

# Highlights of South Australia

10 - 16 September 2026

This is one of our longest-running tours, but now with an updated itinerary that promises even more birds! We'll explore South Australia's many varied habitats, ranging from the spectacular Flinders Ranges and surrounding stark outback deserts, to the lush Mt Lofty Ranges. We'll discover the wetlands and estuaries around Adelaide, flood-plains along the mighty Murray River and the vast expanses of semi-arid eucalypt scrub at Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve. This wide variety of habitats allows us to maximise the species list – expect up to 200 species! These include some highly sought-after birds such as Malleefowl, Banded Stilt, Freckled Duck, Adelaide Rosella,

Regent/Mulga/Elegant Parrot. We'll also be able to spot two species of Grasswren, four of Fairy-wren, three of Cuckoo, three of Tree-creepers, two of Quail-thrush, as well as Redthroat, Gilberts/Rufous/Golden/Red-lored Whistler, Inland Dotterel and many more.

We'll look for mammals as well, including the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat. Combine all this with great food and amazing accommodations: you won't want to miss out! And as an added bonus, we now also offer a pre-tour extension to Kangaroo Island.

## ITINERARY

### Day 0: 10 September 2026

#### Arrival in Adelaide

From 7 - 10 September 2026, we offer an optional pre-tour excursion to Kangaroo Island. Just off the Adelaide coast, this large island harbours a unique and diverse wildlife, specialised birds, striking scenery and vast wilderness. Key birds include the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo, colonies of Fairy Penguin, Hooded Plover, Cape Barren Goose, the elusive Western Whiibird and the rare Fairy Penguin as well as many sea and land birds. See <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/kangaroo-island/>.

People not joining this trip will make their own way to our hotel on 25 September in Adelaide, where we'll all meet this evening for dinner and introductions.

Overnight: Adelaide, en-suite hotel room

Meals included: D



### Day 1: 11 September 2026

#### Adelaide to Lyndhurst

An early start for our trip to the outback. We follow the coast north, looking for Adelaide Rosella and Slender-billed Thornbill. At Port Augusta we visit the beautiful Arid Lands Botanical Gardens where an array of native flowers and shrubs attract such species as Chirruping Wedgebill, Redthroat, White-winged Fairy-wren and many species of Honeyeater including a chance of Pied and Black Honeyeater. A nearby coastal lake often has Banded Stilt.

We will arrive at Mt Lyndhurst, on the edge of the Strzelecki desert, towards the end of the day. While we enjoy a spectacular outback sunset from a vantage point we marvel at the vastness of the landscape and at the same time look around for Inland Dotterel.

Overnight: Lyndhurst Hotel, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 2: 12 September 2026

#### Lyndhurst and the Strzelecki desert

We depart around sunrise to start birding at nearby Mt Lyndhurst, where, with luck and perseverance, we may see the last few remaining Thick-billed Grasswrens. We should certainly come across other good outback species such as Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Rufous Fieldwren,

White-winged Fairywren, Banded Stilt, Pink Cockatoo, and Striated Grasswren. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Chirruping Wedgebill, Zebra Finch, Black-faced Woodswallow and Budgerigar.

We'll explore the endless open stony plains of the Strzelecki desert, which are traversed by mostly dry watercourses. Expect species such as Budgerigar, Red-backed Kingfisher, Crimson, Orange and Gibber Chat. We'll have a picnic lunch at a billabong (waterhole) with coolabah trees after which we bird our way back to Lyndhurst, looking for Black-breasted Buzzard. If necessary, we return to our sunset viewing point for another chance of Inland Dotterel.

Overnight: Lyndhurst Hotel, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 3: 13 September 2026

#### Gammon Ranges

Today we'll travel south past the spectacular rock formations of the Gammon Ranges and enter the Flinders Ranges, an impressive range of steep hills and soaring rock formations on the edge of Australia's outback. Mid-morning we'll be traveling across dry creekbeds and through narrow gorges cut deeply into geological layers that date back 800 million years. Here we search for Elegant Parrot and Grey-fronted Honeyeater.

