



**BIRDING TOUR AUSTRALIA: NORTHERN TERRITORY -
ALICE SPRINGS AND ULURU BIRDING TOUR**

20–25 SEPTEMBER 2027

14–19 SEPTEMBER 2028



*The striking **Spinifex Pigeon** is one of our top targets on this trip.*

Overview

This short birding tour around Alice Springs in the south of the Northern Territory of Australia also takes in the magnificent Uluru (also known as Ayers Rock). It is an ideal tour to combine with two of our other Australian tours because it fits in perfectly between our **Birding Tour Western Australia: Southwest Australian Endemic Birds** and **Birding Tour Australia: Northern Territory – Top End Birding Tour**. Combining all three of these short Australian birding tours will give you an excellent list of the birds of north, central, and western Australia, complete with a multitude of highly sought-after Australian endemic birds.

As with all our other tours this is a small-group tour. The majority of our tour will be based in Alice Springs, though we will also venture further afield to base ourselves near Uluru so we are well placed to enjoy this important feature. We will have a wide range of target birds while here, and will focus on the region's specials such as **Spinifex Pigeon, Spinifexbird, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Dusky Grasswren, Rufous Grasswren, Banded Whiteface, Grey Honeyeater, Western Bowerbird, Black-breasted Buzzard, Diamond Dove, Grey-headed Honeyeater, Black Honeyeater, Pied Honeyeater, Slaty-backed Thornbill, White-backed Swallow, Crested Bellbird, Black-eared Cuckoo, Budgerigar, Bourke's Parrot, Mulga Parrot, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Spotted Harrier, Little Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Purple-backed Fairywren, Splendid Fairywren, White-winged Fairywren, Red-browed Pardalote, and Painted Finch.**



Budgerigar, a popular cage bird, is an Australian native largely restricted to 'The Outback' where they roam around nomadically in flocks. This tour is one of the more reliable to see this species.

Detailed Itinerary (6 days/5 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Alice Springs

Arrival in Alice Springs. We will meet at our hotel in the evening for a welcome meal, ready to start birding the following morning. For those arriving early, there are plenty of birds in the river floodplain and botanic gardens near our hotel for some self-exploration.

Overnight: Alice Springs



*We will look for **Western Bowerbird** that can be found at their bowers in the city – an impressive garden bird!*

Days 2 – 3. Birding Alice Springs environs

We have two full days of birding the Alice Springs area. There are several sites within close proximity to Alice Springs (even inside the city limits) and we will have morning and afternoon sessions at a range of these sites, such as the old telegraph station, the botanic gardens, the desert park, and the local back roads. Some of the species we could find here include **Spinifex Pigeon**, **Western Bowerbird**, **Grey Honeyeater**, **Pied Honeyeater**, **Black Honeyeater**, **Hooded Robin**, **Painted Finch**, **Black-breasted Buzzard**, **Little Eagle**, **Galah**, **Australian Ringneck**, **Diamond Dove**, **Black-eared Cuckoo**, **Crimson Chat**, **Splendid Fairywren**, **Mistletoebird**, **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Australian Zebra Finch**, **Grey-crowned Babbler**, **White-browed Babbler**, **Torresian Crow**, **Little Crow**, **Australian Boobook**, and **Red-browed Pardalote**.



Painted Finch is one of the scarcer species occurring in the gorges near to town.



The song of Crested Bellbird is spectacular as it rings out through the desert.

We will also venture out from the city into the ‘desert’ areas, where we will look for some different and highly sought-after species such as **Rufous-crowned Emu-wren**, **Spinifexbird**, **Dusky**

Grasswren, Banded Whiteface, Bourke's Parrot, Crested Bellbird, Slaty-backed Thornbill, Red-browed Pardalote, and White-browed Treecreeper.



Banded Whiteface is a local speciality that we'll be on the lookout for.



Dusky Grasswren is a target during our birding around Alice Springs. This family of birds is known as being difficult, and we hope to get views like this one from a previous tour.

Widespread Australian species we may find here include **Southern Whiteface**, **Spotted Harrier**, **White-winged Fairywren**, **Purple-backed Fairywren**, **Hooded Robin**, **Inland Thornbill**, **White-fronted Honeyeater**, **Hooded Robin**, **Magpie-lark**, **White-backed Swallow**, and **Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**.

Overnight: Alice Springs



*A spectacular male **Purple-backed Fairywren** adds a blast of color to the surrounds.*

Day 4. Alice Springs to Erldunda

We will have a final morning birding in the Alice Springs area looking for any of the birds mentioned above, before we drive south to Erldunda, where we will spend the night. We should have time for some birding around our accommodation in the late afternoon, when the temperature has dropped, and we will look for some of the birds mentioned for Day 5, below.

Overnight: Erldunda

Day 5. Erldunda and Uluru (Ayers Rock)

We will spend the morning birding around Erldunda and making our way to the famous Uluru (Ayers Rock), which we will reach in the mid-afternoon. Some of the birds we will be on the lookout for in the morning include **Cinnamon Quail-thrush**, **Chiming Wedgebill**, **Budgerigar**, **Crimson Chat**, **Orange Chat**, **Pink** (formerly Major Mitchell's) **Cockatoo**, and maybe the nomadic **Inland Dotterel**.



*In a country blessed with a myriad of stunning parrots, **Pink Cockatoo** (formerly Major Mitchell's Cockatoo) takes some beating!*



The sight of Uluru (also known as Ayres Rock) as the sun sets is absolutely spectacular and a tour highlight in its own right.

We will have some time taking in the sights of Uluru (Ayers Rock) in the afternoon and we will keep our eyes peeled for **Rufous Grasswren**, a recent (2020) split from Striated Grasswren. The birds here are touted as a further split, Sandhill Grasswren.

Overnight: Uluru



*The rare and localized **Rufous Grasswren** will be a target around Uluru.*

Day 6. Travel Uluru (Ayers Rock) to Alice Springs

After spending the early morning in the Uluru area looking for the species mentioned above, we will travel back to Alice Springs where the tour ends in the mid-afternoon.

Overnight: Not included

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually 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. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Tour Details

Duration:	6 days
Group size:	6–8
Dates:	20–25 September 2027
Start:	14–19 September 2028
End:	Alice Springs, Northern Territory
Prices:	Alice Springs, Northern Territory AU\$ 6,880 per person sharing – based on 4 - 8 participants (2027) AU\$ 7,325 per person sharing – based on 4 - 8 participants (2028)
Single supplements:	AU\$ 1,250 (2027) AU\$ 1,375 (2028)

Price includes:

All accommodation (as described above from Day 1 through Day 5)
Meals (from dinner on Day 1 until lunch on Day 6)
Expert tour leader
National park/birdwatching reserve/protected areas entrance fees
Private transportation during the tour

Price excludes:

International or domestic flights to get to/from Alice Springs
Airport transfers
Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/etc. excursions
Visa if required
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, etc.
Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions
Soft/alcoholic drinks (drinking water is safe from the taps, please bring a refillable water bottle)
Personal travel insurance
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))