



NEW CALEDONIA: KAGU AND OTHER ENDEMIC

11-16 AUGUST 2027

17-22 AUGUST 2028



Kagu, our main endemic target of this trip — we will hope for repeated great views.

Overview

This small group, short tour visits the island of Grande Terre, New Caledonia, and focuses on the many exciting endemic birds found across the island. New Caledonia is an ancient island archipelago comprised of over 100 islands of Gondwanan (continental) origin, our tour visits the largest island of Grande Terre. Starting in Nouméa the capital city, we travel north along the western coastline to Bourail while exploring some of the most picturesque national parks on the island, before finishing back in Nouméa. Most of the island is covered in tropical evergreen forest at higher elevations, while savanna and maquis dominate the lower elevations. Most famous for being the home of the unique **Kagu** (a highly sought-after monotypic family), Grande Terre hosts over 20 endemic birds as well as about a dozen more Melanesian endemics. We will spend time birding dense evergreen forests in the stunning Parc des Grandes Fougères (Great Tree Fern Park), various wetlands and coastal sites, and maquis and dry forests of La Farino reserve and the extensive Parc de la Rivière Bleue. Parc de la Rivière Bleue is renowned to birdwatchers, being the home of our prime target and New Caledonia's endemic star bird, the charismatic **Kagu**. We have two full days within the park to ensure a good chance of seeing this iconic species well.



New Caledonian Crow is a fascinating species because it uses tools to forage.

Most endemics found on Grande Terre should be encountered during our time here, and these include **White-bellied Goshawk**, **Kagu**, **Cloven-feathered Dove**, **Goliath Imperial Pigeon**, **Horned Parakeet**, **New Caledonian Parakeet**, **New Caledonian Myzomela**, **Barred Honeyeater**, **New Caledonian Friarbird**, **New Caledonian Whistler**, **New Caledonian**

Streaked Fantail, the tool-using **New Caledonian Crow**, **New Caledonian Cuckooshrike**, **Yellow-bellied Flyrobin**, **Green-backed White-eye**, **Striated Starling**, and **Red-throated Parrotfinch**. Two species, the Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Crow Honeyeater** and the increasingly rare **New Caledonian Thicketbird**, are becoming more difficult year on year but we will still try to find them in suitable areas where they may still be hanging on. Unfortunately, four endemic species are now considered likely to be extinct with no recent sightings, these include **New Caledonian Nightjar**, **New Caledonian Owlet-nightjar**, **New Caledonian Rail**, and **New Caledonian Lorikeet**, in addition, **New Caledonia Buttonquail** is so rare that it hasn't been seen since the early 1900s and the recently split **New Caledonian Island Thrush** is now restricted to small outlying islands.

If you would like to extend your time in New Caledonia, we can offer extensions to visit either, or both, of the nearby islands of Lifou and Ouvea (both part of New Caledonia). These islands are home to several endemic and range-restricted species not found on the main island of Grande Terre such as **Ouvea Parakeet**, **Small Lifou White-eye**, **Large Lifou White-eye**, **Red-bellied Fruit Dove**, **Melanesian Whistler**, **Cardinal Myzomela**, and **Blue-faced Parrotfinch**. Please just ask us about these optional extras and we would be happy to help.



*The striking **Blue-faced Parrotfinch** can be found on the smaller islands of Lifou and Ouvea.*

This is an ideal tour to combine with our other tours visiting Melanesian islands as it fits perfectly between our Vanuatu Pacific Islands Extension tour, and our Fiji and Samoa Pacific Birding Adventure. On Vanuatu we target the elusive **Vanuatu Megapode**, the beautifully colorful **Golden, Orange and Whistling Doves** in Fiji, and the interesting **Mao** in Samoa. Combining these tours will give you an excellent list of Melanesian species, including some highly sought-after and charismatic endemic species, while visiting four beautiful island-paradises.

Detailed Itinerary (6 days/5 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in New Caledonia

Arrival at La Tontouta International Airport, Grande Terre, New Caledonia, and transfer to our hotel in Nouméa. Afternoon at leisure relaxing in our comfortable beachside hotel. Our tour will start in the evening with a group welcome dinner.

Overnight: Nouméa



*Whilst at Parc de la Rivière Bleue we will look for many endemic birds, such as this **White-bellied Goshawk**.*

Day 2. Full day birding at Parc de la Rivière Bleue

With an early start, we will travel to Parc de la Rivière Bleue in search of endemic birds, including the star endemic, the flightless and extremely rare **Kagu**. We will concentrate on finding this remarkable bird, aiming for extended views and hopefully capturing some photographs along the way. While searching for the **Kagu** we are likely to come across many other endemics and regional specials in this excellent and expansive reserve. We have a good chance of seeing the world's largest arboreal pigeon, the hulking **Goliath Imperial Pigeon**, and the stunningly beautiful **Cloven-feathered Dove**, alongside the **New Caledonian Crow**, which is famous owing to its tool-using foraging behaviors. This is our best chance for the Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Crow Honeyeater**, a bird which is unfortunately getting harder and harder to find each year. Other brilliant species we will target include **New Caledonian Parakeet**, **New Caledonian Myzomela**, **Barred Honeyeater**, **New Caledonian Friarbird**, **Green-backed**

White-eye, Fan-tailed Gerygone, Metallic Pigeon, New Caledonian Streaked Fantail, Sacred Kingfisher, South Melanesian Cuckooshrike, New Caledonian Cuckooshrike, Horned Parakeet, Southern Shrikebill, Yellow-bellied Flyrobin, Red-throated Parrotfinch, and White-bellied Goshawk.

