



**BIRDING TOUR INDONESIA: BALI AND EAST JAVA – BALI
STARLING AND OTHER RARE REGIONAL SPECIALS**

13–29 AUGUST 2027

13–29 JULY 2028

14–30 JULY 2029



Bali Starling, is a Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) endemic found on just the island of Bali in Indonesia where it persists in a few remote locations.

Overview

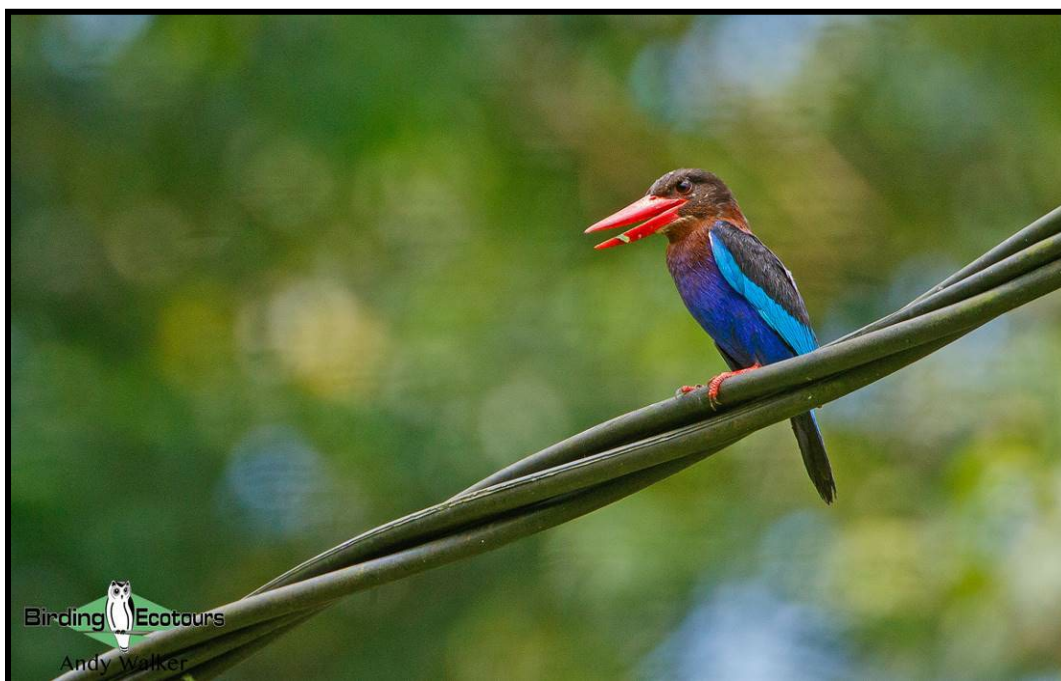
Our small-group Bali birding tour, which also incorporates plenty of time birdwatching in East Java, is full of incredible endemic bird species and highly sought-after endemic subspecies, many with a high chance of elevation to full species status. This tour starts and ends in Denpasar, Bali (known as the “Islands of the Gods” and where Andy now calls home), visiting the island’s only national park – the famed Bali Barat National Park and then also visits several other important mountain and lowland birding sites, including mangroves, rice paddies, estuaries, lowland rainforest, and gorgeous montane forest. In Java we will bird some spectacular mountain forest, lowland forests, mangroves, and savanna as we bird at Mount Ijen, Baluran National Park, and Alas Purwo National Park.

