

Grand Australia

with Naturalist Journeys



Sept. 12 – Oct. 1, 2022

w/ Tasmania Ext. Oct. 1 – 10

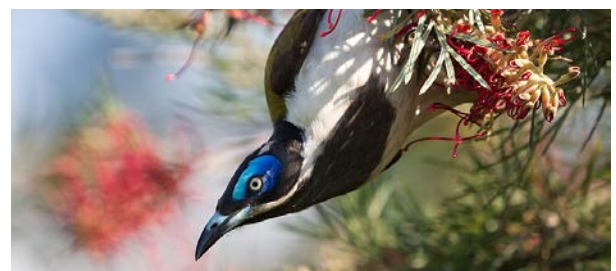
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Our Australia birding and natural history tour begins at the country's incredible Uluru (Ayers Rock), what a start! Marvel at this world famous monolith, then discover fascinating birds and mammals here and to the north along the coast at Darwin and nearby Kakadu National Park. This first part of our journey is rich in Aboriginal culture and rock art as well as wildlife. Next on our Australia nature tour we fly to Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, for delightful days with Koala and more, followed by time in Perth, where we follow a grand circle along the wild west coast and up to the Stirling Range, areas replete with some of the 391 endemic bird species found in the country, along with grand scenery and floral splendor.

Australia is a BIG continent, as big as the U.S., and we've chosen some of our favorite areas to explore. We also offer a fabulous bird and wildlife rich post-tour extension to Tasmania that lets you see another prized region of Australia. Our operator is happy to help you with plans for anything else you'd like to add to your trip and for your arrival accommodations. We have arranged the start of the trip to allow you time to arrive via a number of flight routes and options to be as flexible as possible. It's a good idea to rest up from your travel across the International Date Line, and enjoy time exploring Sydney, Brisbane, Darwin, or Melbourne before experiencing Australia's incredible natural history!

Tour Highlights

- Explore Darwin's Botanical Gardens to find Red-collared Lorikeet, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Rainbow Bee-eater, and Sacred Kingfisher and learn about the plant communities we explore
- Look for Chestnut Rail, Rufous Owl, Rainbow Pitta, Forest Kingfisher, Green Oriole, Blue-faced Honeyeater, and Blue-winged Kookaburra in the wildlife-rich mangroves of the north coast
- Visit Fogg Dam to search for some of the area's 230 bird species including Magpie Goose, Green Pygmy-goose, Pied Heron, Glossy Ibis, and the stately Brolga
- Experience world-heritage Kakadu National Park, with its impressive escarpments, over 5000 ancient rock art and cultural sites, and the many arid-land adapted mammals and birds
- Cruise the Yellow Waters Billabong, part of the South Alligator River system, Kakadu's best-known wetland that is teeming with birds and wildlife
- Enjoy time on Kangaroo Island looking for rare wallabies, kangaroos, and marine mammals
- Explore the Darling Range for southwest endemic birds like Western Wattlebird and Gilbert's Honeyeater, along with dramatic scenery and unique plant communities
- Spend time exploring the Southwest city of Perth and its bird-rich wetlands
- Visit picturesque Cheynes Beach for Noisy Scrub-bird and near-shore Southern Right Whales

Tour Summary

20-Day / 19-Night Australia Birding & Nature Tour

\$11,300, from Uluru, Australia, departing Perth

Arrival Airport is Ayers Rock (AYQ), Departure Airport is Perth (PER)

Itinerary

Mon., Sept. 12 Arrival in Uluru

Welcome to Australia! Please plan to arrive no later than 5:00 PM today at Ayer's Rock Airport. Today is set aside for arrivals. Direct flights are available from most state capital cities including Sydney and Melbourne and there are free transfers from the airport to our hotel, Ayer's Rock Resort. Please note that flights into Uluru are not available every day but there are two non-stop SYD-AYQ connections on Mondays, one leaving at 8:30 AM and another at 9:30 AM*. We gather for the first time as a group in the foyer of the hotel at 6:00 PM, before dinner. *If you would like help booking your international and domestic flights, please ask us to get you in touch with our travel agent. We pay her ticketing fee.

