



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd

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Highlights of South Australia

6-day birding tour

Sept. 2024

This is one of our longest-running tours which promises even more birds with an updated itinerary. We'll explore South Australia's many varied habitats, ranging from the spectacular Flinders Ranges and surrounding stark outback deserts, to the lush Mt Lofty Ranges; wetlands and estuaries around Adelaide, floodplains along the mighty Murray River and the vast expanses of semi-arid eucalypt scrub at Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve. This wide variety of habitats allows us to maximise the species list – expect up to 200 species, including some highly sought-after birds such as

Malleefowl, Banded Stilt, Freckled Duck, Adelaide Rosella, Regent/Mulga/Elegant Parrot, 2 spp of Grasswren, 4 spp of Fairywren, Redthroat, 3 spp of Cuckoo, 3 spp of Tree-creeper, Gilberts/Rufous/Golden/Red-lored Whistler, 2 spp of Quail-thrush, Inland Dotterel and many more. We'll look for mammals as well, including the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat. Good food and accommodation: join us this year! As an added bonus we now also offer a pre-tour extension to Kangaroo Island.

Tour starts & finishes: Adelaide, South Australia

Scheduled departure & return dates:

• 26 September - 1 October 2024

Price: AU\$3,999 all-inclusive (discounts available).

Leader: Peter Waanders and local guide

Trip reports and photos of previous tours:

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

Questions? Contact BELLBIRD BIRDING TOURS :

Freecall 1800-BIRDING

email birds@bellbirdtours.com

READ ON FOR:

- Further tour details
- Daily itinerary
- Booking information



Tour details

Tour starts & finishes: Adelaide, South Australia.

Scheduled departure and return dates:

The tour commences with an optional 3-day pre-tour excursion to Kangaroo Island. On 26 Sept 2024 everyone will meet for dinner to commence the Highlights tour. Please arrive on or before 26 Sept. Tour finishes late in the afternoon of 1 Oct 2024. Please depart on or after 1 Oct. Itinerary contains further details.

Leader: Peter Waanders.

Difficulty: Low/~~Medium~~/~~High~~/~~Excellent~~ level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on varying surfaces, from paved roads to sandy or rocky walking trails with some short climbs. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

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. Neat casual attire for dinners.

Group size: Minimum 3, maximum 9 participants.

Cost: AU\$3,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of \$550. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expenses. Earlybird discount of \$99 for bookings received up to 12 months before departure date. Return-client discount may apply. Check our website for discounts T&C's.

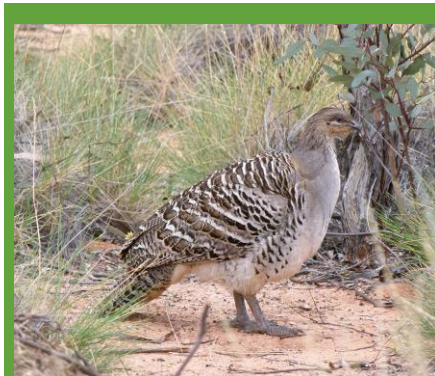
Bookings: Online at <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/> - see the last page of this brochure.

ITINERARY

Day 0: From 23 - 25 September 2024, we offer an optional pre-tour excursion to Kangaroo Island. Just off the Adelaide coast, the large island harbours a unique, diverse wildlife, specialised birds, striking scenery and vast wilderness. Key birds include the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo, colonies of Fairy Penguin, Hooded Plover, Cape Barren Goose, the elusive Western Whipbird and the rare Fairy Penguin as well as many sea and land birds. Details of this 3 day trip can be found here: www.bellbirdtours.com/kangaroo-island/ People not joining this trip will make their own way to our hotel on 25 September in Adelaide, where we'll all meet this evening for dinner and introductions. Overnight **Adelaide** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: D).

