



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd

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Australia: Land of Parrots 16 day birding tour



Australia, the land of parrots. Over 50 species in all! Our 16 day tour is designed to connect participants with approximately half of these gorgeous and charismatic birds! Parrots live in every different habitat found in the country. During our two weeks down under we will visit and target those areas richest in parrot numbers and variety. Habitats will vary from parks and botanical gardens in the south, to rugged and dry regions in the interior. Others are only found in the humid forests of the Northern Territories Top end.

October is the Australian spring and an opportune season to interact with parrots. During this period they tend to be congregated in flocks as well as paired in more scattered

locations during the breeding season. Not just parrots, we will encounter a variety of other fascinating wildlife species as well. Such iconic species as the Emu, Kangaroo, Kookaburra and possibly even the infamous salt water crocodile in the region of Kakadu. This tour presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to view parrots, often only seen as popular cage birds, living wild and free against the backdrop of this varied rugged and spectacular country.

Commencing in Melbourne, Vic, we spend a week exploring the parrot-rich back-country of Victoria and New South Wales. We'll then fly to Australia's Red Centre in the outback (Alice Springs, NT) for a few days, and then on to the Top End (Darwin, NT) to finish in the Tropical Far North Top End.

Tour starts: Melbourne, Vic

Tour finishes: Darwin, NT

Scheduled departure & return dates:

• 6 – 22 Oct 2020

Leader: Don Kimball & Greg Little

Trip reports and photos of previous tours:

<http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports>

Questions? Contact BELLBIRD BIRDING TOURS :

- Freecall 1800-BIRDING
- email birds@bellbirdtours.com

READ ON FOR:

- Further tour details
- Daily itinerary
- Booking information

Australia: Land of Parrots – 2020



Tour details

Tour starts: Melbourne, Vic **Tour finishes:** Darwin, NT

Scheduled departure and return dates: Tour commences with dinner on 6 Oct 2020 and finishes with breakfast in the morning of 23 Oct 2020. See daily itinerary for further details.

Leader: TBA plus local guides.

Difficulty: Low/Medium/High/Excellent level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on mostly flat, often paved, surfaces, but may include some very short climbs. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

What to bring: Please travel light. Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors if you're an international guest, insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, travel umbrella, hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses with tripods, and very heavy hard-cased suitcases are discouraged.

Accommodation: Private en-suite rooms in hotels or lodges. Standards across lodgings is good and comfortable..

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 warm jumper/sweater and wind/rain-proof jacket. Neat casual attire for dinners. Shorts and sandals or thongs (flip-flops) are acceptable for non-birding time.

Group size: Minimum 4, maximum 8 participants.

Cost: US\$6,199 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of US\$1100. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expenses. Earlybird discount of US\$99 for bookings received up to 6 months before departure date. Return-client discount may apply.

Bookings: Online at <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> or please complete the booking form in the back of this brochure.

Australia: Land of Parrots – 2020



Section 1 Melbourne . Geelong . Kennett River
Section 2 Glenrowan . Denilquin . Griffith
Section 3 Brisbane, Winton, Longreach
Section 4 Darwin . Pine Creek . Kakadu

Oct 6-9
Oct 9-14
Oct 15-18
Oct 19-22

Australia: Land of Parrots – 2020

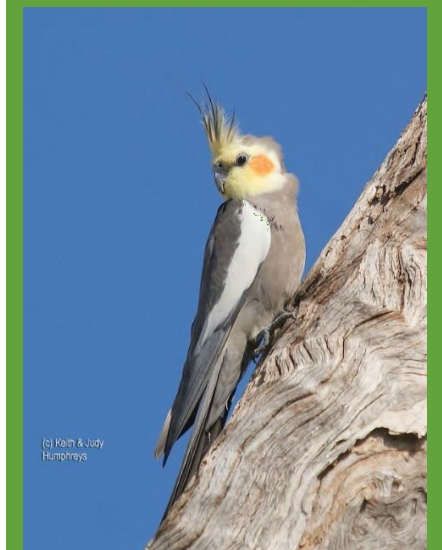
ITINERARY

Day 0: (6 Oct). **Arrival in Melbourne.** Transfer (included) to our hotel in Melbourne followed by introductions & dinner. Included: transfer, dinner, en-suite hotel room. Overnight: **hotel in Melbourne** (en-suite room; meals included: D).

