
Bird watching in Northeast India



Duration : 17 Days

**Destinations : Guwahati - Nameri National Park -
Eagle nest Wildlife Sanctuary -
Kaziranga National Park - Brahmaputra
River - Majuli Riverine Island**



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Birdwatching in North East India

The itinerary is a 17 Days itinerary covering Birdwatching at Nameri National Park, Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaziranga National Park along with a 5 days cruise on the Brahmaputra River augmenting the birding list.

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, West Kameng, is located in Western Arunachal Pradesh and is the highest in elevation. Named after the Kameng river which drains the basin of Gori Chen and Kangto peaks, this region is spread below the Himalayan watershed on the borders with Tibet in the North and Bhutan in the West. The topography is truly amazing rising from the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam through tangled ridges at elevations of around 1500 meters to 7080 meters on the watershed of the Himalayas. The biggest advantage of Eaglenest (expected to provide the bulk of the star species) over other forests of Arunachal is a jeep track which cuts right through its heart from the pass at 2800m down to the flood plains of Assam at 100m - its easy access, excellent forest and wide altitudinal range is a unique combination for Arunachal.

The contiguous forests, Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri National Park (in Assam) and the surrounding blocks of reserve forests, encompassing over 2500 sq.km and 3400m in altitude, form one of the largest protected regions of Arunachal. This east Himalayan area is located close to the Bhutan border in western Arunachal. This visit to a mid altitude (altitude: 800 - 2800m) area and we look forward to augmenting the species list with birds of fir, rhododendron scrub and alpine meadows.

Kaziranga National Park, home to the Great Indian one horned rhinoceros, is one of the best parks in the world. With an area of 860 sq.km (after recent additions) of low lying grasslands, shallow water bodies & woodlands this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Assam. Kaziranga is excellent for mammal viewing. The park recently celebrated 100 years of its protected area status.

Kaziranga was brought under the Project Tiger recently. There are 86 Royal Bengal Tigers as per 2000 Census. Kaziranga has 70% of the world population of Eastern Swamp Deer and Asiatic Water Buffalos. Out of 2006 rhinoceros found in Assam 1855 could be found in Kaziranga as per 2006 Census.

Till now 490 species of birds (25 of them globally threatened) have been recorded at Kaziranga & an ardent birder is likely to find more. Kaziranga is the most visited birding area in NE India & for a birder it has been a memorable experience where one comes across innumerable species within a few hours of birding.

Some of the specialty birds which can be seen on the tour are: Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Pied Falconet, Common Hill-Partridge, Temminck's Tragopan, Ashy Wood-Pigeon, Tawny Wood-Owl, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Ward's Trogon, Golden-throated Barbet, Crimson-breasted Pied-Woodpecker, Bay Woodpecker, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Grey-chinned Minivet, Rufous-bellied Bulbul, Maroon-backed Accentor, Eye-browed Thrush, Fea's Thrush, Gould's Shortwing, White-browed Shortwing, Blue-fronted Robin, Little Forktail, Golden Bush-Robin, Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin, Purple Cochoa, Grey-sided Laughing-thrush, Scaly Laughing-Thrush, Black-faced Laughing-Thrush, Red-faced Liocichla, Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Various wren-babblers (wedge-billed, bar-winged, pygmy, spotted, Rufous-throated and scaly-breasted), gold-headed babbler, cutia, Rufous-bellied Shrike-Babbler, Green Shrike-Babbler, White-hooded Babbler, Red-tailed Minla, Various Tit-Babblers, Fulvetta (Golden-breasted, Brown-throated, and Yellow-throated), Three Sibilas (Beautiful and Rufous-backed), Various Yuhina (Black-chinned, Rufous-vented and White-naped), Fire-tailed Myzornis, Six parrot bills (Greater and Lesser Rufous-headed, Brown, Grey-headed and Fulvous-fronted), Mountain Tailorbird, three Tesias (Chestnut-headed, Grey-bellied and Slaty-bellied), Various flycatcher-warblers (broad-billed, white-spectacled, chestnut-crowned and black-faced), four niltavas (including vivid and large), Thirteen Flycatchers (including White-gorgeted), Rufous-bellied and Grey-crested Tits, Sultan Tit, Beautiful Nuthatch, Wallcreeper, Brown-throated Treecreeper, Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, Mrs Gould's and Fire-tailed Sunbird, Gold-naped Black-Finch, Bevan's Bullfinch, Brown Bullfinch.

Day 01

Received by our representatives at the Guwahati Airport before noon. Drive to Nameri Eco Camp in Nameri (6 hours). Lunch on the way.

Overnight at well serviced camps in Nameri Eco Camp.

Day 02

Today the whole day is spent in the Nameri National Park. Full day birding specially for the White-winged Wood Duck, Ibisbill, Broadbills, Collared Falconet, Pin-tailed Green and Pompadour Pigeon, Wreathed and Great Hornbill, Dollarbird, Chestnut-headed and Blue-bearded Bee-eater and Daurian Redstart, Pranticoles, and various barbets.

Overnight at well serviced camps in Nameri Eco Camp.

Interesting Species: Bengal Florican, Swamp Francolin, White-bellied Heron, Black-necked Stork, Pallas's & Grey-headed Fish Eagles, Pied Harrier, Spot-winged Starling, Chestnut-capped Babbler, Slender-billed Babbler, Streak-throated, Pale-headed and Himalayan Flameback woodpeckers, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Black-crested Bulbul, Abbott's and Puff-throated Babbler, Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Oriental and Great Hornbills, Banded Bay and Drongo Cuckoos, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Kalij Pheasant, Pale-capped Pigeon, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Golden-crested Myna, White-hooded Babbler, Lesser Shortwing, Black-breasted Thrush, Blyth's Pipits, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Ashy Woodswallow, Common Green Magpie, Thick-billed Warbler, Greater Necklaced and Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes, White-Cheeked Partridge, Blue-naped Pitta etc.

