BIRDING THE PHILIPPINES:
PHILIPPINE ENDEMIC BIRDS GALORE

GENERAL INFORMATION



Ashy Thrush *is a tough tour target while birding on Luzon.*

OUR PHILIPPINES BIRDING TOUR

This small-group Philippines birding tour focuses on the endemic birds found on three of the Philippine islands: Luzon, Mindanao, and Palawan, as well as key over-wintering specials. Top tour targets include **Palawan Peacock-Pheasant**, **Philippine Eagle**, **Japanese Night Heron**, **Chinese Crested Tern**, **Ashy Thrush**, and a whole host of other great birds.

This Philippines birding tour starts and ends in Manila.

ITINERARY AND SPECIES RECORDING (BIRD LISTS AND ANIMAL LISTS)

Ahead of our Philippines birdwatching tour, we will send you a detailed daily itinerary (along with arrival instructions). We will then provide you with a printed copy of the itinerary on the first day of the tour.

The printed copy of the itinerary will include a bird list and list of other animals possible on the tour and we will go through this each night (but it is totally optional whether you join or not – though it is considered extremely useful). While birding during the tour we will create eBird checklists and these will be shared with any participants who wish to have a copy. Just provide us with your eBird user details at the beginning of the tour for us to do this.

Each evening, we will go through the itinerary to give you any specific information to be aware of for the following day (like what clothes and equipment will be needed, when we will be having breakfast, departure time from the hotel, and any important birds we will be looking for, etc.). This is a good time for you to ask us any questions you may have for the day ahead.

After the completion of the tour, we will email you a PDF copy of an illustrated trip report. This will include a complete checklist of all wildlife recorded during the tour. Any interesting bird, animal, or landscape photographs will be included in the PDF trip report. We will also convert the eBird checklists into an eBird trip report.

DAILY ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TOUR PACE

This is a birding-focused tour that does offer some occasional good incidental photo opportunities, though these are secondary to the actual birding element of the tour. Finding and seeing well the many endemic and near-endemic species and subspecies of the Philippines, as well as overwintering specialties, will be considered the priority.

The majority of the walking during our Philippines birding tour is considered easy to moderate, though heat and humidity in some locations can increase tiredness and care should be taken to remain hydrated at all times. There are a couple of optional, harder walks at Mount Kitanglad.

If you do want to sit out a birding session during the tour, there are opportunities to hang back at our accommodation for some more relaxed birding or photography at several locations. We will spend the majority of our time birding on easy to moderate trails and roadsides, at a range of elevations, and will experience warm/hot and humid (sometimes wet) conditions throughout. Though you should expect cooler temperatures in the mountains.

To get to our accommodation at Mount Kitanglad, it takes about an hour and a half of walking, approximately 2.5 miles (4 kilometers), and our luggage goes up by horse. If it has been wet it

can be slippery in places. The first section of the hike has a river crossing, usually shallow and can be crossed from rock-to-rock, but after heavy rain there is a bamboo bridge to cross. Walking up to the **Philippine Eagle** viewpoint takes an hour and a half, but might take longer going at birding pace (though the onus will be to get to the viewpoint and focus on seeing the eagle in the first instance). This hike can be demanding in some circumstances as the trail gets very slippery after rain. Beyond the eagle viewpoint, the hike further up the mountain for **Apo Sunbird** is uphill for around two further hours (excluding birding stops), but is a more straightforward hike.

Most of the drives between different sites are two to three hours, but there are also a couple of drives that are around the four- to five-hour mark. There are a couple of long, rough, and potentially dusty jeep rides on this tour. We will be taking several domestic flights during the tour, see the "Domestic Flights" section below.

PASSPORT, VISA, LOCAL LAWS, AND CUSTOMS

Visitors to the Philippines from many countries (e.g. UK, US, Canada, Australia, South Africa) for 30 days of tourism do not currently require a visa. However, please check this official government website for the latest details. There is a box where you can input your nationality and it will tell you whether you need to apply for a visa or not. If you do need a visa, you can complete the visa application process as required. To enter the country your passport must have an expiration date at least six months after the date you arrive.