The list of top target birds on this tour is huge and includes many mega world birds. One of the main tour highlights is sure to be **Bali Starling**, this Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) bird is arguably one of the rarest and most-wanted starlings in the world, along with **Black-winged Myna** (“Grey-rumped” and “Grey-backed” subspecies – both heading the same way as the **Bali Starling** in terms of their conservation status). Other passerine highlights include **Javan Banded Pitta**, (Javan) **Banded Broadbill**, **Yellow-eared Barbet**, **Black-banded Barbet**, **Flame-fronted Barbet**, **Sunda Cuckooshrike**, **Oriental (Javan) Cuckooshrike**, **Sunda Minivet**, **Scarlet (Javan) Minivet**, **Hair-crested (Javan Spangled) Drongo**, **Javan Bulbul**, **Brown-cheeked Bulbul**, **Ruby-throated Bulbul**, **Javan Black-capped Babbler**, **Javan Scimitar Babbler**, **Crescent-chested Babbler**, **Blue Nuthatch**, **Sunda Warbler**, **Javan Bush Warbler**, **Sunda Forktail**, **White-crowned (Javan) Forktail**, **Javan Blue Flycatcher**, **Javan Whistling Thrush**, **Scaly (Horsfield’s) Thrush**, **Sunda Thrush**, **Crested Jayshrike** (formerly called Crested Jay and promoted to monotypic family status in 2022), **Sunda Crow**, **Javan Flowerpecker**, **Javan Leafbird**, **Javan Munia**, and **Java Sparrow**.



In its natural range, Java Sparrow is restricted to just Java and Bali.

The list of potential non-passerine highlights is just as vast and includes **Grey-breasted** (White-faced) **Partridge**, **Green Junglefowl**, (Javan) **Green Peafowl**, **Sunda Teal**, **Javan Hawk-Eagle**, **Javan Owlet**, **Beach Stone-curlew**, **Javan Plover**, **Great-billed Heron**, **Lesser Adjutant**, **White-tailed Tropicbird**, **Christmas Frigatebird**, **Pink-headed Fruit Dove**, **Black-naped Fruit Dove**, **Banded Fruit Dove**, **Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon**, **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon**, **Orange-breasted Green Pigeon**, **Cave Swiftlet**, **Sunda Cuckoo**, **Sunda Coucal**, **Javan Kingfisher**, **Cerulean Kingfisher**, **Javan Flameback**, **Great Slaty Woodpecker**, **Crimson-winged Woodpecker**, **Checker-throated Woodpecker** (Javan Yellownape), **Grey-and-buff Woodpecker**, **Zebra Woodpecker**, **Oriental** (Sunda) **Pied Hornbill**, **Wreathed Hornbill**, **Rhinoceros Hornbill**, and **Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot**.



*The stunning **Javan Kingfisher** is found only in Java and Bali.*

Detailed Itinerary (17 days/16 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Denpasar, Bali

A non-birding day. You will be met at Ngurah Ria International Airport, Denpasar, Bali, after your international arrival and will be transferred to our nearby hotel, for the rest of the day at your leisure. We will meet for a group welcome dinner in the evening.

Overnight: Denpasar

Day 2. Birding Denpasar and Ubud

We will get the tour going with some birding near Denpasar, at the southern-most part of Bali Island. We will visit several locations and habitats, with the order visited being dictated by tide times. Across the morning we will visit the huge sea cliffs at Uluwatu, where we may find **White-tailed Tropicbird** and **Christmas Frigatebird**, the Nusa Dua Water Treatment Plant Lagoons for great views of waterbirds like **Nankeen Night Heron** and beauties such as **Cerulean** and **Blue-eared Kingfishers**, and tidal sites, such as those at the Unda River Mouth and Serangan Island, where we will look for **Javan Plover** among many other exciting birds. We will gradually make our way to the town of Ubud, where we will spend the late afternoon birding the rice paddies, here we will hope to find **Javan Kingfisher**, along with **Javan Munia**, **Javan Pond Heron**, **Cave Swiftlet**, and, with luck, the increasingly rare **Java Sparrow**.

Overnight: Ubud



*The tiny **Cerulean Kingfisher** is strikingly plumaged and sure to delight.*

Day 3. Pura Luhur Batukaru to Kebun Raya Bedugul (Bali Botanic Garden)

We will depart Ubud in the early morning to get to the forest surrounding the 11th century temple at Batukaru for first light. Here, we will look for some great middle-elevation birds, which could include **Flame-browed Barbet**, **Yellow-eared Barbet**, **Brown-cheeked Bulbul**, **Orange-spotted Bulbul**, **Black-headed Bulbul**, **Brown-backed Needletail**, **White-crowned (Javan) Forktail**, **Black-naped Fruit Dove**, **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon**, **Javan Heleia**, **Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher**, **Scarlet (Javan) Minivet**, and **Tenggara (Rusty-breasted) Whistler**.

