Welcome TO THE KATHERINE BIRDING TRAIL

The wellbeing of our birds is our top priority. Making as little impact as possible in these environments is of high importance for the future protection of these wonderful species. Although our land is vast, there are restrictions placed on certain areas where access is strictly prohibited.

- Please respect all landowners. Much of the Katherine region is held under traditional Indigenous custodianship, by private landholders or managed conservation areas. Please keep to marked tracks and obey all signage. If you are unsure, please ask.

- Remain a safe distance (5m) from the water’s edge when you are close to any body of water as saltwater crocodiles are common and can be found in all natural waterways.

- Try not to disturb or feed any of the wildlife. Limit the use of recordings or ‘call-back’ and keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts and important feeding sites.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To the Katherine birding trail

Home to around 240 bird species, the Katherine region gives you an insight into a world of flight and colour and will inspire you to explore further throughout this spectacular landscape. Known as an area where ‘the outback meets the tropics’, this region provides a range of habitats including sandstone escarpments, tropical savanna woodlands and rocky outcrops.

KATHERINE TRAILS - WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO SEE

1 LEELIYIN (EDITH FALLS) – NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

A spectacular place to visit and look for birds amongst the sandstone escarpment, riverine corridor and open eucalypt woodland. The Sweetwater walk up to ‘Longhole Pool’ from the carpark is a good place to search for the beautiful Gouldian Finch. A variety of other species can be found in this area including Crimson Finch, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Horsfield’s Kitebird, Long-tailed Finch and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike.

Top 3 Birds
- Gouldian Finch
- Red-backed Fairywren
- Varied Lorikeet
- Bonus: Northern Rosella

2 NITMILUK GORGE – NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

A pleasant 30 minute drive out of Katherine, the beautiful Nitmiluk Gorge is a popular place to visit. In addition to the many water based activities you can do here, there are plenty of walks on the ‘Southern Walks trails’ to enjoy the beautiful birdlife. Keep an eye out for White-faced Heron, Grey Shrikethrush, Silver-backed Butcherbird and Australian Hobby.

Top 3 Birds
- Azure Kingfisher
- Chestnut-crested Rock Pigeon
- Great-billed Heron
- Bonus: Peregrine Falcon

3 VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

As you travel into Katherine, drop into the information centre and also enjoy the beautiful birdlife. Keep an eye out for White-faced Heron, Grey Shrikethrush, Radjah Shelduck, Little Pied Cormorant and Red-collared Lorikeet.

Top 3 Birds
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
- Apostlebird
- White-breasted Woodswallow
- Bonus: Yellow-rumped Mannikin

4 WALKING PATH TO KATHERINE MUSEUM

A great little walking track early in the morning or late afternoon where an array of bird species can be seen in the trees along the riverbank. Keep an eye out for Northern Rosella, Rainbow Bee-eater, Double-barred Finches and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. After dark, listen out for the Barking Owl as they are fairly common in this area.

Top 3 Birds
- Red-winged Parrot
- Yellow-tinted Honeyeater
- Barking Owl
- Bonus: Southern Boobook

5 KATHERINE LOW LEVEL NATURE RESERVE

Just 3 kilometres along the Victoria Highway and just out of town, the Low Level Nature Reserve is a great place to birdwatch. There is a network of paths as well as picnic facilities to enjoy a full day here, however birders also love this place because of the many different habitats within easy walking distance. Keep an eye out for Sacred Kingfisher, Red-rumped Shelduck, Little Pied Cormorant and Red-colorred Lorikeet.

Top 3 Birds
- Lanner Night-heron
- Shining Flycatcher
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Bonus: White-winged Triller

HEADING FURTHER OUT OF KATHERINE? TAKE IN A COUPLE OF OTHER OUTSTANDING AREAS SUCH AS:

6 PINE CREEK TOWNSHIP

One hour north of Katherine, Pine Creek is an ideal spot to stretch your legs and keep a look out for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Cockatoo, Varied Lorikeet, Red-backed Kingfisher and Blue-winged Kookaburra.