You must register your visit on the e-travel system within the 72 hours before your arrival in the Philippines (during which you will generate a QR code that you must show at various times). Some airlines will not allow you to board your flight to the Philippines if you cannot show the QR code. This registration is free. If a website is asking you to pay, it is a scam, so beware!

Most visitors are required to show proof of onward travel and immigration personnel or airline staff may request to see this.

You may be required to pay an airport departure tax. This rule changes frequently and without warning, so check with your airline.

You must always carry your passport or a printed copy of the photo page as an official form of identification in case police request to check your identification.

Please check your own government's advice on visiting the Philippines. The above is only a guide and can change without our knowledge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

As detailed in our standard Terms and Conditions, we strongly encourage you to have comprehensive trip cancellation insurance to protect against unexpected events that might cause delays and interruptions to travel. It is important that the insurance covers illness, medical issues, accidents, repatriation, loss of luggage or any valuable items that you might be bringing (e.g. optical and camera equipment) etc.

HEALTH AND PESTS

We recommend you consult your doctor or local travel clinic, regarding vaccine requirements, approximately two months prior to your bird tour, so that any required vaccine courses can be completed in time for your departure.

There is no risk of Yellow Fever in the Philippines, however there is a certificate requirement for travelers arriving from countries with a risk of Yellow Fever transmission (or have transited for more than 12 hours through one). The certificate for Yellow Fever is now valid for life, rather than 10 years, as was considered to apply pre-2016. Please refer to the World Health Organization's list of countries where Yellow Fever transmission is possible, here.

Everyone visiting the Philippines should be up to date with standard vaccinations and boosters, like Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis, Chickenpox (Varicella), Flu, Covid-19, Polio, Shingles, and Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR). Other vaccinations that might be required (depending on your personal situation, and to be confirmed by your travel clinic/doctor), include Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis, Chikungunya, Cholera, Dengue, Typhoid, and Rabies. Airborne and droplet transmitted diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB) are present.

There is a risk of insect or tick-borne diseases in some areas of South Asia and in the Philippines, this includes diseases such as Chikungunya, Leishmaniasis, and Scrub Typhus (from Chiggers). There is a low risk of Malaria in the Philippines and Zika Virus (from diurnal mosquitos) is also present. To prevent mosquito bites, we recommend wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, treat clothes with repellents like permethrin or use permethrin-treated clothing (such as Buzz Off), and use an EPA-registered mosquito repellent containing DEET. Some governments may advise you to take antimalarial drugs, so we recommend contacting a specialist ahead of the tour. Additionally, Schistosomiasis (a parasitic infection caused by the infected Schistosoma snail larvae) and Leptospirosis (from animal urine in water) are present in contaminated freshwater streams, rivers, and lakes and cases can spread during periods of flooding.

Please refer to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website here, for further information on vaccines and how to stay healthy on the tour. Another great source of data is the "Travel Health Pro" website, and information on the Philippines can be seen here. All three linked webpages, and any others from your home government, are worth studying ahead of joining our tour.

Poor air quality is a significant public health problem in many parts of the world, and we can experience areas of poor air quality, usually when in (but not limited to) cities. Exposure to high levels of air pollution over short time periods (e.g. minutes/hours/days) is linked to many different acute and chronic health problems. These effects are mainly on the respiratory (lungs and airways) and cardiovascular (heart function and blood circulation) systems.

Tap water is not potable in the Philippines and you should not drink water from taps, as you can get ill (e.g. traveler's diarrhea) and this will likely ruin a portion of your bird tour. We will be providing mineral water from our tour vehicle supply, please bring a refillable water bottle to maintain your own supply.

If you pick up any scratches from plants (see the "Dangerous Animals and Plants" section below) or receive any bites from insects, they should be cleaned, treated with antiseptic cream/wipes, and covered quickly to reduce the chance of any infection (especially important if you enter water that could potentially harbor the diseases discussed above).

