



INALA

Cape York Queensland

8 - 15 September 2022

(Drive up, fly back)



Golden-shouldered Parrot by Alfred

Itinerary prepared by Tonia Cochran, Inala Nature Tours, September 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Enjoy searching for specials and endemics in far north Queensland's top birding destinations: Iron Range National Park, Lakefield National Park and surrounds. The rich diversity of species includes: Golden-shouldered Parrot, Red Goshawk, Palm Cockatoo, Eclectus Parrot, Magnificent Riflebird, Yellow-billed Kingfisher and many more!

OVERVIEW:

This tour visits some of the most remote, bird-rich areas in Australia. In the country's far north eastern corner, the distinctive Cape York peninsula juts out into the tropical water of the Coral Sea and is home to the largest unspoilt patch of rainforest on the continent. We begin this adventure birding the Iron Range National Park for a host of species found nowhere else in Australia including Palm Cockatoo, Frill-necked Monarch and White-faced Robin. We then move on to explore the riches of Lakefield National Park where Golden-shouldered Parrot and Red Goshawk will be likely highlights. Simply put, this tour is hard to beat: it covers the highlight areas in this region, we travel at a comfortable pace and we have a maximum of 9 participants per tour with two Inala guides. Join us an unbeatable Cape York birding experience!

This tour has been designed to link with our [Inala Gulf Country/Outback Queensland Tour](#) 25 August – 8 September 2022.

Inala Nature Tours

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ITINERARY OUTLINE:

Day 1. Thu 8 Sept 22. Arrive Cairns.
Day 2. Fri 9 Sept 22. Cairns to Musgrave.
Day 3. Sat 10 Sept 22. Musgrave-Lakefield National Park.
Day 4. Sun 11 Sept 22. Musgrave to Lockhart River.
Day 5. Mon 12 Sept 22. Lockhart River.
Day 6. Tue 13 Sept 22. Lockhart River.
Day 7. Wed 14 Sept 22. Lockhart River.
Day 8. Thu 15 Sept 22. Lockhart River to Cairns, depart.

DETAILED ITINERARY:

B- breakfast; L- lunch; D-dinner.

Day 1. (= Day 15 of [Gulf Country/Outback Queensland Tour](#)) Thursday 8 September 2022. Arrive Cairns. Today we will arrive at Cairns to settle into our accommodation before a welcome dinner where you will meet your guide and the rest of the group. Own arrangements for flights, airport transfers and activities today. Those joining the tour from the Gulf Country/Outback Queensland Tour will return to Cairns today and join the rest of the group for dinner.

Accommodation: Cairns (en suite rooms). **Meals included:** D.

Day 2. Friday 9 September 2022. Cairns to Musgrave.

This morning we commence our journey north through a vast area of tropical woodland. *En route* we'll be on the lookout for species like Pheasant Coucal, Grey-crowned Babbler, Banded Honeyeater, Little & Black-faced Woodswallow, Silver-crowned & Little Friarbirds, White-winged Triller and Double-barred Finch. In the mid to late afternoon we will arrive in Musgrave on the edge of the spectacular Lakefield National Park. We will settle into our accommodations and if time permits enjoy some birding in the area.

Accommodation: near Musgrave (cabins). **Meals included:** B, L, D.



Torresian Imperial Pigeon by Alfred Schulte

Day 3. Saturday 10 September 2022. Musgrave and Lakefield National Park.

