Bhutan & India

Assam Extension I

13th March to 17th March 2024 (5 days)

Birding the Buddhist Kingdom I

17th March to 5th April 2024 (20 days)



Satyr Tragopan by David Hoddinott

One of the least spoilt countries in the mighty Himalayan range, Bhutan boasts incredible mountain scenery and endless verdant forests, whilst shrouded in Buddhist myth and legend and replete with a plethora of incredible and beautiful birds!

On a typical day's birding with us in this avian wonderland, you will find yourself in breath-taking surroundings searching for legendary birds in pristine forests, with mighty Himalayan peaks towering in the distance – all in all, Bhutan is a destination like no other! As we journey through this fabled land, we will regularly cross dramatic mountain passes, that are adorned with brightly coloured prayer flags and chortens/stupas (temples), and these give way to vast countryside, often dominated by impressive dzongs (temple-fortresses) that so characterise this unique country. We look forward to having you aboard this adventure through a paradise of culture, birds and scenic vistas as we explore the heavenly riches of Bhutan!

Nestled in north-eastern India in the formerly independent Assam, Kaziranga National Park is one of the most spectacular wildernesses in all of Asia. This area gains its fame as one of the last places on earth where the

prehistoric Indian Rhinoceros can be found. In fact, game abounds in the watery meadows that make Kaziranga so aesthetically pleasing – no other site in Asia can match the vast herds of big mammals that occur here! We'll search for Indian Elephant, Swamp Francolin, Pied Falconet and a plethora of other exciting birds and mammals that occur abundantly in this biologically diverse part of the natural world. To boot, we will also spend time exploring the riches of Nameri National Park. This park boasts luscious deciduous and evergreen forests along the Jia-Bhoroli River and is a haven for many rare creatures, including one of Asia's rarest birds, the critically endangered White-winged Duck!

