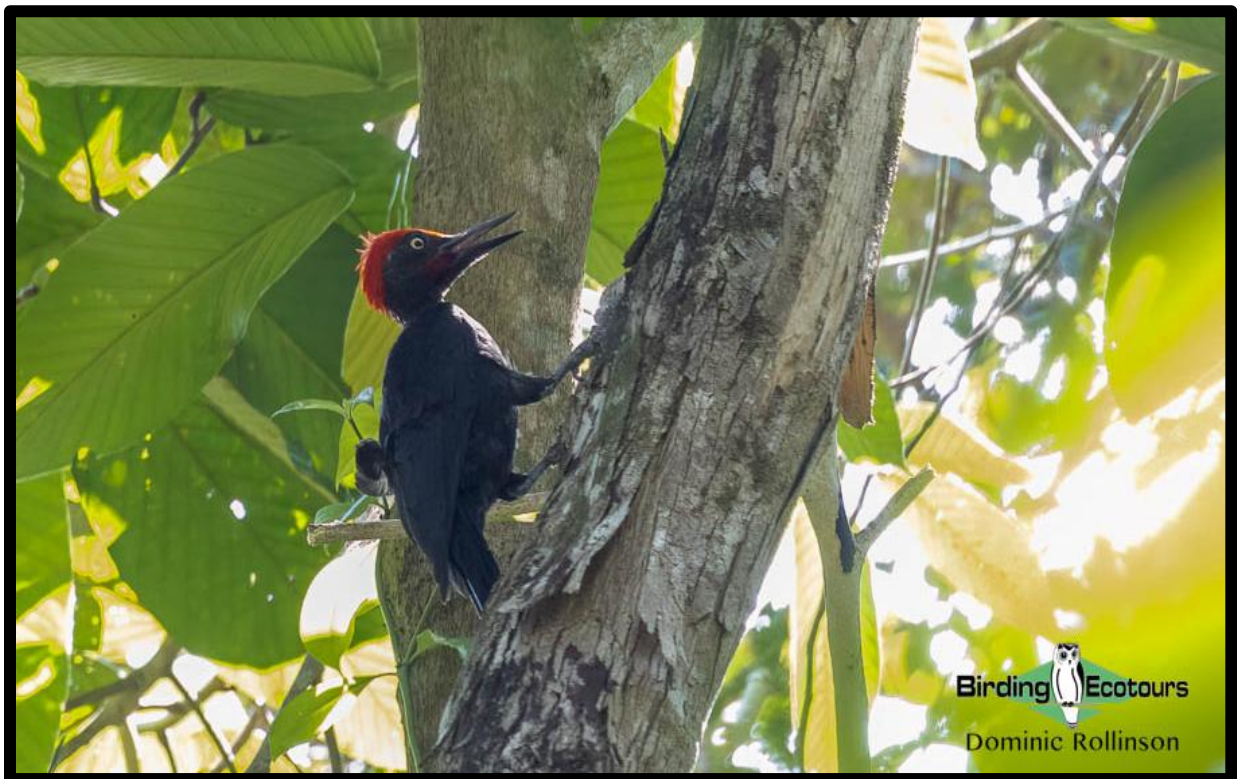




BIRDING TOUR INDIA: ANDAMAN ISLANDS ENDEMICS

15–19 JANUARY 2027

21–25 JANUARY 2028



*We will look for the gorgeous endemic **Andaman Woodpecker** during this tour.*

Overview

This short five-day birdwatching trip will focus on the endemic birds found on the Andaman Islands, part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands archipelago. We will be based on South Andaman Island during the tour which is situated approximately 680 miles (1,100 kilometers) to the east of the Indian subcontinent. Although a union territory of and governed by India, the archipelago is actually geographically closer to Myanmar (formerly Burma), which is approximately 250 miles (400 kilometers) to the north and approximately 450 miles (700 kilometers) to the east. Sumatra (part of Indonesia) is approximately 300 miles (500 kilometers) to the south. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are surrounded by the Bay of Bengal to the west and the Andaman Sea to the east.

