

COMPLETE BHUTAN BIRDING IN SPRING: FROM LOWLANDS TO PHEASANTS

30 MARCH – 17 APRIL 2024 08 – 26 APRIL 2025



Satyr Tragopan is one of the most special and sought-after birds in the world – and is arguably the biggest attraction on this tour!

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The fabled Kingdom of Bhutan, fondly known as "the Land of the Thunder Dragon" is an almost ethereal country straddled in ancient history. Perhaps most well-known for the role Bhutan has played in the formation of Buddhism, it comes as no surprise that iconic and significant monasteries such as the Tiger's Nest Monastery, or Taktsang, draw the bulk of the visitors to the country. The general wildlife tourism, and in particular, the bird-watching tourism, is also a major drawcard for visitors, with the government having formerly protected over two-thirds of the country's total land area. This means that there are vast areas of largely untouched habitat, and its unique location in the eastern Himalayas makes it arguably the premier destination to see many of the highly sought-after Himalavan species. Birds like the stunning **Beautiful Nuthatch**, the gorgeous Ward's Trogon, the unbelievable Fire-tailed Myzornis, the giant Rufous-necked Hornbill, the scarce Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, and of course, the spectacular pair of Satvr Tragopan and Himalayan Monal (as well as other vivid pheasants) are all prime examples. A plethora of other exciting birds add to the tour, with large numbers of seemingly strange families like laughingthrushes, yuhinas, minlas, sunbirds and parrotbills all likely. Even the Critically Endangered (IUCN) White-bellied Heron, will be sought out – a species on the brink of extinction, with only around 250 individuals thought to be left in the world. Three different monotypic families of birds are another major attraction, with **Ibisbill**, **Wallcreeper** and **Spotted Elachura** - all sure to cater to some of the desires of world birders.



White-bellied Heron is one of the rarest birds in the world, with fewer than 250 birds remaining.

This tour begins in the high-elevation city of Paro, before undertaking a 19-day long road trip through the country. We venture east to the Punakha Valley, seeking out our first forest birds and also searching for the rare **White-bellied Heron**, before cutting south to the Tsirang region, where we will tackle the mid-elevation mossy forests for the stunning **Beautiful Nuthatch**, amongst others. We then progress into the lowland regions around Gelephu, followed by Tingtibi and then

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Panbang. The lowlands offer stands of bamboo and other riparian woods, and support a vast amount of birds we're unlikely to see anywhere else, including the trio of hulking **Rufous-necked**, **Great** and **Wreathed Hornbills**. We then transfer to the bird-rich Yongkhola region for a few days, where the forests are dripping with a wide array of sought-after birds, including **Ward's Trogon**. The higher alpine zones follow, with some time around Ura and Chumey dedicated to giving us the best chances to see the highly sought-after pheasants, including **Satyr Tragopan** and **Himalayan Monal**. The tour concludes in Paro following an enthralling road trip through all the best birding sites in the country.

This Bhutan birding adventure can be combined with our <u>Birding Tour Assam, India: Kaziranga and Nameri National Parks</u>, which has been designed to be the perfect extension to this tour. On the extension, you have the opportunity for lowland Indian-plains birds, including **Bengal Florican**, **Greater Adjutant**, **Blue-naped Pitta**, **Indian Grassbird**, **Swamp Francolin** and **White-winged Duck**, as well as some awesome mammals such as the magnificent trio of **Greater One-horned** (Indian) **Rhinoceros**, **Asian Elephant** and **Bengal Tiger**.

Itinerary (19 days/18 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Paro

This tour begins with your arrival at <u>the spectacular Paro International Airport</u>. Most flights usually arrive in the morning, and the remainder of the day will be spent birding and exploring the Paro Chhu (local word for river). **Ibisbill** is one of the major targets on our radar here, along with other desirable birds like **Wallcreeper**, **Black-tailed Crake** and **Solitary Snipe**.



Ibisbill occurs right in the middle of Paro – sometimes it's even one of the first birds seen.



Red-billed Chough breed within <u>the massive Rinpung (Paro) Dzong</u>, and are a common sight over the town. Whilst we're scouring the river for our target species, we're also likely to find other birds like **Brown Dipper**, **White-capped Redstart** and **Rufous-breasted Accentor**.

