



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd

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Kimberley Specials & Black Grasswren *birding tour* 20-28 Aug 2025



The Western Australian Kimberley region is home to a great variety of special birds. Join us on this exciting tour through this under-explored region. Starting the tour in the pearl of the north-west: Broome, where we can't miss a visit to the world-renowned Bird Observatory. Here local endemics and a vast array of waders and shorebirds await us. We make our way through the Kimberley, travelling the famous Gibb River road in comfortable 4WD vehicles. We take a scenic flight to Mitchell Plateau where the elusive Black Grasswren awaits us. Join us from Broome to Kununurra on a once-in-a-lifetime tour which is bound to boost your species list significantly. Expect to see up to 200 species, including Black Grasswren, White-browed Cuckoo, Spinifex, Partridge & Chestnut-quilled Rock-pigeon, Buff-sided Robin, Red-headed, Yellow-tinted & Kimberley Honeyeater, Dusky & Mangrove Gerygone, Yellow Chat, White-breasted & Mangrove Golden Whistler, Broad-billed Flycatcher, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Canary White-eye and many more. We'll finish at the waterways and wetlands near Kununurra. During this tour we'll take our time to explore the many fantastic habitats and landscapes of the remote, unspoiled Kimberley region. 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. Spaces are limited so don't wait to book this exciting tour!

Tour starts: Broome, WA

Tour finishes: Kununurra, WA

Scheduled departure & return dates:

- 20 – 28 Aug 2025

Price: AU\$9,499 per person all-inclusive.

Leader: TBA &/or 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

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Tour details at a glance

Tour starts: Broome, WA **Tour finishes:** Kununurra, WA (*Flights to/from Darwin & Broome*)

Scheduled departure and return dates: Tour commences with dinner on 20 Aug 2025. Please arrive in Broome before or on 20 Aug. (Or why not join our preceding Pilbara tour from 10-18 Aug?) Tour finishes the morning of 28 Aug 2025 in Kununurra. Please depart on or after 28 Aug 2025. Daily itinerary below contains further details.

Leader: TBA and/or local guide.

Difficulty: ~~Low~~/Medium/~~High~~/Excellent level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on mostly flat, but unpaved, surfaces, but include some short climbs. The Black Grasswren search will be more difficult. Most of the Gibb River road is unsealed; the road surface quality varies from good to corrugated. 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 warm to hot, evenings can be cool. 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 or lodges, one night may be accommodated in a Homestead with shared facilities. Standards of lodgings are 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 8 participants.

Cost: AU\$9,499 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$1200. 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> or please complete the booking form at

ITINERARY

Day 0: 20 Aug '25. Arrive Broome.

Today you arrive in Broome, the gateway town to the Kimberley, and the first stop on our incredible Western Australia adventure. Wait - why not join our preceding Pilbara tour? Check our website, or contact us, for details. Getting to Broome is easy – many daily flights arrive from most major centres in Australia. Make your own way to our accommodation where we'll meet for introductions and dinner.

Overnight **Broome Time Resort** (en-suite room) Meals: D.

Day 1: 21 Aug '25. Broome Bird Observatory.

Broome, affectionately known as the 'pearl of the north' is the western gateway to the Kimberley wilderness, home to world-famous sunsets and the natural phenomenon of the Staircase to the Moon. But among birders, Roebuck Bay conjures up images of mudflats teeming with waders and shorebirds. While it is a bit early in the season for huge numbers, we stand a good chance of observing a wide variety of shorebirds, including rarer species such as Greater and Lesser Sandplover and Asian Dowitcher. Today we will visit the famous Broome Bird Observatory from where we'll explore the Roebuck Bay mudflats and neighbouring mangroves in search of waders (with chance of Asian Dowitcher, Broad-billed Sandpiper and who knows: Common Red-shank) and other shorebirds, as well as Striated Heron, Eastern Reef Egret, White-breasted and Mangrove Whistler, Broad-billed Flycatcher, Dusky Gerygone, Red-headed Honeyeater, Yellow White-eye and many, many more excellent birds!

Overnight **Broome Time Resort** (en-suite room) Meals: D.

Day 2: 22 Aug '25. Broome to Mt Hart.