Sunscreen (rated SPF 30+) should be used frequently, and a sunhat should be worn to protect from the sun's powerful rays, with sunglasses used to help prevent glare. A plentiful intake of water is essential to maintain hydration.

There is a risk of altitude sickness when traveling to elevations of 8,200 feet (2,500 meters), however we won't be going above this elevation on our tour.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

It is very important that you are suitably covered with comprehensive medical insurance in the instance of any emergency situation while on our Philippines bird tour. Medical facilities in the Philippines are likely to be of a lower quality than you are used to at home. Emergency medical treatment outside main cities is not readily available, and you may have to be brought to Manila for treatment. Treatment in private hospitals can be expensive and the options for repatriation to your home or a neighboring country in an emergency are limited and very expensive. If you don't have insurance, the cost for medical care is likely to be very high.

As detailed in our standard Terms and Conditions, we require you to tell us when signing up for our Philippines birdwatching tour of any medical conditions that we should be aware of. Please tell us if you have any walking/mobility (including stability) issues, diabetes, epilepsy, food and medicinal allergies, heart conditions, and long-term illnesses etc. This will make things easier for us, and you, in case an unexpected situation arises.

CRIME AND SAFETY

The Philippines is generally considered to be a relatively safe country to visit, with many very friendly people. That said, there are high levels of street crime and robbery, sometimes involving weapons and firearms. These crimes usually occur in, but are not limited to, urban areas and cities (like Manila). You should take more precautions than you would at home. Place valuables in a secure place, such as a hotel safe, when you can, and keep belongings in sight when traveling or in crowded areas (e.g. airports). Remain vigilant of your surroundings at all times.

If you are traveling in taxis prior to or after the tour, only use taxis from reputable companies, such as Grab. We do not recommend taking regular taxis as you are highly likely to get scammed and potentially robbed.

Terrorist attacks in parts of the Philippines cannot be ruled out, avoid crowded public places, large gatherings, and demonstrations. Possible targets could also include hotels, tourist sites, and places of worship. Please refer to information from your own government, such as Australia, the UK, the USA, etc.

Pickpocketing and bag snatching are common, including in Manila. Be careful in crowded and public locations. Wear a body belt for safekeeping of documents. Bank card fraud is common. Fraudsters can steal your card details without you noticing. Use ATMs inside banks or hotels where possible, and check ATMs on the street for signs of tampering. Keep cards in sight when paying in shops and restaurants.

Only drink branded and sealed drinks. Methanol poisoning can occur from poor quality alcohol production. Be aware of drink spiking in bars.

The Philippines is prone to natural disasters and extreme weather, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and typhoons. Guidance for how to prepare for, and what to do if you are affected by these is here.

DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND PLANTS

There are dangerous animals in the Philippines, such as venomous snakes (such as **Philippine Cobra**, **King Cobra**, and various kraits and pit vipers) and hazardous marine life (such as **Saltwater Crocodile**, **Box Jellyfish**, and **Stonefish**). However, mosquitoes and stray dogs pose a statistically greater risk to humans.

Special mention should be made of **Leeches**, which occur throughout the Philippines, where they are particularly abundant in damp environments. Leeches are an annoyance rather than being a real health issue, though we know no one likes them! Insect repellent (particularly citronella) sprayed on shoes and ankles can help to keep them at bay, as well as being great for reducing issues with other annoying creatures, such as ticks, mosquitoes, and chiggers. Leech socks might also come in useful (such as Purple Turtle brand) and are usually available online. Saltwater spray can also deter leeches. It is a good idea to have some salt packets as well, as it can be an effective way to remove a leech if it attaches to your skin.

There are several poisonous and irritant plants in the Philippines, and some plants may be protected by fierce-looking spikes, so we recommend being careful about where you put your hands and arms if moving through vegetation. Wearing long sleeves, long hiking pants, and even leech socks reduces the threat of accidentally brushing irritant plants and this is also a good way to reduce insect/leech bites too.