Day 03

Today after breakfast, we drive to Lama Camp in Eaglenest. On the way, we stop at Bhalukpong and Tippi for vivid birding at the stops.

Overnight at well serviced camps in Lama Camp.

Day 04

Whole day birding in and around Lama Camp.

Overnight at well serviced camps in Lama Camp.

Interesting Species: Ashy Wood-pigeon, Bay Woodpecker, Beautiful Nuthatch, Black-faced Laughing-thrush, Blue-fronted Robin, Beavan's Bullfinch, Brown Bullfinch, Brown-throated Treecreeper, Common Hill-partridge, Coral-billed Scimitar-babbler, Crimson-breasted Pied-woodpecker, Eye-browed Thrush, Golden Bush-robin, Grey-chinned Minivet, Little Forktail, Pied Falconet, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Rufous-bellied Hawk-eagle, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Rufous-bellied Bulbul, Rufous-breasted Bush-robin, Scaly Laughing-thrush, Sultan Tit, Temminck's Tragopan, Wallcreeper, Chestnut-headed, Grey-bellied and Slaty-bellied Tesias etc.

Day 05

Today we do a birding trek from Lama Camp to Bompu via Sunderview and Eaglenest Pass.

Overnight at well serviced camps in Bompu.

Day 06

Today we do a birding trek from Bompou to Sessni and back to Bompou.

Overnight at well serviced camps in Bompou.

Day 07

After an early breakfast, we drive to our next destination Kaziranga National Park via Lama Camp, Nameri and Tezpur.

Overnight in a jungle resort in Kaziranga National Park.

Day 08 & 09

We will spend two full days in Kaziranga exploring the park as best we can by jeeps and on elephant backs. There are several watch points scattered throughout Kaziranga, and we are allowed out on foot at these. We will make daily forays, twice a day into various ranges of the park and birding on foot around Panbari area including tea gardens. One morning we will take an elephant safari.

Overnight in a jungle resort in Kaziranga National Park.

Interesting Species: Bengal Florican, Swamp Francolin, White-bellied Heron, Black-necked Stork, Pallas's & Grey-headed Fish Eagles, Pied Harrier, Spot-winged Starling, Chestnut-capped Babbler, Slender-billed Babbler, Streak-throated, Pale-headed and Himalayan Flameback woodpeckers, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Black-crested Bulbul, Abbott's and Puff-throated Babbler, Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Oriental and Great Hornbills, Banded Bay and Drongo Cuckoos, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Kalij Pheasant, Pale-capped Pigeon, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Golden-crested Myna, White-hooded Babbler, Lesser Shortwing, Black-breasted Thrush, Blyth's Pipits, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Ashy Woodswallow, Common Green Magpie, Thick-billed Warbler, Greater Necklaced and Rufous-necked Laughingthrushes, White-Cheeked Partridge, Blue-naped Pitta etc.

Day 10

After morning birding at the tea gardens we will drive to Silghat, the western embarkation point for Kaziranga to board the boat for our onward journey on the Brahmaputra.

We sail for the whole day looking out for migratory and water birds on the river.

Overnight stay in camps on deserted sand islands on the river or on the boat itself.

Interesting Species: Large Cormorant, Black Stork, Ruddy Shelduck, Indian Skimmer, White-tailed Sea Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Northern Lapwing, Black-bellied Tern, Common Crane, Bank Myna, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Goosander, Baer's Pochard, Great Black-headed Gull, Small Indian Pratincole, Brown-headed Gull, Golden Eyed Duck, River Lapwing etc.

Day 11, 12, 13 & 14

We will spend these days sailing upstream the Brahmaputra to reach our next destination Majuli, a river island believed to be the largest human inhabited river island in the world.

The river offers a great chance to see the nature up-close and in-depth. As we sail, we come across a lots of river side villages. We may take a village walk in one of these villages as we sail through the Brahmaputra.

Overnight stay in camps on deserted sand islands on the river or on the boat itself.

Day 15 & 16

Today we reach Majuli. Majuli is purely a region of geomorphology. It rises from the Brahmaputra basin and in course of time turned into a flat level alluvial plane. It is formed in that stretch of the river where the largest nos of tributaries drains out and forms their deltas.

Here we visit the wetland areas of the island which are famous for the migratory & water birds.

In the afternoon of 2nd day, we cross over the river to reach Neemati Ghat, the embarkation point of Jorhat.

Overnight stay in camps on deserted sand islands on the river or on the boat itself.

Interesting Species: Greater & Lesser Adjutant Storks, Black-necked Stork, Purple Swampphen, White breasted Waterhen, Greylag Goose, Barheaded Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Brown-headed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Darter, Large Egret, Openbill Stork, White-necked Stork, Black Stork, Common Crane, Mallard, Ferruginous Duck, Baer's Pochard, Marbled Teal, Lesser Whistling Teal, Greater Spotted Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Painted Stork, Glossy Ibis, Swamp Francolin, Grey-headed Lapwing, Northern Lapwing, Red-wattled Lapwing, Goosander, Spotted Redshank, Common Greenshank, Striated Marsh Warbler, Common Coot, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, etc.

Day 17

After breakfast, we drive to Dibrugarh Airport or alternatively to Jorhat Airport for our onward Journey.

Tour terminates.