

AUSTRALIA

Queensland

(Lamington and Giraween National Parks, Atherton Tablelands, Daintree River, Great Barrier Reef, and more)

Main Tour I

October 5 - 20, 2024

16 Days / 15 Nights

\$7422

Single Supplement \$1066

Main Tour II

Oct. 21 – Nov. 5, 2024

16 Days / 15 Nights

\$7422

Single Supplement \$1066

Tasmania Extension

November 5 – 9, 2024

5 Days / 4 Nights

\$2274

Single Supplement \$595

New Caledonia Ext.

November 10 - 14, 2024

5 Days / 4 Nights

\$2595

Single Supplement \$900

PRICES ARE BASED ON THE AVERAGE EXCHANGE RATE OF \$1 AUD = \$.75 USD AND WILL BE ADJUSTED TO REFLECT THE EXCHANGE RATE AT THE TIME OF PAYMENT.

SMALL GROUP SURCHARGES WILL APPLY TO GROUPS SMALLER THAN 9 for the main tour, or for groups smaller than 6 for the extension.

DETAILED ITINERARY – MAIN TOUR I (Itinerary for Main Tour II, which will be done in reverse order, begins on page 11.)

Days 00 - 0, October 3 - 4: Travel

You will leave the US on October 3, losing a day as you travel across the international date line, arriving in Brisbane on October 5. We recommend that you consider arriving a day early (depart on Oct. 2 to arrive on Oct. 4) to allow time to rest from the long flight and to begin to acclimate to the time change. We will arrange for lodging for you if you opt to arrive on October 4 and include the cost on your final invoice.

Day 1, October 5: Arrival in Brisbane

You will arrive in Brisbane today. Depending on arrival times, we'll do a bit of birding in the Brisbane area. Possible stops include the Port of Brisbane for *Mangrove Honeyeater*, *Mangrove Gerygone*, *Chestnut Teal*, *Red-necked Avocet*, and Riemore Downs for *Australasian Shoveler*, *Long-billed Corella*, and *Little Lorikeet*. **Overnight Hotel Ibis near the airport (No meals. Please note that lunch and dinner on this day are self-pay.)**

Day 2, October 6: Brisbane to Lamington National Park

We'll spend a bit of time covering areas near Brisbane that we might have missed yesterday due to time limitations and then head for Lamington National Park. The national park consists of 55,000 acres of a geologically fascinating plateau with deep gorges and ridges formed by a 22-million-year-old extinct shield volcano, Mt Warning. Most of it is covered with sub-tropical rainforest. A feature attraction is the amazing *Albert's Lyrebird*, and we'll make a special attempt to find this incredible mimic. Other target species include *Logrunner*, *Red-browed Treecreeper*, *Regent* and *Satin Bowerbirds*, *Green Catbird*, *Paradise Riflebird*, *Rufous Scrub-bird*, and *Marbled Frogmouth*, among others. At the end of the day, we will arrive at O'Reilly's Guesthouse for a three-night stay.

Overnight O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat (BD – Please note that lunches are self-pay while at O'Reilly's)



Regent Bowerbird



Satin Bowerbird

Days 3 - 4, October 7 - 8: Lamington National Park

We will have two full days of birding in the area surrounding O'Reilly's in Lamington National Park, a remarkable area that received World Heritage status in 1994 in recognition of its high biodiversity and the fact it contains a living museum of the evolutionary steps taken in the development of Australia's modern-day flora. Lamington NP now includes 22,000 hectares of varying forest types, from temperate Antarctic Beech forest high on the border ranges through the subtropical rain forests, to the dry eucalypt forest of the northern escarpment. Over 160 bird species can be found in the area.

Staying at O'Reilly's is one of the highlights of this tour. It has been a sanctuary for bird lovers since the early part of the last century and enjoys international recognition as one of the premier birding locations in Australia. Many of the special birds of Lamington may be found in the gardens and rainforest within a few hundred yards of your room. **Regent** and **Satin Bowerbirds** and **Green Catbirds** appear daily at feeding trays outside the dining room windows. **Crimson Rosellas** and **King Parrots** waiting in nearby trees will come to feed from your hand and might even land on your head if they suspect you are carrying food. **Lewin's Honeyeaters**, **Eastern Spinebills** and **Superb Fairy-Wrens** are common in the gardens within the guest grounds, and **Australia Brush-Turkeys** are conspicuous – you might see them working on their incubation mounds at this time of year. On the trails, we have good chances of seeing **Albert's Lyrebird** and **Paradise Riflebird**, a species of Bird-of-Paradise. The bowers of the **Satin Bowerbird** are easily found, and we might even be able to offer a bright blue bauble to one of the males for him to add to his cache. Even the more common birds such as **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **Yellow-throated Scrubwren**, and **Eastern Whipbird** with its unmistakable call, will delight you.

