



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd

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Pilbara Specialties *birding tour*

5-13 June 2024



This exciting new tour takes us to the Western Australian Pilbara region. Throughout this under-explored region we will look for a number of special bird species. We start in Perth and head up to beautiful Geraldton with its honeyeaters and Western Field-wren, before relaxing at Shark Bay where Western Grasswren, Chiming Wedgebill and close-up dolphins await us. We cut across the Pilbara to head inland looking for Sandhill Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Western Quail-thrush and Western Bowerbird. Heading north we look for the elusive Pilbara Grasswren and Grey Honeyeater. Other birds we're likely to come across during our travels include Painted Finch, Spinifex Pigeon, Rufous Fieldwren, Spinifexbird, Bourke's Parrot, Slaty-backed

Thornbill, Black-chinned (Golden-backed) Honeyeater, Little Woodswallow, Southern Scrubrobin and many more. This time of year the weather is generally quite pleasant. The accommodation is in comfortable en-suite rooms and the rewards will be a great spread of Australia's western outback bird species.

We'll visit beautiful Kalbarri NP near Geraldton, the Shark Bay World Heritage site, the vast spinifex plains (of Night Parrot fame...!) of the Pilbara and marvel at the stark outback countryside dotted with granite outcrops between Mt Magnet and Newman. Spaces are limited so don't wait too long to book this great new tour!

Tour starts: Perth, WA

Tour finishes: Newman, WA

Scheduled departure & return dates:

- 5 – 13 June 2024

Price: AU\$5,999 per person all-inclusive.

Leader: Peter Waanders

Photos of previous tours:

<https://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

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Tour details at a glance

Tour starts: Perth, WA

Tour finishes: Newman, WA (*Daily flights from there to Perth*)

Scheduled departure and return dates: Tour commences at 11:30am on 5 June 2024. Please arrive in Perth before or on 5 June. The tour finishes mid-day, 13 June 2024 in Newman. Please depart on any mid-day or later flight on 13 June 2024. Or why not join our Kimberley tour, starting 15 June? Daily itinerary below has further details.

Leader: Louis Masarei and Michael Greenshields.

Difficulty: ~~Low~~/Medium/~~High~~/Excellent level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on mostly flat or undulating, but unpaved, surfaces, but includes some off-track walking around in spinifex and gravelly terrain. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

What to bring: Please travel light; Binoculars, camera, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes and heavy suitcases are discouraged.

Clothing: In the day it will be cool to mild, but mornings and evenings can be chilly. 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. Jacket or jumper for the evenings. Neat casual attire for dinners. Sturdy, comfortable footwear for birding. Shorts and sandals or thongs (flip-flops) are acceptable for non-birding time.

Accommodation: Private en-suite rooms or cabins in hotels, motels or in caravan parks. Standard of lodgings ranges from good to very comfortable. Due to the remote nature of this trip, we may not have phone reception or wi-fi access every day.

Group size: Minimum 4, maximum 9 participants.

Cost: AU\$5,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$770. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expenses. Early-bird discount of AU\$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 1: 5 June '24. Arrive Perth

Today you arrive in Perth, and make your own way to our meeting point (Kings Park Botanical Gardens Café) where we'll meet for introductions and lunch, at 11:30am. We'll spend the afternoon driving to Geraldton, making a few short birding stops along the way. Accommodation: **Sails Motel, Geraldton** (en-suite room) Meals: L, D.

Day 2: 6 June '24. Geraldton to Monkey Mia

We spend the morning in Kalbarri NP where the wildflowers attract good WA species such as Western Spinebill, Western Wattlebird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, and we have a good chance of Blue-breasted Fairywren and Western Yellow Robin. One of the main targets here is the recently split Western Fieldwren. After a picnic lunch we head further north to the Shark Bay area to our final destination, the Monkey Mia resort right on the beach where Indo-pacific Dolphins regularly come in to feed. Accommodation: **Monkey Mia Resort, Shark Bay** (en-suite hotel rooms; meals: B, L, D).

Day 3: 7 June '24. Monkey Mia & Shark Bay

The morning is spent in the Shark Bay area. This stunning World Heritage site is located on the westernmost point of the Australian continent, and its coastal habitats have a number of exceptional natural features, the most well-known of which are its beds of stromatolites (colonies of microbial mats that form hard, dome-shaped deposits which are said to be the oldest life forms on earth). The beautiful remote scenery is home to a population of Western Grasswren which will be the main target of our visit. There are also Purple-backed Fairy-wren, Chiming Wedgebill and Rufous Fieldwren here. After a lunch in one of the roadside establishments we will bird our way back to Geraldton. We will visit the stromatolites at Hamelin Pool - there is an excellent birding area around here where we will look for Pied Honeyeater, Crested Bellbird, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Southern Whiteface, Slaty-backed Thornbill and Mulga Parrot. Accommodation: **Sails Motel, Geraldton** (en-suite room) Meals: B, L, D.

