

AOC Post Conference Tour more than a bird tour



This three day tour will not only provide a wonderful introduction to the spectacular birds of the Wet Tropics and adjacent savannah but the mammals and scenery besides.

From stately Sarus Cranes and Cassowaries to Golden Bowerbirds see the birds and have their behaviours recounted. It is anticipated that about 200 birds, platypus, 5 macropods and 6 possum species will be encountered. Lead by Alan Gillanders, one of the north's renowned naturalists, you will learn about the land from the ground up. Photographic opportunities will abound.

Cost: \$912 per person

Inclusions:

- Meals
- Accommodation – single budget room with ensuite for the 2 nights in Yungaburra upgrades available. Contact Alan for options.
- Entrance fees
- Cruise
- Transport in our mini-bus

Group: Minimum four, maximum eight.

Bookings:

- Email alan@alanswildlifetours.com.au or ring +61 7 4095 3784 Alan for a booking.
- Payment deadline - 14 September

Refunds: for cancellations prior to 1 September full refund less \$50 administration
cancellations 2 September to 13 September full refund less 12 %
In the event of the tour not being conducted, a full refund will be paid.

Itinerary (subject to change to maximise your experience by adapting to emerging situation)

Day One, Sunday 2nd October

0700-0800 pick up from Cairns accommodation

0800 Centenary Lakes

Target birds include: - Striated Heron, Little Kingfisher, Papuan Frogmouth, Black Butcherbird, Yellow Oriole, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Rajah Shelduck

1100 Mareeba

Target birds include: - Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Red-winged Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Olive-backed Oriole, White-cheeked Honeyeater
Mammals: - Eastern Grey Kangaroo

1230 Granite Gorge

Picnic lunch

Target birds include: - Squatter Pigeon, Tawny Frogmouth, Great Bowerbird, Yellow Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote
Mammals: - Mareeba Rock-wallaby
Reptiles: - Frilled-neck Lizard

1430 Driving across the Atherton Tablelands

Target birds include: - Whistling Ducks, Sarus Crane, Brolga, Australian Bustard, raptors

1600 Orientation in Yungaburra, check into hotel

1700 Bromfield Swamp to watch the cranes fly into roost.

1800 Return to hotel

Dinner

Day Two, Monday 3rd October

0500 Early rise and light breakfast

0530 Board bus for Cathedral Fig

Target birds include: - Chowchilla, Eastern Whipbird, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Pied Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Black-faced Monarch, Red-backed Fairy-wren, rainforest pigeons

0900 Morning Tea Lake Barrine

Target birds include: - Victoria's Riflebird, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Great-crested Grebe

0930 Cruise on Lake Barrine or further birding around Lake

1100 Mt Hypipamee area

Target birds include: - Golden Bowerbird, Fernwren, Atherton Scrubwren, Crimson Rosella, Blue-faced parrot Finch

1300 Lunch Ravenshoe

1345 Birding Kaban, Wondecla, Herberton

Target birds include: - Blue-winged Kookaburra, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Yellow Thornbill, Crested Shrike-tit, Red-backed Fairy-wren

1800 Dinner Herberton

1900 Spotlighting our way back to Yungaburra

Target birds include: - six species of owls but chances not good on this route

Mammals: - a) gliders: Greater, Yellow-bellied, Sugar, Feather-tailed

b) possums: Common, Herbert River, Lemuroid & Green Ringtails,

Common Brushtail (including coppery morph), Striped

c) bandicoot and Giant White-tailed Rat

2230 Return to Hotel

Day Three, Tuesday 4th October

0600 mop up of Tablelands bird species

0830 Full breakfast

0930 Platypus

1140 Etty Bay for Cassowary

1330 Eubanange Swamp

1530 Cairns Esplanade

1630 Drop offs including airport.

Target birds for the day include: - Beach Stone Curlew, Great Knot, Terek Sandpiper, Cassowary, Crimson Finch, White-eared Monarch, Large-billed Gerygone

A full northern Queensland bird list can be found at

<http://birdsaustralianq.org/pdfs/NQ-Species-List-No-6.pdf>

What to bring:-

Sun protection including long sleeves, trousers and hat

Rain protection (likely to be dry but...)

Coat as the nights in the mountains can be cool

Stout footwear and something comfortable as well

Small torch (spotlights will be provided for group use)

Optical equipment including binoculars and cameras (Alan will have one scope)

Water bottle, preferably named so it can be chilled for you

Your favourite snacks

Toiletries and medications

Most of your luggage should be able to be left in your Cairns accommodation; please pack lightly as we will be in a small bus.

Contact:

Alan's Wildlife Tours

Alan Gillanders

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