



South-West Western Australia

16 - 23 March 2028

The south-west corner of Western Australia is one of the most bird-rich areas in the country. Our 7 day, 7 night fully accommodated tour begins and ends in Perth (WA) and takes in a range of habitats including wetlands, open woodlands, sandy heathlands, the Stirling Ranges and tall Karri forest. This is a very pleasant area to be birding in, with mild weather and good infrastructure, yet a sense of adventure remains.

We aim to find all 13 of the South West endemics, including the three notorious 'skulkers' (Noisy Scrubbird, Western Bristlebird and Western (Black-throated) Whipbird). In the

karri forests country we'll look for Western Rosella, White-breasted Robin, Red-capped Parrot, Western Whistler and Western Corella; while exploring the dry woodlands we should add Mal-leefowl, Shy Heathwren and Purple-gaped Honeyeater. Long-billed (Baudin's) and Short-billed (Carnaby's) Black Cockatoo, Rufous Treecreeper, Western Yellow Robin, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Red-winged and Blue-breasted Fairy-wren await us on this trip. Coastal birding is not forgotten with sea-birds, a visit to a Bridled Tern colony and Rock Parrot, Red-eared Firetail and Western Fieldwren; we expect to see up to 150 species, including all 13 endemics!

ITINERARY

Day 0: 16 March 2028

Arrival in Perth

Arrive in Perth and make your own way to our hotel (room and dinner included in tour price) for dinner and introductions.

Overnight: Perth, en-suite hotel room

Meals included: D

Day 1: 17 March 2028

Wungong Gorge and Dryandra Woodlands

We'll have an introductory walk around Kings Park, directly adjacent to our rooms, before we visit some magnificent wetlands where we can see Blue-billed and Musk Duck, along with many other waterbirds and several raptors. Further afield, the Wungong Gorge is a good spot for Western Australian endemics such as Western Rosella, Red-capped Parrot and Red-winged Fairy-wren.

The Dryandra Woodlands are our final destination today and we'll look for Short-billed Black (Carnaby's) Cockatoo, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, Western Thornbill, Elegant Parrot and Purple-crowned Lorikeet. This is also a good area to observe native animals such as Numbat, Brush-tailed Bettong and Echidna. We'll watch the sunset over a waterhole, where birds come in for their last drink of the day, before we head off to spotlight for the above-mentioned mammals and for Bush Stone-curlew and Tawny Frogmouth.

Overnight: Narrogin, en-suite motel rooms

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 18 March 2028

Dryandra Woodlands and Stirling Ranges

We will spend a large part of the day exploring the Dryandra woodlands. In addition to the species listed above, we also expect to see the western race of Regent Parrot, which is quite different from the eastern sub-species; Western Gerygone, Rufous Treecreeper, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, Painted Buttonquail, Western Yellow Robin, the western race of Varied Sittella and other good species.

Later in the day we'll drive to the beautiful Stirling Ranges. On the way we check a site for the recently-split Western Fieldwren, and may be lucky enough to come across our first Western (Black-throated) Whipbird!



Gilbert's Honeyeater, Splendid Fairywren, Rufous Treecreeper, and Western Yellow Robin. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Overnight: Stirling Ranges Retreat, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 3: 19 March 2028

Stirling Ranges and South Coast

This morning we'll explore the beautiful Stirling Ranges where we'll search for Malleefowl, Square-tailed Kite, Purple-gaped and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Southern Scrub Robin. Late afternoon brings us to the South Coast, ready for an early start tomorrow morning. We'll head to Cheynes Beach to look for Brush Bronzewing and Western Wattlebird. We'll have our first attempt at tracking down one or more of the three skulkers that inhabit this area: Noisy Scrubbird, Western Bristlebird and Western (Black-throated) Whipbird.

Overnight: Cheynes Beach Caravan Park, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 4: 20 March 2028

South Coast exploration

We'll spend the entire day birding the South Coast for the notorious and often elusive trio of Noisy Scrubbird, Western Bristlebird and Black-throated (formerly Western) Whipbird. Noisy Scrubbird, one of our rarest and elusive species which was only re-discovered in 1961. We should hear each of these species multiple times as we attempt to get views of them. This is a very scenic and photogenic landscape with moors, buttongrass plains, eucalypt-covered hills and rocky outcrops. Other possible species here are Brush Bronzewing, Southern Emu-wren, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Rock parrot, Stubble Quail and Red-eared Firetail.

Overnight: Cheynes Beach Caravan Park, en-suite cabins

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 5: 21 March 2028

Karri forests and Pemberton

A back-up morning for any species we may still need at Cheynes Beach; then we pack up and head west towards the giant Karri forests around Pemberton and Manjimup. En-route, we'll stop to look at Lake Muir, a Ramsar-listed wetland where we'll find the geographically limited population of the Western Corella. In Pemberton itself we'll visit the tall Gloucester Tree, where we'll find Western Rosella, White-breasted Robin, Red-winged Fairy-wren and Common Bronzewing, presenting good camera opportunities.



White-cheeked Honeyeater, Western Grey Kangaroo, Southern Emu-wren, Brush Bronzewing, and Rock Parrot. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Overnight: Augusta Chalets, private rooms in large cottages of varying sizes, some with 2 rooms, some with 3 rooms, with shared facilities, on the edge of the forest with scenic views.

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 6: 22 March 2028

Augusta and Cape Leeuwin

Our last full day! After picking up any species we still need in the Karri forests we bird around Augusta on Cape Leeuwin where species we hope to find include Hooded Plover, Rock Parrot and Brush Bronzewing. Seawatching off the headland may produce Yellow-nosed, Black-browed or Shy Albatross and Great-winged Petrel.

