



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

ITINERARY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

September 10-21, 2025

©2025



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!

Australia's isolation has resulted in the evolution of a remarkable array of endemic birds and other wildlife. Of the 76 indigenous Australian bird families, seven are endemic to Australia and a further nine are shared only with nearby New Guinea. Approximately 300+ of the recorded 760 species are found nowhere else on our planet. More than 80% of Australia's mammals are endemic and include two of the world's three egg-laying monotremes, the short-beaked echidna and the platypus; and an extraordinary variety of marsupials including gliders, possums, miniature carnivores, burrow dwelling macropods to huge plains-dwelling red kangaroos and placentals including some of Australia's least known mammals. Australia also hosts the most diverse reptile fauna in the world including such extraordinary creatures as the thorny devil, frilled lizard and 18 species of highly predatory goannas (monitor lizards).



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

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 in the southwest and the vast Kimberley. Here among the towering Karri forests and at freshwater pools hidden in the mysterious depths of deep, otherworldly gorges, we will seek out some of Australia's most special birds and mammals. 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. 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 sumptuous Red-capped Parrot, Western Rosella, Rock Parrot, the extremely localized Noisy Scrub-bird, White-breasted and Western Yellow robins, Western Whipbird, Western Shrike-

tit, Western Whistler, 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 Malleefowl, Brush Bronzewing, Regent Parrot, Southern Scrub-Robin, Chestnut Quail-thrush, 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!).

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, 2025) and/or Grand Australia Part II (October 4-21, 2025).

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 Qantas Flight 643, which is scheduled to depart at 8:20 a.m. and arrive in Perth at 11:20 a.m. (subject to change). Those arriving on this flight will be met and transferred to our hotel where lunch will be served.

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 green, 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 (25 times larger than England). After lunch (for those who wish), we will commence our exploration with a visit to the floristically very diverse Kings Park Botanical Gardens. Western Australia is justifiably world famous for its many species of superb banksias as well as many other native plants.

A visit to King's Park will provide a good opportunity to view a number of these plants which also attract a good selection of Perth's 260+ birds: Rainbow and Purple-crowned lorikeets; Australian Ringneck; Western Rosella; Varied Sittella; Western Thornbill; the sensational Scarlet Robin; Splendid Fairywren; Red and Western wattlebirds - typically vociferous and pugnacious; the dapper White-cheeked Honeyeater; Western Spinebill - a very striking endemic; and Mistletoebird.

After Kings Park we may have time to visit the nearby wetlands at Lake Monger. This is a great place to get up close to species such as Blue-billed Duck, Hardhead, Pink-eared Duck, Musk Duck and Great Crested Grebe. In addition, the Black Swan, the bird emblem of Western Australia, can be hand fed here.

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 be Wungong Gorge. 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 Western 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-Yit 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 home 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 the entire day in which to explore this fascinating reserve and some of the birds we may encounter include the elusive but very smart-looking Painted Buttonquail; Stubble Quail; the scarce Square-tailed Kite; Collared Sparrowhawk; Wedge-tailed Eagle; Bush Thick-knee; Common Bronzewing; Purple-crowned Lorikeet; the stunningly golden Regent Parrot; Southern Boobook; Tawny Frogmouth; Australian Owlet-Nightjar; Rufous Treecreeper; Red-capped, Hooded 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; brushtail possum and western pygmy-possum. We may also encounter sand monitors, harmless carpet pythons 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.



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

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.

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.

There are any number of other good birding areas within easy reach of Albany and depending on what we have already seen and the time available, we will make a visit to one or more of these. Some of the birds we might look for include Yellow-billed Spoonbill; Blue-billed Duck; Swamp Harrier; Buff-banded Rail; Baillon's and Australian Spotted crakes; Black-tailed Native-hen; Sooty and Pied oystercatchers; Red-kneed Dotterel; Black-fronted Plover; Red-necked Avocet; Rock Parrot; Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike; Western Whistler; Yellow-rumped Thornbill; New Holland Honeyeater; Gray Butcherbird; and Australian Raven.