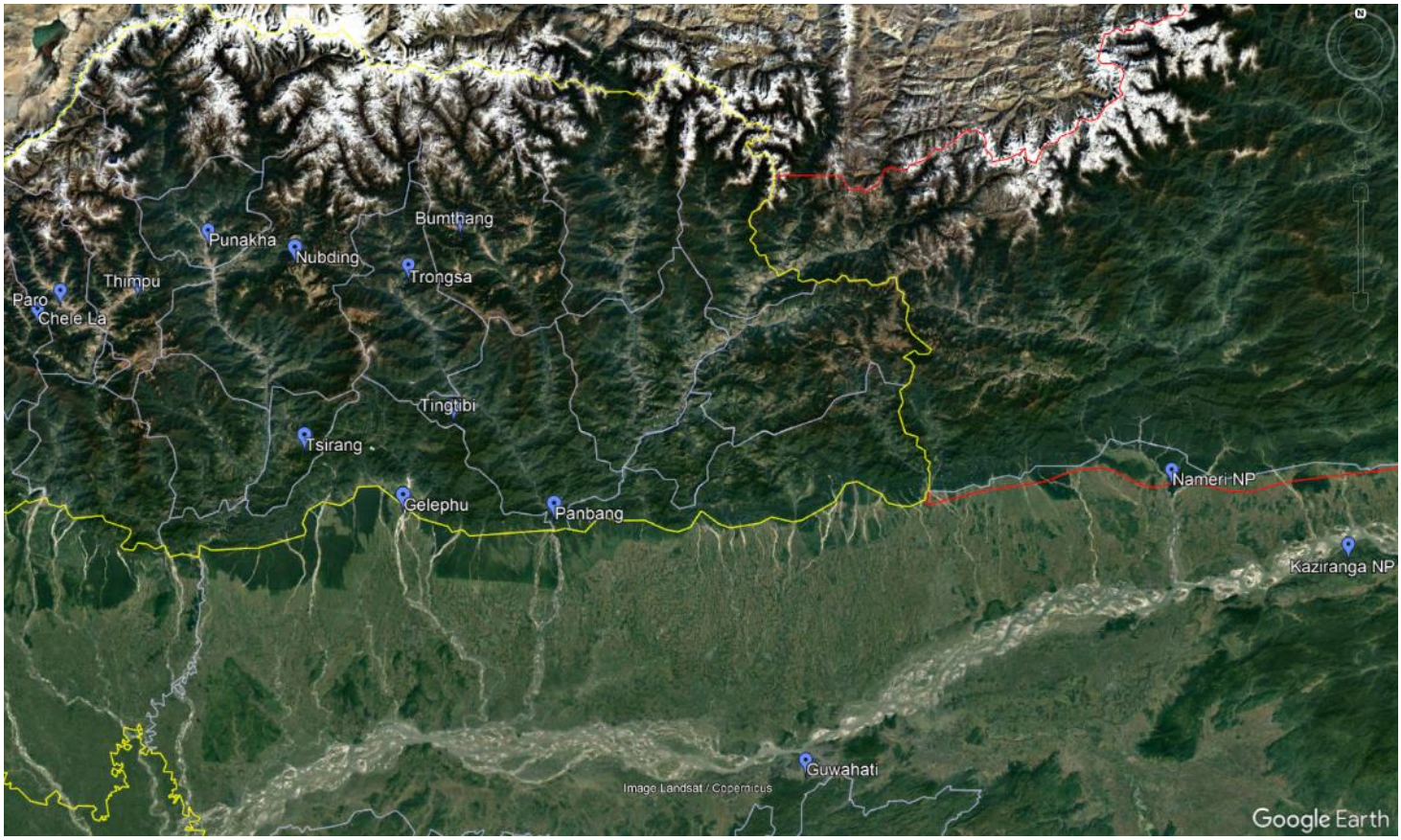
Itinerary & Map

Assam Extension

Day 1	**Arrival into Guwahati, transfer to Kaziranga National Park**
Day 2	**Kaziranga National Park**
Day 3	**Kaziranga National Park to Nameri National Park**
Day 4	**Nameri National Park**
Day 5	**Nameri National Park & depart**

Birding the Buddhist Kingdom

Day 1	**Arrival in Paro**
Day 2	**Paro to Punakha via Dochu La**
Day 3	**Tashitang Valley to Tsirang**
Day 4	**Tsirang**
Day 5	**Tsirang to Gelephu**
Day 6	**Gelephu**
Day 7	**Gelephu to Tingtibi**
Day 8	**Tingtibi**
Day 9	**Tingtibi to Panbang**
Day 10	**Panbang to Tingtibi**
Day 11	**Tingtibi to Trongsa**
Day 12	**Trongsa to Bumthang**
Day 13	**Bumthang**
Day 14	**Bumthang to Trongsa**
Day 15	**Trongsa to Nobding**
Day 16	**Nobding**
Day 17	**Nobding to Thimphu**
Day 18	**Thimphu to Paro**
Day 19	**Chele La**
Day 20	**Final departure**



Birding sites in detail

Guwahati. We will make a stop at the local refuse dump that attracts hundreds of regal Greater Adjutant, a rare and extremely localised bird throughout most of its limited range. Guwahati remains the best place on earth to see this stately, yet also very ugly stork, with smaller numbers of the more widespread Lesser Adjutant, Asian Openbill and Black-headed Ibis also being attracted to this site. Citrine and White Wagtails are usually around in good numbers, while Striated Grassbird and Plain and Yellow-bellied Prinias will be looked for in areas of rank grass.

Kaziranga National Park. This exciting wilderness of marshes, open grassland, woodlands and forest, which is situated on the floodplain of the Brahmaputra River, will be the focus of our attention. A total of one-third of the entire world population of Indian Rhinoceros is located in Kaziranga and we will likely enjoy incredible sightings of these highly threatened beasts. The area is also home to many eye-catching and very special birds including the rare Bengal Florican, which will be searched for in the long grass that covers huge areas of the reserve. Our best chance of viewing the endangered Florican will be from elephant back, though we will have to be lucky to see this extremely rare species! This rather odd form of transport will also give us our best shots at other high priority species such as the near-endemic



Greater Adjutant by Glen Valentine



Indian Rhinoceros by André Bernon

Swamp Francolin, Baya, Streaked, Black-breasted and the extremely rare Finn's Weavers, as well as Chestnut-capped and Striated Babblers, Bengal Bush Lark, Rosy Pipit and Siberian and Himalayan Rubythroats. The critically endangered Greater Adjutant occurs alongside the Lesser Adjutant in wet areas, and we will keep our eyes peeled skywards for Pallas's and Grey-headed Fish Eagles. Western Marsh and Pied Harriers can be found quartering over the grassland areas, and the stately Black-necked Stork is still fairly numerous throughout the region.