After our morning birding session, we will drive a little higher into the mountains to the town of Bedugul, where after lunch we will spend the afternoon birding within the adjacent Bali Botanic

Garden. This is a large, forested area with parkland woodland, and we will cover some of it this afternoon and again the following morning. One of the main targets for our time here is the skulking **Javan Bush Warbler**, but there are many more incredible birds possible too, as referenced in the Day 4 account, below.

Overnight: Bedugul



*Despite its distinctive plumage, featuring a white head and black nape patch with bright yellow-and-red vent and undertail coverts, the small **Black-naped Fruit Dove** can be tough to spot in the forest where it can sit motionless for ages while digesting fruit!*

Day 4. Kebun Raya Bedugul (Bali Botanic Garden) to Bali Barat National Park

Prior to the gardens opening we will explore some nearby areas that may give us further chances for **Javan Bush Warbler**, but also other species such as **Striated Grassbird**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, and **Barred Buttonquail**.

We will spend the majority of the morning walking a circuit of the gardens where we will look for **Javan Hawk-Eagle**, **Little Cuckoo-Dove**, **Barred Cuckoo-Dove**, **Sunda Cuckoo**, **Sunda Brush Cuckoo**, **Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon**, **Banded Fruit Dove**, **Brown (Indonesian) Honeyeater**, **Lesser Cuckooshrike**, **Oriental (Javan) Cuckooshrike**, **Black-naped Oriole**, **Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike**, **Sunda Warbler**, **Mountain Leaf Warbler**, **Crescent-chested Babbler**, **Javan Scimitar Babbler**, **Javan Whistling-Thrush**, **Short-tailed Starling**, **Lesser Shortwing**, **White-crowned (Javan) Forktail**, and **Javan Flowerpecker**.

After lunch we will drop off the mountains and down to the lowlands along the northern shore of Bali Island. We may also have time to check the salt pans for **Javan Plover**, **Malaysian Plover**,

Beach Stone-curlew, and **Pied Stilt**. We will arrive in the late afternoon and check into our very comfortable accommodation for a three-night stay situated within the national park.

Overnight: Bali Barat National Park



*We can find **Javan Plover** on the volcanic black sand beaches of Bali, on estuaries, and on salt pans. This species is mainly found in Java and Bali but can be found on a few other islands in the archipelago and might be expanding its range through the Lesser Sunda Islands and into Sumatra and Sulawesi.*

Days 5–6. Birding Bali Barat National Park

We will have two full days birding the Bali Barat National Park area. There are lots of birds to look for here and we will spend our time prioritizing the real special birds on offer. These will include **Bali Starling** and **Black-winged Myna** (the grey-rumped subspecies sometimes split and referred to as Grey-rumped Starling or Grey-rumped Myna), **Javan Banded Pitta**, **Hair-crested** (Javan Spangled) **Drongo**, **Oriental** (Javan) **Cuckooshrike**, **Green Junglefowl**, and **Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**. While looking for the above key species we are likely to run into a great many other exciting species and these could include **Laced Woodpecker**, **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker**, **Black-thighed Falconet**, **Orange-breasted Green Pigeon**, **Pink-necked Green Pigeon**, **Sunda Collared Dove**, **Oriental Dollarbird**, **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, **Grey-rumped Treeswift**, **Javan Myna**, **Coppersmith Barbet** (the distinctive *roseus* subspecies), **Lineated Barbet**, **Pied Triller**, **Mangrove Whistler**, **Small Minivet**, and **Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker**. We will likely spend some time driving around the local area at night, where we might find **Barred Eagle-Owl**, **Sunda Scops Owl**, **Eastern Barn Owl**, **Javan Owlet**, **Large-tailed Nightjar**, and **Savanna Nightjar**.

Overnight (two further nights): Bali Barat National Park



Black-winged Myna is now increasingly rare. The *tertius* subspecies found in Bali is also known as Grey-rumped Starling or Grey-rumped Myna and is considered Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) due to the illegal pet trade.