NIGHTS: Hilton Garden Inn, Albany

September 19, Day 10: Morning at Torindirrup National Park; Afternoon 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 will 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. But beware this is a dangerous coastline and King waves do occur!



The lovely endemic White-breasted Robin © Max Breckenridge

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 46 meters! Other characteristic trees include red and yellow tingle and western Australian peppermint. Perhaps nowhere can these forests be appreciated better than from the very impressive canopy walkway near Nornalup. 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; the strikingly attractive White-backed Swallow; 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: Karri Valley Resort, Yeagarup

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 Naturaliste located at the most southwestern tip of the continent. With a bit of luck we should find Red-tailed Tropicbirds in residence on nearby Sugarloaf Rock, the only breeding colony of this species in mainland Australia. 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 and Rock Parrot.

During the afternoon we will drive to Lake McLarty Nature Reserve. This important wetland supports huge numbers of water birds (up to 20,000) including Chestnut Teal and, with luck, Freckled ducks; Australian Shelduck; several herons and egrets; Australasian Bittern; Yellow-billed Spoonbill; Glossy Ibis; several crakes and rails including Australian Spotted and Baillon's crake; Black-tailed Native-hen; numbers of arriving migrant shorebirds (including Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Long-toed and Red-necked stint, and Ruff) and several terns; White-winged Triller; Yellow-throated Miner; and Rufous and Brown songlark.

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, 2025) 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.

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

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.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for this tour is **\$5,195** per person in double occupancy from Perth including all meals from lunch on Day 3 to dinner on Day 11. Each tour fee includes accommodations as stated in the itinerary, entrance fees to all parks, ground transportation during the tour and guide services provided by the tour leaders. Fees do not include international airfare from your home to & from Perth, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may have to be charged.

Participants combining this tour with Grand Australia Part I (September 20-October 6, 2025) will spend the night of September 21 at the Pullman Sydney Hyde Park in Sydney at no extra charge.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$1,065**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$1,000** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at <https://ventbird.com>) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

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 150 days (April 13, 2025) prior to the tour departure date.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement 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 are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:

Cancellation by Participant:

Refunds, if any, for any cancellation by a participant are made according to the following schedule: If participant cancels 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$500** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. If cancellation is made between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the tour fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre- and post-tour extensions. **For participants' protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.**

If participant cancels:

180 days or more before departure date

Participant's refund will be:

Participant's deposit minus \$500*

179 to 151 days before departure date	No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance of the tour fee will be refunded
150 days or less before departure date	No refund available

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

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/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

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:

<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.

*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.

Coronavirus (COVID-19):

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 MedjetAssist

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 or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

AIR INFORMATION: 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: The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your airline to find out specific weight restrictions. 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 the most updated information: <http://www.tsa.gov/>.

CLIMATE: 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.

CLOTHING: 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.

DRIVING: 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: 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.

DOCUMENTS: In order to visit Australia, a passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure and an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) are required for citizens of most countries including the USA and Canada. Please use the link below to initiate the application process:

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.). 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.

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 regarding recommendations for avoiding COVID-19.

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.

An 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 is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment has to 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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). You can check the CDC website at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html> (click on Travel Health).

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

MISC:

Electricity:	220/240 volts with three-pronged outlets
Adapter:	Type I or AS/NZS 3112
Language:	English and aboriginal languages
Time:	Western Australia, 14 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time Central Australia, 15½ hours ahead of EST East Coast, 16 hours ahead of EST

SUGGESTED READING: 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. We also recommend Andrew Isles books for the Asia-Pacific region at <http://www.andrewisles.com> for difficult to find and out of print books for Australia.

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.

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.

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT: 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 February 27, 2025 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.

WAW:20250910
1/30/25-MB
03/03/25-SB/EL