

BIRDING THE BEST OF
AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND & TASMANIA

16.92° S - 42.88° S



November 4 - 19, 2027



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND & TASMANIA

We begin our tour based on a beach-front hotel near the cosmopolitan town of Cairns, Queensland. We'll bird the area's variety of habitats that together, make the region world-renown for its avian diversity. We'll be on the lookout for species such as the **Lovely Fairy Wren**, **Laughing Kookaburra**, and the stunning **Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**. We'll visit wetlands like Hasties Swamp in search of **Royal Spoonbills**, **Black Swans** and the **Great Crested Grebe**. We will spend two nights in the heart of the Atherton Tablelands, and visit a region famous for the stunning **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**, and we'll likely find the massive **Australian Bustard** as we bird the nearby fields. En route to the coast, we'll have the magical experience of birding the **Daintree River** by boat at dawn. Within the first week, you will have explored the jungles, wetlands, scrublands, fields, forests and coast of this unique region. We'll keep a special eye out for the very rare **Southern Cassowary**.

We'll also have the rare opportunity to go behind the scenes at a local **Bat Rehab Center** to learn about the important conservation work done there, and to see incredible **Flying Fox Bats** up-close and personal. You'll have free time in the time charming village of **Kuranda** to peruse the handicraft markets before we board the **Sky Rail**, for a spellbinding yet educational journey through the lush, jungle canopy.

After our time in Queensland, we'll travel south, all the way down to the island State of Tasmania, one of the most beautiful regions of Australia. We will first land in Hobart, the charming capital of Tasmania, then bird several local hotspots where literally all 12 of the island's endemic species of birds can be found. We'll search for such species as the **Yellow Wattlebird**, the **Green Rosella**, the mischievous **Black Currawong**, and the highly sought-after **Forty-spotted Pardalote**.

Then we head north into the highlands of **Cradle Mt. National Park**. Along the way, we should see a few marsupials as well, like the **Bennet's Wallaby**, the **Tasmanian Pademelon**, **Wombat** and with luck, the infamous **Tasmanian Devil**. We'll no-doubt also encounter the egg-laying **Echidna** en route, as well as the oddest mammal in the world, the **Duck-billed Platypus**. We end the trip in classic Aussie style by having a fun-filled BBQ our last night of the trip, surrounded by the stunning scenery of the Tasmanian highlands.

This trip is designed to thrill the avid birder and novice naturalist alike, and to give everyone a well-rounded, first-hand experience of unique natural wonders that can only be found in the land down under... *Australia!*

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: Nov 4, 2027

Duration of Tour: 16 days

Number of participants: Max of 14

Fee: \$6,895 per person

Deposit: \$3,450

Single Supplement: \$1,495

Trip Leaders: Steve Robertson

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground transportation
- Breakfasts and lunches
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Flights
- Dinners
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides



Steve Robertson and Ivan Phillipsen
Co-owners and Lead Guides at Wild Latitudes
info@wildlatitudes.com 503-714-3504

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ITINERARY

Tentative and subject to change depending on weather, road, or other conditions.

Day 1 - Nov 4 - Group Arrive in Cairns, Bird the Esplanade, Dine on the Waterfront

Participants are greeted at the Cairns Airport by Steve Robertson of Wild Latitudes, and by our local expert birding guide in Queensland. After brief introductions, we'll load up and travel the short distance to the Cairns Beach Resort, check-in and enjoy a bit of free time after the long journey; options include taking a dip in the pool, birding the grounds or relaxing on the nearby beach. We'll meet in the afternoon to go over the tour itinerary, then head into Cairns to bird the Esplanade, where we hope to see birds such as the **Australian Pelican**, **Little Tern** and **Royal Spoonbill** before heading to dinner at a nearby restaurant. We won't be out too late as tomorrow we have a full day of exploring & birding the greenspaces in and around Cairns.