Day 1 (26 Sept '24): An early start for our trip to the outback. We follow the coast north, looking for Adelaide Rosella and Slender-billed Thornbill. At Port Augusta we visit the beautiful Arid Lands Botanical Gardens where an array of native flowers and shrubs attract such species as Chirruping Wedgebill, Redthroat, White-winged Fairy-wren and many species of Honeyeater including a chance of Pied and Black Honeyeater. A nearby coastal lake often has Banded Stilt. We will arrive at Mt Lyndhurst, on the edge of the Strzelecki desert, towards the end of the day. While we enjoy a spectacular outback sunset from a vantage point we marvel at the vastness of the landscape and at the same time look around for Inland Dotterel. Overnight **Lyndhurst** (en-suite cabins; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 2 (27 Sept '24): We depart around sunrise to start birding at nearby Mt Lyndhurst, where we may see the last few remaining Thick-billed Grasswrens with much luck and perseverance. We should certainly come across other good outback species such as Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Rufous Fieldwren, Chirruping Wedgebill, Zebra Finch, Black-faced Woodswallow and Budgerigar. We'll explore the endless open stony plains of the Strzelecki desert which are traversed by mostly dry watercourses. Expect species such as Budgerigar, Red-backed Kingfisher, Crimson, Orange and Gibber Chat. We'll have a picnic lunch at a billabong (waterhole) with coolabah trees after which we bird our way back to Lyndhurst, looking for Black-breasted Buzzard. If necessary, we return to our sunset viewing point for another chance of Inland Dotterel. Overnight **Lyndhurst** (en-suite cabins; meals included: B, L, D).



Malleefowl, Birding, Crimson Chat, Thick-billed Grasswren © P Waanders

Day 3 (28 Sept '24): Today we'll travel south past the spectacular rock formations of the Gammon Ranges and enter the Flinders Ranges, an impressive range of steep hills and soaring rock formations on the edge of Australia's outback. Mid-morning we travel across dry creekbeds and through narrow gorges cut deeply into geological layers that date back 800 million years. Here we search for Elegant Parrot and Grey-fronted Honeyeater. We visit the fossil site of the Ediacaran fauna, which lived a little before the great explosion of multicellular life at the beginning of the Cambrian Period. Here we're also likely to encounter the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. We'll see stately Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring above spinifex-grass covered slopes and there are plenty of Red, Western Grey and Euro Kangaroos. We'll retire to our luxurious base at Wilpena Pound resort for dinner and an optional spotlighting session. Overnight **Wilpena Pound Resort** (en-suite motel room; meals included: B, L, D).

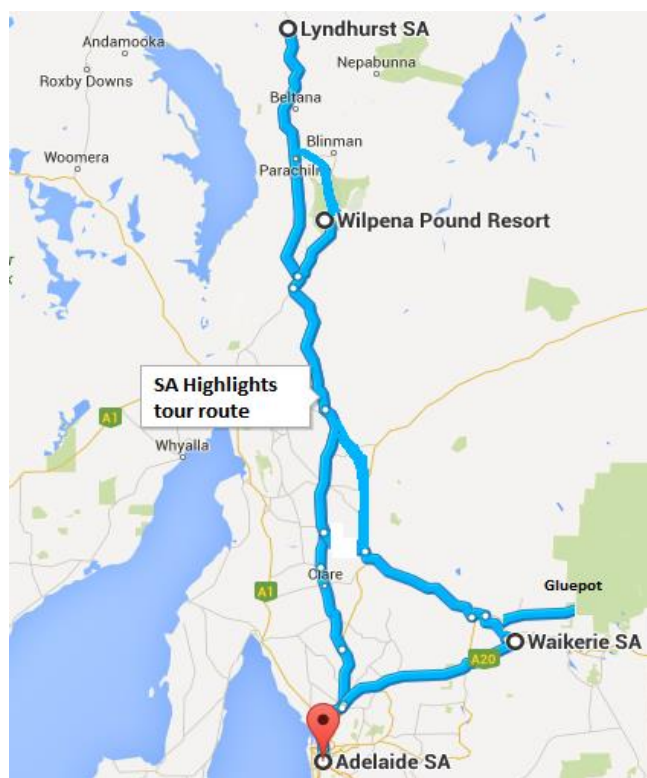
Day 4 (29 Sept '24): Early mornings in the outback can get pretty chilly as we check nearby rocky outcrops for Southern Scrubrobin and various honeyeaters. We will leave the picturesque Flinders Ranges and drive south, through the historic copper mining township of Burra, and bird the extensive prairie-like Bluebush plains for Blue Bonnet, Redthroat, Black-eared Cuckoo, Brown & Rufous Songlark and Australian Pipit. Later in the day we reach Australia's largest river: the Murray. We visit a breeding colony of Regent Parrots and check a few wetlands for waterbirds including crakes, rails and Freckled Duck. Overnight **Berri Resort Hotel** (en-suite motel room; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 5 (30 Sept '24): We depart early in the morning for the drive of less than an hour to Birdlife Australia's Gluepot reserve, home to no less than 6 endangered bird species. While the sun rises over centuries-old mallee eucalypts and sand dunes covered in spinifex grass, we look for Malleefowl, Red-lored Whistler, Gilbert's Whistler, Hooded Robin, Southern Scrubrobin, Black-eared Miner, Shy Heathwren, White-browed Treecreeper and Inland Thornbill. As the bird activity slows down, we focus on species such as Chestnut Quail-thrush, Crested Bellbird, Splendid Fairy-wren and Striped Honeyeater. Depending on preceding seasonal conditions we may also encounter White-winged Triller, Pied and Black Honeyeater and Pink Cockatoo. From one of the bird hides that overlook a watering through, we have a chance of observing Mulga Parrot and many of Gluepot's 10 species of Honeyeater. We leave the reserve late in the afternoon to be back at your accommodation around dusk. Overnight **Berri Resort Hotel** (en-suite motel room; meals included: B, L, D).



