

Southwest Australian Endemics

With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

October 4 – 12, 2019

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Tour Summary

9-Day / 8-Night Australian Nature Tour with Frank O'Conner
\$3700 from Perth
Airport is Perth (PER)

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Look for the “Big Three” western bird specialties — Western Whipbird, Noisy Scrub-bird, and Western Bristlebird — at Cheynes Beach
- ✓ Take a spotlighting trip for Spotted Nightjar, Tawny Frogmouth few mammals, frogs, and reptiles
- ✓ Visit Albany to search for shorebirds and seabirds
- ✓ See a Malleefowl mound near Jerramungup
- ✓ Explore the Dryandra Woodland to find Western Rosella, Blue-breasted Fairywren, and Numbat
- ✓ Search Perth's wetlands for Blue-billed, Musk, Pink-eared, and Freckled Duck, and of course, waterbirds and waders



Western Australia is Australia's largest state, covering almost 1-million square miles and comprising the western third of the continent (which is an area larger than Western Europe). More than 500 bird species have been recorded here, including 18 endemics and many other sub-species, near endemics, migratory, and other highly sought-after species. This tour concentrates on the south-western corner of the state, where most of the endemics can be located. The southwest of Western Australia is also one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, with some of the richest and most unique plant and animal life on earth.

There are about 13,000 species of plants in Western Australia, many of which are yet to be formally named. Although primarily a birding tour, this trip also provides opportunities to see unique mammals and flora. The timing of our 2019 tour has been timed to adjoin the [Australian Native Plant Society \(Australia\) ANPSA conference](#) which is held in Albany from Monday, Sept. 30 to Fri., Oct. 4 2019. Collection from Albany can be arranged for those wishing to join the conference. This tour is offered in partnership with Inala Nature Tours and is designed to pair with our Wild Tasmania trip, Oct. 12 – 21, 2019.

Itinerary

Fri., Oct. 4 Arrivals in Perth

Today has been set aside as an arrival day, so you are free to arrive at any time that suits your travel plans. Please make your own way to the hotel in the city (see notes at the end of itinerary) and we meet at the hotel at 7:00 PM for a brief orientation and welcome dinner. Please note that no activities have been planned for this day, but if you plan to arrive early and would like advice on options for the day please do let us know.

Accommodations in Perth (D)



Sat., Oct. 5 Perth to Cheynes Beach

This morning after an early breakfast we travel to the southern coastline of Western Australia. Today is a long travel day but we do stop en route to bird. We visit the Darling Range in search of the first of the endemics, looking for Western Wattlebird and Gilbert's Honeyeater. We continue to Williams and a stop at the Beaufort River to look for Pink-eared Duck, Elegant Parrot, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Rufous Songlark, White-winged Triller, and a chance at Painted Buttonquail and Black-tailed Native-hen. We continue to Kojonup and then to Rocky Gully where we look for Western Corella and Baudin's Black Cockatoo. We travel to Mt Barker and then stop at Porongurup for more chances of Baudin's Black Cockatoo and Scarlet Robin. We hope to arrive at Cheynes Beach in time for a first look for Noisy Scrub-bird. We can arrange to collect ANPSA conference participants from Albany en route to Cheyne's Beach.

Accommodations at Cheynes Beach (B,L,D)

Sun., Oct. 6 Cheynes Beach — Waychinicup Inlet

This morning we take a pre-breakfast walk to look for Noisy Scrub-bird and Western Bristlebird. After breakfast, we spend the morning looking for Western Whipbird, White-breasted Robin, Red-winged Fairy-wren, Splendid Fairy-wren, Western Wattlebird, Western Spinebill, Red-eared Firetail, Southern Emu-wren, Brush Bronzewing, Brown Quail, Sooty Oystercatcher, and Pacific Gull. Lunch today is at Cheynes Beach. After lunch, we look for Rock Parrot along the beach and then visit the very scenic Waychinicup Inlet for more chances of Red-winged Fairy-wren, Red-eared Firetail, Southern Emu-wren, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Baudin's Black Cockatoo, Swamp Harrier, and White-bellied Sea-Eagle. There are also good chances during the day for Southern Brown Bandicoot and several reptiles and with luck Quokka and Bush Rat. After dinner, we take a spotlighting trip in search of Spotted Nightjar and Tawny Frogmouth with chances of a few mammals, frogs, or reptiles.

Accommodations at Cheynes Beach (B,L,D)

Mon., Oct. 7 Cheynes Beach | Stirling Range | Albany

We spend the early morning at Cheynes Beach if needed, and then travel to the Stirling Range where we spend time looking for Emu, Hooded Plover, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Elegant Parrot, Regent Parrot, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Western Yellow Robin, Scarlet Robin, Restless Flycatcher, and chances of Crested Shrike-tit, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Little Eagle, Rufous Songlark, Southern Emu-wren, Western (Rufous) Fieldwren, and Square-tailed Kite. This is also a great place to view wildflowers.