Today we have a full day to explore the riches of Lakefield National Park and surrounds. Gallery rainforest, open tropical woodland, grasslands, and extensive wetlands, home to vast numbers of waterbirds, are the main habitats we will explore today. With a number of target species in mind we will make a pre-breakfast foray for one of our star birds of the trip, the stunning Golden-shouldered Parrot. Interestingly, this endangered and brilliantly coloured bird makes its nest in termite mounds, a landscape feature of this area. As with the Iron Range, this area is rich in species, many of which are only found (or easiest to find) here. Red Goshawk, Black-

backed Butcherbird, Bar-breasted, Rufous-throated, Yellow-tinted and Scarlet Honeyeaters, Red-browed Pardalote, the distinctive Cape York race of Brown Treecreeper, Northern Fantail, Emu, Great Bowerbird, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-winged Parrot and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher are all species we may find. Finches are a feature here too, with possible species including the delightful Star Finch and Masked and Black-throated Finches. Wetlands species includes the likes of Magpie Goose, Green Pygmy-goose, Radjah Shelduck, Comb-crested Jacana and Wandering Whistling-duck. Not forgetting mammals we will be on the lookout for Antilopine Wallaroo, Agile Wallaby, and if we are fortunate, Cape York Rock Wallaby.

Accommodation: near Musgrave (cabins). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 4. Sunday 11 September 2022. Musgrave to Lockhart River.

This morning we continue north and while we have a big drive today there will be plenty to see en route, and we will make regular stops for comfort breaks and birds. Passing through endless miles of great birding habitat, we will spend the day on the blandly named Peninsula Development Road, one of the most remote roads in Australia, and the only road connecting the settlements of Cape York to the rest of the country. This afternoon we will reach the fabulous Iron Range National Park via the rich heathlands of the Tozer's Gap area. We will settle into our accommodations and if time permits enjoy some birding in the area.

Accommodation: Lockhart River (en suite cabins). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Days 5 - 7. Monday 12, Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 September 2022. Iron Range National Park.

We have 3 full days to explore this rich corner of Australia. Our time will be spent searching for the many area specials, as well as several interesting mammals and reptiles. We will bird a diverse mosaic of habitats from verdant monsoon rainforest and tropical woodland, to wetlands and a variety of coastal habitats. The selection



Eclectus Parrots in flight by Alfred Schulte

of birds is impressive with no shortage of outstanding species including two members of the Bird-of-paradise family - Magnificent Riflebird and Trumpet Manucode – and other showy species like the raucous Palm Cockatoo, Red-cheeked Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Yellow-billed Kingfisher and Frill-necked Monarch. Additional range-restricted species include White-streaked, Tawny-breasted and Green-backed Honeyeaters, Yellow-legged Flycatcher, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Northern Scrub-robin and White-faced Robin. The area is also rich botanically, and several fig tree species are found here attracting frugivores like Wompoo, Superb and Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves, and the endearing Double-eyed Fig-parrot. Another regular, but often nocturnal, visitor to fig trees is the delightful Spotted Cuscus, an arboreal marsupial with woolly fur, and bizarre orange eyes. Other nocturnal mammals we may find are Striped Possum, Rufous Spiny Bandicoot and Sugar Glider, and we will be sure to spotlight for Rufous and Masked Owl, Marbled Frogmouth and Large-tailed Nightjar.

Accommodation: Lockhart River (en suite cabins as for last night). **Meals included:** B, L, D.

Day 8. Thursday 15 September 2022. Depart Lockhart River for Cairns. This morning we will depart Lockhart River on a flight to Cairns (flight included in tour cost). Make your own arrangements for your departure from Cairns.

Accommodation: none. **Meals included:** B.

PRICING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Tour Price: 2022 tour price TBA, (2021 tour price AU\$ 5,875 per person sharing based on a minimum of 4 paying participants with one specialist guide/driver in one vehicle and up to 9 people with 2 guides in 2 x 4WD vehicles.)

Single supplement: 2022 price TBA, (2021 single supp AU \$650)

Price includes: All accommodation as per the itinerary, specialist guide and transport, the flight from Lockhart River to Cairns and meals, entrance fees and activities as mentioned in the above itinerary. (These prices are based on the current rate of GST and may need to be adjusted if there are significant changes.)

Price does not include: International and domestic airfares except the Lockhart River to Cairns flight, alcoholic beverages, snacks, internet, gratuities, laundry or other items of a personal nature.

Please note:

- **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](#)



Lovely Fairy-wren – Ross Fernley



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