Australasia

Endemic Families of New Caledonia, Australia & New Zealand



Kagu by Glen Valentine

In another first of its kind, Rockjumper offers a tour like no other – an opportunity to see a representative of every family to be found in Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia! Over the course of nearly three weeks, we'll be on an exciting birding quest to find at least one representative of each family to be found over this diverse region.

The tour begins on the island of New Caledonia, just east of Australia and a rather large and ancient chip off the once enormous Gondwanaland block. Host to the highly sought after, and only surviving member of its family – the Kagu. In addition to Kagu, we will also seek out most of the island's many endemics that will likely include specialities such as Goliath Imperial Pigeon (the world's largest arboreal pigeon), the lovely Cloven-feathered Dove, Southern Shrikebill, the rare Horned Parakeet, New Caledonian Cuckooshrike and a fine selection of honeyeaters amongst many others.

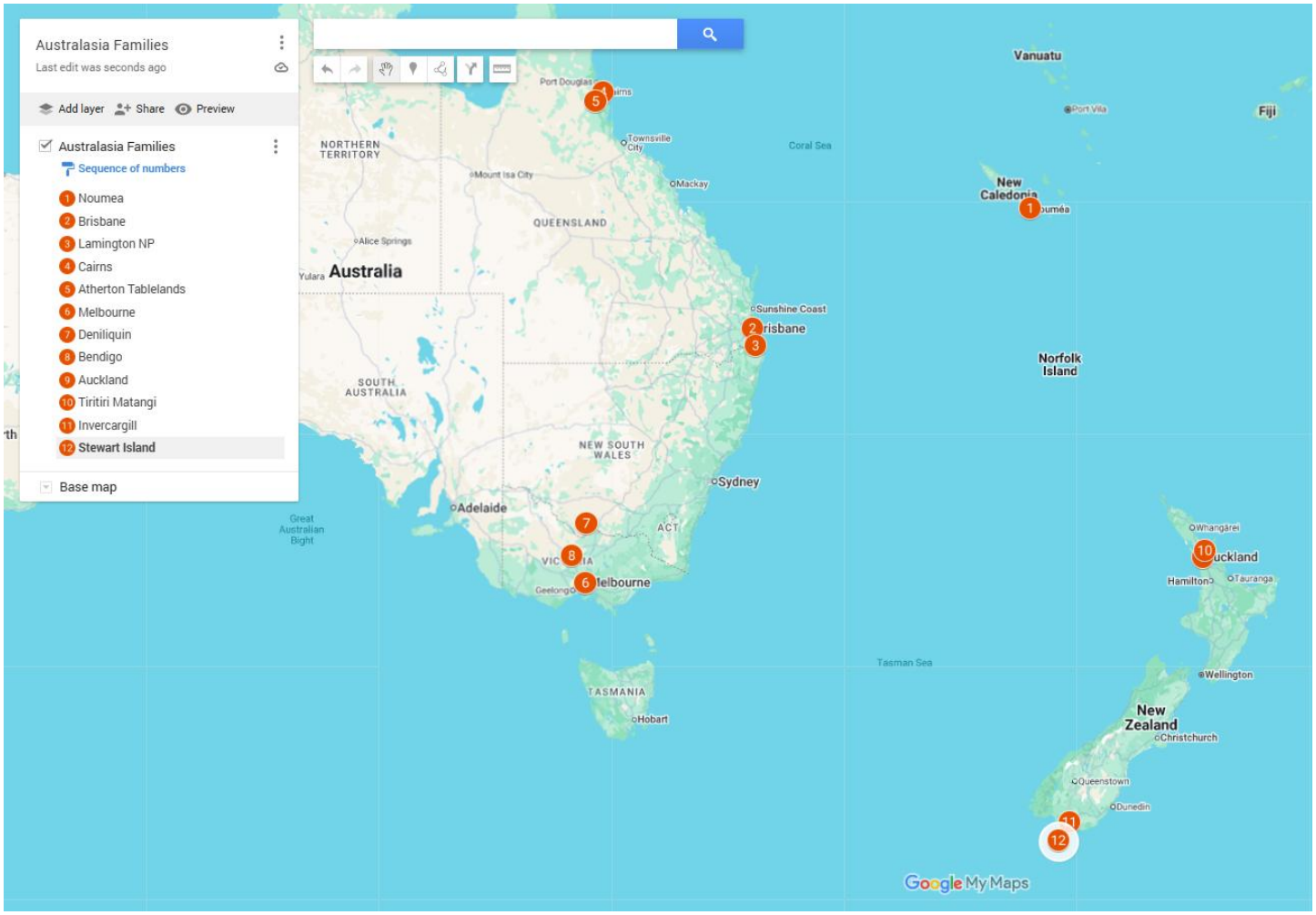
The second leg of the tour takes us to the vast continent of Australia, which harbours 7 endemic families, as well as many other range-restricted families that are otherwise only shared with neighbouring New Guinea. Numerous other endemic and bizarre wildlife found nowhere else on our planet, such as Koala, Platypus and Wombat will also be searched for during the course of the trip. Traversing the eastern part of the country, we will cover an incredible variety of habitats ranging from lush expanses of dense tropical rainforest to the dry endless stretches of the desolate outback. Major targets we hope to find include Plains-wanderer, Southern

