



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd

Australia-wide: Berri, SA –

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Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite 6-day birding tour

19 -25 September 2024



Grey Falcon and Letter-winged Kite are amongst Australia's most sought-after raptors. During our many outback birding tours we've located these species reliably enough to be able to offer this special tour. We should have multiple sightings of both species. This is a reasonably fast-paced trip deep into the outback, with early departures and late finishes each day, while covering over 2500 km in 6 days. We'll look for other good outback species as well, including Black Falcon, Black-breasted

Buzzard, Inland Dotterel, Flock Bronzewing, Australian Pratincole, Eyrean Grasswren, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Gibberbird, Orange and Crimson Chat, Painted Finch, Banded Whiteface, Honeyeaters including Pied and Grey-fronted; and witness spectacular outback desert scenery along with the famous rock formations of the Flinders Ranges. After good rainfalls it's shaping up to be an excellent year for outback birding - don't miss out!

Tour starts: Mt Isa, Qld. **Finishes:** Adelaide, SA

Scheduled departure & return dates:

- 19-25 Sep 2024
- Any other time as a private tour

Price: AU\$4,999 all-inclusive (discounts available).

Leader: Peter Waanders or Michael Greenshields

Trip reports and photos of previous tours:

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

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:

- Freecall 1800-BIRDING
- Email: birds@bellbirdtours.com

READ ON FOR:

- Further tour details
- Daily itinerary
- Booking information

Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite 7-day birding tour



Tour details

Tour starts: Mount Isa, Qld **Tour finishes:** Adelaide, SA

Scheduled departure and return dates:

Tour commences after breakfast on 19 Sep 2024. Please arrive in Mt Isa on or before 18 Sep 2024. Tour finishes morning of 25 Sep 2024. Please depart on or after 25 Sep 2024 – please don't book domestic flights departing before 15:30 that day. Itinerary contains further details.

Leader: Peter Waanders and/or Michael Greenshields.

Difficulty: ~~Low~~/Medium/High/~~Excellent~~ level of fitness required. Tour covers over 2,500 km in 6 days so has a reasonably fast pace. Includes 600 km on bumpy outback dirt roads. Walks are on varying surfaces, from paved roads to uneven, gravelly trails with some short climbs and off-track walking involves stony plains and soft sand dunes. 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 visitor, insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, travel umbrella, 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 rain-proof jacket. Neat casual attire for dinners. Shorts and sandals or thongs (flip-flops) are acceptable for non-birding time.

Group size: Minimum 4, maximum 8 participants.

Cost: AU\$4,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of \$590. 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 <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> - see details on the last page.

Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite 7-day birding tour

ITINERARY

Day 1: 19 Sep '24. Pick-up from your hotel (own arrangements) in Mt Isa. Travel south, birding for Kalkadoon Grasswren, Painted Finch, Spinifexbird, as the landscape changes from vegetated, grassy hills and woodlands to bare gibber plains. Overnight **Desert Sands Motel, Boulia** (private en-suite rooms; meals included: L, D)

Day 2: 20 Sep '24. Our first chance of breeding or roosting Letter-winged Kites today. Other possibilities include Australian Pratincole, Flock Bronzewing, Spinifex Pigeon and Gibberbird. Overnight in the remote **Birdsville Hotel** (private en-suite motel rooms; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 3: 21 Sep '24. We have good further chances of Letter-winged Kite this morning while we move south in search of our next main target, the enigmatic Grey Falcon. Other species we may encounter here are Pied and Black Honeyeater, Eyrean Grasswren, Gibberbird, Flock Bronzewing and more. Overnight **Mungerannie Pub** (basic, clean rooms with shared facilities; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 4: 22 Sep '24. A big day as we bird the Birdsville track for Banded Whiteface, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Chirruping Wedgebill, Gibberbird and Rufous Fieldwren. We stand a good chance of finding other sought-after species here such as Orange and Crimson Chat, Black-breasted Buzzard and many more. But of course the main target today is Grey Falcon, of which there are usually one or two breeding pairs each year. Overnight **Mungerannie Pub** (basic, clean rooms with shared facilities; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 5: 23 Sep '24. We depart around sunrise to search for any species still needed. Afterwards we continue deeper into the outback, where the tracks traverse endless open stony plains interspersed with mostly dry watercourses. We look for Black Falcon, Budgerigar, Red-backed Kingfisher, and have a good chance of Inland Dotterel. The sand dunes harbour Eyrean Grasswren. Not far from here an artesian bore-fed wetland usually holds Brolga and a raft of waterbirds, including cranes – in amidst desert-like scenery. We have further chances of Grey Falcons today. **Lyndhurst Hotel** (private en-suite cabins). Meals included: B, L, D.

