

# Pilbara Specialties Tour

**4-12 August 2027**

This exciting tour takes us to the underexplored Western Australian Pilbara region. Here we will look for a number of special bird species. We start in Perth and head up to beautiful Geraldton with its honeyeaters and Western Fieldwren, before relaxing at Shark Bay where Western Grasswren, Chiming Wedgebill and close-up dolphins await us. We cut across the Pilbara to head inland, looking for Sandhill Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Western Quail-thrush and Western Bowerbird. Heading north we look for the elusive Pilbara Grasswren and Grey Honeyeater. Other birds we're likely to come across during our trav-

els include Painted Finch, Spinifex Pigeon, Rufous Fieldwren, Spinifexbird, Bourke's Parrot, Slaty-backed Thornbill, Black-chinned (Golden-backed) Honeyeater, Little Woodswallow, Southern Scrubrobin and many more. This time of year the weather is generally quite pleasant. We'll visit beautiful Kalbarri NP near Geraldton, the Shark Bay World Heritage site, the vast spinifex plains (of Night Parrot fame...!) of the Pilbara and marvel at the stark outback countryside dotted with granite outcrops between Mt Magnet and Newman. Spaces are limited so don't wait too long to book this great tour!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: 4 August 2027

#### Arrival in Perth and drive to Geraldton

Today you arrive in Perth, and make your own way to our meeting point (Kings Park Botanical Gardens Café) where we'll meet for introductions and lunch at 11:30am. We'll spend the afternoon driving to Geraldton, making a few short birding stops along the way.

Overnight: Sails Motel, en-suite room

Meals included: L, D

### Day 2: 5 August 2027

#### Geraldton to Monkey Mia

We spend the morning in Kalbarri NP where the wildflowers attract good Western Australian species such as Western Spinebill, Western Wattlebird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, and we have a good chance of Blue-breasted Fairywren and Western Yellow Robin. One of the main targets here is the recently split Western Fieldwren. After a picnic lunch we head further north to the Shark Bay area to our final destination, the Monkey Mia resort, right on the beach where Indo-pacific Dolphins regularly come in to feed.

Overnight: Monkey Mia Resort, en-suite hotel rooms

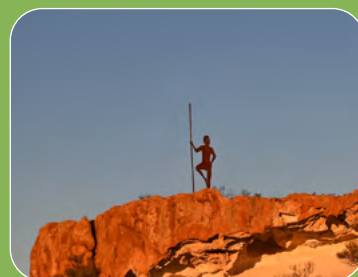
Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 3: 6 August 2027

#### Monkey Mia & Shark Bay

The morning is spent in the Shark Bay area. This stunning World Heritage site is located on the westernmost point of the Australian continent, and its coastal habitats have a number of exceptional natural features, the most well-known of which are its beds of stromatolites: colonies of microbial mats that form hard, dome-shaped deposits which are said to be the oldest life forms on earth. The beautiful remote scenery is home to a population of Western Grasswren which will be the main target of our visit. There are also Purple-backed Fairy-wren, Chiming Wedgebill and Rufous Fieldwren here.

After a lunch in one of the roadside establishments, we will bird our way back to Geraldton. We will visit the stromatolites at Hamelin Pool: there is an excellent birding area around here where we will look for Pied Honeyeater, Crested Bellbird, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Southern Whiteface, Slaty-backed Thornbill and Mulga Parrot.



Western Yellow Robin, Western Grasswren, Western Fieldwren, and Pied Honeyeater. All photos by Peter Waanders.



Overnight: Sails Motel, en-suite room  
 Meals included: B, L, D

#### **Day 4: 7 August 2027** **Geraldton to Mt Magnet**

After a relaxing morning birding, we start heading inland to Mt Magnet. We'll leave the coastal vegetation, travel through eucalypt woodland before ending up in a vast sea of "mulga" (narrow-leaved acacia) habitat. This is where we'll find many species that do not occur elsewhere, such as Grey Honeyeater and Western Quail-thrush. Other birds we may come across include Emu (remind the tour leader to tell you about the Emu War!), Crested Bellbird, Budgerigar, Cockatiel, Mulga Parrot, Diamond Dove, Crimson Chat, Black-eared Cuckoo, Pied Butcherbird, Zebra Finch, Pallid Cuckoo and Grey-crowned Babbler. We may be lucky to find White-fronted, Pied & Black Honeyeater depending on seasonal conditions.