Cassowary, Emu, Albert's Lyrebird, Regent, Satin and Golden Bowerbirds, Spotted and Green Catbirds, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Australian Logrunner, Varied Sitella, Chowchilla, Eastern Whipbird, Spotted Quail-thrush, Striated Fieldwren, Apostlebird, White-winged Chough, Rufous Bristlebird, Rufous Scrubbird, Magpie Goose, Papuan and Tawny Frogmouths, Australian Brushturkey, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Australian Bustard, Brolga (an endemic Crane), Blue-winged and Laughing Kookaburras, Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, Little Buttonquail, Noisy Pitta, White-throated and Brown Treecreepers, Grey-crowned and White-browed Babblers, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Victoria's and Paradise Riflebirds, Crested Bellbird and Eastern Shriketit, plus numerous Scrubwrens, Fairywrens, Honeyeaters, Parrots, Cockatoos, Butcherbirds, Currawongs, Woodswallows, Cuckooshrikes, Whistlers, Shrikethrushes, Fantails, Australasian Robins, Grassbirds, Finches and Monarchs, but this is merely a fraction of what we'll encounter with the extended list of mouth-watering endemics being truly phenomenal!

We finish this epic tour in New Zealand, which despite its small size, is host to an incredible 6 endemic families! Beginning in Auckland, we'll search for North Island Brown Kiwi before spending a day on the world-famous Tiritiri Matangi Island to find the prehistoric South Island Takahe, North Island Saddleback, the strange North Island Kokako, Rifleman (in the endemic New Zealand Wren family), Whitehead and the monotypic Stitchbird. Our destination of the tour will be Stewart and Ulva Islands, home to Southern Brown Kiwi, Yellowhead, South Island Saddleback, New Zealand Kaka, and a suite of other fabulous endemics such as South Island Robin, Red-crowned and Yellow-crowned Parakeets, Weka, Paradise Shelduck, New Zealand Pigeon, Variable Oystercatcher and Fiordland Penguin.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Noumea, New Caledonia**
Day 2	**Riviere Bleu Reserve**
Day 3	**New Caledonia, flight to Brisbane, Australia**
Day 4	**Brisbane to Lamington National Park (O'Reilly's Guesthouse)**
Day 5	**Lamington National Park (O'Reilly's Guesthouse)**
Day 6	**Lamington National Park to Cairns via Brisbane**
Day 7	**Etty Bay and Cairns area**
Day 8	**Cairns to Atherton Tablelands via Etty Bay**
Days 9 & 10	**Atherton Tablelands**
Day 11	**Atherton Tablelands to Melbourne via Cairns**
Day 12	**Melbourne to Deniliquin**
Day 13	**Deniliquin to Bendigo**
Day 14	**Bendigo to Melbourne**
Day 15	**Melbourne area**
Day 16	**Melbourne to Auckland, New Zealand & Tawharanui Regional Park**
Day 17	**Tiritiri Matangi Island & Tawharanui Regional Park**
Day 18	**Auckland, flight to Invercargill & ferry to Stewart Island**
Day 19	**Ulva Island & Oban**
Day 20	**Stewart Island to Invercargill, flight to Auckland & final departure**


Australasia Families
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ACT
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Vanuatu
Fiji
New Caledonia
Norfolk Island
New Zealand
Coral Sea
Tasman Sea
Great Australian Bight
Port Douglas
Townsville
Mackay
Mount Isa City
Alice Springs
Sunshine Coast
Brisbane
Sydney
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Birding sites in detail

New Caledonia:



Goliath Imperial Pigeon by Glen Valentine

Noumea Zoological Park. The extensive grounds of the city's easily accessible Zoopark makes for a great introduction to birding on New Caledonia. We'll spend the afternoon here for those who arrive in good time. We'll ignore the cages and confined species and will focus on the extensive gardens and natural habitat where birds abound, many of them endemic to New Caledonia or the South Pacific. Highlights could include Goliath Imperial Pigeon, South Melanesian Cuckooshrike, Long-tailed Triller, Green-backed White-eye, Melanesian Flycatcher (Monarch), Fan-tailed Gerygone, Striated Starling, Rufous Whistler, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Australasian Swamphen and Coconut Lorikeet.

Riviere Bleu Reserve. New Caledonia is geologically extremely old, having been cast adrift many millions of years ago from what we know today as Australia and New Zealand. As a result, its community of plants and animals have evolved in extreme isolation, to such a degree that most of its native inhabitants are found nowhere else in the world, thus providing us with a rare glimpse of this region's forests as they were in Gondwanaland times. Our birding will largely focus on the Riviere Bleu Forest Reserve, which encompasses some of the best remaining lowland and hill forest on the island.

Thanks to the efforts of Yves Letocart and the Department of Forests, many of the introduced predators, which have so decimated the island's Kagu populations in the past, have been greatly reduced. This has resulted in a relatively healthy group of approximately 500 birds inhabiting the reserve. These strange, ghost-like, flightless birds, which resemble a cross between a Sunbittern and a rail with a long shaggy crest, are one of the most exciting and, until recently, amongst the most challenging birds to see on our planet.



Cloven-feathered Dove by David Hoddinott

Happily, this is no longer the case, and arriving ideally before dawn, we will listen



Red-throated Parrotfinch by David Hoddinott

for the Kagu's puppy-like calls that are such a characteristic sound of the forest. In the past, this was about as near as one could hope to get to encountering one of these seemingly mythical creatures. Now, thanks to intensive conservation efforts, our chances of seeing this incredible bird are very good indeed.