FOOD, DRINKS, AND MEALS

Filipino cuisine is a vibrant mix of indigenous Austronesian traditions with Chinese, Spanish, Malay, and American influences. Traditional Filipino cooking relies heavily on pork, chicken, and seafood. Meals center around rice, bold flavor pairings (e.g. sweet, sour, salty, and spicy) and dipping sauces, called sawsawan. Adobo is considered the national dish and is usually chicken or pork braised in vinegar, soy sauce, garlic, and peppercorns. Other local dishes include sinigang, lechon, sisig, kare-kare, lumpia, pancit, and pandesal. See here for more information.

A variety of typical Filipino food is the main type of food to be expected on this tour, with some western menu options likely in some places. Finding vegetarian or vegan food in the Philippines is moderately challenging overall, though it is getting easier in major cities and tourist hubs. Dishes labeled as vegetarian frequently contain fish sauce (patis), shrimp paste (bagoong), oyster sauce, or meat/bouillon cubes (Magic Sarap). The concept of a strict vegetarian or vegan diet is not always well understood. We cannot guarantee we can provide vegetarian/vegan food throughout this tour. We recommend writing down any dietary restrictions you may have clearly in Tagalog for translation purposes.

Fresh fruit will be available at most places. Due to the lack of refrigeration, dairy products are not common.

Tap water is not potable in the Philippines, and you should not drink water from taps, since you can get sick. Tea and coffee are widely available, but if you have strong preferences about your

tea/coffee you'd be advised to bring your own. Alcoholic drinks are available in most places and beer is often cheaper than water!

CURRENCY, MONEY, AND TIPPING

The Philippine peso (PHP / "₱") is the currency of the Philippines (also known locally as piso). It is subdivided into 100 sentimo, also called centavos (¢).

Banknotes can be found in the following denominations: ₱20, ₱50, ₱100, ₱200, ₱500, and ₱1,000. Coins are available for 1¢, 5¢, 25¢, 10¢, ₱1, ₱5, ₱10, ₱20. It will likely be best to buy Philippine pesos at the airport or use an ATM at the airport to withdraw cash. Some of the larger towns/cities we are likely to pass through/visit should have ATMs for withdrawing cash, though there is always a chance these are broken or won't accept your international card. Mastercard and Visa are often accepted at larger establishments, but American Express is less widely accepted. You may struggle to make card payments in rural areas, so cash is useful for incidental purchases in these areas, where cards may not be accepted. It is best to exchange currency at authorized dealers in the airport, banks, or hotels to avoid counterfeit notes. Always ask for a receipt after exchanging money.

Tipping is not strictly required or expected in the Philippines, but is becoming increasingly common in more touristic areas (such as on Palawan), and is certainly always appreciated. The tipping culture is very relaxed. You will never be viewed poorly for not leaving a tip, but a small token goes a long way for service workers who often earn modest wages.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation on this tour is of a reasonable but variable standard, with electricity throughout, with the exception of our three nights in tents at Del Monte Lodge on Mount Kitanglad which is considered very basic accommodation and is without electricity or private bathroom facilities (there is cold running water and three flushing toilets) and it is possible to get buckets of hot water for a bucket shower after full days at the lodge. At the lodge each tent has a foam mattress, pillow, blanket, sleeping bag, and towel. The camp is at 4,400 feet (1,350 meters) elevation. If you would like more information on staying at Del Monte Lodge, please let us know. While the accommodation is basic here, it does allow us the only realistic opportunity for looking for **Philippine Eagle**, so worth the temporary discomfort.

The facilities at the Paper Country Inn, in the town of Bislig for accessing PICOP are also rather basic, but not as basic as Del Monte Lodge.

