

# Australia's Cape York Specialties

## With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

**Aug. 30 – Sept. 7, 2019**

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We invite you to join Naturalist Journeys, in partnership with Inala Nature Tours, to discover Australia on this Queensland adventure.

Australia's isolation and harsh environments have led this continent to produce some of the most unique wildlife on the planet. Enjoy time searching for koalas, rosellas, bowerbirds, fairywrens, kookaburras, and lyrebirds. We also explore lush forests and beaches at Iron Range National Park and savannas and wetlands at Lakefield National Park.

This tour is designed to pair with our East Coast Specialties tour, Sept. 7 – 16, to explore rainforests at Lamington and ironbark woodlands in Capertee.

### Tour Summary

9-Day / 8-Night Australian Birding & Nature  
Tour with Steve Davidson  
\$4635 from Cairns  
Airport is Cairns (CNS)

### Tour Highlights

- ✓ Explore Iron Range National Park's woodlands, teeming with birds and hemmed by white-sand beaches
- ✓ Look for two members of the riflebird family, including the stunning Magnificent Riflebird
- ✓ Search for nocturnal mammals like Striped Possum, Rufous Spiny Bandicoot, and Sugar Glider, as well as birds like Rufous and Masked Owl, Marbled Frogmouth, and Large-tailed Nightjar
- ✓ Discover Lakefield National Park as you look for Emu, Great Bowerbird, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-winged Parrot, as well as Antilopine Wallaroo, Agile Wallaby, maybe even Cape York Rock Wallaby
- ✓ Spend time at Kingfisher Park, a hotspot, home to dozens bird species, including many different types of honeyeaters

## Itinerary

**Please note:** Our tour begins with a morning flight on Friday, August 30, 2019. You need to arrive in Cairns, Australia, no later than Thursday, August 29. We can recommend a hotel if you would like.

### Fri., Aug. 30 Fly Cairns to Lockhart River | Iron Range National Park

This morning we board a flight to Lockhart River on the boundary of one of Australia's most treasured, yet remote, birding destinations: Iron Range National Park. This park protects the largest area of lowland rainforest in Australia, and is home to a host of range restricted species found nowhere else in the country. The forests and woodlands of the Iron Range teem with birds and, hemmed by white-sand beaches and turquoise waters, there can be few places on earth as delightful to bird. On arrival in Lockhart River we settle into our accommodations and make our way into the forest to enjoy our first thrilling afternoon birding in Cape York.

*Accommodations at Lockhart River Cabins (L,D)*

### Sat., Aug. 31 – Mon., Sept. 2 Iron Range National Park

We have three full days to explore this rich corner of Australia. Our time is spent searching for the many area specials, as well as a number of interesting mammals and reptiles. We bird a diverse mosaic of habitats from verdant monsoon rainforest and tropical woodland, to wetlands and a variety of coastal habitats. The selection of birds is impressive with no shortage of outstanding species including two members of the Bird-

of-paradise family — Magnificent Riflebird and Trumpet Manucode — and other showy species like the raucous Palm Cockatoo, Red-cheeked Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, and Frill-necked Monarch. Additional range-restricted species include White-streaked, Tawny-breasted and Green-backed Honeyeaters, Yellow-legged Flycatcher, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Northern Scrub-robin, and White-faced Robin.

The area is also rich botanically, and a number of fig tree species are found here attracting frugivores like Wompoo, Superb and Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves, and the endearing Double-eyed Fig-parrot. Another regular, but often nocturnal, visitor to fig trees is the delightful Spotted Cuscus, an arboreal marsupial with woolly fur, and bizarre orange eyes. Other nocturnal mammals we may find are Striped Possum, Rufous Spiny Bandicoot, and Sugar Glider, and we are sure to spotlight for Rufous and Masked Owl, Marbled Frogmouth, and Large-tailed Nightjar.

*Accommodations at Lockhart River Cabins (B,L,D)*

### **Tues., Sept. 3 Iron Range National Park to Musgrave**

This morning we begin the journey south, leaving this fabulous park via the rich heathlands of the Tozer's Gap area. While we have a big drive today there is plenty to see en route, and we make regular stops for comfort breaks and birds. Passing through miles of great birding habitat, we spend the day on the blandly named Peninsula Development Road, one of the most remote roads in Australia, and the only road connecting the settlements of Cape York with the rest of the country. In the mid to late afternoon, we arrive in Musgrave on the edge of the spectacular Lakefield National Park. We settle into our accommodations and if time permits we enjoy some birding in the area.

*Accommodations at Musgrave Roadhouse (B,L,D)*

### **Wed., Sept. 4 Musgrave & Lakefield National Park**

Today we have a full day to explore the riches of Lakefield National Park and surrounds. Gallery rainforest, open tropical woodland, grasslands, and extensive wetlands, home to vast numbers of waterbirds, are the main habitats we explore today. With a number of key species in mind, we make a pre-breakfast foray for one of our star birds of the trip, the stunning Golden-shouldered Parrot. Interestingly, this endangered and brilliantly-colored bird makes its nest in termite mounds, a landscape feature of the area.

