China

Hainan Extension

Sichuan Birding



Temminck's Tragopan by Daniel Danckwerts

China is a land of immense geographic and ecological diversity, and nowhere is this more evident than in Sichuan Province; arguably the country's richest region for birdlife. This tour explores some of China's finest and most remote birding hotspots, from moss-draped temperate forests and bamboo-covered hillsides to sweeping alpine meadows and the dramatic Tibetan Plateau. We'll seek out many of the region's special breeding residents, with pheasants a major highlight and no fewer than fifteen species are possible, including Temminck's Tragopan, Chinese Monal, Blood, Koklass, Lady Amherst's, and Golden Pheasants. The supporting cast is equally impressive, featuring up to ten species of Parrotbill, Ural (Pere David's) Owl, Wallcreeper, Black-necked Crane, Sichuan Jay, Emei Shan Liocichla, Przevalski's Finch, and the recently described Sichuan Treecreeper. Amid these remarkable birds, we'll also experience breathtaking scenery and a fascinating blend of cultures unique to this part of China.

Located off the southern coast of China, Hainan Island is a tropical birding frontier with a rich yet underexplored avifauna. Over 300 bird species have been recorded here, including several island endemics and several endemic subspecies that may warrant future taxonomic splits. The island's warm, humid climate supports dense lowland and montane rainforest, offering shelter to some of China's rarest birds. Chief among these are the critically

endangered Hainan Peacock-pheasant and Hainan Partridge, both confined to the island's remaining tracts of forest. Other highlights include endemic subspecies of Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, and Chinese Barbet, all of which exhibit significant morphological and vocal differences from their mainland relatives. With its unique biodiversity, high conservation value, and potential for new discoveries, Hainan is a must-visit destination for birders drawn to endemism and the thrill of tropical island birding.

This departure is offered in partnership with the Oriental Bird Club (OBC), with a portion of the proceeds directly supporting OBC's vital conservation initiatives across Asia. By joining this tour, you're not only exploring one of Asia's most rewarding birding regions—you're also helping protect it.

Itinerary & Map

Hainan Extension

Day 1	**Arrival in Sanya and overnight**
Day 2	**Sanya to Jianfengling**
Day 3	**Jianfengling**
Day 4	**Jianfengling to Sanya, and fly to Chengdu**

Sichuan Birding

Day 1	**Arrival in Chengdu**
Day 2	**Chengdu to Gong Gang Ling**
Day 3	**Gong Gang Ling to Ruoergai, via the Baxi Valley**
Day 4	**Explore the Baxi Valley and the Tibetan Plateau**
Day 5	**Ruoergai to Maerkang across the Tibetan Plateau**
Day 6	**Mengbishan Mountain**
Day 7	**Maerkang to Lianghekou, via Mengbishan Mountain**
Day 8	**Lianghekou**
Day 9	**Lianghekou to Labahe**
Day 10	**Explore Labahe**
Day 11	**Labahe to Longcanggou via Er Lang Shan**
Day 12	**Longcanggou**
Day 13	**Longcanggou to Wawushan**
Days 14 &15	**Wawushan**
Day 16	**Wawushan to Wolong**
Day 17	**Balangshan Mountain and Wolong Giant Panda Reserve**
Day 18	**Drive to Tashi Village, and visit Long Hua hides**
Day 19	**Long Hua Hides, then return to Chengdu for final departures**


Ruoergai
Gong Gang Ling
Lianghekou
Wolong Nature Reserve & Balangshan
Chengdu
Er Lang Shan
Laojunshan
Longcanggou
Wawushan
Wawushan
Long Hua


Jiangfengling National Forest Park
Sanya

Birding sites in detail



Golden-breasted Fulvetta by Daniel Danckwerts

Chengdu. We'll commence our birding of this bird-rich city in a nearby city park. Here we will be searching for a few lowland specialities such as Chinese Grosbeak, Collared Finchbill, Vinous-throated and Ashy-throated Parrotbills, David's Fulvetta, and Chinese Blackbird. We will also enjoy a handful of more widespread species like Light-vented and Brown-breasted Bulbuls, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Spotted and Oriental Turtle Doves, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Long-tailed Shrike, Japanese Tit, Red-rumped Swallow, Black-throated Bushtit, Japanese White-eye, and Crested Myna. White-browed Laughingthrushes are pleasantly common and can be especially confiding. If we are very lucky, we may even find a few of the area's rarer species such as Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, Amur Paradise Flycatcher, Speckled Piculet and Tiger Shrike.

