

Red Centre Adventure

8-14 September 2027

In the centre of the Australian outback lies the town of Alice Springs. Surrounded by a variety of habitats and iconic destinations such as Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), it is a great area for a few days' birding.

The Red Centre around Alice Springs is host to a variety of exciting bird species. Using Alice Springs as a base, this comfortable 5-day tour takes daily trips out to different areas targeting enigmatic birds such as Dusky Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Spinifexbird, Grey Honeyeater, Western Bowerbird, Painted Finch and maybe even Grey Falcon...!

This is an all-inclusive, fully guided tour, departing from Alice Springs and finishing in Yulara (Uluru). There's no 'roughing it' on this tour and we'll be staying in comfortable en-suite accommodation.

The Red Centre Adventure visits the Eastern and Western MacDonnell Ranges, the sewage works, the Old Telegraph Station, the Tanami Road, Kunoth Bore and the Deep Well Road, and then ventures into the outback to visit the scenic Kings Canyon and Australia's most famous rock, Uluru (Ayers Rock), while looking for other good birds including the rare Sandhill Grasswren. Read on for further details!

ITINERARY

Day 0: 8 September 2027

Arrival in Alice Springs

Arrive in Alice Springs today and make your own way to our hotel. We'll all meet up for introductions and dinner this evening.

Overnight: Alice Springs, Mercure Springs Resort (en-suite rooms)

Meals included: D

Day 1: 9 September 2027

Eastern MacDonnell Ranges and Olive Pink Botanic Garden

We'll head into the Eastern MacDonnell Ranges for our best chance at some of the tricky species. Prime targets are the tiny Rufous-crowned Emuwren, the elusive Dusky Grasswren, the pleasantly sounding Chim-ing Wedgebill, Spinifexbird, Crimson Chat, and Painted Finch.

We'll return to Alice Springs to have lunch in the famous Olive Pink Botanic Garden, with its resident Grey-crowned Babbblers, Western Bowerbirds and many honeyeaters. A short walk here should also yield Black-footed Rock Wallabies. Afterwards we head to a 'mulga' (acacia) scrubland where we'll spend the afternoon looking for Black-breasted Buzzard, Slaty-backed, Chestnut-rumped and Inland Thornbills, Western Gerygone, Hooded Robin and Diamond Dove. We will stake out a waterhole waiting for birds to come and drink on sunset. Here we should see Australian Ringneck, Mulga Parrot, Common Bronzewing, Brown Goshawk, Red-capped Robin, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and if we're lucky, Budgerigars and Bourke's Parrot.

Overnight: Alice Springs, Mercure Springs Resort (en-suite rooms)

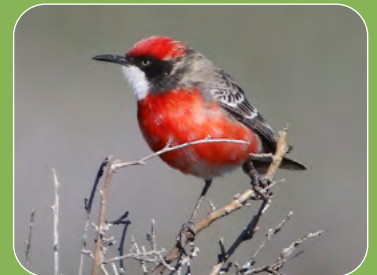
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 10 September 2027

Alice Springs to Kings Canyon

Before we begin our drive towards Kings Canyon, we'll look for the much-sought-after Grey Honeyeater and the gorgeous diminutive Red-browed Pardalote. We should also see both Purple-backed and Splendid Fairy-wren.

Heading towards Kings Canyon we'll stop a few times to search the road-sides for speciality species including Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Southern and Band-ed Whiteface, Orange Chat and if the season is right, Inland Dotterel.



Bourke's Parrot, Crimson Chat, Pied Honeyeater, Rufous Grasswren, and Western Bowerbird. All photos by Peter Waanders.

After lunch in the geographical centre of Australia we head west towards our final destination for today. Upon arriving at Kings Canyon we'll do a bit of birding in the grounds of our accommodation before dinner. After dark we are likely to see wild dingos scavenging for food on the short drive to our rooms.

