



## Trip Highlights

- Endemic Birds of South India and the Western Ghats
- Wildlife sightings including endemic mammals
- Journeys through some of the best National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries of South India
- Field Experts as guides
- Birder-friendly accommodation
- A/c Chauffeur-driven vehicle throughout

## At a Glance

Southern India is home to some of the best National parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Most of these parks are located on the sides of the Western Ghats, one of the 34 bio-diversity 'hot spots' on earth due to its large volume of endemic species and diversity. Our journey will take us through the lowland forests of Thattekkad to Periyar Tiger Reserve and onwards to the high altitude montane forests & grasslands at Munnar, Ooty, the dry forests at Chinnar & Mudumalai & ending up at Ranganthittu near Mysore.

Includes accommodation with most meals, all surface transportation, driver's allowances, parking fees & toll, birding guide, bottled water, birding walks, safaris and boat rides as in itinerary, entrance fees to parks & sanctuaries and all taxes.

**Climate:** June to September are the monsoon months. Rains may occasionally extend to October and early November. The temperatures in the plains are likely to be high during March to May.

**Best Time:** October to April

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1, 2 , 3 - Thattekkad

Thattekkad is a lowland forest with several types of eco-systems - riverine, grasslands, evergreen, scrub, dry deciduous, lowland forest, enabling it to be one of the best birding destinations in India. This is also home to most of the endemics of the Western Ghats. One should sight the Whitebellied Treepie, Rufous Babbler, Crimsonbacked Sunbird, White Bellied Blue Flycatcher, Wayanad Laughing Thrush, Malabar Parakeet, Malabar Grey Hornbill besides owls like the Mottled Wood Owl, Oriental Bay

# South India Endemic Birding Tour

Owl, Oriental scops owl, Brown Fish Owl, Oriental Scopes Owl and Spotbellied Eagle Owl. You should also be able to sight the Red Spurfowl, Grey Jungle Fowl, Indian Pitta, Black-throated Munia and the Grey headed fishing eagle.

**Accommodation: Hornbill Camp (B, L, D)**

## Day 4 & 5 - Periyar

Periyar Tiger Reserve is one of the finest wildlife & birding destinations in South India. With over 320 bird species identified and a leading habitat for the Bengal Tiger, this sanctuary is an ideal destination of the tour. Periyar National Park contains a variety of habitats from grassland and dry deciduous forest to evergreen forest and riverside scrub. As a result of its wide range of habitats Periyar boasts an impressive list of resident species including about half the peninsular endemics and near-endemics. We will spend the day searching here for some very special species including the secretive and wary Wynaad Laughingthrush. Other birds to look out for include White-rumped and Brown-backed Needletails, Oriental Honey-Buzzard, Black Eagle, the striking Black Baza, Pompadour Green and Mountain Imperial Pigeon, the migratory Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Gray-breasted Prinia, Thick-billed Warbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, and the Asian Fairy Bluebird among other more widespread species. We may also sight the Woolly-necked Stork, Besra, Vernal Hanging Parrot, Jungle Owlet, White-rumped Spinetail, Black-naped Monarch and the Little Spiderhunter.

**Accommodation: Wildernest Resort (B)**

## Day 6 & 7 - Munnar.

We will leave for Munnar via the Ghats to Khambam where we should sight the Large Grey Babbler, Common Babbler, Jungle Bush Quail and the Grey Francolin. We will proceed to Bodi Ghats en-route Munnar and stop over for sighting the rare Yellow Throated Bulbul, Indian Robin, Sirkeer Malkoha, Short Toed Snake Eagle, Bluefaced Malkoha and the Black eagle. We will reach Munnar by evening. The next day we will go birding in the *sholas* (high altitude montane forests) and grasslands for the Nilgiri Pipit, Painted Bush Quail, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Black & Orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Whitebellied Shortwing, Broadtailed Grassbird, Grasshopper Warbler.

**Accommodation: Olive Brook Resort (B, L, D)**

## Day 8- Ooty.

We will start early in the morning birding at Chinnar (dry scrub forest) looking for White-bellied Drongo, Blue faced Malkoha, White-naped woodpecker, Blue-beared bee-eater, Sirkeer Malkoha, Jungle Bush Quail and the Yellow-legged Button quail. From here taking the long drive, we will reach Ooty by evening. Ooty - a hill station, at about 2,200m in the Nilgiri Hills - is where we will look for the endemic Nilgiri Laughing Thrush, White-bellied Shortwing, and Black-and-rufous, Rusty-tailed and Nilgiri Flycatchers.

**Accommodation: Kluney Manor (B, L, D)**

## Day 9, 10 - Masinagudi/ Mudumalai.

After birding at Ooty, we will make our way to Mudumalai located at the foot of the of the Nilgiris hills. The terrain is varied with hills, valleys, ravines, watercourses and swamps, moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests and scrub forests and hence is ideal birding country. Should see Jerdon's Bushlark, Sirkeer Malkoha, Indian Blue Robin, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, White-bellied Minivet, Yellow-billed Babbler, White-bellied Woodpecker, Large Cuckooshrike, Banded-bay Cuckoo, Thick-billed Warbler, Malabar Lark and Painted Bush Quail.

**Accommodation: Jungle Hut (B, L, D)**

# South India Endemic Birding Tour

## Day 11- Mysore

We will proceed towards Mysore birding along the way. Here we have a chance to look for any of the endemics missed especially the very rare Broadtailed Grassbird near the Bandipur Reserve. Also seen are the Paddyfield Pipit, Richards Pipit and the Ashcrowned Finch Lark.

**Accommodation: Regalis, Mysore (B)**

## Day 12- Bangalore.

We depart early morning to visit the famous heronry on an islands on the Cauvery River at the Ranganthittu Wildlife sanctuary. Rowing boat cruise enables view of Eurasian spoonbill, Black-crowned night heron, three species of Cormorant, River Tern and Thick Knee, and many others. Transfer to Bangalore birding along the way. Check into the airport hotel by late evening.

**Accommodation: Airport Hotel (B)**

## Day 13- Depart

Drop to the airport. Tour ends.

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

## GENERAL INFO

A detailed Trip Information sheet will be sent to you on booking the tour. A few salient points are given below:

### VISA

**ALL VISITORS TO INDIA MUST OBTAIN A VISA BEFORE DEPARTURE**

### GUIDE

Your birding guide will be with you throughout the tour. He would be responsible for birding as well as sorting all your logistics during the tour.

### ACCOMMODATION

All accommodation on the tour has been carefully chosen for their cleanliness, cuisine, 'birding-friendly' and nearness to birding areas. Most meals are included in the price.

### MEDICAL INFORMATION UPDATE

Information given above are liable to change from time to time and one should contact the Indian missions of the respective country or the government tourist offices for more information. The area of your birding trip is Malaria-free.

### TRANSFERS

All transfers including airport transfers in chauffeur-driven a/c SUVs & the driver's allowances are included.