Day 6: 24 Sep '24. After a morning bird walk (chance of Thick-billed Grasswren, Black-breasted Buzzard, Rufous Fieldwren) we head south along the edge of the Flinders Ranges. Possible species along the way including Elegant Parrot, Redthroat, Banded Stilt, Chirruping Wedgebill and others. Overnight **Standpipe Motel, Pt Augusta** (en-suite rooms, meals included: B, L, D).



Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, Inland Dotterel, Letter-winged Kite, Gibberbird © Peter Waanders

Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite 7-day birding tour

Day 7: 25 Sept '24. We'll do some early birding in the Arid Lands Botanical Gardens before heading to Adelaide. Tour finishes after lunch. Please book flights departing 15:30 or later. The elusive Slender-billed Thornbill beckons, as do a variety of parrots, honeyeaters and there's a chance of Black Falcon. Meals incl.: B, L. TOUR ENDS

Getting there & away:

On the day before departure you'll need to make your own way to Mt Isa, Qld (with many daily flights on Qantas, Virgin and Rex from Brisbane) and overnight in a hotel there. We'll pick you up early the next morning. On the last day you will be dropped off at the airport in Adelaide. It is advisable not to book flights departing before 15:30 that afternoon.

Pre- and post tour options:

If you wish to stay an extra night before the tour starts or after it finishes, we can book you into a hotel, please indicate this on the booking form.

Price inclusions and exclusions:

Included: All meals commencing with Lunch on Day 1, finishing with Lunch on Day 7, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms, although on some nights only basic rooms with shared facilities are available. Transport using comfortable and reliable 4WD vehicle, expert guiding, any entry fees, taxes.

Excluded: Travel to & from departure and finish points, Pre- & post trip accommodation, any meals before Lunch on Day 1, Dinner on Day 7, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

Bookings: Please book online: <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> or complete the booking form in the back of this brochure.

Reports of previous tours:

Reports of previous tours can be found here:
<http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports/>

Contacts:

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd, PO Box 2008, Berri SA 5343, Australia
phone +61409 763172 freecall 1800-BIRDING (from Australian landlines only)
web www.bellbirdtours.com email birds@bellbirdtours.com

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.



Grey Falcon (top: © Chris Watson,
bottom: © Peter Waanders)

Possible bird list

Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite 7-day birding tour

Emu
 Plumed Wistling-duck
 Freckled Duck
 Musk Duck
 Blue-billed Duck
 Black Swan
 Australian Shelduck
 Australian Wood Duck
 Pink-eared Duck
 Australasian Shoveler
 Grey Teal
 Chestnut Teal
 Northern Mallard¹
 Pacific Black Duck
 Hardhead
 Malleefowl
 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
 Cattle Egret
 White-necked Heron
 White-faced Heron
 Little Egret
 Nankeen Night-Heron
 Australian Pelican
 Little Pied Cormorant
 Great Cormorant
 Little Black Cormorant
 Pied Cormorant
 Black-faced 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
 Australian Swampphen
 Baillon's Crake
 Australian Spotted Crake
 Spotless Crake
 Buff-banded Rail
 Black-tailed Native-hen
 Dusky Moorhen
 Eurasian Coot
 Brolga
 Little Button-quail
 Australian Pied
 Oystercatcher
 Sooty Oystercatcher
 Black-winged Stilt
 Red-necked Avocet
 Banded Stilt
 Red-capped Plover
 Inland Dotterel
 Black-fronted Dotterel
 Red-kneed Dotterel
 Oriental Plover
 Banded Lapwing
 Masked Lapwing
 Common Sandpiper
 Wood Sandpiper
 Common Greenshank
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Red-necked Stint
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
 Australian Pratincole
 Crested Tern
 Gull-billed Tern
 Caspian Tern
 Whiskered Tern
 White-winged Black Tern
 Silver Gull
 Rock Dove¹
 Barbary Dove¹