Lodging: [Cairns Beach Resort](#)

Day 2 - Nov 5 - Birding Cairns Hotspots & Local Greenspaces

After breakfast, we'll head out to spend the day birding a number of nearby greenspaces and birding hot spots with our local guide. In Wild Latitudes style, we'll go at an easy pace designed to ensure everyone gets good looks at the wonderful array of Australian birds we're sure to see. Such species as the **Sahul Sunbird**, **Helmeted Friarbird**, **Sulfur-crested Cockatoo** and the iconic **Laughing Kookaburra** are just a few of avian highlights we hope to encounter. We'll have lunch at a beach-side restaurant mid-day, then continue birding until we return to our hotel in the late afternoon in time to freshen-up before we meet to go over our species list and head into Cairns for dinner. We plan to arrive in town in time to witness the vast colonies of **Spectacled Flying Fox Bats** as they take flight from the trees, in search of their nocturnal meal of fruit and nectar. The sheer numbers of bats is almost unbelievable. Tonight everyone will have a little free time to explore Cairns dine where you wish in this town famous for its many & varied culinary offerings. We'll all meet back up after dinner then return to our hotel.

Lodging: [Cairns Beach Resort](#)



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Day 3 - Nov 6 - Birding the Coast to Mossman

Today we load up after breakfast and bird our way north following the coastline towards our next accommodation in Mossman. We'll stop at a number of birding hotspots en route focusing largely on waders, seabirds, shorebirds, and other species likely to be on or near the coast and in coastal wetlands. This stretch of coast line is stunning, so the drive north will be a lovely one. We plan to arrive at the charming town of Port Douglas by noon, in time for us to have lunch at one of its excellent restaurants. After a little free time to explore the town, we'll head for our lodging in Mossman, check in, freshen up, then head out again to do a bit more birding nearby. We return in time to review our bird list and have dinner in Mossman.

Lodging: [Mossman Resort Holiday Villas](#)



Wompoo Fruit-Dove

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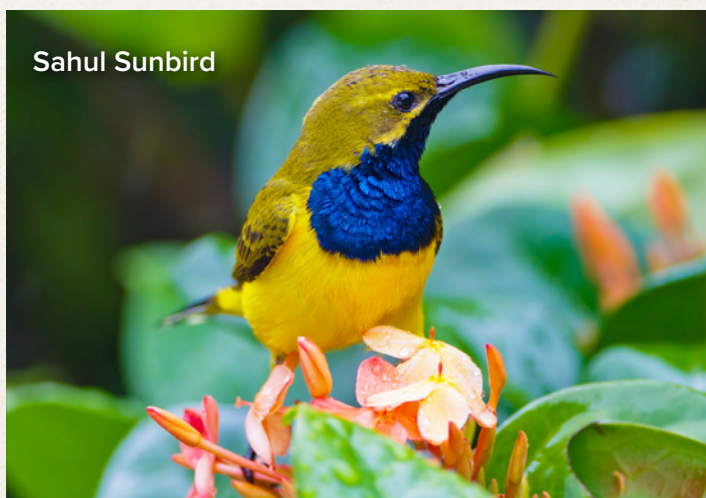
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Laughing Kookaburra



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Sahul Sunbird



Spectacled Flying-Fox

Day 4 - Nov 7 - The Daintree River and More

After an early light breakfast (and coffee for sure!), we depart for a sunrise birding cruise on the world-famous **Daintree River** with Murray Hunt. This is a special experience that sometimes yields sightings of the **Saltwater Crocodile** as well as many species of birds, including a specialty of the area, the **Papuan Frogmouth**. After the cruise, we'll brunch in Daintree, then our local guide will lead us for a bit more birding in the area. We'll go over our species list in the afternoon before we head to dinner at a nearby restaurant, after which we return to our lodging.

Lodging: [Mossman Resort Holiday Villas](#)

Day 5 - Nov 8 - Wildlife & Birds of the Mt. Carbine Region

Today we pack up after breakfast and head up into the Mt Carbine region, then travel south through the Atherton Tablelands to our next lodge. On our way, we'll be keeping

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Duck-billed Platypus



Crimson Rosella



Frisled Lizard



Spotted Catbird



Australian Bustard



Wombat

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an eye out for the **Eastern Grey Kangaroo** and the **Agile Wallaby** as we go. We'll stop at an out-of-the-way park that is home to the rare and charming **Mareeba Rock Wallaby**. Other possible macropods we could see include the **Northern Brown Bandicoot** and **Red-legged Pademelon**, though this would take a bit of luck as these species are largely nocturnal. On the way to our lodging near Atherton, we pass through an area where the **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher** is known to nest (in cavities it excavates in concrete-hard termite mounds!), and further on, agricultural fields where the massive **Australian Bustard** can be found. We'll also be on the lookout for the **Crimson Rosella**, **Great Bowerbird**, and the **Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**, one of the most stunning birds in the world. After a full day, we'll check into our rooms, refresh, then head into Atherton for dinner, species lists in hand.

