk through the eucalyptus forest and into a fascinating and ancient mountain rainforest. Birds and reptiles are abundant. 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*

**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 through a heathland and along a forest-lined river to it's estuary on the Wilderness Coast. We search for Sea Eagles, cockatoos, kingfishers, swans and 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)



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#### **INCLUDES:**

Full interpretation by an experienced Nature Guide, all transport, meals and accommodation as described above and entry fees.

#### **Expert 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. 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 nature guide training program ensures that all guides have an in-depth working 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 ensuites.

**Meals on tour:** All meals from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4.

NB Vegetarian or other food preferences should be noted at the time of booking.

**Transport:** In comfortable air conditioned vehicles.

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

As space is limited please keep luggage to 1 sausage bag OR 1 backpack OR 1 small suitcase per person. During the journey we can store extra luggage in Melbourne as required, but we must be informed in advance. Hand luggage should be small.

Wildlife notes will be provided to people who travel on this tour. 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 Nature Guide.



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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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Tel: +61 3 9646 8249 Fax: +61 3 9681 9177  
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[www.echidnawalkabout.com.au](http://www.echidnawalkabout.com.au)

#### **SUGGESTED BROCHURE/WEBSITE TEXT:**

Wildlife Walkabout. Four day fully accommodated wildlife journey *[8 words, 65 characters incl. spaces]*

See and learn about Australia's birds and animals in depth and in the wild. Relax for three nights in a friendly bush homestead B&B. Learn about the history and culture of the local Aboriginal People. All in a region containing the highest concentration of National Parks and wildlife reserves in Australia.

Journey by vehicle and on foot in search of kangaroos & wallabies, wombats, four species of gliding possum, koalas and abundant birdlife in the forests, the estuaries and on the ocean. During our quest we visit magnificent stands of giant eucalypt forest, walk in rainforest, along endless untouched ocean beaches and alongside secluded rivers and waterways. Tour includes 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners and 3 nights at a friendly, very comfortable B&B. *[124 words, 679 characters incl. spaces]*

Updated: July 2009 For more details about this tour contact: [roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au](mailto:roger@echidnawalkabout.com.au)

*This tour itinerary is the property of - Echidna Walkabout PO Box 370 Port Melbourne 3207 AUSTRALIA  
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