We'll visit the fossil site of the Ediacaran fauna, which lived a little before the great explosion of multicellular life at the beginning of the Cambrian Period. Here we're also likely to encounter the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. We'll see stately Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring above spinifex-grass covered slopes and there are plenty of Red, Western Grey and Euro Kangaroos. We'll retire to the Outback Hotel in Hawker for dinner and an optional spotlighting session.

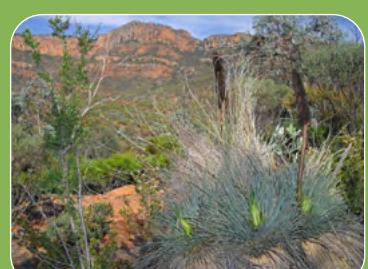
Overnight: Outback Hotel Hawker, en-suite motel room

Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 4: 14 September 2026

#### Flinder Ranges

Early mornings in the outback can get pretty chilly as we check nearby rocky outcrops for Southern Scrubrobin and various honey-eaters. We will leave the picturesque Flinders Ranges and drive south, through the historic copper mining township of Burra, and bird the extensive prairie-like Bluebush plains for Blue Bonnet, Redthroat, Black-eared Cuckoo, Brown & Rufous Songlark and Australian Pipit.



Crimson Chat, Tawny Frogmouth, Budgerigar, and Southern Scrub-Robin. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Later in the day we'll reach Australia's largest river: the Murray. We visit a breeding colony of Regent Parrots and check a few wetlands for waterbirds including crakes, rails and Freckled Duck.

Overnight: Berri Resort Hotel, en-suite motel room  
 Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 5: 15 September 2026

#### Gluepot wilderness reserve

We depart early in the morning for the drive of less than an hour to Birdlife Australia's Gluepot reserve, home to no less than 6 endangered bird species. While the sun rises over centuries-old mallee eucalypts and sand dunes covered in spinifex grass, we look for Malleefowl, Red-lored Whistler, Gilbert's Whistler, Hooded Robin, Southern Scrubrobin, Black-eared Miner, Shy Heathwren, White-browed Treecreeper and Inland Thornbill. As the bird activity slows down, we focus on species such as Chestnut Quail-thrush, Crested Bellbird, Splendid Fairy-wren and Striped Honeyeater.

Depending on preceding seasonal conditions, we may also encounter White-winged Triller, Pied and Black Honeyeater and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo. From one of the bird hides that overlook a watering trough, we have a chance of observing Mulga Parrot and many of Gluepot's 10 species of Honeyeater. We leave the reserve late in the afternoon to be back at your accommodation around dusk.

Overnight: Berri Resort Hotel, en-suite motel room  
 Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 6: 16 September 2026

#### Murray River National Park to Adelaide

Today we'll spend birding our way back to Adelaide. First, we follow the Murray River to check out a number of wetlands for species such as Blue-billed and Freckled Duck, Baillon's, Australian Spotted and Spotless Crake and Little Grassbird. We'll visit a raptor lookout with good chance of Little Eagle, Spotted and Swamp Harrier, Whistling and Black-shouldered Kite and if we're lucky, Black Falcon. We'll have lunch on the banks of the Murray River, where Purple-crowned Lorikeet is often found, after which we proceed into the Adelaide Hills.

While most of South Australia's landscapes are arid, the Adelaide Hills are an exception. Tall, dense eucalypt forests provide a habitat for many species otherwise only found in Australia's eastern states. We will look for Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, the *adelaideae* subspecies of Crimson Rosella (often regarded as a full species: Adelaide Rosella),



Mulga Parrot, Malleefowl, Red-lored Whistler, Regent Parrot, and Mallee Emu-wren. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Yellow-faced, White-naped and Crescent Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, Scarlet Robin and the localised *maculatus* subspecies of White-throated Scrubwren. We also have a good chance of seeing a Koala.