Kaziranga's network of extensive wetlands is home to huge numbers of resident and migrant waterbirds, most notably the handsome Bar-headed Goose, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas and the splendid Stork-billed Kingfisher, among many other species. Woodland areas are the best place to search for a number of specials, including the huge Blue-bearded, Blue-tailed and stunning Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, Green Imperial Pigeon, Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Large Woodshrike, Lineated, Blue-throated and Coppersmith Barbets, extravagant Green-billed Malkoha, four species of gorgeous parakeets (Rose-ringed, Alexandrine, Red-breasted and the scarce Blossom-headed) and a host of woodpeckers, which includes Streak-throated, Fulvous-breasted and Grey-capped Pygmy, as well as Greater and Black-rumped Flamebacks. We will also explore small patches of evergreen forest in the area where we hope to find numerous interesting species. These include the striking Asian Fairy Bluebird, Black-crested Bulbul and Great and Oriental Pied Hornbills. More secretive species include Puff-throated and Abbott's Babblers and White-rumped Shama. Other notable birds that we hope to see here are Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Common Emerald Dove, Greater and Lesser Yellownapes, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Streaked Spiderhunter and Crimson and Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds.



Maroon Oriole by Glen Valentine

Game viewing in the reserve is excellent and besides the Indian Rhinoceros, there are also plenty of wild Water Buffalo and Indian Elephant. Furthermore, Kaziranga is one of the reserves



Pied Falconet by Stephan Lorenz

where Bengal Tiger still occurs in reasonable numbers; here they tend to favour areas where the grass is long and dense, which aids them in ambushing their main prey, the increasingly rare Barasingha (Swamp Deer) and Hog Deer. We will, however, be lucky to encounter one of these regal beasts. While in the forests we will also keep our eyes and ears open for Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Assam Macaque and Rhesus Monkey. Other mammal species we may find include Sambar and Wild Boar, all of which frequent the grassy, watery meadows in the reserve.

Nameri National Park. This wonderful reserve is contiguous with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh, together constituting an area of over 1 000km² (390 mi²) of semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous forest, and narrow strips of grassland along the beautiful crystal-clear, boulder-strewn rivers.

We have time to explore the forested areas of this park for our main target – the highly endangered White-winged Duck. This large forest duck inhabits forested pools and slow-flowing river channels and our chances of finding it are very good. Whilst searching for this rare species we will also be on the lookout for other forest denizens, including the rare Pale-capped Pigeon, Pin-tailed, Wedge-tailed and Ashy-headed Green Pigeons, seldom-seen Pied Falconet, spectacular Sultan Tit, Common Green Magpie, Greater Necklaced and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes, Green-billed Malkoha, secretive Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher, Chestnut-bellied and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, gigantic Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Vernal Hanging Parrot, the attractive and elusive Black-breasted Thrush, Maroon Oriole, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Wreathed and magnificent Great Hornbills, Oriental Dollarbird, and the scarce Silver-backed Needletail overhead. Depending on the rains, we may even find Hooded Pitta during our forays through this wonderful reserve.



White-winged Duck by Paul Varney

Jia-Bhoroli River. The river here attracts such species as Small Pratincole, Great and Indian Stone-curlews, River Lapwing, River Tern, Crested Kingfisher, Sand Lark and in winter and early spring, the incomparable Ibisbill.



Fire-tailed Myzornis by Daniel Danckwerts

Dochu La. The higher slopes of the scenic Dochu La harbour some excellent birds like the radiant-green Fire-tailed Myzornis, outrageous, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Ward's Trogon, Black-headed Shrike-Babbler, White-browed Fulvetta and Spotted Nutcracker and, if we are very lucky, a flock of Fulvous Parrotbill may even make an appearance. If the day is clear, the lofty pass of Dochu La affords outstanding views of the surrounding Himalayan peaks, some of which top 7,500m. We will enjoy the visual splendour of the pass littered with prayer flags.

Punakha Valley. Situated at 1 250m above sea level, the Punakha Valley valley is almost tropical. Time permitting we'll visit the avian-rich Royal Botanical Park located on the lower slopes of the Dochu La pass, where a host of fabulous birds can be found. Highlights could include the handsome Darjeeling & Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers, Crimson-browed Finch, Himalayan Bluetail, Ibisbill, Spot-winged Starling, Slender-billed Oriole Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Grey-winged and White-collared Blackbirds, unobtrusive and mite-sized Chestnut-headed Tesia, the intensely coloured Ultramarine Flycatcher, Sikkim Treecreeper, scarce Spot-winged Grosbeak, elusive but exquisite Fire-capped Tit, Green-tailed and Mrs. Gould's Sunbirds, Snowy-browed Flycatcher and the shy and seldom-seen Hill Partridge.