Overnight: Nouméa



*One of the smaller endemic species to be found in Parc de la Rivière Bleue is the **Yellow-bellied Flyrobin**. They can often be found around the picnic sites, giving good views!*

Day 3. Birding Parc des Grandes Fougères

We will leave the capital city early and travel northwest to explore Parc des Grandes Fougères (Great Tree Fern Park), a prehistoric forest dominated by giant tree ferns. While birding here you will feel like you have gone back in time! Within the lush forests we will search for the spectacular **Cloven-feathered Dove**, **New Caledonian Crow**, **Goliath Imperial Pigeon** and beautiful **Horned Parakeet** which are more common in this habitat. We could also find **White-bellied Goshawk**, an endemic raptor that nests in the forests here. With more than 70 species recorded in the park, we'll find plenty of other great birds throughout the morning, such as **Southern Shrikebill**, **Yellow-bellied Flyrobin**, **New Caledonian Whistler**, and **Striated Starling**. The forests here also have a population of **Kagu** that is increasing in size due to predator control, so we may again bump into this unique species. In the mid-afternoon, we continue travelling northwest to our accommodation in Bourail in the central section of Grande Terre, to position ourselves well to target one of the most secretive of New Caledonia's endemics tomorrow.

Overnight: Bourail

Day 4. Full day birding the Farino area

This morning we will visit the Bourail grasslands to target the shy and rare, yet charismatic **New Caledonian Thicketbird**. This is a super-skulking species and will require patience, but we are working with a great local guide who knows the site and this species well so we hope to find them. We will also look for the local and nomadic **Red-bellied Fruit Dove**, a Melanesian endemic, and **Red-throated Parrotfinch**, another brilliantly coloured New Caledonian endemic. In the afternoon we head south for a two-night stay in Nouméa, via a few stops at some wetlands. Here we may see **Buff-banded Rail**, **Hardhead**, **Swamp Harrier**, **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Satin Swiftlet**, amongst many others. On previous tours we have found some great birds, such as **White-browed Crake**, a national rarity.

Overnight: Nouméa



Cloven-feathered Dove is one of the best-looking pigeons in the world! It needs to be seen to be believed!

Day 5. Full day birding at Parc de la Rivière Bleue

We return to the beautiful Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue looking for any endemics that might still be missing. We will focus on getting good views and photographs of **Kagu** and other tough endemic birds, such as **Crow Honeyeater** and **New Caledonian Parakeet**. Yet this park is one of the most avian diverse sites on Grand Terre, so it is likely we will increase our species list while spending time here, with **Melanesian Flycatcher**, **Long-tailed Triller**, and **White-rumped Swiftlet** possible, in addition to the species already listed under Day 2.

Overnight: Nouméa



The endemic **Red-throated Parrotfinch** is one stunning bird and it can be seen in the Farino area.



One of the tougher birds to see on Grande Terre, New Caledonia, is **Crow Honeyeater**, but we will be trying to relocate them on this tour.

Day 6. Transfer from Nouméa to La Tontouta International Airport, departure

We will have time for some morning birding around our hotel grounds and the local area, seeking out any other endemics or regional specials, such as **Red-throated Parrotfinch**, **Grey-eared Honeyeater**, and **Green-backed White-eye**. After our final birding session we will transfer back to La Tontouta International Airport, where this short but endemic-packed tour concludes in the mid-afternoon. Those continuing on the [Fiji and Samoa Pacific Birding Adventure](#) tour will fly to Nadi, in Fiji, 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 guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling or other factors.

Tour Details

Duration:	6 days
Group size:	4–8
Dates:	11–16 August 2027 17–22 August 2028
Start:	Nouméa (La Tontouta International Airport), New Caledonia
End:	Nouméa (La Tontouta International Airport), New Caledonia
Prices:	Euros € 4,970 per person sharing – based on 4–8 participants (2027) Euros € 5,495 per person sharing – based on 4–8 participants (2028)
Single supplement:	Euros € 795 (2027) Euros € 880 (2028)

Price includes:

All accommodation (from Day 1 to Day 5 as described)
 Meals (from dinner on Day 1 until lunch on Day 6)
 Drinking water – please bring a refillable water bottle
 Expert tour leader and guide
 Birdwatching site entrance fees
 All ground transport and tolls/taxes while on tour, including airport pick-up and drop-off

Price excludes:

Flights to/from Nouméa (La Tontouta International Airport), New Caledonia
 For those continuing on to our exciting Fiji and Samoa Pacific Birding Adventure, the between tour costs (two nights and international flight between New Caledonia and Fiji) are excluded – allow between Euros €700 and €950 per person
 Expenditures due to flight cancellations/delays or other causes beyond our control (force majeure)
 Visa fees if visa required
 Departure tax
 Items of a personal nature, e.g. porter fees, gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, etc.
 Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions
 Soft/alcoholic drinks
 Personal travel insurance
 Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))