Overnight: Paro

Day 2. Birding Dochula Pass and the Lamperi Royal Botanical Park

This will be our first of many early starts, as we head east to <u>the Dochula Pass</u>, bypassing Bhutan's capital city - Thimpu. The Druk Wangyel monastery at the top of the pass features manicured gardens that play host to the likes of **Darjeerling Woodpecker** and **Stripe-throated Yuhina**, along with the highly sought-after **Fire-tailed Myzornis**. Additionally, **Black-faced** and **White-throated Laughingthrushes** commonly occur, and with some careful searching, we may also find the massive **Spotted Laughingthrush**. In recent years, the also enormous **Great Parrotbill** has been found to be reliable here.



Fire-tailed Myzornis is a high-altitude special occurring on some of the passes we traverse.

As we slowly bird our way through the pristine broad-leaved and moss-clad forests heading down from the monastery, we make a stop off in the formally proclaimed Lamperi Royal Botanical Park. This is another fantastic spot to stretch our legs, and **Blue-fronted Redstarts** and **Great Barbets** will likely greet us on our arrival. Comical **Yellow-billed Blue Magpies** bounce around the grass, while delicate **Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers** drum from the treetops. We are also likely to come across our first 'warbler flocks,' which will test our identification skills. A great variety of similar *Phylloscopus* warblers occur, and we're likely to see **Whistler's**, **Lemon-rumped**, **Chestnut-crowned**, **Ashy-throated** and **Grey-hooded Warblers**. The pristine forests here also give us our

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first chance for the scarce **Ward's Trogon**, but it is difficult here and better seen elsewhere on the tour. **Grey-sided Laughingthrush** is another generally scarce bird that we can sometimes find here as well. Bright flocks of minivets sweep through the trees, and equally bright flycatchers also vie for attention, with **Verditer**, **Rufous-gorgeted** and **Ultramarine Flycatchers** all possible.

After an exciting day of birding, we'll descend into the Punakha valley, where we will spend the next two nights.

Overnight: Punakha



Spectacular Verditer Flycatchers are common virtually throughout Bhutan – it'll be tough to grow tired of this species!

Day 3. White-bellied Heron and the forests of Punakha valley

We have a full day to spend birding around Punakha, and we will start by looking for <u>the rare and</u> <u>now Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron</u>. The tale of this bird is unfortunate, with it formally being a widespread species in the foothills of the Himalayas. Due to a combination of factors, today there are thought to be fewer than 250 of these birds left in the wild. Bhutan is arguably the best country to search for this difficult species, and it will be a major target during our time here. Though with so few of these birds existing, we will count ourselves extremely lucky if we manage to find one. While searching for the heron, we're likely to see many other waterbirds, which might include rafts of ducks ranging from **Ruddy Shelduck** to **Bar-headed Goose**, along with the strange-looking **Common Merganser**, large **Crested Kingfisher** and the endangered (IUCN) **Pallas's Fish Eagle**. Sandbars may also host the scarce **Small Pratincole**. We will also explore some wonderful riverine forest sections along the scenic Mo Chhu. Skulkers abound here, and we will have a tough task ahead of us to see any of the following: **Chestnut-headed Tesia**, **Slaty-bellied Tesia**, **Scaly-breasted Cupwing** or the sought-after **Spotted Elachura**. The

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elachura in particular is of great importance to many as it was recently moved into a family of its own, making it a monotypic family (the only member of its family). **Small Niltavas** flit from the mid-strata, while the ever-persistent call of **Golden-throated Barbets** ring out. We will also keep an eye out for both **Spotted** and **Slaty-backed Forktails** on the forested sections of the river here.

<u>After this birding spectacle, we will visit the legendary Punakha Dzong</u> – Bhutan's most impressive dzong and currently in use as a monastery. The dzong is situated at the confluence of the Mo Chhu and Po Chhu and has been subject to many attacks, floods, fires, and earthquakes since it was built in the 1600s. The beauty and tranquility of this edifice is awe-inspiring.

Overnight: Punakha

Days 4 – 5. Birding the Tsirang forests

Following our productive time in the Punakha valley, we transit almost due south to <u>Tsirang</u>, where we will spend two nights. This long, windy road follows the course of the Puna Tsang Chhu. It will soon become apparent just how numerous both Large Hawk-Cuckoo and Himalayan Cuckoo are in this area – their distinct calls will be with us for largely the entire duration of the days, and with some patience, we're sure to get some good views of them as well. The main reason we venture to this area is to search for **Beautiful Nuthatch**. As its name implies, this is a spectacular bird, and it occurs in the mid-elevation mossy forests nearer to Tsirang. This species has a close association with Sultan Tit, and we'll be keeping a beady eye (and ear) open looking for Sultan Tits as well, in the hope that a Beautiful Nuthatch is nearby. We're also likely to see both the similar Chestnut-bellied and White-tailed Nuthatches.



