



Six Grasswrens Tour

9 - 19 October 2028

One of our most popular outback birding tours, 21 years and counting! This is one of Australia's epic birding adventures: we search for half of all of Australia's current Grasswren species. This is a fast-paced birding trip with lots of walking in many different types of terrain, early departures and late finishes each day, while covering over 2500 km in 8 days. We may encounter harsh outback conditions such as heat, frosty mornings, rain, flooding or dust-storms. Some of the accommodation is a little basic, but charming. Yet the rewards are some of Australia's hardest to find, most sought-after species: Grey, Striated, Short-tailed, Thick-billed, Western and Eyrean Grass-

wren. In addition to the Grasswrens, of course we'll also spend significant time searching for other good outback species such as Budgerigar, Red-lored Whistler, Inland Dotterel, Honeyeaters including Pied and Grey-fronted; Banded White-face, Gibberbird, chats, Chestnut and Cinnamon Quail-thrush and many more. Some years we see Letter-winged Kites and Flock Bronzewing – their presence depends on preceding rainfall. You'll return home from this trip with an impressive list of outback birds!

Now with optional 2-day extension for the newly split Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren.

ITINERARY

Day 0: 9 October 2028

Arrival in Adelaide

You will be transferred from a meeting point (to be announced) in Adelaide departing 3:00pm and head to Berri to meet your guide(s) for dinner and introductions.

Overnight: Berri Resort Hotel, en-suite rooms

Meals included: D

Day 1: 10 October 2028

Exploring the 'mallee' wilderness

We depart before sunrise to explore a 1,000,000 ha large wilderness of 'mallee' eucalypt scrubland. This area contains a number of reserves, including Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve, Murray Sunset NP and others. Where exactly we'll go in this wilderness depends on preceding seasonal conditions. It is sure to be an impressive exploration as we find ourselves off the beaten track in search of our first Grasswren species: Striated Grasswren.

Here we also target Red-lored Whistler, of which we have had excellent views on previous trips, and localised Mallee Emuwren. Other species we look for include Southern Scrubrobin, Shy Heathwren, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Little Friarbird, Striped, Yellow-plumed and White-eared Honeyeater, White-browed Treecreeper and with luck Malleefowl.

Overnight: Berri Resort Hotel, en-suite rooms

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 2: 11 October 2028

Murray and Darling rivers to Broken Hill

We depart early for further birding in the mallee reserves surrounding Berri, with targets being Chestnut Quail-thrush, Gilbert's Whistler, Red-throat, Regent Parrot and Mulga Parrot.

Heading east, we should see Pink Cockatoos and Blue Bonnets. After lunch at the scenic confluence of Australia's two major rivers: the Murray and the Darling, with many waterbirds, we turn north to Broken Hill, where we may encounter our first Chirruping Wedgebills.

Overnight: Outback Lodge Broken Hill, en-suite rooms

Meals included: B, L, D



Striated Grasswren, Red-lored Whistler, Mallee Emuwren, and Malleefowl. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 3: 12 October 2028

North to Tibooburra

We follow the road north, with further chances of Chirruping Wedgebill, Bluebonnet and Pink Cockatoo. We stop at the eccentric Packsaddle Plains roadhouse where we may come across Ground Cuckoo-shrike and with even more luck, Bourke's Parrot. We have lunch in Tibooburra and soon after we'll explore the vast expanses of Sturt NP. Once or twice on these trips we've come across Grey Falcon here! In the same area we also have a small chance of Black Falcon and Australian Bustard. More regularly encountered birds here include Gibberbird, Inland Dotterel, Cinnamon Quail-thrush and Australian Pratincole. But in this boom-and-bust environment, birds are highly nomadic, so what we see varies from year to year. Returning around nightfall across the gibber plains surrounding Tibooburra we may see Bourke's Parrot and Inland Dotterel.

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

Day 4: 13 October 2028

Outback swamps to Cameron Corner

An early start for one of the drawcards of this trip! We're off to search the vast outback swamps on the NSW-Queensland border for the enigmatic Grey Grasswren. Later today we continue birding through Sturt National Park, with chances of Flock Bronzewing in wet years, Inland Dotterel and Red-browed Pardalote. At Cameron Corner, the point where South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales meet, we spend the afternoon searching for Cinnamon Quail-thrush and Banded Whiteface. On a previous occasion we've even seen Grey Falcon!

