Bellbird
BIRDING TOURS

South-West Western Australia

27 November - 4 December 2026

The south-west corner of Western Australia is one of the most bird-rich areas in the country. Our 7 day, 7 night fully accommodated tour begins and ends in Perth (WA) and takes in a range of habitats including wetlands, open woodlands, sandy heathlands, the Stirling Ranges and tall Karri forest. This is a very pleasant area to be birding in, with mild weather and good infrastructure, yet a sense of adventure remains.

We aim to find all 14 of the South West endemics, including the three notorious 'skulkers' (Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird). In the karri forests country we'll look for Western Rosella, White-breasted Robin, Red-capped Parrot, Western Whistler and Western Corella; while exploring the dry woodlands we should add Malleefowl, Shy Heathwren and Purple-gaped Honeyeater. Long-billed (Baudin's) and Short-billed (Carnaby's) Black Cockatoo, Rufous Treecreeper, Western Yellow Robin, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Red-winged and Blue-breasted Fairy-wren await us on this trip. Coastal birding is not forgotten with seabirds, a visit to a Bridled Tern colony and Rock Parrot, Red-eared Firetail and Western Fieldwren; we expect to see up to 150 species, including all 14 endemics!

ITINERARY

Day 0: 27 November 2026
Arrival in Perth

Arrive in Perth and make your own way to our hotel (room and dinner included in tour price) for dinner and introductions.

Overnight: Perth, en-suite hotel room
Meals included: D

Day 1: 28 November 2026
Wungong Gorge and Dryandra Woodlands

We'll have an introductory walk around Kings Park, directly adjacent to our rooms, before we visit some magnificent wetlands where we can see Blue-billed and Musk Duck, along with many other waterbirds and several raptors. Further afield, the Wungong Gorge is a good spot for Western Australian endemic such as Western Rosella, Red-capped Parrot and Red-winged Fairy-wren.

The Dryandra Woodlands are our final destination today and we'll look for Short-billed Black (Carnaby's) Cockatoo, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, Western Thornbill, Elegant Parrot and Purple-crowned Lorikeet. This is also a good area to observe native animals such as Numbat, Brush-tailed Bettong and Echidna. We'll watch the sunset over a waterhole, where birds come in for their last drink of the day, before we head off to spotlight for the above-mentioned mammals and for Bush Stone-curlew and Tawny Frogmouth.

Overnight: Narrogin, en-suite motel rooms
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 29 November 2026
Dryandra Woodlands and Stirling Ranges

We will spend a large part of the day exploring the Dryandra woodlands. In addition to the species listed above, we also expect to see the western race of Regent Parrot, which is quite different from the eastern sub-species; Western Gerygone, Rufous Treecreeper, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, Painted Buttonquail, Western Yellow Robin, the western race of Varied Sittella and other good species.

Later in the day we'll drive to the beautiful Stirling Ranges. On the way we check a site for the recently-split Western Fieldwren, and may be lucky enough to come across our first Western Whipbird!

Gilbert's Honeyeater, Splendid Fairywren, Rufous Treecreeper, and Western Yellow Robin. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Overnight: Stirling Ranges Retreat, en-suite cabins
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 3: 30 November 2026
Stirling Ranges and South Coast

This morning we'll explore the beautiful Stirling Ranges where we'll search for Malleefowl, Square-tailed Kite, Purple-gaped and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Southern Scrub-robin. Late afternoon brings us to the South Coast, ready for an early start tomorrow morning. We'll head to Cheynes Beach to look for Brush Bronzewing and Western Wattlebird. We'll have our first attempt at tracking down one or more of the three skulkers that inhabit this area: Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Black-throated Whipbird.

Overnight: Cheynes Beach Caravan Park, en-suite cabins
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 4: 1 December 2026
South Coast exploration

We'll spend the entire day birding the South Coast for the notorious and often elusive trio of Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Black-throated (formerly Western) Whipbird. Noisy scrub-bird, one of our rarest and elusive species which was only re-discovered in 1961. We should hear each of these species multiple times as we attempt to get views of them. This is a very scenic and photogenic landscape with moors, buttongrass plains, eucalypt-covered hills and rocky outcrops. Other possible species here are Brush Bronzewing, Southern Emu-wren, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Rock parrot, Stubble Quailand Red-eared Firetail.