After lunch, we go to Albany for more chances of Red-winged Fairy-wren, White-breasted Robin, Western Rosella, Red-eared Firetail, and chances of Buff-banded Rail, Fairy Tern, some shorebirds, and if time permits some seabirds. If needed, we have the option of visiting Two People's Bay, which is a good backup site for Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird. We return this evening to Cheynes Beach for another chance to spotlight for nocturnal birds and mammals after dinner.



Accommodations at Cheynes Beach (B,L,D)

Tues., Oct. 8 Cheynes Beach to Jerramungup

We have a final chance to search for Noisy Scrub-bird before travelling to Jerramungup and then east towards the Fitzgerald River National Park to look for Western (Mallee) Whipbird (oberon), Shy Heathwren, and Western (Rufous) Fieldwren. This is another excellent area for wildflowers. We also look for Black-fronted Dotterel and Chestnut Teal. After lunch at Jerramungup we visit the mallee to the southwest where we visit a Malleefowl mound (may not be active) and look for Purple-gaped Honeyeater, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Southern Scrub-robin, White-browed Babbler, Spotted (Yellow-rumped) Pardalote, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren with chances for Banded Lapwing, Crested Bellbird, and Square-tailed Kite, plus more chances for Shy Heathwren, Western (Mallee) Whipbird (oberon), and Painted Button-quail. There is also a high chance of seeing Western Brush Wallaby. We stay here until late afternoon to search for Malleefowl along the road side before travelling back to Jerramungup for dinner.

Accommodations in Jerramungup (B,L,D)

Wed., Oct. 9 Jerramungup to Narrogin

After an early breakfast, we may revisit parts of the Stirling Range before continuing to Gnowangerup, Katanning, and Wagin. We visit several of the lakes near Wagin where we focus on finding Banded Stilt, Red-necked Avocet, Black-fronted Dotterel, Red-kneed Dotterel, Pallid Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Mistletoebird, Red-capped Robin, Mulga Parrot and Hooded Plover. We arrive in Narrogin in the late afternoon, hopefully with enough time to visit Fox's Lair, near our accommodation.

Accommodations in Narrogin (B,L,D)

Thurs., Oct. 10 Dryandra State Forest | Narrogin

We depart after an early breakfast for Dryandra State Forest. We probably will not return until about 10:30 PM. The key birds we look for today include Bush Stone-curlew, Painted Button-quail, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Elegant Parrot, Rufous Treecreeper, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, Western Thornbill, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Gilbert's Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, Varied Sittella, Jacky Winter, Scarlet Robin, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Western Yellow Robin, and Crested Shrike-tit. We also search for Numbat throughout the day, with the best chance in the late afternoon. After an early dinner, we take a walk in an extensive fenced enclosure within Dryandra State Forest where the Department of Parks & Wildlife's amazing efforts at breeding a variety threatened species have been very successful. We may encounter Bilby, Boodie (Burrowing Bettong), Mala (Rufous Hare-wallaby), Marl (Western-barred Bandicoot), and Mernine (Banded Hare-wallaby). This hare-wallaby is the sole surviving species of sthenurine kangaroos in a safe fox-free environment. On our return to the hotel we spotlight for Tawny Frogmouth and a variety of mammals, including Brush-tailed Possum, Short-beaked Echidna, Western Brush



Wallaby, Tammar Wallaby, and Woylie.
Accommodations in Narrogin (B,L,D)

Fri., Oct. 11 Narrogin to Perth

We depart early this morning after breakfast. Activities for today depend on what we haven't seen. We have further options for Regent Parrot, Hooded Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Red-eared Firetail, Baudin's Black Cockatoo, White-fronted Chat, Rufous Songlark, Brown Songlark, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Western Wattlebird, and Fairy Tern.

This afternoon is spent around the Perth wetlands, including Herdsman Lake for waterbirds such as Blue-billed Duck, Musk Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Freckled Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Hoary-headed Grebe, Nankeen Night-Heron, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Buff-banded Rail, Australian Crake, Spotless Crake, Swamp Harrier and Australian Hobby. We then travel to our accommodation in Perth at about 6:00 PM.

Accommodations in Perth (B,L,D)

Sat., Oct. 12 Depart Perth

This morning we either depart Perth for international flights home, or for those extending their time in Tasmania, we depart Perth for Hobart. (B)

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 appetizer 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.

Cost of the Journey

Plan Ahead!

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

Travel Information

Arrive in Perth (PER) in time for a 7:00 PM meeting and dinner on Oct. 4. If you do not plan to extend your time in Tasmania, plan departures at your leisure on Oct. 12. If you plan to combine this trip with Tasmania, please book your flight to Hobart in the morning on Oct. 12.

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the journey is **\$3700 DBL / \$4205 SGL** per person, based on double occupancy, from Perth, Australia. Cost includes all accommodations as per the itinerary, specialist guide and transport, meals, entrance fees and activities as mentioned in the itinerary. Tour price does not include International or any other domestic airfares, alcoholic beverages, snacks, internet, laundry or other items of a personal nature. Please note that the cost of the journey is based on a minimum of 6 participants.