



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

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Red Centre Adventure 5 day birding tour 17-23 July 2024



The Red Centre around Alice Springs is host to a variety of exciting bird species. Using Alice Springs as a base, this comfortable 5-day tour takes daily trips out to different areas targeting enigmatic birds such as Dusky Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Spinifexbird, Grey Honeyeater, Western Bowerbird, Painted Finch and maybe even Grey Falcon...! This is an all-inclusive, fully guided tour, departing from Alice Springs and finishing

in Yulara (Uluru). The Red Centre Adventure visits the Eastern and Western MacDonnell Ranges, the sewage works, the Old Telegraph Station, the Tanami Road, Kunoth Bore and the Deep Well Road, and then ventures into the outback to visit the scenic Kings Canyon and Australia's most famous rock: Uluru (Ayers Rock), while looking for other good birds including the rare Sandhill Grasswren. Read on for further details!

Tour starts: Alice Springs, NT

Tour finishes: Yulara or Alice Springs, NT

Scheduled departure & return dates:

• 17 - 23 July 2024

Price: AU\$5,499 per person all-inclusive.

Leader: Michael Greenshields/David Kowalic

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

"Michael was an excellent guide and worked very hard for us, he managed to squeeze as many birds as possible out of the tour!" Richard, UK



Tour starts Alice Springs, NT **& finishes:** Yulara/Uluru, NT or Alice Springs, NT

Scheduled departure and return dates:

Tour commences with dinner on 17 July 2024. *Why not join our preceding Chestnut-breasted Whiteface tour arriving in Alice Springs on 17 July?* Please arrive in Alice Springs on or before 17 July. Tour finishes afternoon of 23 July 2024. Please depart Yulara airport on 23 July or hitch a ride with our guide back to Alice Springs that same afternoon. See itinerary on next pages for further details. *Or join a 2-day land transfer to Mount Isa, Qld to join our following Savannah to Tropics or Nine Grasswren birding tours commencing the evening of 25 July. Instant discount if you book a 2nd trip.*

Leader: David Kowalick or Michael Greenshields, our dedicated Alice Springs bird and wildlife experts.

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 uneven, rocky walking trails. 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.

Group size: Minimum 4, maximum 8 participants.

Cost: AU\$5,499 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on twin-share room occupancy. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expense. Return-client discount may apply. \$99 earlybird discount applies to bookings received ≥ 12 months in advance. Single supp.: AU\$790.

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

ITINERARY

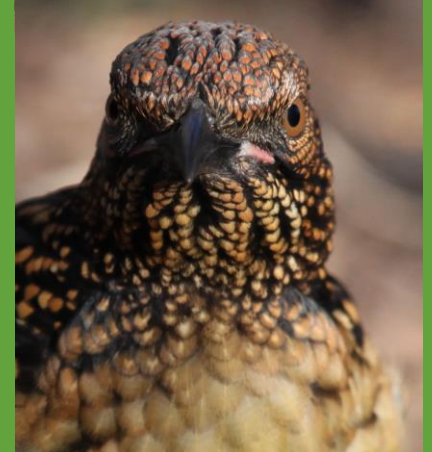
Red Centre Adventure 2024 - I

Day 0: 17 July '24. Arrive in Alice Springs today and make your own way to our hotel. Why not join our preceding Chestnut-breasted Whiteface outback tour which finishes in Alice on 17 July? Either way, we'll all meet up for introductions and dinner this evening. Overnight **Mercure Springs Resort, Alice Springs** (motel with en-suite rooms, meals included: D).

Day 1: 18 July '24. We'll head into the Eastern MacDonnell Ranges for our best chance at some of the tricky species. Prime targets are the tiny Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, the elusive Dusky Grasswren, the pleasantly sounding Chiming Wedgebill, Spinifexbird, Crimson Chat, and Painted Finch. We'll return to Alice Springs to have lunch in the famous Olive Pink Botanic Garden, with its resident Grey-crowned Babbblers, Western Bowerbirds and many honeyeaters. A short walk here should also yield Black-footed Rock Wallabies. Afterwards we head to a 'mulga' (acacia) scrubland where we'll spend the afternoon looking for Black-breasted Buzzard, Slaty-backed, Chestnut-rumped and Inland Thornbills, Western Gerygone, Hooded Robin and Diamond Dove. We will stake out a waterhole waiting for birds to come and drink on sunset. Here we should see Australian Ringneck, Mulga Parrot, Common Bronzewing, Brown Goshawk, Red-capped Robin, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and if we're lucky, Budgerigars and Bourke's Parrot. Overnight **Mercure Springs Resort, Alice Springs** (motel with en-suite rooms, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 2: 19 July '24. Before we begin our drive towards Kings Canyon we'll look for much-sought-after Grey Honeyeater and the gorgeous diminutive Red-browed Pardalote. We should also see both Purple-backed and Splendid Fairy-wren. Heading towards Kings Canyon we'll stop a few times to search the road-sides for speciality species including Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Southern and Banded Whiteface, Orange Chat and if the season is right, Inland Dotterel. After lunch in the geographical centre of Australia we head west towards our final destination for today. Upon arriving at Kings Canyon we'll do a bit of birding in the grounds of our accommodation before dinner. After dark we are likely to see wild dingos scavenging for food on the short drive to our rooms. Overnight **Kings Creek Station** (comfortable private glamping tents with en-suite & a/c, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 3: 20 July '24. Today we spend our morning at the spectacular Kings Canyon. After a scrumptious buffet breakfast, we'll take a short drive to the base of the canyon. Our first walk for the way will be suitable for most fitness levels and will be spent looking for Grey-headed Honeyeater, Painted Finch, Dusky Grasswren and Mistletoebird. For those who like to, there will be the chance to do the Rim Walk, a 6km hike around the top of Kings Canyon. For others there are a number of short walks and waterholes at the base of the canyon where plenty of birds can be seen coming in to drink throughout the morning. We'll



