

# 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 Chiming 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 Babblers, 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.

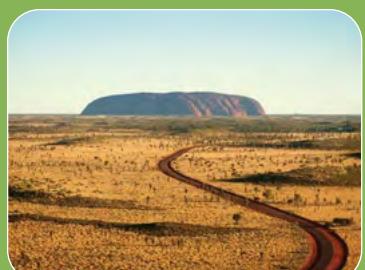
We'll then head back to the resort for lunch before heading out onto the start of the Mereenie Loop Road for part of the afternoon, where we might be lucky enough to see a herd or two of wild camels roaming. Birds we will be looking for include Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Spinifex Pigeon, Masked Woodswallow, 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 Wanders.

## 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

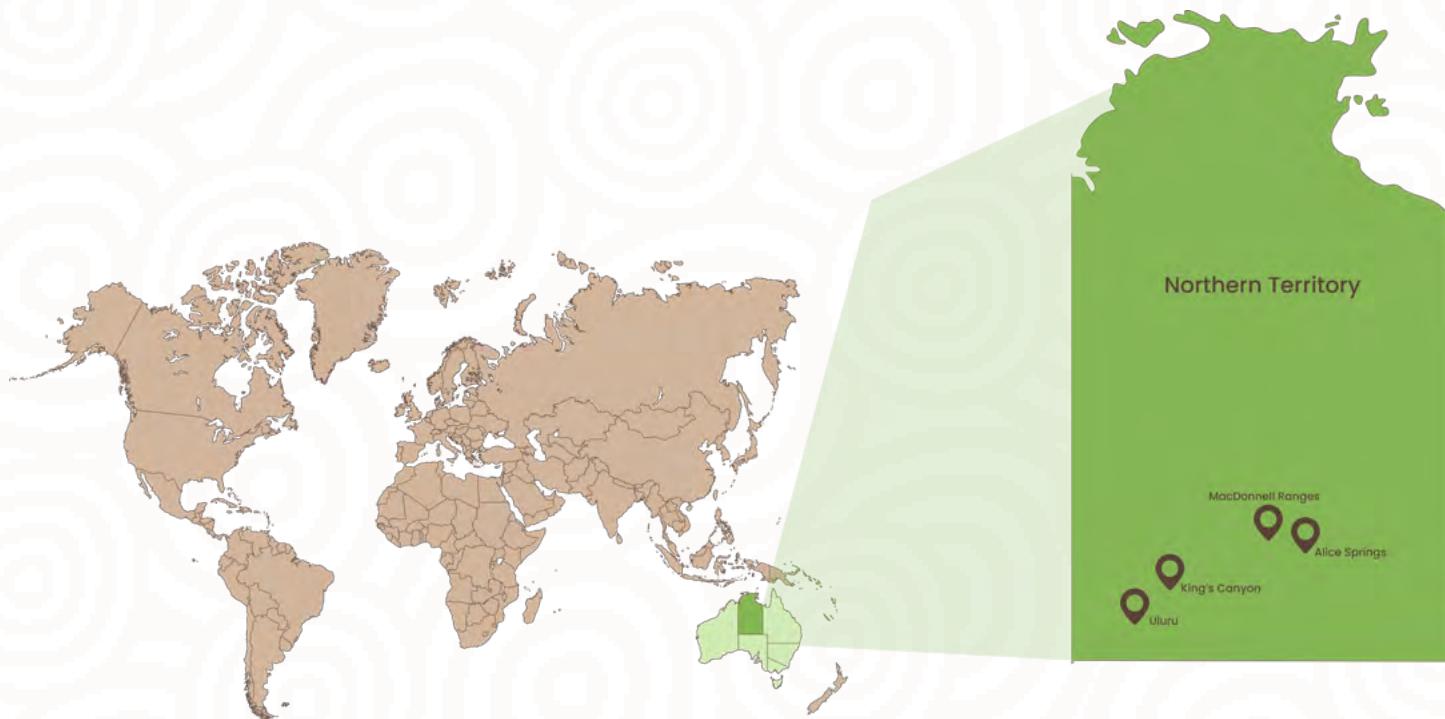
Day 4: 12 September 2027: Kings Canyon to Uluru (Ayers Rock)

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 en-suite 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             | Burke'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