Spotted Dove¹
 Common Bronzewing
 Flock Bronzewing
 Crested Pigeon
 Diamond Dove
 Peaceful Dove
 Spinifex Pigeon
 Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo
 Pallid Cuckoo
 Fan-tailed Cuckoo
 Eastern Barn Owl
 Southern Boobook
 Tawny Frogmouth
 Spotted Nightjar
 Australian Owlet-nightjar
 White-throated Needletail
 Fork-tailed Swift
 Laughing Kookaburra
 Red-backed Kingfisher
 Sacred Kingfisher
 Rainbow Bee-eater
 Nankeen Kestrel
 Brown Falcon
 Australian Hobby
 Grey Falcon
 Black Falcon
 Peregrine Falcon
 Galah
 Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
 Long-billed Corella
 Little Corella
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
 Cockatiel
 Rainbow Lorikeet
 Musk Lorikeet
 Purple-crowned Lorikeet
 Varied Lorikeet
 Eastern Rosella
 Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella
 Crimson (Yellow) Rosella
 Australian (Pt Lincoln)
 Ringneck
 Australian (Mallee) Ringneck
 Blue Bonnet (yellow-vented)
 Blue Bonnet (pale form)
 Red-rumped Parrot

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Mulga Parrot
 Budgerigar
 Bourke's Parrot
 Elegant Parrot
 Black-throated Treecreeper
 White-browed Treecreeper
 Brown Treecreeper
 Superb Fairy-wren
 Splendid Fairy-wren
 White-winged Fairy-wren
 Variegated Fairy-wren
 Kalkadoon Grasswren
 Thick-billed Grasswren
 Western Grasswren
 Eyrean Grasswren
 Pied Honeyeater
 Singing Honeyeater
 Grey-headed Honeyeater
 White-eared Honeyeater
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater
 White-plumed Honeyeater
 White-fronted Honeyeater
 Noisy Miner
 Yellow-throated Miner
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
 Red Wattlebird
 Little Wattlebird
 Striped Honeyeater
 Crimson Chat
 Orange Chat
 White-fronted Chat
 Gibberbird
 Brown Honeyeater
 Black Honeyeater
 New Holland Honeyeater
 Brown-headed Honeyeater
 Spotted Pardalote
 Red-browed Pardalote
 Striated Pardalote
 White-browed Scrubwren
 Shy Heathwren
 Rufous Fieldwren
 Redthroat Weebill
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill

Slender-billed Thornbill
 Buff-rumped Thornbill
 Inland Thornbill
 Southern Whiteface
 Banded Whiteface
 White-browed Babbler
 Chestnut-crowned Babbler
 Cinnamon Quail-thrush
 Chirruping Wedgebill
 Grey Butcherbird
 Pied Butcherbird
 Australian Magpie
 Grey Currawong
 White-breasted
 Woodswallow
 Masked Woodswallow
 White-browed Woodswallow
 Black-faced Woodswallow
 Dusky Woodswallow
 Little Woodswallow
 Ground Cuckoo-shrike
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 White-winged Triller
 Varied Sittella
 Gilbert's Whistler
 Rufous Whistler
 Golden Whistler
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Crested Bellbird
 Grey Fantail
 Willie Wagtail
 Restless Flycatcher
 Paperbark Flycatcher
 Magpie-lark
 Australian Raven
 Little Raven
 Little Crow
 White-winged Chough
 Apostlebird
 Jacky Winter
 Red-capped Robin
 Hooded Robin
 Southern Scrub-robin
 Horsfield's Bushlark
 Eurasian Skylark¹

White-backed Swallow
 Welcome Swallow
 Fairy Martin
 Tree Martin
 Australian Reed-Warbler
 Little Grassbird
 Rufous Songlark
 Brown Songlark
 Spinifexbird
 Silvereye
 Common Starling¹
 Common Blackbird¹
 Mistletoebird
 House Sparrow¹
 Zebra Finch
 Pictorella Mannikin
 Long-tailed Finch
 Painted Finch
 Red-browed Finch
 Australasian Pipit
 European Goldfinch¹



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ABN 40 159 352 002

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/>.