Lodging: [Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge](#)

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We utilize the services of local guides and, when possible, stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. Through our partnership with the Rainforest Trust, a portion of all international tour fees goes to purchasing rainforest acreage, for its protection in perpetuity. On every trip, we also make a contribution to a local conservation effort that works to protect a native species or ecosystem.



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

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Agile Wallaby



Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher



Day 6 - Nov 9 - Wildlife & Birds of the Atherton Tablelands

Today we wake early in hopes of seeing the rare **Southern Cassowary** as it is known to frequent the grounds of our lodge. Then after breakfast, we'll load up the vehicles to bird the Atherton Tablelands. One of our first stops will be at Lake Barrine, a Nationally Important Bird Area, where almost 300 species of birds have been recorded. This lake is a lovely example of one of the many "Crater Lakes" that dot this region, being formed just as it sounds, in the crater of an extinct volcano. Here we have hopes of seeing the **Great Crested Grebe**, **Australasian Darter**, **Spectacled Monarch**, **Azure Kingfisher** and the **Brown Treecreeper**, along with many others.

Depending on timing, we will likely have lunch here, then head off to visit the **Curtain Fig Tree**, a magnificent example of the Strangler Fig Tree (*Ficus virens*) that is believed to be at least 500 years old. Its mass of hanging vines is home to many insects that unwittingly lure in a variety of birds in search of a meal. Here we could see the **Macleay's**, **Lewin's** & **Yellow-spotted Honeyeaters** feeding on both the insects and figs found here, as well as the **Double-eyed Fig Parrot** who is happy to just munch on, you guessed it, figs.

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Our next major stop is Hasties Swamp, a mecca for waterbirds and birders as well. Here, we could find **Black Swan**, **Cotton Pygmy-goose**, **Australian White Ibis**, **Australasian Painted Snipe**, **Terek Sandpiper** and the **Straw-necked Ibis**. The number of possibilities here is vast, and we may even visit this site twice just to make sure we didn't miss anything. After a full day of birding, we'll head back to our lodging, freshen up, then head out to a local restaurant, where we'll go over our bird list before we dine.

Lodging: [Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge](#)



Hasties Swamp

Day 7 - Nov 10 - Bird our way Back to Cairns

We'll pack up after breakfast and bird several spots en route back to Cairns. Exact locations will be determined based on what species we have, and not have yet, seen. We plan to arrive in Cairns by late-afternoon, with enough time to freshen up before heading out for dinner.

Lodging: [Cairns Beach Resort](#)

Day 8 - Nov 11 - Sky Rail to Kuranda and its Handcraft Markets

After breakfast we head for the Sky Rail, a spectacular tram that travels over and through the rainforest. It offers stunning views and is complete with get-off points that have creative educational exhibits about the region and the rainforest. After arriving in Kuranda, everyone is free to wander and explore the village, having the morning to peruse the **Handcraft Markets** for souvenirs, and/or visit one or more of Kuranda's many venues that include a **Butterfly Garden**, an **Aviary** and a **Venom Zoo**, all of which are fascinating in their own right.

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After meeting up for lunch, we'll pay a visit to **Batreach**, a rehab facility for Flying Fox Bats. We'll have the privilege of getting a behind the scenes tour to see these amazing fruit bats up-close and learn about the important work the organization does to help ensure their survival. Our visit here helps to support their efforts, and is one of the many such conservation programs Wild Latitudes contributes to when we travel. After our time in Kuranda, we return to the hotel by mid-afternoon. We'll meet to go to a nearby restaurant for dinner and review our species list.