The tour finishes in the evening and you will be dropped off between 5 and 6pm at a hotel of your choice in the city centre, or at the airport if you're flying back tonight (please don't book flights departing before 7pm this evening of 16 September 2026).

Meals included: B, L



Plains Wanderer, Azure Kingfisher, Red-capped Robin, and White-winged Fairy-wren. All photos by Peter Waanders.

## QUICK OVERVIEW

### SCHEDULED DATES

Highlights of South Australia: 10 - 16 September 2026

Optional Kangaroo Island pre-tour extension: 7 - 10 September 2026

### STARTING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

### FINISHING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

### GROUP SIZE

### BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 10 September 2026: Arrival in Adelaide

Day 1: 11 September 2026: Adelaide to Lyndhurst

Day 2: 12 September 2026: Lyndhurst and the Strzelecki desert

Day 3: 13 September 2026: Gammon Ranges

Day 4: 14 September 2026: Flinder Ranges

Day 5: 15 September 2026: Gluepot wilderness reserve

Day 6: 16 September 2026: Murray River National Park to Adelaide

### BOOKING

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



## COST

### COST

AU\$4,399 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$660.

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 lunch on Day 5, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills, accommodation in private en-suite rooms where available, 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 lunch on Day 6, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

### PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

People not joining the optional Kangaroo Island pre-tour extension will make their own way to our hotel in Adelaide, where we'll all meet on 10 September for dinner and introductions.

Optional pre-tour extension: From 7 to 10 September 2026, we offer an optional pre-tour excursion to Kangaroo Island. Just off the Adelaide coast, the large island harbours a unique, diverse wildlife, specialised birds, striking scenery and vast wilderness. Key birds include the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo, colonies of Fairy Penguin, Hooded Plover, Cape Barren Goose, the elusive Western Whi-bird and the rare Fairy Penguin as well as many sea and land birds. Cost of this 4-day trip is AU\$???? per person (all-inclusive). Read more about it here: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/kangaroo-island/>.

### 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

Bellbird guide.

### DIFFICULTY

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

### ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite rooms 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. Neat casual attire for dinners.

### 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
- bank address: Community Federal Savings bank, 30 W. 26th Street, Sixth Floor, New York NY 10010, USA
  - 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	Collared Sparrowhawk	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Musk Duck	Spotted Harrier	Curlew Sandpiper
Freckled Duck	Swamp Harrier	Australian Pratincole
Cape Barren Goose	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Fairy Tern
Black Swan	Little Eagle	Australian Tern
Australian Shelduck	White-bellied Sea-eagle	Caspian Tern
Australian Wood Duck	Australasian Swamphen	Whiskered Tern
Pink-eared Duck	Buff-banded Rail	White-winged Black Tern
Australasian Shoveler	Baillon's Crake	White-fronted Tern
Grey Teal	Australian Spotted Crake	Crested Tern
Chestnut Teal	Spotless Crake	Pacific Gull
Pacific Black Duck	Black-tailed Native-hen	Kelp Gull
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Silver Gull
Blue-billed Duck	Eurasian Coot	Rock Dove
Malleefowl	Little Button-quail	Barbary Dove
Stubble Quail	Painted Buttonquail	Spotted Dove
Brown Quail	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Common Bronzewing
Australasian Grebe	Sooty Oystercatcher	Brush Bronzewing
Hoary-headed Grebe	Pied Stilt	Crested Pigeon
Great Crested Grebe	Red-necked Avocet	Diamond Dove
Glossy Ibis	Banded Stilt	Peaceful Dove
Australian White Ibis	Pacific Golden Plover	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Straw-necked Ibis	Grey Plover	Shining Bronze-cuckoo
Royal Spoonbill	Red-capped Plover	Black-eared Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Lesser Sand Plover	Pallid Cuckoo
White-necked Heron	Inland Dotterel	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Great Egret	Hooded Plover	Southern Boobook
Plumed Egret	Black-fronted Dotterel	Eastern Barn Owl
Eastern Cattle Egret	Red-kneed Dotterel	Tawny Frogmouth
White-faced Heron	Banded Lapwing	Spotted Nightjar
Little Egret	Masked Lapwing	Australian Owlet-nightjar
Nankeen Night-Heron	Black-tailed Godwit	White-throated Needletail
Australian Pelican	Bar-tailed Godwit	Fork-tailed Swift
Little Pied Cormorant	Eastern Curlew	Laughing Kookaburra
Great Cormorant	Terek Sandpiper	Red-backed Kingfisher
Little Black Cormorant	Common Sandpiper	Sacred Kingfisher
Pied Cormorant	Common Greenshank	Rainbow Bee-eater
Black-faced Cormorant	Marsh Sandpiper	Nankeen Kestrel
Australasian Darter	Wood Sandpiper	Brown Falcon
Black-shouldered Kite	Ruddy Turnstone	Australian Hobby
Square-tailed Kite	Great Knot	Black Falcon
Whistling Kite	Red Knot	Peregrine Falcon
Black Kite	Sanderling	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Black-breasted Buzzard	Red-necked Stint	Galah
Brown Goshawk	Pectoral Sandpiper	Pink Cockatoo

