



Betty and Bob Lewis Walking Trail at Hiltaba Nature Reserve – Photo Anne Clark

HILTABA MEMBERS' TOUR 2021

An adventure to the iconic Gawler Ranges and Outback SA

Guest Information

We are excited to offer our members this wonderful opportunity to visit Hiltaba Nature Reserve in the Gawler Ranges. Guests should note that this trip takes in some:

- remote outback destinations
- basic accommodation
- outback tracks
- daily walking and hiking
- lengthy drives and
- requires a very good level of fitness.

The trip is subject to any COVID restrictions imposed on us by the government and health authorities.

Our trip is also subject to weather and road conditions and our itinerary may need to vary to allow for this.

Please note there are no tag along options for this tour.

Introducing Hiltaba Nature Reserve

Hiltaba is a former pastoral property acquired in 2012 and sits at the western edge of the Gawler Ranges in the north of Eyre Peninsula. Magnificent granite hills overlooking plains of diverse grass and woodlands are the landscapes that make up Hiltaba. Adjoining the Gawler Ranges National Park, the unique geological formations of this 77,100 hectare property are home to numerous species of conservation significance such as the Yellow-footed rock wallaby, the Slender-billed thornbill and Desert greenhood orchid.

Hiltaba's diverse habitats, ranging from Acacia shrub lands and Casuarina woodlands to mallee forest and tussock grasslands, are home to over forty state-listed species and nine Commonwealth listed species.

Our Hiltaba Walking Trails and Nature Drives are open for visitors to explore this unique ecosystem and engage people with the conservation work we do.

When is the trip?

We will be leaving early Monday morning on 13 September and returning midday on Saturday 18 September.

Who can register?

This tour is open to all financial members of Nature Foundation. Place preference will be given to those who have never visited Hiltaba before and do not necessarily have the means to undertake outback travel. Should we not fill the tour, it will be opened to members who have been before or to non-members at the higher fee.

How do I apply for a place on the tour?

Places are strictly limited. Please complete and return the tour expression of interest application form to us by 16 July. We will consider all the applications and if there are more applications than places, we will put your name on our wait list.

Once your place is secured you will be notified and sent a payment form – payment can be made by credit card, EFT transfer or cheque by 27 August 2021.

Further information about the tour, collection points and arrangements will be provided closer to the departure date.

How will we be travelling?

Nature Foundation will be using a fleet of 4WDs for the trip and each vehicle will have a driver/leader being one of our staff, volunteers or Rotational Managers and a maximum of three guests.

Who will I be travelling with?

All guests will be allocated to an initial vehicle for your collection at the start of the tour and for your drop off at the end of the tour. This is the vehicle your luggage will be loaded into every time – regardless of whether you are travelling in that vehicle (this ensures we can check our gear before departure each day).

We will be inviting guests to swap vehicles at our stops and each new day to ensure that everyone gets a chance to spend time with our leaders and other guests. Please take your day packs/handbags/cameras/water bottles with you when you change vehicles.

Couples may not always be able to travel together.

How many people are going?

Numbers are strictly limited. There will be a maximum of 21 guests, so including our leaders we will number a maximum of 30 people. At Hiltaba we will be joined by our Rotational Managers.

If I am travelling alone will I have to share a room?

Couples will share a room and we will do our best to provide private accommodation for solo travellers; however, accommodation is limited at Hiltaba and sharing may be required.



Photo Anne Clark

How long will the days be?

We aim to drive for a number of hours each day broken up with breaks, meals and activities for both our guests and drivers to refresh. We will be leaving after breakfast each day and ensuring there is some down time before dinner each evening.

Along the way we will stop and explore some key 'sites' and 'sights' of the regions we pass through.

Please understand that we all have different interests so be patient at a spot or on an activity if it is not really your area of interest as there are others who may be interested. We look forward to learning new things every day.

Where are we going? (please note this may vary)

Our plan is to leave Adelaide from a number of pick-up points and head to Port Augusta for lunch before heading into the Gawler Ranges National Park for our first dinner together.

Our second day will see us arrive at Hiltaba Nature Reserve for an afternoon walking the Betty and Bob Lewis Walking Trail.

The third day will see us hike along the Cleland walking trail to Pretty Point (7 kms). The vehicles will meet us here as we then set out on the St Mungo Nature Drive. We will stop along the way to hike to the Lookout.