Tashitang Valley. We'll bird the lovely broad-leaved, subtropical forest along the swift Mo Chu River, situated within the substantially vast Jigme Dorji National Park. Some species we will be looking for along this route include the very rare and highly threatened White-bellied Heron which has unfortunately become very rare in this area, Tawny Fish Owl, Himalayan Swiftlet buzzing overhead, Crested Kingfisher, ever-vocal Great and Golden-throated Barbets, Bay Woodpecker, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Mountain Bulbul, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Short-billed Minivet that often perch for long periods before sallying insects in midair, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Tickell's Leaf Warbler (one of several members of the similar-looking *Phylloscopus* genus), Small Niltava, Pale-blue, Dark-sided, Slaty-backed and Ferruginous Flycatchers, migratory Hodgson's Redstart, skulking Lesser Shortwing, minuscule Slaty-bellied Tesia, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch that pick through the masses of epiphytes for insects, and Chestnut-tailed Starling.



Ward's Trogon by David Hoddinott

Our route takes us beside the impressive fortress and monastery of Punakha Dzong that serves as a magnificent reminder of the Bhutanese devotion to their religion. This was the second of Bhutan's dzongs to be constructed and until the time of the second king, it served as the seat of the Bhutanese government. Our lodge is located outside the city on a hill above the Punakha Valley with a great view that overlooks the dzong.



Rufous-necked Hornbill by Glen Valentine

Tsirang Valley. We'll be travelling down the scenic Wangdue-Gelephu Highway which traverses the Tsirang Valley. Surrounding forest has a range of interesting species, and we'll make opportunistic stops in the cool broadleaf forests of for Gee's Golden Langur, Assam Macaque, Himalayan Striped Squirrel, and plethora of good bird species, such as Bhutan & Striated Laughingthrushes, White-tailed Nuthatch, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Black-throated Sunbird, Scarlet Finch, Black-throated Prinia, Yellow-throated Fulvetta, Bar-throated & Red-tailed Minlas, Long-billed Wren-Babbler, Scaly-breasted Cupwing, Whiskered, White-naped & Rufous-vented Yuhinsa, Large Niltava and numerous *Phylloscopus* warblers, including Chestnut-crowned, Grey-hooded, Buff-barred, Lemon-rumped, Yellow-vented, Blyth's Leaf, Hume's Leaf, and Ashy-throated.

Gelephu. This is the perfect place to explore for species not found in 99% of the country. Being so thoroughly mountainous, few locations in Bhutan offer birds of more southerly, Indian persuasion that prefer tall tropical forests, grasslands, and marsh. The endless stretches of lowland broad-leaved forest in the area provide us with excellent chances of finding Great, Wreathed and Rufous-necked Hornbills, Greater Yellownape, Ashy, Greater and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Silver-backed Needletail, Black-rumped Flameback, Cinnamon Bittern, Lesser Whistling Duck, Red-naped Ibis, Wood Sandpiper, Pintail Snipe, Thick-billed Warbler, Large Cuckooshrike, Indian Peafowl, Cinereous Tit, Pied Falconet, Jungle Babbler and Sultan Tit while this region also supports an array of owls including Brown Boobook, Spotted Owlet, and if we are very lucky, Oriental Bay Owl.

Tingtibi. The rarely visited region of Tingtibi south of Zhemgang has turned up amazing birds and rarities in the past. There are a wide variety of habitat here, from mossy, evergreen forest along the main road south of Zhemgang stretching to streamside lowland forest and deciduous thickets in the valleys, as well as several good patches of bamboo. The area also supports the endearing Golden Langur, a highly range-restricted monkey that is common here, while even Tiger and Sloth Bear occur in the area, but we would be extremely fortunate to encounter either of these two very rare mammals.