As with the Iron Range, this area is rich in species, many of which are only (or easiest) found here. Red Goshawk, Black-backed Butcherbird, Bar-breasted, Rufous-throated, Yellow-tinted and Scarlet Honeyeaters, Red-browed Pardalote, the distinctive Cape York race of Brown Treecreeper, Northern Fantail, Emu, Great Bowerbird, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-winged Parrot, and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher are all species we may find. Finches are a feature here too, with possible species including the delightful Star Finch and Masked and Black-throated Finches. Wetlands species includes the likes of Magpie Goose, Green Pygmy-goose, Radjah Shelduck, Comb-crested Jacana, and Wandering Whistling-duck. Not forgetting mammals, we are on the lookout for Antilopine Wallaroo, Agile Wallaby, and if we are really fortunate, Cape York Rock Wallaby.

*Accommodations at Musgrave Roadhouse (B,L,D)*

### **Thurs., Sept. 5 Musgrave to Julatten**

Today we continue the journey south through this vast area of tropical woodland. En route we are on the

lookout for species like Pheasant Coucal, Grey-crowned Babbler, Banded Honeyeater, Little and Black-faced Woodswallows, Silver-crowned and Little Friarbirds, White-winged Triller, and Double-barred Finch. In the mid to late afternoon we arrive at yet another of Australia's birding meccas: Kingfisher Park. With ample birding opportunities right on our doorstep, we enjoy a spell of birding before a well-earned dinner.

*Accommodations at Kingfisher Park (B,L,D)*

### **Fri., Sept. 6 Kingfisher Park, Julatten & Surrounds**

Today is full, exploring Kingfisher Park and surrounding areas. Before long it is apparent why this is such a hotspot for birds, with a diverse number of species possible including: the rare and localised Blue-faced Parrot-finch, Victoria's Riflebird, Tooth-billed and Golden Bowerbirds, Fernwren, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Atherton Scrubwren, Pied Monarch, Spotted Catbird, Bridled Honeyeater, Topknot Pigeon, White-throated Treecreeper (wet tropics race *minor*), Crimson Rosella (wet tropics race *nigrescens* – a possible future split), Red-necked Crake, Noisy Pitta, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Graceful, Yellow-spotted, Brown and Dusky Honeyeaters, the localised North Queensland race of Bassian Thrush, Grey-headed Robin, Yellow Oriole, Cicadabird, Red-browed Finch, Pale-vented Bush-Hen, and Papuan Frogmouth (to name a few!).

*Accommodations at Kingfisher Park (B,L,D)*

### **Sat., Sept. 7 Kingfisher Park to Cairns | Departures**

This morning we travel back to Cairns and say our farewells to those not continuing on to our East Coast Specialties tour. (B)

## **Cost of the Journey**

### **Plan Ahead!**

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. Please note, starting in January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

### **Travel Information**

Arrive in Cairns (CNS) no later than Thurs., Aug. 29. If you need hotel recommendations, please let us know. If you plan to depart at the end of this tour, plan departures in the afternoon of Sept. 7. If you plan to join the East Coast Specialties tour, plan your flights to Brisbane (BNE) on the morning of Sept. 7.

### **Cost of the Journey**

Cost of the journey is **\$4635 DBL / \$5140 SGL** per person, based on double occupancy, from Cairns, Australia. Cost includes all accommodation as per the itinerary, specialist guide and transport, the flight from Cairns to Lockhart River and meals, entrance fees and activities as mentioned in the above itinerary. Tour price does not include international and domestic airfares except the Cairns to Lockhart River flight, alcoholic beverages, snacks, internet, gratuities, laundry or other items of a personal nature. Please note that the cost of the journey is based on a minimum of 6 participants, with a limit of 9 persons.

### **Photo Credits**

Golden-shouldered Parrot, Alfred Schulte (AS); Eclectus Parrots, AS; Pied Imperial Pigeon, AS; Red Goshawk, AS; Koala, Peg Abbott; Kookaburra, Lynn Feryus.

## Please Note

**Meals and drinks:** Breakfast generally consists of a continental style breakfast with cereal, fruit and yoghurt and tea/coffee. Full cooked breakfast is not generally offered at most locations. Lunch will generally consist of a packed lunch style meal eaten in the field, with sandwich/filled roll, fruit, and a drink. Dinner usually consists of several options for main with the choice of either an appetiser or dessert. Drinks (soft and alcoholic) are generally not included but at lunches and breakfasts juice may be made available.

**The itinerary:** Whilst we aim to follow the itinerary as planned, please note that the itinerary provided should only be used as a guideline. Depending on individual trip circumstances, weather, and local information, the exact itinerary may not be strictly adhered to. The guides reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary as they see fit.

**Remoteness:** Please note that for much of this tour we will be birding in a wonderful yet remote part of Australia. Most of the roads are unsealed and rough and travel will be in 4WD vehicles. If you have medical conditions or health concerns it is important you make us aware of these in advance of this tour.

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