

Birding in the Kimberley

AWT TRAVEL AUSTRALIA

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Upcoming Tours

18 July to 03 August 2009

Join us for a Birding Adventure to the Kimberley area of Western Australia, travelling by 4WD and camping along the way! We visit the Broome Bird Observatory, Windjana Gorge, Mornington Station, King Edward River, Mitchell Falls, Kununurra before traveling back to Broome via the Bungle Bungles and Geikie Gorge. At Broome we should see migratory shorebirds, White-breasted and Mangrove Golden Whistlers, Shining Flycatcher and Mangrove Robin. While exploring the gorges and savannah woodland of the Kimberleys we will see the species that occur throughout this spectacular rocky terrain. We will visit Mornington Station owned and managed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy. A haven for wildlife, the endangered Gouldian Finch is regularly seen on the Mornington. Search in the pandanus along the rivers for Crimson Finch and Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens and above for the elusive Red Goshawk or Grey Falcon. Of special interest the elusive Black Grasswren on the Mitchell Plateau. Other species of the escarpment are White-quilled Rock-pigeon and Sandstone Shrike-thrush. Around Kununurra different species will be found in the lush irrigation areas such as Yellow-rumped Mannikins. We will have the opportunity to add many waterbirds on a relaxing cruise on Lake Argyle where Yellow Chats are often recorded.

SAT 18 JULY BROOME

Today, we begin the tour by spending time birdwatching around Broome. In the afternoon we will move to our overnight camp at the Broome Bird Observatory allowing plenty of time to set up camp.
Camp: Broome BO

SUN 19 JULY BROOME

An optional tour with the staff from the Observatory to nearby areas or birding along the beach and in the mangroves and woodland. Camp: Broome BO

MON 20 JULY WINDJANA GORGE

We depart Broome and follow the Gibb River Road via Derby, to visit the Tunnel Creek National Park in the Napier Range and then on to our camp at the beautiful Windjana Gorge.
Camp: Windjana Gorge

TUE 21 JULY

MORNINGTON STATION

We continue along the Gibb River Road to our overnight stay at Mornington Station. This vast, remote pastoral lease comprises 312,000 hectares of scenic wilderness on the northern rim of the mountainous King Leopold Range and includes two river gorges and four major river systems. There is a bird research facility here for the endangered Gouldian Finch.
Camp: Mornington Station

WED 22 JULY

MORNINGTON STATION

A leisurely day birdwatching in this very scenic reserve.
Camp: Mornington Station

THUR 23 JULY

MANNING GORGE

We leave Mornington Station to rejoin the Gibb River and travel on to Manning Gorge.
Bush camp: Manning Gorge

FRI 24 JULY

KING EDWARD RIVER

We leave the Gibb River Road and travel 4WD tracks to arrive at our camp at King Edward River. There is also excellent birding around the campsite. Bush Camp

SAT 25 JULY MITCHELL FALLS

Today we travel from King Edward River to the fantastic Mitchell Falls, the second highest falls in WA, with a combined height of 80m.
Bush Camp: Mitchell Falls

SUN 26 JULY MITCHELL FALLS

Time to explore the plateau with its magnificent palms. We have the full day to find the key species of the area – Black Grasswren.
Bush Camp: Mitchell Falls

MON 27 JULY MINERS POOLS

Leaving the Mitchell Plateau, we travel back along the 4WD tracks to Miners Pool on the Drysdale River, another great birding spot.
Camp Miners Pools

TUES 28 JULY HOME VALLEY

We travel along the Gibb River Road to Home Valley, a picturesque gorge with abundant birdlife. Camp: Home Valley

WED 29 JULY KUNUNURRA

We leave Home Valley to travel via Wyndham to Kununurra, near the WA/NT border.

We will have time to birdwatch at Parrys Lagoon on the way.
Camp: Kununurra

THUR 30 JULY KUNUNURRA

A leisurely free day to explore and birdwatch around the area. There are the options of a flight over the Bungle Bungles or to enjoy a boat cruise on Lake Argyle. Yellow Chats are often seen during the cruise.
Camp: Kununurra

FRI 31 JULY

PURNULULU NATIONAL PARK

From Kununurra, we travel down the Great Northern Highway via Turkey Creek to the Purnululu National Park. We spend the next two nights at our Base camp right inside the spectacular Bungle Bungles. Bush camp Bungles

SAT 1 AUG BUNGLE BUNGLES

Time to explore the Bungles visiting Piccaninny Creek, Cathedral Gorge and the Beehive. Some may choose to take an optional helicopter flight over this natural wonder.
Bush camp Bungles

SUN 2 AUG FITZROY CROSSING

This morning, we travel out of the Bungles along the Great Northern Highway to Halls Creek. We arrive at Fitzroy Crossing, for our overnight stay. Tonight will be our last dinner together.
Camp Fitzroy Crossing

MON 3 AUG BROOME

After a morning scenic cruise along the gorge at Geikie Gorge National Park, we then travel on to Broome where we will drop off at hotels in Broome for convenience.