Accommodations at Ayer's Rock Resort (D)

Tues., Sept. 13 Uluru & Kata Tjuta

This morning we are up before the birds, leaving at around 5:00 AM to travel to Kata Tjuta (formerly known as the Olgas) to eat our picnic breakfast and watch the sunrise. We then take a stroll around this sacred place, where the remarkable domed geological formation towers 1,500 feet over the surrounding landscape. We return to our base for a rest and walk about before heading out again in the late afternoon to the famous Uluru (Ayer's Rock) to watch the golden sunset colors change this remarkable sandstone monolith to a spectacular, glowing dome and to enjoy an Australian barbecue "barbie" dinner. Activities today may include a bush food talk, a guided garden walk, and/or a Didgeridoo workshop with indigenous guides on the hotel grounds.

Accommodations at Ayer's Rock Resort (B,L,D)

Wed., Sept. 14 Road Transfer from Uluru to Alice Springs

Today is a day of travel as we head east and then northeast to Alice Springs. It also affords us time to get a feel of Outback Australia as we pass through some amazing landscapes. We are always on the lookout for birds and other wildlife as we drive through interior towards our night's lodging in Alice Springs. This travel day also allows us some time to catch up on our bird lists, journals, and maybe a short kip (nap) or two.

Accommodations at Alice Springs Hotel (B,L,D)

Thurs., Sept. 15 Darwin

This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Darwin along the coast in the Northern Territory where we are met by our local guide. Darwin is surrounded by a rich diversity of habitat types that we spend the day exploring to discover a range of interesting birds and mammals, some unique to just this part of the country (Banded Fruit Dove, Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon, Hooded Parrot, White-throated Grasswren, White-lined Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird). Mangrove and monsoon forests are especially rich, hosting an impressive range of possible highlights including Black Walaroo, Kakadu Dunnart, Little Red Flying-fox, and the Snub-fin Dolphin. And with 400 bird species in the area, we also hope to find the elusive Chestnut Rail, Rufous Owl, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Red-headed Myzomela, and Pied and Silver-backed Butcherbirds.

Accommodations at Travelodge Resort Darwin (B,L,D)

Fri., Sept. 16 Darwin to Jabiru

We start the day with a visit to Fogg Dam, a well-known site for waterbirds including Magpie Goose, Green Pygmy-Goose, Pied Heron, the stately Brolga, and the quirky Comb-crested Jacana. En route to Kakadu National Park we enjoy a stop at the Adelaide River crossing for lunch where we may see Mangrove Golden Whistler and a variety of flycatchers like Shining, Paperbark, and Broad-billed. As we enter the park, we start to see iconic waterbirds like Plumed and Wandering Whistling-Ducks, Radjah Shelduck, and Black-necked Stork. Our time in the park is spent exploring different habitats filled with over 2000 plant species (fern-leaved grevillea, red bush apple, and water lily), that are the primary reason that one-third of Australia's bird species are found here. We finish the day with dinner, and if time permits, we get out and do some spotlighting to look for nocturnal species such as Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth, Large-tailed Nightjar, and Australian Owlet-nightjar.

Accommodations at Kakadu Mercure Lodge, Jabiru (B,L,D)

Sat., Sept. 17 Ubirr | Yellow Water Cruise (Kakadu)

This morning we head out to visit Ubirr, a site of some of the typical Arnhem Land Escarpment rock outcrops, and home to some impressive Aboriginal rock art. The art depicts creation ancestors and animals of the area, including several fish and turtle species, wallabies, and possums. We look for Wilkin's Rock-Wallabies tucked into the shade of over-hanging rocks, and Sandstone Shrikethrush and

Chestnut-quilled Rock-Pigeon making passes along the escarpment's edge. Elsewhere in the park we hope to connect with some of the tropical woodland species like Partridge Pigeon (red eyed form), Rainbow Bee-eater, Black Bittern, and Long-tailed Finch. In the afternoon we enjoy a cruise on the Yellow Water Billabong, Kakadu's best-known wetland. This impressive wetland of channels, swamps, and floodplains is a delight to explore and is home to crocodiles a-plenty and a variety of water birds, including Nankeen Night-Heron, Black-necked Stork, Little Kingfisher, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Pied Heron, and Purple Swamphen. In the early evening we check in to our accommodations and after dinner, if we're feeling energetic, we can spotlight for mammals like Black-footed Tree-rat and Savanna Glider, the rarest among Australia's three small gliding mammal species that, until 2020, were all considered sugar gliders.