Long-billed Corella	Little Wattlebird	Varied Sittella
Little Corella	Crimson Chat	Crested Shrike-tit
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Orange Chat	Gilbert's Whistler
Cockatiel	White-fronted Chat	Red-lored Whistler
Rainbow Lorikeet	Gibberbird	Western Whistler
Musk Lorikeet	Black Honeyeater	Rufous Whistler
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush
Eastern Rosella	Crescent Honeyeater	Crested Bellbird
Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella	New Holland Honeyeater	Restless Flycatcher
Crimson (Yellow) Rosella	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck	White-naped Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Australian (Mallee) Ringneck	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Regent Parrot	Striated Pardalote	Australian Raven
Greater Bluebonnet	White-browed Scrubwren	Little Raven
Red-rumped Parrot	Shy Heathwren	Little Crow
Mulga Parrot	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	White-winged Chough
Budgerigar	Rufous Fieldwren	Apostlebird
Blue-winged Parrot	Redthroat	Jacky Winter
Elegant Parrot	Weebill	Red-capped Robin
White-throated Treecreeper	Striated Thornbill	Scarlet Robin
White-browed Treecreeper	Yellow Thornbill	Hooded Robin
Brown Treecreeper	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Southern Scrub-robin
Superb Fairy-wren	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Horsfield's Bushlark
Splendid Fairy-wren	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Eurasian Skylark
White-winged Fairy-wren	Slender-billed Thornbill	White-backed Swallow
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Inland Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Striated Grasswren	Brown Thornbill	Fairy Martin
Thick-billed Grasswren	Southern Whiteface	Tree Martin
Eastern Spinebill	White-browed Babbler	Australian Reed-Warbler
Pied Honeyeater	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	Little Grassbird
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	Rufous Songlark
Singing Honeyeater	Chestnut Quail-thrush	Brown Songlark
Purple-gaped Honeyeater	Chirruping Wedgebill	Golden-headed Cisticola
White-eared Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird	Silvereye
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Pied Butcherbird	Common Starling
Grey-fronted Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	Bassian Thrush
White-plumed Honeyeater	Grey Currawong	Common Blackbird
White-fronted Honeyeater	White-breasted Woodswallow	Mistletoebird
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Masked Woodswallow	House Sparrow
Little Friarbird	White-browed Woodswallow	Zebra Finch
Noisy Miner	Black-faced Woodswallow	Red-browed Finch
Yellow-throated Miner	Dusky Woodswallow	Diamond Firetail
Striped Honeyeater	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Australasian Pipit
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	European Goldfinch
Red Wattlebird	White-winged Triller	