

Jabiru Safari Lodge



Mareeba Wetlands

Cairns Highlands Bird Weeks 2011

Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands

Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands is pleased to announce a week of birding adventures. The week starts with a wetlands' birding experience within the 2000 hectare Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve before venturing further afield to rainforest, river, outback and coastal environments.

The base for the 7 days is Jabiru Safari Lodge. Nestled near the banks of Clancy's Lagoon in a delightful natural setting, the Jabiru Safari Lodge allows guests to experience the outback with a touch of class. The tented African-style safari lodges have spacious en-suites, private veranda decks. A delightful spa jacuzzi in a natural bush setting provides an opportunity to relax and cool off. The eco cabins are 12v solar-powered and feature en-suites, private verandas and comfortable beds.

Your Expert Guide

David 'Chook' Crawford of Close-up Birding Adventures is a seasoned industry professional who are dedicated to ensuring you get the most from your Bird Week experience. Chook was for a number of years the Resident Jabiru Safari Lodge Bird guide. He has been involved in leading birding tours throughout Cape York and the Atherton Tablelands and has built 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 in the environment to ensure a memorable Birdweek.

We are likely to see the 12 Endemic Species of the highlands on our bird week tour. These include Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Fernwren, Atherton Scrubwren, Mountain Thornbill, Bridled Honeyeater, Macleays Honeyeater, Chowchilla, Bowers' Shrike-Thrush, Pied Monarch, Victorias Riflebird, Grey-headed Robin & Golden Bowerbird

Departs: Sunday 5th June 2011.

Finishes: Sunday 12th June 2011.

Departs: Sunday 25th September 2011.

Finishes: Sunday 2nd October 2011.

Pick up: From 9am at your accommodation in Cairns or the Northern Beaches

Cost: Eco-cabin accommodation \$2295 pp, twin share (Single Supp \$205)

Deluxe cabin accommodation \$2495 pp, twin share (Single Supplement \$242)

Duration: 8 Days

Maximum: 10 guests

Bookings and enquiries:

1800 788 755 Email: info@jabirusafarilodge.com.au

www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au

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

Day 1 Sunday Cairns to Jabiru Safari Lodge (L, D)

After being collected from your Cairns, Northern Beaches or Port Douglas accommodation at 9am, travel through rainforest-shrouded slopes up the 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 Birding Guide, David 'Chook' Crawford for morning tea, you check into your luxury African-style tented safari lodge with en-suite facilities. After lunch, we transfer to the vehicle to travel through the Reserve seeking bush birds and to Pandanus Lagoon, where there are frequently Brolgas, Jabirus, Black Swans and other waterbirds that may be observed from our private bird-hide.

We return to the Safari Lodge where we snack on cheese and biscuits as we watch the sun set over the mountains and lagoon with a glass of wine. Dinner tonight is a BBQ dinner on the deck as we get to know each other and plan for the week ahead.

Day 2 Monday (B, L,D)

Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetlands Reserve Field Day

With an early start, we spend our day birding in the Reserve travelling by vehicle and on foot to experience a range of habitats. Targeted species will be the Black-throated Finch, Squatter Pigeon and Black Treecreeper.

Time is available after lunch on the deck for topping up the species that may have avoided us. We return after a great day's birding to the Lodge for a late afternoon eco-cruise by electric boat, to get up close to the lagoon birds. Enjoy a sundown drink on your veranda as the sun sets over Clancy's Lagoon and dinner at the lodge.

Day 3 Tuesday (BLD)

Tablelands Rainforest Field Day

Today we visit rainforest habitats around Lake Eacham, Wongabel State Forest and Hastie's Swamp. Targeted species will include the Atherton Scrubwren, Victoria's Riflebird and Spotted Catbird. After a satisfying afternoon birding, we will eat out this evening in Mareeba before making our way back to the lodge.

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Day 4 Wednesday (BLD)

Raptor Field Day

Today's focus is on raptors and outback birds as we travel from the lodge out into the savanna. Targeted species for the day will include the Wedge-tailed Eagle, brown Falcon, Pacific Baza, Australian Hobby, Osprey and Australian Bustard. We return for drinks and dinner on the deck at the Lodge.

Day 5 Thursday (BLD)

Mt Lewis Rainforest Field Day

We depart early morning to explore the birds of the nearby Mt Lewis rainforest. Targeted species for the day will include the Tooth-billed Bowerbird and Bower's Shrike-thrush. Seasonal birds we hope to observe will include the Blue-faced Parrot-Finch and Bridled honey eater and Grey-headed Robin. After an excellent day of mountain rainforest birding, we journey home to the Lodge. Murri's Delights cater dinner tonight with an indigenous flavour featuring local bush tucker flavours.

Day 6 Friday (BLD)

Daintree World Heritage Field Day

This morning we will focus on various habitats on our journey down the range to the Daintree village for some coastal and rainforest birding. Venturing deep up and over the Daintree River, we seek Square-tailed Kites and Double-eyed Fig Parrots. This afternoon we undertake an afternoon cruise on the Daintree River with one of the Daintree's experienced operators, seeking Kingfishers and Great-billed Heron. We travel back up the Rex Highway to Julatten and our evening dinner at the Mt Molloy Hotel before returning to the Lodge.

Day 7 Saturday (BLD)

Chook's Choice Field Day

By now your Birding Guide 'Chook' Crawford will have assessed the interests and passions of all participants and his choice for today will reflect the interests of the group and seek elusive target species not yet sighted. Chook has some favourite birding haunts and maybe the weather had not been kind to us on an earlier day in the rainforest.

We return for drinks on the Deck for our final meal at the Lodge to cap off a wonderful birdweek. Our final dinner will feature awarding of birdweek T shirts as we celebrate the end of a fantastic week of birding in Tropical North Queensland.

Day 8 Sunday (B)

After a hearty breakfast to say farewell, we depart at 9.30am for transfer to Cairns, arriving at 11.00 after a wonderful week of birding.

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What's included

- 7 nights twin share accommodation in Deluxe Safari Tent Cabin or Eco-cabin
- All meals from arrival Day 1 to departure Day 8
- Complimentary Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland membership
- 7 days of private guiding with an expert guide
- All entries and permits
- Eco cruise

What's not included

- Additional alcoholic & non alcoholic beverages
- Personal Birding equipment
- 240v charging facilities in the solar powered Eco-cabins.

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