

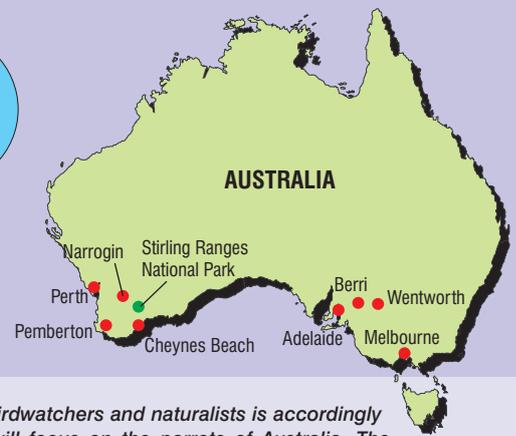
Australia

Southern & Western

Wednesday 25 October – Saturday 11 November 2017

Leaders: Nigel Jones and local guides

2017 Cost: £7,299 single room supplement £790



Australia is a vast country and the choice of suitable and rewarding itineraries for visiting birdwatchers and naturalists is accordingly wide-ranging. For 2017 we are offering three different itineraries, where two of them will focus on the parrots of Australia. The continent boasts over 50 species of parrot and we shall concentrate our attention on around 40 of them. However, while seeking out this noisy and colourful group, we shall also be watching a great supporting cast of honeyeaters, bowerbirds, fairy-wrens, kingfishers, raptors, shorebirds and, of course, marsupials.

This tour combines the southern and western regions giving us a holiday with lots of variety. The west is one of the most florally rich areas in the world and, as we visit in the springtime, we should encounter great displays of wildflowers. This western region also supports many rare types of forest, and we shall visit examples of Jarrah, Karri and Wandoo, each with its own specific type of soil, and each supporting different bird populations; in the east we visit the cooler temperate forests around Melbourne. The landscapes will be varied, from beautiful sandy beaches with blues seas, to stark granite outcrops, while the variety of birds will be fascinating, from Malleefowl to Emu, with a sprinkling of rare species, such as Western Bristlebird and Noisy Scrub-bird.

Throughout the holiday Nigel will use a network of knowledgeable local guides, who will not only be showing us their local wildlife, but also informing us about the native culture, as well as plants, trees, reptiles and insects. We shall of course be sampling some fine Australian food and wines! It will also be possible to make various stopovers or extensions to this holiday, as well as combining it with our Eastern, Northern & Central Australia tour.

ITINERARY

Days 1 & 2

We leave London Heathrow on a late evening flight and pass the second day in flight as we cross time zones.

Days 3 & 4

We arrive into Melbourne in the late morning, where we meet Nigel and our local guide and transfer to our hotel where we stay for two nights. We can visit the Woodland Historic Park for a variety of parrots including Red-rumped, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, plus lorikeets including Musk, Rainbow and Purple-crowned. This is also a fantastic site to see mobs of Eastern Grey Kangaroo. Later we can visit areas near the Yarra River where there is the chance of Little and Long-billed Corellas, and with luck, a roosting Tawny Frogmouth or Powerful Owl. The next day we have a full day out to the west of Melbourne where on the Surf Coast Blue-winged Parrot, Australian King Parrot, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Gang Gang Cockatoo are all possible, as well as the localised endemic Rufous Bristlebird. Around Geelong and Werribee a variety of habitats including the shoreline of Port Phillip bay, freshwater and brackish wetlands, open grasslands, and granite outcrops with dry open woodland, support a wide variety of birds. Interesting nocturnal mammals may be observed late in the day and early evening close to the city, which could include the huge colony of Grey-headed Flying-Fox, Platypus, Brush-tailed and Ring-tailed Possums, and also at St Kilda a Little Penguin colony.

Day 5

In the morning we can visit some hills of cool temperate forest close to Melbourne, where Superb Lyrebird can be heard giving their amazing calls. Later we drive to the airport for our afternoon flight to Mildura and transfer to Wentworth, where we stay overnight.

Days 6 & 7

We can explore the area on either side of the long Murray River. There are marshes, salt pans, sand ridges, saltbrush and flooded forests to visit, and we can look for Baillon's and Australian Crakes,

Little Grassbird, and Clamorous Reed Warbler. Away from the lake systems Brown Songlark, White-winged Fairy-wren, White-fronted Chat, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Noisy Miner, Apostlebird, Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters can all be seen. We visit a state forest where the beautiful Superb Parrot is still found, as well as the more common parrots such as Eastern Rosellas and Cockatiel. Sharing these flooded stands of River

Red Gums are Regent Parrots, Yellow Rosella, Gilbert's Whistler, White-browed Babbler and White-plumed Honeyeater. Later we transfer to Berri where we stay for two nights. Next morning we leave for Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve, where we can look for Regent, Scarlet-chested and Mulga Parrots, Malleefowl, Hooded Robin, Crested Bellbird, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Gilbert's Whistler, Shy Heathwren, Striated Grasswren, White-browed



Western Rosella



Red-winged Fairy-wren



Australian Ringneck

Treecreeper, Black-eared Miner, Red-lored Whistler and a variety of honeyeaters. If we are lucky we may find Major Mitchell's Cockatoo.