Rufous-crowned Emu-wren © G Jones
Sandhill Grasswren © J Weigel
Western Bowerbird © C Watson

Red Centre Adventure 2024 - I

then head back to the resort for lunch before heading out onto the start of the Mereenie Loop Road for part of the afternoon, where we might be lucky enough to see a herd or two of wild camels roaming. Birds we will be looking for include Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Spinifex Pigeon, Masked Woodswallow, Crested Bellbird, Wedge-tailed Eagle and if we are really lucky this is also an area that Princess Parrots have been seen on very rare occasions. Overnight: **Kings Creek Station** (comfortable private glamping tents with en-suite & a/c, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 4: 21 July '24. A somewhat longer drive this morning to Uluru (Ayers Rock) with plenty of opportunities to stop for short birding walks. After lunch near our accommodation we'll head to the spectacular outback icon, Uluru and spend the afternoon there exploring the many trails, waterholes, grassland and mulga scrub around the rock. We'll keep an eye out for Grey-fronted & White-fronted Honeyeater, Little and Black-faced Woodswallow, Black-eared Cuckoo, Black-breasted Buzzard, White-winged Fairywren and Cockatiel. There will be an opportunity to visit the Cultural Centre highlighting information about the indigenous culture, bush tucker and geography, as well as being a great place to purchase any local souvenirs. Late in the afternoon we will take a short walk to the small but productive sewage ponds where besides the many thousands of Zebra Finch we should also see a selection of waterfowl, Major Mitchell Cockatoo as well as Australian Hobby. For those interested there will be the option for a spotlighting walk amongst the sand dunes after dinner. Overnight: **Outback Pioneer Hotel**, Yulara (hotel with en-suite rooms, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 5: 22 July '24. Up early before breakfast for a chance at seeing the elusive Sandhill Grasswren in the sand dunes behind our accommodation. We should also see Budgerigar, Black-faced Woodswallow, Chiming Wedgebill and Black-breasted Buzzard. After breakfast, we will make the 50km drive to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), another spectacular outback geological formation where we will spend the morning exploring various walks and roadside locations. We expect to find Redthroat, Peregrine Falcon, Pied Butcherbird, Peaceful and Diamond Dove, Painted Finch, Little Crow and Rufous Whistler. We'll arrive back at the resort for a late lunch and will have the afternoon set aside to specifically target any species we might have missed on the trip so far or to go back and spend some more time exploring Uluru. Overnight: **Outback Pioneer Hotel**, Yulara (hotel with en-suite rooms, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 6: 23 July '24. This morning we will visit a small wetland that few people know of, where we will be looking for Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby, Spotted Harrier, Black-breasted Buzzard, Little Corella, Pied Stilt, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel. The tour ends this morning where your guide will drop you off at the airport for your flight home. Or you can travel back to Alice Springs with your guide. Meals: B. TOUR ENDS



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo © C Watson

Grey Falcon © C Watson

Painted Finch © G Jones

Red Centre Adventure 2024 - I

Pre- and post-tour options:

Why not join our preceding Chestnut-breasted Whiteface tour arriving in Alice Springs on 17 July? Or join a 2-day land transfer from Alice Springs to Mount Isa, Qld to join our following Savannah to Tropics or Nine Grasswren birding tours commencing the evening of 25 July. An instant discount is available if you book a second tour. Please contact us if interested.

If you wish to extend your stay before the tour starts, or after the tour finishes, and you'd like us to book you into the same hotel we're using for the tour, please indicate this on the booking form.

Price inclusions and exlusions:

Included: All meals commencing with Dinner on Day 0 and finishing with Breakfast on Day 6 (morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms the nights of Days 0-5. 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, after breakfast on Day 6, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

Bookings: Online at <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> - see the last page of this brochure. We can also arrange your pre- and post tour accommodation: please contact us for details.