Day 1: (7 Oct). **Melbourne area.** After an early breakfast we head out to explore the well planted grounds of surrounding Melbourne Parks. Tucked amid the busyness of an urban landscape, this is an excellent place to comb the blossoming gum trees for members of the lorikeet family. We could possibly find Little, Musk and Rainbow Lorikeets here. We should also get excellent close up looks at Red-rumped Parrots, Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos! Later in the day we will journey south to the Werribee Parks area where we'll scan through the marsh flats for our first Blue-winged Parrots. This may be our only opportunity to connect with this delicate and lovely little parrot. In the surrounding upland areas, we will check the flowering gum trees for the often hard to spot Purple-crowned Lorikeets which nest in this region. Overnight **hotel in Anglesea** (en-suite room; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 2: (8 Oct). **Great Ocean Road.** Early morning finds us exploring the start of the Great Ocean Road which not only offers fantastic ocean scenery but also great opportunities to view a variety of stunning parrot species up close. We should have excellent encounters with parrots such as Australian King-Parrot, Crimson Rosella and Sulphur-crested cockatoos. This may be our only opportunity to spot the delightful little Gang-gang Cockatoo, found primarily in cooler forested regions. This is also one of the best locations in all of Australia to spot the iconic Koala, often found napping in nearby trees. Later in the day, time permitting, we will explore other parks and botanical gardens in the areas surrounding Geelong keeping an eye out for spectacular Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos and Eastern Rosellas. Overnight **motel in Geelong** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 3: (9 Oct). **North of Melbourne.** Our day begins with a drive to Serendip Park north of Geelong. Here we should have great looks at more than just parrots! Wild Kangaroos and Emu may make an appearance as we search for the little fast flying Purple-crowned Lorikeet. We may also spot Eastern Rosellas and other parrots as well. Then it's back towards Melbourne, a 2-hour journey north. We'll make a stop in Ferntree Gully to view the lush Dandenong Range Forest where we should get excellent looks at Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Crimson Rosellas. With luck we may even spot a Superb Lyrebird. Overnight **motel in Fawkner** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).



Musk Lorikeet, Rainbow Lorikeet, Cockatiel (c) Keith & Judy Humphreys

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Day 4: (10 Oct). **rural New South Wales.** Early morning finds us en-route to Glenrowan in New South Wales, a 2- hour drive away. We will explore this rural setting and the grounds of Kurringai Cottage for the elusive little Turquoise Parrot. This little gem of a parrot is high on the list of many Australians. Time permitting, we may get to learn more about the conservation efforts to boost Turquoise parrot numbers implemented by providing nest boxes and land management practices. Overnight **motel in Wangaratta** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 5: (11 Oct). **Chiltern & Deniliquin.** On the grounds of Kurringai cottage we have the opportunity to see wild parrots come to drink at the bird baths. If we are quiet, we may find some good opportunities for photography. Later we leave for Mt. Chiltern Park 1 hour north. This lovely park can offer such parrots as Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Little Lorikeets and perhaps provide looks at Gang-gang Cockatoos. Afternoon finds us on our way to Deniliquin, situated on the NSW-Vic border rivers, 2 hours away. With good fortune we should see the threatened Superb Parrot in the floodplain trees here. Superbs are one of only 3 of the *polytelis* parrot genus. Overnight **motel in Deniliquin** (en-suite room; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 6: (12 Oct). **Deniliquin to Griffith.** We'll search the surrounding areas of Deniliquin for not only Superb Parrots but other species as well. Here we may catch looks at the yellow form of Crimson Rosella and Long-billed Corellas. A 2.5-hour drive finds us in the Griffith area. This rural area is well known for its rich variety of parrots. Here, hotspots even include the local golf course! En-route to Griffith we may spend time searching for Glossy-black Cockatoos, a great find because of their scarcity. Overnight **hotel in Griffith** (en-suite room; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 7: (13 Oct). **Lake Cargelligo area.** Up early, we'll spend the entire day in the parrot-rich area around Griffith for such charismatic parrots as Major Mitchell's Cockatoos and Mulga Parrots, Australian Ringnecks and Greater Blue Bonnet. Lake Cargelligo may provide our only opportunity to view Cockatiels in the wild. Beautiful and elegant in flight, it's such a treat to see this popular cage bird free-flighted and wild. Overnight **motel in Lake Cargelligo** (en-suite room; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 8: (14 Oct). **to Brisbane.** Morning finds us combing the areas for any parrots we may have missed. We will do our best to try to find and photograph these gorgeous birds. Later in the day we journey 3 hours away via the town of Wagga-Wagga to Brisbane. Overnight **motel in Brisbane** (en-suite room; meals included: B, L, D).