Day 8

Today we drive towards Adelaide, through dense eucalyptus forest, very different from South Australia's arid landscape. We can look for Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Adelaide Rosella (sometimes treated as a subspecies of Crimson Rosella) and Purple-crowned Lorikeet. Other species we may find include Scarlet Robin, White-throated Treecreeper and Yellow-faced, White-naped and Crescent Honeyeaters - we also have a good chance of seeing a Koala. We stay overnight in Adelaide.

Day 9

We take a flight from Adelaide to Perth where we stay overnight. We visit the hills outside Perth to look for some of the endemic birds of Western Australia, such as Red-winged Fairy-wren, Red-capped Parrot, Western Rosella, White-breasted Robin, Western Whistler and Gilbert's Honeyeater. We can also see New Holland and Brown Honeyeaters, Rufous Whistler and the spotted race of White-browed Scrubwren. We may also visit local wetlands for Australian Wood, Pacific Black, Blue-billed, Musk and Pink-eared Ducks, Hardhead, Australasian Shoveler, Grey Teal, the ubiquitous Black Swan, as well as other wetland birds such as Swamp Harrier, Dusky Moorhen, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels, Red-capped Plover and White-faced Heron.

Day 10

We leave Perth this morning for Narrogin, where we stay overnight. We travel via the Dryandra woodlands, one of the last remnant areas of Wandoo forest in the southwest. This is the home of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Galah, Australian Ringneck, Western Rosella and both Red-capped and Elegant Parrots; we shall also look for Square-tailed Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Painted Button-quail, Restless Flycatcher, Hooded, Red-capped, Scarlet and Western Yellow Robins, Dusky Woodswallow, Rufous Treecreeper, Rufous Songlark, Malleefowl, Grey Shrike-thrush, Blue-breasted and Splendid Fairy-wrens, and Brown-headed and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters.

Days 11 & 12

This morning we may revisit Dryandra for species we may have missed, and then we drive south to the Stirling Ranges Retreat, where we stay for two nights. In the hills here are large

tracts of eucalyptus woodland and heathland. Here we can look for Galah, Red-tailed, Baudin's and Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Regent Parrot, Elegant Parrot, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Red-capped Parrot and Western Rosella. Other birds may include Little Eagle, Laughing Kookaburra, the western race of Rufous Fieldwren, Australasian Pipit, and we have a chance of finding the nomadic Purple-gaped Honeyeater and the rare Western Shrike-tit.

Day 13

Today we travel to Cheynes Beach, a beautiful inlet where there are many endemic birds including Western Spinebill, White-breasted Robin, Red-eared Firetail, and Red-winged Fairy-wren as well as three very elusive birds namely Western Bristlebird, Western Whipbird and Noisy Scrub-bird. There is no certainty with these rare birds but we will try our best to see them. Other birds include Brown Quail, Brush Bronzewing, and Southern Emu-wren. The parrots we shall look for include Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Galah, Red-capped Parrot, Western Rosella and possibly Rock Parrot. This area is good for birds of prey and we can look for White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Osprey, Wedge-tailed and Little Eagles and Brown Falcon. Out to sea we might find Flesh-footed Shearwater, and on the rocks, Pacific Gull and Sooty Oystercatcher. We stay overnight at Cheynes Beach.

Days 14 & 15

We drive to Pemberton, where we stay for two nights. We travel via Lake Muir, a Ramsar wetland, where we look for Western Corella, as well as Australian Ringneck and Western Rosella. Emu is a possibility on this drive. The next day we can birdwatch around Pemberton and Windy Harbour. The karri forests, that surround Pemberton, historically supported many woods mills, and it is here we shall be looking for Red-tailed and Baudin's Black-Cockatoo, Australian Ringneck, Western Rosella, Purple-crowned Lorikeet and in the sand dunes for Rock Parrot. We can also see White-breasted Robin, Red-winged Fairy-wren and Common Bronzewing. There is even the chance of finding the rat-like marsupial Quokka.

Days 16 to 18

In the morning we can birdwatch around Pemberton before driving back to Perth where we stay overnight and have our farewell dinner. After some final birding we transfer to Perth Airport for our flight back to London where we arrive early the following morning.

Outline Itinerary

Day 1	Depart London
Day 2	In transit
Days 3-4	Melbourne
Day 5	Wentworth
Days 6-7	Berri
Day 8	Adelaide
Day 9	Perth
Day 10	Narrogin
Days 11-12	Stirling Ranges
Day 13	Cheynes Beach
Days 14-15	Pemberton
Day 16	Perth
Day 17	Depart Perth
Day 18	Arrive London

Party Size

Maximum of nine clients.

Accommodation

Comfortable accommodation in twin/double and single rooms with private facilities.

Transport

By private coach and minibus.

Includes

All flights, meals, accommodation, transport, entry fees, services of the leaders, airport taxes and tips.

Gradings

	Good
	300
	Warm to Hot
	Low
	Normal
	Moderate
	Good
	Moderate
	Scheduled



Koala