

Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite Tour

29 September - 6 October 2027

Grey Falcon and Letter-winged Kite are amongst Australia's most sought-after raptors. During our many outback birding tours we've located these species reliably enough to be able to offer this special tour. We should have multiple sightings of both species. This is a reasonably fast-paced trip deep into the outback, with early departures and late finishes each day, while covering over 2500 km in 6 days. We'll look for other good outback species as well, including Black-breasted Buzzard, Inland Dotterel, Flock Bronzewing, Australian Pratincole, Eyrean Grasswren, Cinnamon

Quail-thrush, Gibberbird, Orange and Crimson Chat, Painted Finch, Banded Whiteface, Honeyeaters including Pied and Grey-fronted; and witness spectacular outback desert scenery along with the famous rock formations of the Flinders Ranges. After good rainfalls it's shaping up to be an excellent year for outback birding—don't miss out!

We offer a 1-day extension for Carpentarian Grasswren at the end.

ITINERARY

Day 0: 29 September 2027

Arrival in Mt Isa

Meet for introductions and dinner at our hotel (included) in Mt Isa, Qld. Overnight Abacus Motel, Mt Isa (private en-suite rooms). Meals incl: D.

Day 1: 30 September 2027

Lake Moondarra, Cloncurry, and Winton

We start the day at Lake Moondarra, where waterbirds such as Glossy Ibis, Green Pygmy-goose, Whistling-ducks, Plumed Egret live alongside terrestrial birds like Painted Finch, Spotted Bowerbird, Red-winged Parrot, Varied Lorikeet, Spinifexbird, Long-tailed Finch and more. This is a true birding paradise; we'll spend most of the morning here, before traveling to Cloncurry for a picnic lunch. The afternoon is spent driving south; along the way we'll stop at the iconic Crocodile Dundee hotel for a look and a laugh. Across the vast grassy plains, we might come across Brolga, Australian Bustard, Black Falcon and Horsfield's Bushlark, until we reach Winton to look for Plum-headed Finch. Overnight Boulder Opal Inn, Winton (private en-suite rooms). Meals included: B, L, D.

Day 2: 1 October 2027

Lark Quarry - Opalton

Today we bird the Lark Quarry – Opalton area for Opalton Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emuwren, Hall's Babbler, Spinifexbird and Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush. We stand a good chance of finding our first Grey Falcon, plus many other sought-after species such as Crimson Chat, Black-breasted Buzzard and others. We'll take lunch in the Dinosaur Trackways centre, situated high up on a rugged jump-up plateau with spectacular views over the surrounding plains, while Spinifex Pigeons scurry around the undergrowth. There is the option to visit the dinosaur stampede here this afternoon (own cost). Afterwards we continue west across more endless grassy plains, with another chance of Grey Falcon until we reach the small town of Boulia. We check the local watercourse for Red-browed Pardalote, Spotted Bowerbird, Cockatiel, Budgerigar and Red-backed Kingfisher. Overnight Desert Sands Motel, Boulia (private en-suite rooms). Meals included: B, L, D.

Day 3: 2 October 2027

Grey Falcons

A big day today as we explore Astrebla Downs and/or Diamantina Lakes NP. These rugged, remote parks are strongholds for Grey Falcon, Letter-winged Kite and many other outback species. It was in this gen-



Grey Falcon, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Black Falcon, Banded Whiteface, and Wedge-tailed Eagle. All photos by Peter Waanders.

eral area that the Night Parrot was rediscovered in 2013! Other species we may encounter here are Pied and Black Honeyeater, Inland Dotterel, Gibberbird, Black Falcon and more. Overnight Bedourie Royal Hotel (private en-suite motel rooms). Meals included: B, L, D.

Day 4: 3 October 2027**Letter-winged Kites**

As we head further south in search of breeding or roosting Letter-winged Kites the landscape changes from bare gibber plains to vegetated, grassy plains and scattered Waddi trees (a rare, ancient acacia species). We hope to see Australian Pratincole, Flock Bronzewing, Spinifex Pigeon and Inland Dotterel. Overnight Birdsville Hotel, Birdsville (private en-suite rooms). Meals included: B, L, D.

