Indonesia

Bali Birding Extension



Bali Myna by Glen Valentine

The magical island of Bali forms part of the chain of tropical islands in the Indonesian archipelago and, although it's most famous as a beach tourism Mecca, Bali has a lot to offer the birder and naturalist. Situated at the eastern end of the Greater Sundas, Bali provides superb birding and wildlife viewing. The island's most iconic bird, the beautiful and very rare Bali Myna or Bali Starling, will be top of the hit list during our Bali birding extension. Most of our time will be spent at the world-renowned Bali Barat National Park. Here we will search for some of the last few wild Bali Mynas in existence, and we will also be treated to numerous other avian treasures, many of which are only shared with neighbouring Java. These include the endangered Black-winged Starling, Beach Stone-curlew, the dazzling Cerulean Kingfisher, Green Junglefowl, Javan Plover, Java Sparrow and the spectacular Javan Banded Pitta!

Our trip also ventures into the highlands where specialities include Crescent-chested Babbler, Javan Whistling and Sunda Thrushes, Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, the delightful Sunda Warbler, Blood-breasted Flowerpecker and Grey-throated Ibon. The Bali countryside is eye-catching, and we will additionally find ourselves enjoying such wonderful and range-restricted species as White-capped and Javan Munias, the stunning Javan Kingfisher and Cinnamon Bittern while gazing across emerald-green rice paddies, uniquely punctuated with Hindu temples and soaking in the island's incredible beauty. Bali makes for a splendid week-long birding adventure, offering exceptional island birding, sensational scenery, world class coral reef snorkelling and fascinating art and culture.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Denpasar**
Day 2	**Denpasar to Bali Barat National Park area**
Days 3 & 4	**Bali Barat National Park & surrounds**
Day 5	**Bali Barat National Park to Bedugul (Central Highlands)**
Day 6	**Bedugul area to Denpasar**
Day 7	**Final departure**



Birding sites in detail



Green Junglefowl by David Hoddinott

Denpasar coastline. We spend some time scanning this area for species that may include Purple, Pacific Reef, and Striated Herons, Medium and Little Egrets, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Grey Teal, the sought-after Javan Plover, Gull-billed Tern and, if we are very fortunate, perhaps an Eastern Curlew. Sacred, Collared and the radiant Cerulean (also known as Small Blue) Kingfisher are also usually present and the mangroves may yield Golden-bellied Gerygone, Island Collared Dove, Sunda Pygmy and Laced Woodpeckers, Pied Fantail, Bar-winged Prinia (an Indonesian endemic restricted to Sumatra, Java, and Bali), the often-difficult Mangrove Whistler, and the splendid Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker (another Indonesian endemic). We also have a good chance of finding Savanna Nightjar on its day roost.

Denpasar to Bali Barat National Park. On our scenic route over the highlands of central Bali will allow us to soak in the unique Balinese Hindu culture with its abundant temples and acres of green rice paddies. We will keep a lookout for birds along the way, including the stunning and near-endemic Javan Kingfisher, Long-tailed Shrike, Paddyfield Pipit, Pied Bush Chat and Black-crowned Night Heron. Expanses of tall, seeding grass in and adjacent to the rice paddies could yield four very special birds in the form of White-capped, Javan and White-headed Munias and the beautifully patterned Javan Sparrow, as well as the more common and widespread Scaly-breasted Munia. Greater and Lesser Coucals, Striated Grassbird, Cinnamon Bittern and Javan Pond Heron also occupy this habitat.



Java Sparrow by Adam Riley

Bali Barat National Park & surrounds. This wonderful reserve remains the last refuge for one of the world's rarest birds, the critically endangered, and striking Bali Myna. We will explore dry monsoon forests as well as lusher lowland rainforest, mangrove, saltpans, and savanna areas during our time here at the western end of Bali and close (separated by the 2-mile Bali Strait) to the great island of Java.

Our main target over the next few days will be the mostly white (but sporting a blue eye-ring) Bali Myna. Not only is it one of the most eye-catching of all the

world's starlings, but it also happens to be a bird on the brink of extinction. This is tragically due to the relentless trapping of the species for the international cage-bird trade and there are currently believed to be fewer than 50 birds left in the wild! We do, however, have an excellent chance of seeing this, Bali's only endemic and much-desired species, during our time in the park.

The park harbours many other mouth-watering birds and we will be on the lookout for the rare and near-endemic Black-winged Starling, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, lovely Zebra Dove, stunning Black-naped Monarch, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Plaintive Cuckoo, Common Flameback (a stunning woodpecker), Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, White-shouldered Triller (an Indonesian endemic), flocks of Small Minivet, Lineated and Coppersmith Barbet, Oriental Dollarbird, Common Iora, Mangrove Whistler, Ashy and Hair-crested Drongo, Racket-tailed Treepie, Cinereous Tit, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, regionally endemic Olive-backed Tailorbird, and Olive-backed Sunbird. Green Junglefowl is another localised target species that occurs in good numbers, most easily encountered in the early morning or late afternoon.



Javan Kingfisher by Keith Valentine

Blue-tailed and the stunning Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters can both be found hawking insects from exposed perches, and White-breasted Woodswallows, Grey-rumped Treeswifts and both Cave and Edible-nest Swiftlets forage overhead. We may also flush Large-tailed Nightjars during our forays or tape it into view in the early evening. Another speciality in the area is the splendid Javan Banded Pitta (a recent split of the Banded Pitta) and we stand excellent chances of tracking down this beauty.



Black-winged Starling by David Hoddinott

During the heat of the day, we shall spend some time scanning the surrounding forest from vantage points for such delights as Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Black Eagle, and the tiny Black-thighed Falconet.