This morning we will, therefore, depart early for the important Riviere Bleu Reserve to search for the Kagu in addition to several other really fascinating New Caledonian endemics: White-bellied Goshawk, the huge Goliath Pigeon, Cloven-feathered Dove (a very strange and beautiful bird), Horned Parakeet (severely threatened – the Riviere Bleu reserve is one of its last strongholds), New Caledonian Parakeet, New Caledonian Crow, New Caledonian and South Melanesian Cuckooshrikes, Long-tailed Triller, Fan-tailed Gerygone, Southern Shrikebill, New Caledonian Whistler, Striated Starling, New Caledonian Myzomela, Barred and Crow Honeyeaters (the latter sadly now very rare), New Caledonian Friarbird and the scarce Red-throated Parrotfinch.

Australia:

Lamington National Park. O'Reilly's Guesthouse combines a unique mixture of subtropical rainforest and wet Eucalypt woodland, creating a natural haven for wildlife. The area protects vast tracts of forested mountains and offers charming waterfalls, spectacular views of the rugged escarpment, and a birding experience second to none! In the lodge grounds we'll be blown away by constant, close encounters with brightly coloured Australian King Parrots, the stunning Crimson Rosella, incredible Regent, and Satin Bowerbirds, Australian Brushturkey, White-browed Scrubwren, Red-browed Finch and Pied Currawong. Other great birds that will likely be regularly encountered at point-blank range include the very handsome Wonga Pigeon, Eastern Yellow Robin, the normally shy Eastern Whipbird, Australian Logrunner, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Superb Fairywren, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch, and Lewin's Honeyeater. A little bit of effort and specific targeting will hopefully reveal the exquisite Rose Robin, Green Catbird, Topknot Pigeon, Paradise Riflebird, Bassian and much rarer Russet-tailed Thrushes and the spectacular Albert's Lyrebird.



Australian Logrunner (female) by Adam Riley

The lower elevation, mixed Eucalyptus and Casuarina woodland harbours Red-browed and White-throated Treecreepers, the



Albert's Lyrebird by Glen Valentine

exquisite Variegated Fairywren, the striking white-headed subspecies of Varied Sittella and the rare and nomadic Glossy-black Cockatoo.

Nocturnal excursions might produce Southern Boobook and the scarce and elusive Marbled Frogmouth, as well as Short-eared Brush-tailed and Common Ringtail Possums, Red-necked Pademelon and Long-nosed Bandicoot.

Etty Bay. Etty Bay is an area of coastal forest just over an hour from Cairns. Our main target here is the incredible Southern Cassowary, which still occurs in small numbers in this area. This impressive and enigmatic species will be our focal species this morning and our chances of finding one are excellent. We'll check the grassy clearings along the entrance road, as well as the beach alongside the campsite for fresh tracks and scat, as the birds are known to feed on fallen fruit from the surrounding trees. If we are fortunate, we might also find a party of Lovely Fairywren here, while Olive-backed Sunbirds and Torresian Imperial Pigeons frequent the fruiting and flowering trees.

Cairns area - Cairns Esplanade & surrounds: One of the most famous birding sites in all of Australia and justifiably so, the mudflats and surrounding trees along the Cairns Esplanade support an incredible number and diversity of migrant and resident birds. We'll spend some time scanning the tidal mudflats for Australian Pelican, White-faced and Pacific Reef Herons, Little Egret, the huge White-bellied Sea Eagle, Silver Gull, Greater Crested Tern, and a whole host of waders such as Far Eastern Curlew, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, Red-necked Stint, Great Knot, Pacific Golden and Red-capped Plovers, Black-fronted Dotterel, Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Eurasian Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Sanderling, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher and if we are fortunate, the scarce and erratic Beach Stone-curlew. Varied Honeyeater is common in the surrounding flowering trees, as is the abundant but brilliant Rainbow Lorikeet.



Regent Bowerbird (male) by Glen Valentine

Cairns area - Cairns Botanical Gardens: One of the birdiest sites in the greater Cairns area, the extensive Cairns Botanical Gardens support good densities of birds with several species like Australian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Helmeted Friarbird, Magpie-lark, Laughing Kookaburra and Maned Duck being particularly common. Some of the more special and lower-



Superb Fairywren by Glen Valentine

density species we will be on the lookout for include Grey and Brown Goshawks, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Green Oriole, Common Cicadabird, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, White-throated Honeyeater, the scarce and endemic Lovely Fairywren and the impressive Papuan Frogmouth.

Atherton Tablelands - Crater Lakes National Park (Lakes Barrine & Eacham) & Chambers grounds: Early mornings around the grounds of our accommodations offers some of the finest birding and photographic opportunities of the entire area and we are likely to be rewarded with close encounters of Victoria's Riflebird, Spotted Catbird, the localised and impressive Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Bridled, Yellow-spotted and Lewin's Honeyeaters, Wompoo, Superb and Rose-crowned Fruit Doves, Pacific Emerald Dove, Topknot Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Barred Cuckooshrike, Pied Monarch, Grey-headed Robin, Silver-eye, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Bower's and Rufous Shrikethrushes, Eastern Whipbird and Mistletoebird.

At Lake Barrine, we hope to find the unique Chowchilla feeding in small family groups on the forest floor and this is also an excellent area to find Tooth-billed Bowerbird, as well as the north-eastern minor subspecies of Australian King Parrot, the unobtrusive Musky Rat-Kangaroo and Boyd's Forest Dragon, an impressive forest-dwelling reptile.