Overnight: Kings Creek Station, en-suite glamping with a/c
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 3: 11 September 2027

Kings Canyon

Today we spend our morning at the spectacular Kings Canyon. After a scrumptious buffet breakfast, we'll take a short drive to the base of the canyon. Our first walk for the way will be suitable for most fitness levels and will be spent looking for Grey-headed Honeyeater, Painted Finch, Dusky Grasswren and Mistletoebird. For those who like to, there will be the chance to do the Rim Walk, a 6km hike around the top of Kings Canyon. For others there are a number of short walks and waterholes at the base of the canyon where plenty of birds can be seen coming in to drink throughout the morning.

We'll then head back to the resort for lunch before heading out onto the start of the Mereenie Loop Road for part of the afternoon, where we might be lucky enough to see a herd or two of wild camels roaming. Birds we will be looking for include Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Spinifex Pigeon, Masked Woodswallow, Crested Bellbird, Wedge-tailed Eagle and if we are really lucky this is also an area that Princess Parrots have been seen on very rare occasions.

Overnight: Kings Creek Station, en-suite glamping with a/c
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 4: 12 September 2027

Kings Canyon to Uluru (Ayers Rock)

A somewhat longer drive this morning to Uluru (Ayers Rock) with plenty of opportunities to stop for short birding walks. After lunch near our accommodation we'll head to the spectacular outback icon, Uluru, and spend the afternoon there exploring the many trails, waterholes, grassland and mulga scrub around the rock. We'll keep an eye out for Grey-fronted & White-fronted Honeyeater, Little and Black-faced Woodswallow, Black-eared Cuckoo, Black-breasted Buzzard, White-winged Fairywren and Cockatiel. There will be an opportunity to visit the Cultural Centre highlighting information about the indigenous culture, bush tucker and geography, as well as being a great place to purchase any local souvenirs. Late in the afternoon we will take a short walk



Grey Honeyeater, Zebra Finch, Uluru, Diamond Dove, and Budgerigar. All photos by Peter Waanders.

to the small but productive sewage ponds where besides the many thousands of Zebra Finch we should also see a selection of waterfowl, Major Mitchell Cockatoo as well as Australian Hobby. For those interested there will be the option for a spotlighting walk amongst the sand dunes after dinner.

Overnight: Uluru Resort, en-suite hotel room

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 5: 13 September 2027

Uluru

Up early before breakfast for a chance at seeing the elusive Sandhill Grasswren in the sand dunes behind our accommodation. We should also see Budgerigar, Black-faced Woodswallow, Chiming Wedgebill and Black-breasted Buzzard. After breakfast, we will make the 50km drive to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), another spectacular outback geological formation where we will spend the morning exploring various walks and roadside locations. We expect to find Redthroat, Peregrine Falcon, Pied Butcherbird, Peaceful and Diamond Dove, Painted Finch, Little Crow and Rufous Whistler. We will arrive back at the resort for a late lunch and will have the afternoon set aside to specifically target any species we might have missed on the trip so far or to go back and spend some more time exploring Uluru.

Overnight: Uluru Resort, en-suite hotel room

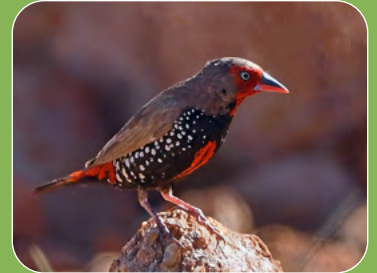
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 6: 14 September 2027

Hidden wetland at Uluru

This morning we will visit a small wetland that few people know of, where we will be looking for Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby, Spotted Harrier, Black-breasted Buzzard, Little Corella, Pied Stilt, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel. The tour ends this morning where your guide will drop you off at the airport for your flight home. Or you can travel back to Alice Springs with your guide.