Chengdu Botanical Gardens & surrounds. If we still need one or two of the city's lowland species, we will make a quick stop at the Chengdu Botanical Gardens where we are likely encounter Black-crowned Night Heron, Little and Eastern Cattle Egrets, Grey and Chinese Pond Herons, Grey-capped Greenfinch, Red-billed Leiothrix and Rufous-capped Babbler in addition to several of the other species we may already have seen. Alternatively, we will visit a small wetland on the outskirts of the city where a variety of waterfowl, Cinnamon Bittern, Pale Martin, and Long-billed Plover may be seen.

Gong Gang Ling Mountain Pass. The pass crests at around 3 500m / 11 500ft. We will spend time birding along a small trail that heads into a patch of tall, dense coniferous forest. A handful of species, which are generally quite difficult to find, are usually quite easy here including the sought-after Chinese Grouse, impossibly plumaged Crested Tit-Warbler, Long-tailed Thrush, and Three-banded Rosefinch. We may also encounter our first Blue Eared Pheasants on the pass, as well as Maroon-backed and Rufous-breasted Accentors, White-browed Tit-Warbler, Hodgson's and Bar-tailed Treecreepers, Pzrevalski's Nuthatch, Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks, Grey-headed Bullfinch, Vinaceous Rosefinch, Spotted Nutcracker, Tibetan Serin, Elliott's Laughingthrush, Rufous-vented and Grey Crested Tits, Alpine and



Maroon-backed Accentor by Daniel Danckwerts



Przevalski's Nuthatch by Daniel Danckwerts

Sichuan Leaf Warblers, the entertaining Goldcrest, Kessler's and Chestnut Thrushes, the beautiful Indian Blue Robin, and the powerful Northern Goshawk.

Ruoergai - Baxi Valley. During the early morning, one of our prime target species here is the superb Blue Eared Pheasant. The surrounding coniferous forest also supports the rare Sichuan Jay, as well as scarce and sought-after species like Black and Eurasian Three-toed Woodpeckers, Przevalski's and Chinese Nuthatches, Crested Tit-Warbler, and Chinese Grouse. We will also focus our efforts on the densely vegetated gullies where Snowy-cheeked, Plain, Giant and Elliott's Laughingthrushes lurk along with White-throated and Hodgson's Redstarts, Spectacled Parrotbill, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Sichuan Tit, White-browed Tit-Warbler, and Pink-rumped, Himalayan Beautiful and Chinese White-browed Rosefinches. The attractive Kessler's and Chestnut Thrushes are usually present in reasonable numbers, and we may also encounter Godlewski's Bunting, Eurasian Wryneck, and Yellow-streaked Warbler. We'll listen out for the distinctive songs of the stunning, but usually secretive, Siberian Rubythroat and White-bellied Redstart and, at this time of year, we have an excellent chance of seeing both species perched up as they sing to attract their mate and proclaim their territories.

Mammals are also well represented in the Baxi Valley and the rare Chinese Serow will be a key target.

Ruoergai - Flower Lake. The lake and surrounding grasslands and marshy, wetland edge teems with birds, many of which will be on passage north and we will scour the main waterbody for new species that could include Greylag and the much rarer Bar-headed Geese, Great Crested and Black- necked Grebes, Red-crested and Common Pochards, Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Eurasian Teal. We may even find a Whooper Swan!