In the lodge gardens, there is a night-lit viewing platform that is regularly visited by several species of nocturnal mammal, and these include Musky Rat-Kangaroo, Red-legged Pademelon, Sugar Glider, Striped Possum and Long-nosed Bandicoot.



The prehistoric looking Southern Cassowary by Glen Valentine

Atherton Tablelands - Mount Hypipamee: This high altitude, montane forest site is excellent for most of the Atherton Tablelands' Forest endemics and especially so for a few specialised species that only occur at higher elevation such as the immaculate and rare Golden Bowerbird, Mountain Thornbill and Atherton Scrubwren. During a morning here we are likely to see both sought-after species, the former at its impressive bower. Other noteworthy species we are likely to encounter in the lush forest that



Platypus by Glen Valentine

blankets the mountain include Bower's Shrikethrush, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Macleay's and Bridled Honeyeaters, Grey-headed Robin, Victoria's Riflebird and Peregrine Falcon.

A night excursion here will likely reveal several rarely seen and localised species of possum such as the Coppery Brush-tailed, Green Ringtail and the extremely range-restricted and threatened Lemuroid and Herbert River Ringtail Possums. We might also find the fantastic Northern Leaf-tailed Gecko and Southern Boobook and with exceptional fortune, the very rare and elusive Lesser Sooty Owl.

Atherton Tablelands - Yungaburra area: We'll spend a few hours and possibly several visits to the woodlands, forest patches and creek-lines in the area surrounding Yungaburra, which is situated just to the west of our accommodations at the edge of Crater Lakes National Park. Flowering eucalyptus and low shrubs near the edge of town provide a fantastic food source for many species of honeyeater and we hope to find Scarlet and Dusky Myzomela, White-throated and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, as well as White-throated Gerygone, Eastern Yellow Robin and Rufous Whistler. In a nearby unique and critically endangered forest type, we'll be targeting the rare White-eared Monarch, while areas of scrub and grassland at the forest edge support the gorgeous Red-backed Fairywren.

A visit to a well-known creek in the area will give us an excellent chance of seeing the amazing Duck-billed Platypus, undoubtedly one of the greatest mammals on Earth! There is also usually a huge roosting colony of impressive Spectacled Flying Fox that is quite something to see!

Atherton Tablelands - Curtain & Cathedral Fig Trees: These impressive trees are a sight to behold but also happen to offer some excellent rainforest birding with most of the Tablelands Forest specialties occurring in the lush forest surrounding these iconic sites. They're especially good for the often-elusive Pied Monarch and the north-eastern endemic and distinctive minor subspecies of White-throated Treecreeper, while Grey-headed and Pale-yellow Robins, Wompoo Fruit Dove, Spotted Catbird, Spectacled Monarch, Black Butcherbird,



Eastern Whipbird by Glen Valentine



Magpie Goose by Glen Valentine

Orange-footed Scrubfowl and Bower's Shrikethrush. This is also a good area to try and find the rare and localised Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo.

Atherton Tablelands - Hasties Swamp: The freshwater wetland of Hasties Swamp is an extremely birdy area and usually has sufficient water and surrounding sedge vegetation to support a wealth of waterbirds year-round. It can be a particularly good site for the monotypic Magpie Goose, as well as Buff-banded Rail, the migratory Latham's Snipe, Black-necked Stork and a variety of resident ducks. In the surrounding fields, we may find small groups of Sarus and Brolga Cranes, while Cotton and Green Pygmy Geese sometimes occupy the small, vegetated satellite ponds in the area. We'll also watch out for Spotted and Swamp Harriers quartering over the grasslands, as well as Grey Goshawk and Pacific Baza perched at the edge of forest patches.

Mareeba area and Granite Gorge: At Granite Gorge we are likely to be met and entertained by hordes of fabulous birds such as bower-building Great Bowerbirds, large flocks of Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, tame Squatter Pigeons, very colourful and impressive, Blue-faced Honeyeaters, the vulture-like Noisy Friarbird and Red-winged Parrot. We'll also enjoy the endearing Mareeba Rock Wallaby here at one of its only known locations. Around Mareeba, we hope to track down the seldom-seen White-browed Robin.

Mount Molloy and Mount Carbine: We'll target the threatened and impressive Australian Bustard north of Mount Molloy, while a stop at Mount Carbine will hopefully yield roosting Tawny Frogmouth, the handsome Blue-winged Kookaburra, Red-winged Parrot, the lovely Pale-headed Rosella, Bar-shouldered Dove and unique Apostlebird among many other more widespread and common species.

Heathcoate area. The open eucalyptus woodlands around Heathcote always produce a number of excellent species and is particularly good for several prime targets such as Varied (Orange-winged) Sitella and the striking Eastern Shriketit, while other noteworthy species could include family groups of White-winged Chough, Black-chinned, White-plumed and Fuscous Honeyeaters, Jacky Winter, Striated Pardalote, Red Wattlebird, Brown Treecreeper, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills and Weebill.



Varied Sitella by Glen Valentine

Deniliquin. In the sheoak eucalyptus woodlands south of the small town of



Papuan Frogmouth by Glen Valentine

Deniliquin, we might encounter Red-rumped Parrot, the huge Wedge-tailed Eagle and the aptly named Superb Parrot.