Zebra Finch, Banded Stilt, Splendid Fairy-wren, White-browed Treecreeper (c) P Waanders

Day 6 (1 Oct '24): Today is spent birding our way back to Adelaide. First we follow the Murray River to check out a number of wetlands for species such as Blue-billed and Freckled Duck, Baillon's, Australian Spotted and Spotless Crake and Little Grassbird. We'll visit a raptor lookout with good chance of Little Eagle, Spotted and Swamp Harrier, Whistling and Black-shouldered Kite and if we're lucky, Black Falcon. We have lunch on the banks of the Murray River where Purple-crowned Lorikeet is often found, after which we proceed into the Adelaide Hills. While most of South Australia's landscapes are arid, the Adelaide Hills are an exception. Tall, dense eucalypt forests provide habitat for many species otherwise only found in Australia's eastern states. We will look for Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, the *adelaideae* subspecies of Crimson Rosella (often regarded as a full species: Adelaide Rosella), Yellow-faced, White-naped and Crescent Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, Scarlet Robin and the localised *maculatus* subspecies of White-browed Scrubwren. We also have a good chance of seeing a Koala. The tour finishes in the evening and you will be dropped off between 5-6pm at a hotel of your choice in the city centre, or at the airport if you're flying back tonight (please don't book flights departing before 7pm this evening of 1 October 2024).



Southern Scrub Robin, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Regent Parrot, Red-lored Whistler © P Waanders

Pre- and post-tour options:

From 23 - 25 September 2024, we offer an optional pre-tour excursion to Kangaroo Island. Just off the Adelaide coast, the large island harbours a unique, diverse wildlife, specialised birds, striking scenery and vast wilderness. Key birds include the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo, colonies of Fairy Penguin, Hooded Plover, Cape Barren Goose, the elusive Western Whipbird and the rare Fairy Penguin as well as many sea and land birds. Details of this 3 day trip can be found here: www.bellbirdtours.com/kangaroo-island/

We can arrange your accommodation before or after the tour(s). Contact us to discuss your options.

Price inclusions and exclusions:

Included: All meals commencing with dinner on Day 0 and finishing with lunch on Day 6, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms where available. Transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, Expert guiding, any entry fees, taxes.

Excluded: Travel to & from departure and finish points, Pre- & post trip accommodation, any meals before dinner on Day 0 and after lunch on Day 6, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

Bookings: Please book online: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/> - see the last page of this brochure.

Disclaimers: (1) itinerary may be modified slightly due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors; (2) until we've received your final payment, tour price may be subject to adjustment in the event of significant cost increases in ground arrangements. See the terms and conditions posted on our website.

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 [health & safety information](https://bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/) page (<https://bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/>)

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 & Google Pay*: 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.
- ☐ *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/>.