Overnight: Cameron Corner Store Cabins, basic private rooms with shared bathrooms
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 5: 14 October 2028

Strzelecki Desert

We depart around sunrise for a visit to the red sand dunes to search for Eyrean Grasswren, Cinnamon Quail-thrush and any other species still needed. We will now enter one of the remotest parts of outback Australia as we continue our journey west, where depending on seasonal conditions, we may come across Black-breasted Buzzard and Letter-winged Kite (not present each year). We then join the Strzelecki track and turn south.



Grey Grasswren, Inland Dotterel, Regent Parrot, and Pink Cockatoo. All photos by Peter Waanders.

In the white sand dunes of the Strzelecki desert we have another chance of Eyrean Grasswren. We have lunch at a water-hole fed by an artesian bore, with flocks of Zebra Finches, chats and White-backed Swallows. The endless open stony plains of the Strzelecki desert are traversed by mostly dry watercourses. We will follow the track south across the desert, looking for species such as Budgerigar, Red-backed Kingfisher, Crimson, Orange and Gibber Chat. At sunset we arrive at the Lyndhurst Hotel, a typical outback pub with basic facilities but lots of character.

Overnight: Lyndhurst Hotel, en-suite cabins
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 6: 15 October 2028

Mt Lyndhurst and Flinders Ranges

We spend the morning birding at Mt Lyndhurst, on the edge of the Strzelecki desert, to search for Thick-billed Grasswren, Inland Dotterel, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Chirruping Wedgebill, Rufous Fieldwren, Budgerigar and Cockatiel.

In the afternoon we drive along the Flinders Ranges, an impressive range of hills and rock formations on the edge of the outback. We search for the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and are also likely to come across Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Elegant Parrot and Redthroat. Towards the end of the day we visit the Arid Lands Botanical Gardens in Port Augusta, where there are often Pied and Black Honeyeaters present this time of year. Tonight's dinner in one of the best Indian restaurants is sure to be a highlight, and they also have a good selection of standard western dishes.

Overnight: Standpipe Motel Port Augusta, en-suite rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D

Day 7: 16 October 2028

Gawler Ranges

This morning we depart early to a site for Western Grasswren before venturing into the Gawler Ranges, where we comb the spinifex-grass covered slopes for the elusive Short-tailed Grasswren. On some of our previous trips we have had views of this species almost too close for binocular focus! Other birds we are likely to come across include Slender-billed Thornbill, Rufous Fieldwren, Redthroat and the beautiful 'turquoise' range of Splendid Fairywren.

Overnight: Mt Ive Station, some en-suite cabins, some non-en-suite historical cottage rooms
 Meals included: B, L, D



Eyrean Grasswren, Crimson Chat, Chestnut Quail-thrush, and Pied Honeyeater. All photos by Peter Waanders.

Day 8: 17 October 2028

Gawler Ranges and optional extension (Ceduna)

This morning we'll have another chance at Short-tailed Grasswren, after which we search the Bluebush plains nearby for Western Grasswren. Watching the sun rise across the beautiful, spinifex-covered hills of the Gawler Ranges is one of life's little pleasures. Other birds we are likely to come across here are Hooded Robin, Southern Whiteface, Black-eared Cuckoo and Slender-billed Thornbill. We'll then follow the coast south, looking for Banded Stilt, Elegant Parrot, the rosinae race of Slender-billed Thornbill and the rosina race of White-browed Scrubwren, to arrive in Adelaide in the evening. Over our last meal together we'll prepare the final bird list and reminisce about the many great birds we've seen and experiences we've had...

For those who have booked the optional 2-day extension for the newly split Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren, we'll leave Mt Ive and spend the afternoon driving to Ceduna, where we'll stay the night.

Overnight (main tour): Hotel in Adelaide, en-suite hotel rooms

Overnight (extension): Ceduna, en-suite hotel rooms

Meals included: B, L, D

Day 9: 18 October 2028

Departure from Adelaide, or extension

Please make your own onward travel arrangements from Adelaide for any time today – continental breakfast is included and available from 6:30am.