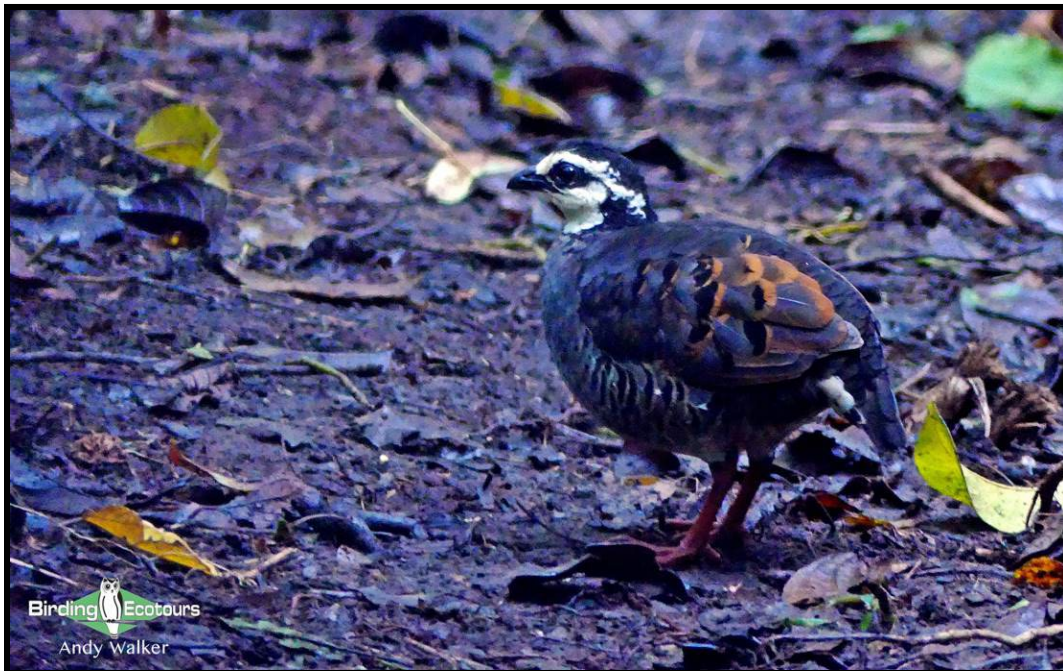


Javan Banded Pitta is a simply stunning jewel that lights up the dark rainforest floor.

Day 7. Bali Barat National Park to Banuwangi, Java

We will reluctantly bid a fond farewell to the Bali Barat area after what is certain to have been an enjoyable time in terms of our birding and our excellent accommodation. We will drive the short distance to Gilimanuk port, where we will board a ferry to take us across to Java. While in Gilimanuk we will be looking out for **Great-billed Heron**, **Lesser Adjutant**, **Greater Crested Tern**, **Lesser Crested Tern**, and anything else interesting that might be lurking. Once finished with the short ferry crossing, we will make our way the short distance to our comfortable hotel in Banuwangi.

Overnight: Banuwangi



Grey-breasted (White-faced) Partridge is an extremely hard bird to catch sight of – not many people have done so. Hearing them is a bit easier, but we will hope to see them on Mount Ijen.

Days 8–15. Birding Mount Ijen, Baluran National Park, and Alas Purwo National Park

Our comfortable base will be in Banuwangi, where we will spend the week. We will make a variety of day trips out to a range of birding sites, including Mount Ijen, Baluran National Park, and Alas Purwo National Park. The below sections summarize the birding highlights at each of the places we will visit.

Overnight (eight further nights): Banuwangi

Birding at Mount Ijen (Gunung Ijen)

There are multiple jaw-dropping targets for us over our time birding at Mount Ijen, and some of these may include the very rarely seen **Grey-breasted (White-faced) Partridge**, the local form of

Scaly (Horsfield's) **Thrush**, the simply stunning **Pink-headed Fruit Dove**, and tons of other high-quality birds, like **Javan Hawk-Eagle**, **Javan Kingfisher**, **Black-banded Barbet**, **Indigo Flycatcher**, **Crimson-winged Woodpecker**, **Checker-throated Woodpecker** (Javan Yellownap), **Sunda Minivet**, **Sunda Cuckooshrike**, **White-bellied Fantail**, **Javan Bulbul**, **Aberrant** (Sunda) **Bush Warbler**, **Sunda Warbler**, **Horsfield's Babbler**, **Blue Nuthatch**, **Lesser Shortwing**, **Pied Shrike-babbler**, (Javan) **Banded Broadbill**, **White-flanked Sunbird**, and **Javan Leafbird**. It is a real privilege to be able to bird this area, knowing that not many birders have had the opportunity to explore it — so much potential for additional exciting finds here.



