

# Canberra & Snowy Mountains Region

## *Bushfire Wildlife & Community Support Tour*

**8 Days / 7 Nights - In support of LAOKO - Snowy Mountains Wildlife Rescue**

**Tour Departs: Tuesday 29th September - Tuesday 6th October 2020**



**TRADE TRAVEL**  
Group Travel Specialists



### **Day 1. Tues 29th Sept: Homeport - Mittagong**

**Dinner**

**Flight V407 departing Adelaide 8.00am arriving Sydney 9.25am**

**Flight VA819 departing Melbourne 8.00am arriving Sydney 9.25am**

**Flight VA916 departing Brisbane 7.05am arriving Sydney 9.40am**

On arrival at Sydney Airport we are met by our coach captain and our Sydney passengers to begin our special **Bushfire Wildlife and Community Support Tour**. As we pass Mittagong we leave the Hume Highway and travel through the **bushfire ravaged areas of the southern highlands** with stops to support the small townships of **Tallong, Wingello, Bundanoon, Exeter and Sutton Forest**. As we all know our country has been ravaged by devastating bushfires, the likes of which our nation has never seen. Fuelled by record-breaking temperatures and months of severe drought, these massive bushfires have burned more than 26.4 million acres - an area nearly as large as the state of Virginia. Dozens of people - including several volunteer fire-fighters - tragically lost their lives. Thousands of homes, livelihoods, and buildings have been destroyed and estimates suggest that more than 1.25 billion animals may have been killed directly or indirectly from the fires. This loss includes thousands of koalas and other iconic native animals, such as kangaroos, wallabies, gliders, potoroos, cockatoos, and honey-eaters. Our day concludes in Mittagong with check in, dinner and overnight accommodation.

**Overnight Mittagong: Springs Mittagong RSL**

### **Day 2. Wed 30th Sept: Canberra Floriade - Tulip Top Gardens - Australian War Mem Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

This morning we check out of our hotel and enjoy a morning stroll through the **Corbett Gardens**, this flower kingdom has a magnificent display of tulips, shrubs, trees and flowers. We then head south to Canberra via the **Tulip Top Gardens** for **lunch and self-guided tour**. These gardens were established in 1997 and are a world class exhibition of half a million tulips! The 10 acre garden of magnificent tulips, daffodils, and other spring flowers combine to create a spectacular display with hundreds of blossom trees nestled amongst them to provide a magic pathway to the cascading waterfall and watercourse with classical music wafting through the air in the hidden valley. Following lunch enjoy a scenic drive up to **Mount Ainslie Lookout**, to experience the panoramic vistas and information plaques detailing distant landmarks, all from the paved observation deck. One will appreciate the spectacular colours of the Canberra Floriade, marvel at the Australian War Memorial and take in the complexities of Canberra seeing in panorama the design concepts translated into tangibles by Walter Burley Griffin. Our **Lake Burley Griffin Cruise** is a great way to explore Canberra, the well researched skippers and beautiful lake help to identify most of the major attractions, providing us with a clear perspective of the city. Our next stop is the **Australian War Memorial** where we join a conducted tour of the galleries. This world-class museum now has state-of-the-art display techniques to emphasise the stories of personal sacrifice. Following our tour and at the end of each day, commencing at 4.55pm, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving **Last Post Ceremony**. The ceremony begins with the singing of the Australian National Anthem, followed by the poignant strains of a lament, played by a piper. The Roll of Honour in the Cloisters lists the names of more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war. At each ceremony the story behind one of these names is told. The Ode is then recited, and the ceremony ends with the sound of the last post. Following the ceremony we make our way to our motel for check in for our two night stay including dinner.