Lodging: [Cairns Beach Resort](#)



Rainbow Lorikeet

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Day 9 - Nov 12 - Fly from Cairns to Hobart, Tasmania

Today is largely a travel day as we make our way from Cairns all the way to Tasmania. We'll Catch a morning flight from Cairns, transfer through Sydney, arriving in Tasmania mid-afternoon. We'll load up into our new vehicles and travel into the city of Hobart, and check into our hotel with enough time to explore this small but vibrant capital of Tasmania. Our hotel is located within a short walk of the waterfront, and the **Salamanca Markets**, featuring handmade crafts and locally-themed souvenirs. In the evening, we'll rendezvous at the **Drunken Admiral**, a very cool, nautical-themed restaurant, where those who wish may enjoy a hearty meal of seafood for which they're famous.

Lodging: To be determined

Day 10 - Nov 13 - Salamanca Markets and Birding for Endemics!

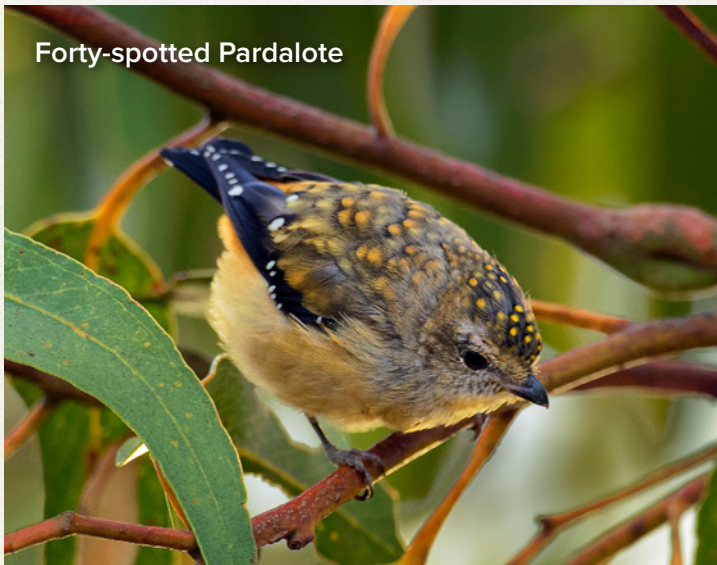
After breakfast, we visit Hobart's Salamanca Markets, famous for the plethora of high-quality, local hand-made crafts. Then we travel south to bird a few hotspots, keeping our eyes open for any and all of Tasmania's **12 endemic species of birds**. We'll make a special effort to find the **Forty-spotted Pardalote**, **Tasmanian Scrubwren**, **Scrubtit** and

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the **Yellow Wattlebird** as these can be especially difficult to see after leaving. We also hope to spot an **Echidna** at some point in Tasmania, an ancient, fascinating egg-laying mammal that is rare elsewhere, but fairly common on the island. We plan on returning to Hobart in time for folks to freshen up before heading out to eat. Tonight, everyone goes “out-and-about” to dine where they like in one of the many nearby restaurants for dinner.

Lodging: To be determined



Day 11 - Nov 14 - Birding Our Way North Along the Scenic Western Road to Queenstown

After an early breakfast, we'll enjoy a truly scenic drive as we head up the rarely-traveled western route to **Queenstown**, a unique hamlet tucked away far off the beaten path. We'll take our time to get there though, stopping for lunch and to bird a bit en route. Time-permitting, we'll make a special stop to walk the nature trail to Nelson Falls; a beautiful short hike that can be excellent birding as well.

Queenstown is known as the old center of mining in Tasmania, and the surrounding bedrock is still rich in metals and rare & semi-precious minerals. We'll take a short tour of the town on arrival then head to our next accommodation, the Penghana BnB. Penghana in an historic mansion whose name means “where two rivers meet” in the language of the once-local Aboriginals, and refers to the nearby confluence of the Queen and Gorman Rivers. The mansion was built and owned by the Lyell Mining Company and served as the home for the company's general manager. Today, it is part of Australia's National Trust and for good reason: it is one of the most stunning examples

of federation architecture in the country. And it is our home for the night, and where we'll gather to review our bird list over drinks before heading out for dinner.

Lodging: To be determined

Day 12 - Nov 15 - Onwards to Cradle Mountain

After a delicious breakfast at Penghana, we say our goodbyes to the mansion and head to the Galley Museum to learn a bit about the history of Queenstown and the mining operations that made it world-famous. After departing Queenstown, we make our way to **Cradle Mountain National Park**, a World Heritage Site of outstanding natural beauty, and in many people's opinion, the crown jewel of Tasmania's many natural areas. We'll plan to arrive in time to have lunch at the park's main lodge, then head to our nearby cabins to check in.