North of Deniliquin, we'll bird the open grassy plains and stunted schrubby habitat and woodlands where several exciting new birds will await us. The birding here in the late afternoon can be superb and we'll be searching for gems such as the nomadic Budgerigar, the immaculate Purple-backed and White-winged Fairywrens, White-winged Triller, the often elusive and stunning Painted and Black Honeyeaters, Striped and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Eastern Bluebonnet, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Rufous Songlark, Grey-crowned Babbler, the erratic and unpredictable Red-backed Kingfisher, the scarce and migratory White-backed Swallow, Spotted and Swamp Harriers, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon, White-fronted Chat, Singing Bushlark, Australian Pipit and at dusk, perhaps the rare and impressive Black Falcon.

After our evening in-the-field picnic dinner, we will be heading out for a spotlighting excursion on the open-plains country near Hay, where the endemic, monotypic, and critically endangered Plains-wanderer occurs. This species is the world's only member of the bird family *Pedionomidae* and the native, stubble grasslands of New South Wales and Victoria are their last stronghold. A night on the plains also gives us the chance to locate other grassland species, such as Stubble Quail, Little Buttonquail, Banded Lapwing, Australian Pratincole, and if we are extremely fortunate and very much depending on conditions at the time, perhaps the elusive Inland Dotterel or Red-chested Buttonquail, all of which are very difficult or impossible to see elsewhere during the tour.

Wetlands around Deniliquin. Depending on conditions (recent rains and water levels), there might be several small waterbodies in the area, both seasonal and some of a more permanent nature. These can be 'magnets' for nomadic waterbirds such as Grey and Chestnut Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Black-tailed Nativehen, Red-kneed Dotterel, Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills, Black Swan, Hoary-headed Grebe, Baillon's Crake, Little Grassbird, Australian Reed Warbler and even the very rarely seen Black-backed Bittern.



Plains-wanderer (female) by Glen Valentine

Bendigo National Park. We'll spend some time exploring the extensive and unique mallee woodlands within the Bendigo National Park in search of several range-restricted species we may not yet have found and will likely not see

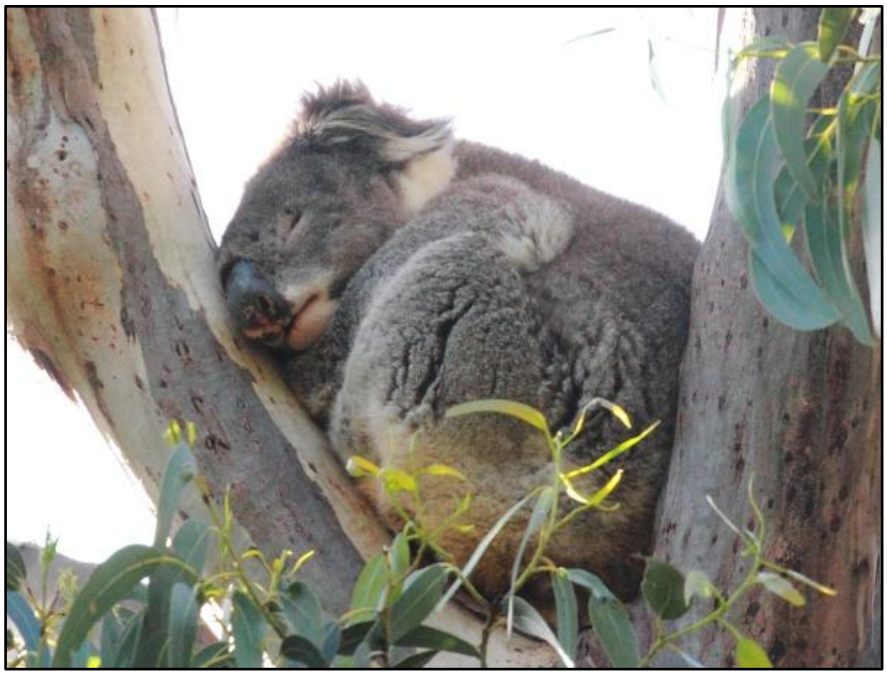


Western Grey Kangaroo by Glen Valentine

anywhere else during the tour. Highlights could include Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Tawny-crowned, Purple-gaped, White-fronted, Yellow-tufted and White-eared Honeyeaters, Shy Heathwren, Purple-backed Fairywren, Southern Scrub Robin, Gilbert's and Western Whistlers, Spotted (Yellow-rumped) Pardalote, Crested Bellbird Common and the scarce Brush Bronzewings, Grey Currawong and Inland Thornbill.

Woodlands between Bendigo and Melbourne. Continuing towards Melbourne, we'll make at least one stop in some hilly woodlands with a distinctive rocky and shrubby understory. This is the habitat for the very striking and endemic but elusive Spotted Quail-thrush, the only possible representative of this near-endemic family during this tour. Our chances of success are reasonable and we're likely to encounter several other interesting species too such as the vibrant Scarlet Robin, Buff-rumped, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills, Speckled Warbler and perhaps even the unique Short-beaked Echidna, a kind of endemic, hedgehog-like mammal that together with the Platypus are the world's only extant Monotremes (egg-laying mammals!).

