

## Bird Watching in Bhutan

<b>Trip code</b>	0
<b>Package name</b>	Bird Watching in Bhutan
<b>Duration</b>	18
<b>Max. elevation</b>	3700 m
<b>Level</b>	MODERATE
<b>Transportation</b>	Private vehicals all&nbsp; round trip.
<b>Accomodation</b>	3***hotel and Tent twin sharing bed basis during the tour
<b>Starts at</b>	Paro
<b>Ends at</b>	Guwahati
<b>Trip route</b>	Paro - Chelele pass - Punakha - Gasa - Phobjikha - Trongsa - Tingtibi - Bumthang - Sengor - namling - Yongkola - Trashingga - samdrup - Guwahati
<b>Cost</b>	USD 4,550 per person

## Highlights

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## Overview

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Bhutan has a rich birdlife owing mainly to its undisturbed habitat. It is a paradise for bird watchers and has a rich birdlife owing mainly to its undisturbed habitat. The areas listed below are readily accessible, but remember that any good-quality forest with mature trees and well-developed under-story especially subtropical forest, warm and cool broadleaved forests, oak, fir and hemlock forests-is likely to be a good area for birdwatching.

This tour begins from the west and goes east, spanning the entire length of the country and passing through some of the best birding sites in the kingdom. Since the first ornithological exploration in 19th Century by Captain R.B Pebberton, the bird count has been increasing ever seen. 770 species of them are probable in Bhutan. At least sixteen are considered as threatened. Enjoy huge tract of Himalayan forest, snow-capped mountain ranges and the often approachable and exceptional wildlife, and experience the traditional cultural this country has to offer with visits to monasteries and temples.

During this tour, you can spot the finest native bird in their magnificent natural habitat. With trained and experienced local field guides who are themselves keen birders; this tour will be a life time memory for you. The Buddhist principles of living in harmony with nature form the cornerstones of the government's conservation policies, which have declared more than 26 percent of the landmass as protected areas and national parks. The Bhutanese constitution states that more than 60 percent of the country must remain under forest cover for all times to come. As of now 72 percent of the country is under forest cover (including shrubs). Despite the country's size, around 770 species of birds have been recorded in Bhutan and the kingdom is recognized as 221 global endemic birds' areas. Unlike many part of Asia, one is not obliged to seek out a park or reserve or remnant patch of 'good looking' habitat, since at any stop even in the midst of farmland, exciting birds are visible. The mixed broadleaf forests are much richer, and therefore more exciting for birding, than the rather slow growing monotypic stands of blue pine and particularly pine.

More than 670 species of birds are found in the Kingdom of Bhutan among which 50 species are the winter migrants such as ducks, waders, birds of prey, thrushes, finches, buntings and others are partially migrants such as: cuckoos, swifts, bee-eaters, warblers and fly catchers. It also harbors more than 16 species of vulnerable birds: the Pallas's Fish Eagle, White bellied Heron, Satyr Tragopan, Grey bellied Tragopan, Ward's Trogon, Blyth's King Fisher, Rumped Honey Guide, Purple Cochoa, Rufous Throated Wren Babbler, Red Headed Parrot Bill, Chestnut breasted Partridge, Dark Rumped Swift, Rufous necked Hornbill, Grey crowned Prinia and the beautiful Nuthatch. The country is also home to species of birds that are in danger of extinction: The Imperial Heron and the rare black-necked crane. The country is an important winter habitat for the rare Black necked cranes that are spotted in Phobjikha in Eastern Bhutan, where they come in large flocks in the months of September and October and fly back to Tibet between February and March. The best season for birding is in spring (mid-March to late May)

### **Paro Recorded birds**

Some of the recorded bird species in Paro includes: Aberrant Bush Warbler (*Cettia flavirostris*), Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*), Himalayan Whistling Thrush (*Myiophonus caeruleus*), Common Teal (*Ana crecca*), Greyheaded Flycatcher Warbler (*Seicercus xanthoschistos*), Greenbacked Tit (*Parus monticolus*), Hodgson's Redstart (*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*), Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*), Himalayan Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasi*), Crested Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*), Himalayan Treecreeper (*Certhia himalayana*), Hill Pigeon (*Columba rupestris*), Rufousbreasted Accentor (*Prunella strophias*), Rufous Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*), Rufousbellied Hawk-Eagle (*Hieraaetus kienerii*), Stripedthroated Yuhina (*Yuhina gularis*), Longtailed Minivet (*Pericrocotus ethologus*).

# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 1 : Arrival in Bhutan Paro

On arrival in Paro, your tour guide is ready to be there for you before picking you up and escorting you from the airport to your hotel.

In the afternoon, birding along the Pachhu river, you will sight water birds like; Ibisbill, Brown Dipper, White-capped Water Redstart, River Lapwing, Plumbeous Water Redstart, etc.

## Day 2 : Drive to Chelele pass for birding back to Paro

Early in the morning drive to Chelele pass at the height of 3988m (13,084 ft.) where a great number of pheasants can be found: Kalij Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant and Himalayan Monal. There is a chance to spot the Fire-tailed Myzornis as well. At evening we will back to hotel paro.

## Day 3 : Paro to Punakha 1240m

Set off early in the morning and drive to the valley of Punakha with stop over Dochu La (pass) at 3,050 meters (10,006 ft.). The snow-capped eastern Himalayan range stand solemnly in front of your eyes. At present, you can circumambulate the 108 stupas of the Druk Wangyal Chorten which were constructed under the commission of the eldest Queen Mother, Her Majesty Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk.

Then drive down to Punakha and Wangduephodrang valleys where a numerous number of common and rare species can be spotted. Himalayan Cutia, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Collared Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, White-browed Fulvetta, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Plain Mountain Finch, Mrs Gould's Sunbird, Green-tailed Sunbird, Black-throated Parrotbill, Himalayan Bluetail, White-browed Bush Robin, Rufous-breasted Bush Robin, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Brown Bullfinch, Red-headed Bullfinch, Chestnut-tailed Minla (Bar-throated Siva) , Dark-breasted Rosefinch, Little Bunting, White-bellied Heron, Common Kingfisher, White-throated Kingfisher, Crested Kingfisher, Grey Treepie, Spotted Nutcracker, Speckled Wood Pigeon, Slaty-backed Forktail, Spotted Forktail, Eurasian Jay, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, etc set their nests in the valleys, bringing vigor and vitality to the entire Punakha areas.

## Day 4 : Punakha - Gasa 2600m

Drive along the Pochu River. In this stretch you will sight Jungle Owlet, Asian-barred Owlet, Osprey, White-bellied Heron, Pallas Fish Eagle, Lesser Fish Eagle, Great Cormorant, Black-throated Sunbird, Green-tailed Sunbird, Black-throated Yuhina, Striped-throated Yuhina, Whiskered Yuhina, Straited Yuhina, Scarlet Minivet, Long-tailed Minivet, Grey-chinned Minivet, Barred Cuckoo Dove, Fire-

breasted Flowerpecker, Darjeeling Woodpecker, Bay Woodpecker, Chestnut-headed Tesia, Slaty-bellied Tesia, Grey-bellied Tesia, White-gorgeted Flycatcher, Large Niltava, Small Niltava, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Great Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Golden-throated Barbet, Asian Koel, Grey-hooded Warbler, Golden-spectacled Warbler, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Lemon-rumped Warbler, Buff-barred Warbler, Slaty-backed Forktail, Spotted Forktail, Black-backed Forktail, Yellow-bellied Fantail, White-throated Fantail, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Hoary-throated Barwing, Blue-fronted Robin, Lesser Shortwing, Himalayan Cutia, Green Shrike-babbler, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Yellow-throated Fulvetta, Black-eared Shrike-babbler, Spotted Wren Babbler, Pygmy Wren Babbler, Speckled Piculet, Orange-bellied Leafbird, White-tailed Nuthatch, Maroon Oriole, Scarlet Finch, Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon.

## **Day 5 : Punakha - Phobjikha 3050m**

Saying goodbye to these lovely creatures you will continue to drive eastward from Punakha to Phobjikha through the black mountain region. Phobjikha valley is one of the most important wildlife preserves in Bhutan, for it serves as the nesting place for the endangered Black-necked Crane in winter.

Meanwhile, you can also spot many other bird species in this region including the Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Blue-capped Rock Thrush, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Great Parrotbill, Alpine Accentor, Green-tailed Sunbird, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Whiskered Yuhina, Scaly Thrush, Tickell's Thrush, Fire-capped Tit, Amur falcon, Ward's Trogon, Blue Rock Thrush, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Spotted Laughingthrush, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Red-headed Bullfinch, Scarlet Finch, White-tailed Nuthatch, etc.