In the afternoon, we'll head to the visitor center and get an orientation to the park, after which folks are free to explore the park as they like. The hiking options are many, so people can choose to take a long, vigorous hike or a leisurely stroll. We'll meet up again in the evening for an evening treat: With luck, we should be able to spot a **Duck-billed Platypus** in a nearby pond! Then, after a little birding around the lodge, we'll head inside for our bird list and dinner.

Lodging: To be determined



Cradle Mountain National Park

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Day 13 - Nov 16 - Free Day to Hike & Explore Cradle Mountain

Today is a day for everyone to enjoy as they like, beginning with breakfast, which is at your leisure in your own cottage. We'll offer a pre-breakfast birding/nature walk for those who are interested, keeping an eye out for **Wombats**, **Tasmanian Pademelon**, **Platypus**, and of course, any new birds we may see to add to our list. This is a free day for everyone to enjoy the beauty of Cradle Mountain as they wish. One may choose to take an easy stroll along the park's famous boardwalks, or to endeavor upon a longer hike on the park's network of trails; either way, the magnificence of the highlands will be yours... mountain scenery with vast button-grass plains, eucalyptus forests and rocky outcroppings. This day is intended to give everyone the chance to simply be in Tasmania, to walk & wander & experience as you like. We'll all meet up in the evening for dinner at the Cradle Mountain Lodge.

Lodging: To be determined

Day 14 - Nov 17 - Morning in Cradle Mountain, then on to Mole Creek

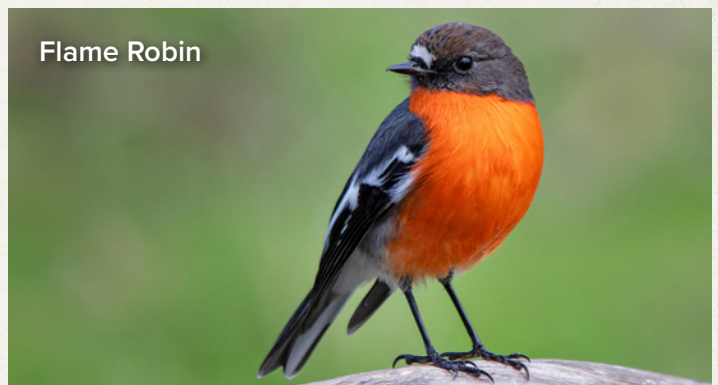
We'll spend one last morning in amidst the splendor of Cradle Mountain, then after lunch, head to the small town of **Mole Creek**, a classic little Tasmanian hamlet. We'll stop along the way to visit the **Walls of Jerusalem National Park**, offering panoramic views of the central highlands of Tasmania. This region is also the haunt of the **Forest Raven**



Crescent Honeyeater



Eastern Quoll



Flame Robin

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and **Black Currawong**, so we will keep an eye out for these endemic birds. We'll arrive in time to move into our cottages and relax a bit, before we head to the Mole Creek Hotel for an early dinner. This establishment is most famous for its **Tassie Tiger Pub**, and its walls are covered with news-clippings, photographs and artwork of this enigmatic species. Tonight we'll offer a special outing: ***a night drive to search for nocturnal mammals***. In the past we have seen **Wallabies**, **Quolls**, **Pademelons** and even the endangered **Tasmanian Devil**.

