



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

September 10 - 21, 2026



The endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo is endemic to Southwestern Australia © Max Breckenridge

Australia —the “Island Continent,” the “Dry Continent,” a place “where crows fly backwards,” whatever you care to name it, Australia is a vast and ancient, time-less land of special beauty and infinite wonder. And yet Australia is one of the easiest, most comfortable and intriguing places to explore on our planet. Serviced by fine roads and superb accommodations, the birder in Australia can truly enjoy a birding holiday. Furthermore, there is a fabulous assortment of informative books and guides on every aspect of Australia’s natural, cultural and historical heritage in which you may delve. They even speak English – well, sort of!

The state of Western Australia is unimaginably vast, occupying nearly a third of the continent. Although most of it is either desert or semi-arid bush, there are notable exceptions such as the southwest corner. Here among the towering Karri forests, starkly beautiful Wandoo woodlands, and intricate heathland, we will seek out some of Western Australia’s most special birds and mammals. This seemingly hidden corner of the continent hosts a fine collection of endemics and near-endemics: Carnaby’s and Baudin’s black-cockatoos, Western Corella, the multicolored Red-capped Parrot,

Western Rosella, Rock Parrot, the extremely localized Noisy Scrub-bird, White-breasted and Western Yellow robins, Western Whipbird, Western Shrike-tit, Blue-breasted and Red-winged Fairywrens, Western Bristlebird, Western Fieldwren, Western Thornbill, Rufous Treecreeper, Western Wattlebird, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Western Spinebill, and Red-eared Firetail—all of which we have a good chance of seeing. In addition, we will encounter a number of very special but more wide ranging Australian species such as Hooded Plover, Square-tailed Kite, Brush Bronzewing, Regent Parrot, Purple-gaped Honeyeater, Southern Scrub-Robin, and Southern Emuwren, not to mention a whole host of wonderfully exotic mammals such as the endearing but sadly endangered Numbat, with luck the peculiar Honey-possum, great mobs of Western Gray kangaroos, and the diminutive Brush-tailed Bettong. And all this is in the midst of one of the finest displays of wildflowers in the world (subject to appropriate rains!).



The beautiful Western Spinebill is often found around flowering banksias © Max Breckenridge

VENT's Western Australia tour begins in Perth, considered by many to be one of the finest cities in the world. Just a hop, skip and a jump from the city center are forests and woodlands, coastal heaths, and sandy beaches, as well as freshwater and brackish marshes teeming with birdlife. From Perth, we will venture southeast into "the wheatbelt" and stay in the town of Narrogin serving as an excellent base to explore the nearby Dryandra woodlands. Heading further south, we will enjoy four nights in a very

comfortable hotel overlooking Shoal Bay and the historic town of Albany. From here we will explore the fascinating heathlands surrounding Cheynes Beach, as well as day trips further afield to visit a variety of other habitat types (including Mallee). Departing Albany, we will head west into the impressive forests around Pemberton, before tracking the coastline west and north back to Perth.

Western Australia can be taken by itself or, for those desiring a more extensive Australian experience, in combination with Grand Australia Part I (September 20-October 6, 2026) and/or Grand Australia Part II (October 4-21, 2026).

September 10-12, Days 1-3: Travel to Perth

There are direct flights from various western U.S. cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Honolulu, which will depart on September 10, cross the International Dateline, arrive in Sydney on September 12 and clear customs in time to connect to a morning flight to Perth (PER).

Perth can also be reached from the USA via Dubai (DXB) on Emirates and Doha (DOH) on Qatar Airways.

Transfers from PER to the Pan Pacific will be provided for all participants. On September 12 at a time to be announced, the group will gather for lunch and orientation.

Participants wanting to minimize the risk of misconnecting with the group are encouraged to arrive in Sydney or Perth on or prior to September 11 and spend the night. Upon request, VENT will be happy to assist with any additional lodging arrangements.

Perth is a refreshingly clean, modern city that conveys a wonderful sense of newness, but calm and peace at the same time. Located in the extreme southwest of the Australian continent and bounded by the vast Indian Ocean, Perth is a great starting place for our exploration of Australia's largest state (3.5 times larger than Texas). After lunch (for those who wish), we will commence our exploration with a visit to one of Perth's impressive suburban wetlands.