Overnight O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat (BD)

Day 5, October 9: Cross the Great Divide

Today we'll head west across the Great Dividing Range that separates the watersheds of the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. As we go further west, the species become more typical of those of the outback with many species reaching their easternmost range in this area. Our first key birding stop is at Durikai State Forest, a dry eucalyptus forest with a surprising diversity of species including *Superb Fairywren*, **Little Lorikeet**, **White-browed Babbler**, **Brown Treecreeper**, **Striated** and **Spotted Pardalote**, **Dusky Woodswallow**, **Speckled Warbler**, **Weebill**, **Striated Thornbill**, and **Yellow-tufted**, **White-eared**, **Fuscous**, **Brown-headed**, **White-naped**, and **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**. Later in the day we'll visit Lake Coolmunda, a shallow irrigation dam with an abundance of waterfowl including **Grey Teal**, **Great Crested Grebes**, **Pelicans**, **Black Swans**, **Cormorants**, **Coots**, and **Musk**, **Black and Hardhead Ducks**, as well as terrestrial species including **Red-rumped** and **Red-winged Parrots**, **Cockatiel**, **Galah**, **Superb** and **White-winged Fairy-wrens**, **Zebra Finch**, **Tawny Grassbird** and **Ground Cuckoo-shrike**.

Overnight Lake Coolmunda Cabins with dinner at nearby Inglewood (BD – Lunch is self-pay)

Day 6, October 10: Lake Coolmunda, Mosquito Creek Road and woodland birding to Giraween

We will have an early breakfast and then go to Mosquito Creek Road for **White-winged Fairy-wren**, **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater**, **Jacky Winter**, **White-winged Chough**, **Apostlebird**, **Spotted Bowerbird**, **Grey-crowned Babbler**, **Emu**, **Squatter Pigeon** and **Blue-bonnet Parrot**. We'll return to Coolmunda Dam to find birds we might have missed the day before and then take a back road to Stanthorpe via Springdale Road, which is a good location for **Turquoise Parrot**, **Hooded Robin**, **Diamond Firetail**, **Brown Treecreeper**, **Restless Flycatcher**, **Bushlark**, **Rufous and Brown Songlarks**, **Mistletoebird**, **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Little Eagle**, **Brown Falcon** and **Nankeen Kestrel**. We will stay



Red-winged Parrot

for 2 nights in luxurious cottages at the Girraween Environmental Lodge, a beautiful location surrounded by Girraween National Park.

Overnight Girraween Environmental Lodge (BLD)

Day 7, October 11: Girraween NP

We'll spend the day visiting several excellent locations in the Girraween area. This attractive area with spectacular granite rock formations in Girraween NP gives us another chance to see *Musk Lorikeets*, *Striped* and *Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters*, *Striated* and *Spotted Pardalotes*, *Grey* and *Pied Butcherbirds*, *Red-browed Treecreeper*, *Turquoise* and *Red-winged Parrots*, *Black-chinned Honeyeater*, *Rufous Songlark*, *Speckled Warbler*, *Diamond Firetail*, *Double-barred Finch*, *Plum-headed Finch*, *Yellow-tufted Honeyeater*, *Common Bronzewing*, and *Glossy Black Cockatoo*. There are also slim chances to see *Superb Lyrebird*, *Scarlet Robin*, *Chestnut-rumped Heathwren* and *Spotted Quail-thrush*.



Overnight Girraween Environmental Lodge (BLD)

Day 8, October 12: Transfer to Brisbane Airport and flight to Cairns

We'll spend the day transferring to Brisbane airport and flying to Cairns. After checking in at Bay Village Tropical Retreat, we'll have dinner at the local RSL (Returned and Services League) or restaurant. Time permitting, we'll take a walk on the Esplanade.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat (BD – lunch is self-pay)

Day 9, October 13: Cairns

We will enjoy a pre-breakfast stroll along the Cairns Esplanade and the adjacent mangroves. This famous birding location, only a few minutes' walk from our hotel, is a hotspot for waders on their southerly migration and often includes unusual species for Australia, including *Asian Dowitcher*. Likely species include *Red-capped Plover*; *Terek*, *Curlew* and *Sharp-tailed Sandpipers*; *Great Knot*; *Grey-tailed Tattler*; *Red-necked Stint*; *Lesser* and *Greater Sand Plover*; *Pacific Golden Plover*; *Beach Stone Curlew*; *Eastern Curlew*; *Whimbrel*; *Bar-tailed* and *Black-tailed Godwits*; *Masked Lapwing*; *Australian Pelican*; *Royal Spoonbill*; *Eastern Great*, *Intermediate*, *Little*, and *Eastern Reef Egrets*; *Striated Heron*; *Australian Pied Oystercatcher*; *Gull-billed Tern*; and *Silver Gull*. But we won't just look to the sea for birds. The park and mangroves surrounding the Esplanade harbor *Collared Kingfisher*, *Yellow Oriole*, *Rainbow Lorikeet*, *Double-eyed Fig Parrot*, *Peaceful Dove*, *Mangrove Robin*, *Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove* and *Yellow* and *Varied Honeyeaters*, plus many more.