Lodging: To be determined

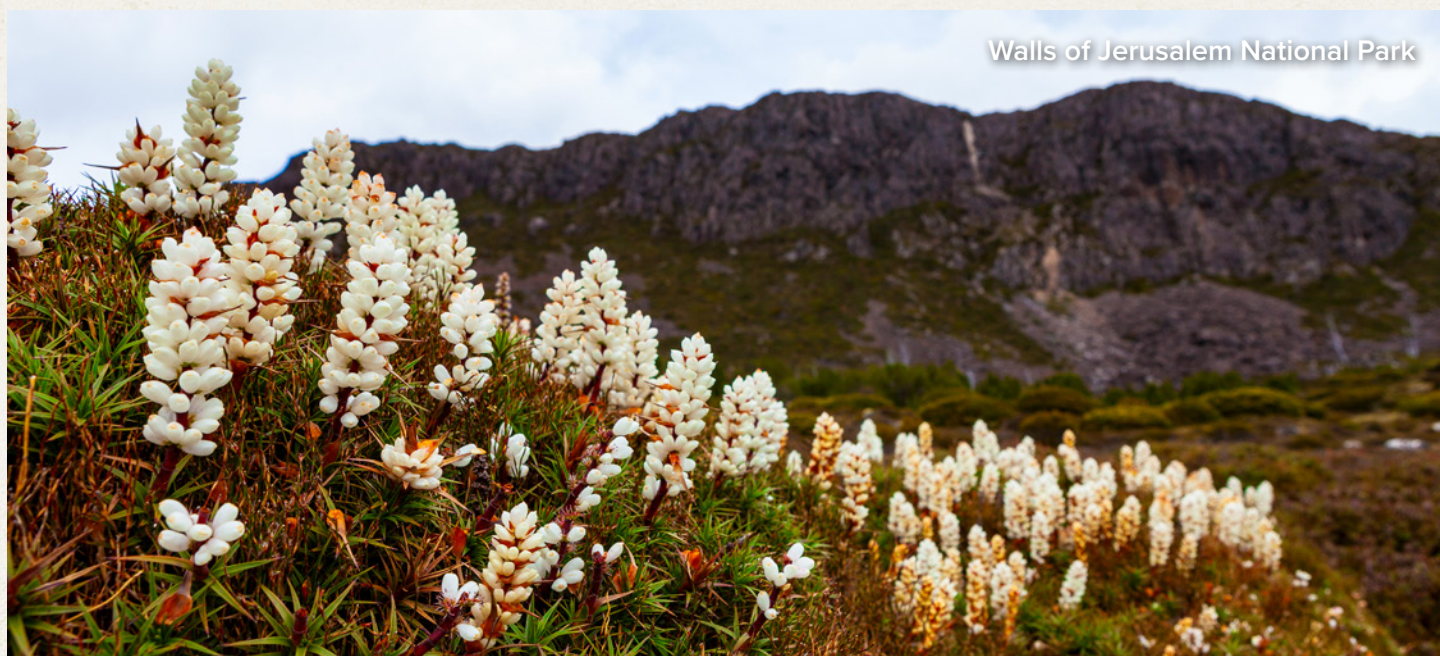
Day 15 - Nov 18 - Visit Trowunna Wildlife Park, Evening Surprise

After having breakfast at a nearby restaurant, we'll get a behind the scenes tour of the **Trowunna Wildlife Park & Rehab Facility**, best known for its important work with **Tasmanian Devils**. Trowunna Wildlife Park has been instrumental in finding ways to protect this iconic species, and our visit here helps support their vital work. After lunch we'll go back to the cottages to freshen up, then head out to a surprise location for dinner, Aussie-style.

Lodging: To be determined

Day 16 - Nov 19 - Travel Home

Breakfast near the hotel then it's off to the Launceston Airport to begin our journey home.



To register for this tour, email or call: steve@wildlatitudes.com, 503-349-7225

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOUR GUIDE

Steve Robertson

A true lover of the natural world, Steve Robertson has been a student of nature his entire life. First, as a little boy, who caught every creature he could for the mini zoo he kept in the garage, then later as an adult, leading scientific research expeditions into some of the most remote regions of the world, searching for rare species in such places as Tasmania, Madagascar, and the upper Amazon Basin.

He is the Co-owner of Wild Latitudes. With degrees in Wildlife Biology, advanced biology & education, Steve has worked in the field of Environmental Education for over 30 years. From 1998 to 2017, he served as the Education Director for the Audubon Society of Portland, creating a number of innovative programs including International Ecotours, a program that has won hundreds of accolades from around the country. During his time with Audubon, Steve personally designed and led ecotours to over 20 countries, spanning six continents.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

When you're ready to sign up for the tour, please let us know by doing one of the following:

- Send us an email at info@wildlatitudes.com
- Call us at 503-714-3504

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 503-714-3504. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason Wild Latitudes cancels a tour prior to the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.