



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

**TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



*Beautiful Firetail must be one of the prettiest birds in Tasmania, where it's often easier to see than in the rest of its limited range in southeastern Australia.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT AUSTRALIA CAN BE [READ HERE](#)

### TOUR OUTLINE

This short (just under one week in duration) [Tasmanian birding tour](#) offers an excellent chance of finding all of the Tasmanian resident endemic birds, as well as three Tasmanian breeding endemics (**Swift Parrot**, **Orange-bellied Parrot**, and **Tasmanian Boobook**) and a host of more widespread Australian endemics. The Tasmanian endemic bird targets on our birding tour of Tasmania include **Tasmanian Nativehen**, **Green Rosella**, **Strong-billed Honeyeater**, **Black-headed Honeyeater**, **Yellow-throated Honeyeater**, **Yellow Wattlebird**, **Scrubtit**, **Tasmanian Scrubwren**, **Tasmanian Thornbill**, **Dusky Robin**, **Black Currawong**, and **Forty-spotted Pardalote**. We can also find many other great Australian birds on this Tasmanian bird tour, such as **Little Penguin**, **Hooded Plover**, (Eastern) **Ground Parrot**, **Southern Emu-wren**, **Flame Robin**, **Pink Robin**, and **Beautiful Firetail** - some of Australia's best birds in a short space of time. The tour starts and ends in, and is mainly based in Hobart.

This tour combines very well with our [Birding Tour Australia: from the Outback to the Wet Tropics](#) tour that covers the eastern side of Australia, including birding in Victoria, New South Wales, and north and south Queensland.

### DAILY ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TOUR PACE

This is a fairly relaxed pace Tasmania birding tour, with limited driving and few accommodation changes. Accommodation and food are generally considered to be of a higher standard than most other bird tours, given the areas we are staying in and visiting have been developed for tourism. Tasmania is an island in the far southeast of Australia and is often wetter and colder than other parts of the vast country. The longest drive of the tour is likely to be two hours (between Hobart and our accommodation on South Bruny Island); however, in reality, we will be birding our way there, so it will take longer to reach.

We will be based in Hobart for most of the tour, and we will make morning and afternoon trips out of the city to key birding sites in our quest to find the endemic birds of Tasmania (e.g., drives of around 20 – 30 minutes). On one full day, we will take a charter flight to the far southwest of the island (to Melaleuca) in pursuit of the Critically Endangered **Orange-bellied Parrot** (see the “Orange-bellied Parrot Trip” section below for more information). We will also spend one night and the majority of two days birding on the delightful Bruny Island. This small offshore island (reached by a short car ferry ride) acts as a refuge for many of Tasmania's endemic birds, and we are sure to enjoy our time here during our Tasmanian bird tour.

Most of the walking on our Tasmania bird tour is considered easy, although there are two moderately strenuous walks. We will bird at a waterworks site near Hobart that has some loop circuits; these are slightly undulating, and we will probably walk about 1.2 – 1.8 miles (2 – 3 kilometers/km) on these, with a fair bit of stopping and scanning some reservoirs. A mountain trail near the city will be the most strenuous hike on the tour. This is probably a similar length to the aforementioned hike, but this is a windy uphill then downhill trail, which is steep in places. A hiking pole will be useful or necessary if you are unstable when walking. We will be looking for secretive forest birds here and going slowly. While on Bruny Island and in the southwest of

Tasmania (Melaleuca), we will likely have a couple of hikes of around 3.5 – 5 miles (6 – 8 km), but these will be on mainly flat ground. All walking will be at a slow birding pace.

During our time on Bruny Island, we will take a look at dusk for **Little Penguin** and **Tasmanian Boobook** and may find some mammals at this time too.

## TRANSPORTATION

We will use a 12-seater minibus on this Tasmanian bird tour. There will be limited baggage space in the vehicle, so please pack as lightly as possible for the tour (including within the seating area). It will be possible to leave larger baggage at our hotel in Hobart for our overnight trip to Bruny Island, which will help with space. There will not be masses of time spent in vehicles on this tour, the most vehicle time will be when we are travelling to and birding around Bruny Island.

We will take a short (approximately 30 minutes) car ferry ride between the Tasmanian “mainland” and Bruny Island. This crossing is usually smooth and stable, but if you suffer from motion sickness, you might want to bring along suitable medication.

The tour doesn’t include any domestic flights; however, we do take one chartered flight during the tour; see the “Orange-bellied Parrot Trip” section below for more information.

## ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT TRIP

We will spend a full day of the tour taking a scenic flight into the remote wilderness in the Melaleuca area of southwest Tasmania. Our flight will leave Hobart at 08:30 hrs. and return there at 16:30 hrs. The flight time for each journey is approximately one hour. Our route out to Melaleuca is usually different from our route back to Hobart, thus maximizing the opportunities for spectacular landscape views (maybe even some snow-capped peaks!). We will be making this journey with Par Avion (a division of Airlines of Tasmania Pty Ltd.), and a gourmet lunch of local Tasmanian food and drinks will be provided. The aim of our trip is to connect with the extremely rare and Critically Endangered **Orange-bellied Parrot**. This area remains the stronghold for the species, where they are supported by massive levels of predator management, nest site provisions, and supplementary feeding. The area is also good for several other species, and we will look for these too.

We will be using a small aircraft, likely with a capacity of nine passengers. Depending on the final size of the group, we may have the plane to ourselves. We will need to supply body weight information to the airline ahead of our flight (so expect an email in the lead-up to the tour asking for this information). A carry-on baggage allowance of 8.8 pounds (4 kilograms) is permitted per person on this trip. Everyone will need to bring a personal water supply with them for the day. The carriage of dangerous goods is prohibited as per Civil Aviation Safety Authority regulations (e.g., including, but not limited to, compressed gases, explosives, corrosives, etc. – see [here](#) for full details – in general, the usual things you cannot take on a plane).

All flights are subject to change due to weather or other operational requirements. In case of poor weather cancellation, flights will be transferred to an alternative day if possible. We will make every effort to make the flight happen; however, there is a chance the trip might be cancelled if weather conditions are not suitable and an alternative date does not work. These factors are beyond our control.

Par Avion has a range of aircraft in their lineup, but we usually use the Britten-Norman Islander light utility aircraft on our tours. For further details, photographs, and frequently asked questions about this trip, please see [here](#).

## LUGGAGE

Please pack as lightly as possible for this Tasmanian birdwatching tour. A medium, 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 and to/from your rooms.

We recommend a daypack is used 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 Hobart, we stay at a city hotel, usually the Best Western Hobart, or equivalent. This hotel is typical of most modern city hotels, with air conditioning, ensuite bathrooms, and free Wi-Fi. The hotel has a restaurant where we will have breakfast and dinner on most days of our time in the city. The hotel is also located in the city center, so you can explore the sights in downtime from birding, should you wish to do so.

We spend one night on Bruny Island, and our accommodation is located on South Bruny Island. We usually stay in holiday cottages/houses run by Bruny Island Hotel. These usually have several bedrooms of various arrangements with a shared lounge area, kitchen, and bathroom/toilet. Depending on the overall group size and final rooming arrangements of the group, we might need to book two or three such properties. These properties might be a little drive apart from each other, but you will be picked up and dropped off at each of these as needed. We will eat meals together at the various cafés or restaurants on the island as required. The properties will be unlikely to have Wi-Fi.

## WEATHER

We will be birding in Tasmania during the spring period on this Tasmanian bird tour. Temperatures and weather can be quite varied and can also be heavily influenced by wind direction. Anything from the south will drop the feel of the temperature, sometimes considerably. The average peak daytime temperature is likely to be around 59 – 63 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) (15 – 17 degrees Centigrade/°C). At night we can expect temperatures of around 46 °F (8 °C). Showers or periods of rainfall should be expected; Tasmania receives a lot of rainfall, particularly compared to other parts of the country.

## WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS

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

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



recommendations for this 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. Torch (flashlight) and/or headlamp (headtorch), and spare batteries.
4. A small personal first aid kit. See the suggested items from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [here](#).
5. 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.).
6. Quick-drying birding clothes (in suitable colors) are the best for this tour, and a good selection of clothing layers (including sweater/jumper/fleece/warm coat) are also recommended due to the potential for cool or even cold mornings/days.
7. Light rain jacket/poncho (and small umbrella) as rain could fall at any time at any location.
8. A dry bag to keep valuable documents in, such as passports, cell phones, wallets, etc., as well as cameras, if it rains.
9. A day pack suitable for our **Orange-bellied Parrot** charter flight for personal supply of drinking water (please bring a refillable water bottle) and other items you may require for the day such as cameras and optics.



*The rather large **Black Currawong** is endemic to Tasmania, so it will be one of many target species we will be looking for during our Tasmania birding tour.*