



Southern Cape York

Birding Tour — 3 days

Eyes on Wildlife

PO Box 839

Atherton, QLD, Australia

Ph. +61 439817214

patrick@eyesonwildlife.com.au

www.eyesonwildlife.com.au

This Southern Cape York Tour lets you explore the remote Cape York woodland, open-forest, marine plains, swamps and wetlands with waterholes. Some species that are targeted on this tour are only found in and around the area we are visiting on this trip. All the birds on this tour are also targeted on the longer 6-day Cape York Tour which takes you as far north as Kutini-Payamu/Iron Range NP. The Southern Cape York Tour can be combined with any one to three day tours in the Wet Tropics area that are advertised on the website.

Day 1 – Cairns - Musgrave

Pick up from your accommodation for a 7am start of our birding day. First stop is Mount Molloy where we will look for Grey-crowned Babbler, Squatter Pigeon, Red-winged Parrot, Great Bowerbird and other local highlights. On our way to Musgrave, we will make a few stops to see **Australian Bustard** and possibly **Banded Honeyeater**, Silver-crowned Friarbird and Apostlebird.

After lunch, we will cover the final section of our drive to remote Musgrave Roadhouse and have a first look for Black-backed Butcherbird, Red-browed Pardalote and maybe our first glimpse of the endangered **Golden-shouldered Parrot**.

After dinner we will go on our first spotlighting session with a good chance of seeing Australian Boobook and Tawny Frogmouth.

Accommodation: Musgrave Roadhouse

Day 2 – Musgrave area and Lakefield NP

An early morning short pre-breakfast outing will allow us to try for our first views of the endangered **Red Goshawk**. Along the way, we might pick up species like Yellow-tinted Honeyeater and Little Woodswallow, among others. After breakfast at Musgrave Roadhouse we'll have a longer morning session with Golden-shouldered Parrot at Artemis Station. Galahs are common in the area as well and we might get Red-browed Pardalote as well. The wonderfully coloured Blue-winged Kookaburra is always around as well.

After a long rest and lunch break, we will again make our way to Artemis Station in case we did not get decent views or photographs of Golden-shouldered Parrot.

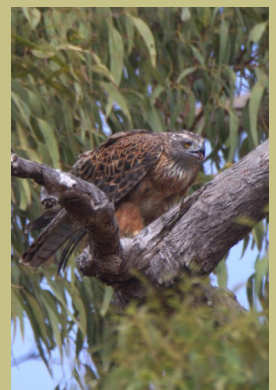
After dinner, we will have our second spotlighting session which will target nightjars.

Day 3— Musgrave—Cairns

Having had good views and photos of the Golden-shouldered Parrot and other rare birds the day before, we will make our way back to Cairns via Lakefield National Park. There, we will look for Star Finch and **Black-throated Finch** in the marine plains, but also explore creek crossings for possible encounters with Rufous-throated Honeyeater and **Bar-breasted Honeyeater**. Waterbirds populate the many waterholes and birds of prey like **Black-breasted Buzzard** or Spotted Harrier are sometimes encountered.

When we get to the southern end of the National Park, we will look for the **white-bellied race of Crimson Finch** and will possibly get White-gaped and other Honeyeaters.

Return to Cairns by 6.00 for check-in at accommodation booked by guest.



Tour dates, start/end

This tour can be booked from May to late November pending availability at the time of enquiry. The tour starts on in Cairns and ends in Cairns. Alternative start and end locations can be discussed and the tour can be combined with other tours advertised on the website.

Included in the tour price

The tour includes 3 full days and 2 nocturnal sessions. Breakfast (x2) from day 2 is included. Breakfast is offered at Musgrave Roadhouse. Lunch or dinner are not included is also enjoyed at Musgrave Roadhouse, but not included in the tour fee. Accommodation (for 2 nights) is included in the tour price. Guests will have to arrange accommodation for the night before day 1 of the tour, and for the night of day 3 of the tour. Drinks, and snacks are not included.

What to bring and how to be well prepared

This tour involves some long stretches of driving on gravel roads. We will make regular stops for birding or just to break up the long ride, but if you have difficulty coping with longer periods of sitting, then please bring whatever you need (pillow, etc) to make your ride more comfortable.

Water bottles, mosquito spray and snacks are always a good to have at hand. Footwear should be sturdy shoes, either hiking shoes or boots, or decent runners.

Please communicate any physical discomforts or health issues you may have well before the start of the tour. Terms & Conditions will be emailed with other booking documents.

Email patrick@eyesonwildlife.com.au , or phone on +61 439817214 if you wanted to book this tour, or wanted to inquire further.

