

Vietnam + Spoonbill Extn

Bird Photography Tour Jan 20 - 31, 2018



Vietnam is fast becoming a key destination for endemic hungry international birders. In Vietnam we concentrate on the endemic areas in the South and our itinerary includes Cat Tien National park and Dalat. A mouth watering list of avian specialities such as Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, shining Green Peafowl, a good collection of Pittas, Back-headed Parrotbill, beautiful Green Cocoa, Vietnamese Cutia, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Banded Kingfisher many laughing thrushes etc may be photographed in their natural habitats during our trip.

Our one day Thailand extension will take you to Pak Thale to search for highlight sought after Spoonbill Sandpiper and a collection of waterbirds.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Cat Tien National Park > Green Peafowl, Blue-rumped Pitta, Bar-bellied Pitta, Siamese Fireback, Germann's Peacock Pheasant, Scaly-breasted Partridge, Black and red Broadbill, Banded and Dusky Broadbill, Brown Boobook, Collared Scops Owl, Banded Kingfisher and Grey-faced Tit-Babbler.

Di Linh (Suoi Lanh Pass) > Blue Pitta, Black-hooded Laughing-thrush, Black-crowned Parrotbill, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Black-chinned Yuhina, Indochinese Barbet, Golden-throated Barbet, Red-vented Barbet, Black-headed Sibia

Da Lat Plateau and Bi Doup National Park > Vietnamese Cutia, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Vietnamese Shrike-babbler, Grey-crowned Crocias, Orange-breasted Laughing-thrush, Black-hooded Laughing-thrush, Collared Laughingthrush, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Grey-crowned Tit, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Black-crowned Parrotbill, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Red Crossbill, Indochinese Barbet, White-cheeked Laughingthrush. Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Rufous-backed Sibia.



habitats Covered: Broadleaved evergreen forest, Mountain Forest, Pine Forest and Bamboo Forest.

Accommodation: Comfortable Hotels and Guesthouses.

Photographic Opportunities: October – April is excellent

Climate: October – April / 15-30⁰ C.

The Itinerary

Cat Tien National Park – Di Linh (Suoi Lanh Pass) - Da Lat Plateau and Bi Doup National Park.

Duration: 11 days

Bird leader: Bui Duc his assistant in Vietnam and a local guide in Thailand on the last day.

20 Jan 2018 : Ho Chi Minh City – Arrival

Meet you at the airport, transfer to a comfortable hotel for overnight stay. You may kick start your bird photography at the hotel garden or relax in your room.

Meals: D

Accommodation: Ki Hoa hotel (Good hotel with a beautiful gardens. Few species of birds)

21 Jan 2018 : Ho Chi Minh City to Cat Tien National Park.

07:00 am Pick you up from the hotel and drive to Cat Tien National Park (4 hours). Cat Tien contains the largest remaining area of lowland tropical forest in southern Vietnam and has incredible diversity of birds and mammals. Endangered birds found at Cat Tien include Germain's Peacock-pheasant, Green Peafowl and the highly elusive Orange-necked Partridge etc . The Mammal list includes Leopard Cat, Lesser Mousedeer, Sambar, Gaur and two endangered primates, Black-shanked Douc Langur and Buff-cheeked Gibbon etc .

After check in and Lunch we will commence our first round of Bird photography at 2.00 pm for Bar-bellied and Blue-rumped Pitta, Scaly-breasted Partridge (At feeding spot), Black and red Broadbill.

Meals: B/ L / D

Accommodation : The best guesthouse of the Park (Air-condition., hot shower, WIFI free at restaurant)

22-23 Jan 2018 Cat Tien National Park

Two full days to find more target birds at Cat Tien. Take a Jeep ride along forest roads to different sites of the Park for Green Peafowl, Siamese Fireback, Germann's Peacock Pheasant, Grey-faced Tit Babbler, Black and red Broadbill, Banded and Dusky Broadbill, banded Kingfisher and some Woodpeckers.