Accommodations at Kakadu Mercure Lodge, Jabiru or Coinda Lodge (B,L,D)

Sun., Sept. 18 Kakadu | Darwin | Adelaide

After this morning's sunrise, we make an early visit to Nourlangie Rock where we have a reasonable chance of seeing the range-restricted Black Wallaroo, Banded Fruit-Dove, and White-lined Honeyeater. Also here are Little Woodswallow, Black-tailed Treecreeper, and the sandstone form of Helmeted Friarbird. After enjoying a last look around Kakadu, we make our way out of the park and back to Darwin where we board our flights to another unique area of the continent, Adelaide, situated on the south coast along the Great Australian Bight.

Accommodations at Adelaide Hotel (B,L,D)

Mon., Sept. 19 & Tues., Sept. 20 Kangaroo Island

This morning we're up early to catch our flight to Kangaroo Island, where we spend two full days exploring with a local guide. During our stay, we search for Koala (introduced) and visit a conservation park that is home to Tammar Wallaby (a species almost extinct on the adjoining mainland) and Kangaroo Island Kangaroo (an endemic subspecies of Western Gray Kangaroo). We also visit a beautiful sandy beach looking for shorebirds and seabirds and to find and view Australian Sea Lion. We watch as pups nurse and play in the surf, while bulls bearing the scars of territorial disputes look on.

Nearby Cape du Couedic is also home to a Long-nosed (New Zealand) Fur Seal colony, which now numbers over 50,000 after being decimated by hunting in the early 1800s. We should also be able to find some Australian Fur Seal mixed in along the coast. We should find one of Australia's two monotremes (egg-laying mammals), the Short-beaked Echidna (a distinct sub-species that lives on the island, as we walk and bird the island during our stay. Kangaroo Island is also home to a range of rare birds, including Cape Barren Goose, and Glossy Black-Cockatoo. Our accommodations are situated near a known black-cockatoo roost, which maximizes our chances of seeing these impressive birds.

Accommodations at Kangaroo Island (B,L,D)

Wed., Sept. 21 Fly Kangaroo Island to Perth

This morning we depart Kangaroo Island where we fly to Perth via Adelaide. We transfer to our hotel (three blocks from the waterfront) on arrival for a lovely meal and a relaxing evening.

Accommodations at Travelodge Hotel Perth (B,L,D)

Thurs., Sept. 22 Perth | Rottnest Island

Today we explore the Perth area and plan to include a visit to Rottnest Island, an unfortunate moniker for an island of such importance to shorebirds! Our ferry ride to and from the island might give us sightings of different albatross species, one or both of the Giant Petrel species and both Wedge-tailed and Flesh-footed Shearwaters. With the mix of scenic sandy beaches and rocky intertidal habitats, Rottnest Island's wetlands and coastal areas provide significant food resources and breeding habitat for a recorded 50 species. We look for Pied Oystercatcher, Red-capped Plover, Red-kneed Dotteral, and

Gray-tailed Tattler, along with Silver Gull, Great Crested Tern, and Australian Fairy Tern. The island is also home to the adorable Quokka, and many scenic, sandy beaches.

Accommodations at Travelodge Hotel Perth (B,L,D)

Fri., Sept. 23 Exploring Perth | Botanic Gardens

Today we explore Perth even more. We spend time at Kings Park, a 400-hectare reserve near central Perth, two thirds of which is protected as bushland and provides a haven for native biological diversity and native passerines. The Western Australian Botanic Garden, which displays over 3,000 species of the state's unique flora is located within the park. This afternoon we spend time around the Perth wetlands including Herdsman Lake looking for water birds such as Blue-billed Duck, Freckled Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Hoary-headed Grebe, Nankeen Night-Heron, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Australian Crake, Spotless Crake, and Swamp Harrier. There is also an option for those who wish to take some down time today and perhaps travel into the city of Perth to explore by yourself. The group can reunite for dinner this evening.