Herdsmen Lake is one such wetland and is a great place to get up close to a variety of ducks such as Blue-billed Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Shoveler, Pink-eared Duck, Musk Duck and Great Crested Grebe. Freckled Duck is also a possibility here, as well as crakes if the conditions are suitable. We have

a good chance of finding roosting Tawny Frogmouth around the lake edge, as well as a good variety of other commoner species.

NIGHT (September 12): Pan Pacific, Perth

September 13, Day 4: Perth to Narrogin

After breakfast, we will head southeast as we climb the Darling Range through a patchwork of tall eucalypt woodland and farmland. Our first birding stop will likely be at Ellis Brook Valley Reserve. We should find several of Western Australia's endemic birds here, including our first chance for the striking Red-eared Firetail, White-breasted Robin and Red-winged Fairywren. The amazingly colorful Red-capped Parrot and Western Rosella might also be seen here. Other typical bush birds we should find in the jarrah forest and nearby orchards include Golden and Rufous whistlers; Spotted Pardalote; Silvereye; Western Gerygone; Yellow-rumped Thornbill; the declining Scarlet Robin; Shining Bronze and Fan-tailed cuckoos; and Gilbert's, New Holland and the vocal but non-descript Brown honeyeaters. While continuing to head southeast, we should be alert to the presence of Carnaby's, Baudin's and Red-tailed black cockatoos which often feed in flocks on the ground and especially as we approach the village of Narrogin. This will be our base for exploring the delightful Dryandra State Forest. Narrogin is an agricultural center in the heart of Western Australia's richest agricultural area known as the wheatbelt and is graced with an interesting museum and artifacts exhibition.

NIGHT: Albert Facey Motor Inn, Narrogin



The lovely Western Shrike-tit is often best encountered at Dryandra © Max Breckenridge

September 14, Day 5: Dryandra State Forest

Dryandra State Forest, encompassing c 270 sq. km., is an ecological oasis within a region largely converted to wheatbelt agriculture. A delightfully attractive area of wandoo woodland, Dryandra is perhaps best known as the last stronghold of the Numbat—a strikingly attractive, diurnal, ant-eating marsupial. It is one of the few marsupials active in the day. A sighting of this endangered mammal will be a real highlight for the tour.

This very important reserve is characterized by white-trunked powderbark wandoo, rock she-oak and limestone marlock, which form a canopy over a distinctive understory of healthy shrubs including showy *Dryandra* and sandplain poisons (*Gastrolobium* and *Oxylobium*) interspersed with thousand year-old *Xanthorrhoea* grass trees. The sandplain poisons were toxic to the early colonists' sheep and were such a problem that it saved Dryandra from being cleared for farmland. Interestingly, the sandplain poisons acted as a natural fox control which is the reason Dryandra is a hot spot for rare native mammals that have disappeared from the rest of the continent.

In spring, Dryandra forest forms a blaze of color. We have an entire day, plus a morning and afternoon, in which to explore this fascinating reserve and some of the birds we may encounter include the elusive but very smart-looking Painted Buttonquail; the scarce Square-tailed Kite; Collared Sparrowhawk; Wedge-tailed Eagle; Bush Thick-knee; Common Bronzewing; Purple-crowned Lorikeet; the stunningly yellow Regent Parrot; Australian Boobook; Tawny Frogmouth; Australian Owlet-Nightjar; Rufous Treecreeper; Red-capped, Hooded (rare) and Western Yellow robins; Jacky-winter; endemic Western Shrike-tit (recently split); Restless Flycatcher; White-browed Babbler; the endemic Blue-breasted Fairywren; Varied Sittella; endemic Western Thornbill; 12 species of honeyeaters including Yellow-plumed, White-eared, Brown-headed and Gilbert's; Dusky Woodswallow; Gray Currawong; and Gray Butcherbird.

In addition to the numbat, Dryandra supports a rich assortment of native mammals and we will endeavor to see several of these including short-beaked echidna; brush-tailed bettong—one of a neat coterie of small, burrow-dwelling 'wallabies' all of which have declined in the face of competition from rabbits and predation by cats and foxes; tammar wallaby; western brush wallaby; western gray kangaroo; red-tailed phascogale; common brushtail possum and western pygmy-possum. We may

also encounter sand monitors, harmless carpet pythons, shinglebacks and several other reptiles if the temperatures warm up.