Beautiful Nuthatch by David Hoddinott

Another amazing sight we hope to come across on the cliffs of steep roadcuts, are



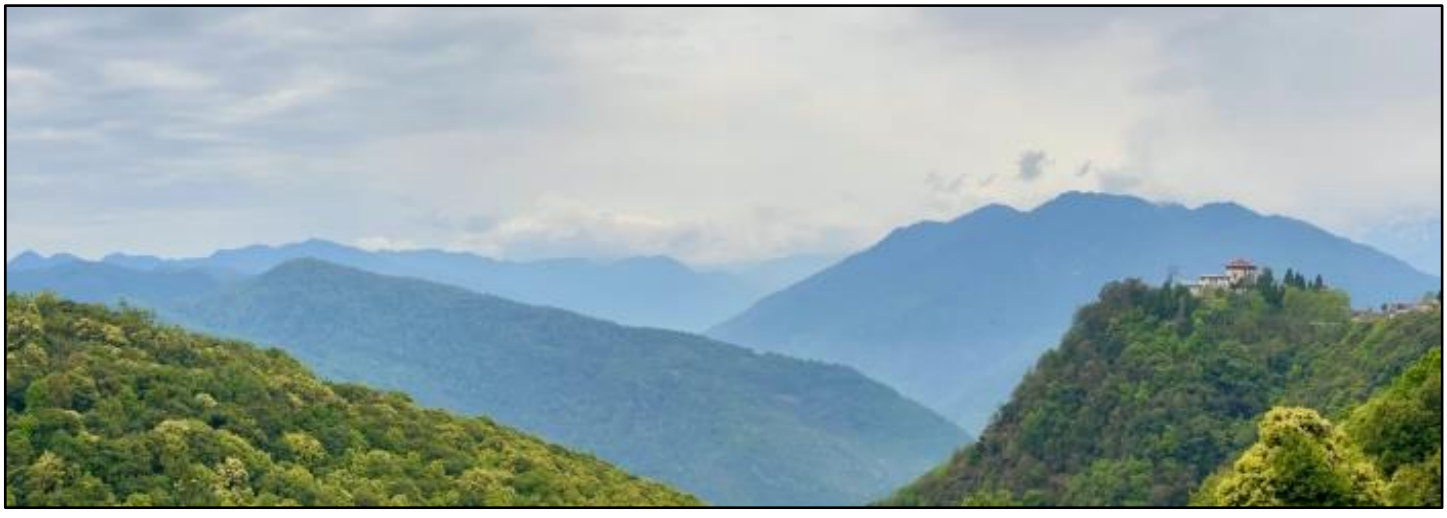
Wallcreeper by Stuart Elsom

Giant Rock Honeybee colonies. With luck, we'll find the uber-specialized Yellow-rumped Honeyguide in attendance! This is one of but two honeyguides outside of Africa and is certainly the most brightly coloured of the two. They are indelibly linked to Rock Honeybee species.

Some of the many lowland bird species we will be looking for include the very secretive Rufous-throated Partridge, nomadic Pin-tailed and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeons, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, stunning Red-headed Trogon, Black-crowned Scimitar-babbler, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, localised Rufous-faced and Yellow-bellied Warblers, Lesser Necklaced and Blue-winged Laughingthrushes, secretive Spotted Elachura, Grey-throated Babbler, Nepal Fulvetta, the gaudy Long-tailed Broadbill, tiny Speckled Piculet, rare Pale-headed and noisy Bay Woodpeckers, the giant black and yellow Sultan Tit, Banded Bay and Indian Cuckoos, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo and two very rare bamboo specialists: the seldom-seen Pale-billed Parrotbill and White-hooded Babbler. We have also found a nearby site for the rarely seen Himalayan form of Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler!

Panbang area. We'll make several productive stops along the Tingtibi-Panbang Highway searching for Pale-headed Woodpecker, Red-headed Trogon, Rufous-faced Warbler, Collared Owlet, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, Lesser Yellownape, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Ashy Bulbul and, with some luck, perhaps a pair of White-bellied Heron courting and preparing a nest!

We may also explore low altitude foothill forests of Bhutan's oldest national park, Royal Manas, for Capped Langur, Black Giant Squirrel, Great Myna, the adorable Collared Falconet, Black-crested Bulbul, Crested Honey Buzzard, Common Hill Myna, Maroon Oriole, Blue-capped Rock Thrush, Lineated Barbet, Asian Emerald Cuckoo, Long-tailed Broadbill, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, Rufescent Prinia, Black-naped Monarch, Red-rumped Swallow, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Indochinese Roller, and



Bhutan scenery by Forrest Rowland



Ibisbill by Daniel Danckwerts

Ultramarine Flycatcher. The valley of Panbang also offers us an excellent opportunity of finding the rare Golden Langur, who move around in small groups.