Overnight: Augusta Chalets, private rooms in large cottages of varying sizes, some with 2 rooms, some with 3 rooms, with shared facilities, on the edge of the forest with scenic views.

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 7: 23 March 2028

Return to Perth and departure

Our final day and another visit to the headland again this morning and/or we may pull in at the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse to pick up any other species we require. En-route to Perth we'll visit the harbour at Mandurah to check for terns and we'll finish the day with a visit to Penguin Island (with its Little Penguins and Bridled Tern colony) while checking for any missing birds on our list, to arrive back in Perth in the afternoon. You will be dropped off at a hotel of your choice in the city centre, or at the airport (not before 4pm).

Meals included: B, L



Western (Black-throated) Whipbird, Western Fieldwren, Short-billed Black-Cockatoo, Western Spinebill, and Australian (28) Ringneck All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

South-West Western Australia: 16 - 23 March 2028

Connecting tour to [Tasmania](#): 25 March - 1 April 2028

Optional Rottnest Island extension: 15 - 16 March 2028

STARTING IN

Perth, Western Australia

FINISHING IN

Perth, Western Australia

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 3, maximum 9 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 16 March 2028: Arrival in Perth

Day 1: 17 March 2028: Wungong Gorge and Dryandra Woodlands

Day 2: 18 March 2028: Dryandra Woodlands and Stirling Ranges

Day 3: 19 March 2028: Stirling Ranges and South Coast

Day 4: 20 March 2028: South Coast exploration

Day 5: 21 March 2028: Karri forests and Pemberton

Day 6: 22 March 2028: Augusta and Cape Leeuwin

Day 7: 23 March 2028: Return to Perth and departure

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\$820.

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 7, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills, accommodation in private en-suite rooms where available, although on some nights only basic rooms with shared facilities are 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 7, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Tour commences with dinner in Perth on 16 March 2028. Please arrive on or before 16 March and make your own way to our hotel for dinner and introductions that evening. Tour finishes in Perth the afternoon of 23 March 2028. You will be dropped off at a hotel of your choice in the city centre, or at the airport (not before 4pm).

PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

If you wish to arrive in Perth one or more days before the tour starts, and stay in the same hotel that we'll be using for the first night, we can book this for you and add the cost to your tour price – just let us know.

This tour links seamlessly with our preceding Tasmania Birds and Wildlife Tour (25 March - 1 April 2028). Receive an instant discount if you book both tours. More details: <https://bellbirdtours.com/tasmania-birding-tours/>

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 leader.

DIFFICULTY

Low to medium level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on varying surfaces, from paved forest roads to uneven 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, although on the two nights in Augusta each bathroom is shared between two rooms. 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 (British style), strong insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, travel umbrella, 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 90 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/Apple Pay: 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: 30 Roberts Avenue, Balaklava, SA 5461, South Australia, 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	Whistling Kite	Elegant Parrot
Stubble Quail	Brown Goshawk	Rock Parrot
Brown Quail	Collared Sparrowhawk	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Musk Duck	Spotted Harrier	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Freckled Duck	Swamp Harrier	Southern Boobook
Black Swan	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Eastern Barn Owl
Australian Shelduck	Little Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Sacred Kingfisher
Pink-eared Duck	Brown Falcon	Rainbow Bee-eater
Australasian Shoveler	Australian Hobby	Noisy Scrubbird
Grey Teal	Purple Swamphen	Rufous Treecreeper
Pacific Black Duck	Australian Crake	Splendid Fairy-wren
Blue-billed Duck	Black-tailed Native-hen	Blue-breasted Fairy-wren
Australasian Grebe	Dusky Moorhen	Red-winged Fairy-wren
Hoary-headed Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Southern Emu-wren
Great Crested Grebe	Bush Stone-curlew	Western Bristlebird
Rock Dove	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	White-browed Scrubwren
Laughing Dove	Sooty Oystercatcher	Western (Rufous) Fieldwren
Spotted Dove	Black-winged Stilt	Weebill
Common Bronzewing	Red-necked Avocet	Western Gerygone
Brush Bronzewing	Banded Stilt	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Crested Pigeon	Red-capped Plover	Western Thornbill
Tawny Frogmouth	Hooded Plover	Inland Thornbill
Yellow-nosed Albatross	Common Sandpiper	Spotted Pardalote
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Common Greenshank	Striated Pardalote
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Red-necked Stint	Western Spinebill
Australasian Gannet	Marsh Sandpiper	Singing Honeyeater
Australasian Darter	Painted Button-quail	Purple-gaped Honeyeater
Little Pied Cormorant	Arctic Jaeger	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Great Cormorant	Fairy Tern	Yellow-throated Miner
Little Black Cormorant	Caspian Tern	Western Wattlebird
Pied Cormorant	Crested Tern	Red Wattlebird
Australian Pelican	Pacific Gull	White-fronted Chat
White-necked Heron	Silver Gull	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Great Egret	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Brown Honeyeater
Intermediate Egret	Short-billed Black-Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater
White-faced Heron	Long-billed Black-Cockatoo	White-cheeked Honeyeater
Little Egret	Galah	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Nankeen Night-Heron	Little Corella	Gilbert's Honeyeater
Australian White Ibis	Western Corella	Black-throated (formerly West- ern) Whipbird
Straw-necked Ibis	Rainbow Lorikeet	Western Whistler
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	White-breasted Robin
Eastern Osprey	Regent Parrot (western)	Red-eared Firetail
Black-shouldered Kite	Western Rosella	
Square-tailed Kite	Australian Ringneck	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Red-capped Parrot	