Overnight: Outback Gold, en-suite cabin  
 Meals included: B, L, D

#### **Day 5: 8 August 2027** **Of Granite and Sandstone**

Today we have a full day in the wider Mt Magnet area. Early in the morning, just after sunrise, we search an area known as the Granites for Western Quail-thrush. Later that morning we head across to an area known as Sandstone, where the Sandhill (not Sandstone) Grasswren lives – a recent split of Rufous Grasswren. This very scenic area is also likely to yield many other good species such as Slaty-backed & Inland Thornbills, Banded Whiteface, Bourke's Parrot, Redthroat, Western Bowerbird, Little Woodswallow and more. After a full day's birding (with picnic lunch taken in the field), we'll return to Mt Magnet for a well-deserved dinner.

Overnight: Outback Gold, en-suite cabin  
 Meals included: B, L, D

#### **Day 6: 9 August 2027** **Nallan Station**

This morning is a back-up for any species we still need, or want better views of. Later in the morning we pack up and bird our way to Nallan Station, just an hour's drive up the road. This 99,000 ha working pastoral station is set up for birders. Bird life is abundant on the property.

Exploring the many tracks through the mulga, mallee, and along wa-



*Grey Honeyeater, Western Quail-thrush, Sandhill Grasswren, and Southern Scrubrobin. All photos by Peter Waanders.*

terways, we look for Pink Cockatoo, Banded Whiteface, Bourke's Parrot and many other good species. At night, the stars are amazing.

Overnight: Nallan Station Cue, private rooms with shared facilities  
Meals included: B, L, D

### **Day 7: 10 August 2027**

#### **Further inland**

The morning is spent birding on Nallan Station and then we head north to Newman, birding along the way, with more chances of the previously mentioned species. Lunch is taken in one of the many small roadside venues along the way. After arriving at Newman, we check into our very comfortable lodgings here, have a short break and head out in search of what should be one of the highlights of the trip: Pilbara Grasswren – a recent split of Rufous Grasswren.

Overnight: Seasons Hotel Newman, en-suite hotel room  
Meals included: B, L, D

### **Day 8: 11 August 2027**

#### **Pilbara**

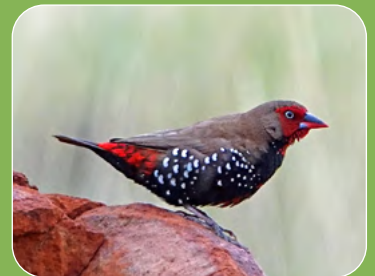
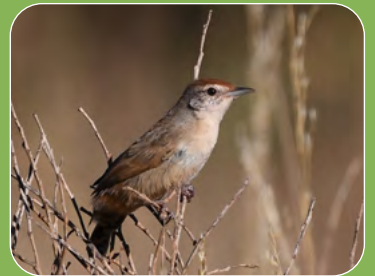
Today we have a full day in the Pilbara around Newman. Vast spinifex plains are interspersed with mulga woodlands and rocky outcrops, criss-crossed by seasonal, eucalypt-lined waterways. Today's main target is the elusive Grey Honeyeater, for which we have a number of good locations. If needed there is also the opportunity to revisit the Pilbara Grasswren in the spinifex-covered hills just outside the town. Other birds we may see today include Spinifex Pigeon, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Spinifexbird, Cockatiel, Budgerigar, Western Gerygone, while we also stand a chance of finding the localised welsi race of Black-tailed Treecreeper, Painted Finch, Grey-headed Honeyeater and Slaty-backed Thornbill.

