China

Hainan Extension



Hainan Peacock Pheasant by Daniel Danckwerts

Located off the southern coast of China, Hainan Island offers a wonderfully contrasting birding experience, with lush tropical forests, coastal wetlands, and mountainous interiors hosting a unique suite of southern Chinese and Southeast Asian species. This extension focuses on the island's key birding hotspots, where we will explore pristine lowland rainforest, forested hills, and scenic coastal habitats in search of a range of localized specialties and endemics.

Hainan is best known for its rich birdlife, including several highly sought-after endemic and near-endemic species. Chief among these is the striking and rare Hainan Partridge, a major highlight of the tour, along with the once mythical Hainan Peacock-Pheasant. Other important targets include the endemic Hainan Leaf Warbler, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, and Hainan race of Black-throated Laughingthrsuh, as well as regional specialties such as Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Red-headed Trogon, Silver Pheasant, and Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush.

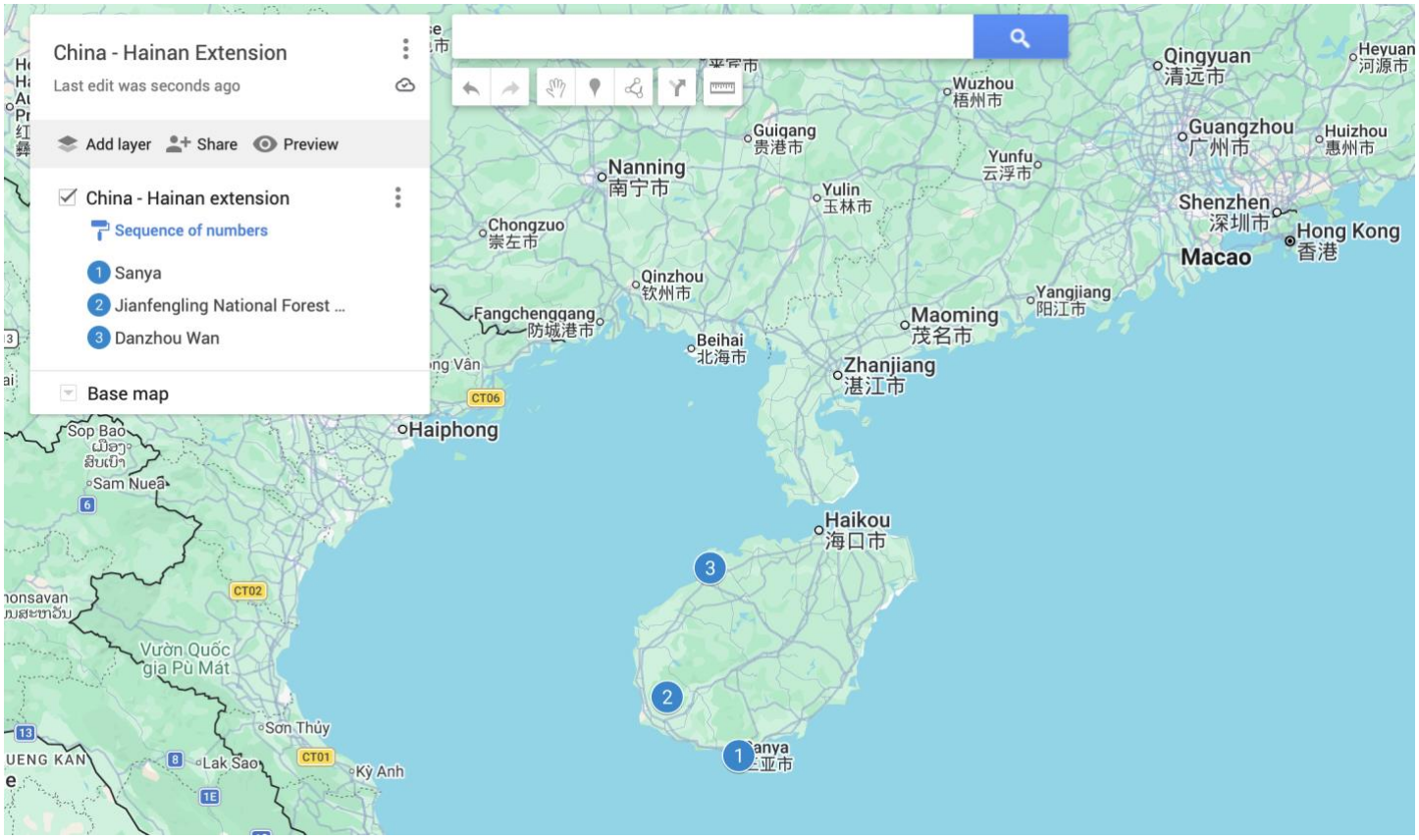
The island's forests also support a diverse supporting cast including the Fork-tailed Sunbird, various drongos, babblers, and woodpeckers, while wetlands and coastal areas may yield herons, egrets, and migratory shorebirds (including the chance for Spoon-billed Sandpiper) depending on the season.