**Overnight Canberra: Golden Age Motor Inn or Best Western Plus Garden City Hotel**



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**Website:** www.tradetravel.com.au | **ABN:** 91 061 591 375

### Day 3. Thurs 1st Oct Canberra Floriade - Old & New Parliament House

Breakfast & Dinner

Our day starts at **Old Parliament House** where decades of politics and passion echo through the corridors of the **Museum of Australian Democracy** making it one of Australia's most memorable heritage attractions. Experience an atmosphere steeped in history, revisit dramatic events and enjoy the 1920's architecture and fine design. From politics to colour at **Commonwealth Park** to view and wander the magnificent **Canberra Floriade Display**, where the colour and scent is truly amazing. **The Floriade Village** provides us with crafts, gourmet foods, fashion, jewellery and garden gifts creating a friendly carnival atmosphere. Along with the thousands of tulips why not take a path to **Camellia Walk** or the **Rhododendron Glade**. Back to politics as we step inside **Parliament House** for a tour, where an expert guide will highlight the finer points of our **Governments National headquarters**. We are guided through the most significant features of the building such as the roof, the Marble Foyer and the Great Hall, and of course, we can watch the House of Representatives and the Senate from the galleries. Later in the day we arrive back at our accommodation where we enjoy a rest before dinner.

**Overnight Canberra: Golden Age Motor Inn or Best Western Plus Garden City Hotel**

### Day 4. Fri 2nd Oct: Canberra - Cooma - LAOKO

Breakfast & Dinner

Today after breakfast we check out and begin our drive up to the township of **Cooma**. Our first stop is at the **Christmas Barn in Bredbo** housing a large collection and display of exclusive, niche Christmas products. The Barn is a wonderland, a Christmas feast for the eyes, forests of trees, wreaths, and garlands, beautifully decorated, in all manner of themes and colours. Arriving into Cooma we step inside the **Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre** for an overview of this Australian landmark infrastructure project. The Centre focuses on the scheme's power stations, dams, water resources and energy market. Sit down in the Discovery Cafe and enjoy their renowned coffee and fabulous fresh treats, savoury and sweet. We then enjoy a short **highlights tour of the largest town in the Snowy Mountain**, see the Avenue of Flags, Southern Cloud Memorial, Man from Snowy River Statue and take in the views from Mount Gladstone Lookout. After a break in town to purchase lunch we head to the **Cooma Caravan Park** which is currently housing hundreds of the **LAOKO (Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans) Wildlife** that were rescued from the devastation of the snowy mountain bushfires. The raw reality of how these fires tore through the snowy mountain regions, destroying everything in its path will make us all aware of how big a tragedy these fires really were. After our talk and tour around the park we make our way to the accommodation to check for the next two nights.

**Overnight Cooma: Cooma Motor Inn**

### Day 5. Sat 3rd Oct: Snowfields Region

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today after breakfast, enjoy the scenery of the snowfields as we experience the attractive sub-alpine villages of **Berridale** and **Jindabyne** via the Alpine Way, to the enchanting alpine village of **Thredbo**. On our return journey from Thredbo we pause at the **Gaden Trout Hatchery** where we enjoy a picnic lunch and tour! Then, should conditions permit, it's on to **Charlotte Pass Village** and the "**Roof of Australia**", the closest we can get to the summit of **Mt. Kosciuszko** by vehicle. On our return down the mountain we pause to view **Perisher Blue**, Australia's largest ski resort before making our way to Smiggin Holes, another famous Australian winter playground. Our snowfields tour programme will include a visit to the **National Park Headquarters** at Jindabyne for an overview of this wonderful alpine region. Later in the day we call at the **Wildbrumby Schnapps Distillery** where a full range of schnapps is kept on ice ready for us to take a tasting tour. It's a great way to choose the right schnapps to buy for ourselves or as a gift to take home. Later in the afternoon we arrive back at our motel and freshen up for dinner in the motel restaurant.

