

Birding Ecotours

A stylized white owl with large eyes, perched on a horizontal line, set against a green diamond-shaped background.

BIRDING TOUR MALAYSIA: PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

07-19 JULY 2027

07-19 JULY 2028

07-19 JULY 2029



Malayan Banded Pitta is one of our vibrant target birds on this trip.

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One of the most biodiverse countries in the world, Malaysia is a federation of 13 states across two regions. One region is West Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia, and the focus of this small group birdwatching tour) and the other region is East Malaysia (which includes Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo, where we have two thrilling tours that run immediately before/after this tour, details below). Peninsular Malaysia sits at the foot of the longer Malay Peninsula, the backbone of which, the Titiwangsa Range, is draped in pristine montane forest with the lowlands carpeted in extensive tropical rainforest, melting into vast mangrove forests along the coast. The combination of this results in some of the most exciting birdwatching and is one of the top birding sites in Southeast Asia.

This tour visits several key birding sites in Peninsular Malaysia, beginning in the coastal mangrove forests of Pulau Indah and Kuala Selangor, then moving into the highlands at the marvelous Fraser's Hill, before continuing to two of the very best birding areas in Malaysia (and possibly Southeast Asia): the world-famous Taman Negara National Park (Kuala Tahan and Sungai Relau areas); the tropical rainforest here is said to be over 130 million years old, and we will find some spectacular wildlife during our time here. We will finish our tour back in the mountains with a visit to Bukit Tinggi, home of one of our endemic targets. This circuit of Peninsular Malaysia is well-trying and tested by us, and always comes up with some great birds.

We will target many of Peninsular Malaysia's most highly sought-after and charismatic species, such as pheasants, trogons, hornbills, kingfishers, broadbills, and pittas, along with some very special, secretive birds such as the monotypic **Rail-babbler**, the endemic **Mountain Peacock-Pheasant** and **Malayan Whistling Thrush**, and the near-endemic **Malayan Peacock-Pheasant**, **Malayan Partridge**, and **Malayan Laughingthrush**.



*The monotypic **Rail-babbler** is a tough bird to connect with, but we will try to find this incredible bird while in suitable lowland forest habitat during the tour.*

There are many other high-quality birds possible on the tour, such as **Diard's Trogon**, **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, and **Red-headed Trogon** (three of the six trogon species possible), **Rhinoceros Hornbill**, **Black Hornbill**, and **Helmeted Hornbill** (three of the ten hornbill species possible), and **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**, **Long-tailed Broadbill**, and **Green Broadbill** (three of the seven broadbill species possible). Nocturnal birds are also well represented, with possibilities including **Malaysian Eared Nightjar**, **Grey Nightjar**, **Large Frogmouth**, **Gould's Frogmouth**, **Blyth's Frogmouth**, **Eastern Barn Owl**, **Oriental Bay Owl**, **White-fronted Scops Owl**, **Reddish Scops Owl**, **Buffy Fish Owl**, and **Brown Wood Owl**.

If that is not enough to whet your appetite, what about this who's who of simply spectacular birds that we could find: **Ferruginous Partridge**, **Crested Partridge**, **Malayan Crested Fireback**, **Great Argus**, **Whiskered Treeswift**, **Rufous-collared Kingfisher**, **Banded Kingfisher**, **Great Slaty Woodpecker**, **Rusty-naped Pitta**, **Malayan Banded Pitta**, **Garnet Pitta**, **Blue-winged Pitta**, **Mangrove Pitta**, **Western Hooded Pitta**, **Common Green Magpie**, **Straw-headed Bulbul**, **Large Wren-Babbler**, **Long-tailed Sibia**, **Silver-eared Mesia**, **Mangrove Blue Flycatcher**, **Malaysian Blue Flycatcher**, **Chestnut-naped Forktail**, and so many more!



*We will target the beautiful **Mangrove Pitta** early in our tour.*

This tour can be combined with our **Birding Tour Borneo: Sabah Classic Tour** and **Birding Tour Borneo: Sarawak – Restricted Range Endemics**, both have been designed to complement this Peninsular Malaysia tour and focus on the multitude of endemic birds that can be found on the island of Borneo, such as the following mouthwatering selection: **Dulit Frogmouth**, **Bornean Frogmouth**, **Bornean Ground Cuckoo**, **Whitehead's Trogon**, **Hose's Broadbill**, **Whitehead's Broadbill**, **Blue-headed Pitta**, **Black-crowned Pitta**, **Blue-banded Pitta**, **Whitehead's Spiderhunter**, and many more, plus amazing mammals such as **Bornean Orangutan** and **Proboscis Monkey**! Check out the links for details of these great tours.