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Red-winged Parrot, Hooded Parrot, Edith Falls(c) Keith & Judy Humphreys

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Day 9: (15 Oct). **day around Brisbane.** Today is a day in Brisbane where we get to relax and take in the sights of this lovely city. We will also give the option of a leisurely trip to a location where you can hand-feed wild but colorful lorikeets and see other classic Aussie wildlife at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. It's also an excellent time to take in a leisurely stroll in some of the nearby parks and search for the lovely Pale-headed Rosella and Scaly-breasted Lorikeet. Overnight **motel in Brisbane** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 10: (16 Oct). **Australia's outback.** Up early in Brisbane to take a flight to Longreach for the next leg of the journey. From the small city of Longreach we drive to the outback regions of Winton to search for the little iconic budgerigar. With good fortune we should see flocks of this well-known little parrot and possibly also Cockatiels and Bourke's Parrots. Overnight **motel in Winton** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 11: (17 Oct). **Australia's outback.** We'll spend the day scouring the rugged but beautiful dry outback regions in search of the region's specialties.. Rugged yet scenic, the countryside seems like an inhospitable place for birds of any kind, but with good fortune we may spot Budgerigars, Bourke's Parrots, Mulga Parrots and possibly even Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos and Major Mitchells. Overnight **motel in Winton** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 12: (18 Oct). **Winton to Brisbane.** We'll spend our morning in the Winton area catching some last looks at budgies and other parrot species before boarding our flight back to Brisbane. Overnight **motel in Brisbane** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 13: (19 Oct). **Australia's Top End.** After saying goodbye to Brisbane, we will board a morning flight bound for Australia's Top End and the city of Darwin. After a bit of lunch in Darwin we will head our vehicle towards the little village of Pine Creek, a little over 2 hours south. At Pine Creek we will have our only opportunity to search for the gorgeous but uncommon Hooded Parrot. In addition to Hooded Parrots, with good fortune we might also spot Red-winged Parrots and fast flying Varied Lorikeets. Varieds are one of the most difficult Lorikeets to obtain views of as they are always on the move. Overnight **hotel in Pine Creek** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 14: (20 Oct). **Pine Creek to Kakadu NP.** We'll spend the morning searching for parrots around Pine Creek and then travel into the interior for approximately 2 hours. We'll explore the beautiful area around Edith Falls as we keep an eye out for Northern Rosellas and Varied Lorikeets. Picnic lunch and a swim at Edith Falls in Nitmuluk National Park. A further 2-hour journey into Kakadu National Park allows us to spend the night in the park. Overnight **hotel Coinda Lodge, Kakadu** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).



Mulga Parrot, Budgerigar, Australian Ringneck © Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours

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Day 15: (21 Oct). **Kakadu NP.** Australia's largest and most well-known National Park, Kakadu, offers a rich variety of habitats and interesting Aboriginal rock paintings. After most of the day exploring at Kakadu we'll make the trek to Mary River Wilderness Retreat about 1.5 hours away. Along the way we will look for flocks of Lorikeets chattering in the trees, a good chance of Northern Rosella and we'll listen for the characteristic melancholy calls of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos and search for other parrots as well. Overnight **Mary River Wilderness Retreat** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 16: (22 Oct). **Crocodiles, Cruise & Corellas.** We'll have a casual day at Mary River and embark on a river cruise where we'll enjoy the natural history of this iconic region and search for the legendary Salt Water Crocodile and no end to water birds! We may spot several parrot species along the way including flocks of Little Corellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. By afternoon we will head back to Darwin, a 2-hr journey. In Darwin we will visit scenic spots and search for any parrot species we still need to enjoy! Overnight **hotel in Darwin** (en-suite room, meals included: B, L, D).

Day 17: (23 Oct). **Tour ends.** Breakfast in Darwin and then time to say goodbye to new friends and take morning flights to destinations beyond.
Meals: B.

Please note: Itinerary subject to change depending on weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.



Glossy Black Cockatoo, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo © Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours

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Trip report of our previous Parrot tours:

<http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports>

Photo gallery of our Parrot tours:

<http://www.bellbirdtours.com/gallery/australian-parrots-gallery>

Important information for your tour:

- Recommended reading: the authoritative *Australian Bird Guide* by Menkhorst, Rogers, Clarke & Davies or the smaller *Field Guide to Australian Birds* by Morcombe (complete compact edition)..
- Travel insurance is highly recommended for this tour and should include cover for cancellation and medical costs.
- Arranging flights to and from the start and finish points and are your own responsibility.
- Please make your own enquiries regarding visas, inoculations and travel health issues.
- Please let us know your flight details and arrival and departure times.

Pre- and post tour options:

If you wish to arrive earlier in Melbourne, please make your own way to your accommodation for Day 0, in time for dinner and introductions. We can book you into our hotel for any number of nights leading up to, or after, the tour, please enquire. We can also arrange your international and domestic flights, hotel bookings, travel insurance and other travel arrangements for you through our partnership with HelloWorld. Please tick the relevant boxes on the booking form and we'll contact you to discuss.

