



Inala Nature Tours

Queensland Wet Tropics Tour

26 June - 5 July 2022



Spectacled Monarch - Pat Kelly

Highlights:

Abundant wildlife in the Cairns area. Atherton Tablelands endemics. Great birds and mammals including Cassowary, Golden Bowerbird, Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo & Platypus. Great Barrier Reef trip.

Overview:

Tropical Queensland offers some of Australia's most bird-rich landscapes. We have combined some of our favourites in this tour, offering you an excellent cross-section of wildlife experiences, from searching for the magnificent Southern Cassowary, to exploring the lush forests of the Atherton Tablelands searching for upland endemics.

This tour is designed to link with our [Inala Cape York Queensland Tour 20 – 27 June 2022](#) and is then adjoined to our [Inala Red Centre Tour 5 – 11 July 2022](#), [Inala Top End Tour 11 – 19 July 2022](#), [Inala Kimberley Tour 18 – 28 July 2022](#) and [Inala Broome and Dampier Peninsula Tour 27 July -5 August 2022](#).

ITINERARY OUTLINE:

Day 1. Sun 26 June 22. Arrive Cairns.
Day 2. Mon 27 June 22. Cairns area.
Day 3. Tue 28 June 22. Cairns to Atherton Tablelands.
Day 4. Wed 29 June 22. Atherton Tablelands.
Day 5. Thu 30 June 22. Atherton Tablelands.
Day 6. Fri 1 July 22. Atherton Tablelands.
Day 7. Sat 2 July 22. Atherton Tablelands to Daintree.
Day 8. Sun 3 July 22. Daintree River Cruise to Cairns.
Day 9. Mon 4 July 22. Great Barrier Reef.
Day 10. Tue 5 July 22. Depart Cairns

DETAILED ITINERARY:

B- breakfast, L- lunch and D- dinner.

Day 1. (= Day 7 Inala Cape York Queensland Tour) Sunday 26 June 2022. Arrive Cairns.

Arrive in Cairns today. Free time to settle in before meeting at 6:30pm for a welcome dinner and orientation. Participants joining from the Inala Cape York Tour will arrive in Cairns today and join the group for welcome dinner.

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

Day 2. Monday 27 June 2022. Cairns area.

We will meet again this morning for breakfast before taking a walk along The Esplanade to look for local specialties like Varied Honeyeater, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Rainbow Lorikeet, Mangrove Robin, Torresian Kingfisher, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove and Olive-backed Sunbird. We will be able to see several different shorebirds out on the extensive mudflats here, such as Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Terek Sandpiper. There should also be Gull-billed Tern, Australian Pelican, Eastern Osprey and maybe an Eastern Reef Egret or two. Nearby botanic gardens hold several different species and we'll look for Black Butcherbird, Cicadabird, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Australian Brush-turkey, Australasian Darter, Azure Kingfisher, Radjah Shelduck, Magpie Goose, Bush Stone-curlew, Helmeted Friarbird, Large-billed Gerygone and Orange-footed Scrubfowl. Late in the afternoon we'll visit a local park to see whether the resident pair of Rufous Owl is in residence.

Accommodation: Cairns hotel (en suite rooms). Meals included: B,L,D.



Azure Kingfisher – Pat Kelly

Day 3-6. Tuesday 28- Friday 1 July 2022 inclusive. Cairns to Atherton Tablelands.

After a pre-breakfast walk, we will head south of Cairns to look for one of Australia's most amazing & prehistoric-looking birds, the Southern Cassowary. If our good fortune is in, we should see at least one or two of these stately ratites on the roadside at a coastal rainforest location on our way. Other birds seen here recently include Lovely Fairy-wren, Macleay's Honeyeater, White-bellied Sea-eagle and Pheasant Coucal.

From here we will head up towards the famous Atherton Tablelands, where with a few road-side stops we should pick up birds like Yellow-spotted & Graceful Honeyeaters, Australian Swiftlet, Little Shrike-thrush, Australasian Figbird, Rainbow Bee-eater, Metallic Starling, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Mistletoebird and Masked Lapwing to name a few.

