



# Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

*Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!*

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## Chestnut-breasted Whiteface Grey Honeyeater

*4 day expedition 15-18 July 2023*



The Chestnut-breasted Whiteface is one of the most difficult species for birders to see, because of its very small distribution in remote outback locations, and its elusive nature. It has recently disappeared from one of its key locations leaving only a few spots where it can still reliably be found. This year we're once again offering a short expedition into the outback in search of this elusive bird. Commencing from Coober Pedy (SA), accessible on direct flights from Adelaide, this trip explores areas adjacent to the Stuart Highway before heading off into little-visited outback locations to search for **Chestnut-**

**breasted Whiteface**. July is a great time to go birding here and we expect to see many other great species including Thick-billed Grasswren, Gibberbird, Budgerigar, Crimson and Orange Chat, and there's always the chance of Bourke's Parrot or even Grey Falcon! During this time of the year the weather is dry and quite pleasant. We've seen Chestnut-breasted Whiteface here annually since 2006 so our chances are very good. The tour finishes with a day's birding around Alice Springs for **Grey Honeyeater** and a host of additional species. Don't wait: only 4 seats available!

*We're offering a seamless connection to our Red Centre Adventure in Alice Springs on 18 July with instant discount. Contact us for details.*

**Tour starts:** Coober Pedy, SA

**Tour finishes:** Alice Springs, NT

**Scheduled departure & return dates:**

• 15-18 July 2023

**Price:** AU\$2,999 all-inclusive (no discounts available).

**Leader:** Michael Greenshields

**Trip reports and photos of previous tours:**

<http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports>

**Questions? Contact BELLBIRD BIRDING TOURS:**

- Freecall 1800-BIRDING
- email [birds@bellbirdtours.com](mailto:birds@bellbirdtours.com)

**READ ON FOR:**

- Further tour details
- Daily itinerary
- Booking information

*We're offering a seamless connection to our Red Centre Adventure commencing in Alice Springs on 18 July with instant discount. Contact us for details*

## Tour details

**Tour starts:** Coober Pedy, SA (served by direct flights from Adelaide)

**Tour finishes:** Alice Springs, NT (served by direct flights to all major cities)

**Scheduled departure and return dates:**

Tour commences with dinner on 15 July 2023. Please arrive on or before 15 July. Tour finishes late afternoon on 18 July 2023. Please depart that evening or the next day. Or join our Red Centre Adventure on 18 July. Itinerary contains further details.

**Leader:** Michael Greenshields.

**Difficulty:** ~~Low~~/Medium/~~High~~/~~Excellent~~ level of fitness required. For the actual whiteface search we'll be walking between 5-10 km across stony, undulating terrain. We may have to do this again the next day if we don't succeed the first time.

**What to bring:** Please travel light. Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors if you're an international guest, insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, sun hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses with tripods, and heavy suitcases are discouraged.

**Clothing:** Lightweight long pants, t-shirt and long-sleeved shirt, over the top of which you can wear layers that can be taken off as necessary, including a jumper / sweater and a wind- and rain-proof jacket.

**Group size:** Minimum 2, maximum 4 participants.

**Cost:** AU\$2,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of \$350. Not included: tips, personal expenses. Budget tour: earlybird or return-client discount **does not** apply.

**Bookings:** Online at <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> or please complete the booking form in the back of this brochure.

## Daily itinerary

### Day 1: 15 July 2023.

Please make your own way to Coober Pedy (SA) this afternoon. There are direct flights from Adelaide. Accommodation: **Underground Motel, Coober Pedy** (above-ground & underground en-suite motel rooms available; meals included: D).

### Day 2: 16 July 2023.

After an early breakfast we'll spend the best part of the morning searching a location near Coober Pedy where we should, weather and other factors permitting, obtain our first views of Chestnut-breasted Whiteface. This will involve a lot of walking. Other species likely here include White-winged Fairy-wren, Zebra Finch and Thick-billed Grasswren which no doubt will be another highlight. After lunch we'll spend most of the afternoon driving north to arrive in the hamlet of Marla, our destination for the night. Along the way we have chances of Budgerigar, Crimson and Orange Chat, Black-breasted Buzzard and Chiming Wedgebill. Accommodation: **Traveller's Rest, Marla** (en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D).