Golden Bush Robin by Daniel Danckwerts

The marshy grassland at the wetland edge supports Eurasian Bittern, Brown-cheeked Rail, and breeding plumage Citrine Wagtail (the particularly beautiful black-backed race here is likely to be split as Tibetan Wagtail). Areas of muddy shoreline could additionally yield White-winged, Common and Whiskered Terns, as well as Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's and Red-necked Stints, Dunlin, Curlew Sandpiper, Whimbrel, and breeding plumage Lesser Sand Plovers. The stately, Black-necked Crane also breeds here at this time of year, and we



Ground Tit by Daniel Danckwerts

should encounter fair numbers throughout the afternoon. If we are especially fortunate, we may even watch a few dancing pairs! Lastly, we will scan the surrounding grasslands for Tibetan Lark, the bizarre Ground Tit, Black Redstart, and Rufous-necked and White-rumped Snowfinches. Hen Harrier and Saker Falcon are also sometimes seen hunting nearby in the late afternoon. Mammal possibilities during the drive back late this afternoon include Grey Wolf, Tibetan and Red Foxes, and Himalayan Marmot, while we are sure to see large numbers of burrowing Plateau (Black-lipped) Pikas.

Ruoergai to Maerkang. We embark on a long drive across the vast Tibetan Plateau (3500m (11500ft)) towards the town of Maerkang. Leaving in the dark, we will wind our way towards our first scheduled stop for the unique and much desired Przevalski's Finch (Pinktail). We will spend a considerable amount of time here, as its open scrubby habitat is shared with the scarce White-browed Tit, the exquisite White-browed Tit-Warbler, and the tough Tibetan Partridge.

Continuing onwards, we will make regular stops for the Horned Lark, Eurasian and Azure-winged Magpies, Oriental Skylark, Daurian Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Northern Raven, Little Owl, Eurasian Hoopoe, Grey-backed Shrike, Twite, Rock Sparrow, and Siberian Stonechat. A further three rare grassland species that we hope to see include the impressive Saker Falcon, scarce Tibetan Snowfinch, and little-known Chinese Grey Shrike. A few roadside quarries will also be checked for roosting Eurasian Eagle Owl, while mammal possibilities include the unique Hog Badger, Tibetan Roe Deer, Tibetan and Red Foxes, and Grey Wolf. Eventually, as we drop down towards the town of Maerkang in the late afternoon, the seemingly endless grasslands give way to swathes of dense coniferous and bamboo forests.

Mengbishan Mountain. Today is another early start as we drive up to the top of the nearby Mengbishan. In the early morning, we will drive the road up to the top of the pass at 4 000m (13 000ft) in search of the magnificent Blood and White Eared Pheasants as well as Verreaux's Monal-Partridge. The remainder of the morning will be spent walking slowly downhill in search of the many pine and spruce forest specialities on offer here. Some of the star birds we shall be targeting today are the scarce and elusive Sichuan Jay, the beautiful Crested Tit-Warbler, the huge Black Woodpecker, Three-banded Rosefinch, and the low-density Przevalski's



Verreaux's Monal-Partridge by Daniel Danckwerts



Sharpe's Rosefinch by Daniel Danckwerts

Nuthatch. Long-tailed Thrush usually sings from the tallest pines in the early morning, while mixed flocks often harbour the attractive Goldcrest, Rufous-vented, Coal and Grey Crested Tits, and Hodgson's Treecreeper. The attractive White-throated Redstart is usually common here and we will also be alert for Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks, Spotted Nutcracker, Chinese Fulvetta, Grey-headed Bullfinch, and Red Crossbill. If we are very fortunate, we may also encounter a few of the mountain's rare and seldom-seen species such as Chinese Grouse, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Rufous-bellied and Eurasian Three-toed Woodpeckers, and Chinese Babax.

**Potential construction of a tunnel may cause this pass to be closed in the future.*

Maerkang to Lainghekou. Today is a lengthy travel day, roughly a six-hour journey towards the town of Wolong, set on the lower slopes of the impressive Lainghekou Mountain. En route, we will stop briefly at sites for both Long-tailed Rosefinch and Hill Pigeon.

Lainghekou Mountain. We will dedicate a full day to exploring the dramatic high-altitude slopes of Lainghekou Mountain, a relatively new and thrilling addition to our Sichuan birding circuit. While this remote site supports a more limited range of species, it has quickly earned a reputation as one of the best places in the world to see the stunning Chinese Monal, offering remarkably close and prolonged views that are rarely possible elsewhere.