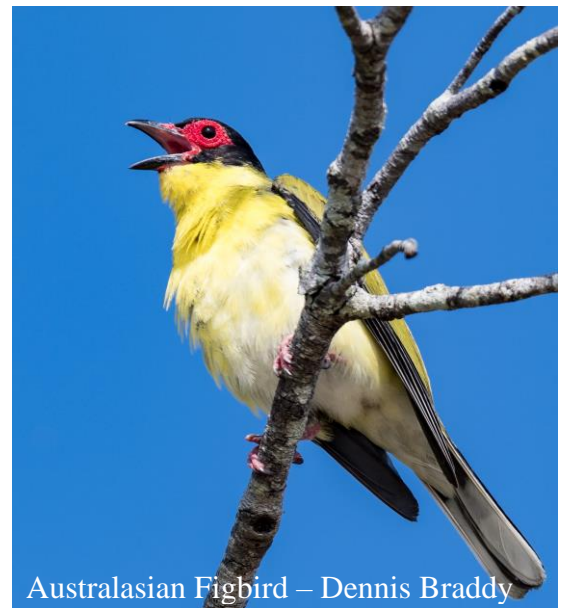
Reaching our destination for the next four nights near the Crater Lakes National Park we will settle in and have a good look around. Surrounded by high altitude rainforest, our accommodation has a plethora of visitors to the gardens and fruiting trees, and birds like Victoria's Riflebird, Spotted Catbird, Grey-headed Robin, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Superb Fruit-Dove, Pale Yellow Robin, Scarlet Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Red-browed Finch and Olive-backed Oriole are all regular visitors.

Over the next few days, using this as our base we will explore the wide variety of habitats that are within our reach here on the Atherton Tablelands. With high altitude rainforest, tropical savannah woodlands, grassland & agricultural fields, wetlands and swamps to explore, we will be looking at birds like Brolga, Sarus Crane, Great Crested Grebe, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Nankeen Night-heron, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-necked Heron, Black-necked Stork, Buff-banded Rail, White-headed Pigeon, Pacific Baza, Spotted Harrier, Lesser Sooty Owl, the rainforest-inhabiting race *lurida* of Southern Boobook (a possible future spilt - Little Red Boobook), Tooth-billed Catbird, Fernwren, Bridled Honeyeater, Atherton Scrubwren, Fairy & Brown Gerygones, Mountain Thornbill, Chowchilla, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Black-faced, Pied, Spectacled & White-eared Monarchs, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Grey-headed Robin.

Mammals in the area we will have a great chance of seeing include Striped Possum, Sugar Glider, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Musky Rat Kangaroo, Green Ringtail Possum, Red-legged Pademelon, Agile Wallaby and Giant White-tailed Rat.

Accommodation: Atherton Tablelands (en suite cabins).

Meals included: B,L,D.



Australasian Figbird – Dennis Braddy



Sugar Glider – Bob Lewis

Day 7. Saturday 2 July 2022. Atherton Tablelands to Daintree.

After a final morning's birding in the rainforest looking for any bird species we may still be missing, we will leave the higher latitude rainforests of the tablelands and head north to the Daintree River region, via a range of open woodland habitats and tropical savannahs. Birds we hope to connect with today include Australian Bustard, Black-necked Stork, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Squatter Pigeon, White-throated Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, Noisy & Little Friarbirds, White-throated Gerygone, Red-winged Parrot, Great Bowerbird, Cotton Pygmy-goose, Pale-headed Rosella, Blue-winged Kookaburra and Yellow Oriole. Our destination for the evening will be the famous Daintree River area and our accommodation will overlook this iconic waterway, where the following morning we will take an early cruise.

Accommodation: Daintree Village. (en suite cabins).
Meals included: B,L,D.



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo – Karen Dick

Day 8. Sunday 3 July 2022. Daintree River cruise to Cairns.

This morning we will enjoy a boat cruise on the Daintree River where we may enjoy sightings of Azure & Little Kingfisher, Large-billed Gerygone, Black Bittern Pacific Baza, Varied Triller, Shining Flycatcher, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Brown-backed Honeyeater and Fairy Martin, as well as a chance of the rare & localised Great-billed Heron. Additional species we may see in the area include Bar-shouldered Dove, Pacific Koel, Papuan Frogmouth, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Helmeted Friarbird, Dusky Myzomela & White-breasted Woodswallow. Reptiles to see include Saltwater Crocodile, Amethystine Python & Common Tree Snake.

We will then make our way back to Cairns where, depending on what species we have yet to see, we will spend the rest of the afternoon exploring.