We will continue birding on the Esplanade after breakfast before going to the Centenary Lakes and the Botanic Gardens, which are both close to the centre of Cairns. Centenary Lakes contains rainforest, fresh water and salt water wetlands. Species seen may include Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Australian Brush-turkey, Pacific Black Duck, White-browed Crake, Peaceful Dove, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Papuan Frogmouth, Australian Swiftlet, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Bee-eater, Black Butcherbird, Yellow-spotted and Brown Honeyeaters, Helmeted Friarbird, Varied Triller, Australasian Figbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Spangled Drongo, Leaden Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, Metallic Starling and Olive-backed Sunbird, to name but a few.

An after-dinner walk along the Esplanade is a good opportunity to see Bush Stone Curlews.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat, Cairns (BLD)



Australian Pelican



Black-fronted Dotterel



Pied Imperial-Pigeon

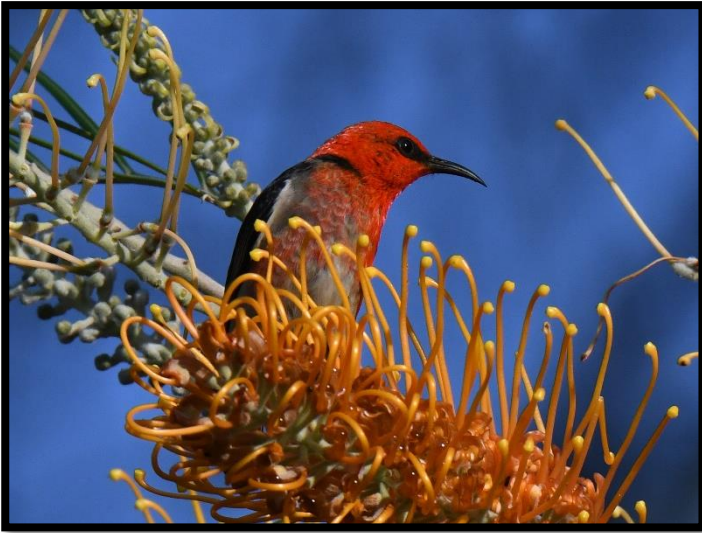


Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove

Day 10, October 14: Daintree River Cruise and Julatten

Our destination today is the Daintree River, where we take a pleasant cruise through farmland and rainforest on the look-out for *Great-billed Heron*, *Little Kingfisher*, *White-rumped Swiftlet*, *Cicadabird*, *Spectacled Monarch*, *Pied Imperial-Pigeon*, *Black-necked Stork* and *Black Butcherbird*, and possibly a saltwater crocodile or two. During the afternoon, we have a complete change of habitat by traveling a relatively short distance into dry savannah country to see *Australian Bustard*, *Great Bowerbird*, *Squatter Pigeon*, *Pale-headed Rosella*, *Galah*, *Black-throated Finch*, *Apostlebird*, *Pied Butcherbird*, *Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike*, *White-throated Honeyeater*, *White-cheeked Honeyeater*, *Rufous Whistler*, *Bower's Shrike-thrush*, *White-throated Treecreeper*, *Black Kite*, *Little Eagle*, *Square-tailed Kite* and *Wedge-tailed Eagle*. We will then drive to Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge, arriving in time to watch for *Red-browed Finch* and *Macleay's, Blue-faced*, and *Graceful Honeyeaters* at the feeders.

Overnight Kingfisher Lodge (BLD)



Scarlet Honeyeater



Macleay's Honeyeater

Day 11, October 15: Mount Lewis and Kingfisher Lodge

Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers' Lodge, on the northern edge of the Tableland, caters exclusively to birders. Within the grounds are *Wompoo Fruit-Dove*, *Emerald Dove*, *Noisy Pitta*, *Red-necked Crake*, *Buff-banded Rail*, *Sooty Owl*, *Black-faced Monarch*, and an array of honeyeaters. Nearby is Mount Lewis, covered in upland rainforest where we hope to find a range of species endemic to North Queensland including *Mountain Thornbill*, *Golden Bowerbird*, *Tooth-billed Bowerbird*, *Chowchilla*, *Spotted Catbird*, *Fernwren*, *Graceful* and *Bridled Honeyeaters*, *Bassian Thrush*, and *Pale-yellow Robin*. Back down the mountain at Sides Road, the targets are *Blue-faced Parrot Finch*, *Lovely Fairy-wren* and *Grey-headed Robin*.

