BIRDING TOUR AUSTRALIA: TASMANIA BIRD TOUR – TASMANIAN ENDEMICS AND THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT

25 – 30 OCTOBER 2027
25 – 30 OCTOBER 2028



*The handsome **Orange-bellied Parrot** is the primary target on this tour.*

Overview

This small group tour of the Australian island state of Tasmania looks for all Tasmanian endemics (we usually see them all well) and also includes a day-trip flight to look for the Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) **Orange-bellied Parrot**, not everyone offers this option within their tours so do check as this is the only realistic way to see this species.

Adjoined to the mainland until the end of the last glacial period about ten thousand years ago, Tasmania is both geographically and genetically isolated from the Australian mainland. Through the millennia this island has developed its own unique set of plants and animals, including twelve avian endemics: **Forty-spotted Pardalote**, **Tasmanian Nativehen**, **Green Rosella**, **Yellow Wattlebird**, **Scrubtit**, **Tasmanian Scrubwren**, **Tasmanian Thornbill**, **Dusky Robin**, **Yellow-throated Honeyeater**, **Black-headed Honeyeater**, **Strong-billed Honeyeater**, and **Black Currawong**. Beyond the endemics Tasmania also harbors several species which winter on the mainland and breed on Tasmania, such as **Orange-bellied Parrot** already mentioned above, **Swift Parrot** another Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) parrot and another major target on this tour, and **Tasmanian Boobook** (some of which seem to overwinter in Victoria).



Forty-spotted Pardalote *is one of the Tasmanian endemics we will target on this tour.*

This tour also offers wonderful opportunities for many other highly sought-after species such as **Little Penguin**, **Hooded Plover**, **Freckled Duck**, **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Grey Goshawk**, (Eastern) **Ground Parrot**, **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo**, **Pink Robin**, **Flame Robin**, **Scarlet Robin**, **Olive Whistler**, **Southern Emu-wren**, and **Beautiful Firetail**.

Our search for the endemics and breeding specialties of Tasmania is set within a stunning backdrop of rugged coastlines, tall evergreen sclerophyll forests, alpine heathlands, and cool temperate rainforests, undoubtedly enriching our experience here.

For those wishing to continue exploring Australia, this tour can be combined with our **Australia Birding Tour: Eastern Australia – from the Outback to the Wet Tropics** tour.

Detailed Itinerary (6 days/5 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Hobart

Afternoon arrival at Hobart International Airport and transfer to your hotel in the city, our base for the next few nights, with the rest of the day at your leisure.

Overnight: Hobart



Endemic to Tasmania, ***Strong-billed Honeyeater*** *will be an early target on the tour.*

Day 2. Hobart environs

We spend the day birding at a couple of sites within close proximity to Hobart city, exploring the beautiful Fern Glade at Mt Wellington and the nearby Waterworks Reserve, where we can expect to get our list of Tasmanian endemic species up and running with **Tasmanian Scrubwren**, **Scrubtit**, **Tasmanian Thornbill**, **Black Currawong**, **Yellow Wattlebird**, **Dusky Robin**, and **Strong-billed Honeyeater**. The supporting cast may include **Pink Robin**, **Bassian Thrush**, and **Olive Whistler**.



Usually one of the tougher endemics, ***Scrubtit*** *loves the deep dark areas of forested ravines!*



The spectacular ***Pink Robin*** *is always popular!*

Day 3. Melaleuca Orange-bellied Parrot day trip

An unforgettable day is in store for us today! Weather-permitting we will board a small plane early in the morning, flying over some incredible scenery over southwestern Tasmania before

descending onto the remote airstrip at Melaleuca. Originally a tin mine, Melaleuca is now the center of conservation efforts aimed at restoring the wild population of the Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) **Orange-bellied Parrot**. A Tasmanian breeding endemic, these beautiful little parrots are in a dire situation, with fewer than forty individuals left in the wild. Time unfortunately seems to be running out for them.



