

Jabiru Safari Lodge



Mareeba Wetlands

Cairns Highlands Bird Week

Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands

Jabiru Safari Lodge at Mareeba Wetlands is pleased to announce a week of birding delights, including the Gouldian Finch release and the annual Birds Australia Tablelands crane count. The week starts with a wetlands' birding experience within the 2000 hectare Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve before venturing further afield to rainforest, river, outback and coastal environments.

The base for the 7 days is Jabiru Safari Lodge. Nestled near the banks of Clancy's Lagoon in a delightful natural setting, the Jabiru Safari Lodge allows guests to experience the outback with a touch of class. The tented African-style safari lodges have spacious en-suites, private veranda decks. A delightful spa jacuzzi in a natural bush setting provides an opportunity to relax and cool off. The eco cabins are 12v solar-powered and feature en-suites, private verandas and comfortable beds.

Your Expert Guide and Host



David 'Chook' Crawford and Tracey McDougall, are seasoned industry professionals who are dedicated to ensuring you get the most from your Bird Week experience. Chook is the Resident Jabiru Safari Lodge Birding guide and has been involved in leading birding tours throughout Cape York and the Atherton Tablelands and has built up a wealth of knowledge of the local area's best bird locations. After an extensive career leading small group 4wd safaris throughout Cape York and Northern Australia, Chook and Tracey will bring unsurpassed local knowledge in the environment to ensure a memorable Birdweek.

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We are likely to see the 12 Endemic Species of the highlands on our bird week tour. These include Tooth-Billed Bowerbird, Fernwren, Atherton Scrubwren, Mountain Thornbill, Bridled Honeyeater, Macleays Honeyeater, Chowchilla, Bower's Shrike-Thrush, Pied Monarch, Victorias Riflebird, Grey-Headed Robin and Golden Bowerbird

Departs: Sunday 27th September 2009.

Finishes: Sunday 4th October 2009.

Pick up: From 9am at your accommodation in Cairns or the Northern Beaches

Cost: Eco-cabin accommodation \$1995 pp, twin share (Single Supp \$195)

Deluxe cabin accommodation \$2240 pp, twin share (Single Supplement \$238)

Duration: 8 Days

Maximum: 16 guests

Bookings and enquiries:

1800 788 755 Email: info@jabirusafarilodge.com.au

www.jabirusafarilodge.com.au

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Itinerary

Day 1 Saturday Cairns to Jabiru Safari Lodge (Lunch and Dinner included)

After being collected from your Cairns, Northern Beaches or Port Douglas accommodation at 9am, travel through rainforest-shrouded slopes up the range to the Cairns Highlands (Atherton Tablelands). The rainforest gives way to woodland savanna forest and after 1 & 1/2 hours drive we arrive at the 2000 hectare Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve.

After meeting your Lodge Host Tracey McDougall and Resident Birding Guide, David 'Chook' Crawford, you check into your luxury African-style tented safari lodge with en-suite facilities. As part of the Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland's Gouldian Finch Reintroduction Program, we gather late morning for the official opening of the cage for the soft release of the Gouldian Finches before lunching in the Overflow café overlooking Clancy's Lagoon.

We transfer to the vehicle to travel through the Reserve seeking bush birds and to Pandanus Lagoon, where there are frequently Brolgas, Jabirus, Black Swans and other waterbirds that may be observed from our private bird-hide.

We return to the Safari Lodge where we snack on cheese and biscuits as we watch the sun set over the mountains and lagoon with a glass of wine. Dinner tonight is a BBQ dinner on the deck as we get to know each other and plan for the week ahead. **O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge.**

Day 2 Sunday (Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included)

Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetlands Reserve Field Day

With an early start, we spend our day birding in the Reserve travelling by vehicle and on foot to experience a range of habitats. Targeted species will be the Black-throated Finch, Squatter Pigeon and the elusive Black-backed form of the Brown Treecreeper.