We will set off before dawn to be in position as the first rays of sunlight strike the alpine meadows and rocky slopes above the treeline. At elevations of around 3,800–4,200m (12,500–13,800ft), this stark yet beautiful landscape is the perfect backdrop for one of the tour's most iconic species. With luck, we'll watch several iridescent Chinese Monals foraging quietly on the open slopes, their dazzling plumage glowing in the morning light; a truly unforgettable experience.



Chinese Monal by David Hoddinott

Though overall diversity is relatively low at this elevation, other high-mountain species may include Snow Pigeon, Rosy Pipit, and small flocks of Brandt's Mountain Finch or Plain Mountain Finch. Raptors such as Bearded Vulture, Golden Eagle, and Himalayan Vulture are often seen soaring above the ridges, and we'll remain alert for other high-altitude specialities that may pass through.

Lainghekou Mountain is a site focused on quality over quantity, an unmissable stop



Snow Pigeon by Daniel Danckwerts

for the rare chance to enjoy intimate encounters with one of China's most sought-after pheasants amid breathtaking Himalayan scenery.

Balangshan Mountains & Wolong Giant Panda Reserve. We have several days to explore the wonderful Wolong Panda Reserve and Balangshan Mountains. Wolong Giant Panda Reserve is world famous because of the World Wide Fund for Nature's research and conservation efforts to save the Giant Panda from extinction. The pioneering work by George Schaller was carried out in this beautiful region of forested mountains, bamboo thickets, alpine meadows, and jagged, snow-covered peaks.

We will be up very early on each morning to make the most of the incredible birding that this wonderfully scenic area has to offer and to maximise our chances at seeing the area's amazing selection of pheasants. Our days will begin by driving into the Wolong Panda Reserve, at an elevation of between 2 000 and 3 500m (11 500ft), where we will begin our quest for the many spectacular pheasant species on offer in these forest-clad mountains! The surrounding pristine coniferous and mixed *Rhododendron* forests give way to snow-capped peaks and the birding in this beautiful area is superb. We hope to find the endemic and rare Chinese Monal feeding on the nearby slopes, as well as the lovely White Eared Pheasant. Koklass Pheasant is likely to be heard here at dawn but seeing this shy and secretive species can be rather tricky. Other possibilities in this area include Verreaux's Monal-Partridge, the glowing red Temminck's Tragopan, and Blood Pheasant. The low bushes at the edge of the treeline often harbour Streaked, Pink-rumped, Common, Dark-breasted, and Chinese White-browed Rosefinches, Kessler's Thrush, Blue-fronted and White-throated Redstarts, the immaculate Golden Bush Robin and, with much luck, the rare and range-restricted Sharpe's Rosefinch. Several mammals are also on offer here, including the Hog Badger, Tufted Deer, and Chinese Goral.

Slightly lower down in the taller mixed forest we will search for the handsome and vocal Giant Laughingthrush, Chinese Fulvetta, Fire-capped Tit, White-browed Bush Robin, and Three-banded Rosefinch. Common birds in this area include the Rufous-vented, Sichuan and Grey-crested Tits, White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Claudia's, Alpine and Sichuan Leaf Warblers, Rosy Pipit and Chestnut Thrush. Golden Eagle, Bearded and Himalayan Vultures, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, and Common Buzzard are likely to be seen in flight overhead and we



Giant Laughingthrush by Daniel Danckwerts



Firethroat by Daniel Danckwerts

will also keep our eyes and ears peeled for rarer species such as the brilliant but secretive Firethroat, Sichuan Treecreeper, Black-browed Bushtit, Scaly and Sichuan (recently split from Plain-backed) Thrushes, Slaty Bunting, Barred Laughingthrush, the nomadic Tibetan Serin, Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, and secretive Chinese Wren-Babbler.

***The high Balangshan Pass (4500m) that was part of our itinerary in previous years, has been closed.*

Descending lower down towards Wolong town we will search the broad-leaved forest and bamboo undergrowth for lower altitude species that may include the beautiful Yellow-bellied and scarce Pere David's Tits, Sooty Bushtit, and Chinese Leaf Warbler. In the late afternoon, the spectacular Golden Pheasant might appear if we are very lucky.

