

# Capertee Valley and Blue Mountains Bird Tour

## AWT TRAVEL AUSTRALIA

### Upcoming Tours

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This tour will operate at any time, subject to availability, with minimum of 2 passengers – and will operate with one passenger at additional cost.

A great opportunity to visit some of the best birding sites in the Sydney region. This tour takes in a large variety of habitats, from rainforest to heathland, from eucalyptus forest and woodland to wetlands and rocky escarpments. By concentrating on the World Heritage areas west of the city we have the best opportunity to see the many Sydney specials such as the Rockwarbler, Pilotbird and Superb Lyrebird as well as the colourful parrots, cockatoos and honeyeaters the area is famous for. The legendary Capertee Valley will be a highlight of your visit with a number of threatened species featured here. This tour also offers spectacular scenery and the chance to see a selection of other fauna and flora. Can be run at any time of year.

#### **Day 1** SYDNEY TO HAWKESBURY VALLEY

You will depart Sydney this morning and head west. Our first stop is Homebush Bay, next to the site of the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where we'll wander along mangrove boardwalks and view saltwater wetlands for shorebirds. Common birds here include Yellow Thornbill, Brown Honeyeater, Striated Heron, Superb Fairy-wren.

We then head to the Hawkesbury Valley with its rich flood plain and wetlands and a wide variety of water birds and raptors including herons, egrets, spoonbills, harriers, Whistling and Square-tailed Kite, Golden-headed Cisticola and Chestnut-rumped Mannikin).

Motel accommodation overlooking the Hawkesbury River

#### **Day 2** SYDNEY TO THE CAPERTEE VALLEY

We depart the Hawkesbury area and travel up the "Bell's Line of Road" across the Blue Mountains to windswept heathland for Tawny-crowned, White-eared Honeyeaters and the tree ferns and temperate rainforest for Rufous Fantail, Rose Robin, Yellow-throated Scrubwren.

Lunch at Mt Wilson. We continue to the Capertee Valley - officially the widest canyon in the world – for some early evening birding. 2 nights accommodation in the Capertee Valley.

#### **Day 3** THE CAPERTEE VALLEY

Today a full day to explore the Capertee Valley and its abundant birdlife, including Diamond Firetail, Little Lorikeet, Turquoise Parrot, Red-rumped Parrot, Plum-headed, Zebra and Double-barred Finches, Hooded Robin, White-browed Babbler, Painted, Black-chinned and Striped Honeyeaters. Best of all we'll have a chance at seeing the valley's "star" bird, the endangered Regent Honeyeater. The Capertee Valley is also a great spot to see kangaroos, wombats, and a variety of reptiles such as Bearded Dragons and Lace Monitors. We will have access to private properties normally inaccessible to birders.

In the afternoon we'll sit beside a waterhole to watch the many honeyeaters, finches and parrots coming to drink. Second night in Capertee Valley.

#### **Day 4** CAPERTEE VALLEY TO THE KATOOMBA

After breakfast we leave Capertee Valley and head to Lake Wallace near Lithgow, where the very unusual Musk Duck can be seen among other species. We may also visit the Lithgow sewage ponds for Blue-billed and Pink-eared Ducks, Australian Shovelers and Hoary-headed Grebes.

Then to the rocky escarpments, forests and heathlands of the upper Blue Mountains and the chance of Superb Lyrebird, Rockwarbler, Yellow-tailed and Glossy Black and Gang-gang Cockatoos, Red-browed Treecreeper, Pilotbird, Beautiful Firetail, Flame and Scarlet Robins.

After dinner we have the option of a spotlight walk to see tree-dwelling mammals such as Greater Gliders and the chance of a Boobook or Sooty Owl.

Motel accommodation in Katoomba

#### **Day 5** KATOOMBA TO SYDNEY

Before breakfast we'll walk out to the famous Three Sisters rock formation and look for the charming Rockwarbler, endemic to the Sydney region. One of the great things about the Blue Mountains is the proximity of many habitats within a short distance, and today we explore some of these habitats with the aim of seeing more of the characteristic and beautiful species that can be found in the area (such as those listed above). We'll visit a Satin Bowerbird's bower with its amazing collection of blue decorations and possibly see the male bird in attendance. Working our way back down to lower altitudes we arrive back in Sydney in the afternoon.