

## **Bhutan --- India: Birding & Safari.**

*Tour type: Bhutan cultural, bird watching / Elephant ride and Jeep Safari at Kaziranga National Park Assam. (India)*

*Location: Thromslingla National park, Bhutan/Assam. Kaziranga National Park & Manas National Park. (World heritage site)*

*Tour Duration: 12 to 18days. 5 to 6 nights tent camping Season: Nov to April.*

**Day1. Fly into Paro:** Upon arrival you will be met by your guide and transferred to the hotel at Paro. Alt. 7364ft. Visit museum, Rimpung Dzong, walk along the river birding. Overnight at hotel.

**Day2. Paro ---- Thimphu:** Early morning drive to Cheleyla Pass to spot for Blood pheasant, Himalayan Monal, KalijPheasant. In the afternoon, 1hr drive to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, Alt. 7493 ft. Overnight at Hotel in Thimphu.

**Day3. Thimphu ----- Punakha:** Leaving Thimphu you will be driven through the peaceful countryside. Pass Dochula, Alt. 10142 ft, birding along the drive ... Over night at Hotel Alt. 4430 ft.

**Day4. Punakha ----- Punakha: - Start** very early with mission to spot white- bellied Heron, one of the rarest and globally threatened. We will be birding most of the day. Overnight at Punakha Hotel.

**Day5. Punakha ----- Phubjikha:** - 6 to 7 hrs / 145 km. We start early to view the majestic Punakha Dzong (fortress). Continue the drive to the central valleys of Bhutan. We then climb steadily passing through semi-tropical vegetation and up to Lawala pass dropping down to Phubjikha valley.

**Day6. Phubjikha ----- Trongsa:** - 5 to 6 hrs. Drive to Trongsa through Pele la Pass at 11046 ft. you enter Trongsa valley, the huge fortress of Trongsa Dzong makes you wonder if you will ever reach it. Over night at hotel in Trongsa. Alt: 7041 ft.

**Day7. Trongsa ----- Tintibi / Camp:-**5 to 6hrs / 130 km. We will encounter numbers of rare species including Yellow-rumped or Himalayan Honeyguide, Beautiful Nuthatch, Himalayan Swiftlet, Long tailed Minivets, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush and more. Over night at camp.

**Day8. Tintibi ----- Trongsa:** We will drive further more towards south to Tintibi with ever-changing landscape and flowering plants combined with the imposing traditional Bhutanese homes. Highlight of the day is globally threatened species Great Hornbill. Over night at hotel.

**Day9. Trongsa ---- Bumthang:** Beautiful drive and birding on the way back to Trongsa through Yotong La Pass. Continue your drive further to Chokhor valley, over night at hotel .Alt:8334 ft.

**Day10. Bumthang ----- GayZam-chhu / Camp:** - In the morning you will visit few sacred temples of the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century. You may spot Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, Himalayan Monal and several species of rhododendrons and alpine flowers. Your camp will be just before the pass and close to the Gey Zam Chu (Bridge).

**Day11. GayZam-chhu ----- Yongkola / Camp:** - Drive to Thrumsingla Pass, Alt: 12 250 ft. You may encounter Red panda. Continue your drive crossing Namling waterfall and into the rich Semi-tropical rainforest. There will be birding along the road to Yongkala. Over night at beautiful Campsite Alt: 5491 ft.

**Day12. Yongkola -----Lingmethang / Camp:** - Today spend most of the day walking and birding along the road. Here you can look for some of Bhutan's most prized species such as the Collared Treepie, Rufous-nacked Hornbill, Slender Scimitar Babbler, White-naped yuhina and the Blue fronted Robin. Over night at camp. Alt : 3000 ft.

**Day13. Lingmethang ----- Mongar / 2hrs - 65 km:** Drive to Mongar. You can look for Striated Prinia, Whiskered Yuhina, and Laughing Thrush. It is a small town and rows of large eucalyptus trees protect the town from the wind. Overnight at Hotel .Alt : 5168 ft.

**Day14. Mongar ----- Khaling / 4 to 5hrs / 156km:** Drive to Korila Pass, where there is an array of prayer flags and a mani wall. Then to Tashigang, continuing your drive for another 53km. To reach Khaling you have to drive through Younphula army camp hidden on a ridge. Over night at Khaling / Camp.

**Day15. Khaling ----- Samdrupjongkhar:** 4 to 5 hrs / 126 km. Leaving Khaling, visit Handloom center, where women from village bring their weavings to sell; you may spot rare species like, Beautiful-Nuthatch, Wards Trogon and Wreathed Hornbill and more. Then to SamdrupJongkhar, over night at Hotel.

**Day16. Samdrup Jongkhar - Guwhati - Kaziranga National Park :** Drive 7 hours along Assam's plains through the colorful city of Guwhati to Kaziranga National Park, the home of over 1500 one horned rhinoceros and other rare species of wildlife. Overnight at Wild grass Resort.

**Day17. Kaziranga – (Elephant ride / Jeep safari):** Start at 4:45am for elephant safari. In the afternoon, enjoy Jeep safari towards riverside. You may spot river dolphins and other wild life. Overnight at Wild grass Resort.

**Day18. Kaziranga National Park – Guwahati / Bangkok:** Today we will make the 4 hour drive back to Guwahati. We will then proceed to the airport to board a flight for Bangkok and onwards.

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