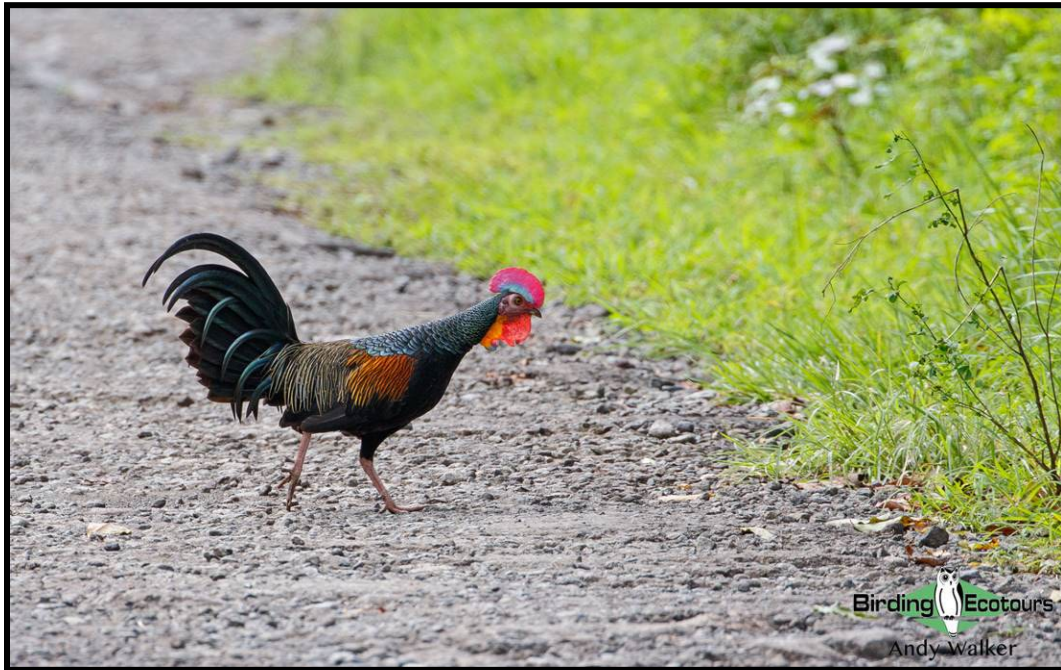
*The spectacular **Pink-headed Fruit Dove** is a top target while at Mount Ijen.*

Further, more widespread, species to be found here include **Red Junglefowl**, **Black Eagle**, **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha**, **Little Cuckoo-Dove**, **Sunda Cuckoo**, **Orange-breasted Trogon**, **Pygmy Cupwing**, **Mountain Tailorbird**, **Pale Blue Flycatcher**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**, and **Long-tailed Shrike**, with several of these being distinct or localized subspecies and so it's always worth seeing in case of potential future splits!

Birding at Alas Purwo National Park

Alas Purwo National Park is another rarely visited part of Indonesia, but it is full of seriously great birds and is one of the best places in the world (possibly the only place) to see **Javan Blue Flycatcher**. It also offers a good chance at finding the tough **Javan Flameback** and other top birds. Alas Purwo National Park is a mix of lowland rainforest, mangroves, and savanna and we will make our way around this large area as we look for our numerous targets, not least the two aforementioned species, along with **Crested Jayshrike** (now a monotypic family and formerly known as Crested Jay and/or Crested Shrikejay).