NIGHT: Albert Facey Motor Inn, Narrogin

September 15, Day 6: Drive to Albany

After our final breakfast birding session at Dryandra, we will continue south and westwards to the town of Albany. After Perth, Albany is the oldest European settlement in Western Australia. As such, it has a number of interesting old colonial buildings for anyone with a historical bent to explore.

Albany's excellent harbor unfortunately also resulted in it being a center for the now defunct whaling industry. Fortunately, today Albany is a much more salutary place, providing an attractive gateway to some of Australia's most rugged and spectacular coastal scenery. With a bit of luck we may even see the endangered southern right whale off King George Sound.

The Albany area enjoys a distinctly Mediterranean-type climate with cool, wet, windy winters and dry, hot summers. The magnificent display of flowering plants throughout the coastal heathlands, grasslands and woodlands make spring the ideal time to visit this part of Australia.

NIGHT: Hilton Garden Inn, Albany

September 16-18 Days 7-9: Albany Area, Two Peoples Bay and Stirling Range National Park

Our primary objective will be the internationally famous Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and nearby areas of coastal heath. This is the only known location of the Noisy Scrub-bird (one of just two species in the family that is endemic to Australia; the second species Rufous Scrub-bird is confined to mountain rainforests in central-eastern Australia). The Noisy Scrub-bird was rediscovered as recently as 1961. It has a reputation, along with its Rufous cousin, of being amongst Australia's shyest birds. We will give it our best shot.

The value of this reserve is accentuated by a number of other rare and localized endemics including Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird.

This reserve of just 46 sq. km. encompasses an attractive coastal mosaic of low woodland comprising nine species of spectacular flowering banksia; western Australian peppermint; yate and scrub sheoak with an understory of acacias and hakeas; and dense, knee-high, coastal heathland punctuated with gray granite outcrops and small sedge-bordered lakes. Over 400 species of plants occur here including 19 orchids and the insectivorous Albany Pitcher Plant. In addition to the reserve's three bird specialties, it also supports a number of other interesting birds: Brown Quail, Spotted Nightjar, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Little Eagle, Brown and Peregrine falcons, Brush Bronzewing, Rock and Elegant parrot, Southern Emuwren, recently split Western Fieldwren, the uncommon endemic White-breasted Robin, White-cheeked and Tawny-crowned honeyeater, stunning but scarce Red-eared Firetail and Gray Currawong.



One of the "three skulkers" from Cheynes Beach - Western Bristlebird are not always so shy!
© Max Breckenridge

A number of really nifty mammals also occur here including western gray kangaroo, southern brown bandicoot, western ringtail possum and the incomparably charming but elusive tiny honey possum, a very distinctive West Australian endemic. We have allotted three full days here to give ourselves the best chance of seeing all of the special but very tough birds.

During our time based in Albany, there will also be several opportunities to visit other birding sites away from Cheynes Beach. These include, but are not limited to, the unique mallee woodlands around Corackerup Nature Reserve, the floristically diverse habitats of the scenic Stirling Ranges National Park (where you can see Western Australia's highest peak), and the often birdy wetlands around Albany itself. Some of the key species we hope to encounter at these other localities include Mallefowl (rare), Southern Scrub-Robin; Purple-gaped Honeyeater; Hooded Plover; Elegant Parrot; Crested Bellbird; Stubble Quail; and a good variety of waterfowl.

NIGHTS: Hilton Garden Inn, Albany

September 19, Day 10: Morning around Albany; Drive to Pemberton

In Albany the continental shelf (where deep water upwells and provides abundant plankton) is close to shore. Depending on the weather, this morning we may visit Torindirrup National Park that juts out into the great Southern Ocean and is an ideal spot to look for seabirds. Encompassing the craggy, sandstone peninsula that protects Albany from the worst excesses of the great Southern Ocean, this park can be a great place to watch seabirds. Here one can enjoy Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, Great-winged Petrels and Australian Gannets from the relative comfort of land; seemingly effortlessly, arcing juggernaut rollers thunder against the immense granite cliffs below. The Natural Arch, The Gap and some impressive blowholes are testament to any weakness in this defense. There are also several important shorebird roosts around Shoal Bay which can also be a good place to see a variety of terns, including the vulnerable Fairy Tern.

