

Birding Naturally

Cape York/ Iron Range Birding Tour October 2011



Your Experienced Birding Guide David 'Chook' Crawford is seasoned industry professional who is dedicated to ensuring you get the most from your Cape York Birding Tour. Chook was the Resident Jabiru Safari Lodge Bird Guide and has years of experience leading birding tours throughout Cape York and the Atherton Tablelands, building up a wealth of knowledge of the local area's best bird locations. After an extensive career leading small group 4wd safaris throughout Cape York and Northern Australia, Chook will bring unsurpassed local knowledge of the environment to ensure a memorable Cape York Birding Experience.

Departs: Monday 17th October 2011.

Finishes: Thursday 27th October 2010.

Pick up: From 8am at your accommodation in Cairns or the Northern Beaches

Cost: \$4495 per person, twin share (Single Supplement \$538)

Duration: 11 Days

Group size: 14 participants (Minimum 4)

Bookings and enquiries: Phone: 1800 788 755

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Itinerary (Meal Code: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).

Day 1 Monday 17 October 2011. Cairns to Mareeba Wetlands (L,D)

After being collected from your Cairns or Northern Beaches accommodation at 8am, we travel through rainforest-shrouded slopes up the Kuranda Range to the Cairns Highlands (Atherton Tablelands). The rainforest gives way to woodland savanna forest and after 1 & 1/2 hours drive we arrive at the 2000 hectare Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve. After meeting your Lodge Host, you check into your luxury African-style tented safari cabin with en-suite facilities before an early lunch on the deck overlooking Clancy's Lagoon.

After lunch, we indulge in some afternoon birding on the Reserve, including Pandanus Lagoon. Targeted species will be the Black-throated Finch, Squatter Pigeon and the elusive Black Treecreeper. We return for sunset drinks and dinner tonight is a BBQ dinner on the deck as we get to know each other and plan for the week ahead. **O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge. 130km driving.**

Day 2 Tuesday 18 October. Jabiru Safari Lodge to Cooktown (B,L,D)

With an early start, we spend some morning time birding in the Reserve before travelling by 4wd to experience a range of habitats en route to Cooktown. Highlights and targeted species include Estuary & Coastal birds, Honeyeaters, Friarbirds, Waders and Raptors. **O/n Accommodation Milkwood Lodge, Cooktown. 300km driving.**

Day 3 Wednesday 19 October. Cooktown to Lotus bird Lodge (B,L,D)

Departing Cooktown, we travel via Isabella Falls to Battlecamp Road and into Lakefield National Park. Highlights and targeted species include Lovely Wren, Masked Finch, Banded Honeyeater, Rufous-banded and Rufous-throated Honeyeaters.

Travelling through Kalpowar and the Hann River Crossings, we arrive at our luxury overnight accommodation at Lotus Bird Lodge and settle in for two nights. **O/n Accommodation Lotus bird Lodge. 250km driving.**

Day 4 Thursday 20 October. Lakefield National Park (B,L,D)

Another early start sees us return into Lakefield National Park in search of the Red Goshawk, Black-breasted Buzzards, Star Finches and the Bar-breasted Honeyeater. We spend a great day birding before returning to the Lodge for dinner. **O/n Accommodation Lotus Bird Lodge. 150km driving.**

Day 5 Friday 21 October Lotus bird Lodge to Coen (B,L,D)

We head out this morning in search of the elusive Golden-shouldered Parrot around Musgrave Station. We continue north along the Peninsula Development Road (PDR) through Coen, stopping to seek Palm Cockatoo and Papuan Frogmouth. We arrive at the historic town of Coen late in the afternoon and settle in to our accommodation. **O/n Accommodation Coen Guesthouse. 280km driving.**

Day 6 Saturday 22 October Archer River to Iron Range Cabins (B,L,D)

We continue our journey north for a short distance before heading east towards Lockhart River and arrive at Iron Range National Park after lunch. We spend the afternoon birding in the rainforest, seeking Eclectus Parrots and Frilled Monarch, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Green-backed Honeyeaters and Magnificent Riflebird. **O/n Accommodation Iron Range Cabins. 50km driving**

Days 7 Sunday 23 October. Iron Range (B,L,D)

An early morning departure allows us to seek Red-cheeked Parrot, Northern Scrub-robin, White-faced Robin, Yellow-legged Flycatcher, Marbled Frogmouth, Chestnut – breasted Cuckoo, Black-winged Monarch and the Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher before returning to our **O/n Accommodation Iron Range Cabins. 50km driving**

Day 8 Monday 25 October. Iron Range (B,L,D)

We depart Iron Range Cabins and continue our quest for our targeted Iron Range rainforest species. We make our way to our new accommodation at the small port settlement of Portland Roads with great coastal views. Late in the afternoon, we drive to Chilli Beach in search of Palm Cockatoos and to watch the amazing display from Magnetic Starlings coming in waves to roost off the coast. **O/n Accommodation Iron Range Cabins. 70km driving.**

Day 9 Tuesday 26 October. Iron Range to Morton Telegraph Station (B,L,D)

Reluctantly departing this magnificent rainforest birding paradise, we retrace our steps to the Peninsula Development Road and head north to Morton Telegraph Station. En route we seek various species in the lagoons and open savanna around Moreton. **O/n accommodation Morton Telegraph Station. 274km driving.**

Day 10 Wednesday 27 October. Morton Telegraph Station (B,L,D)

Chook knows the Morton area well, having been caretaker there over the wet. We spend a day seeking the Trumpet Manucode (a Bird of Paradise), Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Azure and Little Kingfishers before returning to our permanent safari camp accommodation. **O/n accommodation Morton Telegraph Station. 100km driving.**

Day 11 Thursday 28 Morton to Weipa (B,L,D)

We travel the Batavia Downs road and on to Weipa. Targeted species include the Red-headed Honeyeater, Spotted Whistling-Duck and Estuary and Coastal birds. We fly out via Qantaslink arriving in Cairns for transfer to your accommodation after the end of a fantastic week of birding in Cape York. **135km driving.**

What's included

- 10 nights twin share accommodation
- All meals from arrival Day 1 to departure Day 11
- Complimentary Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland membership
- Private Guiding with David 'Chook' Crawford
- Eco cruise at Mareeba Wetlands
- 11 Days 4wd touring
- Flight from Weipa to Cairns (luggage limit 23kg)
- Emergency communications equipment.

What's not included

- Alcoholic & non alcoholic beverages,
- Minibar confectionary purchases
- Personal birding equipment
- 240v charging facilities in the solar powered Jabiru Safari Lodge Eco-cabins.

Single supplement

If singles wish to share we will make every endeavour to attempt to allocate them a share partner for the tour. If that is not possible, the single supplement will be payable. All endeavours will be made to ensure a single room for those choosing a single supplement.