Eagle-Eye Tours

Western Australia Itinerary

Link: Western Australia

Tour Overview

From towering forests and wild coastlines to colourful heathlands and expansive eucalypt woodlands, Western Australia offers an exceptional variety of habitats for birds and wildlife. Our **Western Australia birding tour** showcases the best of these varied landscapes while seeking the region's distinctive birdlife, from Carnaby's and Baudin's Black Cockatoos to Red-winged Fairywren, Western Spinebill and many more sought-after species.

Beginning in Perth, we travel inland to Dryandra Woodland National Park, where extensive eucalypt woodlands provide habitat for a rich variety of birds and mammals, including the charismatic Numbat and Short-beaked Echidna. We then continue south to the dramatic Stirling Ranges before exploring the coastal habitats and species-rich heathlands around Albany.

From the south coast, our journey takes us west into the magnificent karri forests of Pemberton and through the scenic landscapes of the Margaret River region. Along the way, we'll explore a rewarding mix of forests, wetlands, heathlands and coastal habitats, each offering new opportunities to encounter Western Australia's distinctive wildlife.

Our journey concludes with a visit to idyllic Rottnest Island, where we'll search for the island's varied birdlife while enjoying the chance to encounter its most famous resident, the Quokka.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival, Perth



Our Western Australia Birding Tour begins in the evening, when we meet at the hotel and go for dinner. Night in Perth.

Day 2: Perth to Narrogin



We kick off the birding after breakfast with a stop at Lake Monger before leaving the capital city of Western Australia and heading towards the biggest section of native vegetation in the western Wheatbelt, Dryandra Woodland National Park, which was declared a national park recently in 2022 and is located approximately 160 km from the capital city of Perth. Today our target species include Musk Duck, Blue-billed Duck, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Western Thornbill, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Western Rosella, Red-capped Parrot, Elegant Parrot. Night in Narrogin.

Day 3: Dryandra Woodland National Park to Stirling Range National Park



We will focus our efforts on the amazing Dryandra Woodland National Park for the morning and some of the afternoon exploring the tall, open eucalypt forest, in particular its large expanse of wandoo trees. Later in the afternoon we will drive towards the Stirling Range. Overnight Kendenup Cottages and Lodge or similar. Target Species include Regent Parrot, Western Yellow Robin, Western Gerygone, Rufous Treecreeper, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Baudin's Black Cockatoo, Western Fieldwren.

Day 4: Stirling Range National Park to Albany



Stirling Range National Park is one of the oldest national parks in Western Australia, established in 1913. It encompasses a diverse range of habitats including granite outcrops, heathlands, and woodlands. This area was also designated as an important bird area. Here we will enjoy spectacular views alongside great birding. We will be looking for Southern Scrub-robin, Purple-gaped Honeyeater, Malleefowl, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Little Eagle. In the afternoon, we will continue onwards to the south coast and the port city of Albany. Night in Albany.

Day 5: Albany and Surrounds



We will explore the coastal regions from Albany to Cheynes Beach to the east today with an emphasis on coastal heathland for three "skulking" species known to this area (the only area to encounter all 3 in one location): Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Whipbird (formally Black-throated) and Western Bristlebird. Other birds we will look for are Western Wattlebird, Yellow-throated Miner and Brush Bronzewing. Night in Albany.

Day 6: Albany to Pemberton



We will leave Albany and shift to the west via Lake Muir (Ramsar-listed wetland) to the tall Karri forests of Pemberton. The Karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor) is one of the tallest tree species globally, and Pemberton is home to extensive Karri forests. Standing among these towering trees, which can reach heights of over 80 meters, provides a sense of awe and appreciation for nature's grandeur. Here we will look for Red-eared Firetail, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Southern Emu-wren, Western Rosella and Western Whistler. Overnight in Pemberton.

