

MELBOURNE AND TASMANIA EXTENSION

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 7, 2022

8 Days / 7 Nights

\$3778

\$1200 Single Supplement

Day 00 – 0, September 28 – 29: Travel

You will leave the US on September 28, losing a day as you travel across the international date line, arriving in Melbourne on September 30. We recommend that you consider arriving a day early (depart on Sept. 27 to arrive on Sept. 29) 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 September 29 and include the cost on your final invoice.

Day 1, September 30: Arrival in Melbourne, West of Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay

Once everyone has arrived, we will drive west through open plains and low rugged hills where open country and bushland remnants hold a wide variety of birdlife. We'll also visit some wetland sites near Port Phillip Bay, which will make for an action-packed afternoon. Expected bird species include Crimson and Eastern Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Cape Barren Goose, Latham's Snipe, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Weebill, Spotted Pardalote, Scarlet Robin, and Striated Fieldwren, among others. We're sure to see some migratory shorebirds, with Red-necked Avocets and Black-winged Stilts in the mix.

Overnight Geelong (LD)



Day 2, October 1: Surf Coast and Bellarine Peninsula

Today we have the full day to explore the coastline, forests and heathlands of the Surf Coast and the Bellarine Peninsula (including the Greater Otway NP). This region is known to have one of the highest bird diversities in the state. A variety of fresh and brackish wetlands, sandy beaches and rocky coastlines, heathlands and eucalypt forests will bring new sightings throughout the day, plus wonderful scenery. The very localized endemic Rufous Bristlebird will be one of many target birds. Other birds may include Hooded Plover, Blue-winged Parrot,



Gang-Gang Cockatoo

Southern Emu-wren, Striated Fieldwren, Fan-tailed and Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Crested Shrike-tit, Bassian Thrush, Gang-Gang Cockatoo, Australian King Parrot, Satin Bowerbird, Dusky Woodswallow, and a whole host of Honeyeaters, including White-eared, White-naped, Tawny-crowned and Crescent Honeyeaters.

Overnight Geelong (BLD)



Southern Emu-Wren

Day 3, October 2: East of Melbourne, Dandelong Ranges National Park

Leaving Geelong early, we will take the freeway straight through to the eastern side of Melbourne. We can make some targeted birding stops on the way through the eastern suburbs where roosting Owls (i.e. Sooty and Powerful Owls) or Tawny Frogmouths may be possible to find, as well as a range of Parrots and waterbirds. Other possible bird species include Musk Lorikeet, Rose Robin, Crescent Honeyeater, Superb Lyrebird, Eastern Whipbird, Striated Thornbill Eastern, Yellow Robin, Lewin's Honeyeater, and Brown Gerygone, among others.

After lunch, we can take some longer walks in the magnificent Mountain Ash forests of the Dandenong Ranges NP, home of the Superb Lyrebird. After checking in and having dinner, there will be the option for a night walk in search of nocturnal wildlife such as Wombat or different species of Possums and Gliders.



Overnight Healesville (BLD)

Day 4, October 3: AM Yarra Ranges National Park, fly to Hobart

This morning we will be birding in the mountains of the Yarra Ranges National Park. At these slightly higher altitudes the towering mountain forests hold a different selection of endemic specialties such as Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Pied and Grey Currawongs, Golden and Olive Whistlers, Pilotbird, Flame and Pink Robins, a variety of Cuckoos, Eastern Whipbird, and Red-browed Treecreeper, to name but a few. We'll also get another chance to see Gang Gang Cockatoo, King Parrot, Superb Lyrebird, Rose and Eastern Yellow Robins, Crescent Honeyeater, Crested Shrike-tit, Lewin's Honeyeater, and more.

Later in the morning and down off the mountain, we will make our way west across the northern outskirts of Melbourne again, making brief targeted stops along the way before the tour comes to an end at Melbourne airport, where we will catch a late afternoon or early evening flight to Hobart, Tasmania.

Overnight Bay Hotel Apartments (BLD)



Tasmanian Scrubwren

Day 5, October 4: Mount Field, Gould's Lagoon, transfer to Bruny Island

Today we will travel to Mt. Field National Park, which offers spectacular scenery and pristine forests, looking for birds and other wildlife along the way. After returning to Hobart to check out of the hotel, we will take a ferry to Bruny Island for a 3-night stay at Bruny Hotel Lodge. All twelve of Tasmania's endemic species are found on Bruny: Tasmanian Native-hen, Green Rosella, Dusky Robin, Tasmanian Thornbill, Forty-spotted Pardalote, Tasmanian Scrubwren, Scrub-Tit, Yellow Wattlebird, Black Currawong, Strong-billed Honeyeater, Black-headed Honeyeater, and Yellow-throated Honeyeater. What was considered to be the Tasmania sub-species of the Boobook Owl is now classified as the Morepork, *Ninox novaeseelandiae*, the species found in New Zealand. In Australia, they are endemic to Tasmania and are found on Bruny Island.

Overnight Bruny Hotel Lodge (BLD)

Days 6 - 7, October 5 - 6: Bruny Island

We'll spend two full days birding on the island targeting the endemics and the non-endemics that are more abundant on Tasmania than on the mainland, including Hooded Plover, Brush and Common Bronzewing, Swift Parrot, Flame and Pink Robins, Crescent Honeyeater, and the Forest Raven, Tasmania's only Corvid. Along the coast we should see Fairy (Little) Penguins, Black-faced Cormorants, Short-tailed Shearwaters, and other seabirds. At night we will spotlight for marsupials including Common Brush-tailed Possum, Bennett's Wallaby, Tasmanian Pademelon, Long-nosed Potoroo, and Eastern Quoll.

Overnight Bruny Hotel Lodge (BLD)



Day 8, October 7:

We will transfer back to Hobart to catch flights to Brisbane to begin the main tour.

(BLD)

Price Includes:

- ~ Lodging in comfortable hotel/lodges
- ~ Meals as indicated
- ~ All ground transportation, entrance fees
- ~ 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 Melbourne
- ~ Domestic airfare: Melbourne/Hobart (10/3)
- ~ 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.)

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.

In the event restrictions associated with the Covid 19 pandemic require that the tour be cancelled or rescheduled, registrants will receive a full refund of deposit and payments. If desired, payments may be applied to a future tour.