



**BIRDING TOUR AUSTRALIA:
NORTHERN TERRITORY – ALICE SPRINGS BIRDING
TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



Crested Bellbird is found in the arid interior of Australia and is a target on our Alice Springs birding tour.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT AUSTRALIA CAN BE READ HERE

TOUR OUTLINE

This short birdwatching tour to the southern part of the Northern Territory focuses on the birds found around Alice Springs and includes a visit to Uluru (Ayers Rock). There are many desert specials to be found on our Alice Springs birding tour, including birds like **Black-breasted Buzzard, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Spinifex Pigeon, Diamond Dove, Spinifexbird, Western Bowerbird, Dusky Grasswren, Rufous Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Splendid Fairywren, Banded Whiteface, Crested Bellbird, Bourke's Parrot, Mulga Parrot, Red-browed Pardalote, Australian Zebra Finch, and Painted Finch.**

This tour combines perfectly with both our Northern Territory Top End birding tour and our Western Australia birding tour, which run either side of this Alice Springs bird tour in most years.

DAILY ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TOUR PACE

A relaxed pace, yet still comprehensive bird tour as we take in the special birds around the Alice Springs area. We will have one central base in Alice Springs city for a few days before we venture a little further away to Uluru, stopping for a night along the way. We will make morning and afternoon birding trips from our accommodation when we are based in Alice Springs city. We will then bird along the way as we move further afield from the city.

Birding around Alice Springs will involve drives of around an hour to get to the birding sites, sometimes a little less (approximately 30 minutes) and sometimes a little more. The drive between Alice Springs and Erldunda is around two hours and between Erldunda and Uluru is around three hours. The longest drive of the tour will be as we drive between Uluru and Alice Springs, which will be around five hours but will take longer as we add birding and lunch stops.

The tour is generally considered easy in terms of physical exertion. However, the temperatures during the day could get high (see “Weather” section below), so dehydration needs to be considered a possibility at all times, as does heat stroke and sunburn, etc.

Our usual tactic on this tour is to make short walks from our vehicle in a loop of up to 0.6 – 1.2 miles (1 – 2 kilometers), and we may make several of these a day. On a couple of occasions on this tour, we are likely to make slightly longer walks of 2.5 miles (4 kilometers), and we may make a couple of these a day too. Please ensure you always carry water with you on our walks away from the vehicle. Walking is often on fairly flat but occasionally undulating rough ground with rabbit holes and loose rocks, so care needs to be taken. In some areas we will be walking in very spiky spinifex grass, so long pants (trousers) are recommended.

TRANSPORTATION

We will use a 12-seater minibus on this Alice Springs birding tour. There will be limited baggage space, so please pack as lightly as possible for the tour (including within the seating area).

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

There are no domestic flights on this Alice Springs birdwatching tour.

LUGGAGE

Please pack as lightly as possible for this Alice Springs birding tour due to limited space inside vehicles. A medium-sized, soft-sided, and robust duffle bag is likely to work best for packing in the tour vehicle. You will be expected to load and unload your own bags into and out of vehicles.

We recommend using a backpack to keep items that you wish to use daily when in the vehicle or when birding in the field (such as binoculars, camera, notebook, field guide, personal supply of water, snacks, umbrella, rain jacket, extra layers of clothing, etc.).

ACCOMMODATION

In Alice Springs and Uluru we stay at comfortable hotels in rooms with air conditioning and private bathrooms. There are restaurants on site where we will eat most of our meals, and the hotels offer free Wi-Fi. These hotels both have swimming pools.

At Eraldunda, we stay in the roadhouse (a sort of outback motel), the rooms have air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, and private bathrooms. There is a swimming pool and restaurant on site.

WEATHER

Known as a warm month, the average maximum daytime temperature in Alice Springs during our birding tour in October is 90 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) (32 degrees Centigrade/°C), and the average minimum temperature is 60 °F (16 °C). Rain is unlikely on our tour, and as such, it is usually not very humid.

SAFETY

Alice Springs has received some negative press over recent years due to a significant increase in antisocial behavior and crime. Do not walk around outside the resort grounds (e.g., in town or elsewhere) after dark. Please do not leave valuables (or anything at any time) inside the vehicle when it is parked to help reduce the risk of anyone breaking into the vehicle. Please keep a close watch over your possessions (e.g., bags, wallet, optics, etc.) when we are out and about in the city, such as during lunch stops and city birding stops. Do not walk around Alice Springs city with expensive equipment in view at any time. Ensure the doors and windows are always closed and locked in your hotel rooms (when you are in the room and out of it).

WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS

The following is a list of useful items to bring on this Alice Springs birding tour and should be read in conjunction with the Australia general information document.

1. A field guide to the birds of the region. See the general information for our

- recommendations for this Alice Springs bird tour.
2. Hiking pole or walking stick to help on the tracks and trails. While probably not necessary for everyone, **a walking stick is compulsory for anyone who is unsteady walking**, as we feel this is a safety issue. We don't want anyone slipping on the trails or anywhere else. Please discuss with us if you are unsure whether you will need one or not.
 3. High-concentration DEET insect repellent or similar products.
 4. A flynet for your face is very useful in some years.
 5. Sunhat, sunscreen, and sunglasses.
 6. A small personal first aid kit. See the suggested items from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [here](#).
 7. Lightweight hiking boots are likely the best footwear for this tour. A set of sandals (flip-flops) and/or trainers would be useful for walking around some of the accommodations but are not suitable for birding time (consider snake bites, mud, slips, trips, falls, etc.).
 8. Quick-drying birding clothes (in suitable colors) are the best for this tour; you are unlikely to require sweaters, etc., for this tour.
 9. Swimwear. All of our accommodations have swimming pools.
 10. A small hand towel or washcloth can be handy for cleaning dust off when in the desert. Not essential, but people do find these handy.
 11. A dry bag to keep valuable documents in, such as passports, cell phones, wallets, etc., as well as cameras, if we get unlucky and have a rain shower, or to keep dust off.



Crimson Chat is a stunning member of the Honeyeater family.