For those on the extension, we'll spend all day out in the remote wilderness north of Ceduna where there is a population of the recently split Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren which we've had successful views of on other tours. We may also find Copperback Quail-thrush here. We'll stay in Ceduna again that night.

Meals included (main tour): B

Meals included (extension): B, L, D

Day 10: 19 October 2028

Departure (extension)

You can take the 9am Rex flight back to Adelaide (not included).

Meals included (extension): B



Short-tailed Grasswren, Mulga Parrot, Thick-billed Grasswren, and Splendid Fairy-wren. All photos by Peter Waanders.

QUICK OVERVIEW

SCHEDULED DATES

Six Grasswrens Tour: 9 - 19 October 2028

Optional Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren extension: 17-19 October 2028

Optional Western SA Specialties & Splits Tour extension: 19 October 2028 onwards

STARTING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

FINISHING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

Ceduna, South Australia (Rufous Sandhill Grasswren extension)

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 9 participants.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 9 October 2028: Arrival in Adelaide

Day 1: 10 October 2028: Exploring the 'mallee' wilderness

Day 2: 11 October 2028: Murray and Darling rivers to Broken Hill

Day 3: 12 October 2028: North to Tibooburra

Day 4: 13 October 2028: Outback swamps to Cameron Corner

Day 5: 14 October 2028: Strzelecki Desert

Day 6: 15 October 2028: Mt Lyndhurst and Flinders Ranges

Day 7: 16 October 2028: Gawler Ranges

Day 8: 17 October 2028: Gawler Ranges and optional extension (Ceduna)

Day 9: 18 October 2028: Departure from Adelaide, or extension

Day 10: 19 October 2028: Departure (extension)

BOOKING

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



COST

COST

AU\$5,899 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$880.

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 9, 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. Transport using comfortable and reliable 4WD vehicle, expert guiding, any entry fees, taxes. *Extension includes two nights accommodation in en-suite rooms, 2x breakfast, 2x lunch and 2x dinner.*

EXCLUDED

Travel to & from departure and finish points, pre- & post trip accommodation, any meals before dinner on Day 0 and after breakfast on Day 9, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance. *Extension additionally excludes flight from Ceduna to Adelaide on final day.*

PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

Optional post-tour Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren extension: From 17 to 19 October 2028, we offer an optional excursion to Ceduna in search of the recently split Rufous (Sandhill) Grasswren. When the main tour heads back to Adelaide on 17 October, we'll split off and drive to Ceduna, where we'll stay two nights. On 19 October, you can catch the 9am Rex flight from Ceduna back to Adelaide (not included). Cost of this 2-day extension is AU\$990 per person (twin-share or double room; B, L, D on 17 and 19 October).

Or why not join our following Western South Australia Specialties & Splits tour commencing in Ceduna on 19 October? Instant return-client discount available.

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 (see next page); (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.

DIFFICULTY

Medium to high level of fitness required and not recommended for beginners or inexperienced birders. This fast-paced trip is not for the faint-hearted, with lots of walking in sometimes difficult terrain, early departures and late finishes each day, while driving around 2,500 km (almost half on unsealed roads of varying condition). While unlikely, we may encounter harsh outback conditions such as heat, frosty mornings, rain storms, flooding or dust. You can opt out of any challenging activities if you like.

ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite rooms in hotels or lodges. Some nights will be in more basic, non-en-suite cabins or historical cottage 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 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 Menkhurst, and Rohan Clarke, or the (smaller and lighter) *Compact Australian Bird Guide* (2022) by the same authors.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

As mentioned on the previous page, the tour route may change to the following dependent on weather conditions. The alternative route is:

Day 1: Adelaide to Berri, overnight in Berri

Day 2: Berri to Port Augusta, overnight in Port Augusta

Day 3: Port Augusta to Mt Ive, overnight in Port Augusta

Day 4: Port Augusta to Lyndhurst, overnight in Lyndhurst

Day 5: Lyndhurst to Mungerannie, overnight in Mungerannie

Day 6: Mungerannie area, overnight in Mungerannie

Day 7: Mungerannie to Hawker, overnight in Hawker

Day 8: Hawker to Adelaide

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	Black-breasted Buzzard	White-winged Black Tern
Plumed Whistling-duck	Brown Goshawk	Silver Gull
Wandering Whistling Duck	Collared Sparrowhawk	Rock Dove (I)
Freckled Duck	Spotted Harrier	Barbary Dove (I)
Musk Duck	Swamp Harrier	Spotted Dove (I)
Black Swan	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Common Bronzewing
Australian Shelduck	Little Eagle	Flock Bronzewing
Australian Wood Duck	Australian Bustard	Crested Pigeon
Pink-eared Duck	Purple Swamphe	Diamond Dove
Australasian Shoveler	Baillon's Crake	Peaceful Dove
Grey Teal	Australian Spotted Crake	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Chestnut Teal	Spotless Crake	Black-eared Cuckoo
Northern Mallard (I)	Buff-banded Rail	Pallid Cuckoo
Pacific Black Duck	Black-tailed Native-hen	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Barn Owl
blue-billed duck	Eurasian Coot	Southern Boobook
Malleefowl	Brolga	Tawny Frogmouth
Brown Quail	Little Button-quail	Spotted Nightjar
Stubble Quail	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Australian Owlet-nightjar
Australasian Grebe	Sooty Oystercatcher	White-throated Needletail
Hoary-headed Grebe	Black-winged Stilt	Fork-tailed Swift
Great Crested Grebe	Red-necked Avocet	Laughing Kookaburra
Glossy Ibis	Banded Stilt	Red-backed Kingfisher
Australian White Ibis	Red-capped Plover	Sacred Kingfisher
Straw-necked Ibis	Double-banded Plover	Rainbow Bee-eater
Royal Spoonbill	Greater Sand Plover	Nankeen Kestrel
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Inland Dotterel	Brown Falcon
Eastern Great Egret	Black-fronted Dotterel	Australian Hobby
Intermediate Egret	Red-kneed Dotterel	Grey Falcon
Cattle Egret	Oriental Plover	Black Falcon
White-necked Heron	Banded Lapwing	Peregrine Falcon
White-faced Heron	Masked Lapwing	Galah
Little Egret	Common Sandpiper	Pink Cockatoo
Nankeen Night-Heron	Wood Sandpiper	Long-billed Corella
Australian Pelican	Common Greenshank	Little Corella
Little Pied Cormorant	Ruddy Turnstone	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Great Cormorant	Red-necked Stint	Cockatiel
Little Black Cormorant	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Rainbow Lorikeet
Pied Cormorant	Curlew Sandpiper	Musk Lorikeet
Black-faced Cormorant	Ruff	Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Australasian Darter	Australian Pratincole	Regent Parrot
Black-shouldered Kite	Crested Tern	Eastern Rosella
Letter-winged Kite	Gull-billed Tern	Crimson (Adelaide) Rosella
Whistling Kite	Caspian Tern	Crimson (Yellow) Rosella
Black Kite	Whiskered Tern	Australian (Pt Lincoln) Ringneck



Australian (Mallee) Ringneck
Blue Bonnet (yellow-vented)
Blue Bonnet (pale form)
Red-rumped Parrot
Mulga Parrot
Budgerigar
Bourke's Parrot
Blue-winged Parrot
Elegant Parrot
Scarlet-chested Parrot
White-browed Treecreeper
Brown Treecreeper
Superb Fairy-wren
Splendid Fairy-wren
White-winged Fairy-wren
Variegated Fairy-wren
Striated Grasswren
Short-tailed Grasswren
Thick-billed Grasswren
Western Grasswren
Eyrean Grasswren
Grey Grasswren
Pied Honeyeater
Singing Honeyeater
White-eared Honeyeater
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Grey-fronted Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater
White-fronted Honeyeater
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Yellow-throated Miner
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Red Wattlebird
Little Wattlebird
Striped Honeyeater
Crimson Chat
Orange Chat
White-fronted Chat
Gibberbird

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

Red-lored Whistler
Rufous Whistler
Golden Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush
Crested Bellbird
Dusky Woodswallow
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Restless 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 (I)
White-backed Swallow
Welcome Swallow
Fairy Martin
Tree Martin
Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Grassbird
Rufous Songlark
Brown Songlark
Silvereye
Common Starling (I)
Common Blackbird (I)
Mistletoebird
House Sparrow (I)
Zebra Finch
Red-browed Finch
Australasian Pipit