

Mount Isa Short & Wet Tour

11 - 14 January 2027

The area around Mount Isa is where the outback meets the sub-tropics, resulting 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. 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 Wood-swallow, Black-tailed Tree-creeper, Varied Lorikeet, Paper-

bark 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. Space is limited.

ITINERARY

Day 1: 11 January 2027

Arrival at Mount Isa

Make your own way to Mount Isa (Queensland), serviced by direct flights on Qantas, Virgin and Rex from Brisbane. Arrive mid-morning and 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 at Kalkadoon Grasswren not far from town

Overnight: Abacus Motel, en-suite motel room

Meals included: L, D

Day 2: 12 January 2027

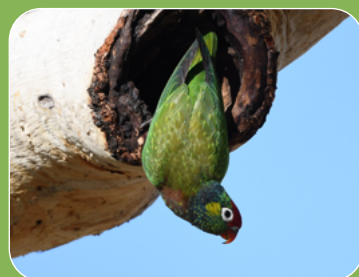
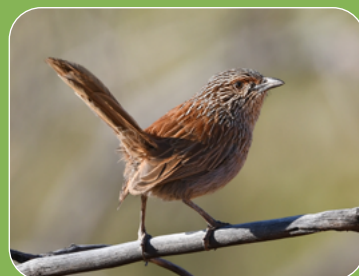
Kalkadoon and Carpentarian Grasswren

We have a full day around Mount 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 a hundred 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.

Overnight: Abacus Motel, en-suite motel room

Meals included: B, L, D



Kalkadoon Grasswren, Spinifex Pigeon, Australian (Cloncurry) Ringneck, Little Curlew, and Varied Lorikeet. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 3: 13 January 2027

Mount Isa and Lake Moondarra

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.

Overnight: Abacus Motel, en-suite motel room

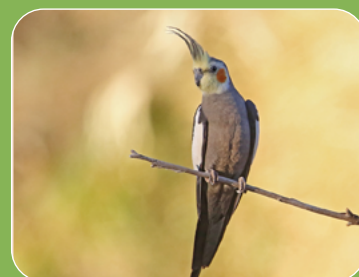
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 4: 14 January 2027

Departure from Mount Isa

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 included: B



Carpentarian Grasswren, Red-backed Kingfisher, Yellow Chat, Cockatiel, and Glossy Ibis & Green Pygmy Goose. All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

Mount Isa Short & Wet Tour: 11 - 14 January 2027

Preceding: [Papuan Pitta Tour](#) departing and leaving from Cairns, Queensland (dates to be confirmed)

STARTING IN

Mount Isa, Queensland

FINISHING IN

Mount Isa, Queensland

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 3, maximum 7 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: 11 January 2027: Arrival in Mount Isa

Day 2: 12 January 2027: Kalkadoon and Carpentarian Grasswren

Day 3: 13 January 2027: Mount Isa and Lake Moondarra

Day 4: 14 January 2027: Departure from Mount Isa

BOOKING

Please book at: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/>.



COST

COST

AU\$2,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$490.

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 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 the meeting point; onward travel arrangements, pre- & post trip accommodation, meals before the first dinner, and after the last breakfast, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance, visa / passport fees, anything else not specifically included.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Tour commences with lunch on 11 Jan 2027. Please arrive the morning of 11 Jan. Tour finishes with breakfast on 14 Jan 2027. Please depart on or after 14 Jan.

PRE & 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.

Or why not join our preceding [Papuan Pitta Tour](#) (dates to be confirmed) in Cape York, which departs and arrives in Cairns, Queensland. Get in touch!

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

Experienced Bellbird tour leader.

DIFFICULTY

Medium 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 season 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.

ACCOMMODATION

Private, comfortable en-suite motel rooms.

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. Sturdy footwear recommended.

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. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses with tripods, and very large heavy suitcases discouraged, but please contact us to discuss.