One of the biggest birds we will encounter (and possibly one of the most attractive too), is (Javan) **Green Peafowl**, a distinct subspecies and highly disjunct from where the species occurs in Vietnam and northern Thailand. Other birds we can see here may include **Javan Black-capped Babbler**, **Green Junglefowl**, **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, **Black-banded Barbet**, **Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Great Slaty Woodpecker**, **White-bellied Woodpecker**, **Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot**, **Mangrove Whistler**, **Sunda Crow**, **Black-headed Bulbul**, **Ruby-throated Bulbul**, **Olive-winged Bulbul**, **Cream-vented Bulbul**, **Grey-cheeked Tit-Babbler**, **Long-billed Spiderhunter**, **Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**, and **Asian Woolly-necked Stork**.



Green Junglefowl enjoys a relatively protected status inside several of the national parks we bird at in Java and Bali, and it can usually be seen well. It's one attractive chicken!

Birding Baluran National Park

Baluran National Park is more reminiscent of East Africa or India than much of the rest of Southeast Asia with vast tracts of savanna habitat, but this park also includes monsoon deciduous forest and evergreen forest. It offers a good chance to find the highly sought-after **Javan Flameback**, along with (Javan) **Green Peafowl**. It is also one of the best places to look for the local subspecies of **Black-winged Myna** (known and split by some as Grey-backed Starling or Grey-backed Myna).

This park is great for lowland species, in addition to those mentioned above, and includes **Green Junglefowl**, **Asian Woolly-necked Stork**, **Red-billed Malkoha**, **Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Wreathed Hornbill**, **Rhinoceros Hornbill**, **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, **Javan Banded Pitta**, **Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter**, **Long-billed Spiderhunter**, and **Java Sparrow**.



*The absolutely gorgeous (Javan) **Green Peafowl** can be found at Baluran and Alas Purwo National Parks in East Java.*

As we check out the evergreen forest and mangrove areas, we will be looking for **Grey-cheeked Tit-Babbler**, **Great Slaty Woodpecker**, **White-bellied Woodpecker**, **Crimson-winged Woodpecker**, **Laced Woodpecker**, **Orange-breasted Trogon**, (Malayan) **Banded Kingfisher**, **Cerulean Kingfisher**, (Javan) **Banded Broadbill**, **Javan Hawk-Eagle**, **Asian Fairy-bluebird**, **Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot**, **Black-banded Barbet**, **Mangrove Whistler**, and **Mangrove Blue Flycatcher**.

Day 16. Banuwangi to Denpasar, Bali

Today we will make the journey from Banuwangi back to Denpasar. We will take the ferry between Java and Bali, again looking for anything of interest (maybe **Brown Booby**) over the water on this short crossing of the Bali Strait. As we drive back down to Denpasar, we will keep our eyes peeled in case we spot any frigatebirds or raptors (such as **Black-winged Kite**) along the coast or adjacent rice paddies. We will aim to arrive at our hotel in Denpasar in time for our final group dinner of the tour where we will have the difficult task of picking bird of the trip!

Overnight: Denpasar

Day 17. Departure from Denpasar where the tour concludes

A non-birding day. You are free to fly out of Bali at any time that suits your onward travel plans. Note that the final meal of the tour is breakfast and check out time will likely be no later than noon.

Overnight: Not included



***Wreathed Hornbill** is yet another spectacular bird to be found in East Java.*

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides, and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling or other factors.

Tour Details

Duration:	17 days
Group size:	4–8
Dates:	13–29 August 2027 13–29 July 2028 14–30 July 2029
Start:	Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
End:	Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Prices:	US\$ 7,950 per person sharing – based on 4–8 participants (2027) US\$ 8,825 per person sharing – based on 4–8 participants (2028) US\$ 9,975 per person sharing – based on 4–8 participants (2029)
Single supplements:	US\$ 765 (2027) US\$ 850 (2028) US\$ 940 (2029)

Price includes:

All accommodation (sharing)
Meals (from dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 17)
Drinking water – please bring a refillable water bottle
Expert tour leader
Local bird and wildlife guide fees
Birdwatching site/national park entrance fees
Ferry crossing fees Bali-Java-Bali
All ground transport with air-conditioning and tolls/taxes while on tour, including airport pick-up and drop-off

Price excludes:

Flights to/from Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Expenditures due to flight cancellations/delays or other causes beyond our control (force majeure)
Visa fees if visa required
Departure tax if required
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls etc.
Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions
Soft/alcoholic drinks
Personal travel insurance
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))