

Best of North India

Birding Tour 2019

Tiger, Taj and Birds



Taj, Tigers and Birds - Best of North Indian Birding...

A must-to-do birding itinerary for any birder

More than 1.2 Billion people call her mother India. One of the World's richest cultural settings and a landscape that showcases many a staggering geographical diversities . Our 14 days long, nonstop birding trip will take you to many important birding areas in this vast country. While you bird with us, you will also witness and experience the colours and flavours of this grand old civilisation – Perhaps bit shocking initially but as we progress with our tour you will surely start to **feel at home** exactly had happened to thousands of travellers who had visited this land over many centuries. We also know that this birding pilgrimage will not get completed with out showing you two India's great symbols : a Bengal Tiger and of course the one and only Taj Mahal.

**Namaste !! Welcome to
India.**

Day 1. Delhi to Bharatpur (6-8 Hrs)

Arrive in time at the Delhi International Airport or be available at a Hotel near the Airport area to kick-start our Mega Indian Birding tour by 7.00 am . Our first destination is Bharatpur. A drive to



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Bharatpur with few birding stops in between may take 6-8 hours and we are expected to reach our destination by 4 PM.

We will do bit of birding on the outskirts of the park -if time permits.

Stay overnight in a comfortable hotel near the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary)

Day 2-3. Bharatpur (**Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary**)

Keoladeo Ghana a.k.a Bharatpur Bird sanctuary is a must-to-visit birding destination in

India. It is also a World Heritage bird sanctuary, surrounded by marshlands filled with large avian diversity. It is amazing to know that about 354 species of birds are found in this small park of 29 sq km of which 11 sq. km. are marshes and rest are scrubland and grassland. We are expecting to see around 150+ species of Birds in our two days of exploration of this important destination. We will spend two full days in the park exploring various habitats.



Prime Birds expected to see here are : Painted Stork, Cormorant, Egret, Open-billed Stork, White Ibis, Darter, Shoveler, Teal, Bronze winged and Pheasant Tailed

Jacanas, Ruddy Shelduck, Demoiselle and Sarus Cranes, Gadwall, Pintail, Mallard, Coot, Purple Moorhens. King Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Marsh Harrier, Crested Serpent Eagle, Ring-tailed Fishing Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Black-winged Kite, Pallas Fishing Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Collared Scops Owl, Spotted Owlet, Dusky Horned Owl etc. We will also reach for Larks, pipit, Kingfishers, Doves, Mynahs, Bulbuls, Blue Jay, Oriole, Blossom-headed Parakeet, Hoopoe, shrike, Bee-eater, Wagtails etc i

Overnight in Bharatpur

Day 4. **Taj Mahal**

We will have an early breakfast today before we head to Agra to see- one of the seven Wonders of the World , the ultimate symbol of Love- The one and only Taj Mahal. We will spend some quality time in the area exploring the richness of a bygone era. By 11.00 Am

we will board our vehicle and travel to our next destination- The Chambal National Park. Home of rare Gangetic Dolphins and Indian Skimmers.

Taj Mahal to Chambal National Park (100 KM. 3.5 Hrs)

Day 4,5. Chambal National Sanctuary.

This sanctuary is famous for the rare Gangetic dolphins, Indian Muggers, Gharial, turtles, and 225 species of birds. It is one of the best places to see the Indian Skimmer.

A 3 hrs boat trip through river Chambal , may give us around 40 species of birds, such as flamingos, Indian Skimmers resting on a sand bank, an Asian Open-bill, Woolly-necked Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Whiskered and Black-bellied Tern, Ruddy and Common Shelduck, some Calidris, Tringa, Limosa, and Charadrius wading birds, Brown-headed Gull, Bar-headed Goose, Lesser Whistling Goose, teals and ducks, White-breasted and Pied Kingfisher, Shikras etc. Full day Birding In Chambal Area .



On day 6, We will bird near the lodge area for few hours in the morning before we board our vehicle with packed lunches to travel to the most exciting destination in this tour - The Ranthambore national park. (300 Km , 7 Hrs)

Day 6,7,8,9. Ranthambore National Park.

Ranthambhore used to be the hunting ground of the Maharaja of Jaipur. Today, it is famous for its tigers and it is one of the best places in the country to see these majestic predators in the wild. The terrain is rugged and there are rocky ridges, hills and open valleys. The park also offers good birding. Species recorded here include the crested serpent eagle, Bonelli's eagle, Great Indian horned owl, Grey partridge, Common sandgrouse, Quails, Red spur fowl, Common pea fowl, Tree pie, Paradise fly catcher, Pheasant tailed jacana, Painted stork, White necked stork, Spoonbill, Green pigeon, White-backed vulture, King vulture, White-breasted kingfisher, Spotted dove, Ring dove, and the golden Wood pecker. We will



do **6 safaris** in open jeeps searching for Tigers and other mammals during our stay in Ranthambore National Park.