Great Ocean Road – Kennett River, Lorne area & Anglesea. Today will be another long but superb day in Australia as we explore the famous Great Ocean Road for endemic and special birds and mammals while enjoying some awe-inspiring costal scenery and endemic habitats. There are few places in Australia where Koala can be seen as regularly as within the Great Otway National Park and we stand an excellent chance of having memorable encounters with these endearing mammals. This will be a major target species today, along with the Rufous Bristlebird (one of three representatives of the endemic Bristlebird family). The Bristlebird should be fairly straight-forward since we have several very reliable areas for them and while searching for Bristlebirds, we might come across Little Wattlebird, Gang-gang Cockatoo and along the coast, Black-faced and Australian Pied Cormorants, Australasian Gannet, Sooty Oystercatcher, Pacific Gull and the endangered Hooded Plover. In the wetter forest behind Anglesea, we hope to find Satin Flycatcher (here on their breeding grounds), Grey Goshawk, Eastern Shriketit, Varied Sitella, Crescent and New Holland Honeyeaters, Australian King Parrot, and Satin Bowerbird and if time allows, Southern Emuwren and possibly even the rare and very shy Chestnut-rumped Heathwren.



Koala by Glen Valentine



North Island Brown Kiwi by Glen Valentine

We also hope to have time in the late afternoon to bird along one or two of the accessible roads just outside of the Western Treatment Plant (more commonly known as Werribee) where new waterbirds could include Australian Shelduck, Australasian Shoveler, Cape Barren Goose, Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Chestnut Teal, Musk Duck, Red-necked Avocet and the highly nomadic Banded Stilt, while surrounding grasslands harbour Striated Fieldwren, Singing Bushlark and Superb Fairywren.

New Zealand:

Tawharanui Regional Park. After an early dinner, we'll head to Tawharanui Regional Park. One of many significant conservation success stories in New Zealand, the park has no less than 18 endemic bird species. Our evening arrival will allow us to search for some endemic diurnal species including South Island Takahe, Brown Teal, North Island Saddelback, New Zealand Pigeon, New Zealand Robin, New Zealand Kaka, Red-crowned Parakeet and Whitehead. Aside from the endemics, we may also find Swamp Harrier, Australasian Swamphen, Kelp Gull and Yellowhammer. While the above-mentioned species are of the highest quality, we are here for something even more special. Tawharanui hosts a member of one of the most sought-after bird families in the world, the Kiwis. As darkness descends, we undertake a night walk to look for the incredible North Island Brown Kiwi, one of only five family representatives, wholly endemic to New Zealand. We might also hear and with some fortune, see the endemic Morepork (an endemic species of Boobook). We will return late this evening to our lodging.

Tiritiri Matangi Island. We depart today by water taxi for the fabled Tiritiri Matangi Island. Several highly endangered endemic species can be seen here, including rare species sadly extirpated from the mainland. One of the Jewels of the Hauraki Gulf, Tiri is an amazing example of habitat restoration with over 200,000 native trees meticulously replanted. We will explore this predator-free haven for some of New Zealand's most endangered wildlife, including the outrageous North Island Saddleback, localised Stitchbird, New Zealand Bellbird, the spectacular North Island Kokako, The tiny Rifleman and the prehistoric looking South Island Takahe. Other exciting and noteworthy inhabitants that we're likely to encounter during our time on the island include New Zealand Pigeon, Red-crowned Parakeet,



New Zealand Kaka by Erik Forsyth



Yellowhead by Glen Valentine

Tui, Whitehead flitting through the undergrowth, North Island Robin, Brown Quail and New Zealand Fantail. The skulking Fernbird is also possible but we'd need some luck to see this species here. In addition, we'll be on the lookout for Brown Teal and Spotless Crake, which are sometimes seen at a small pond near the jetty.

The ferry trip to and from the island can sometimes produce a handful of seabirds such as Buller's and Fluttering Shearwaters and Australasian Gannet.

Snell's Beach. In the environs surrounding our accommodations in the small, quaint coastal town of Snell's Beach, we'll search the nearby ponds, gardens and coastline for specialties such as New Zealand Scaup, New Zealand Grebe, Grey Gerygone, Paradise Shelduck and the severely localised and endangered New Zealand Plover, while other new species might include several familiar European introductions like Common Chaffinch, European Greenfinch, Yellowhammer, Song Thrush and Common Blackbird.

Port Bluff to Oban (Stewart Island). From Port Bluff we will take an hour-long ferry ride across the Foveaux Strait to Oban, Stewart Island. Birding from the ferry is often of good quality, and we may well see Foveaux Shag, Shy and Salvin's Albatross, Cape Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Common Diving Petrels.

Stewart Island. Stewart Island is New Zealand's third largest island and newest national park, a wild and rugged land, with few roads and high numbers of birds, makes it a very exciting birding destination indeed! Home to only 400 permanent residents, it is steeped in Māori mythology – indeed, Stewart Island is better known locally by its abbreviated Māori name of Rakiura (in full, 'Te Rakiura a Te Rakitamau'). The seafood is of the highest quality as one may expect from a settlement whose economy was founded and maintained by fishing.

Weather permitting, we shall head out this evening in search of the main prize – a kiwi! Unlike all other species of kiwi, the Stewart Island form of Southern Brown Kiwi (locally known as the Tokoeka), is not strictly nocturnal. However, to improve our chances of success, we shall start our search after dark. From Oban, we'll board a minibus and make our way up to the airstrip above Oban town where we'll spend as long as we need to find our quarry. If we are quiet, and luck is on our side – it is not impossible to get views of these incredible creatures at very close range. Sometimes luck is on our side and we manage to achieve walk-away views after just a few minutes of searching and scanning but



South Island Saddleback by Adam Riley



The impressive Tui by Erik Forsyth

sometimes it takes longer and we must be prepared to be out until late, just in case. Nothing is ever guaranteed but we have had superb luck with our sightings and experiences here in the past.

