



Australia's Red Centre Birds & Wildlife

Inala Nature Tours

OVERVIEW

The 'Red Centre' is an extraordinary landscape of desert plains, ancient weathered mountain ranges, rocky gorges, and some of Aboriginal Australia's most sacred sites. This tour has been designed to maximise the chances of experiencing the birds and wildlife of the area around Alice Springs and the West Macdonnell Ranges to Ghan (which takes its name from the rail journey that operates between Adelaide-Alice Springs and Darwin, originally known as the Afghan Express after the 19th century camel drivers who helped to explore the country's remote interior). Iconic 'Outback' dry country bird species we will be searching for include Dusky Grasswren, Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, Inland Dotterel, and parrots such as Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Cockatiel and Budgerigar. These areas are also great places to find macropods such as Black-flanked Rock-wallaby and Euro as well as Dingo.

This tour has been designed to precede our popular [Top End Kakadu and the Kimberley tour](#), which in turn adjoins our [Kimberley to Broome](#) and [Broome-Dampier Peninsula tours](#), which allows for maximum flexibility in exploring this remote and little-explored area of Outback Australia



Cockatiels, Andrew Grenfell

ITINERARY OUTLINE

- Day 1. Arrive Alice Springs.
- Day 2. Alice Springs area-spinifex country.
- Day 3. Alice Springs area- West MacDonnell Ranges.
- Day 4. Alice Springs to Ghan.
- Day 5. Ghan to Alice Springs.
- Day 6. Depart Alice Springs (or fly Alice Springs to Darwin).

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1. Arrive Alice Springs.

Today is set aside as an arrival day (direct flights available from most capital cities including Sydney and Melbourne). Own transfers to hotel. Meet as a group in the foyer of the hotel at 18:00 for our welcome dinner where we will also discuss the tour details.

Accommodation: Alice Springs (en suite). **Meals included:** D.

Day 2. Alice Springs area-spinifex country.

Alice Springs is an excellent base from which to access a wonderful diversity of birds typical of Australia's dry country. There are a range of 'special' species to this area and in the days to come we will endeavour to track a good number of these down. We will have an early start and venture into spinifex country in search of the skulking Dusky Grasswren. This endemic Australian family is much sought after making this a fitting start to our exploration of the region. Spinifex is also home to the shy Rufous-crowned Emu-wren and dose of luck may be required if we are to get views of this lovely little bird. White-winged and Splendid Fairywrens may also be seen, as might Crimson Chat, Banded Whiteface and Red-backed Kingfisher. In the heat of the day, we will return to Alice to visit the famous Alice Springs Sewage Works, a veritable magnet for waterbirds in this thirsty landscape. Red-necked Avocet, Yellow-billed Spoonbills, and Pink-eared Duck may be seen along with more retiring species like Baillon's Crake. In the afternoon we will bird woodland areas near Alice looking for species like Grey Honeyeater, Crested Bellbird and Hooded Robin, plus the chance of rarer nomads like Black & Pied Honeyeaters, Diamond Dove, Black Falcon or even Grey Falcon. We will finish the day in at a nearby waterhole where common, but no-less-lovely species, like Red-tailed Black-cockatoo,



Grey-headed Honeyeaters, Alfred Schulte

Red-capped Robin & Purple-backed Fairy-wren, Galah and Common Bronzewing come in to drink in addition to (hopefully!) Bourke's Parrot, Mulga Parrot and Australian Ringneck.

Accommodation: Alice Springs (en suite). **Meals included:** B,L,D.

Day 3. Alice Springs area- West MacDonnell Ranges.

This morning we will venture west of Alice into the West MacDonnell Range. This ancient landscape of rugged mountains and cool scenic gorges is a wonder to explore. Notable bird species we will seek this morning include Spinifexbird and another chance at Rufous-crowned Emu-wren. This afternoon we will visit Ormiston Gorge in search of Western Bowerbird, Painted Finch, Grey-headed Honeyeater, Spinifex Pigeon and Little Woodswallow. Other species that we are likely to see around Alice springs include Australia's smallest bird the Weebill, Western Gerygone and magnificent Wedge-tailed Eagles. We will return to our base in Alice Springs in the early evening.

Accommodation: Alice Springs (en suite). **Meals included:** B,L,D.

Day 4. Alice Springs to Ghan.

This morning we will make an early start, leaving Alice Springs and heading southwards towards Eildunda. White-browed Treecreeper, Grey Honeyeater and a variety of thornbills (Slaty-backed, Inland & Chestnut-rumped Thornbill) are all possible in the mulga en route. This afternoon we will bird in the stony plains in the area (known as gibber plains after the Aboriginal word for stone). These sparse and barren plains might look 'empty' but they are home to some very interesting bird species including Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Chiming Wedgebill and the amazing Inland Dotterel.

Accommodation: Eildunda Roadhouse, Ghan (en suite). **Meals included:** B,L,D.

Day 5. Ghan to Alice Springs.

This morning we will take a pre-dawn drive out to the gibber plains in search of species we may have missed yesterday. After breakfast, we will then journey northwards, likely stopping at an area of waterholes off the Stuart Highway. This fruitful area is usually home to a few patches of water and these, along with the fabled red river gums, attract a range of species. This is an excellent area for Cockatoos and parrots, and we may well see Major Mitchell's (Pink) Cockatoo, Little Corella, Budgerigar, Galah and Cockatiel! We will return to Alice Springs late afternoon.

Accommodation: Alice Springs (en suite). **Meals included:** B,L,D.