Overnight: Cheynes Beach Caravan Park, en-suite cabins
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 5: 2 December 2026
Karri forests and Pemberton

A back-up morning for any species we may still need at Cheynes Beach; then we pack up and head west towards the giant Karri forests around Pemberton and Manjimup. En-route, we'll stop to look at Lake Muir, a Ramsar-listed wetland where we'll find the geographically limited population of the Western Corella. In Pemberton itself we'll visit the tall Gloucester Tree, where we'll find Western Rosella, White-breasted Robin, Red-winged Fairy-wren and Common Bronzewing, presenting good camera opportunities.

White-cheeked Honeyeater, Western Grey Kangaroo, Southern Emu-wren, Brush Bronzewing, and Rock Parrot. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Overnight: Augusta Chalets, private rooms in large cottages of varying sizes, some with 2 rooms, some with 3 rooms, on the edge of the forest with scenic views
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 6: 3 December 2026
Augusta and Cape Leeuwin

Our last full day! After picking up any species we still need in the Karri forests we bird around Augusta on Cape Leeuwin where species we hope to find include Hooded Plover, Rock Parrot and Brush Bronzewing. Seawatching off the headland may produce Yellow-nosed, Black-browed or Shy Albatross and Great-winged Petrel.

Overnight: Augusta Chalets, private rooms in large cottages of varying sizes, some with 2 rooms, some with 3 rooms, on the edge of the forest with scenic views
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 7: 4 December 2026
Return to Perth and departure

Our final day and another visit to the headland again this morning and/or we may pull in at the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse to pick up any other species we require. En-route to Perth we'll visit the harbour at Mandurah to check for terns and we'll finish the day with a visit to Penguin Island (with its Little Penguins and Bridled Tern colony) while checking for any missing birds on our list, to arrive back in Perth in the afternoon. You will be dropped off at a hotel of your choice in the city centre, or at the airport (not before 4pm).

Alternatively, why not extend your tour for an extra day to enjoy WA's unique Rottnest Island? See details on page 6 (Post-tour options).

Meals included: B, L

Black-throated Whipbird, Western Fieldwren, Short-billed Black-Cockatoo, Western Spinebill, and Australian (28) Ringneck All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES
Great Southern Tour: 27 November - 4 December 2026
Optional Rottnest Island post-tour extension: 4 - 5 December 2026

STARTING IN
Perth, Western Australia

FINISHING IN
Perth, Western Australia

GROUP SIZE
Minimum 3, maximum 9 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY
Day 0: 27 November 2026: Arrival in Perth
Day 1: 28 November 2026: Wongong Gorge and Dryandra Woodlands
Day 2: 29 November 2026: Dryandra Woodlands and Stirling Ranges
Day 3: 30 November 2026: Stirling Ranges and South Coast
Day 4: 01 December 2026: South Coast exploration
Day 5: 02 December 2026: Karri forests and Pemberton
Day 6: 03 December 2026: Augusta and Cape Leeuwin
Day 7: 04 December 2026: Return to Perth and departure

BOOKING
Please book at: https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/.

COST

COST
AU$4,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU$790.

Earlybird discount of AU$99 for bookings received up to 12 months before departure date. Return client discount may apply.

INCLUDED
All meals commencing with dinner on Day 0 and finishing with lunch on Day 7, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills, accommodation in private ensuite rooms where available, although on some nights only basic rooms with shared facilities are available. 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 and after lunch on Day 7, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS
If you wish to arrive in Perth one or more days before the tour starts, and stay in the same hotel that we'll be using for the first night, we can book this for you and add the cost to your tour price – just let us know.

Why not extend your tour for an extra day to enjoy WA's unique Rottnest Island? Promising targets are Banded stilt, Ringneck Pheasant, Fairy Tern, Quokka, and if it is visiting Perth this year, we will also chase Oriental Honeybuzzard! This optional add-on guided day to Rottnest Island includes overnight accommodation and dinner in Perth evening of Day 7. On Day 8 it includes breakfast, return ferry Freemantle-Rottnest, lunch and afternoon drop-off to the airport or city hotel (5 Dec). Price is AU$750pp. A minimum of 3 people is required for the Rottnest add-on to go ahead.