Overnight: Seasons Hotel Newman, en-suite hotel room  
Meals included: B, L, D

### **Day 9: 12 August 2027**

#### **Departure**

This last morning is spent picking up any birds we still need or want better views of. After an early lunch we'll finalise the checklist and drop you off at the airport for your flight home. There are multiple flights per day from Newman to Perth and onwards. Or why not join our Kimberley tour, starting in Broome on 14 Aug? Instant return-client discount applies, details on our website. Feel free to contact us to discuss this option.



*Pilbara Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Spinifexbird, Painted Finch, and Slaty-backed Thornbill. All photos by Peter Waanders.*

## QUICK OVERVIEW

### SCHEDULED DATES

Pilbara Specials Tour: 4 - 12 August 2027

Following: [Kimberley Specials and Black Grasswren Birding Tour](#), from 14 - 24 August 2027, starting in Broome (Western Australia)

### STARTING IN

Perth, Western Australia

### FINISHING IN

Newman, Western Australia

### GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 9 participants.

### BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: 4 August 2027: Arrival in Perth and drive to Geraldton

Day 2: 5 August 2027: Geraldton to Monkey Mia

Day 3: 6 August 2027: Monkey Mia & Shark Bay

Day 4: 7 August 2027: Geraldton to Mt Magnet

Day 5: 8 August 2027: Of Granite and Sandstone

Day 6: 9 August 2027: Nallan Station

Day 7: 10 August 2027: Further inland

Day 8: 11 August 2027: Pilbara

Day 9: 12 August 2027: Departure from Newman

### BOOKING

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





## COST

### COST

AU\$6,599 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge 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 Lunch on Day 1 and finishing with Lunch 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, transport using comfortable and reliable 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 lunch, and after the last breakfast, 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, please make your own way to our meeting point on Day 1, in time for lunch and introductions. 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 [Kimberley tour](#), starting 14 Aug? Instant return-client discount applies, details on our website. Feel free to contact us to discuss this option

### 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

In private en-suite air-conditioned rooms or cabins where possible, as indicated in the daily itinerary.

### CLOTHING

In the day it will be cool to mild, but mornings and evenings can be chilly. 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	Glossy Ibis	Banded Lapwing
Brown Quail	Australian White Ibis	Masked Lapwing
Stubble Quail	Straw-necked Ibis	Common Sandpiper
Plumed Whistling-duck	Royal Spoonbill	Wood Sandpiper
Musk Duck	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Curlew Sandpiper
Black Swan	Black-shouldered Kite	Marsh Sandpiper
Australian Shelduck	Whistling Kite	Common Greenshank
Australian Wood Duck	Black Kite	Ruddy Turnstone
Pink-eared Duck	Brahminy Kite	Red-necked Stint
Australasian Shoveler	Square-tailed Kite	Sanderling
Grey Teal	Black-breasted Buzzard	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Chestnut Teal	Brown Goshawk	Great Knot
Pacific Black Duck	Grey Goshawk	Red Knot
Hardhead	Collared Sparrowhawk	Grey-tailed Tattler
Australasian Grebe	Pacific Baza	Little Button-quail
Hoary-headed Grebe	Spotted Harrier	Australian Pratincole
Great Crested Grebe	Swamp Harrier	Crested Tern
Rock Dove	Osprey	Lesser Crested Tern
Spotted Dove	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Bridled Tern
Common Bronzewing	Little Eagle	Gull-billed Tern
Spinifex Pigeon	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Caspian Tern
Crested Pigeon	Brolga	Whiskered Tern
Laughing Dove	Purple Swamphen	Silver Gull
Diamond Dove	Australian Spotted Crake	Nankeen Kestrel
Peaceful Dove	Spotless Crake	Brown Falcon
Bar-shouldered Dove	Buff-banded Rail	Australian Hobby
Crested Pigeon	Black-tailed Native-hen	Grey Falcon
Tawny Frogmouth	Dusky Moorhen	Black Falcon
Spotted Nightjar	Eurasian Coot	Peregrine Falcon
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Australian Bustard	Galah
Australasian Darter	Pied Oystercatcher	Pink Cockatoo
Little Pied Cormorant	Sooty Oystercatcher	Long-billed Corella
Great Cormorant	Bush Stone-curlew	Western Corella
Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Curlew	Little Corella
Pied Cormorant	Whimbrel	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Australian Pelican	Bar-tailed Godwit	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
Great Egret	Black-tailed Godwit	Cockatiel
Intermediate Egret	Black-winged Stilt	Rainbow Lorikeet
Cattle Egret	Red-necked Avocet	Purple-crowned Lorikeet
White-necked Heron	Banded Stilt	Aust. Ringneck
White-faced Heron	Red-capped Plover	Short-billed Black Cockatoo
Striated Heron	Grey Plover	Mulga Parrot
Little Egret	Pacific Golden Plover	Budgerigar
Eastern Reef Egret	Black-fronted Dotterel	Bourke's Parrot
Nankeen Night-Heron	Red-kneed Dotterel	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo

Fan-tailed Cuckoo  
 Pallid Cuckoo  
 Black-eared Cuckoo  
 Southern Boobook  
 Eastern Barn Owl  
 Barking Owl  
 Laughing Kookaburra  
 Blue-winged Kookaburra  
 Red-backed Kingfisher  
 Collared Kingfisher  
 Sacred Kingfisher  
 Rainbow Bee-eater  
 Western Bowerbird  
 Great Bowerbird  
 Rufous Treecreeper  
 Black-tailed Treecreeper  
 Splendid Fairy-wren  
 White-winged Fairy-wren  
 Purple-backed Fairy-wren  
 Red-backed Fairy-wren  
 Blue-breasted Fairywren  
 Rufous-crowned Emu-wren  
 Sandhill Grasswren  
 Pilbara Grasswren  
 Western Grasswren  
 Spotted Scrubwren  
 Rufous Fieldwren  
 Western Fieldwren  
 Weebill  
 Western Gerygone  
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill  
 Slaty-backed Thornbill  
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill  
 Inland Thornbill  
 Southern Whiteface  
 Banded Whiteface  
 Spotted Pardalote  
 Red-browed Pardalote  
 Striated Pardalote

Pied Honeyeater  
 Singing Honeyeater  
 Grey-headed Honeyeater  
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater  
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater  
 White-plumed Honeyeater  
 White-fronted Honeyeater  
 Grey Honeyeater  
 Little Friarbird  
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater  
 White-fronted Honeyeater  
 White-eared Honeyeater  
 Yellow-throated Miner  
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater  
 Red Wattlebird  
 Western Wattlebird  
 White-cheeked Honeyeater  
 Western Spinebill  
 Crimson Chat  
 Orange Chat  
 White-fronted Chat  
 Black Honeyeater  
 Brown Honeyeater  
 Black-chinned Honeyeater  
 Brown-headed Honeyeater  
 White-browed Babbler  
 Grey-crowned Babbler  
 Western Quail-thrush  
 Copperback Quail-thrush  
 Chiming Wedgebill  
 Varied Sittella  
 Ground Cuckoo-shrike  
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  
 White-winged Triller  
 Western Whistler  
 Gilbert's Whistler  
 Rufous Whistler  
 Grey Shrike-thrush  
 Crested Bellbird

White-breasted Woodswallow  
 Masked Woodswallow  
 White-browed Woodswallow  
 Black-faced Woodswallow  
 Little Woodswallow  
 Dusky Woodswallow  
 Grey Butcherbird  
 Pied Butcherbird  
 Grey Currawong  
 Australian Magpie  
 Grey Fantail  
 Willie Wagtail  
 Australian Raven  
 Little Crow  
 Torresian Crow  
 Restless Flycatcher  
 Magpie-lark  
 White-winged Chough  
 Jacky Winter  
 Hooded Robin  
 Western Yellow Robin  
 Horsfield's Bushlark  
 Australian Reed-Warbler  
 Little Grassbird  
 Rufous Songlark  
 Brown Songlark  
 Spinifexbird  
 Silvereye  
 White-backed Swallow  
 Welcome Swallow  
 Fairy Martin  
 Tree Martin  
 Mistletoebird  
 Zebra Finch  
 Painted Finch  
 Star Finch  
 Australasian Pipit