Meals: B / L / D

Accommodation: The best guesthouse of the Park (Air-condition., hot shower, WIFI free at restaurant)

24 Jan 2018 : Cat Tien to Di Linh

Final chance to photograph missed species in previous days at Cat Tien before the check out. Leave Cat Tien by 10.00 am for Di Linh town (2,5 hours). Lunch on the way, check in at the hotel before driving 20 km to Suoi Lanh Pass for Blue Pitta, Black-hooded and Orange-breasted Laughing-thrush, Black-crowned Parrotbill, Red-billed



Scimitar Babbler, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Indochinese Barbet etc .

Meals: B / L / D

Accommodation: Bao Phu Hotel (The best hotel at small Town)

25 Jan 2018 : Di Linh

One full day birding and photography at Suoi Lanh Pass for target birds.

Meals: B/ L/ D

Accommodation: Bao Phu Hotel

26 Jan 2018 : Di Linh to Da Lat

Some final birding and photography at Suoi Lanh Pass before leaving for Di Linh after lunch. Drive 1,5 hour directly to Tuyen Lam Lake and Suoi Tia trail for Vietnamese Greenfinch, Red Crossbill, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Grey-crowned Crocias. Go to Da Lat City by end of the day, check in hotel.

Meals : B / L / D

Accommodation: Dream II Hotel (A good hotel and serve breakfast very early)

27,28,29 Jan 2018 : Da Lat and Bi Dup NP

Three full days of birding at Ta Nung Valley, Langbiang Mountain, Bi Doup National Park (50km from Da Lat City), and Suoi Tia trail for target species such as Grey-crowned Crocias, Orange-breasted Laughing-thrush, Collared Laughing-thrush, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Vietnamese Shrike Babbler, Indochinese Barbet, Black-hooded Laughing-thrush, White-cheeked Laughing-thrush, Hume's Treecreeper, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Gray-crowned Tit, Vietnamese Cutia, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Black-crowned Parrotbill, Slender-billed Oriole, Red Crossbill etc.

Meals: B / L / D

Accommodation: Dream II Hotel

30 Jan 2018 : Da Lat to Ho Chi Minh City



Some final birding and photography at Da Lat before going back to Ho Chi Minh City (7 hours) for departure flight to Bangkok.

Meals: B / L /

Accommodation: Hotel near Bangkok's airport.

31 Jan 2018 : Bangkok to Pak Thale for Spoonbill Sandpiper

05:30 am. Driver pick you up from the Hotel and pick up your guide Tii on the way to Phetchaburi, Continue 1.15 hours road trip to Bann Pak Thale, where impressive collections of shorebirds are present . Key targets are *Spoon-billed Sandpiper*, *Rufousnecked Stint*, *Long-toed Stint*, *Greater-sand Plover*, *Lesser-sand Plover*, *Temmick's Stilt*, *Malaysian Plover*, *Kentish Plover*, *Common Ringed Plover*, *Dunlin*, *Curlew Sandpiper*, *Broad-billed Sandpiper*,



Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Common Redshank, Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and more.

Drive back to the airport in the afternoon for your departure flight.

06:30-10:00 am. better chance to see Spoon-billed Sandpiper,

Meals: None

Accommodation: None

Cost USD 1595 Per Person on Twin-share basis
USD 220 for single supplement

Included:

- Bird guide (Tien and his assistant in Vietnam, another local guide in Thailand on the last day).
- Hide and meal worm for photography at feeding spots
- Vehicle with fuel and driver + pick up to follow itinerary above (We need pick up Jeep at Cat Tien and Langbiang mountain) because outside vehicles are not allowed inside the Park)
- Park entrance fees
- Local travel insurance (Domestic travel insurance by Petro Vietnam Insurance company for 11 days you stay in Vietnam)
- Accommodations for 11 nights (base share twin bed room).
- Food and unlimited water to drink. *No food in Thailand (you pay direct)*

Excluded :

- Air tickets, *food in Thailand (You will pay directly at your chosen restaurants).*
- Drinks, sightseeing, Souvenirs, other personal need, extra program, tips for local services.