On day 10 , We will wake up bit early and leave our Ranthambore lodge by 5 AM to Jaipur Airport to reach on time for our flight to Delhi .

Day 10 . Jaipur to Delhi (By Air) and to Sattal by road.

On arrival in Delhi , we will board our minibus and continue our journey by road to Sattal , a Premium destinations in Central Himalayas for photographing Himalayan birds . We will be staying at one of the finest birding lodges in Sattal for next 4 nights.

DAY 10, 11,12,13 . Sattal and nearby locations.

We will be spending next 4 nights and days in Sattal by visiting birding trails and hides including the World famous bird hide called "The Studio" and two other private hides owned by the lodge. We will be exploring many birding locations in the area such as Chafi, Kalsa River Bed, Pangot (Good Place of Cheer Pheasants and other high altitude birds) , Sattal Trails , Suryagaon Trails, Garud Tal Trail etc .

Birds we are expected to see and photograph here are a collection of Pheasants, Partridges, Woodpeckers, Greater Yellow nape, Speckled Piculet, Niltavas, Chesnut headed Tesia, Bush warblers, Long-tailed Broadbill, Black-throated Jay, Black-throated Tit, Blue-headed Redstart, the stunning Spotted Forktail, Blue whistling thrush, Twany Fish Owl ,Yellow billed blue magpie, Blue capped rock chat, White capped redstart, Slaty headed parakeet, Grey bushchat, Long-tailed shrike, Lesser kestrel, shikra, Chestnut bellied rock thrush , Streaked Laughing-Thrush ,Rufus breasted Accentors, Slaty headed parakeet, Himalayan Green finch, and Asian barred owlet, Grey headed Canary flycatcher, Asian Paradise flycatcher,



White-throated Laughing thrushes, Grey-winged Blackbirds and green backed tits. We will also look for Hill Barbet, Slaty grey Woodpecker, black chinned babbler, black headed and maroon orioles, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Lammergeier, Crimson Sunbird and the Fire-capped Tit, Speckled Piculet, Lesser yellow-nape, White browed shrike Babbler, Nepal House Martin, White crested and rufous-chinned Laughing-thrushes, Rufous- Gorgeted and snowy browed Flycatcher, Long billed thrush,, Scaly- breasted Wren Babbler, Golden Bush Robin,, Scaly thrush and Vinaceous Rosefinch, White-crested Laughing Thrushes, black winged kite, Red-billed Leothrix, Himalayan Ruby throat, Crested and Rock bunting etc

On 14 th Morning after a relaxed breakfast we will say good by to our lodge and board our vehicle to drive back to Delhi Airport (375 KM) . We will reach Delhi by 6 PM

Tour Ends

Tour Highlights

Number of Tour Days	: 14 Days.
Difficulty level	: Moderate (with few long drives).
Accommodation	: Good to very Good
Food	: Indian, Local, Continental.
Group Size	: 6 + 1
Numbers of Species Expected	: + 300
Mammals expected to see	: Tiger , Indian Elephant , Monkeys , Deers, etc
Photography	: Excellent opportunities. All our tours are Photographer friendly tours.
Other attractions	: Taj Mahal , Chambal River, Central Himalayan Landscapes , Kumaon Hills etc

Tour Cost : **USD 3350 Per head (Twin Share) X 6
(team leader FOB)**

Single Supplement Cost : USD 520

Domestic Flight Ticket : USD 90

Included : All Accommodations, Meals, Drinking Water, 6 game safaris at Ranthambore ,
Hide fees , One boat trip at river Chambal .

Not Included : Extra Menu, Laundry, Travel Insurance, Camera Fess, Medial Expenses
and Tips etc

TOUR MAP

**For Indication purpose only*



Payments : 50% Advance and balance 30 days prior to the tour date .

Cancellation : Only replacement .

Tour Alterations : While every effort is made to make the tour descriptions as accurate as possible, participants should be aware that, factors beyond our control may result in changes to the itinerary. Should a major change of itinerary be forced upon us while the tour is in progress as, like an airline strike, weather delay or political crisis, the additional costs, if any, are the responsibility of the tour participant.

Disclaimer

We recommend travel insurance. While we always exercise all reasonable precautions, we are not responsible for any injury, damage and additional charges or other irregularities either intentionally or by negligence by firms providing our tours transport, accommodations and other services. Participants hold harmless our organisation, as well as employees of the organisations from any and all liability for any injuries, loss or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with this tour.