Day 4: 8 June '24. Geraldton to Mt Magnet

After a relaxing morning birding we start heading inland to Mt Magnet. We'll leave the coastal vegetation, travel through eucalypt woodland before ending up in a vast sea of "mulga" (narrow-leaved acacia) habitat. This is where we'll find many species that do not occur elsewhere, such as Grey Honeyeater



Grey Honeyeater, Painted Finch,
Western Bowerbird, Rufous-
crowned Emu-wren (c) Peter
Waanders – Bellbird Tours

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and Western Quail-thrush. Other birds we may come across include Emu (remind the tour leader to tell you about the Emu War!), Crested Bellbird, Budgerigar, Cockatiel, Mulga Parrot, Diamond Dove, Crimson Chat, Black-eared Cuckoo, Pied Butcherbird, Zebra Finch, Pallid Cuckoo and Grey-crowned Babbler. We may be lucky to find White-fronted-, Pied & Black Honeyeater depending on seasonal conditions. Accommodation: **Outback Gold, Mt Magnet** (en-suite cabin) Meals: B, L, D.

Day 5: 9 June '24. Of Granite and Sandstone

Today we have a full day in the wider Mt Magnet area. Early in the morning, just after sunrise, we search an area known as the Granites for Western Quail-thrush. Later that morning we head across to an area known as Sandstone, where the Sandhill (not Sandstone) Grasswren lives – a subspecies of Rufous Grasswren and potential future split. This very scenic area is also likely to yield many other good species such as Slaty-backed & Inland Thornbills, Banded Whiteface, Bourke's Parrot, Redthroat, Western Bowerbird, Little Woodswallow and more. After a full day's birding (with picnic lunch taken in the field), we'll return to Mt Magnet for a well-deserved dinner. Accommodation: **Outback Gold, Mt Magnet** (en-suite cabin) Meals: B, L, D.

Day 6: 10 June '24. Further inland

This morning is a back-up for any species we still need, or want better views of. Later in the morning we pack up and bird our way to Nallan Station, just an hour's drive up the road. This 99,000 ha working pastoral station is set up for birders. Bird life is abundant on the property. Exploring the many tracks through the mulga, mallee, and along waterways, we look for Pink Cockatoo, Banded Whiteface, Bourke's Parrot and many other good species. At night, the stars are amazing. Accommodation: **Nallan Station, Cue** (private rooms with shared facilities) Meals: B, L, D.

Day 7: 11 June '24. Further inland

The morning is spent birding on Nallan Station and then we head north to Newman, birding along the way, with more chances of the previously mentioned species. Lunch is taken in one of the many small roadside venues along the way. After arriving at Newman, we check into our very comfortable lodgings here, have a short break and head out in search of what should be one of the highlights of the trip: Pilbara Grasswren – a subspecies of Rufous Grasswren and potential future split. Accommodation: **Seasons Hotel, Newman** (en-suite hotel room) Meals: B, L, D.



Slaty-backed Thornbill, Black-breasted Buzzard, Spinifex Pigeon, Western Grasswren (c) Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours

Day 8: 12 June '24. Pilbara

Today we have a full day in the Pilbara around Newman area. Vast spinifex plains are interspersed with mulga woodlands and rocky outcrops, criss-crossed by seasonal, eucalypt-lined waterways. Today's main target is the elusive Grey Honeyeater for which we have a number of good locations. If needed there is also the opportunity to revisit the Pilbara Grasswren in the spinifex-covered hills just outside the town. Other birds we may see today include Spinifex Pigeon, Rufous-crowned Emuwren, Spinifexbird, Cockatiel, Budgerigar, Western Gerygone, Spinifexbird while we also stand a chance of finding the localised *welsi* race of Black-tailed Treecreeper, Painted Finch, Grey-headed Honeyeater and Slaty-backed Thornbill. Accommodation: **Seasons Hotel, Newman** (en-suite hotel room) Meals: B, L, D.

Day 9: 13 June '24. Departure

This last morning of the trip is spent picking up any birds we still need, or want better views of. After an early lunch we'll finalise the checklist and drop you off at the airport for your flight home. There are multiple flights per day from Newman to Perth and onwards. Or why not join our Kimberley tour, starting 15 June? Instant return-client discount applies, details on our website. Feel free to contact us to discuss this option.