From Albany we will head further west in order to explore a magnificent area that hosts impressive stands of giant karri trees, a giant eucalyptus species. We will visit one that reaches a height of 150 feet! Other characteristic trees include red and yellow tingle and western Australian peppermint. Some of the birds we may encounter include Musk Duck - on forested pools; Western Rosella; Red-capped Parrot - one can never get enough of this truly gorgeous endemic; Rufous Treecreeper; Scarlet Robin; Gray Fantail; Restless Flycatcher; Striated Pardalote; Splendid Fairywren; and perhaps the uncommon White-

breasted Robin. Our accommodations tonight are in a beautiful place located amidst towering forests, right on the edge of a hidden lake. This area is a good site for the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

NIGHT: RAC Karri Valley Resort, Yeagarup



The lovely endemic White-breasted Robin © Max Breckenridge

September 20, Day 11: Drive to Perth via Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste National Park

This morning, we will take our leave of Pemberton and head towards Capes Leeuwin and Augusta located at the most southwestern tip of the continent. With a bit of luck we should find the range-restricted Rock Parrot which nest on offshore islands and visit the mainland to feed. As well as Pacific Gull, we will also search for the very attractive but increasingly scarce Hooded Plover as well as Pied and Sooty oystercatchers.

Driving north towards Perth, we may visit Lake McLarty Nature Reserve. This important wetland can support huge numbers of water birds (up to 20,000) including Chestnut Teal and, with luck, Freckled ducks; Australian Shelduck; several herons and egrets; Yellow-billed Spoonbill; Glossy Ibis; Black-tailed Native-hen; numbers of arriving migrant shorebirds and several terns; White-winged Triller; Yellow-throated Miner; and Rufous and Brown songlark.

Back in Perth, we will have a final night and dinner back at our original hotel, where we can reflect on our recent adventure and prepare for the next!

NIGHT: Pan Pacific, Perth

September 21, Day 12: Departure from Perth

A transfer will be provided to the Perth airport in time for the 6:30 a.m. departure of Qantas Flight 642 to Sydney, which is scheduled to arrive at 12:35 p.m. in time to connect with various international flights departing this afternoon (subject to change).

Those continuing on Grand Australia Part I (September 20-October 6, 2026) will be provided with a complimentary prepaid reservation at the Pullman Sydney Hyde Park for the night of September 21 before beginning the tour on September 22.

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR LEADER: Max Breckenridge



Max Breckenridge was born in the UK, but has lived virtually his entire life in Sydney, Australia. At age 12, his passion for birds was fostered when his parents took him and his brother out of school for 10 weeks to travel across Australia. After completing high school in Sydney, Max drove solo from Darwin to Broome, birding all the way, and spent the next month volunteering at the world-renowned Broome Bird Observatory. Max completed a Bachelor of Biodiversity & Conservation at Macquarie

University in 2018. He has birded across every state and almost every corner of the Australian landmass. He has an excellent eye, and especially ear, for Australian birds. Some of his birding exploits in Australia include two separate trips to the remote rainforests of Iron Range National Park on Queensland's Cape York (including a fly-in-fly-out trip during the middle of the wet season, when he spent two weeks under a tarp in order to see some of the key migrants from Papua New Guinea). Max is at home birding in the Old World and has spent the last decade covering as much of it as possible.

He is incredibly passionate about wildlife conservation. In addition to guiding, he has spent much of his spare time working for BirdLife Australia, monitoring and researching the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, including working on several captive-releases of zoo-bred individuals. Max receives immense pleasure from birding and showing birds to others. He is currently living on Lake Macquarie, north of Sydney, with his partner, Fernanda.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

TOUR FEE: \$5,195 per person based on double occupancy. This includes all meals from lunch on Day 3 through dinner on Day 11, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, all ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leader. It does **not** include airfare to nor from the starting/ending city. The fee also excludes alcoholic beverages, laundry, personal expenses, and other items of a personal nature. For information about gratuities, please see the “TIPPING” subsection below. If the minimum group size is not met, each participant will be charged a small-group supplement—shared equally and communicated in advance—to allow the tour to proceed.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: If you request single accommodations, a single supplement of \$1,065 will be added to your tour fee.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for this tour through the VENT [website](#) or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The initial deposit for this tour is \$1,000 per person. A second deposit of **30% of the remaining tour fee** is due 180 days prior to departure (March 14, 2026). We accept MasterCard and Visa for both deposits.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days (May 13, 2026) prior to the tour departure date.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: Tour prices are based on the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If rates change drastically, it may be necessary to impose a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges have been passed on to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Our prices are based on fuel prices at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TIPPING: An important part of the value of a VENT tour is knowing that tips for local service providers at our destinations—restaurant staff, hotel staff, drivers, local guides, and various other support staff—are included in your tour fee. If you would like to offer any of your local guides an additional tip, \$5 to \$10 a day is a common amount.