Accommodations at Travelodge Hotel Perth (B,L,D)

Sat., Sept. 24 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 are sure to stop en route to bird. This part of Australia is filled with numerous endemic plants, and along with this endemism comes the change for new species to find. We visit the Darling Range (scarp) in search of the first of the endemics with 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 of Painted Buttonquail and Black-tailed Nativehen. 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 National Park 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 and hopefully time to look offshore to see if there are any Southern Right Whale cows with their new-born calves!

Accommodations at Cheynes Beach (B,L,D)

Sun., Sept. 25 Cheynes Beach | Waychinicup Inlet

This morning we rise early for a pre-breakfast walk to look for Noisy Scrub-bird and Western Bristlebird among different species of stunning *Banksia's* in bloom. After breakfast, we spend the morning looking for Western Whipbird (*nigrogularis*), White-breasted Robin, Red-winged Fairywren, Splendid Fairywren, Western Wattlebird, Western Spinebill, Red-eared Firetail, Southern Emuwren, Brush Bronzewing, and Pacific Gull. Lunch today is at Cheynes Beach, after which we look for Rock Parrot and different shorebirds along the beach. Next up we visit the very scenic Waychinicup Inlet (part of the namesake National Park) for more chances of Red-winged Fairywren, Red-eared Firetail, and Southern Emuwren. The polished granite boulders and aqua-blue waters provide relief when we search the coastal heath for 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 while also looking for new mammals, frogs, and reptiles.

Accommodations at Cheynes Beach (B,L,D)

Mon., Sept. 26 Cheynes Beach | Stirling Range | Albany

We spend the early morning at Cheynes Beach if we still haven't had a look at the Scrub-bird or Bristlebird, then travel to the Stirling Range where we spend the remainder of the morning looking for Emu, Hooded Plover, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Western Yellow Robin, Restless Flycatcher, and possibly Crested Shrike-tit, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Little Eagle, Western

(Rufous) Fieldwren, and Square-tailed Kite. Given this time of year is spring, it is also a great time and place to view some of the spectacular wildflowers. After lunch, we head to Albany for more chances at Red-winged Fairywren, White-breasted Robin, Western Rosella, Red-eared Firetail, and possibly shorebirds, and, if time permits, seabirds foraging offshore. If needed, we have the option of visiting Two People's Bay, which is a stunning backdrop backup site for Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird (*nigrogularis*). We return to Cheynes Beach for dinner and another chance to spotlight for nocturnal birds and mammals.

Accommodations at Cheynes Beach (B,L,D)

Tues., Sept. 27 Cheynes Beach to Jerramungup

We have a final chance to search for Noisy Scrub-bird before travelling to Jerramungup and then we head east towards the Fitzgerald River NP. We look for Western (Mallee) Whipbird (*oberon*), Shy Heathwren and Western (Rufous) Fieldwren. This is another excellent area for wildflowers where we look for Black-fronted Dotterel and Chestnut Teal. After lunch at Jerramungup, we visit the Mallee Scrub (a small bushy eucalypt sp.) to the southwest, where we hope to find a Malleefowl nest mound while also searching for Purple-gaped Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, Spotted (Yellow-rumped) Pardalote, and Blue-breasted Fairywren. There are also chances for Banded Lapwing, Crested Bellbird, and Western (Mallee) Whipbird (*oberon*), and Painted Buttonquail along with a high chance of seeing Western Brush Wallaby. We stay in this area until late afternoon to search for more Malleefowl along the roadside before travelling back to Jerramungup for dinner. Our hotel tonight is in the classic old-style and basic, but clean, and well placed for finding the Malleefowl.

Accommodations at Jerramungup Hotel (B,L,D)

Wed., Sept. 28 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 hope to see Banded Stilt, Red-necked Avocet, Red-kneed Dotterel, Hooded Plover, Pallid Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Mistletoebird, Red-capped Robin, and Mulga Parrot. We arrive in Narrogin in the late afternoon, hopefully with enough time to visit Foxes Lair preserve near our accommodation to look for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Red-capped Parrot, and Red Wattlebird.

