Full Detailed Itinerary - Western Australia

Day 1: Arrival in Perth

After your arrival and transfer to our Perth hotel, we will meet for dinner to start the tour.

Day 2: Perth to Dryandra

Just outside of the city lies the wonderful Victoria Dam, an excellent birding site, which will quickly yield a bunch of our southwest specialties. When there are blooming banksias and other native plants, the area can be alive with nectarivores, including some regional endemics, like Western Spinebill, Western Wattlebird, and Gilbert’s Honeyeater. Other specialties we will be seeking include Western Whistler, the beautiful Red-capped Parrot, Red-winged Fairywren, Western Thornbill and Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoo. The supporting cast is equally impressive with the distinctive '28-form' of Australian Ringneck and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo as regulars, and it is likely will see our first spectacular Splendid Fairywrens in this area, which are absurdly abundant in southwest Australia. We will also keep an eye out overhead, as Square-tailed Kite, a scarce Aussie raptor, frequents the area too. After lunch, we will head south to Dryandra for the afternoon, one of Western Australia’s most revered birding sites. As we make our way south of Perth, we will check a few sites with Jarrah woodland for the scarce Baudin’s Black-Cockatoo. The night will be spent in nearby Narrogin.

Day 3: Dryandra to Areas surrounding Stirling Ranges NP

We will have already sampled some of the birds of the southwest the afternoon before, but Dryandra is well worth an extensive sweep, occupying the whole morning. Dryandra and Narrogin are home to mixed Marri, Jarrah, Mallet, Sheoak and Wondoo woodlands, which are special to the southwest. Some of the most notable birds include Square-tailed Kite, Painted Buttonquail, Rufous Treecreeper, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Regent Parrot, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Western Rosella, Red-capped and Scarlet Robins, and Western Yellow Robin. The rare Numbat, a very odd Aussie mammal, is found in the temperate woodlands around Dryandra, and while birding, we will hope to get extremely lucky with this one! In the afternoon, we make our way to the beautiful areas surrounding Sterling Ranges National Park for a two-night stay, located within the only major mountain range within southern Western Australia. The route there passes through excellent parrot country, with sometimes incredible numbers of Australian Ringnecks, Red-capped and Regent Parrots within the agricultural matrix studded with pockets of wooded areas.

Day 4: Corackerup Nature Reserve and Areas surrounding Stirling Ranges National Park

During the morning we shall take an early morning trip out to a small area of mallee at Corackerup Nature Reserve. Our hope will be to find that Australian habitat's most famous resident, the Malleefowl. Even if we fail to see Malleefowl, the area holds another southwest specialty, Western Whipbird, as well as being home to Purple-gaped and Tawny-crowned honeyeaters Western Wattlebird, Shy Heathwren, and Southern Scrub-Robin. In the afternoon, we will explore the Stirling Ranges, checking heathy areas for Western Fieldwren, and scouring campsites for birds like Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoo, Elegant Parrot, Western Shrike-Tit, and White-breasted Robin. At night we can search for Australian Owlet-Nightjar, Barn Owl and Southern

Boobook.

Day 5: Hotspots around Stirling Ranges to Cheynes Beach

Following some final birding around Stirling Ranges, we shall make a detour to visit a very good area for Western Corella, around Rocky Gully, an area that also offers up another shot at Baudin's Black-Cockatoo. We then switch back south towards the coast, for a two-night stay at the scenic Cheynes Beach. On the journey south, we will check coastal sites for Australian shorebirds and particularly for Fairy Tern. At night, we can search the local coastal heathland on foot, to check for flowering banksias, and to see if any Honey Possums are in attendance.

Day 6: Cheynes Beach and surrounds

This day will be dedicated to the area's three infamous skulking specialties – Western Whipbird, Noisy Scrub-Bird and Western Bristlebird. None of them are easy, but they are all found within a relatively small area, so we can try a range of spots around the local coastal heaths. These are also home to Brush Bronzewing, Red-eared Firetail, and the local coastlines can be good for Rock Parrot too. A second night will be spent at Cheynes Beach.

Day 7: Cheynes Beach to Perth

This is something of a "flexi day", as we can have another go at the local heath skulkers if we missed them the day before, but we will also be returning north, through many areas already covered, and passing by numerous excellent birding areas, so we will pick our spots carefully to plug any gaps if needed, or simply continue to add more bird species. If we need Banded Stilt, we may hit a coastal site, although if we are seeking woodland or heathland birds, we have the chance to do that too. The final night of the tour will be spent at a hotel near Perth airport.

Day 8: Departures from Perth

There is no birding scheduled on this day, so feel free to leave whenever suits you.

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