*We will hopefully find **Orange-bellied Parrot** at Melaleuca.*

The surrounding heath hosts a healthy population of **Southern Emu-wren**, **Striated Fieldwren**, **Olive Whistler**, **Pink Robin**, **Crescent Honeyeater**, **Beautiful Firetail**, and the very secretive and subtly beautiful (Eastern) **Ground Parrot**, which we will also try to find. Over the course of the day we will be truly spoiled with a range of fantastic local Tasmanian food and drink. Our return flight to Hobart late in the afternoon will likely take us on a different route back to Hobart, offering more views of stunning mountain scenery. This is often considered one of the most enjoyable days across all of our Australian tours.

*As touched on at the start of this day account, this day trip is subject to weather and prevailing conditions on the day, and should they be unfavorable, there is a risk of cancellation. Should this happen, we will endeavor to reschedule this to an alternate day within the tour dates.

Overnight: Hobart

Day 4. Hobart to Bruny Island

Located off the southeastern coast of Tasmania, Bruny Island supports all twelve currently recognized Tasmanian endemics, including the world's largest population of the Endangered (BirdLife International) **Forty-spotted Pardalote**. We will board a ferry to this rich site during

the morning, watching for **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Pacific Gull**, and **Black-faced Cormorant** on our way out.

Once we arrive on the island, we will spend the better part of the day looking for all the Tasmanian endemics, such as the demure **Dusky Robin**, the vociferous **Yellow Wattlebird**, and the comical **Tasmanian Nativehen**. By scanning sandy beaches, we also hope to connect with the increasingly rare **Hooded Plover**. While here we will also look for the Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) breeding-endemic **Swift Parrot**, another species in a state of unfortunate rapid decline.

We will take a drive and walk around at dusk to look for **Little Penguin** and **Short-tailed Shearwater** as well as the recently split **Tasmanian Boobook** (a hawk-owl).

Overnight: Bruny Island



Swift Parrot *– another Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) parrot that we hope to find on this tour.*

Day 5. Bruny Island to Hobart

We spend a full day birding Bruny Island, focusing perhaps on the scarcer endemics such as **Scrubtit** and **Strong-billed Honeyeater**. Other specialties like **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Beautiful Firetail**, **Olive Whistler**, (Eastern) **Ground Parrot**, and **Swift Parrot** will be among our targets too. We will also keep an eye open over the water for **Black-browed Albatross** and **Shy Albatross**, **Australasian Gannet**, and **White-bellied Sea Eagle**. In the late afternoon we will catch the ferry off Bruny Island and head back to our hotel in the city of Hobart.

Overnight: Hobart



*We will attempt to see the aptly named **Little Penguin** whilst in Tasmania. These are difficult birds to track down, as they only come ashore during the night, and are very susceptible to disturbance – hence why a red light is used to view them. We hope to have success, as we have on previous tours.*



*This tour gives great opportunities to see the magnificent **Beautiful Firetail**.*

Day 6. Birding Southeast Tasmania and tour concludes

We will have a final morning session birding at some sites in the southeast of the island, where we may find **Latham's Snipe**, **Baillon's**, **Australian**, and **Spotless Crakes**, **Little Grassbird**, and **Australian Reed Warbler**, as well as, hopefully, an assortment of waterbirds (depending on water levels).

The tour will end after a final lunch together before we make our way back to Hobart International Airport, where the tour ends at 2pm. Those continuing on the **Birding Tour Australia: Eastern Australia – from the Outback to the Wet Tropics** tour will fly to Melbourne for the start of that tour the following day.

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:	25–30 October 2027 25–30 October 2028
Start:	Hobart, Tasmania
End:	Hobart, Tasmania
Prices:	AU$ 7,950 per person sharing – based on 5–8 participants, which includes the Orange-bellied Parrot day-trip flights (2027) AU$ 8,230 per person sharing – based on 6–8 participants, which includes the Orange-bellied Parrot day-trip flights (2028)
Single Supplements:	AU$ 1,050 (2027) AU$ 1,150 (2028)

Price includes:

Day trip return flights for Orange-bellied Parrot day trip
All accommodation (as described above from Day 1 through Day 5, note accommodation on Bruny Island might include shared bathrooms depending on availability)
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/from Hobart
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)