Top 3 Birds
- Hooded Parrot
- Grey-crowned Babbler
- Great Bowerbird
- Bonus: Partridge Pigeon

7 ELSEY NATIONAL PARK

Located an hour south of Katherine, Elsey National Park is a wonderful place to explore. Visit Bitter Springs, Mataranka Thermal Springs and various day-use areas on the road to Jaimurark (12 Mile Stockyard). Look for birds such as Rufous Whistler, Little Finfoot and Mistletoebird.

Top 3 Birds
- Crested Shrike-tit (Northern form)
- Arafura Fantail
- Banded Honeyeater
- Bonus: Red Goshawk

8 VICTORIA RIVER

Traveling west from Katherine you will start to see a change in the landscape, noticeable by the slow appearance of Boab trees and the spectacular escarpment. Keep an eye out for Wedge-tailed Eagles feeding off road kill. Check areas near the Victoria River to search for a variety of finches including Masked and Long-tailed. The walks along the escarpment provide magnificent views overlooking Victoria River as well as great birds such as Sandstone Shrikethrush and Banded Honeyeater.

Top 3 Birds
- Purple-crowned Fairywren
- White-quilled Rock Pigeon
- Star Finch
- Bonus: Chestnut-backed Buttonquail

Top End Birdfinder
KARAKU - KATHERINE

www.mickjerram.com
Book 0427 067 154

Stay & Play at Nitmiluk Gorge
Cruises - cultural tours - canoeing - walks

NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

www.nitmiluktours.com.au
www.katherinebirding.com.au
www.tracksbirding.com.au
www.experiencethewild.com.au

Northern Territory - Australia’s Outback
Share your experiences and images with us on any of our social media pages - @BirdsNT

Katherine Trails
Image: Gouldian Finch © Laurie Ross / Tourism NT

Katherine Trails - Where to go and what to see

Top 3 Birds

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- White-quilled Rock Pigeon
- Star Finch
- Bonus: Chestnut-backed Buttonquail
Birds of Katherine Checklist

- Brown Quail
- Australasian Darter
- Great-billed Heron
- Nankeen Night-Heron
- Osprey
- Black-breasted Buzzard
- Little Eagle
- Wedge-tailed Eagle
- Spotted Harrier
- Brown Goshawk
- Collared Sparrowhawk
- Grey Goshawk
- Black-breasted Buzzard
- Red Goshawk
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle
- Australian Bustard
- Bush Stone-curlew
- Chestnut-backed Buttonquail
- Red-backed Buttonquail
- Common Bronzewing
- Dove (Peaceful, Diamond, Bar-shouldered)
- Partridge Pigeon
- Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon
- White-quilled Rock Pigeon
- Pheasant Coucal
- Brush Cuckoo
- Pallid Cuckoo
- Barking Owl
- Southern Boobook
- Tawny Frogmouth
- Spotted Nightjar
- Australian Owlet-nightjar
- Azure Kingfisher
- Blue-winged Kookaburra
- Red-backed Kingfisher
- Forest Kingfisher
- Sacred Kingfisher
- Rainbow Bee-eater
- Australian Hobby
- Brown Falcon
- Peregrine Falcon
- Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo
- Galah
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Cockatoo
- Red-winged Parrot
- Northern Rosella
- Hooded Parrot
- Varied Lorikeet
- Red-collared Lorikeet
- Great Bowerbird
- Black-tailed Treecreeper
- Purple-crowned Fairywren
- Variegated Fairywren
- Red-backed Fairywren
- Yellow-tinted Honeyeater
- Banded Honeyeater
- Bar-breasted Honeyeater
- Black-chinned Honeyeater
- Dusky Honeyeater
- Rufous-throated Honeyeater
- White-throated Honeyeater
- Silver-crowned Friarbird
- Little Friarbird
- Red-browed Pardalote
- Striated Pardalote
- Weebill
- White-throated Gerygone
- Grey-crowned Babblers
- Little Woodswallow
- Pied Butcherbird
- Varied Stelloading
- Crested Shrike-tit
- Grey Shrikethrush
- Sandstone Shrikethrush
- Rufous Whistler
- Northern Fantail
- Arafura Fantail
- Leaden Flycatcher
- Paperbark Flycatcher
- Shining Flycatcher
- Apostlebird
- Buff-sided Robin
- Tawny Grassbird
- Golden-headed Cisticola
- Crimson Finch
- Star Finch
- Zebra Finch
- Double-barred Finch
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