

Gippsland High Country Tours – Autumn Update 2021



It's time to plan some Nature Tours and Walking Ecotours again!

Thank you for your previous interest in my tours, I hope you have managed to weather the disruptive times we've been in for the past 12 months. It's been a long time since I've sent out any formal communication, but I am sure you can appreciate that trying to gaze into a crystal ball and work out when it might be safe to re-start tours has been rather challenging!

With COVID-19 following bushfires in 2020 I put the business into "hibernation" for the year and focussed my energies on other things including supporting family. Lockdowns and restrictions kept arising to delay "re-opening" but it does feel more stable now and the vaccination program is underway, so I am planning a limited program for spring and summer.

I've still got a bit of work to do to ensure I will be operating the tours in a way that is safe (especially if COVID restrictions change suddenly), compliant with all regulations and that I can provide the standard of experience that I am accustomed to offering.

There will be new booking conditions to cover eventualities relating to COVID, and participants will have to agree to comply with a range of possible precautions/restrictions according to the current advice/regulations from authorities at the time (potentially including but not limited to, wearing masks in vehicles and at some other times, hand sanitation and completing COVID health declarations before travel). My tours will not be as carefree as they have in the past, but neither is anything else in our lives.

One of the outcomes of the past twelve months has been a decision that I will down-size the business to some degree. This is my 30th year of sharing nature experiences with enthusiastic participants like yourself, but it is time for me to start spending more time with my family. I will be retaining a selection of the most popular tours on the program with a focus on East Gippsland (and occasionally further afield), but departures will be limited, so booking early will be more important than ever to secure a place.

More information on each tour can be found on the website by clicking the links below. Regards, Jenny

Jenny Lawrence, Gippsland High Country Tours

Email: info@gippslandhighcountrytours.com.au

Birds of the Snowy River, October 4-8, 2021



This dedicated birdwatching tour for a small group of just 4, is a very relaxed way to enjoy birds in an area boasting a rich birdlife. We don't have to go far, the verandah of our home away from home is a perfect place to watch the birds come to us. However, the Snowy River valley has so much lovely scenery, we'll be off with our binoculars to explore too. You don't need to be a bird expert to enjoy this tour, enthusiastic novices are most welcome, just bring an appreciation of birds and be keen to participate. Spring is a lovely time with birds calling, pairing up and nesting.

Learn more on our website- [Birds of the Snowy River](#)

East Gippsland after the fires tour – with Inala Nature Tours, October 21-28, 2021



Summer 2019-20 bushfires saw large swathes of East Gippsland burnt under extreme weather conditions. This is the only longer tour on the program for now and sees Jenny team up with long-time friend and colleague Dr Tonia Cochrane of Inala Nature Tours to offer a week of nature experiences exploring both burnt and unburnt areas of East Gippsland.

From the Snowy River National Park in the mountains to the Gippsland Lakes and Croajingolong on the coast, we will visit a wide diversity of landscapes and habitats. Learn about threatened species recovery programs, discover birdlife and spring wildflower displays as well as meeting local wildlife and gaining an insight into how both nature and local communities recover from fire. Ad a generous sprinkling of history, a waterfall or two, plus time to pause and soak up breathtaking landscapes for a very rewarding and enlightening week.

Jenny and Tonia will both be leading this tour, so you will have a wealth of knowledge available to you. Contact Jenny for more information or book directly with Inala Nature Tours. No more than 10 participants.

Learn more on Inala's website: [East Gippsland after the fires tour](#)



Mallacoota and Croajingolong in Springtime, November 9-12, 2021



Springtime around Mallacoota at the far east tip of Victoria promises great birdwatching, wildlife experiences and spring wildflower displays in Croajingolong National Park. Like much of East Gippsland, the communities of Mallacoota, Gipsy Point and the surrounding area were impacted by bushfires in the horror summer of 2019-20, so fire impacts will be obvious but nature's regeneration is fascinating and beauty is returning, if somewhat different to before. Fully accommodated. No more than 10 participants.

Learn more here - [Mallacoota and Croajingolong in Springtime](#)

NOTE: Some of our usual destinations in Croajingolong National Park, like Pt Hicks Lighthouse are not yet re-opened after fires, so this short 4 day nature tour and the Inala tour above are substitutes for the Croajingolong tours I have previously offered)

Errinundra Waratah Weekend, November 19-21, 2021



Hidden away high in the mountain ranges of East Gippsland is the seldom visited Errinundra Plateau. This is an amazing place of enormous trees, deep ferny rainforest gullies and misty mountains. In spring we will find the crimson blooms of the Gippsland Waratah and a range of other spring wildflowers. Birds and wildlife will add to this relaxed nature experience. No meals to prepare, no driving, just come along and let us share this beautiful forest environment with you. (Max 4) This is just a short weekend tour this year, as even though the heart of Errinundra National Park remains unburnt, much of the surrounding area is badly fire affected.

Learn more on our website – [Errinundra Weekend Tour](#)

Alpine Discovery Tour, January 10-14, 2021



When Summer arrives and our alpine peaks are free of snow, the plants are taking advantage of the short months of sunny weather to burst forth with flowers. Upon these flowers feed an amazing array of insect life which in turn provide tasty morsels for birds, lizards and other alpine creatures. From our lodge accommodation at Dinner Plain Alpine Village we explore on short walks and learn about the fragile balance of nature in the alps. Milder summer temperatures and mountain views by day and dark starry skies at night. Maximum group of 10 participants.

Learn more here- [Alpine Discovery Tour](#)

Alpine Wildflowers – an introduction to the alps, January 18-19, 2021



This short visit provides an opportunity to discover the profusion of wildflowers at the peak of the alpine wildflower season. Experience stunning mountain views and enjoy short guided walks with time to learn about how plants and animals survive and thrive in these harsh conditions. Even though it is a short visit, there will be ample time to absorb the tranquillity of the alps and we have cosy ski lodge accommodation overnight.

Learn more- info@gippslandhighcountrytours.com.au

Mt Feathertop Adventure March 7-11, 2021



An Autumn bushwalking week for those who are keen to stretch their legs on some good alpine walks. This classic lodge-based walking tour is led by two guides and offers two different walking options each day, Moderate or Moderately-Challenging. The culmination is the walk to Mt Feathertop along the Razorback Track (or just part the way for the easier group). Some say this is the best ridgetop walk in Australia and the views rarely disappoint. Breathe in the clear mountain air and soak up the peace and quiet.

Learn more on our website- [Mt Feathertop Adventure](#)

Outback, Arid and Interstate Tours

As mentioned above, downsizing of my tour offering means I will now focus on local East Gippsland tours. I hope to still offer a birdwatching tour to Hattah Kulkyne & Murray Sunset in 2022, however I will no longer be heading interstate. Many of you have enjoyed a range of wonderful interstate Natural History Tours with me in the past including arid/outback destinations like Flinders Ranges, Lake Eyre, Strzelecki Track & more. However do not despair, I have a plan to help fill that gap, so just get in touch if interstate tours interest you.

Tonia at Inala Nature Tours has kindly scheduled a special departure of [Outback South Australia – fossils and opals](#) in **April 22-May 1, 2022** to provide my clients with an arid tour to SA that includes the Flinders Ranges and so much more. Maybe also a **“Best of SA birds & wildlife tour”** in **October** if there is enough interest.

Inala have some amazing nature tours in their program and right now you might like to look at –

[Inala Nature Tours Queensland Wet Tropics Tour: 5-14 July 2021](#)

[Inala’s Seabirds & Waders of SE Tasmania: Sat-Sun 14-15 August, Sat-Sun 13-14 November, 2021](#)