Most of the accommodation has air conditioning (those in the mountains don't really need it), or fans. Some of the accommodation, such as that in Manila and on Palawan, is of a higher, more international standard. The Philippines is a poor country and accommodation is not of the same standard as you might expect from hotels or accommodation at home. Some accommodation we stay in is the only accommodation within the vicinity of the birding areas we are visiting and so choice is somewhat limited.

ELECTRICITY

In the Philippines, the power plugs and sockets (outlets) are of Type A, Type B, and Type C. The standard voltage is 220 volts (V), and the standard frequency is 60 hertz (Hz). Further details and photos of these plugs and sockets, and information on the electricity supply in the Philippines can be found here. This link also allows you to type in your home country and will tell you if you will need to bring a travel adapter and / or a voltage converter, as well as tell you if you need to consider frequency differences.

All places we stay on our tour, with the exception of our three nights at Del Monte Lodge on Mount Kitanglad, should have electricity 24 hours a day, unless there is an unexpected power outage, such as the result of a storm or other unforeseen circumstance. For our time at Del Monte Lodge you will require a power bank and extra batteries, should you wish to keep personal items such as cell phones and cameras charged.

COMMUNICATIONS

The phone signal across the Philippines is reasonably good, with the exception of at Mount Kitanglad, where you should bank on being offline during our visit. Our accommodation in towns/cities is likely to have better signal than more rural places. Globe and Smart are the largest and best-performing local networks across the country. It is possible to purchase a local SIM card on arrival in the Philippines, and most likely simply done at the airport. SIM card registration is mandatory. You will need a valid government ID (or passport) and a selfie to activate a local physical SIM or eSIM. An eSIM might also be simpler to arrange and set up. Information on phones and SIM cards in the Philippines can be found here. Some of the places we stay on this tour will have Wi-Fi.

TRANSPORTATION

We will use air-conditioned minibuses/vans on this tour for moving between our overnight destinations and most of our birding sites. In order to get to Del Monte Lodge on Mount Kitanglad we will transfer into 4x4 vehicles for a short period to take us higher up the mountain (before we need to hike 1 – 2 hours to our accommodation). Our birding at this site will be on foot. We will take several domestic flights on this tour. Please see the "Domestic Flights" section below. We will use speedboats to get to a small island near Palawan to look for **Mantanani Scops Owl**.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

There are usually four domestic flights required for this tour. These flights are with local providers such as Cebu Pacific and Air Asia. We will expect to have 15 pounds (7 kilograms) of carry-on baggage (plus a small personal item, such as a laptop bag) and 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of checked baggage for these flights. We will confirm exact details once tickets are booked as these amounts may vary depending on carriers. Flight schedules are subject to frequent change, often at the last minute and these changes are obviously out of our control. We recommend booking your international flight for after 22:00 hrs. on the final day of the tour (or safer still, the following day), but please do liaise with us prior to purchasing your international

flights. Please also only book your flights once we have confirmed with you that the tour is a confirmed departure.

WEATHER/CLIMATE

The islands in the Philippines cover a huge area and our tour visits three islands, Luzon in the north, Mindanao in the south, and Palawan in the west. As such the weather conditions can vary substantially between the different islands. We will also be covering a range of elevations which further influence the weather conditions. Traditionally, the expected weather during our tour period is influenced by the northeast monsoon (Amihan). This brings cooler, relatively drier conditions to most of the northern parts of the country, while eastern and southern regions experience more variable, even wet conditions. During the tour we can expect the following:

- **Luzon:** Generally cooler and drier than other times of the year (but still likely considered hot for most people from northern latitude countries). Daytime highs average around 82ºF to 88ºF (28ºC to 31ºC) with overnight temperatures dropping to 75ºF to 77ºF (24ºC to 25ºC). In higher elevation areas, such as at Infanta Road we can expect slightly cooler conditions, particularly overnight. We expect low rainfall and mostly clear skies, though brief localized showers are still possible.
- **Mindanao:** Potentially wetter than Luzon (and Palawan) during the tour period. It is consistently warm and humid, with average high temperatures of 84ºF to 88ºF (29ºC to 31ºC), with nighttime temperatures dropping to 75ºF (24ºC). Note that while at the higher elevations of Del Monte Lodge on Mount Kitanglad, we can expect lower temperatures, such as 50ºF (10ºC) overnight and 59ºF to 68ºF (15ºC to 20ºC).
- **Palawan:** Should be dry, warm, sunny, and quite pleasant. Daytime highs of 84ºF to 86ºF (29ºC to 30ºC) and nighttime lows of 73ºF to 77ºF (23ºC to 25ºC).