**Overnight Cooma: Cooma Motor Inn**

### Day 6. Sun 4th Oct: Adaminaby - Talbingo - Tumut

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast and check out we make our way along the **Snowy Mountains Highway to Tumut via Adaminaby and Talbingo**. The township of Adaminaby came under threat mid to late January by the Adaminaby Complex fire. We stop to take some photos of the **Big Trout** then step inside **Stewarts Visitor Information Centre and Gallery**. After admiring the gallery and listening to a local history buff, we stop in at the **Bake House** for morning tea before moving on to the magnificent **Adaminaby Stage Curtain** located in the **Memorial Hall**. We continue through **Kosciuszko National Park** passing by Providence Portal and Yarrangobilly before reaching Talbingo for **lunch at the Talbingo Lodge**. Talbingo situated in beautiful mountain country, surrounded by the waters of the Tumut River. We follow the **Tumut River** down to the **Tumut 3 Power Station**, home to the largest power station in the scheme. Following the road up to the **Talbingo Reservoir** we see the amazing **Talbingo Dam Wall**. This lake is also used by locals and visitors alike for recreational purposes. Only a couple of minutes away we will find the **Jounama release gates for Jounama Pondage**, and the **Jounama Small Hydro Power Station**, where water from the scheme is released into **Blowering Reservoir**. We continue our journey along the Snowy Mountains Highway to Tumut to check in to our accommodation and enjoy dinner in the motel dining room.

**Overnight Tumut: Amaroo Motel Tumut**

### Day 7. Mon 5th Oct: Batlow - Tumbarumba

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning after an early start we travel down through Batlow, a town famous for the fresh apples it produces. *On Friday the 3rd January the people of Batlow were told their town was "undefendable" when a bushfire raced toward them last, but the local Rural Fire Service brigade had other ideas. The small NSW town is now charred by flames that destroyed the old hospital, blew up the petrol station and burnt 17 houses in town and an untold number of outlying properties.* Later today on our return through Batlow we will visit the **Batlow Museum** operated by **Batlow Historical Society** and located in the former St Andrew's Presbyterian Church building. The premises feature a stained glass window originating from Scot's Church Sydney which was built in 1826! We enjoy a guided tour giving us an insight into the hardships of early pioneers, the development of Batlow fruit industry and the drive of visionary Herbert Velvin Smith (OBE) who made Batlow famous for apples!

## Day 7. Continued...

Just **15km south of Batlow** we find the “**once pristine**” **Sugar Pine Walk**, where a canopy of the towering pine trees met overhead while every footfall was softened by the carpet of pine needles. This natural cathedral was for many a breath-taking experience in all seasons but had an extra magic when covered with snow. It's now a scene of devastation and blacken dead towering pines. We continue through the once fire threatened township of **Tumberumba** then up to **Boggy Creek**, a working farm set in the foothills of the snowy mountains with spectacular, uninterrupted views. Being a fourth generation mountain cattleman, Tim O'Brien showcases, in his own unique style, authentic farming life both past and present. The 2 hour award winning live performance is choreographed to music and professionally presented in an amphitheatre setting that looks right into the heart of the snowy mountains. We'll be amazed at the skill and antics of the highly trained animals that feature in the show. Our next stop is at the **Gone Barny Nursery**, a popular nursery, cafe and gift shop in Rosewood that makes a great place for lunch and self guided tour. This historic and unique town provides us with one last stop for the afternoon, **The Pioneer Women's Hut**, one of the best and most unusual small museums in the country. Cleverly themed, it reflects the ingenuity of women in finding solutions to the challenges of looking after a family in early rural Australia. The accessibility and wonderful stories behind the diverse collection add to its reputation. Following our guided tour we travel back via Batlow to Tumut for our final dinner on tour.

