

Kimberley Bird and Wildlife Quest – Itinerary*

August 13 - 19, 2025

Download the bird list <https://www.ontheverandah.com.au/birds--nature.html>

Please note, to ensure all sightings are natural and spontaneous, we do not seed or water bird watching locations.

Wednesday Day 1

An *On The Verandah* vehicle will pick you up from your accommodation in Kununurra (or from Kununurra airport if you've just flown in) between 10 and 11am. After an early lunch we make our way to Digger's Rest cattle station, our base for the week. We travel via vast expanses of the ancient landscape, through marsh, ranges and open woodland dotted with boab trees. We follow the banks of the King River which has a tidal range of 8 impressive metres! At the station, settle into your accommodation and later, we'll pop the complimentary bubbles. After dinner, gather around the campfire and admire an unrivalled canopy of stars.

Thursday Day 2

You'll find an incredible array of species to pique your interest around the station this morning so, enjoy the bird parade while a hot breakfast buffet is prepared. After the meal, grab your binoculars and camera for a group walk to the dam, along a natural gilgai and visit a quirky boab known as the Tea kettle. In the afternoon, it's a ten-minute drive to the river for waterbirds, crocodile spotting, birds of prey (possible: White bellied sea eagle, Brahminy Kite and more) and no doubt, a spectacular sunset.

Friday Day 3

Our first bird site for the day requires an early breakfast at the station then a ten-minute drive for possible Gouldian, Star, Zebra, Masked and Long-tailed finch, Mannikin, Australian Hobby, Collared Sparrowhawk, Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, Whistling Kite, Black Kite, Pardalote, Bustard, Wren, Spoonbill, other waterbirds, pigeons, doves and more. Our next site takes in a spring-fed pandanus pond and a creek-line for possible congregations of pelicans, brolga, Black neck stork or other birds. The afternoon session involves a short drive along a private road to visit billabongs with differing habitats. Look for dingo, brumby, all the birds and at dusk: Bush stone Curlew, Bustard, Owlet Nightjar.

Saturday Day 4

Grab yourself a hot Billy tea while the landscape and its inhabitants come to life for another day. After another hot breakfast we're off to Wyndham's historic Prison Boab tree, a lively billabong and rock ledge (home to white-quilled rock pigeons) and Singh's garden. After a picnic lunch, we visit the RAMSAR wetlands at Marlgu Billabong (Parry's Lagoon) and delight in some world class bird watching and crocodile spotting. Wyndham has one of the best lookouts around for sunsets, not to mention a view of the five great rivers that flow into Cambridge Gulf and a possible appearance by the short-eared rock wallabies. We return to the station for dinner.

Sunday Day 5

After breakfast we head out to investigate a large, remote naturalized dam for possible crake, jacana, magpie geese, plumed whistling duck, other ducks and waterbirds, brolga, finch plus vast grasslands for birds of prey, bustard, pratincole before a barbecue lunch on the fire at the stock camp. The drive will delight you with its pure wilderness, panoramic vistas of the Cockburn Ranges and an expanse of marsh country like you've never seen. We head back for a relaxed afternoon around the station and sunset drinks.

Monday Day 6

We take an early walk to a grand old boab tree (probably over a thousand years old) which in 2023 hosted two baby Jabirus (black-necked stork) in a nest precariously balanced in its boughs. Could we be so lucky to witness this rarity again this year? After breakfast, we travel up the river valley to a remote billabong for more birds, mammals, freshwater crocodiles and fascinating geology. In the evening, come dressed in your “Kimberley finest” for a final night party with complimentary bubbles and nibbles to celebrate a week of exploring and discovery.

Tuesday Day 7

Enjoy a relaxed morning wandering and photographing around the homestead until mid-morning when we leave the station to deliver you to Kununurra airport for your afternoon flight, or to your accommodation.

*This is an approximate itinerary, and the order of items may be adjusted. We'll have a more definitive schedule once we have conducted a post-wet season survey of all sites to confirm normal bird activity.

Helpful information

If we get a forecast for a hot day, we go out early, return to the station for lunch and go out again when it cools off.

There is lots of bird activity around the homestead (even nesting at times) so from a comfy position under cool verandahs, you can enjoy some very satisfying bird watching!

Other things to see and do in Kununurra

If you fly in a day or two early you can take advantage of what the town has to offer.

- Triple J Boat tours offer a **cruise down the Ord River** from Lake Argyle (pickup and drop off from your hotel). Triple J is an established tour company providing lunch on some tours and helpful commentary as you cruise this mighty northern river. Tours start at \$250 (seniors discounts available) with half day, full day and sunset options.
- Take an early morning walk in **Celebrity tree park**, adjacent to Lake Kununurra and the boat ramp. The park is visited by many bird species, not to mention beautiful views over water.
- **Mirima Gorge National Park** is great in the late afternoon for cool walks and bird watching, with educational signage about the unique flora and its cultural significance. It's about a 20-minute walk from the centre of town (or an 8 minute Uber) to the start of the trail opposite the cemetery on Hidden Valley Rd. (A 40-minute walk from Kimberleyland Caravan Park.)
- **Warringarri Art Centre** – book a tour at the centre to hear the stories of local indigenous artists and see their workshop.

Kununurra accommodation near the lake and Celebrity Tree Park[^]

G'day Parks Kimberleyland. (Cabins – mid range) Has lake frontage. 10 min walk to town.

Freshwater Apartments. (upper end) Across road from Lake/Celebrity Tree Park. 10 min walk to town.

Kimberley Grande. (mid to upper end) Across road from Lake/Celebrity Tree Park. 10 min walk to town.

The Cambridge. Across road from Lake/Celebrity Tree Park. 5 minutes to town.

Lily Lagoon Resort. Has lake frontage and is a 15 min walk to town/Celebrity Tree Park.

Discovery Lake Kununurra. (Cabins – mid range) Has lake frontage but is > 1KM walk to town/Celebrity Tree Park.

Other hotels

Hotel Kununurra. (budget end). 10 min walk to Lake/Celebrity Tree Park. 5 min to town.

Kimberley Croc Motel. (mid range) In town. Is a 10 minute walk to park and lake.

Country Club. (mid to upper range) In town. Is a 15 minute walk to park and lake.

^{*}Information was accurate at time of writing.