Day 7: Pemberton to Margaret River



We will start our day with some additional forest birding before proceeding further west to Cape Leeuwin, which is located on the southwestern tip of Australia where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet. We will explore the headlands for possible pelagic species soaring nearby and for the range-restricted Rock Parrot. In the afternoon, we will proceed to the town of Margaret River, an area known for its wineries and natural beauty. An array of habitats will keep us entertained including coastal beaches, wetlands, forests and heathlands. Night in Margaret River. Target Species: Western Corella, Common Bronzewing, White-breasted Robin, Red-winged Fairywren, Hooded Plover, Splendid Fairywren, Red Wattlebird, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Scarlet Robin, Whistling Kite, plus potential pelagic species from the headland (Shy Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross and Great-winged Petrel).

Day 8: Dunsborough Whale Watching



We will start the day birding local hotspots depending on what species we haven’t added to our list at this stage. In the afternoon we will go on a whale watching excursion in Dunsborough. There are two main whale species that migrate into Geographe Bay that we will be looking for; Humpback Whales and if we are lucky, the largest animal on the planet, the Blue Whale! We may also encounter Minke Whales, Southern Right Whales and dolphins. Night in Margaret River.

Day 9: Margaret River to Perth



We will depart Margaret River with coastal species as our targets along the route back to Perth. We will make a number of stops on our way back. Vasse Estuary in Busselton, Creery Wetlands and Len Howard Conservation Park in Mandurah, will provide opportunities to search for sandpipers, curlews, stints, plovers and terns. Depending on the time once back in Perth the local parks and lakes could be scoured for any missing species from the tour list. Overnight Perth. Possible target species: Sharp-tailed sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew, Red-necked Stint, Grey Plover, Fairy Tern, Great Crested Tern, Common Greenshank.

Day 10: Rottnest Island



Today we will visit Rottnest Island, which is known for its iconic 'smiling' mammal, the Quokka, although many wetland and coastal species visit or call Rottnest Island home. Pelagic species are occasionally spotted on the ferry crossing. Overnight in Perth. Target Species: Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Osprey, Black-bellied Plover, Red-capped Plover, Red-necked Avocet

Day 11: Departure Day

Our Western Australia Birding tour ends after breakfast. You can leave anytime today. If you are connecting between tours, your tour manager will forward flight details once the tours are confirmed. You will have the option for us to book the flights on your behalf or to book your own flights using the same recommended services.

What to Expect

Overview
The Western Australia tour is a moderately paced birding tour. Our daily travel schedule varies, but most days involve a full day of birding, usually with a picnic lunch in a prime birding spot. Please note that our guides will not be using laser pointers on this tour due to local regulations.

Food
We generally have breakfast at the hotel before we head out for the day. Sometimes we will have optional pre-breakfast walks. We often take a picnic lunch in the field, but will occasionally stop at a restaurant or cafe for lunch. Dinner is usually at the lodge or a nearby restaurant. Each evening after dinner we compile the day’s checklist, review the day’s activities, birds, mammals and other observations, and plan the next day’s activities.

Accommodation
We generally stay in 3 to 4-star hotels or lodges in locations close to where we want to go birding.

Walking
Walking is generally easy to moderate, with frequent short walks away from the van. Our longest walks cover a few kilometres (roughly 2 miles) at a slow birding pace, with frequent stops. Some sections, particularly at Cheynes Beach, have sandy, uneven footing. The walks can feel more demanding in hot weather.

Driving
Driving distances vary from short to moderate, with long drives of up to 3 hours on a few days. We make frequent stops during each day's travel.

Boat tours

The whale watching tour will be on a 23-metre-long catamaran with washrooms and indoor space. To board the boat, we will beach board using a ramp with handrails onto a smaller boat and then transfer to the larger vessel. Passengers with mobility issues may require assistance – please let us know in advance.

We will also be taking a passenger ferry to Rottnest island.

Climate
In October, Perth averages daytime highs of around 23°C (74°F) and overnight lows of around 12°C (53°F). Farther south and inland, overnight lows average around 8–10°C (46–50°F). Bring warm layers and a windproof jacket for early starts. The sun can be intense, so sunscreen and a brimmed hat are advised.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes
• Price includes 10% Australian GST
• All accommodations
• All meals and soft drinks
• Ground transportation
• Boat/ferry trips
• One guide and vehicle with 4 - 8 participants, two guides and vehicles with 9 - 12 participants

Tour Price Does Not Include
• Travel to and from start/end location
• Travel Insurance
• Items of a personal nature
• Alcoholic beverages
