



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd

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Mount Isa Short & Wet 3^{1/2} day birding tour

11– 14 Jan 2025, Mt Isa, Qld



The area around Mount Isa is where the outback meets the sub-tropics which results in a great variety of sought-after birds, not in the least two unique species of Grasswrens: **Kalkadoon** and **Carpentarian**. During the wet season a range of unusual species pass through here: chance of **Oriental Plover**, **Oriental Pratincole**, **Yellow Chat** and **Little Curlew**. The landscape of savannah plains with scattered trees to rocky spinifex-clad ridges is criss-crossed by creeks and rivers, and there is the large Lake Moondarra with surrounding swamplands. During this long weekend of birding we aim to see, besides the mentioned species, Spinifexbird, Spinifex Pigeon, Painted Finch, Pictorella Mannikin, Chestnut-breasted Munia, Grey-

headed Honeyeater, Cloncurry Ringneck, Little Woodswallow, Black-tailed Tree-creeper, Varied Lorikeet, Paperbark Flycatcher, Spotted Bowerbird and many more. Creeks and other waterbodies will provide chances of Plumed Whistling Ducks, Comb-crested Jacana, Green Pygmy Goose and other waterfowl, as well as Purple-necked Rock-wallaby and Freshwater Crocodile and we even have a chance of the enigmatic Grey Falcon. We'll stay in the same accommodation throughout the trip so we can take daily drives out to the various birding locations. We have secured access to some new birding sites exclusively for this trip. The rewards will be some sought-after species, wonderful scenery and great camaraderie. Spaces are limited.

Tour starts: Mt Isa, Qld

Finishes: Mt Isa, Qld

Scheduled departure & return dates:

• 11 – 14 Jan 2025

Price: AU\$2,899 all-inclusive (no discounts available).

Leader: Peter Waanders

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

Mt Isa Grasswrens short & wet birding tour



Tour details

Tour starts: Mt Isa, Qld (serviced by direct flights from Brisbane & Cairns)

Finishes: Mt Isa, Qld.

Scheduled departure and return dates:

Tour commences with lunch on 11 Jan 2025. Please arrive the morning of 11 Jan. Tour finishes with breakfast on 14 Jan 2025. Please depart on or after 14 Jan. Itinerary below contains further details. Why not join our preceding Papuan Pitta tour in Cape York 6-9 Jan '25 from / to Cairns?

Leader: Peter Waanders.

Difficulty: ~~Low~~/Medium/~~High~~/Excellent level of fitness required. This trip is slow paced. Walking in uneven terrain will still be required to find some of the birds, but we have secured access to some new and exclusive (and easier) sites. There will be some early departures or late finishes. We can't control the weather and during the Wet it doesn't rain as much as you might think, but it will be warm to hot and a bit humid. Expect thunderstorms in the afternoon while we take a break.

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 very large heavy suitcases discouraged, but please contact us to discuss.

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. Be prepared for the odd rain shower.

Group size: Minimum 3, maximum 6 participants.

Cost: AU\$2,899 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of \$470. 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.

Mt Isa Grasswrens short & wet birding tour

ITINERARY

Why not join our preceding Papuan Pitta tour in Cape York 6-9 Jan '25 from / to Cairns?

Day 1: 11 Jan '25. Make your own way to Mt Isa (Qld), serviced by direct flights on Qantas, Virgin and Rex from Brisbane. Arriving mid-morning we'll pick you up from the airport and head into town for lunch and introductions. We'll check into our hotel and head off birding to the sewage ponds and surrounding rambling bird-rich horse paddocks. In the late afternoon we'll have our first chance of Kalkadoon Grasswren not far from town. Accommodation: **Abacus Motel, Mt Isa** (en-suite rooms; meals: L, D).

Day 2: 12 Jan '25. We have a full day around Mt Isa, where we'll be searching for two Grasswren species: Kalkadoon and Carpentarian. Another drawcard here is Painted Finch of which we've seen flocks of over 100 on prior visits. We'll also spend time looking for other good species of the local area, including Spinifex Pigeon, Little Woodswallow, the 'Cloncurry' race of Australian Ringneck, Spinifexbird and Grey-headed Honeyeater, Black-tailed Treecreeper, Varied Lorikeet, Little Buttonquail and many more. We'll also visit the sewage ponds, with chance of Plumed Whistling Ducks and other waterfowl. Nearby at Lake Moondarra we have a chance of any or all of Oriental Plover, Oriental Pratincole, Yellow Chat, Pictorella Mannikin and Little Curlew. We'll also look for Paperbark Flycatcher, Spotted Bowerbird, Plumed Whistling-duck, Painted Finch, Purple-necked Rock-wallaby and Freshwater Crocodile. Accommodation: **Abacus Motel, Mt Isa** (en-suite rooms; meals: B, L, D).

Day 3: 13 Jan '25. The morning will be spent re-visiting sites of great interest from yesterday, and/or picking up any species we may have missed. After a leisurely lunch we visit Lake Moondarra again for further chances of the above-mentioned species. One of these days we may also go out at night, for those who like to have a chance of Spotted Nightjar. Accommodation: **Abacus Motel, Mt Isa** (en-suite rooms; meals: B, L, D).