Overnight Kingfisher Lodge (BLD)

Day 12, October 16: Atherton Tablelands

The Atherton Tableland is a region of beautiful scenery with lakes and waterfalls, green pastures, savanna, open woodlands and scattered wetlands nestled in national parks and state forests, as well as Queensland's highest mountains rising to over 1600m. Birding can be superb: *Sarus Crane*, *Blue-winged Kookaburra*, *Forest Kingfisher*, *Pied Monarch*, *Chowchilla*, *Red-backed Fairy-wren*, *Chestnut-breasted Mannikin*, *Golden Bowerbird*, *Tooth-billed* and *Spotted Catbirds*, and *Victoria's Riflebird*. On our drive, we'll look in dry eucalyptus country for *Australian Bustard*, in wetlands for *Green and Cotton Pygmy-Geese* and *Brolga*, and in woodlands for *Squatter Pigeon*, *Apostlebird*, *Great Bowerbird*, *Black-throated Finch*, and the distinctive local race of *Brown Treecreeper*. In late afternoon we reach Yungaburra, a National Trust village that has a platypus viewing platform.



Spotted Catbird

Overnight Chambers Wildlife Lodge (BLD)

Day 13, October 17: Atherton Tablelands

We continue our exploration of the Atherton tablelands including a visit to Lakes Eacham and Barrine, Mt. Hypipimee National Park, Wongabel State Forest and Hasties Swamp. We'll walk trails in these areas looking for *Large-billed Scrubwren*, *Atherton Scrubwren*, *White-browed Scrubwren*, *Brown Gerygone*, *Eastern*

Spinebill, *Eastern Whipbird*, *Fairy Gerygone*, *Rufous Fantail*, *Golden Whistler*, *Shining Bronze-Cuckoo*, *Brush Cuckoo*, *Yellow-breasted Boatbill*, *White-eared Monarch*, *Fig Parrot*, *Yellow-spotted Honeyeater*, *Topknot Pigeon*, *Golden Bowerbird*, *Bower's Shrike-thrush*, *Varied Triller* and, with luck, we'll spot a male *Southern Cassowary* with chicks in tow.

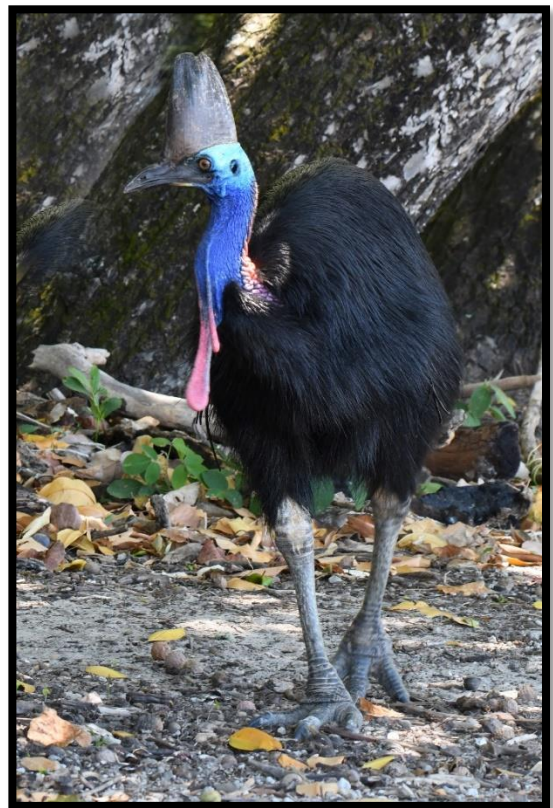
Overnight Chambers Wildlife Lodge (BLD)



Day 14, October 18: Back to Cairns and Cairns Esplanade

We head back to Cairns via Davies Creek National Park to look for *Rufous Owl* and *White-browed Robin* and to Kuranda for another chance to see *Cassowary*. In Cairns, we will check the Esplanade for any new arrivals and other locations for any species we missed on the first day.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat, Cairns (BLD)



Southern Cassowary



Day 15, October 19: The Great Barrier Reef Today we will take a Great Barrier Reef cruise. From Cairns we board our comfortable vessel, the Ocean Spirit, for a relaxing two-hour cruise out to Michaelmas Cay, a true coral cay and bird sanctuary located 40km north-east of Cairns, and part of the 2000 km-long Great Barrier Reef. Thousands of ground-nesting seabirds occur here: Sooty and Crested Terns, Brown Noddy, Silver Gull, Brown Booby, Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds, with chances for rarer terns and boobies. There will be opportunities for a refreshing dip or snorkel in these beautiful waters, but if you prefer to stay out of the water and would still like to see life under water on the reef, you

can enjoy taking a short tour inside a semi-submersible vessel. If you don't want to go on the Reef Cruise, you can spend the day at leisure at the hotel.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat, Cairns (BLD)

Day 16, October 20: Departure

Our tour ends after breakfast, when we will travel to the Cairns International Airport for our flights home.