Meals included: B



Painted Finch, Australian (Port Lincoln) Ringneck, and Wedge-tailed Eagle. All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

Red Centre Adventure: 8 - 14 September 2027

Preceding tours: [Top End](#), 30 August - 7 September 2027

STARTING IN

Alice Springs, Northern Territory

FINISHING IN

Yulara (Uluru) or Alice Springs, Northern Territory

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 8 participants

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 8 September 2027: Arrival in Alice Springs

Day 1: 9 September 2027: Eastern MacDonnell Ranges and Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Day 2: 10 September 2027: Alice Springs to Kings Canyon

Day 3: 11 September 2027: Kings Canyon

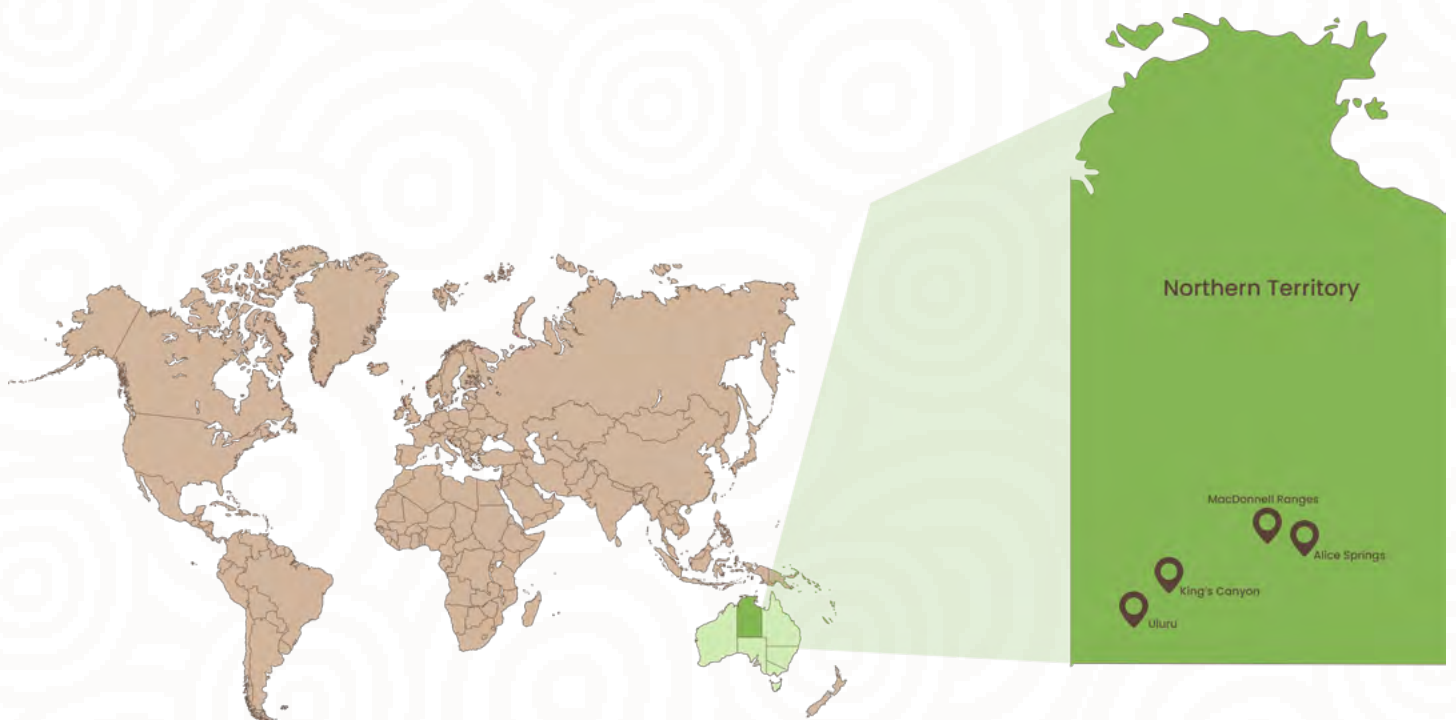
Day 4: 12 September 2027: Kings Canyon to Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Day 5: 13 September 2027: Uluru

Day 6: 14 September 2027: Hidden wetland at Yulara and departure

BOOKING

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



COST

COST

AU\$6,299 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single supplement of AU\$990.

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 breakfast on Day 6, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills, accommodation in private ensuite rooms on days 0-5, 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 breakfast on Day 6, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

Why not join our preceding Top End tour which ends in Darwin on 7 September? Check our website or contact us for details. An instant discount is available if you book a second tour.

If you wish to extend your stay before the tour starts, or after the tour finishes, and you'd like us to book you into the same hotel we're using for the tour, please indicate this on the booking form.