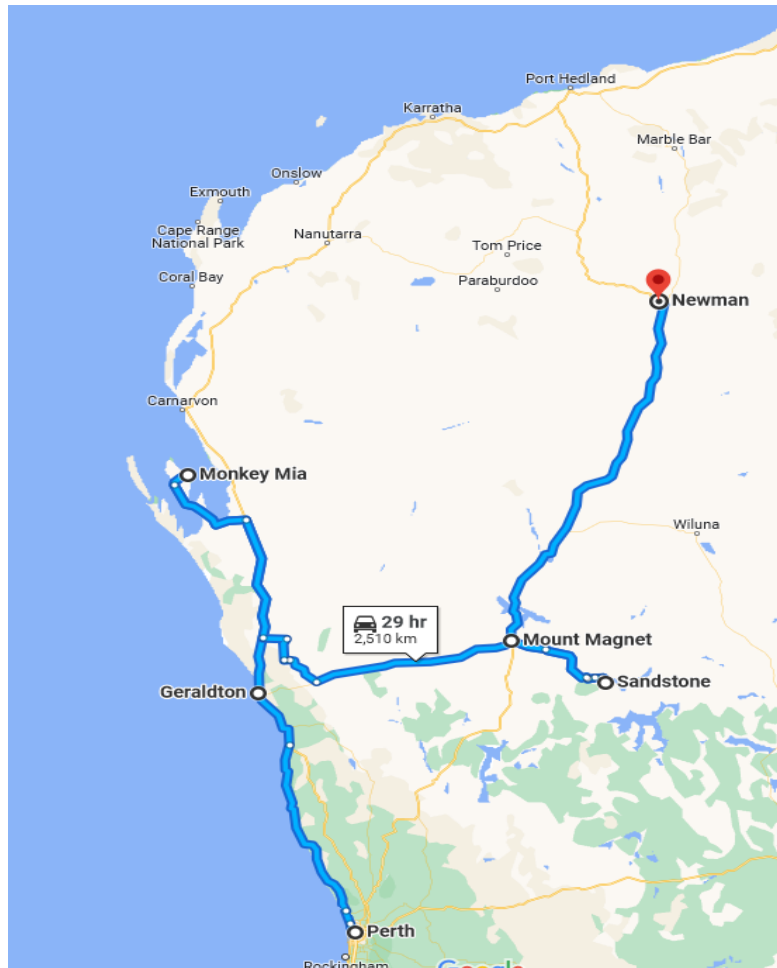
Meals: B, L.

End of tour



Dolphins at Monkey Mia, Stromatolites, Pilbara sunrise, Little Button-quail, Painted Finch © Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours. Left: Sandhill Grasswrens © Charuka Abhayawickrama

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Important information for your tour:

Getting there & away:

On 5 June '24, you'll need to make your own way (own cost) to the meeting point at Kings Park Botanical Gardens Café in Perth, WA, where we will meet for lunch (included) and introductions, at 11:30am. On 13 June you can depart from Newman, WA (own cost) from 11:30am onwards.

Currency: The tour price is in Australian dollars.

Pre- and post-tour options:

If you wish to arrive earlier, please make your own way to our meeting point on Day 1, in time for lunch and introductions. We can book you into our hotel for any number of nights leading up to, or after, the tour: please enquire. Or why not join our Kimberley tour, starting 15 June? Instant return-client discount applies, details on our website. Feel free to contact us to discuss this option.

Price inclusions and exclusions:

Included: All meals commencing with Lunch on Day 1 and finishing with Breakfast on Day 8, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms or cabins where possible, as indicated on the itinerary, transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, expert Australian guiding, any entry fees during the tour, taxes.

Excluded: Travel to the meeting point; onward travel arrangements, pre- & post trip accommodation, meals before the first lunch, and after the last breakfast, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance, visa / passport fees, anything else not specifically included.

Bookings: Please book at: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> - see the last few pages 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.