Tips for your VENT tour leader(s) are **not** included, but it is customary to tip one or both if you feel that you have received exceptional service. To assist in your planning, we recommend tipping your VENT tour leader(s) \$15 to \$20 per day, or the equivalent of approximately 2–4% of the tour fee.

If you plan to give tips by cash, they should be given directly to your tour leader at the end of the tour and **not** sent to the VENT office. Some of our tour leaders use mobile payment applications such as Venmo, PayPal, and Wise. If you would like to use this method, please ask your tour leaders directly whether they can accept tips through such an application.

We emphasize that tipping is optional and that these amounts are only recommendations. The amount you decide to tip is based entirely on your experience and at your discretion.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT:

- **More than 120 days prior to the tour start date:** A refund of all monies paid will be issued, less 50% of the deposit (including initial and second deposit)
- **120 days or fewer prior to the tour start date:** No refund will be provided.
- **Optional add-ons:** Some tours offer optional add-ons that are designated as non-refundable. Any such add-ons are clearly identified as non-refundable at the time of booking. By selecting

and purchasing an optional add-on, the participant acknowledges and accepts its non-refundable status. Fees paid for non-refundable add-ons are not refundable under any circumstances, regardless of when the tour is cancelled.

This cancellation policy applies to all participants and all tours (Pre-Tours and Extensions are considered self-contained tours separate from the main tour). Because unexpected events can occur, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance.

CANCELLATION BY VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A “**Force Majeure**” event means any act beyond VENT’s control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

SUGGESTED OPTIONS: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with **Redpoint Travel Protection** as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive Ripcord plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit. With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®** plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet, the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Redpoint Travel's Ripcord Plan

Ripcord is a completely integrated travel insurance program with single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims. Critical benefits include comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [Ripcord Travel Insurance](#); or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help > Preparation and Insurance > Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, second deposit, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The “pay as you go” approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to “pay as you go,” you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a [Coronavirus FAQ page](#) on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

About Medjet’s MedjetAssist Plan

MedjetAssist is a membership program that functions like AAA for motorists. The company’s primary service is air medical transport. Critical benefits of MedjetAssist include a staff on call and ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; all-expenses-paid air medical transport in the United States and internationally to medical facility of choice, regardless of medical necessity; repatriation of remains; and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

For travelers under 75, MedjetAssist may be purchased as Short-Term Memberships of 8, 15, 21, and 30 days, or Regular Annual Memberships from 1 to 5 years. For travelers 75–84, Medjet offers a Diamond Membership that is the same program but with a few additional conditions.

For a price quote or to purchase MedjetAssist, please visit: [Medjet.com/VentBird](https://medjet.com/VentBird) or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

TRAVEL INSURANCE/TRAVEL PROTECTION: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with **Redpoint Travel Protection** as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive Ripcord plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit. With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®** plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet, the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Ripcord

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<https://ripcordtravelprotection.com/ventbird>; or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help and Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

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GETTING THERE & REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements. **Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be held responsible for any air ticket penalties.**

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your pre-departure materials and/or airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security, we recommend that you check the website of the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) for information pertaining to permissible carry-on items.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

PASSPORT: A passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure from Australia is required.

VISA: An Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) is required for citizens of most countries including the USA and Canada. Please use the following link to initiate the application process. We recommend downloading the official Australian ETA app and using a smart phone or tablet to complete this process:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>

IMPORTANT: The visa details above are current for U.S. citizens as of February 10, 2026. Because entry requirements can change without notice, we kindly remind all participants to double-check the latest information before traveling. Travelers using non-U.S. or Canadian passports are responsible for confirming any entry requirements that apply to their home country.

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR: In the warmer areas, lightweight field clothing is adequate. Please wear dull-colored clothing, shades of brown and/or green being desirable. Shorts can be particularly useful in warmer sites. However, do bring a warm sweater and jacket, as well as gloves and a windbreaker for cooler areas. Sound footwear and a broad-brimmed hat are recommended, as are a rain jacket and slip-on waterproof "overpants." A swimsuit will be useful at times. Dress will be casual.