## Overnight Tumut: Amaroo Motel Tumut

## Day 8. Tues 6th Oct: Tumut - Gunning - Bowral - Homeport

## Breakfast & Lunch

This morning after breakfast and check out we farewell Tumut and begin our journey up along the Hume Highway to Sydney. A short but scenic drive away is the **Merino Cafe** in **Gunning** for morning tea. The cafe is donating money to the **NSW Rural Fire Service** for their amazing efforts when battling the bushfire crisis and **Mogo Zoo** to help assist and aid injured wildlife. Our final stop takes us to the **Bradman Museum**, whether we are a cricket tragic, or interested in learning more about one of the world's most popular sports, the Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame provides an exciting and interactive visit. Following our guided tour we enjoy a hearty lunch in the Bradman's Cafe before boarding the coach for our final journey back to Sydney Airport for those with connecting flights and then into Central Station after showing our support to the communities effected by the devastating New South Wales and Victorian high country bushfires.

**Flight V436 departing Sydney 6.15pm arriving Adelaide 7.55pm or Flight JQ770 departing 5.00pm arriving 6.40pm**

**Flight VA866 departing Sydney 5.00pm arriving Melbourne 6.35pm**

**Flight VA965 departing Sydney 5.00pm arriving Brisbane 5.30pm**



**Tour Inclusions:** Southern Highland Townships of Tallong, Wingello, Bundanoon, Exeter & Sutton Forest; Corbett Gardens Bowral; Tulip Top Gardens; Lake Burley Griffin Cruise; Australian War Memorial; Last Post Ceremony; Commonwealth Park; Floriade Village; Camellia Walk; Rhododendron Glade; Old Parliament House; Museum of Australia Democracy; Parliament House; Terrace Cafe; Governments National Headquarters; Cooma; Christmas Barn; Bedbo; Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre; Cooma Caravan Park; Laoko Wildlife; Berridale; Jindabyne; Thredbo; Gaden Trout Hatchery; Charlotte Pass Village; Mt. Kosciuszko; Perisher Blue; National Park Headquarters; Wildbrumby Schnapps Distillery; Big Trout; Stewarts Visitor Information Centre and Gallery; Bake House; Adaminaby Stage Curtain; Memorial Hall; Kosciuszko National Park; Tumut River; Tumut 3 Power Station; Talbingo Reservoir; Talbingo Dam Wall; Jounama Pondage; Blowering Reservoir; Batlow; Batlow Historical Society; Tumberumba; Boggy Creek; Gone Barny Nursery; The Pioneer Womens Hut; Gundagai; Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece; Merino Cafe; Gunning; The Bradman Museum & much more!

# LAOKO - Snowy Mountains & Monaro Wildlife Rescue

LAOKO is responsible for ensuring the well-being of all the native wildlife within the Snowy Mountains + Monaro region. LAOKO (Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans) rescues and cares for orphaned and injured native wildlife (including but not limited to macropods, wombats, echidnas, birds etc) until they are ready for release back into their natural environment. LAOKO is independently operated and based in the Snowy Monaro Region of NSW. The volunteers are committed to the welfare and preservation of native wildlife and their habitat. Operating a 24hr wildlife rescue service for sick/injured/orphaned wildlife and working 365 days per year. Their organisation receives no recurrent Government funding and relies on the kind generosity of the public for donations/bequests and support. This along with their own fundraising enables us to care for and rehabilitate native wildlife ensuring that they have the best chance of recovery so that they can return as many as possible back to the wild.



#### Tour Price Includes:

- Luxury coach travel
- 7 Nights quality accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (19 Meals)
- All entry fees, cruise & guides as per itinerary

#### Tour Price Excludes:

- Return economy airfares

**\$2298.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$532.00)**

**Tour cost based on minimum 20 pax**

*The tour prices valid for travel in 2020. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.*

#### FOR ALL BOOKINGS & PAYMENT CONTACT ALLY:

Freecall: **1800 034 439** or Email: **groups@tradetravel.com**

#### PAYMENT DETAILS:

**\$200.00 PER PERSON DEPOSIT** to be paid together with completed booking form to secure your spot on the tour

**FINAL PAYMENT** to be paid on or before Monday 3 August 2020



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