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Bird Watching course Terms and Conditions

Aussie Wild Nature Discovery is a registered business owned and operated by Ricki Coughlan. “Bird Watching” is a course created for and operated by Aussie Wild Nature Discovery. By paying for this course, you are entering into an agreement with Aussie Wild Nature Discovery.

When you pay for this course you agree to the following terms and conditions.

Course content

Please read the Course Prospectus before enrolling in this course.

The Bird Watching course consists of four zoom conferences. Attendees will require a device which is compatible.

The Bird Watching course consists of three assignments. These are not compulsory but will greatly enhance one’s advancement in the course. Unlimited assistance with assignments is available.

Assignments methods must be aligned with best practices and conducted in such a way that no birds or other wildlife are unduly disturbed or come to harm.

The Bird Watching course consists of four comprehensive ebooks. Attendees will require a device which can read pdf files.

The Bird Watching course consists of six field trips: four in the Royal National Park, one in Castlereagh Reserve and one in Barren Grounds Reserve. Participants will provide their own transport to these locations. If attendees reside on the northern beaches, some field trips can be arranged on the north side of the harbour.

All field trips are conducted on easy trails and walking is at a very slow pace with frequent stops and a break for snacks on the trail. Participants must be able to walk at least 8km.

Binoculars of a reasonable standard are required to get the most out of this course. I have quality binoculars which I can loan but participants are encouraged to purchase something better than cheap field glasses. Binocular selection will be covered in Part One of the course and I am available to assist in this process.

All Bird Watching course content is copyright 2022 Ricki Coughlan, Aussie Wild Nature Discovery. No part of the content of the course may be shared with any third party by any means: electronic, photographically or otherwise.

Course fees

Payments

The fee for the Bird Watching course is \$650

Fees must be paid for in full by course commencement date.

Refunds

If course participants elect to leave the course in the first month an 80% refund is available. Following the first month, no refund will be made.

Course fees can be transferred to another party within the first month, but not after the first month.

Course deferrals

Course participants may defer course attendance to the next course intake period for any reason.

Force majeure

If for some reason of force majeure (such as pandemic lockdowns, bushfires, floods, etc..) or personal illness or injury, Ricki Coughlan is unable to offer Bird Watching course content after the first month, she retains the right to defer the course to a later date or cancel the course without being held liable to compensation or refund. In the event of any of these occurrences, this will be conducted with the closest possible consultation with course participants.

Field trips

Field trip dates and locations will be made available prior to commencement of the course.

If later events conspire to create a clash of dates for field trips for any participant we will do our best to move dates to accommodate everyone's needs. If this cannot be achieved the participant acknowledges that they will have to forgo that tour. No refunds can be made in event of such circumstances. However the participant may join the same or a similar tour on the next course intake at a later date.

If weather conditions or park closures force a field trip to be abandoned another trip will be planned within seven days or at a date which fits the course participants' calendars or a new venue will be chosen.

Participants are required to provide all their own food/snacks on field trips.

Participants agree that regardless of any content on any Aussie Wild Nature Discovery promotional material or course material, Ricki Coughlan and Aussie Wild Nature Discovery cannot guarantee that a particular bird species will be encountered on any Aussie Wild Nature Discovery tour or field trip.

Field Trip conduct

As an Ecopass holder, Ricki Coughlan/Aussie Wild Nature Discovery is a partner of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. One of our goals when on tour, field trips or engaged in research is to be totally

passive and ensure that our presence is free from causing unnatural behaviour, distress or disturbance to wildlife. We are present merely to observe, record and improve our birding skills. For this reason, please note the following:

- Please don't disturb wildlife in order to elicit a response for a "better view".
- Please stick to park trails.
- Please do not walk ahead of the group.
- This is not a photography course. Whilst taking group snapshots, selfies and the occasional scenic photographs are encouraged, we should remain focussed on the field trip and avoid getting carried away with photography. Accordingly, please leave long lenses at home.
- Please refrain from excessive talk on field trips.
- Please wear dull coloured clothing on field trips.
- Playback is not permitted on field trips.
- Please don't approach any bird's nest or impede birds from feeding their young.
- Please don't attempt to catch, touch or handle any wildlife unless it is in obvious distress or in danger from human activity.
- Please refrain from collecting feathers and other momentos (it's actually classed as "poaching").
- Please arrive at field trip locations prior to starting time so that we are ready to commence in a timely fashion.
- Please check your shoes for dried mud and seeds before entering National Parks.
- Smoking is not permitted within any NSW National Park.
- We must obey all park signs, instructions and directions from Park Rangers and other National Parks staff.

Repeated failure to observe the above conditions by any participant will result in course termination with no fees refundable.

Personal safety

- Always stick to the trail in parks and reserves and know where you are stepping.
- Don't step back unless you know that there are no hazards behind you.
- If we encounter snakes please stay well clear or follow my instructions.
- Remember to dress for the conditions and use sunblock and insect repellent when necessary.

Personal belongings

Aussie Wild Nature Discovery is owned and operated by Ricki Coughlan. By paying the course fee you are indicating that you understand and accept you will be covered by Public Liability insurance for personal accident and injury held by Aussie Wild/Ricki Coughlan when participating in Aussie Wild Nature Discovery activities. However none of your personal belongings will be covered by any insurance held by Aussie Wild Nature Discovery. By paying the course fee you are indicating that you understand and accept this too.

Aussie Wild Nature Discovery cannot offer any guarantee that your personal belongings wont be lost or damaged during your participation in the Bird Watching course activities. Aussie Wild Nature Discovery and Ricki Coughlan accept no responsibility for any loss or damage you might incur in this regard. You accept full responsibility for all of your personal belongings at all times during your participation in all Aussie Wild Nature Discovery activities.