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: https://bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions/.

BOOKING
Please book at: https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

LEADERS
Bellbird leader.

DIFFICULTY
Low to medium level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on varying surfaces, from paved forest roads to uneven, slippery jungle trails with some short climbs. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

ACCOMMODATION
Private en-suite rooms in hotels or lodges, although on some nights only basic rooms with shared facilities are available (see itinerary). Standards of the lodgings are generally very comfortable. Expect slow, if any, wi-fi access.

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.

WHAT TO BRING
Please travel light. Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors (British style), strong 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.

RECOMMENDED READING
The comprehensive (but large and heavy) *Australian Bird Guide* by Danny Rogers, Peter Menkhorst, and Rohan Clarke, or the (smaller and lighter) *Compact Australian Bird Guide* (2022) by the same authors.

HOW TO BOOK THIS TOUR?

Step 1: Essential reading

- Download, save and read the itinerary (this document);
- Read our terms and conditions and the release of liability waiver (both can be found on https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions);
- Read our health & safety information 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 (e.g. 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 and 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 processing fee of ~3%. 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) 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 and 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.

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/.

POSSIBLE SPECIES LIST (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

Emu
Stubble Quail
Brown Quail
Musk Duck
Freckled Duck
Black Swan
Australian Shelduck
AustralianWood Duck
Pink-eared Duck
Australasian Shoveler
Grey Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Blue-billed Duck
Australasian Grebe
Hoary-headed Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Rock Dove
Laughing Dove
Spotted Dove
Common Bronzewing
Brush Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon
Tawny Frogmouth
Yellow-nosed Albatross
Wedge-tailed Shearwater
Flesh-footed Shearwater
Australasian Gannet
Australasian Darter
Little Pied Cormorant
Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Australian Pelican
White-necked Heron
Great Egret
Intermediate Egret
White-faced Heron
Little Egret
Nankeen Night-Heron
Australian White Ibis
Straw-necked Ibis
Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Eastern Osprey
Black-shouldered Kite
Square-tailed Kite
White-bellied Sea-Eagle
Whistling Kite
Brown Goshawk
Collared Sparrowhawk
Spotted Harrier
Swamp Harrier
Wedge-tailed Eagle
Little Eagle
Nankeen Kestrel
Brown Falcon
Australian Hobby
Purple Swamphen
AustralianSpotted Crake
Black-tailed Native-hen
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Bush Stone-curlew
Australian Pied Oystercatcher
Sooty Oystercatcher
Black-winged Stilt
Red-necked Avocet
Banded Stilt
Red-capped Plover
Hooded Plover
Common Sandpiper
Common Greenshank
Red-necked Stint
Marsh Sandpiper
Red-necked Stint
Painted Button-quail
Arctic Jaeger
Fairy Tern
Caspian Tern
Crested Tern
Pacific Gull
Silver Gull
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Short-billed Black-Cockatoo
Long-billed Black-Cockatoo
Galah
Little Corella
Western Corella
Rainbow Lorikeet
Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Regent Parrot (western)
Western Rosella
Australian Ringneck
Red-capped Parrot
Elegant Parrot
Rock Parrot
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Southern Boobook
Eastern Barn Owl
Laughing Kookaburra
Sacred Kingfisher
Rainbow Bee-eater
Noisy Scrub-bird
Rufous Treecreeper
Splendid Fairy-wren
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren
Red-winged Fairy-wren
Southern Emu-wren
Western Bristlebird
White-browed Scrubwren
Western (Rufous) Fieldwren
Weebill
Western Gerygone
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Western Thornbill
Inland Thornbill
Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Western Spinebill
Singing Honeyeater
Purple-gaped Honeyeater
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Yellow-throated Miner
Western Wattlebird
Red Wattlebird
White-fronted Chat
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
New Holland Honeyeater
White-cheeked Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Gilberts Honeyeater
Black-throated (formerly Western) Whipbird