Beautiful Nuthatch is another major target species of this tour – we stand good chances at finding them in several localities.

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This is a very birdy area, and we're sure to accumulate a long bird list as we go about our search. This area also gives us our first chance to see the hulking **Rufous-necked Hornbill**, while other crowd favorites include the likes of **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Greater Yellownape**, **Black-eared Shrike-babbler**, **Maroon Oriole** and the delightfully tiny **Golden Babbler**. We should also add to our laughingthrushes with **Rufous-necked** and **White-crested Laughingthrushes**, along with close relatives like **Rusty-fronted Barwing**, **Silver-eared Mesia** and **Red-faced Liocichla**. We'll also be sure to give the bare trees a scan as the tiny **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker** and flashy **Orange-bellied Leafbirds** frequently perch up. A wide range of other species will be seen, and we're also likely to see our first mammals, which might include **Gee's Golden Langur** and the enormous **Black Giant Squirrel**.

Overnight: Tsirang region



Mammals are generally scarce in Bhutan, though these Gee's Golden Langurs are exciting.

Days 6 – 7. The lowlands of Gelephu

From Tsirang, we continue south over the last hills and drop down into the lowlands of <u>the wider</u> <u>Brahmaputra River basin in Gelephu</u>, right on the border with <u>India</u>. New birds will roll in thick and fast with a wide mix of lowland wetlands and woods hosting species not otherwise easily seen in Bhutan. Iconic lowland Asian species such as **Indian Peafowl**, **Great Hornbill** and **Rufous Treepie** occur, and we're sure to add a variety of colorful parakeets, including **Alexandrine** and **Red-breasted Parakeets**, **Lineated** and **Coppersmith Barbets**, **Dollarbird** and **Indochinese Roller**, amongst others. Wetlands here are good sites for Lesser Whistling Duck, **Cinnamon Bittern**, both **Greater Painted-snipe** and **Pin-tailed Snipe** and **Great Thick-knee**, along with a wide range of herons, egrets, cormorants and shorebirds.

Overnight: Gelephu

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Day 8. Birding to Tingtibi

Leaving the lowland flats of Gelephu behind, we venture inland to Tingtibi. We once again acquaint ourselves with the windy mountain passes, before descending into the Mangde Chhu valley. We base ourselves for a single night here. The picturesque river around Tingtibi is an important backup site for the rare White-bellied Heron, should the birds normally around Punakha not be seen in the early days of the tour. Additionally, we will also ensure we explore some of the bamboo patches here, which hold some scarce species. White-hooded Babbler and both White-breasted and Pale-billed Parrotbills are some targets, along with others like the rare Broad-billed Warbler and fidgety Rufous-faced Warbler. This is another very birdy region, and we'll likely encounter many other exciting birds. Flocks of Pin-tailed Green Pigeons zoom overhead, while enormous Great and Rufous-necked Hornbills compete with each other for fruiting trees. Rufous-bellied Eagle and Mountain Hawk-Eagles float overhead while the tall canopies can be searched for the likes of **Rufous** and **Pale-headed Woodpeckers** and the shy Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo. Parties of noisy Nepal Fulvettas flitting through the undergrowth normally herald the arrival of a bird party, and we'll pay special attention to them in the hope they bring many other species into play. Possibilities include Golden Babbler, Yellowbellied Warbler, Yellow-vented Warbler, White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush and Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher. Bright Crimson Sunbirds can be common, and this is a good area to find noisy groups of White-crested Laughingthrushes as they rove through the trees.

Overnight: Tingtibi



Hulking **Rufous-necked Hornbills** are a true highlight of the lower-lying forests in Bhutan – this is a scarce eastern Himalayan special we'll try hard to find.



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Days 9 – 10. Birding the lowland forests of Panbang.