Ulva Island. Today we will board our water taxi and head into Halfmoon Bay in search of the highly desirable Fiordland Penguin that breed here along the rugged coastline. Careful scanning amongst the caves and rocks will give us a good chance of finding this species. During the crossing we may also find Little Penguins and Shy (White-capped) Albatross. Several cormorants may be present with Pied and Little Pied Cormorants, Foveaux and Spotted Shags often recorded alongside Kelp and Silver Gulls, White-faced Heron and White-fronted Tern. After searching for Fiordland Penguin, we will travel the short distance to Ulva Island.

Ulva Island is a predator-free haven for a variety of birds, including the Stewart Island form of Weka, Tui, New Zealand Bellbird, the South Island form of New Zealand Kaka, both Red-crowned and the scarce Yellow-crowned Parakeets, South Island Saddleback, the endangered Yellowhead, Pipipi (also in the endemic Whitehead family), the tiny Rifleman, New Zealand Robin and New Zealand Pigeon (locally known as the Kereru). There is an excellent series of paths around the island, and we'll be out for several hours before taking the water taxi back to Halfmoon Bay on Stewart Island. If weather conditions prevented us from heading out in search of Southern Brown Kiwi last night, then we shall head out this evening to search.

Optional extension

This optional extension is designed to provide further chances for the notoriously difficult Scrubbird family, with Noisy Scrubbird being slightly less challenging than Rufous. We'll also find a superb supporting cast of south-west specialties and coastal wildlife along the way.

Southwest Extension

Day 1	**Arrival in Perth**
Day 2	**Perth to Cheyne Beach**
Days 3 & 4	**Cheyne Beach**
Day 5	**Cheyne Beach to Perth**
Day 6	**Final departure**

Cheyne Beach. We have time to explore this area to look for some of Australia's rarest endemics. One of these is the Noisy Scrubbird, which was believed to be extinct until it was rediscovered at Two People's Bay in 1961. Western Bristlebird is another threatened species, as is Black-throated Whipbird. With a concerted effort, we should see all these scarce birds and will try our best to obtain good views of these three very elusive endemics!



Western Spinebill by Glen Valentine

Cheyne and Betty's Beach areas. Besides the three major targets mentioned above, we will also be on the lookout for Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Red-winged and Splendid Fairywrens, Southern Emu-wren, Brush Bronzewing, White-breasted Robin, Western Wattlebird, Red-eared Firetail and Spotted Scrubwren. If we are extremely fortunate, we might encounter the rarely seen Rock Parrot, while other more widespread species could include Brown Quail, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Common Bronzewing and Grey Fantail.

We'll also scan for coastal species in the bay and new birds may include Pacific and Silver Gulls, Greater Crested and Caspian Terns, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Pacific Reef Heron, White-bellied Sea Eagle, and Osprey. Further out to sea, we might also be able to find a few Indian Yellow-nosed and Shy Albatross, as well as Australasian Gannet. Southern Right Whales are present from April to October and Humpbacked Whales pass by on migration, often coming in very close to the rocks.

This optional extension is made available through our Tailor-made tours department. To explore this offering further for pricing, precise day to day itinerary, inclusions & exclusions, or to tailor the tour to your personal requirements, please contact our Tailor-made team on tailormade@rockjumper.com

Families' endemic to New Caledonia, Australia & New Zealand = BOLD, Families endemic to Australasia = BOLD ITALICS

1.	**Apterygidae**	**Kiwis**
2.	***Casuariidae***	***Cassowaries, Emu***
3.	***Anseranatidae***	***Magpie Goose***
4.	Anatidae	Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl
5.	Megapodiidae	Megapodes
6.	Numididae	Guineafowl
7.	Odontophoridae	New World Quail
8.	Phasianidae	Pheasants & Allies
9.	Caprimulgidae	Nightjars
10.	Podargidae	Frogmouths
11.	***Aegothelidae***	***Owlet-nightjars***
12.	Apodidae	Swifts
13.	Otididae	Bustards
14.	Cuculidae	Cuckoos
15.	Columbidae	Pigeons, Doves
16.	Rallidae	Rails, Gallinules, and Coots
17.	Gruidae	Cranes
18.	Podicipedidae	Grebes
19.	Turnicidae	Buttonquails
20.	Burhinidae	Stone-curlews, Thick-knees
21.	Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers
22.	Recurvirostridae	Stilts, Avocets
23.	Charadriidae	Plovers
24.	Rostratulidae	Painted-snipes
25.	Jacanidae	Jacanas
26.	**Pedionomidae**	**Plains-wanderer**
27.	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers, Snipes
28.	Glareolidae	Coursers, Pratincoles
29.	Laridae	Gulls, Terns, Skimmers
30.	Spheniscidae	Penguins
31.	Oceanitidae	Austral Storm Petrels
32.	Diomedeidae	Albatrosses
33.	Procellariidae	Shearwaters and Petrels
34.	Ciconiidae	Storks
35.	Fregatidae	Frigatebirds
36.	Sulidae	Boobies and Gannets
37.	Stercorariida	Skuas
38.	**Rhynochetidae**	**Kagu**
39.	Phaethontida	Tropicbirds
40.	Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants, Shags
41.	Anhingidae	Anhingas, Darters
42.	Threskiornithidae	Ibises and Spoonbills
43.	Ardeidae	Herons, Bitterns
44.	Pelecanidae	Pelicans
45.	Pandionidae	Ospreys
46.	Accipitridae	Hawks, Eagles, and Kites
47.	Tytonidae	Barn Owls
48.	Strigidae	Owls
49.	Coraciidae	Rollers
50.	Alcedinidae	Kingfishers
51.	Meropidae	Bee-eaters
52.	Falconidae	Falcons