### Day 3: 17 July 2023.

After an early breakfast we will check the sparse outback habitats around Marla where we have another very good chance of Chestnut-breasted Whiteface as well as Zebra Finch and Orange Chat while we may be lucky to come across Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Gibberbird, Chiming Wedgebill or Bourke's Parrot. We'll then have lunch and spend the afternoon driving up to Alice Springs. At the end of the day we'll retire to our accommodation in Alice Springs. Accommodation: **Mercure Springs Resort, Alice Springs** (en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D)

### Day 4: 18 July 2023.

We'll spend a day birding around Alice Springs, where Grey Honeyeater will be the main target of the day. There are plenty of other good birds to be had too: Dusky Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Spinifexbird, Slaty-backed and Inland Thornbill, Western Bowerbird and Painted Finch are on the menu for today. The tour finishes around 4pm this afternoon and you are welcome to fly out any time from 5pm onwards this evening or stay on in Alice Springs for our Red Centre tour. Accommodation: **none**; meals: B, L). *If you're staying on for our Red Centre Adventure your hotel and dinner is included tonight and you'll receive a return-client discount.*

*We're offering a seamless connection to our Red Centre Adventure commencing in Alice Springs on Mon 18 July with an instant return-client discount. Contact us for details.*



Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, Gibberbird, Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, Grey Honeyeater © P Waanders



## Steps to book this tour:

### Step 1: Essential reading

- Download, save and read the itinerary (this document)
- Read our [terms and conditions](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) and the [release of liability waiver](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) (both can be found on <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions>).
- Read our [covid-19 information](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/coronavirus-latest-information/) page (<https://www.bellbirdtours.com/coronavirus-latest-information/>)

### Step 2: Online booking

Head over to our secure online booking page: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings>. (Should you prefer a paper booking form, this can be downloaded from there).

### Step 3: Pay the deposit

To secure your seat, a deposit of 20% of the tour price is required at the time of booking. Full payment is due 60 days prior to the departure date. Until full payment has been received, Bellbird Tours reserves the right to change the tour price (eg due to changing fuel prices). Payment options:

- Domestic electronic funds transfer*: please send funds to the following bank account:
  - bank: Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ), 112 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000
  - account name: Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd
  - Branch No. (BSB) 015-140 Account No. 206136528
    - Please use your *surname* as the booking reference.
- Visa, Mastercard & Amex*: through Pin Payments (an easy, secure online payment system). They charge us a fee of ~3%, which we pass on to you. Please contact us to use this option, and we'll email you a secure payment link.
- PayPal & other credit cards through PayPal*: They charge us a fee of between 2.6-3.6% to receive your money, which we pass on to you. Please contact us to use this option, and we'll email you a secure PayPal invoice.
- International electronic funds transfer*: please send funds in Australian Dollars (+ bank charges or AU\$20 bank transaction fee, see notes below) to the following bank account:
  - international swift code: anzbau3m (no IBAN codes are used in Australia)
  - bank: Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ), 112 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000
  - account name: Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd
  - Branch No. (BSB) 015-140 Account No. 206136528
    - If possible, please use your *surname* as the booking reference.
    - If you are asked to provide our physical address, this is: 101 Chilton Road, Berri, SA 5343, Australia.
    - Please specify AU\$ as the recipient's currency, and the correct amount. Select the option for you to incur any charges at *both* ends; if no such option exists, please add AU\$20 to cover the bank fee at the recipient's end.

Any discrepancy between the amount payable and amount received will be added to the final balance, or payable in cash at the start of the tour. Prices and fees are not negotiable.

### Step 4: You're done!

Sit back and wait for your booking confirmation to arrive (24-48 hrs). Meanwhile, should you have any questions, please contact us via: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/about-us/>.