The islands' isolation has produced many endemics, which are our main tour targets. These include **Andaman Teal**, **Andaman Nightjar**, **Andaman Coucal**, **Andaman Wood Pigeon**, **Andaman Cuckoo-Dove**, **Andaman Green Pigeon**, **Andaman Crake**, **Andaman Serpent Eagle**, **Andaman Masked Owl**, **Andaman Scops Owl**, **Hume's Boobook**, **Andaman Boobook**, **Andaman Woodpecker**, **Andaman Cuckooshrike**, **Andaman Drongo**, **Andaman Treepie**, **Andaman Bulbul**, **White-headed Starling**, **Andaman Shama**, and **Andaman Flowerpecker**. Pristine forest still remains in some areas, and we will spend the majority of our time in these areas, such as Chidiya Tapu and Mount Manipur (formerly Mount Harriet) National Park, where the vast majority of our endemic target birds occur. We will also visit Sippighat swamps, Shoal Bay, and other wetlands to search mangroves, mudflats, and waterbodies for an assortment of species.



Andaman Scops Owl is another of our endemic targets.

Other species we may see have distinct endemic subspecies that may warrant full species status in the future, such as **Oriental Scops Owl**, **Crested Serpent Eagle**, **Collared Kingfisher**, **Ruddy Kingfisher**, **Long-tailed Parakeet**, **Black-naped Oriole**, **Scarlet Minivet**, and **Indian White-eye** to name a few, and there is an interesting range of Southeast Asian species possible too, such as **Violet Cuckoo**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**, and **Red-breasted Parakeet**, with the island having an Indo-Malayan birdlife.



Andaman Nightjar, yet another nocturnal species we will search for on the Andaman Islands.



The elusive Andaman Crake often takes a bit of work to find.

Detailed Itinerary (5 days/4 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Port Blair

After your afternoon arrival in Port Blair, we commence our birding late in the afternoon, likely to the south of Port Blair, at Chidiya Tapu Biological Park, where we will target our first endemic birds of the tour, potentially **Andaman Serpent Eagle**, **Andaman Flowerpecker**, or perhaps the tricky **Andaman Wood Pigeon**. In the evening we will perhaps make a start on our nocturnal targets and hopefully add **Hume's Boobook**, **Andaman Scops Owl**, or **Andaman Nightjar**. Then we will have a group welcome evening meal together and discuss our plans for the next few exciting and bird-filled days.

Overnight: Port Blair



*Typically for a serpent eagle, the **Andaman Serpent Eagle** spends a lot of time perched in the forest, so we hope for perched as well as flight views.*

Days 2–4. Birding Port Blair, Sippighat, Chidiya Tapu, Kalatang, Shoal Bay, and Mount Manipur (formerly Mount Harriet) National Park

We will spend three full days (and three nights) visiting a range of pristine forested habitats such as Mount Manipur (Harriet) and Chidiya Tapu, which each hold multiple endemics. We will also visit more open areas around Port Blair such as the Sippighat swamps and Garacharma wetland, where some time will be spent looking over mudflats for shorebirds and other wetland species, while Shoal Bay's mangrove swamps will be birded for a different suite of species.

Birding here often involves encountering mixed feeding flocks ('bird waves'), which frequently appear unexpectedly. In the Andaman Islands, similar to our tours in **Sri Lanka**, **Taiwan**,

Vietnam, and **Borneo** where we often also see this phenomenon, the bird waves can contain many endemic birds. Species we will look for in a bird wave in the Mount Manipur area include **Andaman Drongo**, **White-headed Starling**, **Andaman Treepie**, **Andaman Flowerpecker**, and **Andaman Cuckooshrike**, as well as plenty of other species such as **Violet Cuckoo**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Scarlet Minivet**, and **Black-naped Monarch**. Soaring over the forest the endemic **Andaman Serpent Eagle** can be found, with other possible endemics including **Andaman Green Pigeon**, **Andaman Cuckoo-Dove**, and **Andaman Wood Pigeon**. As with pigeons and doves across other parts of Asia a knowledge of their roost sites is usually invaluable in getting views of them, as they can be secretive.