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 adjusted in the event of significant cost increases in ground arrangements. See the terms and conditions posted on our website.



Left: Grey Honeyeater © P Waanders. Top-bottom: Dusky Grasswren © C Watson
Pt Lincoln Ringneck, Red-browed Pardalote © P Waanders

Red Centre Adventure 2024 - I

Possible species list

Emu
 Plumed Wistling-duck
 Freckled Duck
 Black Swan
 Australian Wood Duck
 Pink-eared Duck
 Grey Teal
 Chestnut Teal
 Pacific Black Duck
 Australasian Shoveler
 Hardhead
 Brown Quail
 Stubble Quail
 Australasian Grebe
 Hoary-headed Grebe
 Great Crested Grebe
 Glossy Ibis
 Australian White Ibis
 Straw-necked Ibis
 Royal Spoonbill
 Yellow-billed Spoonbill
 Great Egret
 Intermediate Egret
 Eastern Cattle Egret
 White-necked Heron
 White-faced Heron
 Nankeen Night-Heron
 Australian Pelican
 Little Pied Cormorant
 Great Cormorant
 Little Black Cormorant
 Pied Cormorant
 Australasian Darter
 Black-shouldered Kite
 Letter-winged Kite
 Whistling Kite
 Black Kite
 Black-breasted Buzzard
 Brown Goshawk
 Collared Sparrowhawk
 Spotted Harrier

Swamp Harrier
 Wedge-tailed Eagle
 Little Eagle
 Australian Bustard
 Purple Swampphen
 Baillon's Crake
 Australian (Spotted) Crake
 Spotless Crake
 Buff-banded Rail
 Black-tailed Native-hen
 Dusky Moorhen
 Eurasian Coot
 Brolga
 Little Button-quail
 Red-chested Button-quail
 Bush Stone-curlew
 Black-winged Stilt
 Red-necked Avocet
 Banded Stilt
 Red-capped Plover
 Inland Dotterel
 Black-fronted Dotterel
 Red-kneed Dotterel
 Banded Lapwing
 Masked Lapwing
 Common Sandpiper
 Wood Sandpiper
 Common Greenshank
 Red-necked Stint
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
 Australian Pratincole
 Gull-billed Tern
 Caspian Tern
 White-winged Tern
 Whiskered Tern
 Silver Gull
 Spotted Dove¹
 Common Bronzewing
 Flock Bronzewing
 Spinifex Pigeon
 Crested Pigeon

Diamond Dove
 Peaceful Dove
 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
 Black-eared Cuckoo
 Pallid Cuckoo
 Eastern Barn Owl
 Southern Boobook
 Tawny Frogmouth
 Spotted Nightjar
 Australian Owlet-nightjar
 Pacific Swift
 Red-backed Kingfisher
 Sacred Kingfisher
 Rainbow Bee-eater
 Nankeen Kestrel
 Brown Falcon
 Australian Hobby
 Grey Falcon
 Black Falcon
 Peregrine Falcon
 Galah
 Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
 Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
 Little Corella
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
 Cockatiel
 Rainbow Lorikeet
 Australian (Pt Lincoln)
 Ringneck
 Mulga Parrot
 Budgerigar
 Bourke's Parrot
 Western Bowerbird
 White-browed Treecreeper
 Splendid Fairy-wren
 White-winged Fairy-wren
 Variegated Fairy-wren
 Rufous-crowned Emu-wren
 Dusky Grasswren
 Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren
 Pied Honeyeater
 Singing Honeyeater

Red Centre Adventure - II

Possible species list

Grey-headed Honeyeater
Grey-fronted Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater
White-fronted Honeyeater
Yellow-throated Miner
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Grey Honeyeater
Crimson Chat
Orange Chat
Black Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
Black-chinned Honeyeater
Red-browed Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Redthroat
Weebill
Western Gerygone
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Slaty-backed Thornbill
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
Inland Thornbill
Southern Whiteface

Banded Whiteface
White-browed Babbler
Grey-crowned Babbler
Cinnamon Quail-thrush
Chiming Wedgebill
Grey Butcherbird
Pied Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
White-breasted
Woodswallow
Masked Woodswallow
White-browed Woodswallow
Black-faced Woodswallow
Little Woodswallow
Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-winged Triller
Varied Sittella
Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush

Crested Bellbird
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Magpie-lark
Little Crow
Torresian Crow
Jacky Winter
Red-capped Robin
Hooded Robin
Horsfield's Bushlark
White-backed Swallow
Welcome Swallow
Fairy Martin
Tree Martin
Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Grassbird
Rufous Songlark
Brown Songlark
Spinifexbird
Mistletoebird
Zebra Finch
Painted Finch
Australasian Pipit

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/>.