EQUIPMENT: You should pack a pair of binoculars that are in good repair, along with a belt pack or day pack (for carrying books, sunscreen, extra film, etc.). We strongly recommend you bring a pair of good binoculars of 8x32, 8x42, or 10x42 magnification. Please do not bring mini-binoculars of any kind. Some people like them because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. You will find that 8x32 binoculars are compact and light enough.

As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Your leader will have a spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

DESTINATION INFORMATION & LOCAL CONDITIONS

CLIMATE & WEATHER: You will be visiting Australia during spring. Midday temperatures should be cool to mild in the southwest to warm, reaching into the 70s and high 80s. It is often quite windy in

Western Australia and the wind chill can make it feel much cooler on occasions. You should expect to encounter some rain around Albany and occasionally along the southern coast.

CONDITIONS: With a full or close to full group, we expect to use a 15-passenger van with luggage trailer. Australia is an enormous country and we will be doing some lengthy drives to get ourselves into the correct habitat for many localized and scarce birds. Participants are welcome to take a morning or afternoon off in locations where we spend two or more days.

CURRENCY & SPENDING: Australian Dollar (AUD) exchange facilities are available for all incoming and outgoing flights at all international airports. It is recommended that you change money at the airport or at city banks. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted; however, use may be limited in small towns and “Outback” areas. The best exchange is always from automatic teller machines as opposed to changing at dealers.

ELECTRICITY: 220/240 volts with three-pronged outlets

INTERNET ACCESS: Expect Wi-Fi to be available at all or most locations.

LANGUAGE: English and aboriginal languages

TIME: 14 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Expect laundry services to be offered in all or most locations.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH: Although no vaccinations are required, it is a good idea to be sure your tetanus protection is up to date. There is no risk of malaria. Sanitary conditions are excellent in Australia, and both the water and food are safe.

VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance for avoiding COVID-19.

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun’s ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes), even in winter and early spring. Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and will affect your level of enjoyment. Always protect yourself when outdoors and be sure to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

BITING INSECTS: Remove if not a concern, otherwise expand on it.

INSECT REPELLENTS: There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- **DEET:** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.

- **Picaridin:** A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- **Herbal insect repellents:** Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

Insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- **Permanone® (Permethrin):** is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for pre-treatment of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so it is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment must be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- **Insect Shield® apparel:** Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

SUGGESTED READING & TRIP PREPARATION

A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend

www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which

specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

This list includes some basic field guides and reference volumes of use to the visitor. A great deal has been written about all aspects of Australia's natural history. You will find a variety of selections in any library. Browse around a little and you will discover many resources not listed here.

FIELD GUIDES:

Cogger, Harold G. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*. AH & AW Reed Pty. Ltd., 2015. Technical but thorough account of Australian herpetofauna. Too large to be easily carried by travelers.

Menkhorst, P. and Knight, F. *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia* South Melbourne: Oxford University Press, (latest edition). The concise field guide to Australian mammals. Highly recommended.

Menkhorst, P., Rogers, D., Clarke, R., Davies, J., Marsack, P. and Franklin, K. *The Australian Bird Guide*. CSIRO Publishing, 2017. The best available field guide to Australian birds with fantastic plates and a lot of information. A bit heavy. **Now available in a compact version.**

Pizzey, Graham and Knight, Frank. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. Angus and Robertson, (latest edition). A thorough text with excellent information about song, range, and behavior combined with very good plates make this field guide recommended for all participants.

Simpson, Ken, and Nicolas Day. *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. New York: Viking Penguin, Inc. (latest edition). Outstanding plates, maps, with up-to-the-minute information. The handbook section in the back contains very valuable information. Recommended for all participants.

Slater, Peter, Pat Slater and Raoul Slater. *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds*. Dee Why West, N.S.W.: Rigby Publishers, (latest edition). Excellent plates, maps, text and portrait organized similarly to the National Geographic guide to U.S. birds. Recommended for all participants.

Wilson, Steve and Gerry Swan. *A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia*. Reed New Holland Pty. Ltd., 2003. A superb and very usable publication.

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, “**VENT**”) act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on January 5, 2026 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "**Airline**") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

View the complete [Terms and Conditions](#) on our website.

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