

Kimberley Specials & Black Grasswren Tour

14 – 24 August 2028

The Western Australian Kimberley region is home to a great variety of special birds. Join us on this exciting tour through this under-explored region. We start the tour in the pearl of the north-west, Broome, where we can't miss a visit to the world-renowned Bird Observatory. Here local endemics and a vast array of waders and shorebirds await us. We make our way through the Kimberley, travelling the famous Gibb River road in comfortable 4WD vehicles. We take a scenic drive to remote Mitchell Plateau where the elusive Black Grasswren awaits us. Expect to see up to 200 species, including Black Grasswren, White-browed Crake,

Spinifex, Partridge & Chestnut-quilled Rock-pigeon, Buff-sided Robin, Red-headed, Yellow-tinted & Kimberley Honeyeater, Dusky & Mangrove Gerygone, Yellow Chat, White-breasted & Mangrove Golden Whistler, Broad-billed Flycatcher, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Canary White-eye and many more. We'll finish at the waterways and wetlands near Kununurra. During this tour we'll take our time to explore the many fantastic habitats and landscapes of the remote, unspoilt Kimberley region. Spaces are limited on this exciting tour!

ITINERARY

Day 0: 14 August 2028

Arrival in Broome

Arrival in Broome, the gateway town to the Kimberley, and the first stop on our incredible Western Australia adventure. Getting to Broome is easy – many daily flights arrive from most major centres in Australia. Make your own way to our accommodation where we'll meet for introductions and dinner.

Overnight: Broome Time Resort, en-suite hotel room

Meals included: D

Day 1: 15 August 2028

Broome Bird Observatory

Broome, affectionately known as the 'pearl of the north' is the western gateway to the Kimberley wilderness, home to world-famous sunsets and the natural phenomenon of the Staircase to the Moon. But among birders, Roebuck Bay conjures up images of mudflats teeming with waders and shorebirds. While it is a bit early in the season for huge numbers, we stand a good chance of observing a wide variety of shorebirds, including rarer species such as Greater and Lesser Sandplover and Asian Dowitcher.

Today we will visit the famous Broome Bird Observatory from where we'll explore the Roebuck Bay mudflats and neighbouring mangroves in search of waders (with chance of Asian Dowitcher, Broad-billed Sandpiper and who knows: Common Redshank) and other shorebirds, as well as Striated Heron, Eastern Reef Egret, White-breasted and Mangrove Whistler, Broad-billed Flycatcher, Dusky Gerygone, Red-headed Honeyeater, Yellow White-eye and many more excellent birds!

Overnight: Broome Time Resort, en-suite hotel rooms

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 16 August 2028

Broome to Mt Hart

Today we commence our adventure into the Kimberley in earnest. At our first stop in Derby, we visit the old wharf to look for mangrove species such as Dusky Gerygone and Red-headed Honeyeater. Derby, located on the edge of the King Sound, is believed to have the highest tides of any Australian port with 11 meters (36 feet) of tidal difference!



Asian Dowitcher, Red-headed Honeyeater, Northern Shrike, Black-necked Stork, and Mitchell Falls (Day 5). All photos by Peter Waanders.

We'll soon find ourselves onto the famous Gibb River Road leading into to the heart of the Wunaamin Miliwundi (King Leopold) Ranges Conservation Park. The scenery along the road is impressive and there are many small creek crossings on the way in. Sometime during the day, we arrive at Mt Hart Station, which has good accommodation, with tropical gardens and orchards surrounding the homestead, green lawns, and good birding as it is located alongside the Barker River. At Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge we enjoy an authentic Kimberleys homestead experience.

Overnight: Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge, private permanent 'glamping' tent with normal bed(s), electricity and private en-suite bathroom
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 3: 17 August 2028

Mt Hart Station

A full day to bird and relax around this fabulous property. The birding around the grounds of the homestead is very pleasant. We may see Australian Bustard and Spotted Nightjar, Great Bowerbird and Green Oriole (subspecies of Yellow Oriole) and with luck, Masked Owl in the evening. We'll take short drives out to various waterholes and other birdy places looking for Banded, Bar-breasted, Yellow-tinted and White-gaped Honeyeater, Green-backed Gerygone, Buff-sided Robin, Little Woodswallow, Leaden Flycatcher and many more, often providing good photographic opportunities.