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

David Kowalick/Michael Greenshields.

DIFFICULTY

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

ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite rooms or glamping in hotels or lodges. 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 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 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	Purple Swamphen	Spotted Nightjar
Plumed Wistling-duck	Baillon's Crake	Australian Owlet-nightjar
Freckled Duck	Australian (Spotted) Crake	Pacific Swift
Black Swan	Spotless Crake	Red-backed Kingfisher
Australian Wood Duck	Buff-banded Rail	Sacred Kingfisher
Pink-eared Duck	Black-tailed Native-hen	Rainbow Bee-eater
Grey Teal	Dusky Moorhen	Nankeen Kestrel
Chestnut Teal	Eurasian Coot	Brown Falcon
Pacific Black Duck	Brolga	Australian Hobby
Australasian Shoveler	Little Button-quail	Grey Falcon
Hardhead	Red-chested Button-quail	Black Falcon
Brown Quail	Bush Stone-curlew	Peregrine Falcon
Stubble Quail	Black-winged Stilt	Galah
Australasian Grebe	Red-necked Avocet	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
Hoary-headed Grebe	Banded Stilt	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
Great Crested Grebe	Red-capped Plover	Little Corella
Glossy Ibis	Inland Dotterel	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Australian White Ibis	Black-fronted Dotterel	Cockatiel
Straw-necked Ibis	Red-kneed Dotterel	Rainbow Lorikeet
Royal Spoonbill	Banded Lapwing	Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Masked Lapwing	Mulga Parrot
Great Egret	Common Sandpiper	Budgerigar
Intermediate Egret	Wood Sandpiper	Bourke's Parrot
Eastern Cattle Egret	Common Greenshank	Western Bowerbird
White-necked Heron	Red-necked Stint	White-browed Treecreeper
White-faced Heron	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Splendid Fairy-wren
Nankeen Night-Heron	Australian Pratincole	White-winged Fairy-wren
Australian Pelican	Gull-billed Tern	Variegated Fairy-wren
Little Pied Cormorant	Caspian Tern	Rufous-crowned Emu-wren
Great Cormorant	White-winged Tern	Dusky Grasswren
Little Black Cormorant	Whiskered Tern	Pied Honeyeater
Pied Cormorant	Silver Gull	Singing Honeyeater
Australasian Darter	Spotted Dove	Grey-headed Honeyeater
Black-shouldered Kite	Common Bronzewing	Grey-fronted Honeyeater
Letter-winged Kite	Flock Bronzewing	White-plumed Honeyeater
Whistling Kite	Spinifex Pigeon	White-fronted Honeyeater
Black Kite	Crested Pigeon	Yellow-throated Miner
Black-breasted Buzzard	Diamond Dove	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Brown Goshawk	Peaceful Dove	Grey Honeyeater
Collared Sparrowhawk	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Crimson Chat
Spotted Harrier	Black-eared Cuckoo	Orange Chat
Swamp Harrier	Pallid Cuckoo	Black Honeyeater
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Eastern Barn Owl	Brown Honeyeater
Little Eagle	Southern Boobook	Black-chinned Honeyeater
Australian Bustard	Tawny Frogmouth	Red-browed Pardalote



Striated Pardalote
Redthroat
Weebill
Western Gerygone
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Slaty-backed Thornbill
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
Inland Thornbill
Southern Whiteface
Banded Whiteface
White-browed Babbler
Grey-crowned Babbler
Cinnamon Quail-thrush
Chiming Wedgebill
Grey Butcherbird
Pied Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
White-breasted Woodswallow

Masked Woodswallow
White-browed Woodswallow
Black-faced Woodswallow
Little Woodswallow
Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-winged Triller
Varied Sittella
Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush
Crested Bellbird
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Magpie-lark
Little Crow
Torresian Crow
Jacky Winter
Red-capped Robin

Hooded Robin
Horsfield's Bushlark
White-backed Swallow
Welcome Swallow
Fairy Martin
Tree Martin
Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Grassbird
Rufous Songlark
Brown Songlark
Spinifexbird
Mistletoebird
Zebra Finch
Painted Finch
Australasian Pipit