During one of our days here, we will head out by boat to a nearby islet that is also within the national park. Here we will have the opportunity to marvel at the wonder-world of colourful fish and other marine life that abound in truly fantastic numbers on the corals that proliferate here. A short walk on the island may reveal the small island specialists, Lemon-bellied White-eye, and Freckle-breasted Woodpecker.

An early morning excursion into the lusher forests elsewhere in Bali Barat National Park

should produce the scarce Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher, the rare and elusive, Black-banded Barbet, Black-naped Fruit Dove if we are lucky, and the cheerful Crescent-chested Babbler. A short, high-pitched call may alert us to the presence of another rainforest gem, the minuscule Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher that favours stream-side snags in the forest interior. We will also seek out the much larger Javan Flameback (a split from Greater Flameback) and floppy Oriental Pied Hornbills. Other birds we will look out for include Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Javan Cuckooshrike, Scarlet Minivet, Sooty-headed and the uncommon Ruby-throated Bulbuls, and Pale-bellied (or Javan) Myna.



Javan Banded Pitta by Glen Valentine

The nearby coastline may yield a few great birds, including the uncommon and often-elusive Beach Stone-curlew, Lesser Adjutant, and Great-billed Heron, as well as Black-naped, Greater and Lesser Crested, Little and elegant Roseate Terns. A visit to a nearby salt works will produce a plethora of wetland species, including more Javan Pond Herons, our best chances of Sunda Teal, close encounters with Javan Plover, White-headed Stilt and the first of the overwintering migrant waders that should have arrived by now. We will also try our luck with some of the area's rare owl species and, with a bit of effort and good fortune, we may find the sought-after Javan Owlet, Sunda Scops Owl, Brown Hawk-Owl or, if we are exceptionally lucky, Buffy Fish Owl!

Bali is not well known for its mammals, and we are sadly too late to see the extinct Bali Tiger (the smallest of the Tiger subspecies, the last one was shot in 1937, although they were still reported as late as 1972) or Leopard, which is now also extinct in Bali. Banteng too are extinct, but these wild cattle are still present in their domesticated form, and we will commonly encounter these attractive animals.



Javan Owlet by David Hoddinott

Most people are surprised at the number of indigenous mammals that are encountered here, including the abundant Long-tailed Macaques, many of which live around the temples where they are held sacred and therefore fed. They can also be seen far out to sea on the reefs at low tide where they have earned themselves their alternative name of Crab-eating Macaque. Much

rarer – and we will seek them out in the lusher forests – are Javanese or Ebony Leaf-Monkeys. This species is endemic to Java and Bali, and troops of these black primates can be found in Bali Barat National Park and, if we are fortunate, we will also observe their bright chestnut youngsters. Javan Rusa Deer are common, and we should also see numerous Asian Palm Squirrels. Much tougher, however, is the huge Black Giant Squirrel, which prefers deeper forests. We are likely to observe Indian Muntjac or Barking Deer and Wild Boar, but we would need to be very fortunate to find Leopard Cat or Sunda Pangolin!



Javan Plover by Adam Riley

Bedugul. The surrounding lush, green, montane forests and nearby crater lakes offer excellent birding, and we will spend our time searching the area for exciting new species that could include the near-endemic Flame-fronted Barbet, Sunda Cuckoo, Black-naped Oriole, Little Pied Flycatcher and Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, the darling Sunda Warbler and, along forested steams, the boldly patterned White-crowned Forktail. We'll also keep a lookout for the uncommon Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, Besra, and Crested Goshawk, which can sometimes be seen patrolling the forests.

We'll also spend time ambling along forested roads and trails of the productive hill forest, marvelling at the stunning Bali Botanical Gardens. The dense forest undergrowth here supports Sunda Bush Warbler and the extremely shy and skulking Lesser Shortwing, which is far more readily heard than seen. We will also search the area for Horsfield's and near-endemic Crescent-chested Babblers as well as the attractive Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler. Mixed species flocks could very well produce stunners such as Mountain Tailorbird, Yellow-bellied and Mountain Leaf Warblers, Oriental, and Mountain White-eyes, and Grey-throated Ibon (an aberrant white-eye species).



Blood-breasted Flowerpecker by Adam Riley

With some luck we may also manage to obtain views of the uncommon and secretive Javan Whistling Thrush, with even more luck being required for the retiring Sunda Thrush in the early morning, while the forest edge often produces delightful birds, including Short-tailed Starling, Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Green and Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons, Australian Golden Whistler, the rather scarce and near-endemic Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, Grey-cheeked Bulbul, the localised Indonesian Honeyeater, and further chances for Javan Owlet!

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate birding, combined with good accommodation & food make this a mostly enjoyable extension.
Birding Ease		Birding can be moderately difficult at some locations. Low density of several key species which may require repeat efforts.
Accommodation		Accommodations is comfortable to very comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Some trails can be very muddy. Long days on our feet. Three storey steel tower at Bali Barat NP
Vehicles / Roads		Comfortable vehicle. Sealed roads have some potholes, traffic through Denpasar is very congested.
Photography		Photography good to reasonable, predominant forest birding. Some makeshift hides.
Annoyances		Can be very humid in lowlands.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 7;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services;
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- This tour involves some moderate walking but is for the most part fairly easy. You should be in good health and of reasonable fitness to undertake this tour.
- If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please do let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.
- Most days in the lowlands will be hot and sunny, but overcast conditions are frequent and some rain, heavy at times, can be expected. In montane areas, it will range from very cool to warm. The humidity is often rather high in the lowlands.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour begins with a welcome dinner on day 1 in Denpasar and concludes here after breakfast on day 7.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar (IATA: DPS) is the main port of entry & departure for international flights on this tour.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.