Day 5: 4 October 2027**More Letter-winged Kites**

After a morning bird walk targeting Red-browed Pardalote, the localized race of Red-rumped Parrot, and our last chance of Letter-winged Kite, today will be mostly spent travelling north to reach Boulia early afternoon. Along the way we have further chances of Black Falcon, Australian Pratincole, Gibberbird, Flock Bronzewing, Inland Dotterel, Crimson and Orange Chats and Australian Bustard. Overnight: Desert Sands Motel, Boulia (en-suite motel rooms). Meals included: B, L, D.

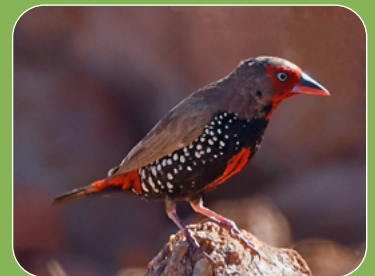
Day 6: 5 October 2027**To Mt Isa and Lake Moondarra**

An early start will see us visit local waterholes to witness Budgerigars and/or Flock Bronzewings coming in to drink. Along the way north, back to Mt Isa, we search for the elusive Kalkadoon Grasswren, Banded Whiteface and Spinifexbird, and we have a good chance of increasing the number of species of finches and parrots we've seen. Overnight: Abacus Motel, Mt Isa (en-suite motel rooms). Meals included: B, L, D.

Day 7: 6 October 2027**Departure from Mt Isa or one-day extension**

After breakfast (incl.) departure from Mt Isa. Taxi to airport (own cost).

Or join our 1 day extension to the spinifex habitats west of Mt Isa, in search of Carpentarian Grasswren, Black-tailed Treecreeper and many other good species. The extension includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and an extra night's accommodation tonight, so you can depart tomorrow (29 Sep). Price for the extension is AU\$600 pp (min. 3).



Letter-winged Kite, Grey Falcon, Kalkadoon Grasswren, Painted Finch, and once more Letter-winged Kite. All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

Grey Falcon & Letter-winged Kite Tour: 29 September - 6 October 2027

One-day extension Carpentarian Grasswren.

STARTING IN

Mt Isa, Queensland

FINISHING IN

Mount Isa, Queensland

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 3, maximum 9 participants.

The optional Carpentarian Grasswren extension requires a minimum of 3 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 29 September 2027: Arrival in Mt Isa

Day 1: 30 September 2027: Lake Moondarra, Cloncurry, and Winton

Day 2: 1 October 2027: Lark Quarry - Opalton

Day 3: 2 October 2027: Grey Falcons

Day 4: 3 October 2027: Letter-winged Kites

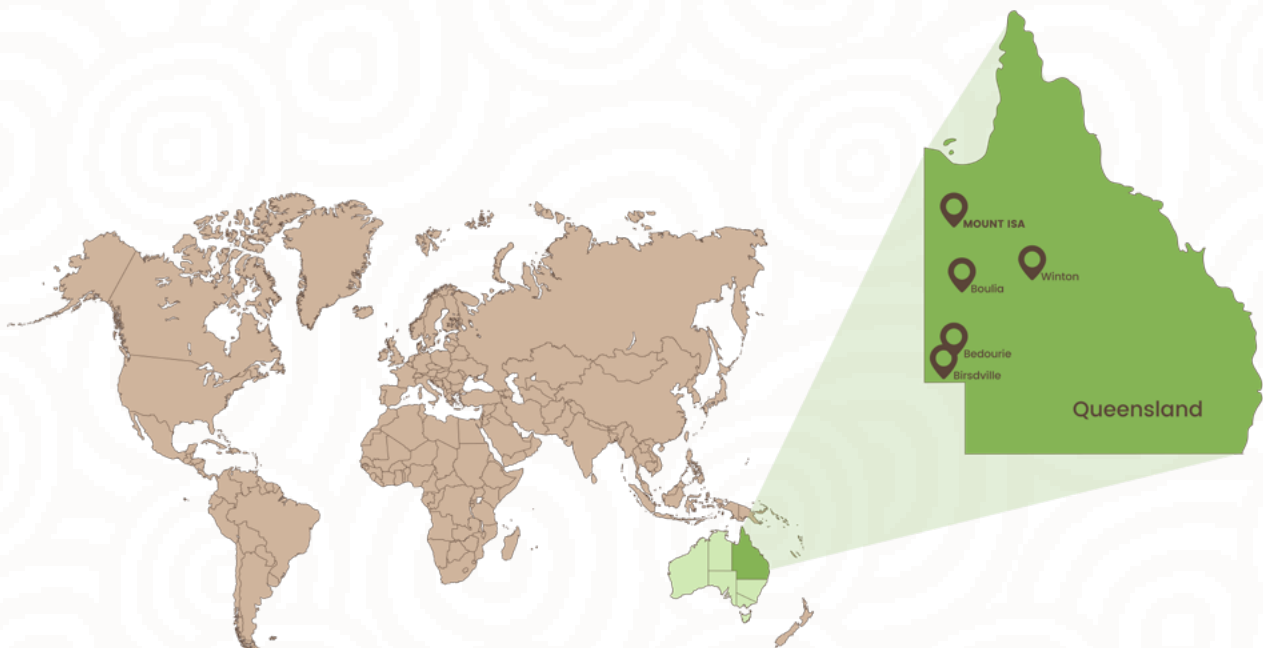
Day 5: 4 October 2027: More Letter-winged Kites

