



# Kimberley Specials & Black Grasswren Tour

14-24 August 2027

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. We start 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 drive to remote Mitchell Plateau where the elusive Black Grasswren awaits us. Expect to see up to 200 species, including Black Grasswren, White-browed Crane,

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, unspoilt Kimberley region. Spaces are limited on this exciting tour!



## ITINERARY

### Day 0: 14 August 2027

#### Arrival in Broome

Arrival in Broome, the gateway town to the Kimberley, and the first stop on our incredible Western Australia adventure. 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 hotel room

Meals included: D

### Day 1: 15 August 2027

#### 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 Redshank) 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 more excellent birds!

Overnight: Broome Time Resort, en-suite hotel rooms

Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 2: 16 August 2027

#### 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 meters (36 feet) of tidal difference!



*Asian Dowitcher, Red-headed Honeyeater, Northern Shrike, Black-necked Stork, and Mitchell Falls (Day 5). All photos by Peter Waanders.*

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. 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. At Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge we enjoy an authentic Kimberleys homestead experience.

Overnight: Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge, private permanent 'glamping' tent with normal bed(s), electricity and private en-suite bathroom  
 Meals included: B, L, D

### **Day 3: 17 August 2027** **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, private permanent 'glamping' tent with normal bed(s), electricity and private en-suite bathroom  
 Meals included: B, L, D

### **Day 4: 18 August 2027** **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, en-suite motel-style rooms  
 Meals included: B, L, D



*Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Buff-sided Robin, Varied Lorikeet, Northern Rosella, and Crimson Finch. All photos by Peter Waanders.*



**Day 5: 19 August 2027**
**Drysdale to Mitchell Falls Plateau**

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. After lunch we pack up and head to the Mitchell Falls Plateau, where we'll stay in the stunning Mitchell Falls Lodge.

Overnight: Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge, individual glamping-style tent with ensuite

Meals included: B, L, D

**Day 6: 20 August 2027**
**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. We'll have an early departure for the short drive to the nearby 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 good 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 can relax in the natural pools or at the lodge.

Overnight: Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge, individual glamping-style tent with ensuite

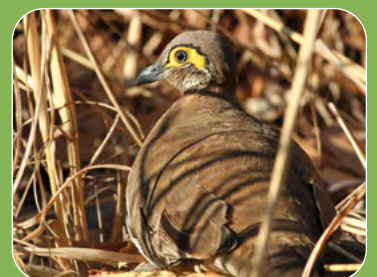
Meals included: B, L, D

**Day 7: 21 August 2027**
**Mitchell Falls Plateau to Drysdale**

A backup morning for Black Grasswren, and then we pack up and depart back to Drysdale. There are plenty of other good birds to spend time with; such as the cute Partridge Pigeons that shuffle around in the dry grass, or Red-backed Fairywrens darting about low bushes. Back at Drysdale, we'll do some birding in the grounds before dinner.

Overnight: Drysdale Station, en-suite motel-style rooms

Meals included: B, L, D



*Purple-crowned Fairywren, Double-barred Finch, Black Grasswren, Kimberley Honeyeater, and Partridge Pigeon. All photos by Peter Waanders.*

**Day 8: 22 August 2027****Drysdale to Kununurra**

We start 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, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

**Day 9: 23 August 2027****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, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

**Day 10: 24 August 2027****Departure from Kununurra**

This morning we say goodbye to this stunning region and its cascade of specialist species.

Meals included: None.

TOUR ENDS.



*Yellow Chat, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Crocodile, Gouldian Finch, and Black-breasted Buzzard. All photos by Peter Waanders.*



## QUICK OVERVIEW

### SCHEDULED DATES

Kimberley Specials & Black Grasswren Tour: 14 - 24 August 2027

Preceding: [Pilbara tour](#), also in Western Australia, from 4 - 12 August 2027.

### STARTING IN

Broome, Western Australia

### FINISHING IN

Kununurra, Western Australia

### BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 14 August 2027: Arrival in Broome  
Day 1: 15 August 2027: Broome Bird Observatory  
Day 2: 16 August 2027: Broome to Mt Hart  
Day 3: 17 August 2027: Mt Hart Station  
Day 4: 18 August 2027: Mt Hart to Drysdale Station  
Day 5: 19 August 2027: Drysdale to Mitchell Falls Plateau  
Day 6: 20 August 2027: Mitchell Falls Plateau  
Day 7: 21 August 2027: Mitchell Falls Plateau to Drysdale  
Day 8: 22 August 2027: Drysdale to Kununurra  
Day 9: 23 August 2027: Lake Argyle  
Day 10: 24 August 2027: Departure from Kununurra

### BOOKING

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



## **COST**

### **COST**

AU\$9,899 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$1250.

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 Dinner on Day 9, 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 (some nights we stay in a permanent 'glamping'-style tents with private ensuite facilities), transport using comfortable and reliable 4WD vehicle, expert Australian guiding, 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.

### **PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS**

If you wish to arrive earlier, or leave later, we can book you into our hotel for any number of nights leading up to, or after, the tour: please enquire.

Or why not join our preceding Pilbara tour (4-12 Aug), also in Western Australia. 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

Peter Waanders & Katinka Domen.

### DIFFICULTY

Medium level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on mostly flat, but unpaved, surfaces, but includes some short climbs. **Please note that the Black Grasswren search requires a good physical condition.** Most of the Gibb River road is unsealed; the road surface varies from good to corrugated. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any walks.

### ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite rooms or cabins in hotels or lodges, two nights may be accommodated in glamping-style tents with en-suite 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.

### 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.

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