



**BIRDING TOUR AUSTRALIA:
WESTERN AUSTRALIA – SOUTHWEST SPECIALTIES
TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



The small but striking Western Spinebill is an attractive species.

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

TOUR OUTLINE

This is a comprehensive [Western Australia birding tour](#), yet it is also well-paced, allowing the opportunity to really enjoy the birds of the region. We have a couple of two-night stays along our Western Australian birding route, where we have more time to unpack and focus on the special birds of each area. Western Australia has been cut off from eastern Australia for many years, and as a result, many regionally endemic birds (and rare mammals) exist. Seemingly each year, scientific studies elevate distinct subspecies to full species status – e.g., **Western Shriketit** is the latest endemic species for the region with the split of the former Crested Shriketit complex into three geographically isolated “new” species. We pay careful attention to all different subspecies on this tour, even if the species may be common on our eastern Australia [tour](#) (if you’ve already done that one) because there is a reasonable chance of a future armchair tick!

Our Western Australia bird tour starts and ends in beautiful Perth. We really recommend getting in early for this tour to get used to the time zone and to enjoy what the city has to offer – good food and wine and some excellent parklands for birding. Perth is a long way from anywhere (even other major cities in Australia!) but is serviced by international flights from all around the world, as well as numerous domestic flights from all around Australia.

We will be concentrating on the endemic birds of Western Australia on this Western Australia birdwatching tour; some of these include some excellent parrots, such as **Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo**, **Baudin’s Black Cockatoo**, **Western Corella**, **Red-capped Parrot**, and **Western Rosella**. More secretive regionally endemic birds include **Noisy Scrubbird**, **Western Bristlebird**, and **Black-throated Whipbird**. Other top endemic targets on our Western Australia bird tour include **Western Spinebill**, **Gilbert’s Honeyeater**, **White-breasted Robin**, and **Red-eared Firetail**. Species not likely on many other Australian bird tours (as they mainly occur in a bit of a birdwatcher’s no-mans-land away from Western Australia), include **Rufous Treecreeper**, **Blue-breasted Fairywren**, **Western Yellow Robin**, and **Western Whistler** – all are stunners too! The tour also offers up chances of some exciting mammals, with one of the main targets being the very rare **Numbat**. Other interesting mammals can include **Western Grey Kangaroo** and the tiny **Honey Possum**. A decent list of reptiles can be expected if spring has sprung and temperatures are increasing. There could also be some interesting flowers on show, particularly orchids, which the Stirling Range is well known for (weather and season depending).

DAILY ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TOUR PACE

This Western Australia bird tour goes at a moderate pace, but there are a couple of two-night stays in the itinerary. We will cover quite a bit of ground on our birding circuit of the southwest of Western Australia. This circuit starts and ends in Perth and visits Dryandra Woodland, Stirling Range National Park, Cheynes Beach, Augusta (Cape Leeuwin), and Busselton.

There is quite a bit of driving involved to get between birding areas; these will be broken up by bathroom breaks and lunch/snack stops where possible. Most of the drives are around 2 – 3 hours in duration, but these will become longer with birding/lunch stops added. The longest drive is as we move between Cheynes Beach and Augusta; this is a drive of 4 – 5 hours, depending on traffic

and birding stops. We usually buy a picnic lunch and eat this along the way on this day as the route passes through some areas with little provisions but some good birding stops.

The tour is generally considered easy in terms of physical exertion. We tend to make short walks from our vehicle or accommodation in a loop of up to 0.6 – 1.2 miles (1 – 2 kilometers/km), and we may make several of these a day. On a couple of occasions, such as at Cheynes Beach we are likely to make slightly longer walks of 2.5 miles (4 km). Most of the walking we will do will be on mainly flat (sometimes sandy ground), but there are a couple of hills we will walk up/down, particularly while in the Stirling Range area and the Cheynes Beach area. These walks are not considered difficult. We will, of course, take all walks slowly and at birding pace.

We will likely stake out one or two birds, which may require sitting in one place for a few hours (so having some layers will be important in case the temperature is low – see the “Weather” section below). We may look for some nocturnal wildlife at a couple of sites if the weather is suitable.

On some occasions, when we have multiple nights at one location, we will likely take a break for some rest and relaxation during the middle of the day.

TRANSPORTATION

We will use a 12-seater minibus on this Western Australia birdwatching 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).

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

There are no domestic flights on this Western Australia bird tour.

LUGGAGE

Please pack as lightly as possible for this Western Australia birding tour. A medium, soft-sided, and robust duffle bag is likely to work best for packing in the tour vehicles. 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

We stay in a very wide range of accommodation on this Western Australia birding tour, including nice city hotels, quaint countryside/rural bed and breakfasts, static caravans, holiday cottages, basic hotels/motels, and more luxurious lodges. The accommodation we use on this bird tour has been selected due to their good locations in terms of birding sites and places to eat (also important when in rural locations!). Most accommodation has ensuite bathrooms. At Stirling Range, we stay in small cottages; each cottage has two private bedrooms with a communal bathroom, kitchen, and dining/lounge area. We will spend one night here. The exact number of cottages we have depends on the final number of tour participants and rooming arrangements. Wi-Fi is available at most

places we stay on this tour. Some of the accommodation provides breakfast/meals, and we will eat those there, where suitable. See the “Meals” section below for more.

MEALS

Despite Perth being one of the biggest and most cosmopolitan cities in Australia, once you leave the city behind, it becomes rural very quickly. Breakfasts will be taken at our overnight venues in most instances, though at some locations, such as at Stirling Range, Augusta, and Bussleton, we will use local cafés. Most lunches will be sourced from local bakeries or cafés and either eaten onsite or as we drive between different birding locations. Most dinners will be eaten at pubs or restaurants near our accommodation. On one night, when we stay at Stirling Range Retreat, we will have a picnic dinner sourced along the way. Our accommodation at Cheynes Beach will provide breakfast and dinner for us. Please make sure you have notified us of any dietary restrictions for this tour.

WEATHER

This tour will be occurring during the Western Australian spring; therefore, we can expect a range of temperatures and weather. The average daytime temperature is likely to be 61 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) (16 degrees Centigrade/°C), with highs of 70 °F (21 °C). At night, the temperatures could be in the region of 52 °F (11 °C). It is likely to be warmer inland and cooler by the sea, where southerly airflows can bring colder conditions. There are no notable elevation gains on this tour to impact the temperature. Rainfall could occur at any time on this tour but is more likely in coastal areas.

WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS

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

1. A field guide to the birds of Western Australia. 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. High-concentration DEET insect repellent, or similar.
5. A small personal first aid kit. See the suggested items from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [here](#).
6. 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 (e.g., consider snake bites, mud, slips, trips, and falls, etc.).
7. Quick-drying birding clothes (in suitable colors) are the best for this tour, and a good selection of clothing layers (including sweater/jumper/fleece/coat) are also recommended due to the potential for cool or even cold mornings or days, particularly on the south coast.

8. Light rain jacket/poncho (and small umbrella) as rain could fall at any time at any location. Spring in Western Australia could see rain showers or prolonged periods of rain if a weather system moves through.
9. A dry bag to keep valuable documents in, such as passports, cell phones, wallets, etc., as well as cameras, if it rains.



Western Rosella is one of several regionally endemic parrots we will look for on our Western Australia birdwatching tour.