Today we commence our adventure into the Kimberley in earnest. At our first stop in Derby, we visit the old wharf to look for mangrove species such as Dusky Gerygone and Red-headed Honeyeater. Derby, located on the edge of the King Sound, is believed to have the highest tides of any Australian port with 11 m of tidal difference! We'll soon find ourselves onto the famous Gibb River Road leading into to the heart of the Wunaamin Miliwundi (King Leopold) Ranges Conservation Park. The scenery along the road is impressive and there are many small creek crossings on the way in.



Banded Honeyeater, Bar-breasted Honeyeater, Broad-billed Flycatcher, Buff-sided Robin, Greater Sandplover (c) Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours

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Sometime during the day, we arrive at Mt Hart Station, which has good accommodation, with tropical gardens and orchards surrounding the homestead, green lawns, and good birding as it is located alongside the Barker River.

We overnight at Mount Hart Wilderness Lodge, enjoying an authentic Kimberleys homestead experience.

Overnight **Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge** (Homestead Accommodation, private permanent "glamping" tent with normal bed(s), electricity and private en-suite bathroom). Meals: B, L, D.

Day 3: 23 Aug '25. Mt Hart Station.

A full day to bird and relax around this fabulous property. The birding around the grounds of the homestead is very pleasant. We may see Australian Bustard and Spotted Nightjar, Great Bowerbird and Green Oriole (subspecies of Yellow Oriole) and with luck, Masked Owl in the evening. We'll take short drives out to various waterholes and other birdy places looking for Banded, Bar-breasted, Yellow-tinted and White-gaped Honeyeater, Green-backed Gerygone, Buff-sided Robin, Little Woodswallow, Leaden Flycatcher and many more, often providing good photographic opportunities.

Overnight **Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge** (Homestead Accommodation, private permanent "glamping" tent with normal bed(s), electricity and private en-suite bathroom). Meals: B, L, D.

Day 4: 24 Aug '25. Mt Hart to Drysdale Station.

Today we'll bird our way along the Gibb River Road east and after some time we'll turn off to Drysdale Station. Flocks of Varied Lorikeets and Budgerigar abound. Drysdale Station is our half-way point between Broome and Kununurra. Located on the scenic Drysdale River just off the iconic Gibb River Road, Drysdale Station is a half-million acre, fully operational cattle station that welcomes guests within a genuine outback environment.

The very scenic Drysdale River is nearby and excellent for birding. We'll be looking for interesting birds here such as Black-tailed Treecreeper, Northern Rosella, Crimson Finch, Purple-crowned Fairywren and a variety of Honeyeater species.

Overnight **Drysdale Station** (motel-style rooms with ensuite). Meal: B,L,D.



Crimson Finch, Long-tailed Finch,
Northern Shrike-tit, Northern
Rosella, Partridge Pigeon
(c) Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours

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Day 5: 25 Aug '25. Mitchell Falls Plateau.

Today is set to be one of the most exciting days of the entire trip as we search for Black Grasswren around the famous Mitchell Falls Plateau. With an early charter flight, our plane will take us to the Mitchell Falls Airstrip, enjoying stunning views on the way. We will then be helicoptered deep into the Mitchell Falls area where we'll spend the morning exploring the landscape, with its mix of tall grasses interspersed with huge boulders, and spinifex-clad slopes, in search of the elusive Black Grasswren. You'll need to have a reasonable level of fitness for this search. Having found them (fingers crossed!), we'll turn our focus to other birds, such as Kimberley Honeyeater, Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon, Partridge Pigeon, Buff-sided Robin and more. In the afternoon, we'll hit the skies again to return to our accommodation at Drysdale River Station.

Overnight **Drysdale River Station** (motel-style rooms with ensuite) Meals: B,L,D.

Day 6: 26 Aug '26. Drysdale to Kununurra.

We commence the day birding the Drysdale River for the iconic Purple-crowned Fairywren and chance of Black Bittern, among many other good birds, notably many species of Honeyeater and Finches. Most of the day will be spent driving and birding to reach Kununurra in time for dinner. Around the shores of Lake Kununurra we might be lucky enough to observe the elusive White-browed Crake this evening,

Overnight **Discovery Parks Lake Kununurra** (cabin with ensuite) Meals: B,L,D.

Day 7: 27 Aug '25. Lake Argyle.