Tingtibi to Trongsa. We will take a different and more scenic route back to Trongsa via the scenic town of Zhemgang. Birding along old main road via Zhemgang is fantastic and the mossy broad-leaved forest surrounding harbours some of Bhutan's very special birds such as Beautiful Nuthatch, Rufous-necked Hornbill and Himalayan Cutia as well as Red-faced Liocichla, Blue-winged Laughingthrush, Wallcreeper and Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo.

Trongsa. Here we will have the opportunity to visit the spectacular Trongsa Dzong, the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family. The wide stair rockwork and enchanting stone courtyards provide access to the elaborate internal structure, where resident monks go about their pious endeavours. Located in central Bhutan, Trongsa holds one of the most singularly magnificent dzongs in the entire kingdom, replete with magnificent architecture, an extensive history and golden roofs that glimmer in the sunlight across the valley. Situated high above Mangde Chhu, the Trongsa Dzong is a spectacular sight to behold! The remainder of the day will be spent exploring the nearby broad-leaved evergreen forest in search of specialities like the handsome and boldly-patterned Spotted Forktail, mite-sized Grey-bellied Tesia and Spotted Elachura, which has recently been placed in its own monotypic family.

Bumthang. The spectacular drive towards Bumthang then weaves through the indigenous hillside forests past rows of prayer flags and through local villages surrounded by snow-capped peaks. On the rare occasion of a clear day, we will be able to see Bhutan's highest peak, Gangkar Puensum, which reaches a lofty 7,541 meters and remains the highest unclimbed peak on earth!

Our journey passes through numerous small villages and goembas (Buddhist monasteries) settled neatly within the Chume Valley. Birds that we will search for include the secretive Brown Parrotbill and extremely localised and subtly attractive Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch.

Yotongla Pass. We'll bird the high-altitude coniferous forests at approximately 3,400m (11,150ft) for Himalayan Vulture, Red Crossbill, Coal, Rufous-vented & Grey-crested Tits, Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, Spotted Nutcracker, Himalayan White-browed & Dark-rumped Rosefinches, White-browed Fulvetta, Stripe-throated Yuhina, Alpine Accentor, Hoary-throated Barwing and Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler.



Great Parrotbill by Daniel Danckwerts



Blood Pheasant by David Hoddinott

Tharpaling Monastery. This rather cold monastery, often shrouded in snow gives us excellent opportunities for Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, and Himalayan Monal, whilst we may also find flocks of Snow Pigeon, Black-faced Laughingthrush, adorable Large-eared Pika, Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, Plain Mountain Finch, Little Bunting, Red-billed Cough and Black-rumped Magpie.

Bumthang to Nobding. Many species only inhabit the mixed conifer and rhododendron forests quite high on the mountains, and today we'll spend some time in this habitat searching for Spotted and Scaled Laughingthrushes, Himalayan Shortwing, Hume's Bush Warbler, Grey-sided Bush Warbler, Gold-naped Finch, Scaly-breasted Cupwing and Fire-tailed Sunbird.

Pele La. We may encounter the strange Wallcreeper that forages along the impossibly steep cliffs and gorges as well as the gregarious Snow Pigeon. This is also a good site for the sought after Satyr Tragopan. Other species to search for here include Slender-billed Scimitar-babbler, White-spectacled Warbler, Darjeeling Woodpecker, Rufous-fronted Bushtit, Great Parrotbill, which prefers stands of rhododendron and bamboo, Golden Bush Robin, Long-tailed Minivet, Green-tailed Sunbird and the skulky Grey-sided Bush Warbler in thick grasses.

The top of the pass may yield White-winged and Collared Grosbeaks as well as Himalayan Vulture soaring overhead, Himalayan Monal, Spotted Laughingthrush, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Fire-tailed Sunbird, Northern Goshawk, and great views of the majestic Bearded Vulture, whilst mammals could include Royle's Pika and Northern Red Muntjac. Nearby sites could also produce species such as Brown Parrotbill, Little Bunting, and Pin-tailed Snipe.

Phobjikha Valley. Set against the backdrop of the Black Mountains, this scenic valley hosts a plethora of avian gems including Wallcreeper, Mrs Gould's Sunbird, Blood Pheasant, Green Shrike-Babbler, and Spotted Laughingthrush.

Thimpu to Paro. This morning we embark on the fairly short but scenic drive towards Paro. Our drive continues through drier habitat where Himalayan Bulbul, Green-billed Malkoha, Orange-bellied Leafbird and Speckled Wood Pigeon may entertain us before we reach the icy rivers of the valley. Here we can scan for Brown Dipper as it braves the frigid waters alongside striking White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts.