Labahe. This rugged, yet extremely scenic, reserve will certainly be one of the highlights of this tour. We will be birding along the reserve's extensive road and trail networks, distributed between 1 400m (4600ft) and 2 750m (8000ft), where we stand an excellent chance of finding several rare and little-known species.

Most of our time will be spent birding above 2 000m (7 000ft) where we hope to find Three-toed, Fulvous, Brown, and Great Parrotbills, the inexplicitly scarce Streaked Barwing, Spotted and Black-faced Laughingthrushes, Golden and White-browed Bush Robins, Hodgson's, Bar-tailed and Sichuan Treecreepers, Bar-winged Wren-Babbler, Darjeeling and Crimson-breasted Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied, Aberrant, Spotted, Chestnut-crowned and Brown Bush Warblers, Bianchi's Warbler, Golden-breasted and Grey-hooded Fulvettas, and White-bellied Redstart. We also stand an incredible chance of encountering several more Lady Amherst's Pheasants in these higher-altitude areas!

Lower down, we hope to see Lesser Coucal, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Yellow-browed and Coal Tits, Collared Finchbill, Black-browed Bushtit, David's Fulvetta, Chinese Thrush, Taiga Flycatcher, Grey-capped Greenfinch, Slaty Bunting, and at least five species of Redstart. Golden-fronted Fulvetta has also been reported from here, though this species is much easier to see at Longcanggou.



Slaty Bunting by Daniel Danckwerts

In addition to the incredible birdwatching opportunities, we stand an excellent chance at adding several highly sought-after mammal species. First and foremost, Labahe's lush mid-elevation forests have been described as one of the best areas in



Silver Pheasant by Daniel Danckwerts

the world to see the gorgeous, yet rare and elusive, Red Panda. Most of our time will be spent in its favoured high-altitude bamboo habitat, so we certainly have a decent chance of finding at least one of these mythical creatures during our stay. Chinese Serow, Red-and-White Giant Flying-Squirrels, Sambar Deer, Hog Badger, Chinese Leopard Cat, and Golden Takin are just some of the other mouth-watering mammals that are on offer, though we admittedly require an immense amount of luck to actually see some of these absolute megas.

Er Lang Shan. Er Lang Shan has recently become an extremely good and reliable site to see several Sichuan's rare and sought-after species, such as Lady Amherst's Pheasant and the brilliant Firethroat. A further four rare and range-restricted Chinese specialities also occur here and will be targets during our day on the mountain, and these are the endemic and strange Rufous-tailed Babbler (Moupinia), the shy and secretive Barred Laughingthrush, the striking Streaked Barwing, and Sharpe's Rosefinch. While birding along the now-abandoned road that meanders down Er Lang Shan, we also hope to find a range of more widespread but no less exciting and desirable species such as Green Shrike Babbler, White-browed and Grey-hooded Fulvettas, Slaty Blue Flycatcher, Black-browed Bushtit, Mrs Gould's Sunbird, Brown and Great Parrotbills, Dark-rumped Rosefinch, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Yellow-bellied, Fire-capped and Grey Crested Tits, Stripe-throated Yuhina, and Chestnut-flanked White-eye.

Longcanggou National Nature Reserve. We have a full day to explore this incredible reserve, where our efforts will be centred on the taller bamboo and mixed broad-leaved forest that remain open to us following the recent reintroduction of Giant Pandas into the higher sections of the reserve. Here we hope to find the scarce and unobtrusive Emei Shan Liocichla, handsome but shy Red-winged Laughingthrush, the rare Emei Leaf and White-spectacled Warblers, the recently described Sichuan Bush Warbler, secretive Buffy Laughingthrush, tricky Chinese Blue Flycatcher, and the shy Slaty Bunting. We also stand our best chance of finding the inexplicitly rare Golden-fronted Fulvetta in this habitat. Helpful and more common distractions while we search for these tricky species will include the striking Ashy-throated Parrotbill, Brown Bullfinch, Red-billed Leiothrix, Yellow-browed, Fire-capped, Coal, and Green-backed Tits, Martens's, Grey-crowned and Alstrom's Warblers, Elliott's Laughingthrush, Fujian Niltava, Himalayan and Large Hawk-Cuckoos, Short-billed and Long-tailed Minivets, Bay and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Great Barbet, impressive