## **Day 6 : Phobjikha - Trongsa 2210m**

The three-hour drive from Phobjikha to Trongsa through Pele La (3,390 m, 11,122 ft.) seldom makes anyone running on this trail feel tired or spiritless since the entire trip takes you to the evergreen forests where lush oak trees with clusters of rhododendrons can be sighted. The horse chestnuts, laurels, maple and fir trees, spruces, larches, hemlocks and junipers thrive in the forests.

With botanical diversities, here is also a perfect place for birding. Grab your binoculars and get off the car, you may feel overjoyed with the bird species you spot here. Laughingthrush, Crested Serpent Eagle, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Common Kestrel, Himalayan Griffon, Himalayan Swiftlet, Asian House Martin, Nepal House Martin, Common Rosefinch, Beautiful Rosefinch, White-browed Rosefinch, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Streaked-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Brown Parrotbill, Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler, and Speckled Wood Pigeon are playing around in the forest. Some jump swiftly from branches to the top ends while the intimidated ones fly right in front of you and give you an intimate contact.

## **Day 7 : Trongsa - Tingtibi 560 m**

Today's trip begins from the drive to Zhemgang and Tingtibi by following the Mangde Chhu River. Species found in this area are Pin-tailed Green Pigeons, Red-Headed Trogon, , Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Chestnut-breasted Partridge, Hill Partridge, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Great Hornbill, White-browed Piculet, Speckled Piculet, Bay woodpecker, White-tailed Robi, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Grey-headed Parrotbill, White-throated Needletail, Mountain Scops Owl, Collard Scops Owl, Collared Treepie, Pygmy-blue Flycatcher.

Try being patient searching for much rarer bird species here for there is still a chance of spotting the highly endangered White-bellied Heron as well as the Collared Treepie, Beautiful Nuthatch, Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Lesser-necklaced Laughingthrush, and Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush.

### **Day 8 : Day 8 /9 : Exploring Tingtibi 560m**

Explore Tingtibi, a settlement located in Zhemgang District, is another amazing place to spot Bhutan Birds. you can spot the Great Hornbill, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Lesser Yellownappe, Scarlet minivet, Sultan Tit, Black-eared Shrike-babbler, White-bellied Erpornis, Long-tailed Sibia, Silver-eared Mesia, Red-billed Leiothrix, Bar-throated Siva, Blue-Winged Siva, Red-tailed Minla, Red-faced Liocichla, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Straited Laughingthrush, White-crested Laughingthrush, Jungle Babbler, Golden Babbler, Grey-throated Babbler, Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Long-billed Wren Babbler, Eye-browed Wren Babbler, Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler, Pygmy Wren Babbler, Puff-throated Babbler, Abbott's Babbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Grey-cheeked Warbler, Whistler's Warbler, Rufous-faced Warbler, Black-faced Warbler, Mountain Tailorbird, Common Tailorbird, Rufescent Prinia, Straited Prinia, Mountain Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Black-crested Bulbul, Common Green Magpie, Black-hooded Oriole, Maroon Oriole, Slender-billed Oriole, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Spangled Drongo, Common Iora, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Large Cuckooshrike, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Large Woodshrike, Long-tailed Broadbill, Silver-eared Broadbill, Collared Falconet, Himalayan Goldenback, Greater Goldenback, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Rufous Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Eurasian Wryneck, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Green Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Emerald Dove, Ashy Woodswallow, Lesser Coucal, Greater Coucal, Green-billed Malkoha, Green Imperial Pigeon, White-rumped Shama, Siberian Rubythroat, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, White-hooded Babbler, and many species of other Woodpeckers, Blyth's Kingfisher, and chances of sighting Hodgson's Frogmouth, and Pied Falconet, etc.

### **Day 10 : Tringtibi - Bumthang 2800m**

In the morning, you will never miss the chirping of the Beautiful Nuthatch and the Sapphire Flycatcher. After breakfast, the bus will first drive you to Trongsa Dzong which was built in 1648 and then the bus will make a temporary stop at Ta Dzong which houses the royal heritage museum.

Then continue heading for Bumthang area by crossing the Yotong La pass at the height of 3,400 m (11,154 ft.). The bus will make a short-time stop at the pass, so you can spot species like Bar-throated Siva, Brown Parrotbill, Hill Partridge, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush and Gold-naped Finch. Evening walk along the Chamkhar River to spot few species like little bunting, Red-billed Chough, Blyth's Pipit, and Common Sandpiper.