Extensions. During September-October we run a number of other birding tours in Australia that can be combined and you may also be eligible for a discount! Please contact us for details.

Price inclusions and exclusions:

Currency: Please note that the tour price is set in **US\$** and payment will need to be made in this currency.

Included: Airport transfer on day 0, all meals commencing with Dinner on Day 0 and finishing with breakfast on Day 16, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite (mostly) rooms, transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, expert Australian guiding accompanied by a local guide, airport transfers, 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 breakfast, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance, visa / passport fees, anything else not specifically included.

Bookings: Please book at: <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> or complete the booking form in the back.

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Possible parrot species list

Australian King-Parrot

Australian Ringneck

Red-winged Parrot

Superb Parrot

Cockatiel

Budgerigar

Crimson Rosella

Eastern Rosella

Northern Rosella

Red-rumped Parrot

Mulga Parrot

Hooded Parrot

Blue Bonnet

Bourke's Parrot

Blue-winged Parrot

Turquoise Parrot

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo

Glossy-Black Cockatoo

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

Gang-gang Cockatoo

Galah

Long-billed Corella

Little Corella

Major Mitchells Cockatoo

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Rainbow Lorikeet

Varied Lorikeet

Musk Lorikeet

Purple-crowned Lorikeet

Little Lorikeet

That's 30 species of parrot possible in 1 trip!



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Tour Booking Form

This form contains 3 pages. Please print out and complete each page, and sign where indicated. Scan and email, or send by postal mail, with payment (see last page) to the address above.

Tour details:

Name of tour _____

Starting and Ending dates _____

Your details:

Name and address of the registrant(s) *(only 1 form is needed for people residing at the same address)*

Name(s) _____

Date of birth _____

Address _____

Identification document and number (passport for international visitors) _____

Telephone (Home) _____

(Work) _____ (Mobile) _____

Email _____

tick if you do not want to receive future updates, news and special offers from Bellbird Tours by email

Emergency Contact Name, relationship and telephone number *(required field)*

(continued on next page)

Accommodation requirements (please tick):

- Single Room (surcharge applies)
- Double Room (2 people, 1 bed, usually queen-size, but this cannot always be guaranteed)
- Twin Share (2 people, 2 beds) (If you are a solo traveller and want to share a room: we will try to team you up with another solo traveller, however this cannot be guaranteed. Single surcharge applies for single occupancy)

Medical conditions and dietary requirements:

Do you have any medical conditions (eg. disabilities, illnesses or allergies) that might restrict your full involvement in any aspect of the tour?

No / Yes If Yes, please provide details: _____

If you have other special requirements (eg dietary requirements), please advise. While we cannot guarantee to accommodate them, we will make every attempt to do so.

Optional extras:

Please indicate if you would like us to arrange any of the following (we'll contact you to discuss):

- Domestic flights
- International flights
- Pre and/or post tour hotel bookings

Travel insurance:

I understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise that could force me to cancel my booking. I understand Bellbird's cancellation policy and have made the following arrangements:

- I will arrange, or have arranged, my own travel insurance
- I do not intend to take out travel insurance and accept the associated financial risk
- I would like you to arrange travel insurance for me
- Other, please specify: _____

(continued on next page)



Terms and Conditions:

Please read the [terms and conditions](http://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) and the [release of liability waiver](http://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) (both can be found on <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions>), then sign below.

I/we agree to book this tour. I/we have read and understood, and accept the terms and conditions. I/we accept the release and waiver from liability.

Signature 1: _____ Signature 2: _____

Print Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

To secure a seat, a deposit of 20% of the tour price is required at the time of booking. Full payment is due 75 days prior to the departure date. Until full payment has been received, Bellbird Tours reserves the right to change the tour price (eg due to changing fuel prices).

Please tick which of the following payment options you will be using to pay the deposit:

PayPal & credit cards through PayPal: They charge us a fee of between 2.6-3.9% to receive your money, which unfortunately we have to pass on to you. Do not send money without notice - please contact us if you want to use this option, and we'll email you a secure PayPal invoice.

electronic funds transfer: please send funds in US Dollars (+ bank charges at your end) to the following bank account:

- Account Name: TransferWise FBO Peter Ivar Waanders
- Account number: 8310209261
- Wire Routing Number: 026073008
- ACH Routing Number: 026073150
- If possible, please use your *surname* as the reference.
- Address: TransferWise, 19 W 24th Street, New York 10010 United States.
- Please note that you, the sender, will need to cover any fees your bank may charge you (which we aren't aware of or can't control).
- Many of our clients use an online service like TransferWise or CurrencyFair to send funds: it's cheaper and faster than traditional banks.