End of tour (B)



Blue-winged Kookaburra

PRICING DETAILS

Cost for this tour is **\$7422**. Single supplement is **\$1066**. Deposit of **\$1000** for the main tour, **\$350** each for the extensions, is due with the registration form. Full payment is due on or before June 21, 2024 (4 months prior to the start date of the tour).

Price Includes:

- ~ Lodging in comfortable hotel/lodges
- ~ Meals as indicated (Several meals are self-pay)
- ~ One soft drink or coffee with included lunches, water only with other meals
- ~ Bottled water for refilling your water bottle
- ~ All ground transportation, entrance fees
- ~ Great Barrier Reef cruise and snorkeling
- ~ Services of an expert birding guide and two *Cheepers!* Tour Leaders (Jim & Cindy Beckman)
- ~ Pre-trip gift package, including customized checklist
- ~ Post-trip digital photo collection
- ~ Post-trip electronic copy of final checklist

Price does not Include:

- ~ International airfare to Brisbane and from Cairns
- ~ Domestic airfare: Brisbane/Cairns (10/12)
- ~ Airport transfers
- ~ Alcoholic drinks, extra snacks, etc.
- ~ Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- ~ Gratuities
- ~ Expenses of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, extra drinks and snacks, etc.)



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Galah

Cancellation policy:

Cancellation must be made in writing (email or snail mail)

More than 6 months prior to departure – full refund of deposit

Between 4 and 6 months prior to departure – 50% refund of deposit

Less than 4 months prior to departure – No refund of deposit

If cancellation occurs after full payment is made, a refund will be given only if the vacant spot is filled.

Trip insurance is *highly* recommended.

You can compare prices offered by various trip insurance companies at these websites:

http://www.quotewright.com/?sub_id=6056

www.insuremytrip.com

Cheepers! Birding on a Budget LLC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if the need should arise due to unforeseeable circumstances such as weather, landslides, and other natural phenomena, as well as suggestions by local guides in order to take advantage of an unusual birding opportunity. Lodging is subject to change based on availability.



Albert's Lyrebird

DETAILED ITINERARY, MAIN TOUR II

Days 00 - 0, Oct 18 or 19: Travel

You will leave the US on October 18 or 19, losing a day as you travel across the international date line, arriving in Cairns on October 20 or 21. We recommend arriving a day early (depart on October 18 to arrive on October 20) to have time to rest from the long flight and to begin to acclimate to the time change. If you arrive on October 20, we will arrange for lodging for you if you opt to arrive on October 20 and include the cost on your final invoice.

Day 1, October 21: Arrival in Cairns

Arrive in Cairns, where you will be met at the airport and transported to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure, giving you a chance to rest after your long flights.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat, Cairns (no meals included)

Day 2, October 22: Cairns

The tour starts with a pre-breakfast stroll along the Cairns Esplanade and the adjacent mangroves. This famous birding location, only a few minutes' walk from our hotel, is a hotspot for waders on their southerly migration and often includes unusual species for Australia, including *Asian Dowitcher*. Likely species include *Red-capped Plover*; *Terek, Curlew* and *Sharp-tailed Sandpipers*; *Great Knot*; *Grey-tailed Tattler*; *Red-necked Stint*; *Lesser and Greater Sand Plover*; *Pacific Golden Plover*; *Beach Stone Curlew*; *Eastern Curlew*; *Whimbrel*; *Bar-tailed* and *Black-tailed Godwits*; *Masked*



Australian Pelican



Black-fronted Dotterel

Lapwing; *Australian Pelican*; *Royal Spoonbill*; *Eastern Great, Intermediate, Little, and Eastern Reef Egrets*; *Striated Heron*; *Australian Pied Oystercatcher*; *Gull-billed Tern*; and *Silver Gull*. ; *Collared Kingfisher*; *Yellow Oriole*; *Rainbow Lorikeet*; *Double-eyed Fig Parrot*; *Peaceful Dove*; *Mangrove Robin*; and *Yellow and Varied Honeyeaters*.