As we go each day we will include the history of the reserve, geology, flora and fauna.

On the fourth day we will take a guided tour with our Property Manager on the Chiltadonna Nature Drive exploring the property. The afternoon will take in sites in and around the Homestead – Dam, Rock Holes, Bonnin Walking trail lookout, walks, birds and wombats – or you can just relax!

Our fifth day will see us sadly have to load up our gear. From here we will cross to Mt Ive and onto Lake Gairdner for some spectacular vistas of this incredible Salt Lake. Our last evening together will be at the lovely Oasis Majestic Apartments in Pt Augusta.

Saturday will see us wind our way back to Adelaide to return you around lunch time.

Do I have to do every drive and activity?

Once at Hiltaba there will be a variety of tours and activities on offer and if you would like to have some down time and take a rest you are welcome to do so.



Photo Ruth Kellerman

What is included?

- A 6-day, 5-night adventure through the spectacular Gawler Ranges and Outback SA
- Small group 4WD travel with leaders
- One night at the Old Paney Shearers Quarters
- Three nights at Hiltaba Nature Reserve (sheets and bathroom linen provided)
- One night at Oasis Majestic Apartments
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner from Monday lunchtime to Saturday breakfast
- Drinks on our four nights at Gawler Ranges and Hiltaba
- Accommodation will be shared for couples and as much as possible private for solo travellers
- Morning yoga with Patrick on the hills, daily walking and hiking trails, drives and activities



Photo Bruce Hobby

What is not included?

- Personal items
- Purchases
- Accommodation room charges (eg mini bar)
- Alcohol purchases (other than Gawler Ranges and Hiltaba dinners)
- Food and drink items beyond our meal provisions
- Personal snacks and treats
- Medical treatments that may be required
- Expenses incurred for withdrawing from the tour
- Quilt or sleeping bag and pillow for the nights at Gawler Ranges and Hiltaba – ***please bring these with you.***

What steps are in place to manage COVID recommendations and health precautions?

We will ask all guests to assist us with our need to ensure a safe and hygienic environment for all participants. We may ask for verification of recent travel if hot spots have been advised.

Hand gel and sanitising wipes will be in each vehicle for your use and at Hiltaba. Vehicle frequently touched areas will be sanitised to allow guests to move seats.

We will be hiring sheets, bathmats, handtowels and towels for our nights at Hiltaba for you BUT we require you to bring your own pillow and either a sleeping bag or quilt. Nights can be cool in the outback. Please place them in a plastic bag to protect them from the dust and name your bag.

Do not join the tour if you are showing any signs of illness.

If you become ill during the trip, please advise the leaders immediately and we will seek medical advice to assist us with ensuring your wellbeing and that of the other guests.

Please follow coughing and sneezing etiquette at all times.



Photo Ruth Kellerman

What is the Cancellation Policy?

We recommend guests consider their own personal needs and travel insurance options.

If we are required to cancel the trip Nature Foundation will try to reschedule the tour or, if this is not possible, refund the full payment.

If a guest cancels their place on the tour 10 days or more from departure and we can replace them with someone from the wait list, we will refund 100% of the fee. If this is not possible 50% only of the fee paid will be refunded.

With less than 10 days' notice no refund will be possible unless we can replace the guest with someone on the wait list.

What should I bring?

- Your sense of adventure, curiosity, patience, humour and enthusiasm
- One medium soft-sided suitcase (please don't overpack)
- Clothing that allows for a layered dressing so you can be warm for the chilly mornings and evenings and peel off during the warmer days
- Sensible walking shoes/hiking boots, hat, coat, waterproof clothing
- Personal items, toiletries, sunscreen, insect repellent, fly net and any medications
- Daypack for keeping your essentials with you in the vehicle and on our outings
- Camera if you enjoy photography
- Flashlight or head torch (essential)
- And don't forget that quilt/sleeping bag and pillow for the Gawler Ranges and Hiltaba

Some facts:

Protected Fauna

- Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby
- Slender Billed Thornbill
- Short Tailed Grass Wren

Protected Flora

- Desert Green-Hood Orchid
- Gawler Ranges Hopbush
- Gawler Ranges Slipper-Plant
- Delicate Podolepis



Photo: Subbu Conley

We hope you can join us for this adventure!