### **Day 11 : Exploring Bumthang 2800m**

Bumthang areas have the most charming sceneries in Bhutan and a great number of rare birds setting nestles here. During the day, pheasants can be sighted if you missed their figures in the previous days. Visit Tharparling Monastery for magnificent Himalayan Monal and Satyr Tragopan. Besides, you have the chance to sight Spot-winged Grosbeak, Daurian Redstart, Olive-backed Pipit, Oriental Skylark and Black-billed Magpie if you have patience.

### **Day 12 : Bumthang - Sengor 3100m**

Morning drive to Sengor passing over Thrumsingla pass at 3800 m (12,467 ft.). The species you would encounter are Blood Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, Spotted Nutcracker, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Red-headed Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Great Parrotbill, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Orange-flanked Bush Robin, Stripe-throated Yuhina, White-browed Fulvatas, Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, Himalayan Monal, White-throated Fantail, Rufous-throated Partridge.

### **Day 13 : Sengor - Yangkhola 2100m**

Today you travel to Namling and to Yongkola in search of species like Gould's Shortwing, Bar-winged Wren Babblers, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Black-headed Shrike Babbler, White-browed Shrike Babbler, Ward's Trogon, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Blue-throated Barbet, Golden-throated Barbet, Great Barbet, Golden Bush Robin, and Chestnut-breasted Partridge.

### **Day 14 : Day 14/15: Exploring Yangkhola 2100m**

In this area you will sight Rufous-necked Hornbil, Tawny Fish Owl, Ward's Trogon, Red-headed Trogon, Rufous-throated Wren Babbler, Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler, Pygmy Wren Babbler, Himalayan Cutia, Grey-winged Blackbird, Hoary-throated Barwing, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Steak-breasted Scimitar Babblers, Collar-billed Scimitar Babbler, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Long-tailed Minivet, Short-billed Minivet, Grey-chinned Minivet, Scarlet Minivet, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Black-throated Prinia, Striated Prinia, Gray-throated Babbler, Ashy Bulbul, Mountain Bulbul, Himalayan Bulbul, Grey-throated Babbler, Bhutan Laughingthrush, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Beautiful Nuthatch, White-tailed Nuthatch, Asian-barred Owlet, Short-billed Minivet, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush etc.

### **Day 16 : Yongkhola - Trangsing 3100m**

Start early in the morning after breakfast and then drive to Samdrup jongkhar which is located in the southeast of Bhutan. In Samdrup Jongkhar area you can spot Silver-eared Mesia, White-rumped

Shama and Greater Flameback.

## **Day 17 : Trashigang - Samdrup Jongkhar 200m**

Today's journey takes you to the border town of Samdrup Jongkhar.

During the drive, you can spot birds such as Pies falconet, Dark-rumped swift, Pin-tailed Green Gigeon, Sultan Tit, Black-backed Forktail, Red-headed Trogon, Black Eagle, House Sparrow, Jungle Babbler, Grey-sided Laughingthrush, etc.

As you descend to the foothills, the temperate vegetation gives way to broadleaved forests which are found as the habitat of the Rufous-necked Hornbill, Beautiful Nuthatch, and Gold-naped Finch.

Further down you should be able to spot the Wreathed Hornbill, the rare Violet Cuckoo, Pied Falconet, and the Greater Rufous-breasted Parrotbill.

The subtropical forests of the foothills of Samdrup Jongkhar are home to the Silver-eared Mesia, White-rumped Shama and Greater Flameback.

## **Day 18 : Guwahati 300m**

Your guide will escort you to Guwahati in India and help you to get on board. Hopefully see you in next adventure trip.

## **Inclusions**

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### **What is included?**

Airport pick up & drop by private vehicle as your require.

Private vehicals for round trip.

Standard accommodation twin sharing bed basis for the duration of tour.

All meals fixed breakfast, lunch & dinner with Tea and Coffee for whole duration of your stay in Bhutan.

Mineral water supply for the trip.

Local licensed English speaking Bhutan Tour Guides.

All sightseeing tours, Monument /Museum entrance Fees as per itinerary.

Country Presentation & Tour Briefing on arrival evening.

Bhutan Visa Fees and Visa Processing assistance.

The required number of trekking & touring staff.

All trekking access, route permits logistics & fees.

Government tax which goes to the country's health & education projects.

### **What isn't included?**

Your travel insurance.

Bottled/alcoholic/cold drinks room service.

International airfares and airport departure tax.

Personal Equipment.

Tips to staffs-Tipping is expected.

Any others expenses which are not mentioned on Price Includes section.

### **Complimentary**