We will continue birding on the Esplanade after breakfast before going to the Centenary Lakes and the Botanic Gardens, which are both close to the centre of Cairns. Centenary Lakes contains rainforest, fresh water and salt water wetlands. Species seen may include *Orange-footed Scrubfowl*, *Australian Brush-turkey*, *Pacific Black Duck*, *White-browed Crake*, *Peaceful Dove*, *Pied Imperial Pigeon*, *Papuan Frogmouth*, *Australian Swiftlet*, *Sulphur-crested Cockatoo*, *Laughing Kookaburra*, *Rainbow Bee-eater*, *Black Butcherbird*, *Yellow-spotted* and *Brown Honeyeaters*, *Helmeted Friarbird*, *Varied Triller*, *Australasian Figbird*, *White-breasted Woodswallow*, *Spangled Drongo*, *Leaden Flycatcher*, *Magnie-lark*, *Metallic Starling* and *Olive-backed Sunbird*, to name but a few.

An after-dinner walk along the Esplanade is a good opportunity to see *Bush Stone Curlews*.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat, Cairns (BLD)

Day 3, October 23: The Great Barrier Reef

Today we will take a Great Barrier Reef cruise. From Cairns we board our comfortable vessel, the Ocean Spirit, for a relaxing two hour cruise out to Michaelmas Cay, a true coral cay and bird sanctuary located 40km north-east of Cairns, and part of the 2000 km long Great Barrier Reef. Thousands of ground-nesting seabirds occur here: *Sooty and Crested Terns, Brown Noddy, Silver Gull, Brown Booby, Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds*, with a chance of rarer terns and boobies. There will be opportunities for a refreshing dip or snorkel in these beautiful waters, but if you prefer to stay out of the water and would still like to see life under water on the reef, you can enjoy taking a short tour inside a semi-submersible vessel.



If you don't want to go on the Reef Cruise, you can spend the day at leisure at the hotel.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat, Cairns (BLD)

Day 4, October 24: Daintree River Cruise and Julatten

Our destination today is the Daintree River, where we take a pleasant cruise through farmland and rainforest on the look-out for *Great-billed Heron, Little Kingfisher, White-rumped Swiftlet, Cicadabird, Spectacled Monarch, Pied Imperial-Pigeon, Black-necked Stork and Black Butcherbird*, and possibly a saltwater crocodile. We then drive to Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge, arriving in time to watch for *Blue-faced and Graceful Honeyeaters* and *Red-browed Finch* at the feeders. During the afternoon, we have a complete change of habitat by traveling a relatively short distance in to dry savannah country to look for *Australian Bustard, Great Bowerbird, Squatter Pigeon, Pale-headed Rosella, Galah, Black-throated Finch, Apostlebird, Pied Butcherbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-throated Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler, Bower's Shrike-thrush, White-throated Treecreeper, Black Kite, Little Eagle, Square-tailed Kite and Wedge-tailed Eagle*.

Overnight Kingfisher Lodge (BLD)

Day 5, October 25: Mount Lewis and Kingfisher Lodge

Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers' Lodge, on the northern edge of the Tableland, caters exclusively to birders. Within the grounds are *Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Emerald Dove, Noisy Pitta, Red-necked Crake, Buff-banded Rail, Sooty Owl, Black-faced Monarch* and an array of honeyeaters. Nearby is Mount Lewis, covered in upland rainforest where we hope to find a range of species endemic to North Queensland including *Mountain Thornbill, Golden Bowerbird, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Chowchilla, Spotted Catbird, Fernwren, Graceful and Bridled Honeyeater, Bassian Thrush* and *Pale-yellow Robin*. Back down the mountain at Sides Road the targets are *Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Lovely Fairy-wren* and *Grey-headed Robin*.



Australian Bustard displaying

Overnight Kingfisher Lodge (BLD)

Day 6, October 26: Atherton Tablelands

The Atherton Tableland is a region of beautiful scenery with lakes and waterfalls, green pastures, savanna, open woodlands and scattered wetlands nestled in national parks and state forests, as well as Queensland's highest mountains rising to over 1600m. Birding can be superb:

Sarus Crane, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Forest Kingfisher, Pied Monarch, Chowchilla, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Golden Bowerbird, Tooth-billed and Spotted Catbirds and *Victoria's Riflebird*. On our drive, we look in dry eucalyptus country for *Australian Bustard*, we visit wetlands for *Green* and *Cotton Pygmy-Geese* and *Brolga*, and woodlands support *Squatter Pigeon, Apostlebird, Great Bowerbird, Black-throated Finch*, and the distinctive local race of *Brown Treecreeper*. In late afternoon we reach Yungaburra, a National Trust village that has a platypus viewing platform.



Overnight Chambers Wildlife Lodges (BLD)

Day 7, October 27: Atherton Tablelands

We will continue our exploration of the Atherton tablelands including a visit to Lakes Eacham and Barrine, Mt Hypipimee NP, Wongabel State Forest and Hasties Swamp. We walk trails in these areas looking for *Large-billed Scrub-wren, Atherton Scrubwren, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Eastern Spinebill, Eastern Whipbird, Fairy Gerygone, Rufous Fantail, Golden Whistler, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, White-eared Monarch, Fig Parrot, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Topknot Pigeon, Golden Bowerbird, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Varied Triller* and, with luck, we'll spot a male *Cassowary* with chicks in tow.