From Tingtibi, we keep to the lowlands and transfer to <u>the small village of Panbang</u> for two nights. Scenically located at the confluence of the Manas and Tongasa Rivers (called rivers in this part of the country, not 'Chhus'), we slowly bird along the road to Panbang in the surrounding area. We should continue adding to our by now burgeoning list. **Green** and **Mountain Imperial Pigeons** perch atop the trees in the early morning, and this is also the best way to find the scarce **Jerdon's Baza** and both of the equally tiny **Collared** and **Pied Falconets**. This is a good area for the large hornbills occurring in Bhutan, with **Great**, **Rufous-necked** and **Wreathed Hornbills** all possible.

Additionally, we can look for other sought-after birds like Long-tailed Sibia, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler and the stunning Greater Racket-tailed Drongo. Several bamboo patches occur in the surrounding area, and we can search for the likes of White-hooded Babbler and Rufous-faced Warbler if we missed them earlier. Other lower altitude species we're likely to find include the snazzy Streaked Spiderhunter, bright Asian Fairy-bluebird and noisy Golden-fronted Leafbird. The river here is a reliable area to search for Crested Kingfisher and Black-backed Forktail, and has also produced sightings of the rare Blyth's Kingfisher – though we'll need some luck to come across this species. These are only a handful of the birds we'll have on our radar, as we're sure to have impressive daily totals as we work the area.

Overnight: Panbang

Day 11. Long drive to Yongkhola.

This is the longest drive of the trip and will likely take us the bulk of the day, as we transfer from the lowlands around Panbang to the mid-elevation village of Yongkhola, located in the central part of the country. We will be sure to enjoy several birding stops as we make the journey, and we anticipate rolling into our comfortable guesthouse in the late afternoon. We will settle in here for the next three nights.

Overnight: Trogon Villa, Yongkhola

Days 12 - 13. Birding Yongkhola and its forests.

Yongkhola is widely known for hosting arguably the best bird-watching in Bhutan. The mix of elevations and pristine forests available in the immediate surrounds gives us our best chances for some of the most exciting birds possible in the country. We have two full days at our disposal to explore these tracts of pristine forest and track down as many of the specials as possible.

One of the major targets for us will be the scarce **Ward's Trogon**, and although this uncommon bird presents a big challenge in even the best of circumstances, we have a good chance of finding this species. Multiple sites also exist for the arguably even more sought-after **Beautiful Nuthatch** in this area, should we have missed this earlier on the trip around Tsirang. **Himalayan Cutia** is another sought-after species that occurs in the upper-lying forests here and is another of our main targets. A plethora of laughingthrushes can be found, and we'll carefully search for scarce species like **Scaly**, **Blue-winged**, **Grey-sided** and **Rufous-chinned Laughingthrushes**. Many skulking species are also likely to feature strongly on our list of targets here – with **Slender-billed** and **Black-crowned Scimitar-Babblers**, **Red-faced Liocichla**, **Grey-throated Babbler**, **Golden**



Bush Robin, Long-billed and Eyebrowed Wren-Babblers, Scaly-breasted Cupwing, Lesser Shortwing and Silver-eared Mesia all possible.



Ward's Trogon is easily one of the main target species for birding tours to Bhutan.



Himalayan Cutia frequents the same forest patches as the trogons, where they forage in the moss.



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The stands of bamboo in the area host a different suite of birds, and we'll keep an eye out for species like the stunning **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** and the tiny **Black-throated Parrotbill**, along with other specials like **Mountain Tailorbird** and **White-gorgeted Flycatcher**, often frequenting such stands. We're also likely to come across several bright seedeaters, which may include the dazzling **Scarlet Finch** and the more subtly marked **Gold-naped Finch**. The cooing of **Barred Cuckoo-Doves** will be a regular feature, and we hope to see this shy bird, along with the tiny **Asian Emerald Cuckoo**, as they display from the tree tops. Several new bulbuls will also likely feature, with **Ashy**, **Striated** and **Mountain Bulbuls** all occurring here. Many Asian families we'll now be familiar with will also be seen, and we can expect several yuhinas, fulvettas, minlas, sibias and niltavas, along with more universal families like woodpeckers, flycatchers and warblers. These are likely to be some of our best birding days of the trip, and many folks see these days as their favorites!

Overnight: Trogon Villa, Yongkhola

Day 14. Birding the Lingmethang Road to Ura, and Satyr Tragopan.

While birding tours of old used to concentrate their birding in Bhutan on the Lingmethang Road exclusively, major work on upgrading the road has caused some significant disturbances and will see us transit through this area and the former birding meccas of Namling and Sengor to our end destination, <u>Ura</u>. With multiple passes to navigate, this is another long drive that will likely take the bulk of the day, with the usual birding stops along the journey.

