

Birding across Bhutan

Day1. Fly into Paro: Upon arrival you will be met by your guide and transferred to the hotel at Paro. Alt.7364ft. Walk to river side for Birding. Over night at hotel.

Day2. Paro ---- Thimphu: - Early morning drive to Cheylela Pass to spot Blood pheasant, Himalayan Monal, KalijPheasant. After Breakfast hike to Taksang (Tiger's nest). You may see spotted laughing thrush, white capped water redstart, Green-backed Tit, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, later 1hr drive to Thimphu. Alt: 7493 ft. Over night at Hotel

Day3. Thimphu ----- Punakha: - Drive to Dochula pass Alt. 10142 ft. Highlight of the day might be Satyr Tragopan, Large Hawk cuckoo, Eurasian cuckoo and spotted nutcracker. Descend further into the fertile valley of Punakha. 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 species. After breakfast, drive to nearest trail and forest edge for short hikes. You may spot River lapwing, Ibisbill, Bay woodpecker, Pallas's Fish eagle and many other common birds. Over night in Punakha.

Day5. Punakha ----- Phobjikha: - 6 to 7 hrs / 145 km. Visit Punakha Dzong (fortress) and continue your fabulous drive to the central valleys of Bhutan through the Wangdi Dzong (fortress). We then climb steadily passing through semi-tropical vegetation and up to Lawala pass and drop down to Phobjikha valley.

Day6. Phobjikha ----- Trongsa: - 5 to 6 hrs. Drive to Trongsa through Pele la Pass at 11046 ft. Birds you may see: Yellow billed blue Magpie, Common Buzzard, Brown Dippers, Himalayan Griffon and many more. Enter Trongsa valley and halt over night at hotel. Alt: 7041 ft.

Day7. Trongsa ----- Tintibi / Camp:-5 to 6hrs / 130 km. Today you will drive towards south through mixed broad-leaved evergreen forests. We will encounter numbers of rare species including Yellow-rumped or Himalayan Honeyguide, only found in the vicinity of huge hives belonging to Rock Bee 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 situated with the superb site of the valley; highlight of the day is globally threatened species Great Hornbill. Over night at Camp.

Day9. Trongsa ---- Bumthang: - Beautiful drive and birding on the way back to Trongsa. We will have an opportunity to witness the traditional weavings of woolen fabric (Yetra) at Tsugney village. Drive to Bumthang, over night at hotel .Alt:8334 ft.

Day10. Bumthang ----- GayZam-chhu / Camp: - Visit holy sites 7th century temple and drive into Thromsingla National Park, You will see Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, Himalayan Monal and several species of rhododendrons and alpine flowers. Overnight at Camp.

Day11. GayZam-chhu ----- Yongkola / Camp: - Drive cross the Thromsingla Pass, Alt: 12 250 ft. This is the highest point. You may encounter with Red panda. Continue your drive crossing Namling waterfall and into rich Semi-tropical rainforest. So you will bird along the road to Yongkala. Over night at beautiful Campsite Alt: 5491 ft.

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

Day13. Lingmethang ----- Mongar / 2hrs - 65 km. On the way to Mongar you can look for Striated prinia, Whiskered Yuhina, and Laughing Thrush. Mongar was redesigned in 1997. It is a small town with rows of large eucalyptus trees protecting the town from wind. Over night at hotel, Alt: 5168 ft.

Day14. Mongar -----Khaling / 4 to 5hrs / 156km.: Drive through Korila Pass and descending down you will reach the famous ‘Yadi loops’ En-route to Tashigang, continue for another 53km. Over night at Khaling / Camp.

Day15. Khaling-----Samdrupjongkhar: 4 to 5 hrs / 126 km. Leaving Khaling, visit Handloom centers. Crossing the Narphung La at an altitude of 5484 ft., you may spot rare species like, White-gorgeted Flycatcher, Beautiful-Nuthatch, Wards Trogon and Wreathed Hornbill. Continue on through Deothang to SamdrupJongkhar. Over night at Hotel.

Day16. Samdrup Jongkhar ----- Guwhati – Fly to Kolkota/ Delhi / Bangkok : After breakfast, we leave Bhutan to make the 3 ½ hour drive along Assam’s plains through the colorful city of Guwhati for Airport.

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