Overnight Chambers Wildlife Lodges (BLD)

Day 8, October 28: Back to Cairns and Cairns Esplanade

We'll head back to Cairns via Davies Creek National Park to look for *Rufous Owl* and *White-browed Robin* and Kuranda for another chance to see *Cassowary*. In Cairns we will check the Esplanade for any new arrivals and other locations for any species we missed on the first day.

Overnight Bay Village Tropical Retreat, Cairns (BLD)

Day 9, October 29: Transfer to Brisbane and cross the Great Dividing Range.

We'll catch an early morning flight to Brisbane and drive to the Port of Brisbane for *Mangrove Honeyeater, Mangrove Gerygone, Chestnut Teal* and *Red-necked Avocet* before we head west across the Great Dividing Range that separates the watersheds of the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. As we go further west the species become more typical of those of the outback with many species reaching their eastern most range in this area. Our first key birding stop is at Durikai State Forest, a dry Eucalyptus forest with a surprising diversity of species including a whole host of Honeyeaters, including *Yellow-tufted, White-eared, Fuscous, Brown-headed, White-naped, and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters*. We also hope to find *Little Lorikeet, White-browed Babbler, Brown Treecreeper, Striated* and *Spotted Pardalote, Dusky Woodswallow, Speckled Warbler, Weebill* and *Striated Thornbill*. Later in the day we visit Lake Coolmunda, a shallow irrigation dam with an abundance of waterfowl including *Black* and *Hardhead Ducks, Grey Teal, Great Crested Grebes, Pelicans, Black Swans, Whiskered Terns, Cormorants* and *Coots* as well as terrestrial species including *Red-rumped* and *Red-winged Parrots, Cockatiel, Galah, Superb Fairywren, Zebra Finch, Tawny Grassbird* and *Ground Cuckoo-shrike*.

Overnight at Lake Coolmunda Cabins with dinner at nearby Inglewood (BD – Lunch is self-pay)

Day 10, October 30: Lake Coolmunda, Mosquito Creek Road and woodland birding to Girraween National Park.

We'll have an early breakfast then go to Mosquito Creek Road for *White-winged Fairy-wren*, *Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater*, *Jacky Winter*, *White-winged Chough*, *Apostlebird*, *Spotted Bowerbird*, *Grey-crowned Babbler*, *Emu*, *Squatter Pigeon* and *Blue-bonnet Parrot*.

After a good morning of birding on Mosquito Creek road, we'll go back to Coolmunda Dam to find birds we might have missed the day before.

We'll take a back road to Stanthorpe via Springdale Road which is a good location for *Turquoise Parrot*, *Hooded Robin*, *Diamond Firetail*, *Brown Treecreeper*, *Restless Flycatcher*, *Bushlark*, *Rufous* and *Brown Song Lark*, *Mistletoebird*, *Wedge-tailed Eagle*, *Little Eagle*, *Brown Falcon* and *Nankeen Kestrel*.

We will stay for 2 nights in luxurious cabins at the Girraween Environmental Lodge, a beautiful location surrounded by Girraween National Park.

Overnight at Girraween Environmental Lodge (BLD)

Day 11, October 31: Girraween area.

We'll spend the full day in Girraween National Park and on the Old Wallangarra Rd. This attractive area with spectacular granite rock formations in Girraween NP gives us another chance to see *Musk Lorikeets*, *Striped* and *Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters*, *Striated* and *Spotted Pardalotes*, *Grey* and *Pied Butcherbirds*, *Red-browed Treecreeper*, *Turquoise* and *Red-winged Parrots*, *Black-chinned Honeyeater*, *Rufous Songlark*, *Speckled Warbler*, *Diamond Firetail*, *Double-barred Finch*, *Plum-headed Finch*, *Yellow-tufted Honeyeater*, *Common Bronzewing*, *Glossy Black Cockatoo* and *Australasian Shoveler*. *Spotted Quail-Thrush* and *Chestnut-rumped Heathwren* are possible but very difficult.

Overnight at Girraween Environmental Lodge (BLD)

Day 12, November 1: Girraween and Lamington National Park

We'll start the day at Girraween and then travel back across the Great Divide to Lamington National Park (about 4 hours drive). Lamington National Park is 55,000 acres of a volcanic plateau with deep gorges and ridges formed by a 22-million-year-old extinct shield volcano, Mt Warning. Most of it is covered with sub-tropical rainforest. A feature attraction is the amazing *Albert's Lyrebird*, and we make a special attempt to find this incredible mimic. Other targets include *Logrunner*, *Regent* and *Satin Bowerbird*, *Green Catbird*, *Paradise Riflebird*, *Marbled Frogmouth*, *Eastern Whipbird* and many more. At the end of the day, we will arrive at O'Reilly's Guesthouse for a three-night stay.