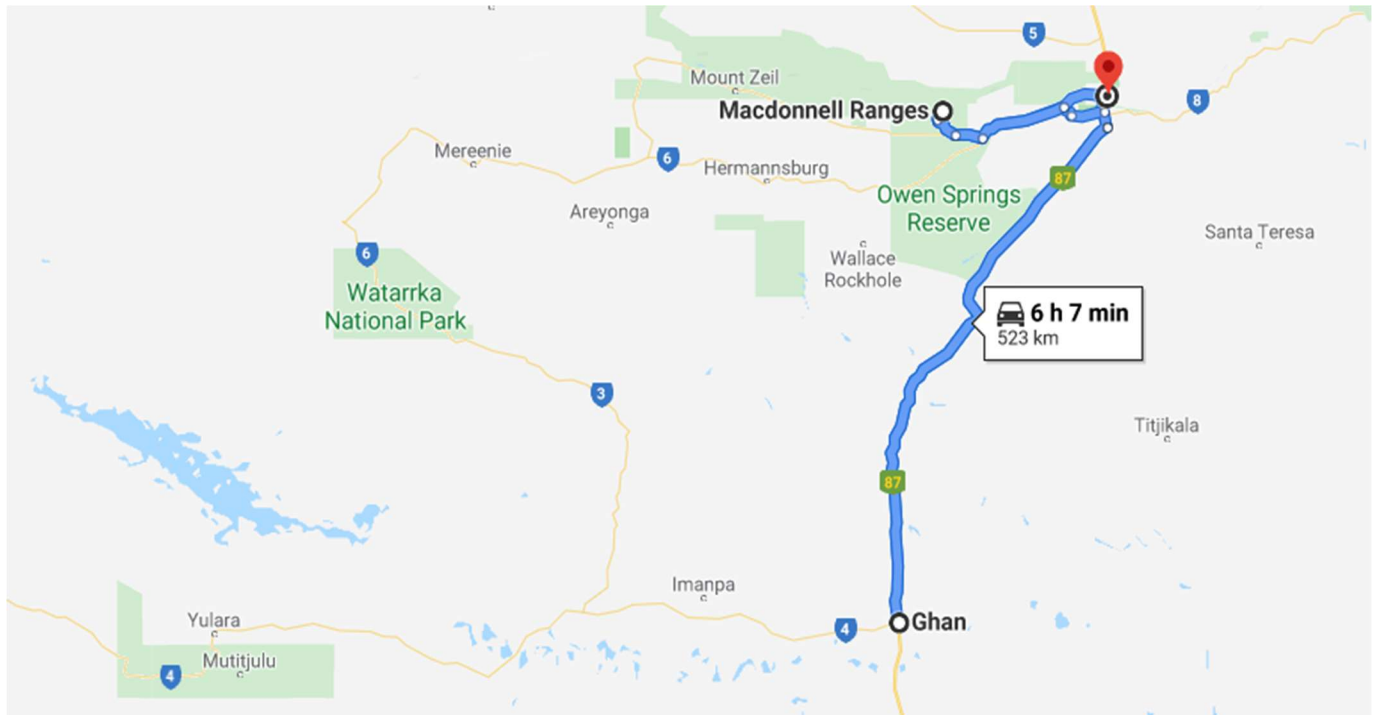


Male and Female Galahs, Keith Kennedy

Day 6. Depart Alice Springs (or fly Alice Springs to Darwin).

There are no formal tour arrangements today and the tour will finish after breakfast this morning. Own arrangements for any activities today and own arrangements to the airport for your departure flights. For those participants continuing onto the Top End Darwin-Kunururra tour: Based on 2022 flights Qantas now has two flights available from Alice Springs to Darwin (ASP-DRW): QF1959 09:30-11:30 and QF1961 18:45-20:45. (Flight not included in tour price). You are welcome to book either one of those, as the Top End tour doesn't start until tomorrow. But your accommodation in Darwin tonight and breakfast tomorrow morning will be covered within your join tour package cost (lunch and dinner arrangements today as per your own arrangements).

Accommodation: none (Hotel in Darwin -those continuing onto Top End tour). **Meals included:** B.



Red Necked Avocets, Andrew Grenfell

PRICING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Group size: 6 – 8 people + 1 specialist Inala guide

Price includes: All accommodation as per the itinerary, specialist guide and transport, meals, entrance fees and activities as mentioned in the above itinerary.

Price does not include: International and domestic airfares, airport transfers, alcoholic beverages, snacks, internet, gratuities, laundry or other items of a personal nature.

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Please note:

Meals and drinks: Breakfast generally consists of a continental style breakfast with cereal, fruit and yoghurt and tea/coffee. Full cooked breakfast is not generally offered at most locations. Lunch will generally consist of a packed lunch style meal eaten in the field, with sandwich/filled roll, fruit, and a drink. Dinner usually consists of several options for main with the choice of either an appetiser or dessert. Drinks (soft and alcoholic) are generally not included but at lunches and breakfasts juice may be made available.

The itinerary: Whilst we aim to follow the itinerary as planned, please note that the itinerary provided should only be used as a guideline. Depending on individual trip circumstances, weather, and local information, the exact itinerary may not be strictly adhered to. The guides reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary as they see fit.

Remoteness: Please note that for much of this tour we will be birding in a wonderful yet remote part of Australia. Most of the roads are unsealed and rough and travel will be in 4WD vehicles. If you have medical conditions or health concerns, it is important you make us aware of these in advance of this tour.

[Click here for a separate online doc that answers many of the frequently asked questions about Small Group Tours](#)