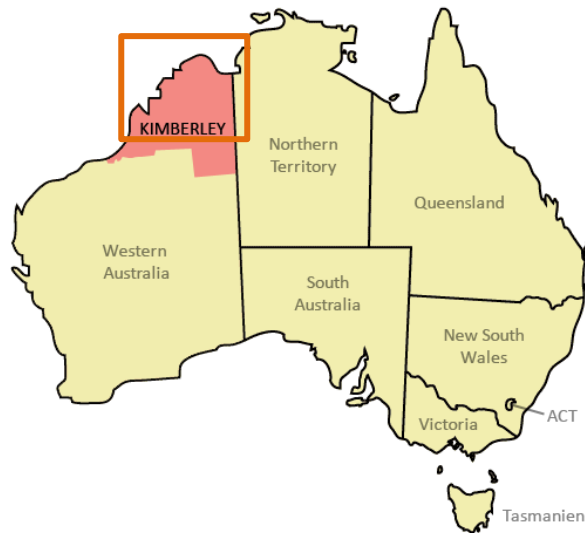
Today we will be birding the region around Kununurra, including an early morning cruise on Lake Argyle, home to the localized Yellow Chat and a wide variety of other birds. We will look for the white-bellied race of Spinifex Pigeon, Varied Lorikeet, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Buff-sided Robin, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Star Finch, Masked Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and with perseverance we may even find the rare Gouldian Finch or the localised Yellow-rumped Mannikin. At the end of the day we return to our rooms for some relaxing by the shores of Lake Kununurra, where we'll end the trip on a high with a fabulous dinner at sunset overlooking the water while tallying up the final bird list of what no doubt will have been a fantastic Kimberley tour!

Overnight **Discovery Parks Lake Kununurra** (cabin with ensuite) Meals: B,L,D
End of tour



Purple-crowned Fairywren, Red-backed Fairywren, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Kimberley Honeyeater
 © Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours

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Important information for your tour:

Getting there & away:

On day 0 (20 Aug), you'll need to make your own way (own cost) to the accommodation in Broome, WA, where we will meet for dinner and introductions that evening. The last night (Day 7) is included so on 28 Aug you can depart from Kununurra, WA (own cost). Why not join our preceding Pilbara tour? Check our website, or contact us, for details.

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 your accommodation for Day 0, in time for dinner and introductions. We can book you into our hotel for any number of nights leading up to, or after, the tour: please enquire.

Price inclusions and exclusions

Included: All meals commencing with Dinner on Day 0 and finishing with Dinner on Day 7, 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 (one night we stay in a permanent "glamping"-style tents with private ensuite facilities), transport using comfortable and reliable 4WD vehicle, expert Australian guiding, domestic charter flights - Drysdale to Mitchell Plateau Airstrip to Drysdale, in small aircraft, as indicated in itinerary, 1 helicopter ride at Mitchell Plateau, any entry fees during the tour, taxes.

Excluded: Travel to the meeting point; onward travel arrangements, pre- & post trip accommodation, meals before the first dinner, and after the last dinner, 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 our [terms and conditions](#).

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Possible species list

Emu	Australian Pelican	Black-tailed Native-hen
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Great Egret	Eurasian Coot
Brown Quail	Intermediate Egret	Comb-crested Jacana
King Quail	Eastern Cattle Egret	Australian Bustard
Plumed Wistling-duck	White-necked Heron	Pied Oystercatcher
Wandering Whistling Duck	White-faced Heron	Sooty Oystercatcher
Raja Shelduck	Great-billed Heron	Beach Stone-curlew
Green Pygmy-goose	Striated Heron	Bush Stone-curlew
Magpie Goose	Pied Heron	Eastern Curlew
Musk Duck	Little Egret	Whimbrel
Black Swan	Eastern Reef Egret	Bar-tailed Godwit
Australian Shelduck	Nankeen Night-Heron	Black-tailed Godwit
Radjah Shelduck	Black Bittern	Asian Dowitcher
Australian Wood Duck	Glossy Ibis	Red-necked Avocet
Pink-eared Duck	Australian White Ibis	Banded Stilt
Australasian Shoveler	Straw-necked Ibis	Red-capped Plover
Grey Teal	Royal Spoonbill	Greater Sand Plover
Chestnut Teal	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Grey Plover
Pacific Black Duck	Black-shouldered Kite	Lesser Sand Plover
Hardhead	Whistling Kite	Pacific Golden Plover
Australasian Grebe	Black Kite	Black-fronted Dotterel
Hoary-headed Grebe	Brahminy Kite	Red-kneed Dotterel
Great Crested Grebe	Square-tailed Kite	Oriental Plover
Rock Dove	Black-breasted Buzzard	Banded Lapwing
Common Bronzewing	Brown Goshawk	Masked Lapwing
Spinifex Pigeon	Grey Goshawk	Common Sandpiper
Crested Pigeon	Red Goshawk	Wood Sandpiper
Squatter Pigeon	Collared Sparrowhawk	Curlew Sandpiper
White-quilled Rock-pigeon	Pacific Baza	Marsh Sandpiper
Pied Imperial-Pigeon	Spotted Harrier	Terek Sandpiper
Diamond Dove	Swamp Harrier	Common Greenshank
Peaceful Dove	Eastern Osprey	Ruddy Turnstone
Rose-crowned Fruit-dove	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Red-necked Stint
Bar-shouldered Dove	Little Eagle	Sanderling
Emerald Dove	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Tawny Frogmouth	Black-necked Stork	Great Knot
Spotted Nightjar	Brolga	Red Knot
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Australian Swamphen	Grey-tailed Tattler
Australasian Darter	Baillon's Crake	Little Button-quail
Little Pied Cormorant	Australian Spotted Crake	Red-backed Button-quail
Great Cormorant	Spotless Crake	Red-chested Button-quail
Little Black Cormorant	White-browed Crake	Chestnut-backed Button-quail
Pied Cormorant	Buff-banded Rail	Australian Pratincole

