



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

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Red Centre Adventure 5 day birding tour 10-16 Sep 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:

• 10 - 16 Sep 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 10 Sep 2024. *Why not join our preceding Best of Top End tour finishing in Darwin on 9 Sep, from where it's a short flight to 'the Alice'?* Please arrive in Alice Springs on or before 10 Sep. Tour finishes afternoon of 16 Sep 2024. Please depart Yulara airport on 16 Sep 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 Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite birding tour commencing 19 Sep. 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

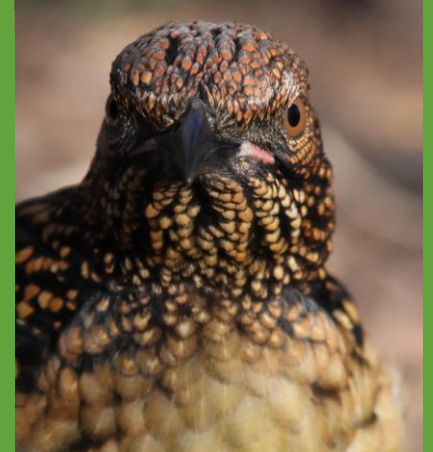
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Day 0: 10 Sep '24. Arrive in Alice Springs today and make your own way to our hotel. Why not join our preceding Best of Top End tour finishing in Darwin on 9 Sep, from where it's a short flight to 'the Alice'? July? Either way, we'll all meet up for introductions and dinner this evening. Overnight **Mercure Springs Resort, Alice Springs** (motel with en-suite rooms, meals included: D).

Day 1: 11 Sep '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: 12 Sep '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: 13 Sep '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

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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: 14 Sep '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: **Uluru Resort**, Yulara (hotel with en-suite rooms, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 5: 15 Sep '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 will 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: **Uluru Resort**, Yulara (hotel with en-suite rooms, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 6: 16 Sep '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

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Pre- and post-tour options:

Why not join our preceding Best of Top End tour finishing in Darwin on 9 Sep, from where it's a short flight to 'the Alice'? Or on 17 Sep, join a 2-day land transfer from Alice Springs to Mount Isa, Qld to join our following Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite birding tour commencing the 19th Sep. 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 subject to adjustment 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

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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

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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/>.