Beyond the birds, Hainan's scenic beauty, ranging from dense rainforest-clad mountains to tranquil coastal landscapes, adds to the appeal, making this a rewarding and relaxed extension. With its combination of island endemics, tropical atmosphere, and excellent birding opportunities, Hainan provides a fitting and memorable finale to any China birding adventure.

Itinerary & Map

Hainan Extension

Day 1	**Arrival in Sanya, and continue to Jiangfengling National Nature Reserve**
Days 2 & 3	**Explore Jiangfengling National Nature Reserve**
Day 4	**Day trip to West Hainan**
Day 5	**Jiangfengling to Sanya, for final departures**



Birding sites in detail

Jianfengling National Nature Reserve. Jianfengling National Nature Reserve protects one of Hainan's most extensive tracts of primary montane rainforest and is widely regarded as the island's premier birding locality. The reserve's rich mosaic of lowland forest, dense understorey, and higher-elevation cloud forest supports an exceptional concentration of endemics and regional specialities, making it a key site for any comprehensive exploration of Hainan's avifauna.



Hainan Partridge by Daniel Danckwerts

A major highlight of our visit will be a dedicated blind that now offers remarkably reliable views of two of the island's most sought-after species: the elusive Hainan Partridge and the stunning Hainan Peacock-Pheasant, both of which were, until relatively recently, considered almost mythical due to how seldom they were encountered. This setup also provides excellent opportunities to study the distinctive local race of Silver Pheasant, notable for its finely vermiculated upperparts. While spending time at the blind and in the surrounding forest, we will also be on the lookout for a suite of Hainan specialities, including the Hainan form of Black-throated Laughingthrush, likely a future split, alongside Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Chinese Barbet, Fork-tailed Sunbird, and the striking Indochinese Green Magpie.

From here, we will explore higher elevations via a well-maintained boardwalk that winds through pristine montane forest. This area holds a different assemblage of species, including the glowing endemic Hainan Leaf Warbler, often found in mixed feeding flocks. Other key targets include Silver-breasted Broadbill, Red-headed Trogon, Eye-browed Wren-Babbler, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, and the charismatic Sultan Tit. With luck, we may also encounter the local race of White-winged Magpie, another taxon that could soon be elevated to full species status.



Hainan Leaf Warbler by Daniel Danckwerts

As dusk falls, Jiangfengling offers one of the best opportunities anywhere to search for Mountain Scops Owl, which is comparatively easier to locate here than at most other sites within its range, alongisde the much rarer Oriental Bay Owl.

Danzhou Wan (West Hainan). This stretch of coastline in the north-west of the island is among the most productive

shorebird sites in the region and our visit will be timed carefully to coincide with a favourable low tide. Extensive mudflats here support an impressive diversity of wintering waders, and the site has gained particular renown for its consistent records of the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (November-March only). In recent years, several individuals have shown a remarkable degree of tolerance, at times allowing for prolonged and exceptionally close views as they feed along the tidal edge; an experience that remains truly unforgettable.



Indochinese Green Magpie by Daniel Danckwerts

In addition to this flagship species, the area also offers opportunities for other scarce and highly desirable shorebirds. These may include Nordmann's Greenshank, while small groups of the Endangered Black-faced Spoonbill are sometimes present, feeding in the shallows or roosting on exposed banks. As with all coastal sites, species composition can vary between seasons, but the overall quality and diversity of birding here consistently make it a standout location.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease	■ ■ ■	Moderate to brisk-paced tour. Not suited for dedicated photographers, inexperienced birders, or anyone with mobility or health challenges. Many early mornings & long days.
Birding Ease	■ ■ ■	Moderate. Several rare/difficult species, many low-density species require repeat searches.
Accommodation	■ ■ ■	Comfortable.
Walking / Trails	■ ■ ■	Fair amount of walking, mostly on roads and tracks. One fairly strenuous trail along a well-maintained boardwalk.
Vehicles / Roads	■ ■ ■	Mostly good quality roads in a comfortable vehicle.
Photography	■ ■ ■	Good to very good, some purpose-built hides & blinds.
Annoyances	■ ■ ■	Several very early mornings.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

This tour is made available through our Tailor-made tours department. To explore this offering further for pricing, precise day to day itinerary, inclusions & exclusions, or to tailor the tour to your personal requirements, please contact our Tailor-made team on tailormade@rockjumper.com

- **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.**

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour will begin in Sanya, Hainan, on day 1. The tour will conclude in Sanya after lunch on day 5.

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.

Sanya Pheonix International Airport, Chengdu (IATA: SYX) is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour and is well serviced by several major airlines.

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.