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	Black Kite	Galah
Plumed Wistling-duck	Black-breasted Buzzard	Little Corella
Wandering Whistling Duck	Brown Goshawk	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Musk Duck	Collared Sparrowhawk	Cockatiel
Black Swan	Spotted Harrier	Rainbow Lorikeet
Australian Shelduck	Swamp Harrier	Varied Lorikeet
Australian Wood Duck	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Musk Lorikeet
Pink-eared Duck	Little Eagle	Aust. Ringneck (Cloncurry)
Australasian Shoveler	Nankeen Kestrel	Red-rumped Parrot
Grey Teal	Brown Falcon	Budgerigar
Green Pygmy Goose	Australian Hobby	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Pacific Black Duck	Grey Falcon	Pallid Cuckoo
Hardhead	Black Falcon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Australasian Grebe	Peregrine Falcon	Southern Boobook
Hoary-headed Grebe	Brolga	Eastern Barn Owl
Great Crested Grebe	Purple Swamphen	Blue-winged Kookaburra
Rock Dove	Baillon's Crake	Red-backed Kingfisher
Spotted Dove	Australian Spotted Crake	Sacred Kingfisher
Common Bronzewing	Spotless Crake	Rainbow Bee-eater
Spinifex Pigeon	Buff-banded Rail	Spotted Bowerbird
Crested Pigeon	Black-tailed Native-hen	Black-tailed Treecreeper
Diamond Dove	Dusky Moorhen	Red-backed Fairy-wren
Peaceful Dove	Eurasian Coot	Purple-backed Fairy-wren
Spotted Nightjar	Australian Bustard	Carpentarian Grasswren
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Black-winged Stilt	Kalkadoon Grasswren
Australasian Darter	Red-necked Avocet	Weebill
Little Pied Cormorant	Red-capped Plover	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Great Cormorant	Black-fronted Dotterel	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
Little Black Cormorant	Red-kneed Dotterel	Inland Thornbill
Pied Cormorant	Banded Lapwing	Southern Whiteface
Australian Pelican	Masked Lapwing	Spotted Pardalote
Great Egret	Common Sandpiper	Red-browed Pardalote
Intermediate Egret	Wood Sandpiper	Striated Pardalote
Cattle Egret	Common Greenshank	Pied Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Red-necked Stint	Singing Honeyeater
White-faced Heron	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Grey-headed Honeyeater
Little Egret	Little Curlew	Grey-fronted Honeyeater
Nankeen Night-Heron	Oriental Plover	White-eared Honeyeater
Glossy Ibis	Little Button-quail	White-plumed Honeyeater
Australian White Ibis	Australian Pratincole	White-fronted Honeyeater
Straw-necked Ibis	Oriental Pratincole	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Royal Spoonbill	Aus Gull-billed Tern	Little Friarbird
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Caspian Tern	Noisy Friarbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Whiskered Tern	Noisy Miner
Whistling Kite	Silver Gull	Yellow-throated Miner



Spiny-cheeked H' eater

Red Wattlebird

Crimson Chat

Orange Chat

White-fronted Chat

Yellow Chat

Black Honeyeater

Brown Honeyeater

Black-chinned H' eater

Brown-headed Honeyeater

Grey-crowned Babbler

Varied Sittella

Ground Cuckoo-shrike

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

White-winged Triller

Rufous Whistler

Grey Shrike-thrush

Crested Bellbird

White-breasted Woodsw.

Masked Woodswallow

White-browed Woodswallow

Black-faced Woodswallow

Little Woodswallow

Dusky Woodswallow

Grey Butcherbird

Pied Butcherbird

Australian Magpie

Grey Currawong

Grey Fantail

Willie Wagtail

Australian Raven

Little Crow

Torresian Crow

Paperbark Flycatcher

Magpie-lark

White-winged Chough

Apostlebird

Jacky Winter

Red-capped Robin

Hooded Robin

Horsfield's Bushlark

Australian Reed-Warbler

Little Grassbird

Rufous Songlark

Brown Songlark

Spinifexbird

Silvereye

White-backed Swallow

Welcome Swallow

Fairy Martin

Tree Martin

Common Blackbird

Common Starling

Mistletoebird

Zebra Finch

Double-barred Finch

Painted Finch

Red-browed Finch

Pictorella Mannikin

Chestnut-breasted Munia

House Sparrow

Australasian Pipit

European Goldfinch