Time is available after lunch on the deck for seeking the elusive Gouldian Finch in the wild before setting out again in the afternoon in the Reserve. We return after a great day's birding to the Lodge for a late afternoon eco-cruise by electric boat, to get up close to the lagoon birds. Enjoy a sundown drink on your veranda as the sun sets over Clancy's Lagoon. This evening we sit around the campfire and enjoy an evening of Bush Poetry and a camp oven dinner. **O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge.**

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Day 3 Monday (Breakfast, lunch and dinner included)

Lake Eacham Rainforest Field Day

Today we visit rainforest habitats around Lake Eacham, Wongabel State Forest and Hastie's Swamp. Targeted species will include the Atherton Scrubwren, Victoria's Riflebird and Spotted Catbird. After a satisfying afternoon birding, we will eat out this evening in Mareeba before making our way back to the lodge. **O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge.**

Day 4 Tuesday (Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included)

Raptor Field Day

Today's focus is on raptors and outback birds as we travel from the lodge out into the savanna. Targeted species for the day will include the Wedge Tailed Eagle, Black-breasted Buzzard and Australian Bustard. We return for drinks and dinner on the deck at the Lodge.

O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge.

Day 5 Wednesday (Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included)

Mt Lewis Rainforest Field Day

We depart early morning to explore the birds of the nearby Mt Lewis rainforest. Targeted species for the day will include the Tooth-Billed Bowerbird and Bower Shrike Thrush. Seasonal birds we hope to observe will include the Blue-faced Parrot Finch and Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher. After an excellent day of Mountain Rainforest birding, we travel to Kingfisher Park to continue birding in the late afternoon with owner/guide, Keith Fisher before our journey home to the Lodge. Murri's Delights cater dinner tonight with an indigenous flavour featuring local bush tucker flavours. **O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge.**

Day 6 Thursday (Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included)

Daintree World Heritage Field Day

This morning we will focus on various habitats on our journey down the range to the Daintree village for some coastal and rainforest birding. Venturing deep up and over the Daintree River, we seek Square-tailed Kites and Double-eyed Fig parrots. This afternoon we undertake an afternoon cruise on the Daintree River with one of the Daintree's experienced operators, seeking Kingfishers and Great Billed Herons.

We travel back up the Rex Highway to Julatten and our evening dinner at the Mt Molloy Hotel, before returning to our **O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge.**

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Day 7 Friday (Breakfast, morning tea, lunch and dinner included) Chook's Choice Field Day

By now your Birding Guide 'Chook' Crawford will have assessed the interests and passions of all participants and his choice for today will reflect the interests of the group and seek elusive target species not yet sighted. Chook has some favourite birding haunts and maybe the weather had not been kind to us on an earlier day in the rainforest.

Late afternoon sees us return to prepare for the annual Birds Australia Crane Count. Our focus will be Pandanus Lagoon and our target will be to increase numbers sighted. We will remain at the count until after sunset. We return for drinks on the Deck and invite local crane counters to join us for our final meal at the Lodge to cap off a wonderful birdweek. Our final dinner will feature awarding of birdweek T shirts and prizes as we celebrate the end of a fantastic week of birding in Tropical North Queensland. **O/n Accommodation Jabiru Safari Lodge.**

Day 8 Saturday (Breakfast and lunch included)

After a hearty breakfast to say farewell, we depart at 9.30am for transfer to Cairns, arriving at 12.30 after a wonderful week of birding.

What's included

- 7 nights twin share accommodation in Deluxe Safari Tent Cabin or eco-cabin
- All meals from arrival Day 1 to departure Day 8
- Complimentary Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland membership
- Gouldian finch release
- Private Reserve Guiding
- Eco cruise
- Mt Lewis Rainforest Field Day
- Daintree World Heritage Field Day
- Daintree River Cruise
- Lake Eacham Rainforest Field Day
- Raptor Field Day
- 'Chook's' Choice Field day
- Mareeba Wetlands field day
- Crane Count activities

What's not included

- Additional alcoholic & non alcoholic beverages

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