Spotted Laughingthrush by Julian Parsons



Himalayan Monal by David Hoddinott

We then visit the world-renowned Tiger's Nest Monastery. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the monastrey was built in 1692 on a precarious cliff at 3 120 metres (10 240 ft) above sea level. The monastery is indeed a sight to behold and makes for a spectacularly scenic and interesting visit!

Chele La. Situated in the forest-cloaked hills above Paro, Chele La is probably the best place in the world to see the unbelievably vibrant Himalayan Monal, perhaps the most spectacular bird in the entire Himalayan range! Additional pheasants that may appear this morning include Blood and Kalij Pheasants as well as Satyr Tragopan. Other species we may see here include Darjeeling Woodpecker, Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch, the bright Red-headed Bullfinch, Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks, high-flying Plain Mountain Finch, the warbler-like Goldcrest, retiring Rufous-breasted Accentor, elusive but sometimes vocal Long-tailed Thrush, giant Spotted Laughingthrush and perhaps even a lone Eurasian Woodcock concealed motionless on the forest floor.

Paro. We will spend a short time searching along the Paro Chu for the secretive Black-tailed Crake, Pin-tailed Snipe, Rosy Pipit and one of the most sought-after shorebirds in the world – the beautiful Ibisbill! This elegant wader, placed in its own monotypic family, is often found here while it searches for food amongst the boulders of fast-flowing streams in the region.



Tiger's Nest Monastery by Julian Parsons

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Mostly undemanding. Suitable for all birding / wildlife interest levels & most mobility capabilities.
Birding Ease		Most species provide good visuals in open conditions.
Accommodation		Comfortable, several nights in mobile camps (glamping). Some nights at high elevation (2 500 – 3 000m / 8 400 – 10 000ft)
Walking / Trails		Mostly easy roadside birding, some moderate uphill walks. One moderate (optional) hike to Tiger's Nest
Vehicles / Roads		Several long drives. Most roads are reasonable but can be impacted by weather conditions. Mountainous terrain means most roads are winding (ie: motion sensitive)
Photography		Average to good. No dedicated hides. Very good cultural photo opportunities.
Annoyances		Weather can be cold to very cold. Expect occasional rain & even snow. Winding roads & high altitude.

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 breakfast on day 1 to lunch on day 5 of the extension;
- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 20 of the main tour;
- Bhutan Visa Fees,
- 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 (except as noted above);
- 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.**

- Be aware that some of the passes that we will traverse are at altitudes of around 13 000 feet. This can cause altitude problems for some people and means that the temperatures tend to be quite low on these days. We can also expect rain and possibly even snow on some days of this tour. If you have problems with altitude, please do let the Rockjumper office know. Very hot conditions with high radiation for sunburn are also likely to be encountered in the southern areas of the country on a few days of the tour.
- On some nights we will stay a long way from any solid accommodations or civilisation and will be using camping facilities set up by our agents. There will be walk-in, comfortable-for-two tents with cots, sheets, pillows, and blankets. While our ground agents do provide very comfortable and warm sleeping bags, you may bring your own sleeping bag if you prefer. If participants would prefer a tent to themselves, please advise the office. Single tent space is limited and will be assigned in order of tour registration.
- While the food is generally good and tasty, it can become quite monotonous as not many different dishes are prepared. The food can be quite spicy at times. Please be sure to let us know of your dietary requirements in advance of the tour.
- Bhutan is still relatively untouched by tourism and the local people are friendly and courteous. It is seen as being inappropriate to hand out sweets or other items to interested bystanders or anyone who we may encounter along our tour. Your sensitivity in this regard is appreciated.

Arrival and Departure Details

The extension starts in the early morning of day 1 at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati, India. The tour will conclude here by mid-morning of day 5.

The main tour starts in Paro in the afternoon of day 1 at Paro Airport, Paro, Bhutan and will conclude here after breakfast on day 20.

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.

Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati (IATA: GAU) is the main port of entry for the Assam Extension Paro Airport, Paro (IATA: PBH) Bhutan, is the main port of arrival and departure for the main tour, it is well connected to larger cities such as New Delhi (India) or Bangkok (Thailand) with Druk Air.

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. The following website provides detailed information about visa eligibility and assistance with online applications options where viable: Visa HQ for Travel

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