As we ascend into the alpine zone, we'll bird especially along <u>the impressive Thrumshing La Pass</u>, where we'll keep our eyes open for **Blood Pheasant**. This is another of our major target species and occurs widely on the pass. They are normally easy to see as they scurry around the road edges.



Blood Pheasants are much less secretive than some of their cousins, like tragopans and monals.

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This alpine zone will have many new species for us. Here, the songs of **Green-backed** and **Greycrested Tits** herald the arrival of feeding flocks, and we'll need to be quick to get onto all the birds in these rapidly moving flocks. Both the dainty **Black-throated** and **Rufous-fronted Bushtits** vie for attention, along with the snazzy **White-browed Fulvetta** and **Whiskered Yuhina**. We're also likely to come across both **Bar-throated** and **Red-tailed Minlas** and our first of many **Greentailed Sunbirds**. Despite all these many exciting birds, the main special is still to come.

We anticipate getting into Ura in the mid-afternoon and will dedicate the late afternoon and evening to searching the nearby Sheytang La Pass for **Satyr Tragopan**. This bird needs no introduction, and is arguably the most sought-after bird in Bhutan. While this species can occur in reasonable densities in suitable habitat, seeing this bird is another story altogether. We'll need to employ all our skills to find one, and we'll hope good fortune favors us as well. We have our first attempt at this species this afternoon.

Overnight: Ura



Bar-throated Minla is an excitingly colored bird and is a common sight in the alpine zone.

Day 15. Pheasant spectacular – Satyr Tragopan and Himalayan Monal!

We have another attempt to find our coveted **Satyr Tragopan** this morning. We'll spend the entire morning searching for this species, and many others, on the Sheytang La Pass. We're likely to first hear their eerie howls coming out from the depths of the mossy forest floors and some careful scanning and pinpoint positioning will hopefully reward us (again). **Spotted Nutcrackers** are a common sight up here, and we'll hope to add a few new alpine birds, which might include **Coal** and **Rufous-vented Tits**, **Buff-barred Warbler**, **Goldcrest**, **Hodgson's Treecreeper** and **Red Crossbill**. Eventually, we'll descend down this winding pass into the Bumthang valley, where we will see the localized **Black-rumped Magpie**. Our next port of call is the Chumey area, where we

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will base ourselves for the night. We should arrive in good time and have the afternoon available to head up towards the Tharpaling Monastery, which sits high above the Chumey valley. The main purpose for venturing up to the monastery, however, is to find another of Bhutan's spectacular and highly sought-after pheasants – **Himalayan Monal**. Numbers of these spectacular birds frequent the area immediately around the monastery, and they have become known for putting on incredible shows for birders! Like the tragopan before, we have our first attempt for the monals this afternoon.

Overnight: Chumey



This is one of the most anticipated days of the tour – we hope to see the **Satyr Tragopan** (cover *image) and the* **Himalayan Monal** (pictured here) (photo H005, Wikimedia Commons).

Day 16. Himalayan Monal and transfer to Pele La Pass

The early morning will find us at the Tharpaling Monastery again, as we seek out the spectacular **Himalayan Monals**. The birds are usually a bit showier in the mornings, and we'll dedicate some time to ensuring we get good views of this special bird. **Snow Pigeons** are often around the rocky cliffs here, and we'll hope to add the scarce **White-winged Grosbeak** in the surrounding pines. After having spent the morning around the monastery, we'll settle in for a long transfer to Nubding. Our route takes us through Trongsa and the birdy Yotong La Pass. Although we'll likely be passing through here during the midday period, we'll keep our eyes peeled for specials like **Fire-tailed Myzornis** and **Brown Parrotbill**, along with more widespread species like **Long-tailed Minivet**, **Yellow-bellied Fantail**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, **Large-billed Leaf Warbler**, **Grey-sided Bush Warbler** and **Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush**. We should also come across our first **Mrs**. **Gould's Sunbirds** along the pass, along with many of the above-mentioned alpine species. Beyond Trongsa, rocky overhangs and cliffs host breeding **Nepal House Martins**, and we'll also search carefully for the prized **Wallcreeper**.





Eventually, we'll ascend the Pele La Pass, and immediately head down into the nearby Phobjika Valley. During the winter months, this valley is an important overwintering site for the rare **Black-necked Crane**, and in recent years, a few birds have not migrated in the spring with the main flock, and we stand a chance at still seeing a few of these rare birds lingering in the valley. Naturally, we'll keep our ears to the ground as to the current status of the cranes and whether or not there are birds still remaining.