Day 6: 5 October 2027: To Mt Isa and Lake Moondarra

Day 7: 6 October 2027: Departure from Mt Isa or one-day extension

BOOKING

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



COST

COST

AU\$5,499 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$750.

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 7, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms, although on some nights only basic rooms with shared facilities are available. See itinerary for details. Transport using comfortable and reliable 4WD 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, any meals after Breakfast on Day 7, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Tour commences with dinner in Mt Isa, Qld on 29 Sep 2027. Please arrive on or before 29 Sep 2027. Tour finishes morning of 6 Oct 2027 in Mt Isa, Qld. Please depart on or after 6 Oct 2027 — or join our 1-day extension for Carpentarian Grasswren on 6 Oct.

PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

If you wish to stay an extra night before the tour starts or after it finishes, we can book you into a hotel, please indicate this on the booking form

Or why not join our optional Carpentarian Grasswren extension? Spend one more day in the spinifex habitats west of Mt Isa in search of Carpentarian Grasswren, Black-tailed Treecreeper and many other good species. The extension includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and an extra night's accommodation in Mt Isa, so you can depart tomorrow (7 Oct). Price for the extension is AU\$600 per person (min. 3).

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

Expert Bellbird tour leader.

DIFFICULTY

Medium level of fitness required. The tour has a reasonably fast pace and walks are on varying surfaces, from paved roads to uneven, gravelly trails with some short climbs and soft sandy dunes. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in private en-suite rooms, although on some nights only cabins or basic rooms with shared facilities are available. See itinerary for details.. Due to the remote nature of this trip, we may not have phone reception or wi-fi access every day.

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. Sturdy footwear recommended. Gaiters may be useful to protect your ankles from prickly vegetation. 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 visitor, insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, travel umbrella, sun hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses, tripods, and heavy hard-shell 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	Brown Goshawk	Common Bronzewing
Plumed Whistling-duck	Collared Sparrowhawk	Flock Bronzewing
Freckled Duck	Spotted Harrier	Crested Pigeon
Musk Duck	Swamp Harrier	Diamond Dove
Blue-billed Duck	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Peaceful Dove
Black Swan	Little Eagle	Spinifex Pigeon
Australian Shelduck	Australian Bustard	Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo
Australian Wood Duck	Australian Swamphen	Pallid Cuckoo
Pink-eared Duck	Baillon's Crake	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Australasian Shoveler	Australian Spotted Crake	Eastern Barn Owl
Grey Teal	Spotless Crake	Southern Boobook
Chestnut Teal	Buff-banded Rail	Tawny Frogmouth
Northern Mallard	Black-tailed Native-hen	Spotted Nightjar
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Australian Owlet-nightjar
Hardhead	Eurasian Coot	White-throated Needletail
Malleefowl	Brolga	Fork-tailed Swift
Brown Quail	Little Button-quail	Laughing Kookaburra
Stubble Quail	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Red-backed Kingfisher
Australasian Grebe	Sooty Oystercatcher	Sacred Kingfisher
Hoary-headed Grebe	Black-winged Stilt	Rainbow Bee-eater
Great Crested Grebe	Red-necked Avocet	Nankeen Kestrel
Glossy Ibis	Banded Stilt	Brown Falcon
Australian White Ibis	Red-capped Plover	Australian Hobby
Straw-necked Ibis	Inland Dotterel	Grey Falcon
Royal Spoonbill	Black-fronted Dotterel	Black Falcon
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Red-kneed Dotterel	Peregrine Falcon
Great Egret	Oriental Plover	Galah
Intermediate Egret	Banded Lapwing	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
Cattle Egret	Masked Lapwing	Long-billed Corella
White-necked Heron	Common Sandpiper	Little Corella
White-faced Heron	Wood Sandpiper	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Little Egret	Common Greenshank	Cockatiel
Nankeen Night-Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	Rainbow Lorikeet
Australian Pelican	Red-necked Stint	Musk Lorikeet
Little Pied Cormorant	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Great Cormorant	Australian Pratincole	Varied Lorikeet
Little Black Cormorant	Crested Tern	Eastern Rosella
Pied Cormorant	Gull-billed Tern	Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella
Black-faced Cormorant	Caspian Tern	Crimson (Yellow) Rosella
Australasian Darter	Whiskered Tern	Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck
Black-shouldered Kite	White-winged Black Tern	Australian (Mallee) Ringneck
Letter-winged Kite	Silver Gull	Blue Bonnet (yellow-vented)
Whistling Kite	Rock Dove	Blue Bonnet (pale form)
Black Kite	Barbary Dove	Red-rumped Parrot
Black-breasted Buzzard	Spotted Dove	Mulga Parrot