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Possible species list

Emu	Eastern Reef Egret	Grey Plover
Brown Quail	Nankeen Night-Heron	Pacific Golden Plover
Stubble Quail	Glossy Ibis	Black-fronted Dotterel
Plumed Wistling-duck	Australian White Ibis	Red-kneed Dotterel
Musk Duck	Straw-necked Ibis	Banded Lapwing
Black Swan	Royal Spoonbill	Masked Lapwing
Australian Shelduck	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Common Sandpiper
Australian Wood Duck	Black-shouldered Kite	Wood Sandpiper
Pink-eared Duck	Whistling Kite	Curlew Sandpiper
Australasian Shoveler	Black Kite	Marsh Sandpiper
Grey Teal	Brahminy Kite	Common Greenshank
Chestnut Teal	Square-tailed Kite	Ruddy Turnstone
Pacific Black Duck	Black-breasted Buzzard	Red-necked Stint
Hardhead	Brown Goshawk	Sanderling
Australasian Grebe	Grey Goshawk	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Hoary-headed Grebe	Collared Sparrowhawk	Great Knot
Great Crested Grebe	Pacific Baza	Red Knot
Rock Dove	Spotted Harrier	Grey-tailed Tattler
Spotted Dove	Swamp Harrier	Little Button-quail
Common Bronzewing	Osprey	Australian Pratincole
Spinifex Pigeon	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Crested Tern
Crested Pigeon	Little Eagle	Lesser Crested Tern
Laughing Dove	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Bridled Tern
Diamond Dove	Brolga	Gull-billed Tern
Peaceful Dove	Purple Swampphen	Caspian Tern
Bar-shouldered Dove	Australian Spotted Crake	Whiskered Tern
Crested Pigeon	Spotless Crake	Silver Gull
Tawny Frogmouth	Buff-banded Rail	Nankeen Kestrel
Spotted Nightjar	Black-tailed Native-hen	Brown Falcon
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Dusky Moorhen	Australian Hobby
Australasian Darter	Eurasian Coot	Grey Falcon
Little Pied Cormorant	Australian Bustard	Black Falcon
Great Cormorant	Pied Oystercatcher	Peregrine Falcon
Little Black Cormorant	Sooty Oystercatcher	Galah
Pied Cormorant	Bush Stone-curlew	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
Australian Pelican	Eastern Curlew	Long-billed Corella
Great Egret	Whimbrel	Western Corella
Intermediate Egret	Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Corella
Cattle Egret	Black-tailed Godwit	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
White-necked Heron	Black-winged Stilt	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
White-faced Heron	Red-necked Avocet	Cockatiel
Striated Heron	Banded Stilt	Rainbow Lorikeet
Little Egret	Red-capped Plover	Purple-crowned Lorikeet

Kimberley specials & black grasswren tour

Possible species list

Aust. Ringneck
 Short-billed Black Cockatoo
 Mulga Parrot
 Budgerigar
 Bourke's Parrot
 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
 Fan-tailed Cuckoo
 Pallid Cuckoo
 Black-eared Cuckoo
 Southern Boobook
 Eastern Barn Owl
 Barking Owl
 Laughing Kookaburra
 Blue-winged Kookaburra
 Red-backed Kingfisher
 Collared Kingfisher
 Sacred Kingfisher
 Rainbow Bee-eater
 Western Bowerbird
 Great Bowerbird
 Rufous Treecreeper
 Black-tailed Treecreeper
 Splendid Fairy-wren
 White-winged Fairy-wren
 Purple-backed Fairy-wren
 Red-backed Fairy-wren
 Blue-breasted Fairywren
 Rufous-crowned Emu-wren
 Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren
 Rufous (Pilbara) Grasswren
 Western Grasswren
 White-browed Scrubwren
 Rufous Fieldwren
 Weebill
 Western Gerygone
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill
 Slaty-backed Thornbill
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
 Inland Thornbill
 Southern Whiteface
 Banded Whiteface

Spotted Pardalote
 Red-browed Pardalote
 Striated Pardalote
 Pied Honeyeater
 Singing Honeyeater
 Grey-headed Honeyeater
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
 White-plumed Honeyeater
 White-fronted Honeyeater
 Grey Honeyeater
 Little Friarbird
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
 White-fronted Honeyeater
 White-eared Honeyeater
 Yellow-throated Miner
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
 Red Wattlebird
 Western Wattlebird
 White-cheeked Honeyeater
 Western Spinebill
 Crimson Chat
 Orange Chat
 White-fronted Chat
 Black Honeyeater
 Brown Honeyeater
 Black-chinned Honeyeater
 Brown-headed Honeyeater
 White-browed Babbler
 Grey-crowned Babbler
 Western Quail-thrush
 Copperback Quail-thrush
 Chiming Wedgebill
 Varied Sittella
 Ground Cuckoo-shrike
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 White-winged Triller
 Western Whistler
 Gilbert's Whistler
 Rufous Whistler
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Crested Bellbird

White-breasted Woodswallow
 Masked Woodswallow
 White-browed Woodswallow
 Black-faced Woodswallow
 Little Woodswallow
 Dusky Woodswallow
 Grey Butcherbird
 Pied Butcherbird
 Grey Currawong
 Australian Magpie
 Grey Fantail
 Willie Wagtail
 Australian Raven
 Little Crow
 Torresian Crow
 Restless Flycatcher
 Magpie-lark
 White-winged Chough
 Jacky Winter
 Hooded Robin
 Western Yellow Robin
 Horsfield's Bushlark
 Australian Reed-Warbler
 Little Grassbird
 Rufous Songlark
 Brown Songlark
 Spinifexbird
 Silvereye
 White-backed Swallow
 Welcome Swallow
 Fairy Martin
 Tree Martin
 Mistletoebird
 Zebra Finch
 Painted Finch
 Star Finch
 Australasian Pipit

How 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://www.bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/) page (<https://www.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/>.