53.	**Strigopidae**	**New Zealand Parrots**
54.	***Cacatuidae***	***Cockatoos***
55.	Psittaculidae	Old World Parrots
56.	**Acanthisittidae**	**New Zealand Wrens**
57.	Pittidae	Pittas
58.	**Menuridae**	**Lyrebirds**
59.	**Atrichornithidae**	**Scrubbirds**
60.	***Ptilonorhynchidae***	***Bowerbirds***
61.	***Climacteridae***	***Australasian Treecreepers***
62.	***Maluridae***	***Australasian Wrens***
63.	***Meliphagidae***	***Honeyeaters***
64.	**Dasyornithidae**	**Bristlebirds**
65.	**Pardalotidae**	**Pardalotes**
66.	Acanthizidae	Australasian Warblers
67.	***Pomatostomidae***	***Australasian Babblers***
68.	***Orthonychidae***	***Logrunners***
69.	***Psophodidae***	***Whipbirds***
70.	***Cinclosomatidae***	***Whipbirds and Wedgebills***
71.	**Callaeidae**	**New Zealand Wattlebirds**
72.	**Notiomystidae**	**Stitchbird**
73.	***Machaerirhynchidae***	***Boatbills***
74.	Artamidae	Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Allies
75.	Campephagidae	Cuckooshrikes
76.	**Mohouidae**	**Whiteheads**
77.	***Neosittidae***	***Sittellas***
78.	***Oreoicidae***	***Australo-Papuan Bellbirds***
79.	**Falcunculidae**	**Shriketits**
80.	Pachycephalidae	Whistlers & Allies
81.	Oriolidae	Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra
82.	Dicruridae	Drongos
83.	Rhipiduridae	Fantails
84.	Monarchidae	Monarchs
85.	Corvidae	Crows, Jays
86.	**Corcoracidae**	**Australian Mudnesters**
87.	***Paradisaeidae***	***Birds-of-paradise***
88.	***Petroicidae***	***Australasian Robins***
89.	Alaudidae	Larks
90.	Hirundinidae	Swallows, Martins
91.	Acrocephalidae	Reed Warblers & Allies
92.	Locustellidae	Grassbirds & Allies
93.	Cisticolidae	Cisticolas & Allies
94.	Zosteropidae	White-eyes
95.	Sturnidae	Starlings, Rhabdornis
96.	Turdidae	Thrushes
97.	Dicaeidae	Flowerpeckers
98.	Nectariniidae	Sunbirds
99.	Passeridae	Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches
100.	Prunellidae	Accentors
101.	Estrildidae	Waxbills, Munias & Allies
102.	Motacillidae	Wagtails and Pipits
103.	Fringillidae	Finches, Euphonias, and Allies
104.	Emberizidae	Old World Buntings

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate to brisk paced tour suited for those in good health with goof level of stamina. Not suited for anyone with mobility challenges or serious medical conditions. Several very long days.
Birding Ease		Easy to moderate. Several difficult target species, both diurnal & nocturnal.
Accommodation		Comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Easy to moderate. Mostly easy & undemanding walking/trails. Some walks (like those for Plains-wanderer or Rufous Scrubbird) are longer along uneven & sometimes muddy terrain that require good fitness, ability & stamina.
Vehicles / Roads		Comfortable vehicles on reasonable quality sealed roads. Many long drives. Comfortable boats & ferries but weather (especially off Stewart Island) can be poor making for rough seas.
Photography		Very good & worthwhile throughout.
Annoyances		Long travel days with very little down time. Lots of single night stays. Sea crossing conditions can vary from calm to rough.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 20;
- All lodgings;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- This tour involves some moderate walking. You should be in good health and of reasonable fitness to undertake this tour. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please do let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.
- On occasion, such as on New Caledonia, we will be birding in some remote areas well away from medical facilities.
- All accommodations are of a good standard during the tour.
- The seas during our crossing to and from Stewart Island, New Zealand are unpredictable. It is essential that you bring motion sickness medication if you suspect or are prone to seasickness. We suggest that you contact your travel doctor for information regarding the various medication options.
- We are covering vast distances on this tour, with many one-night stays and limited down time between locations.
- This tour is primarily focused on recording as many Bird Families as possible, whilst we will also search for as many endemics and specialist species as possible, precedence will always be given to unrecorded Families.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour will begin in Nouméa, New Caledonia on Day 1, according to the above itinerary. The tour will conclude in Auckland on day 20.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Nouméa La Tontouta International Airport, New Caledonia (IATA: NOU) is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour and is well serviced by many of the world's major airlines. Auckland Airport, New Zealand (IATA: AKL) is the main port of departure and is well serviced by most of the world's major airlines.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.