Overnight O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. (BLD)



Australian King Parrot



Regent Bowerbird



Satin Bowerbird

Days 13 and 14, November 2 - 3: Lamington National Park

We will have two full days of birding in the area surrounding O'Reilly's in Lamington National Park, a remarkable area that received World Heritage status in 1994 in recognition of its high biodiversity and the fact it contains a living museum of the evolutionary steps taken in the development of Australia's modern-day flora. Lamington NP now includes 22,000 hectares of varying forest types, from temperate Antarctic Beech forest high on the border ranges through the subtropical rain forests, to the dry eucalypt forest of the northern escarpment. Over 160 bird species can be found in the area.

Staying at O'Reilly's is one of the highlights of this tour. It has been a sanctuary for bird lovers since the early part of the last century and enjoys international recognition as one of the premier birding locations in Australia. Many of the special birds of Lamington may be found in the gardens and rainforest within a few hundred yards of your room. **Regent** and **Satin Bowerbirds** and **Green Catbirds** appear daily at feeding trays outside the dining room windows. **Crimson Rosellas** and **King Parrots** waiting in nearby trees will come to feed from your hand and might even land on your head if they suspect you are carrying food.

Lewin's Honeyeaters, **Eastern Spinebills** and **Superb Fairy-Wrens** are common in the gardens within the guest grounds, and **Australia Brush-Turkeys** are conspicuous – you might see them working on their incubation mounds at this time of year. On the trails, we have good chances of seeing **Albert's Lyrebird** and **Paradise Riflebird**, a species of Bird-of-Paradise. The bowers of the **Satin Bowerbird** are easily found, and we might even be able to offer a bright blue bauble to one of the males for him to add to his cache. Even the more common birds such as **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **Yellow-throated Scrubwren**, and **Eastern Whipbird** with its unmistakable call, will delight



Superb Fairywren

you.

Overnight O'Reilly's (BD – Please note that lunches are self-pay while at O'Reilly's)

Day 15, November 4: Lamington NP and transfer to Brisbane Airport and fly to Sydney.

After some early birding around our accommodation, we'll drive to Brisbane to catch an afternoon flight to Sydney. In Sydney, we will stay the night near Sydney airport to stage for flights home tomorrow.

Accommodation TBA (BLD)

Day 16, November 5:

You will be transferred to the Sydney International Airport for your flights home. Those who are going on the Tasmanian extension will catch a flight to Hobart to begin your next adventure.

(B only for those going home / BLD for those going on the Tasmania extension)



Blue-winged Kookaburra

PRICING DETAILS

Cost for this tour is **\$7422**. Single supplement is **\$1066**. Deposit of **\$1000** for the main tour, **\$350** for the extension, is due with the registration form. Full payment is due on or before June 21, 2024 (4 months prior to the start date of the tour).

Price Includes:

- ~ Lodging in comfortable hotel/lodges
- ~ Meals as indicated (several meals are self-pay)
- ~ One soft drink or coffee with included lunches, water only with other meals
- ~ Bottled water for refilling your water bottle
- ~ All ground transportation, entrance fees
- ~ Great Barrier Reef cruise and snorkeling
- ~ Services of an expert birding guide and 2 *Cheepers!* Tour Leaders (Jim & Cindy Beckman)
- ~ Pre-trip gift package, including customized checklist
- ~ Post-trip electronic copy of final checklist

Price does not Include:

- ~ International airfare to Cairns / from Sydney
- ~ Domestic airfare: Cairns/Brisbane (10/29), Brisbane/Sydney (11/4)
- ~ Airport transfers
- ~ Alcoholic drinks, extra snacks, etc.
- ~ Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- ~ Gratuities
- ~ Expenses of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, extra drinks and snacks, etc.)



~ Post-trip digital photo collection

Cancellation policy:

Cancellation must be made in writing (email or snail mail)

More than 6 months prior to departure – full refund of deposit

Between 4 and 6 months prior to departure – 50% refund of deposit

Less than 4 months prior to departure – No refund of deposit

If cancellation occurs after full payment is made, a refund will be given only if the vacant spot is filled.

Trip insurance is *highly* recommended.

You can compare prices offered by various trip insurance companies at these websites:

http://www.quotewright.com/?sub_id=6056

www.incuremytrip.com

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Galah

Cheepers! Birding on a Budget LLC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if the need should arise due to unforeseeable circumstances such as weather, landslides, and other natural phenomena, as well as suggestions by local guides in order to take advantage of an unusual birding opportunity. Lodging is subject to change based on availability.