Itinerary (13 days/12 nights)

Day 1. Arrival at Kuala Lumpur

After arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport you will be taken to our nearby hotel, with the rest of the day spent at leisure. The group will meet for a welcome dinner in the evening, when we will discuss plans for the coming days.

Overnight: Putrajaya

Day 2. Pulau Indah and Putrajaya

We will have an early-morning transfer to the coastal mangroves for **Mangrove Pitta** and other species such as **Lesser Coucal**, **Pink-necked Green Pigeon**, **Lesser Adjutant**, **Black-winged Kite**, **Brahminy Kite**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Barred Eagle-Owl**, **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **Coppersmith Barbet**, **Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Laced Woodpecker**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Ashy Tailorbird**, **Copper-throated Sunbird**, and more. After the morning birding session we will travel back to our hotel for a rest during the heat of the day and some lunch.

In the late afternoon and early evening we will head out again to a patch of forest, looking for **Blyth's Frogmouth**, **Brown Boobook**, **White-crowned Hornbill**, **Black Hornbill**, **Oriental Dollarbird**, **Rufous-collared Kingfisher**, **Blue-eared Kingfisher**, **Gold-whiskered Barbet**, **Dusky Broadbill**, **Black-and-red Broadbill**, and **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**.

Overnight: Putrajaya



Black-and-yellow Broadbill is a gorgeous bird with a far-reaching call.

Day 3. Ulu Langat and Kuala Selangor

After breakfast we will visit a nearby heronry for **Painted Stork, Black-crowned Night Heron, Little Egret, Little Heron, Eastern Cattle Egret, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, White-throated Kingfisher, Pied Triller**, and others.

Then we will check out of our hotel and travel to Kuala Selangor in the afternoon. Along the route we will stop at some rice paddies, where we may find **Watercock, Yellow Bittern, Cinnamon Bittern, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Coppersmith Barbet, White-breasted Woodswallow, Scaly-breasted Munia, White-headed Munia, Chestnut (Black-headed) Munia, and White-rumped Munia**, and others.

At night we will be looking for **Large-tailed Nightjar, Buffy Fish Owl, Sunda Scops Owl, and Spotted Wood Owl**.

Overnight: Kuala Selangor



Mangrove Blue Flycatcher will be one of our targets in the Kuala Selangor area.

Day 4. Kuala Selangor to Fraser's Hill

A pre-dawn walk will give us another chance to look for nocturnal species. In the morning we will be exploring the mangroves and their surroundings for **Little Bronze Cuckoo, Crested Goshawk, Crested Serpent Eagle, Common Flameback, Greater Flameback, Lineated Barbet, Golden-bellied Gerygone, Mangrove Whistler, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Olive-winged Bulbul, Daurian (Purple-backed) Starling, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**, and many more.

During the afternoon we will transfer to the beautiful, picturesque mountains of Fraser's Hill. Along the way to the hill station we will make several stops and species such as **Whiskered Treeswift**, **House Swift**, **Banded Bay Cuckoo**, **Red-wattled Lapwing**, **Rufous-bellied Swallow**, and **Chestnut-naped Forktail** might be found.

At night during our time at Fraser's Hill we will be looking for **Grey Nightjar**, **Mountain Scops Owl**, and **Brown Wood Owl**.

Overnight: Fraser's Hill



*One of several laughingthrushes possible around Fraser's Hill, the beautiful **Chestnut-capped (Spectacled) Laughingthrush***

Days 5 - 7. Three full days birding at Fraser's Hill

We will spend three full days birding at Fraser's Hill, where there are a number of forest trails, several stakeout sites, and some nice quiet mountain roads to walk along. We will also look for a range of interesting nocturnal birds in the evening (as mentioned for Day 4). We will target the endemic **Malayan Whistling Thrush**, which will require a pre-dawn start and will then lead into the dawn chorus, where we will pick up numerous new birds such as **Streaked Wren-Babbler**, **Large Niltava**, **Slaty-backed Forktail**, and many more. We will also look for a couple of other important targets, namely the near-endemic pair of **Malayan Partridge** and **Malayan Laughingthrush**, and the tough, secretive, and subtly beautiful **Rusty-naped Pitta**.



The near-endemic Malayan Laughingthrush will be on the cards at Fraser's Hill.



Silver-eared Mesia is spectacular and should give some great views at Fraser's Hill.