Secretive in the extreme is the **Andaman Crake**. We hope to see this absolutely spectacular and tough forest-dwelling endemic during our time in suitable habitat. Another species possible skulking about on the forest floor is the **Forest Wagtail**, a nonbreeding winter visitor.

Night birding in these forests is a must as the archipelago is home to a large species diversity of nocturnal avian predators, and although we might be lucky enough to find one or two of our targets on day roosts, we will likely need to spend plenty of time searching at night for the likes of **Andaman Masked Owl**, **Andaman Scops Owl**, **Andaman Boobook**, **Hume's Boobook**, and **Andaman Nightjar**, five species of endemic night birds! Furthermore, we should not neglect trying to find **Oriental Scops Owl**; the endemic subspecies (*modestus*) occurring in the Andamans could be elevated to full species status and called "Walden's Scops Owl" in the future. So, it is definitely worth putting in the effort at night too. Luckily, darkness falls early, allowing us to owl before dinner



*The attractive **Andaman Shama** can be seen in thick tangles in the undergrowth of forests.*

We will also spend time birding around the Kalatang area, and the forest here supports more of our endemic targets, with spectacular species such as **Andaman Woodpecker** – a large, all-black *Dryocopus* woodpecker with striking scarlet crown, crest, and malar stripe and pale eyes – found nearby. Additionally, we should see **Andaman Coucal**, **Andaman Shama**, **Andaman Bulbul**, and **White-headed Starling**. Other non-endemic species we might find here include **Green Imperial Pigeon**, **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Black Baza**, **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**, **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker**, **Common Hill Myna**, **Ornate Sunbird**, and **Asian Fairy-bluebird**. **Plume-toed Swiftlet** and **Brown-backed Needletail** are usually seen whirling above the forest patches.



Andaman Teal can be seen in large numbers in the wetlands near Port Blair.

We will look for a range of widespread shorebirds from the East Asian-Australasian flyway, which could include **Eurasian Curlew**, **Tibetan Sand Plover**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, **Pin-tailed Snipe**, **Red-necked Stint**, and **Long-toed Stint**. In these open areas we will also keep a look out overhead for the large **White-bellied Sea Eagle** which is rather common on the island. Wintering *Phylloscopus* warblers here include **Dusky Warbler**, **Greenish Warbler** and **Arctic Warbler**.

Wetlands and mangrove forests near the coast should hold the endemic **Andaman Teal** along with **Watercock**, **Chinese Pond Heron**, **Cinnamon Bittern**, **Yellow Bittern**, **Grey-headed Swampphen**, **Slaty-breasted Rail**, **Mangrove Whistler**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Ruddy Kingfisher**, and **Collared Kingfisher** along with several overwintering migrants such as **Oriental Reed Warbler**, **Black-browed Reed Warbler**, and the secretive **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler**.

Overnight (three nights): Port Blair

Day 5. Departure from Port Blair

We will depart from Port Blair today back to the Indian mainland and continuation with your onward travel or further touring. Our other Indian tours are shown [here](#) for reference, and we can easily arrange additional birding, wildlife-watching, or cultural tours.

Overnight: Not included



***Hume's Boobook** is one of four endemic owls we will target on this tour.*

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:	5 days
Group size:	4–8
Dates:	15–19 January 2027 21–25 January 2028
Start:	Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
End:	Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Prices:	US\$ 3,242 per person sharing – based on 4–8 participants (2027) US\$ 3,598 per person sharing – based on 4–8 participants (2028)
Single supplements:	US\$ 498 (2027) US\$ 552 (2028)

Price includes:

All accommodation (as described above)
Meals (from dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 5)
Drinking water – two bottles of mineral water per day per person from our tour vehicle, please bring a refillable water bottle (if taken from the hotel this will be at your own cost)
Expert tour leader
Local bird and wildlife guide fees
National park/birdwatching reserve entrance fees
All ground transport and tolls while on tour, including airport pick-up and drop-off

Price excludes:

Flights to/from Port Blair Airport
Visa and entry permit
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, etc.
Optional tours (e.g. monument entrance fees and associated additional travel expenses)
Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions
Soft/alcoholic drinks
Camera (still/video) permits
Personal travel insurance
Gratuities (please see [our tipping guidelines blog](#))