Budgerigar
 Bourke's Parrot
 Elegant Parrot
 Black-throated Treecreeper
 White-browed Treecreeper
 Brown Treecreeper
 Superb Fairy-wren
 Splendid Fairy-wren
 White-winged Fairy-wren
 Variegated Fairy-wren
 Kalkadoon Grasswren
 Thick-billed Grasswren
 Western Grasswren
 Eyrean Grasswren
 Pied Honeyeater
 Singing Honeyeater
 Grey-headed Honeyeater
 White-eared Honeyeater
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater
 White-plumed Honeyeater
 White-fronted Honeyeater
 Noisy Miner
 Yellow-throated Miner
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
 Red Wattlebird
 Little Wattlebird
 Striped Honeyeater
 Crimson Chat
 Orange Chat
 White-fronted Chat
 Gibberbird
 Brown Honeyeater
 Black Honeyeater
 New Holland Honeyeater
 Brown-headed Honeyeater
 Spotted Pardalote

Red-browed Pardalote
 Striated Pardalote
 White-browed Scrubwren
 Shy Heathwren
 Rufous Fieldwren
 Redthroat Weebill
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
 Slender-billed Thornbill
 Buff-rumped Thornbill
 Inland Thornbill
 Southern Whiteface
 Banded Whiteface
 White-browed Babbler
 Chestnut-crowned Babbler
 Cinnamon Quail-thrush
 Chirruping Wedgebill
 Grey Butcherbird
 Pied Butcherbird
 Australian Magpie
 Grey Currawong
 White-breasted Woodswallow
 Masked Woodswallow
 White-browed Woodswallow
 Black-faced Woodswallow
 Dusky Woodswallow
 Little Woodswallow
 Ground Cuckoo-shrike
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 White-winged Triller
 Varied Sittella
 Gilbert's Whistler
 Rufous Whistler
 Golden Whistler
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Crested Bellbird
 Grey Fantail

Willie Wagtail
 Restless Flycatcher
 Paperbark Flycatcher
 Magpie-lark
 Australian Raven
 Little Raven
 Little Crow
 White-winged Chough
 Apostlebird
 Jacky Winter
 Red-capped Robin
 Hooded Robin
 Southern Scrub-robin
 Horsfield's Bushlark
 Eurasian Skylark
 White-backed Swallow
 Welcome Swallow
 Fairy Martin
 Tree Martin
 Australian Reed-Warbler
 Little Grassbird
 Rufous Songlark
 Brown Songlark
 Spinifexbird
 Silveryeye
 Common Starling
 Common Blackbird
 Mistletoebird
 House Sparrow
 Zebra Finch
 Pictorella Mannikin
 Long-tailed Finch
 Painted Finch
 Red-browed Finch
 Australasian Pipit