Some of the species we will aim to see at stakeouts along the forest edge and in our hotel grounds include **Fire-tufted Barbet**, **Pygmy Cupwing** (formerly Pygmy Wren-babbler), **Grey-throated Babbler**, **Long-tailed Sibia**, **Silver-eared Mesia**, **Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush**, **Rufous-**

browed Flycatcher, White-tailed Robin, Lesser Shortwing, Little Pied Flycatcher, Black-throated Sunbird, and Streaked Spiderhunter.

Walking through the forest trails at a range of elevations at Fraser's Hill we will search for the following great number and variety of species: **Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Large Hawk-Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Trogon, Red-headed Trogon, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Greater Yellowname, Lesser Yellowname, Bay Woodpecker, Long-tailed Broadbill, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Banded Broadbill, Black-eared Shrike-babbler, White-browed (Blyth's) Shrike-babbler, Ochraceous Bulbul, Mountain Bulbul, Scaly-breasted Bulbul, Cinereous Bulbul, Golden Babbler, Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, Buff-breasted Babbler, Black Laughingthrush, Blue Nuthatch** (one of the, if not *the*, best-looking nuthatches on the planet!), **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Verditer Flycatcher, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Mugimaki Flycatcher, and Fire-breasted Flowerpecker.**

Overnight (three nights): Fraser's Hill



*The strange-looking **Long-tailed Broadbill.***

Day 8. Fraser's Hill to Merapoh (Sungai Relau – Taman Negara National Park)

We will depart Fraser's Hill for the approximate five hour drive to Merapoh, our base for exploring the lush and wild rainforests at Sungai Relau - Taman Negara National Park, the western section of this vast, almost pristine, and stunning forest environment. If time permits we will make a start on the birds mentioned in Day 9, below, potentially having our first try for the impressive **Large Frogmouth.**

Overnight: Merapoh



Rufous-collared Kingfisher is a secretive forest kingfisher that we hope to encounter.

Day 9. Birding at Sungai Relau - Taman Negara National Park

We will have morning and afternoon birding sessions inside the beautiful forests of Sungai Relau - Taman Negara National Park. Some of the big target birds here include **Malayan Crestless Fireback**, **Malayan Crested Fireback**, **Malayan Peacock-Pheasant**, **Great Argus**, and **Garnet Pitta**. Numerous other great birds are possible here too, including **Crested Partridge**, **Blyth's Frogmouth**, **Whiskered Treeswift**, **Short-toed Coucal**, **Raffles's Malkoha**, **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, **Cinnamon-rumped Trogon**, **Rhinoceros Hornbill**, **Wreathed Hornbill**, **Bushy-crested Hornbill**, **Banded Kingfisher**, **Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Red-bearded Bee-eater**, **Orange-backed Woodpecker**, **Great Slaty Woodpecker**, **Green Broadbill**, **Crested Jayshrike**, **Malayan Black Magpie**, **Finsch's Bulbul**, **Malayan Black-capped Babbler**, and **Ferruginous Babbler**. Many other excellent Malaysian birds are also possible.

Overnight: Merapoh

Day 10. Merapoh to Kuala Tahan - Taman Negara National Park

After a morning birding around Merapoh, perhaps targeting some of the tougher birds listed above, we will commence the drive around to Kuala Tahan - Taman Negara National Park, where we will be based for the next two nights. If time allows we will make a start on the birds listed below for Day 11. Some of the species listed for Day 9 are also possible in this area. We will take a look around the resort grounds for fruiting and flowering trees which might provide us with species such as **Asian Fairy-bluebird**, as well as an assortment of bulbuls, barbets, and pigeons.

Overnight: Kuala Tahan, Taman Negara

Day 11. Birding at Kuala Tahan - Taman Negara National Park

We will spend the day having morning and afternoon birding sessions in Kuala Tahan - Taman Negara National Park, exploring the forest along the boardwalks/trails and possibly even by boat. A couple of the best target birds might include the monotypic **Rail-babbler**, the near-endemic **Malayan Peacock-Pheasant**, and **Malayan Banded Pitta**, with the possibilities of the Critically Endangered (IUCN) pair of **Helmeted Hornbill** and **Straw-headed Bulbul** too. We will focus our birding on species we still need after our time in the Sungai Relau section of Taman Negara National Park. Trogons are well represented here, with the colorful quartet of **Red-naped Trogon**, **Diard's Trogon**, **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, and **Cinnamon-rumped Trogon** all possible.



Diard's Trogon is one of several trogon targets on this trip and one of four that can be found around Taman Negara National Park.