Grey-hooded Parrotbill by Daniel Danckwerts



Golden Parrotbill by Daniel Danckwerts

Red-billed Blue Magpie, Green and Blyth's Shrike-Babblers, Hair-crested Drongo, and the difficult to see Pygmy Wren-Babbler.

We will then embark on an evening drive for pheasants, which may be feeding along the roadside. Here we stand a reasonable chance of seeing both Temminck's Tragopan (the males a brilliant, glowing red) and Lady Amherst's Pheasant. En route back to the hotel, we may also have a chance to stop for the rare and range-restricted Himalayan Owl.

Wawushan Nature Reserve. This rugged, yet extremely scenic reserve will certainly be one of the highlights of this tour. Paired with Emei Shan to the East, Wawushan is a towering, isolated peak with well-developed tourism infrastructure including a cable car that permits access to a massive altitudinal area and a range of habitats between 600m (1 968ft) near the base to over 3 000m (9 842ft) at the summer. Here, we stand an excellent chance of finding several rare and little-known species.

Most of our time will be spent birding above 2 000m (7 000ft) where we hope to locate the inexplicitly scarce Streaked Barwing, Spotted and Black-faced Laughingthrushes, Golden and White-browed Bush Robins, Hodgson's, Bar-tailed and Sichuan Treecreepers (this being the type locality for the latter species), Bar-winged Wren-Babbler, Darjeeling and Crimson-breasted Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied, Aberrant, Spotted, Chestnut-crowned and Brown Bush Warblers, Bianchi's Warbler, Golden-breasted and Grey-hooded Fulvettas, and White-bellied Redstart. Incredibly, eight species of parrotbill are possible here including the scarce Fulvous, Golden, Three-toed, Great, Brown, Grey-headed and Gray-hooded Parrotbills. We also stand an excellent chance of encountering several more Lady Amherst's Pheasants in these higher-altitude areas, as well as a reasonable chance of seeing Temminck's Tragopan (the males a brilliant, glowing red).



Chinese Red Panda by Daniel Danckwerts

Lower down, we will be searching for the scarce and unobtrusive Emei Shan Liocichla, handsome but shy Red-winged Laughingthrush, the rare Emei Leaf and White-spectacled Warblers, recently described Sichuan Bush Warbler, secretive Buffy Laughingthrush, tricky Chinese Blue Flycatcher, and the shy Slaty Bunting. We also stand our best chance of finding the rare Golden-fronted Fulvetta in this habitat. We can expect to find several commoner distractions while we search



Sichuan Partridge by Daniel Danckwerts

for these tricky species such as the striking Brown Bullfinch, Red-billed Leiothrix, Yellow-browed, Fire-capped, Coal, and Green-backed Tits, Martens's, Grey-crowned and Alstrom's Warblers, Elliott's Laughingthrush, Fujian Niltava, Himalayan and Large Hawk-Cuckoos, Short-billed and Long-tailed Minivets, Bay and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Great Barbet, impressive Red-billed Blue Magpie, Green and Blyth's Shrike-Babblers, Hair-crested Drongo, and the difficult to see Pygmy Wren-Babbler.

In addition to the incredible birdwatching opportunities, we stand an excellent chance at adding several highly sought-after mammal species. First and foremost, Wawushan has been described as one of the best areas in the world to see the gorgeous, yet rare and elusive, Red Panda. Most of our time will be spent in its favoured high-altitude bamboo habitat, so we certainly have a decent chance of finding at least one of these mythical creatures during our stay. Other highlights may include Chinese Serow, Red-and-White Giant Flying Squirrels, Sambar Deer, Hog Badger, Chinese Leopard Cat, and Golden Takin are just some of the other mouth-watering mammals that are on offer, though we admittedly require an immense amount of luck to see some of these mega species.