Overnight: Nubding



Not your average pigeon - delightful Snow Pigeons are usually evident around the monastery.

Day 17. Birding Pele La and Nubding, transfer to Paro

We have the entire morning to spend birding the high-lying alpine Pele La Pass and the lowerlying mossy, broad-leafed Nubding forests. These two sites serve as important backup places for several species. The alpine rhododendron-dominated reaches at the top of Pele La Pass are home to both **Satyr Tragopan** and **Himalayan Monal**, should we have missed either of these species in the days prior. Here, we can also search for other scarce birds like **Fire-tailed Myzornis** and **Fire-tailed Sunbird**. We're also likely to see several other birds, like **Red-headed Bullfinch** and **Hoary-throated Barwing**. **Himalayan Vultures** are a regular sight overhead, and if luck is with us, we may see other raptors like **Bearded Vulture**.

The very different Nubding forests host our final chances for **Ward's Trogon**, along with other specials like **Himalayan Cutia**. **Yellow-rumped Honeyguide** can often be found in the area, where they frequent rock bee colonies hanging from some of the exposed cliff ledges. We also have our final attempts to see any of the major skulkers that may have eluded us, from the tiny **Chestnut-headed** and **Grey-bellied Tesias** to the minute **Scaly-breasted Cupwing** and the ultra-shy **Spotted Elachura**.

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Grey-bellied Tesia is a master skulker! This diminutive bird requires a huge amount of patience and skill to see, but given enough time, we should get some visuals of this exciting bird.

Eventually, we'll need to tear ourselves away from the birding and complete our journey back to Paro. The route will take several hours as we transit back through the Punakha Valley and over the Dochula Pass, where we started the main birding of our tour. We anticipate getting into Paro in the late afternoon.

Overnight: Paro

Day 18. Birding Chele La Pass and tour wind down

Based at our comfortable hotel in Paro, we have the full morning available to us. We'll head up <u>the famous Chele La Pass</u>, which is one of the highest passes in the entire country, at over 4,000m (12,000ft). There is arguably no better way to round off the tour. **Mrs. Gould's Sunbirds** are common in these alpine reaches, and **Blood Pheasants** can be numerous in the upper reaches of the pass. This is also a reliable area to look for **Himalayan Monal** and even **Satyr Tragopan** occurs here, though the latter species is scarce here and more likely to be heard. **Himalayan Bluetails** are delightfully common, and we'll search the rocky outcrops at the top for the likes of **Alpine** and **Altai Accentors**, while flocks of **Snow Pigeons** fly around showing off their incredible colors. Small seedeaters also occur widely, and large flocks of **Plain Mountain Finches** flit about, while some careful work is required to find the likes of **Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch**. A quick search of the Paro Chhu running through town will surely give us a final **Ibisbill**, a fitting way to cap off the birding on this exciting tour.

Overnight: Paro



Day 19. Departure from Paro

The day is set aside for your departure from Paro, and no birding plans are included. Most flights depart from Paro during the mid-morning, and you are welcome to depart at your leisure.

This tour links up with our **Birding Tour Assam, India: Kaziranga and Nameri National** Parks.



Yellow-rumped Honeyguide has a close relationship with rock bee colonies, and we pass several known stakeouts for this uncommon species.

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 must use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration:	19 days
Limit:	5 - 8
Dates:	30 March – 17 April 2024
	08 – 26 April 2025
Start:	Paro
End:	Paro

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Price:	US $$8,150 (+ US$1,800 government taxes) = US$9,950 per person sharing, based on 5 - 8 participants (2024)$
	US $9,050 (+$ US $1,800$ government taxes $) =$ US $10,850$ per person sharing, based on 5 – 8 participants (2025)
Single supplement:	US\$1,050 (2024)
	US\$1,165 (2025)

Price includes:

All accommodation (note that accommodation in Bhutan can be basic) All meals from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 19 Mineral water International tour leader and local guide All entrance fees (as described) All guide fees All ground transport

Price excludes:

International flights to/from Paro, Bhutan Travel insurance Soft and alcoholic drinks (except water) Gratuities (please see our <u>tipping guidelines blog</u>) Gifts and other items of a personal nature Any pre- or post-tour activities, and entrance fees for excursions not described