Accommodations at Narrogin Motel (B,L,D)

Thurs., Sept. 29 Dryandra State Forest | Narrogin

We depart after an early breakfast for Dryandra State Forest, an important conservation area where the control of non-native predators is a priority to help protect some of Australia's native species. Today we hope to see Bush Stone-curlew, Painted Buttonquail, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Western Thornbill, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Varied Sittella, Jacky-winter, Hooded Robin, and Crested Shrike-tit. We also search for Numbat an insectivorous marsupial, 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 of threatened species has 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.

Accommodations at Narrogin Motel (B,L,D)

Fri., Sept. 30 Narrogin to Perth

We depart early this morning after breakfast looking for species we haven't yet found. This afternoon is spent around the Perth wetlands including another visit to Herdsman Lake to look for any missing waterbirds we have missed. We then travel to our accommodation in Perth.

Accommodations at Travelodge Hotel Perth (B,L,D)

Sat., Oct. 1 Departures | Tasmanian Endemics Extension

This morning, after breakfast, we depart for the Perth airport where the tour ends, and for those participants who are continuing on to the Tasmania extension, we fly from Perth to Hobart today. (B)

Tasmanian Endemics Extension

We spend our days and some evenings enjoying Tasmania's endemic birds, mammals, and laid-back culture. Imagine seeing the fabled Tasmanian Devil, the unique Platypus, stunning Pink Robin, and more. On this Australian nature tour, we explore Tasmania's National Parks, beautiful Bruny Island, and even spend time at our local operator's own private reserve. This Tasmania birding and nature tour is an excellent opportunity to immerse yourself in wild Australia and add numerous lifers to your list as you search for Tasmania's incredible endemics.

Tour Highlights

- Explore Eaglehawk Neck for endemic Yellow-throated Honeyeater, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Black-faced Cormorant, and with luck, Cape Barren Goose
- Board a pelagic to the continental shelf to see albatrosses, shearwaters, and storm-petrels
- Visit Bruny Island to explore and see a Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater colony
- Look for Tasmania's 12 endemic bird species, and a host of mammals, too
- See our operator's own 1500-acre private reserve; watch for the resident white morph Gray Goshawk
- Watch for Tasmanian Devil and Spotted Quoll near Cradle Mountain National Park and learn more about their conservation

Sat., Oct. 1 Perth to Hobart

Those participants joining the Tasmania tour extension continue on to Hobart today on a flight from Perth to Hobart.

Accommodations at Hobart Hotel (D)

Sun., Oct. 2 Hobart Reserves | Eaglehawk Neck

This morning we meet our local Tasmanian guide and begin our explorations of spectacular Tasmania by visiting several reserves in the Hobart area including Mount Wellington. This mountain, at a height of 4,150 feet, affords spectacular views of the city and surrounding landscape on a clear day. Here we also take a walk through a fern glade with towering tree ferns where we have our first chance to see the endemic and rather shy Scrubtit, as well as Tasmanian Scrubwren along with the stunning Pink Robin! Further endemic highlights we look for today include Green Rosella, Tasmanian Nativehen, Black Currawong, and Yellow Wattlebird. In the early afternoon, we enjoy the scenic drive to Eaglehawk Neck. On arrival, we bird some of the areas of interest enjoying the spectacular sea cliffs and breathtaking scenery. We may well see Yellow-throated Honeyeater as well as a range of more widely distributed species including White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Black-faced Cormorant.

Accommodations at Lufra Hotel, Tasman Peninsula (B,L,D)

Mon., Oct. 3 Southern Ocean Pelagic Charter

This morning we board a charter vessel (weather permitting), making our way into the vastness of the Southern Ocean in our quest for pelagic birds. High species diversity and the nearness of the continental shelf have earned Tasmania an international reputation as an excellent place to see pelagic species. Not long after we depart Pirate's Bay, we should encounter Short-tailed Shearwater in considerable number. This is one of the finest places on the planet to see a diversity of albatross and

Wandering, Royal, Shy, Black-browed, and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross are all possible. With land still in sight, we reach the continental shelf and begin to lay a barley trail from the back of the boat. Possible petrels include White-chinned, Great-winged, Grey-faced, the striking White-headed, Gould's, Cook's, and Mottled. Shearwater diversity is also good with Hutton's, Fluttering, Sooty, and Short-tailed Shearwater all possible. Wilson's, Grey-backed, and White-faced Storm Petrels and Fairy Prion are also regularly seen, along with Australian Fur Seal, Humpback Whale, and Common and Bottlenose Dolphins. For those who prefer a more land-based excursion, there is a chance to visit and explore Tasman National Park before reuniting with the seafarers and returning to Hobart.