Long Hua. A brief visit to the Long Hua vicinity should offer us chances at the near-mythical and endemic Sichuan Partridge; a species that has only recently become 'gettable' thanks to a dedicated feeding station. Other key species that we may hope to see while waiting for the partridge include the shy Red-winged and Buffy Laughingthrushes, Emei Shan Liocichla, and perhaps Lady Amherst's Pheasant and Temminck's Tragopan.

Jianfengling National Nature Reserve. Jianfengling National Nature Reserve, nestled in the mountainous southwest of Hainan Island, protects one of the largest remaining tracts of primary tropical rainforest in China and is the island's premier birding destination. This biologically rich reserve offers a unique opportunity to experience Hainan's endemic and near-endemic birdlife in a setting of lush, forested ridges, shaded valleys, and mist-shrouded peaks.



Hainan Peacock-pheasant by Tang Jun

The star attractions here are undoubtedly Hainan Peacock-Pheasant and Hainan Partridge, both endemic to the island and restricted to this rapidly vanishing forest habitat. With patience and local knowledge, we'll search for these elusive ground-dwellers along quiet trails and

forest edges, where their shy nature and low densities make every encounter especially rewarding. In addition to these island endemics, Jianfengling is home to several distinctive endemic subspecies, many of which are considered potential future splits. These include forms of Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Red-headed Trogon, and Black-throated Laughingthrush, making this a fascinating destination for birders with an eye on future taxonomy.



Hainan Partridge by Tang Jun

The birding here is best done slowly and quietly along narrow forest trails and the reserve's well-maintained roads, where mixed flocks can produce a delightful mix of species such as White-crowned Forktail, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Greater and Lesser Yellownape, and Yellow-billed Nuthatch. The haunting calls of Mountain Scops Owl and Collared Owlet may echo through the forest at dusk, and early risers may be rewarded with sightings of Rufous Woodpecker, Hainan Leaf Warbler, or the vibrant Scarlet Minivet.

With its combination of high conservation value, rare and endemic birds, and the scenic beauty of tropical forest, Jianfengling offers one of the most distinctive birding experiences in all China, and remains a must-visit site for any serious birder exploring the region.

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.
Vehicles / Roads	■ ■ ■	Mostly good quality roads in a comfortable vehicle. Several long drives.
Photography	■ ■ ■	Good to very good, some purpose-built hides & blinds.
Annoyances	■ ■ ■	Several very early mornings, cold to very cold weather at times. Snow and icy conditions are expected, especially at higher elevations.

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 4 of the Hainan extension;
- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 19 of the Sichuan Tour; and;
- 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 is designed to be a comprehensive birding experience and we will attempt to get good views of as many bird species as possible. Most of the tour is not physically challenging but we do hike one rather arduous trail at Tangjiahe. Our pace will however always be slow.
- In some areas it can get very cold, especially if we encounter high winds.
- Some of the birds are low in density and we should expect full days birding without mid-day breaks to find the maximum variety of species.
- Large crowds of local tourists are possible at some locations.
- This tour does require a good level of fitness and participants should be in good general health as much of the birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time.
- Should you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.

We will be well away from modern medical facilities for most of this tour – if you have any medical or physical limitations, please let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.

- Accommodation varies greatly in China, from excellent in the main centres to fairly basic in the more remote areas. Accommodations on this tour is generally of a comfortable standard both on the Yunnan and Sichuan tours.
- We move accommodation regularly, so the more luggage you pack the less mobile you are. It is thus important for your comfort and ease of travel that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.
- Biting insects are present but generally not problematic during this tour; however, some people prefer insect repellent.
- Guests who are allergic to bees/other insect bites must carry the necessary medication.

Arrival and Departure Details

The Hainan Extension begins with an arrival day in Sanya on day 1. The tour will conclude with a flight to Chengdu after breakfast of day 4.

The main tour will begin at our hotel in Chengdu on day 1. The first day of the tour is set aside as an arrival day. The tour will conclude in Chengdu after breakfast on day 19.

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.

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

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 authorisation 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.