Overnight: Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge, private permanent 'glamping' tent with normal bed(s), electricity and private en-suite bathroom
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 4: 18 August 2028

Mt Hart to Drysdale Station

Today we'll bird our way along the Gibb River Road east and after some time we'll turn off to Drysdale Station. Flocks of Varied Lorikeets and Budgerigar abound. Drysdale Station is our half-way point between Broome and Kununurra. Located on the scenic Drysdale River just off the iconic Gibb River Road, Drysdale Station is a half-million acre, fully operational cattle station that welcomes guests within a genuine outback environment. The very scenic Drysdale River is nearby and excellent for birding. We'll be looking for interesting birds here such as Black-tailed Treecreeper, Northern Rosella, Crimson Finch, Purple-crowned Fairywren and a variety of Honeyeater species.

Overnight: Drysdale Station, en-suite motel-style rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D



Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Buff-sided Robin, Varied Lorikeet, Northern Rosella, and Crimson Finch. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 5: 19 August 2028
Drysdale to Mitchell Falls Plateau

We commence the day birding the Drysdale River for the iconic Purple-crowned Fairywren and chance of Black Bittern, among many other good birds, notably many species of Honeyeater and Finches. After lunch we pack up and head to the Mitchell Falls Plateau, where we'll stay in the stunning Mitchell Falls Lodge.

Overnight: Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge, individual glamping-style tent with ensuite

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 6: 20 August 2028
Mitchell Falls Plateau

Today is set to be one of the most exciting days of the entire trip as we search for Black Grasswren around the famous Mitchell Falls Plateau. We'll have an early departure for the short drive to the nearby Mitchell Falls area, where we'll spend the morning exploring the landscape, with its mix of tall grasses interspersed with huge boulders, and spinifex-clad slopes, in search of the elusive Black Grasswren. You'll need to have a good level of fitness for this search. Having found them (fingers crossed!), we'll turn our focus to other birds, such as Kimberley Honeyeater, Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon, Partridge Pigeon, Buff-sided Robin and more. In the afternoon, we can relax in the natural pools or at the lodge.

Overnight: Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge, individual glamping-style tent with ensuite

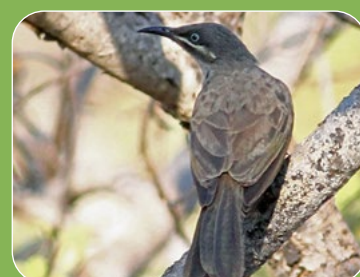
Meals included: B, L, D

Day 7: 21 August 2028
Mitchell Falls Plateau to Drysdale

A backup morning for Black Grasswren, and then we pack up and depart back to Drysdale. There are plenty of other good birds to spend time with; such as the cute Partridge Pigeons that shuffle around in the dry grass, or Red-backed Fairywrens darting about low bushes. Back at Drysdale, we'll do some birding in the grounds before dinner.

Overnight: Drysdale Station, en-suite motel-style rooms

Meals included: B, L, D



Purple-crowned Fairywren, Double-barred Finch, Black Grasswren, Kimberley Honeyeater, and Partridge Pigeon. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 8: 22 August 2028

Drysdale to Kununurra

We start the day birding the Drysdale River for the iconic Purple-crowned Fairywren and chance of Black Bittern, among many other good birds, notably many species of Honeyeater and Finches. Most of the day will be spent driving and birding to reach Kununurra in time for dinner. Around the shores of Lake Kununurra we might be lucky enough to observe the elusive White-browed Crake this evening!

Overnight: Discovery Parks Lake Kununurra, en-suite cabins
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 9: 23 August 2028

Hidden Valley

Today we will be birding the region around Kununurra, including a visit to Hidden Valley (Mirima) NP. We will look for the white-bellied race of Spinifex Pigeon, Varied Lorikeet, Sandstone Shrike-thrush, Buff-sided Robin, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Star Finch, Masked Finch, Pictorella Mannikin and with perseverance we may even find the rare Gouldian Finch or the localised Yellow-rumped Mannikin. At the end of the day we return to our rooms for some relaxing by the shores of Lake Kununurra, where we'll celebrate our last dinner together at sunset overlooking the water while watching flocks of Flying Foxes depart their roost.