Day 4: 14 Jan '25. Today has been set aside as your departure day so please book flights out of Mount Isa departing any time today. We'll arrange for you to be taken to the airport (included) at any time this morning for your flight home (own arrangement). Time permitting we'll do a couple of hours birding in the morning, before checking out of our hotel. Meals: B. TOUR ENDS



Spinifex Pigeon, Painted Finch,
 Carpentarian Grasswren,
 Spinifexbird © P Waanders, Bellbird
 Tours

Mt Isa Grasswrens short & wet birding tour

Pre- and post-tour options:

If you wish to stay in Mt Isa for one or more days before the tour starts or finishes, in the same hotel that we've been using there, please tick the relevant box on the booking form. We can book this for you and add the cost to your tour price – this way you can stay in the same room. ***Why not join our preceding Papuan Pitta tour in Cape York 6-9 Jan '25 from / to Cairns?***

Price inclusions and exclusions:

Included: All meals commencing with Dinner on Day 1 and finishing with Breakfast on Day 4 morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms. 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 Dinner on Day 1, any meals after breakfast on Day 4, 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, photos and checklists of our previous tours can be found on: <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports/>

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](#).



Spinifexbird © P Waanders, Bellbird Tours

Mt Isa Grasswrens short & wet birding tour



Mt Isa Grasswrens short & wet birding tour

Possible species list

Emu
Plumed Wistling-duck
Wandering Whistling
Duck
Musk Duck
Black Swan
Australian Shelduck
Australian Wood Duck
Pink-eared Duck
Australasian Shoveler
Grey Teal
Green Pygmy Goose
Pacific Black Duck
Hardhead
Australasian Grebe
Hoary-headed Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Rock Dove
Spotted Dove
Common Bronzewing
Spinifex Pigeon
Crested Pigeon
Diamond Dove
Peaceful Dove
Spotted Nightjar
Australian Owlet-nightjar
Australasian Darter
Little Pied Cormorant
Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Australian Pelican
Great Egret
Intermediate Egret
Cattle Egret
White-necked Heron
White-faced Heron

Little Egret
Nankeen Night-Heron
Glossy Ibis
Australian White Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Royal Spoonbill
Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Black-shouldered Kite
Whistling Kite
Black Kite
Black-breasted Buzzard
Brown Goshawk
Collared Sparrowhawk
Spotted Harrier
Swamp Harrier
Wedge-tailed Eagle
Little Eagle
Nankeen Kestrel
Brown Falcon
Australian Hobby
Grey Falcon
Black Falcon
Peregrine Falcon
Brolga
Purple Swamphen
Baillon's Crake
Australian Spotted Crake
Spotless Crake
Buff-banded Rail
Black-tailed Native-hen
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Australian Bustard
Black-winged Stilt
Red-necked Avocet

Red-capped Plover
Black-fronted Dotterel
Red-kneed Dotterel
Banded Lapwing
Masked Lapwing
Common Sandpiper
Wood Sandpiper
Common Greenshank
Red-necked Stint
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Little Curlew
Oriental Plover
Little Button-quail
Australian Pratincole
Oriental Pratincole
Aus Gull-billed Tern
Caspian Tern
Whiskered Tern
Silver Gull
Galah
Little Corella
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Cockatiel
Rainbow Lorikeet
Varied Lorikeet
Musk Lorikeet
Aust. Ringneck
(Cloncurry)
Red-rumped Parrot
Budgerigar
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Pallid Cuckoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Southern Boobook
Eastern Barn Owl

Mt Isa Grasswren short birding tour 2025

Possible species list

Blue-winged	Spiny-cheeked H' eater	Torresian Crow
Kookaburra Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	Paperbark Flycatcher
Red-backed Kingfisher	Crimson Chat	Maggie-lark
Sacred Kingfisher	Orange Chat	White-winged Chough
Rainbow Bee-eater	White-fronted Chat	Apostlebird
Spotted Bowerbird	Yellow Chat	Jacky Winter
Black-tailed	Black Honeyeater	Red-capped Robin
Treecreeper	Brown Honeyeater	Hooded Robin
Red-backed Fairy-wren	Black-chinned H' eater	Horsfield's Bushlark
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Australian Reed-Warbler
Carpentarian Grasswren	Grey-crowned Babbler	Little Grassbird
Kalkadoon Grasswren	Varied Sittella	Rufous Songlark
Weebill	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Brown Songlark
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Spinifexbird
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	White-winged Triller	Silvereye
Inland Thornbill	Rufous Whistler	White-backed Swallow
Southern Whiteface	Grey Shrike-thrush	Welcome Swallow
Spotted Pardalote	Crested Bellbird	Fairy Martin
Red-browed Pardalote	White-breasted Woodsw.	Tree Martin
Striated Pardalote	Masked Woodswallow	Common Blackbird
Pied Honeyeater	White-browed	Common Starling
Singing Honeyeater	Woodswallow	Mistletoebird
Grey-headed Honeyeater	Black-faced Woodswallow	Zebra Finch
Grey-fronted Honeyeater	Little Woodswallow	Double-barred Finch
White-eared Honeyeater	Dusky Woodswallow	Painted Finch
White-plumed Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird	Red-browed Finch
White-fronted Honeyeater	Pied Butcherbird	Pictorella Mannikin
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	Chestnut-breasted
Little Friarbird	Grey Currawong	Munia
Noisy Friarbird	Grey Fantail	House Sparrow
Noisy Miner	Willie Wagtail	Australasian Pipit
Yellow-throated Miner	Australian Raven	European Goldfinch
	Little Crow	

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>.

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/>.