Accommodations at Hobart Hotel (B,L,D)

Tues., Oct. 4 Maria Island

We leave this morning to travel up the East Coast to Triabunna, where we take the short 30-minute ferry ride across to Maria Island, an island with a rich history, a World Heritage Listed Probation Station, fossil cliffs, and a great array of wildlife. On the ferry ride across to Maria Island, we look out for seals, dolphins, orcas, and more whales species.

Maria is a fascinating island with a wide variety of bird and mammal species. Of the mammals, we can expect to see Forester Kangaroo, Tasmanian Pademelon, Bennett's Wallaby, and Common Wombat. Maria Island has an abundant bird assemblage, with 11 of the 12 Tasmanian endemics occurring here. We use our time to stroll slowly around the northern part of the island, with the chance of seeing some outstanding scenery, and a large number of bird species including Cape Barren Goose, Australasian Pipit, and Skylark on the grazed grasslands and Forty-spotted Pardalote, Swift Parrot, Black Currawong, and several species of honeyeaters in the wooded areas. In the late afternoon, we head back on the ferry and return to Hobart. Depending on the mood and weather we may opt for some spotlighting after dinner in a Hobart reserve to search for Southern (Tasmanian) Bettong, Tasmanian Pademelon, Bennett's Wallaby, and Brush-tailed Possum.

Accommodations at Hobart Hotel (B,L,D)

Wed., Oct. 5 Hobart & Bruny Island

Depending on our timing and conditions, we may opt to start our day in reserves around Hobart or alternatively venture directly down to Bruny Island. Situated 40km south of Hobart, Bruny Island is separated from the Tasmanian mainland by the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and accessed by a vehicle ferry. The ferry trip takes approximately 15 minutes and we can enjoy some wonderful scenery and possibly Little Penguin or dolphins alongside the ferry. This afternoon we visit Bruny's southern coastline to view the second oldest lighthouse in Australia, and search for species such as Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Olive Whistler, and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Here we also have a chance to see the Tasmanian subspecies of Short-beaked Echidna, one of Australia's two egg-laying mammal (montreme) species (the other being Platypus). After dinner tonight, we visit the Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater colony to view these species at their burrows that use the cover of darkness to access their nesting burrows.

Accommodations at Cottages on South Bruny Island (B,L,D)

Thurs., Oct. 6 Bruny Island

Today we have a full day to explore Bruny Island. We start the day birding at 'Inala', a privately owned 1,500-acre wildlife sanctuary that is home to all 12 Tasmanian endemic bird species, including one of the largest known colonies of endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote. Strong-billed, Yellow-throated, and Black-headed Honeyeaters, Dusky Robin, and Green Rosella are also regulars here. Several hides and platforms have also been built around the property which provide close views of some very special species, including a variety of raptors. At this time of year, we can expect to see the endangered white color morph of Gray Goshawk, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Brown Falcon, and if we are

lucky, Wedge-tailed Eagle. We also visit a variety of habitats on the island, from coastal beaches for Hooded Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Pacific and Kelp Gulls, to rainforest areas in search of Pink Robin and the endemic Scrubtit, Tasmanian Scrubwren, and Tasmanian Thornbill. Tonight, we take an evening drive in search of Tasmania's nocturnal marsupials. We are likely to see some species which are now restricted to Tasmania, including Eastern Quoll (a relative of the Tasmanian Devil) and Tasmanian Pademelon. Bennett's Wallaby and Brush-tailed Possum are also common here and rare golden/white color morphs of both these species can sometimes be found. If we are lucky, we may also see Long-nosed Potoroo and some nocturnal birds like Tawny Frogmouth and Tasmanian Boobook.

Accommodations at Cottages at/near Inala (B, L, D)

Fri. Oct. 7 Bruny Island to Mt. Field

This morning we depart Bruny early for Mount Field National Park. This area is an excellent back up site for key endemic species, notably Scrubtit and Black Currawong, and is also a great place to experience a range of habitats from fern gullies with waterfalls, to alpine heathland and cool temperate rainforest boasting some of the tallest Eucalyptus in Australia. Today we have our first chance of seeing the bizarre Platypus. In the late afternoon we make our way of the park to a nearby farm stay where we overnight.