Overnight: Discovery Parks Lake Kununurra, en-suite cabins
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 10: 24 August 2028

Lake Argyle and Departure

We finish the tour with an early-morning cruise on Lake Argyle, home to the localized Yellow Chat and a wide variety of other birds, including White-browed Crake, Crimson Finch, Australian Little Bittern, Black-necked Stork and we'll also have further chances of Gouldian Finch. We'll return to Kununurra for lunch while tallying up the final bird list of what no doubt will have been a fantastic Kimberley tour! We'll drop you at the airport in time for the 3:30pm flight to Darwin, or at a hotel of your choice if you're staying on.

Means included: B, L

TOUR ENDS



Yellow Chat, Silver-backed Butcherbird, Crocodile, Gouldian Finch, and Black-breasted Buzzard. All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

Kimberley Specials & Black Grasswren Tour: 14 – 24 August 2028

Preceding: [Pilbara tour](#), also in Western Australia, from 4 – 12 August 2028

STARTING IN

Broome, Western Australia

FINISHING IN

Kununurra, Western Australia

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 9 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

- Day 0: 14 August 2028: Arrival in Broome
- Day 1: 15 August 2028: Broome Bird Observatory
- Day 2: 16 August 2028: Broome to Mt Hart
- Day 3: 17 August 2028: Mt Hart Station
- Day 4: 18 August 2028: Mt Hart to Drysdale Station
- Day 5: 19 August 2028: Drysdale to Mitchell Falls Plateau
- Day 6: 20 August 2028: Mitchell Falls Plateau
- Day 7: 21 August 2028: Mitchell Falls Plateau to Drysdale
- Day 8: 22 August 2028: Drysdale to Kununurra
- Day 9: 23 August 2028: Hidden Valley
- Day 10: 24 August 2028: Lake Argyle and Departure

BOOKING

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



COST

COST

AU\$12,599 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$2,500.

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 10, 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 (some nights we stay in a permanent 'glamping'-style tents with private ensuite facilities), transport using comfortable and reliable 4WD 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 dinner, and after the last dinner, 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, or leave later, 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 preceding Pilbara tour (4-12 August), also in Western Australia.

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

Peter Waanders & Katinka Domen.

DIFFICULTY

Medium level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on mostly flat, but unpaved, surfaces, but includes some short climbs. **Please note that the Black Grasswren search requires a good physical condition.** Most of the Gibb River road is unsealed; the road surface varies from good to corrugated. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any walks.

ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite rooms or cabins in hotels or lodges, two nights may be accommodated in glamping-style tents with en-suite facilities. Standards of lodgings are good to very comfortable. Due to the remote nature of this trip, we may not have phone reception or wi-fi access every day.

CLOTHING

In the day it will be warm to hot, evenings can be cool. 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 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, 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	Intermediate Egret	Pied Oystercatcher
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Eastern Cattle Egret	Sooty Oystercatcher
Brown Quail	White-necked Heron	Beach Stone-curlew
King Quail	White-faced Heron	Bush Stone-curlew
Plumed Wistling Duck	Great-billed Heron	Eastern Curlew
Wandering Whistling Duck	Striated Heron	Whimbrel
Raja Shelduck	Pied Heron	Bar-tailed Godwit
Green Pygmy-goose	Little Egret	Black-tailed Godwit
Magpie Goose	Eastern Reef Egret	Asian Dowitcher
Musk Duck	Nankeen Night-Heron	Red-necked Avocet
Black Swan	Black Bittern	Banded Stilt
Australian Shelduck	Glossy Ibis	Red-capped Plover
Radjah Shelduck	Australian White Ibis	Greater Sand Plover
Australian Wood Duck	Straw-necked Ibis	Grey Plover
Pink-eared Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Lesser Sand Plover
Australasian Shoveler	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Pacific Golden Plover
Grey Teal	Black-shouldered Kite	Black-fronted Dotterel
Chestnut Teal	Whistling Kite	Red-kneed Dotterel
Pacific Black Duck	Black Kite	Oriental Plover
Hardhead	Brahminy Kite	Banded Lapwing
Australasian Grebe	Square-tailed Kite	Masked Lapwing
Hoary-headed Grebe	Black-breasted Buzzard	Common Sandpiper
Great Crested Grebe	Brown Goshawk	Wood Sandpiper
Rock Dove	Grey Goshawk	Curlew Sandpiper
Common Bronzewing	Red Goshawk	Marsh Sandpiper
Spinifex Pigeon	Collared Sparrowhawk	Terek Sandpiper
Crested Pigeon	Pacific Baza	Common Greenshank
Squatter Pigeon	Spotted Harrier	Ruddy Turnstone
White-quilled Rock-pigeon	Swamp Harrier	Red-necked Stint
Pied Imperial-Pigeon	Eastern Osprey	Sanderling
Diamond Dove	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Peaceful Dove	Little Eagle	Great Knot
Rose-crowned Fruit-dove	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Red Knot
Bar-shouldered Dove	Black-necked Stork	Grey-tailed Tattler
Emerald Dove	Brolga	Little Button-quail
Tawny Frogmouth	Australian Swamphen	Red-backed Button-quail
Spotted Nightjar	Baillon's Crake	Red-chested Button-quail
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Australian Spotted Crake	Chestnut-backed Button-quail
Australasian Darter	Spotless Crake	Australian Pratincole
Little Pied Cormorant	White-browed Crake	Caspian Tern
Great Cormorant	Buff-banded Rail	Australian Tern
Little Black Cormorant	Black-tailed Native-hen	Whiskered Tern
Pied Cormorant	Eurasian Coot	White-winged Black Tern
Australian Pelican	Comb-crested Jacana	Lesser Crested Tern
Great Egret	Australian Bustard	Greater Crested Tern

