

Sunshine Coast Pelagic Trips Information Sheet

ACCESS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

- Please park in the public car park located opposite the BP service station, which is just up the road from the Bridge Seafood Restaurant, which is at 209 Brisbane Road, Mooloolaba (see maps below).
- The boat departs from the jetty at the Bridge Seafood Restaurant itself. Please try to be at the pontoon around 6.00am so we can be on board the boat by 6.15am. We are scheduled to depart at 6.30am at the latest so please allow plenty of time to get there.
- Richard Fuller's mobile number is 0458 353 102.
- Please note that now all payments are processed, if you decide to pull out, a refund is made only if somebody on a waiting list can fill the spot, or if you can find somebody to fill it yourself. In most cases if sufficient notice is given, it is possible to fill the spot from a waiting list.
- It should take us about 2.5 hours to reach our main destination – the edge of the continental shelf. Bear in mind that we are keen to get out there as soon as possible; we will stop for something only if it is particularly interesting. We should be back in port by around 3.30pm.
- There is water on board and plastic cups but it is a good idea to bring your own bottle. Bring your own lunch. The boat has an extensive sheltered area that is adequate to provide cover from rain. More on the boat is on Greg Roberts' blog here: <http://sunshinecoastbirds.blogspot.com.au/2017/05/new-charter-boat-for-sunshine-coast.html>.
- Take treatment for sea-sickness if you suffer from it or suspect you may; it is quite an effort to get out there, and we will head back only if we have dangerous seasickness occurring.
- When boarding the vessel, the crew will instruct you as to where you can place / store your bags and belongings. You will be asked to sign a passenger log and listen to a safety briefing before departure. Of course, you will have your binoculars/cameras on you, and it is a good idea to keep your water bottle somewhere easily accessible such as the cooler box that is next to the bags storage locker on the deck.
- I will email everyone during the week before departure to confirm if the weather is looking okay. Please check your inboxes again on the day before departure in case of late cancellation due to weather. If the trip is cancelled due to bad weather, we will reschedule it. If we don't get the numbers for a rescheduled trip, it won't happen and your money will be refunded. If we do get the numbers but you cannot make the new date, your money will be refunded.
- Our boat has a good capacity for rougher seas. So long as the swell is not too bad, we will be heading out in winds of up to 25 knots. Bear in mind that it will be bump out there in such conditions, but of course the birding can be excellent.

GOLDEN RULES FOR PELAGIC BIRDING

- This is a large vessel. Sometimes a bird will be seen at one end of the boat and people at the other end may not know about it. Don't hesitate to yell loudly. **There is no shame in yelling for a bird that turns out to be something common, or not what you initially thought it might be. Much better to be safe than sorry.**
- Seabirds are quick moving, and we need to be quick too. It's helpful to call out with continuous loud commentary if there is something interesting, "It's flying left, below the horizon, now above" etc, until everyone is on the bird in question. Just listen and watch Nikolas Haass in action for a great example!
- Try to be aware of those around you – if a rare bird shows up and everyone is straining to see it, those at the front should check to see if they are blocking the view of others who might still be searching to catch their first sight of the bird.
- I will eBird the entire trip, in a number of different segments, as per the eBird protocol for pelagics, and can share the lists with participants – just pass me your eBird username or email. I will also produce a trip report and email it around to participants.
- Please submit any particularly high quality photographs, or those of rare or contentious birds to me, so I can include them in the trip report and on the eBird checklists.

Trip bookings, general info on trips: Richard Fuller, 0458 353 102, r.fuller@uq.edu.au

All financial matters: James Martin, 0412 706 821, jay49martin@gmail.com