Accommodations at Curringa Farmstay, Hamilton (B,L,D)

Sat., Oct. 8 Cradle Mountain

This morning we travel north to Cradle Mountain National Park. While today is largely a travel day, we enjoy lovely scenery and stop en route to bird and stretch our legs. We arrive at our accommodation near the national park in the late afternoon. This accommodation offers a chance to see one of Australia's most threatened and charismatic mammals in the wild. This is one of the only places left where one has a reasonable chance of seeing Tasmanian Devil. Here the wild devils and Spotted-tail Quoll visit the verandas of the cabins at dusk and, with any luck, this provides an excellent opportunity to view and photograph these elusive creatures.

Accommodations at Mountain Valley Wilderness Lodge near Cradle Mountain (B,L,D)

Sun. Oct. 9 Cradle Mountain—North Tasmania

Today we have a full day to explore the area around Cradle Mountain and parts of northern Tasmania. This should provide a good chance to see more of Tasmania's endemic bird species which we may have missed previously, such as Black Currawong and Yellow Wattlebird. In addition to the great birding, we can view endemic Tasmanian rainforest flora with ancient Gondwanan connections such as Pencil and King Billy Pines, Myrtle, and the famous Fagus (*Nothofagus gunnii*) which is Tasmania's only deciduous tree. This is also a good area to view Common Wombat. We also have a good chance of viewing Platypus, one of Australia's most bizarre mammals. We return to our small lodge for another opportunity to view Tasmanian Devil and Spotted-tail Quoll from our cabins.

Accommodations at Mountain Valley Wilderness Lodge near Cradle Mountain (B,L,D)

Mon., Oct. 10 Launceston | Departures

This morning we travel to Launceston after breakfast where you are able to connect with a flight of your choice to one of the capital cities. If time permits, we visit some wetlands en route where there is a chance to view several wetland species, including Purple Swamphen, Spotless Crake, Australian Shelduck, Black-fronted Dotterel, and Little Grassbird. Please plan your departure flights after 12:00 PM. (B)

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

Please plan to arrive in Uluru at the Ayers Rock (AYQ) airport in time for a 6:00 PM dinner on September 12. For those departing from the main tour, please plan departures from Perth (PER) after 12:00 PM on October 1. For those continuing on to the Tasmania extension, please plan departures from Launceston after 12:00 PM on October 10.

If you are taking the extension, you will need to book your flight from Perth to Hobart on October 1.

We strongly recommend you use our travel agent for your ticketing. We pay her fee.

Photo Credits

Rainbow Pitta, Pat Kelly; Koala, Diliff; Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, NJ Stock; Pink Robin, Cat Davidson; Kangaroo Island, Paul Asman and Jill Lenobel, creative commons; Blue-faced Honeyeater, Andrew Mercer, Wikimedia commons.

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the journey is **\$11,300 DBL / \$13,150 SGL** per person, based on double occupancy, from Uluru, Australia. Cost is based on a minimum of 8 clients and with less a small surcharge may apply. Cost includes all specialist guiding and transport for day and night tours as outlined above, all meals as outlined in the itinerary, activities outlined in the itinerary, National Park entry fees, and other miscellaneous costs. Price does not include international *or domestic* Australian airfares, the airport transfer on day 1, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and expenses of a personal nature (snacks, travel insurance, internet, laundry, tips etc).

Cost of the Tasmania extension is \$4690 DBL / \$5450 SGL.

**Price is based on exchange rate from January 24, 2022.
Subject to change if there is more than a 5% increase.*

Please Note

Meals & 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 generally consists of a packed lunch style meal eaten in the field, with sandwich/filled roll, fruit, and a drink. Dinner is usually two course and 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: While 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.

The Extension Pelagic: This activities is weather dependent and we will try to reschedule within the timeframe of the tour if it is cancelled due to bad weather.

Naturalist Journeys, LLC is an equal opportunity service provider and committed to the goal of ensuring equal opportunity for all in employment and program delivery.