Silver Gull
 Nankeen Kestrel
 Brown Falcon
 Australian Hobby
 Grey Falcon
 Black Falcon
 Peregrine Falcon
 Galah
 Little Corella
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
 Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
 Cockatiel
 Rainbow Lorikeet
 Varied Lorikeet
 Northern Rosella
 Budgerigar
 Red-winged Parrot
 Pheasant Coucal
 Koel
 Brush Cuckoo
 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
 Channel-billed Cuckoo
 Pallid Cuckoo
 Southern Boobook
 Eastern Barn Owl
 Barking Owl
 Rufous Owl
 Masked Owl
 Blue-winged Kookaburra
 Red-backed Kingfisher
 Azure Kingfisher
 Collared Kingfisher
 Sacred Kingfisher
 Rainbow Bee-eater
 Dollarbird
 Great Bowerbird
 Black-tailed Treecreeper
 Purple-backed Fairy-wren
 Purple-crowned Fairy-wren
 Red-backed Fairy-wren
 Black Grasswren
 Weebill
 Large-billed Gerygone
 Mangrove Gerygone

Dusky Gerygone
 Red-browed Pardalote
 Striated Pardalote
 Pied Honeyeater
 Singing Honeyeater
 Grey-headed Honeyeater
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater
 Silver-crowned Friarbird
 Little Friarbird
 Yellow-throated Miner
 Banded Honeyeater
 Bar-breasted Honeyeater
 Brown Honeyeater
 Kimberley Honeyeater
 White-gaped Honeyeater
 White-throated Honeyeater
 Yellow-tinted Honeyeater
 Yellow Chat
 Grey-crowned Babbler
 Varied Sittella
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
 Cicadabird
 White-winged Triller
 Varied Triller
 Northern Shrike-tit
 Mangrove Robin
 Buff-sided Robin
 Olive-backed Oriole
 Yellow Oriole
 Spangled Drongo
 Crested Bellbird
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Sandstone Shrike-thrush
 Jacky Winter
 Lemon-bellied Flyrobin
 Mangrove Golden Whistler
 White-breasted Whistler
 Rufous Whistler
 White-breasted Woodswallow
 Masked Woodswallow
 Black-faced Woodswallow
 Little Woodswallow
 Pied Butcherbird

Silver-backed Butcherbird
 Australian Magpie
 Grey Fantail
 Arafura Fantail
 Mangrove Grey Fantail
 Northern Fantail
 Willie Wagtail
 Torresian Crow
 Paperbark Flycatcher
 Leaden Flycatcher
 Shining Flycatcher
 Broad-billed Flycatcher
 Australian Magpie-lark
 Australian Reed-Warbler
 Little Grassbird
 Tawny Grassbird
 Golden-headed Cisticola
 Zitting Cisticola
 Canary White-eye
 Rufous Songlark
 Brown Songlark
 Australian Bushlark
 Fairy Martin
 Tree Martin
 Common Starling
 Mistletobird
 Zebra Finch
 Red-browed Finch
 Crimson Finch
 Star Finch
 Masked Finch
 Double-barred Finch
 Long-tailed Finch
 Gouldian Finch
 Pictorella Mannikin
 Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
 Yellow-rumped Mannikin
 Australasian Pipit