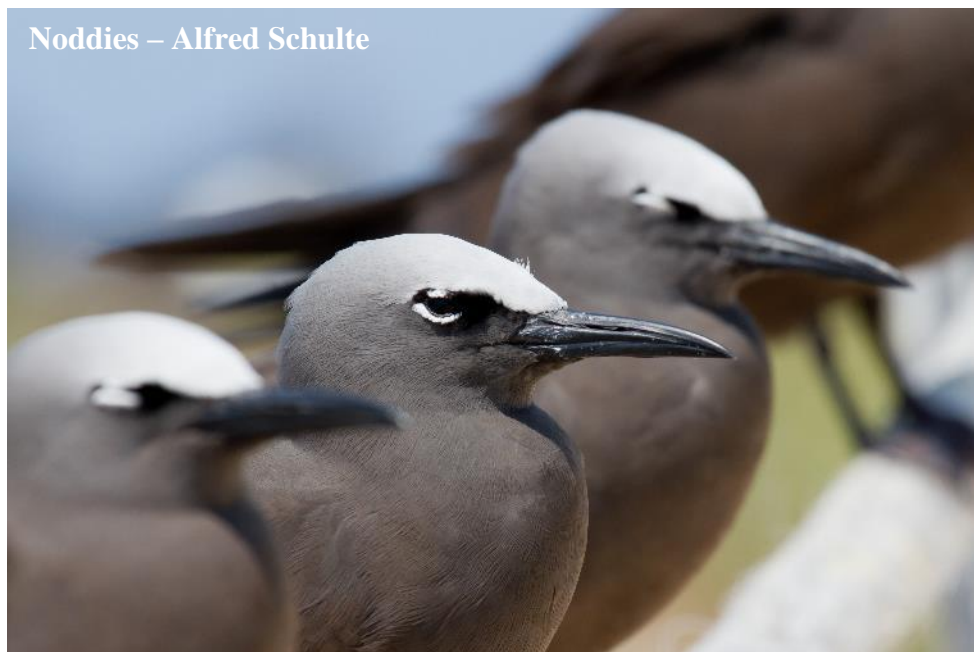
Accommodation: Cairns hotel (en suite rooms). Meals included: B,L,D.



Shining Flycatcher – Karen Dick

Day 9. Monday 4 July 2022. Great Barrier Reef.

Today's activity will involve a group tour that departs from Cairns and heads out to the world-famous Great Barrier Reef. Here we will have the opportunity to do a bit of snorkelling or just enjoy the vista that makes up this amazing natural wonder. We will also make a stop at Michaelmas Cay where there are thousands of breeding terns, noddies and boobies. We will be looking for Brown Booby, Great Crested,



Sooty, Bridled, Lesser Crested, Black-naped & Roseate Terns, Common & Black Noddies, Great & Lesser Frigatebirds and a variety of shorebirds like Ruddy Turnstone, Pacific Golden Plover and Grey-tailed Tattler. Birds that are seen less often include such rarities as White-tailed & Red-tailed Tropicbirds and Masked & Red-footed Boobies.

Accommodation: Cairns hotel (en suite rooms). Meals included: B,L,D.

Day 10. (= Day 1 Inala Red Centre Tour) Tuesday 5 July 2022. Depart Cairns. Depart Cairns airport this morning for your onward travels.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Group size: 6-8 participants and 1 Inala guide or 9-12 participants and 2 Inala guides

Tour Price: 2022 tour price AU\$5,550 per person twin share. Single supplement: \$1,140*

*The single supplement is priced on each single having their own room and bathroom throughout.

These prices are based on the current rate of GST and may need to be adjusted if there are significant changes.

We would be pleased to offer a discounted price for participants who also choose to join an adjoining tour/s, please contact the office for details.

Inclusions: Accommodation for each night of the tour, specialist guiding and transport for day and night tours as outlined in the itinerary, all meals (B, L, D) and activities outlined in the itinerary (including reef trip and Daintree River cruise), National Park entry fees. (These prices are based on the current rate of GST and may need to be adjusted if there are significant changes.)

Exclusions: any international and domestic airfares (best to book those as a group ticket your

end as for this year), alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and expenses of a personal nature (snacks, travel insurance, internet, laundry, tips etc).

Please note:

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



Orange-footed Scrubfowl – Bob Lewis