Caspian Tern
Australian Tern
Whiskered Tern
White-winged Black Tern
Lesser Crested Tern
Greater Crested Tern
Silver Gull
Nankeen Kestrel
Brown Falcon
Australian Hobby
Grey Falcon
Black Falcon
Peregrine Falcon
Galah
Little Corella
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
Cockatiel
Rainbow Lorikeet
Varied Lorikeet
Northern Rosella
Budgerigar
Red-winged Parrot
Pheasant Coucal
Koel
Brush Cuckoo
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Channel-billed Cuckoo
Pallid Cuckoo
Southern Boobook
Eastern Barn Owl
Barking Owl
Rufous Owl
Masked Owl
Blue-winged Kookaburra
Red-backed Kingfisher
Azure Kingfisher
Collared Kingfisher
Sacred Kingfisher
Rainbow Bee-eater
Dollarbird
Great Bowerbird
Black-tailed Treecreeper
Purple-backed Fairy-wren

Purple-crowned Fairy-wren
Red-backed Fairy-wren
Black Grasswren
Weebill
Large-billed Gerygone
Mangrove Gerygone
Dusky Gerygone
Red-browed Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Pied Honeyeater
Singing Honeyeater
Grey-headed Honeyeater
Grey-fronted Honeyeater
Silver-crowned Friarbird
Little Friarbird
Yellow-throated Miner
Banded Honeyeater
Bar-breasted Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
Kimberley Honeyeater
White-gaped Honeyeater
White-throated Honeyeater
Yellow-tinted Honeyeater
Yellow Chat
Grey-crowned Babbler
Varied Sittella
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Cicadabird
White-winged Triller
Varied Triller
Northern Shrike-tit
Mangrove Robin
Buff-sided Robin
Olive-backed Oriole
Yellow Oriole
Spangled Drongo
Crested Bellbird
Grey Shrike-thrush
Sandstone Shrike-thrush
Jacky Winter
Lemon-bellied Flyrobin
Mangrove Golden Whistler
White-breasted Whistler

Rufous Whistler
White-breasted Woodswallow
Masked Woodswallow
Black-faced Woodswallow
Little Woodswallow
Pied Butcherbird
Silver-backed Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Grey Fantail
Arafura Fantail
Mangrove Grey Fantail
Northern Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Torresian Crow
Paperbark Flycatcher
Leaden Flycatcher
Shining Flycatcher
Broad-billed Flycatcher
Australian Magpie-lark
Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Grassbird
Tawny Grassbird
Golden-headed Cisticola
Zitting Cisticola
Canary White-eye
Rufous Songlark
Brown Songlark
Australian Bushlark
Fairy Martin
Tree Martin
Common Starling
Mistletoebird
Zebra Finch
Red-browed Finch
Crimson Finch
Star Finch
Masked Finch
Double-barred Finch
Long-tailed Finch
Gouldian Finch
Pictorella Mannikin
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Yellow-rumped Mannikin
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://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>.

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/>.