TOUR 1: GUADALCANAL & RENNELL

The largest raised atoll in the world, Rennell is home to 43 species of breeding birds and boasts 6 endemics. All of the endemics can be seen in close proximity to the airfield by walking along the logging tracks. This tour also visits Honiara and its environs including a morning visit to Mt. Asutin where Ultramarine Kingfisher, Duchess Lorikeet and White-billed Crow are amongst the highlights. A relatively easy tour with no steep treks up into the hills though the surface of the Rennell tracks can be a bit rough.

TOUR 2: SANTA ISABEL BLACK-FACED PITTA HUNT

Offering you the chance of some of the Solomon’s most iconic birds - the Black-faced Pitta, the Fearful Owl and the Solomon’s Frogmouth, this is one of our most popular Solomons destinations. The walk up Mt Tongo is steep and needs a reasonable level of fitness but the rewards are great. A morning up Mt Austen before flying out ends the tour.

TOUR 3: KOLOMBANGARA AND GIZO

Kolombangara is one of our favourite islands. With relatively little highland clearance having occurred this is a great place for birding. While people of only a moderate fitness level can manage the trails around Hambere, Ringii and Imbu Ranu where some great birds including, Roviana Rail, can be found, a much higher level of fitness is needed to access the cloud forest at the lip of the caldera which is the only place to see Kolombangara Leaf Warbler. The islands of Gizo, Vella Lavella and Ranongga are all visited on this tour and each has an endemic White-eye, and chances of Heinroth’s Shearwater are quite good.

TOUR 4: MAKIRA

The island of Makira holds some of the world’s least known birds. Although the lowland trails around Kirakira are easily accessible to most people, a quite strenuous walk up to the Hauta Conservation area and the inland mountains will allow the more serious birders a chance at some little seen endemics including Shade Warbler, Makira Thrush, Makira Leaf Warbler and White-headed Fruit Dove. Ugi Island also offers a chance to see Silver-capped Fruit Dove, White-collared and Ugi Black Monarch.

TOUR 5: GENTLE SOLOMONS

This tour visits most of the major hotspots in the Solomons with the exception of Santa Isabel. It does however, limit itself to the areas that are most easily accessible and does not attempt the more strenuous climbs up into the mountains. While it provides a very good representation of Solomons birds, the more difficult montane birds, only found at high altitude, will not be seen.

TOUR 6: COMPREHENSIVE SOLOMONS

This exciting birdwatching tour visits all the major birding sites within the Solomons in its search for as many as possible of the island’s endemics. It requires a good level of fitness as it is not an easy tour, with long steep hikes up into mountains, and nights camping under possibly difficult conditions, but the rewards are many rarely seen and little-known species.

COMBINATION AND CUSTOMISED TOURS

We offer a number of “Combination Tour” packages such as Birds and Diving, Birds and Surfing and Birds and Battlefields. We also offer more general tours suitable for families and those who prefer a more relaxed experience. Our Safari or Trip Packages offers the chance for cultural activities, watching turtle hatchings, kayaking, snorkeling and beach and forest walks. Photographic tours can also be arranged.

We can develop determined itineraries for those with particular interests and requirements, and are happy to cater for those with just a passing interest in natural history through to the hardcore birder.

Recommended Sicklebill Safaris Tours . . .

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About Sicklebill Safaris

With over 20 years’ experience Sicklebill Safaris is a specialist tour company with significant expertise in organizing bird, wildlife and cultural tours for small groups and individuals. We are actively involved with the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau in publicising the Solomons as an attractive place for birders, with a number of visits undertaken throughout the islands to assess the birding sites, accommodation and guides. We are now involved in a training programme for the local guides, and have developed a number of ready-made itineraries, which range from a series of “Task Off” Tours, which highlight particular areas, to comprehensive itineraries visiting all the major birding sites, with possible extensions to the less commonly visited ones. We also cater for those not specifically bird orientated, to suit the more adventurous family or people with special interests. We are happy to develop customised itineraries either for travel with one of our experienced guides, or using local guides only.

About Solomon Islands Holidays

Solomon Islands Holidays is an Australian based business that has been specialising in the region since 2005. We work in partnership with Sicklebill Safaris for all their birdwatching tours. Our particular expertise is in independent and small group travel to the eco lodges, resorts and hotels throughout the Solomon Islands. We are also able to arrange surfing, World War 2 history tours, scuba diving, cultural tours to numerous destinations either led by one of our experienced guides or using local guides only.

Sicklebill Safaris offers small group bird, wildlife and cultural tours to numerous destinations either led by one of our experienced guides or using local guides only.