Our birding sessions within the national park will give us opportunities for numerous amazing birds. In addition to those outlined above, we will also seek out **Malayan Crested Fireback**, **Rufous-collared Kingfisher**, **Banded Kingfisher**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, **Ruddy Kingfisher**, **Malaysian Blue-banded Kingfisher**, **Blue-eared Kingfisher**, **Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Red-bearded Bee-eater**, **White-bellied Woodpecker**, **Buff-rumped Woodpecker**, **Buff-necked Woodpecker**, **Great Slaty Woodpecker**, **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**, **Green Broadbill**, **Garnet Pitta**, **Crested Jayshrike**, **Malayan Black Magpie**, **Asian Fairy-bluebird**, **Indochinese Blue Flycatcher**, **Malaysian Blue Flycatcher**, plus plenty more hornbills, orioles, malkohas, and pigeons (**Jambu Fruit Dove** is a stunner!).



*The near-endemic **Malayan Peacock-Pheasant** can be found, with luck, skulking around the forest floor in Taman Negara National Park.*



*The striking **Banded Kingfisher** can often be found around our hotel grounds.*

Not as colorful maybe as the above-mentioned species, but the forest is also home to a wide range of (often skulking) restricted-range bulbuls and babblers, such as **Hairy-backed Bulbul**, **Yellow-**

bellied Bulbul, Grey-cheeked Bulbul, Black-and-white Bulbul, Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler, Chestnut-winged Babbler, Chestnut-rumped Babbler, Black-throated Babbler, Large Wren-Babbler, Moustached Babbler, Sooty-capped Babbler, Malayan Black-capped Babbler, Malayan Swamp Babbler, Striped Wren-Babbler, and so much more, which we will also target! Forest raptors possible during our time here include **Blyth's Hawk Eagle**, **Bat Hawk**, **Rufous-bellied Hawk**, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, and **Black Eagle**, so we will need to keep an eye to the sky while in forest clearings.

Regardless of what we find, we are certain to see some of the best birds in all of Asia over these few days birding in two sections of Taman Negara National Park, and it is an amazing habitat to be in. Some interesting mammals could be on the cards too, such as **Malay Tapir**, **Greater Slow Loris**, **Siamang**, and **Lar (White-handed) Gibbon**.

Overnight: Kuala Tahan - Taman Negara

Day 12. Kuala Tahan - Taman Negara to Bukit Tinggi

We will have a final morning birding at Kuala Tahan - Taman Negara National Park, targeting anything we'd like to keep looking for, before we drive to Bukit Tinggi in the afternoon.

Overnight: Bukit Tinggi



*We will look for the endemic **Mountain Peacock-Pheasant** while at Bukit Tinggi.*

Day 13. Bukit Tinggi to Kuala Lumpur International Airport, tour concludes

We will have an early morning birding session, where we will target the rare and localized endemic **Mountain Peacock-Pheasant** as well as the tough **Ferruginous Partridge**. There are plenty of

other exciting birds in this gorgeous forest, and we may also find **Large Woodshrike, Sultan Tit, Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, Blue-winged Leafbird, and Long-billed Spiderhunter**. After lunch we will transfer back to Kuala Lumpur International Airport, where the tour will conclude mid-afternoon, and you will be able to take your evening international flight home.

Overnight: Not included

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 international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration:	13 days
Group size:	4-8
Dates:	07-19 July 2027 07-19 July 2028 07-19 July 2029
Start:	Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), Malaysia
End:	Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), Malaysia
Prices:	US\$9,420 per person sharing – based on 4-8 participants (2027) US\$10,450 per person sharing – based on 4-8 participants (2028) US\$11,600 per person sharing – based on 4-8 participants (2029)
Single supplements:	US\$1,420 (2027) US\$1,575 (2028) US\$1,750 (2029)

Price includes:

Accommodation based on two sharing (Day 1 to Day 12, as shown)
Meals (from an evening meal on Day 1 until lunch on Day 13)
Drinking water – please bring a refillable water bottle
Expert tour leader and local guides
Birdwatching site entrance fees and travel permits
All entrance fees to national parks, nature reserves, bird blinds/hides, etc.
All ground transport, tolls/taxes, and boat trips
Airport pick-up and drop-off

Price excludes:

International flights to/from Kuala Lumpur International Airport
Expenditures due to flight cancellations/delays or other causes beyond our control (force majeure)

Airport transfers if you arrive before the tour starts or depart after the tour ends

Visas if required

Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions

Alcoholic, soft drinks, teas, coffees etc. unless provided as part of a meal package (e.g. with breakfast)

Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, etc.

Personal travel insurance

Gratuities (please see [our tipping guidelines blog](#))