The sun is still strong (and some places, particularly Palawan and eastern Mindanao can be humid) at this time of year, and care should be taken to remain hydrated, and use sun protection.

LUGGAGE

Please pack as lightly as possible for this tour. A medium, soft-sided, and robust duffel bag is likely to work best for packing in the tour vehicles. We recommend a daypack be used to keep items that you wish to use daily when in the vehicle, or when birding in the field. We usually return to the same hotel near Manila airport a few times during the tour, if you would rather leave some luggage there. A smaller bag for our time up at Del Monte Lodge is advisable, with remaining luggage stored in a secure place at the lodge owner's home.

WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING AND RELATED ITEMS

We recommend that you bring a selection of loose and lightweight field clothing with green, brown, or dark colors, as these work best for forest birding (which we will be doing for the majority of our tours in the region). Please avoid bright/pale colors, for example no white, red, orange etc. outer clothing layers during birding time. Casual and informal dress is appropriate for the hotels/accommodation we use.

We highly recommend trousers/long pants and long-sleeved shirts (these can be rolled up should you get too hot) for all birding activities, given the potential leech and insect issues (and the strong tropical sun). A selection of clothes is useful, as you are likely to get hot and sweaty in some locations. You should also bring some warmer clothes, as we will spend some time birding at higher elevations, where nighttime temperatures could drop, and still be cool when we start our birding. Rain is always a possibility, so light rain gear (including a small umbrella) is always worth having in your daypack. Leeches also enjoy damp conditions. Sunglasses, sunhat, and sunscreen (rated SPF 30 or higher) are considered essential.

Lightweight hiking boots are recommended for the tour, as they give extra ankle support while walking (necessary given some of the trails we will be birding on) and added protection against animal stings/bites. A pair of sandals (flip-flops) or sneakers/trainers (tennis shoes) can be useful for when in vehicles and when walking between your room and restaurant in the hotels. Rubber boots are not considered necessary in normal conditions on this tour.

WHAT TO BRING: OTHER ITEMS

Do not forget: Binoculars, camera, field guide (see "Books" section below), flashlight (torch), spare batteries, power bank, converter plugs, plug adapters, chargers, prescription drugs (please bring the generic names for these drugs with you, and take note of the information on what is and isn't allowed to be brought into the Philippines), toiletries, prescription glasses (and a spare pair), insect repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses, alarm clock, money pouch, hiking poles/walking sticks, suggested medical kit (see here), water bottle, and daypack.

Our tour leader/local guide will have a communal telescope for use during the tour. This will be particularly useful while searching for species such as **Philippine Eagle**, **Chinese Crested Tern**, and waterbirds. The communal scope will allow everyone opportunities to look at birds briefly on a rotation basis. If you like to "digi-scope/phone-scope", or you would like to take prolonged scope views of the birds, please bring your own scope for that, the communal scope will be for everyone to look at the birds, but not for photography.

Some additional items to remember include important travel documents, passport, cash (or ATM/credit cards to withdraw money), proof of vaccinations, and your travel or health insurance cards – photocopies of all can be carried by the tour leader in case of emergency.

We recommend bringing a couple of different colored pens, together with a 12-inch/30-centimeter plastic ruler. These can make the checklist session easier to follow.

A hiking pole or walking stick is helpful on the tracks and trails. A walking stick is compulsory for anyone who is unsteady walking, we feel this is a safety issue; we don't want anyone slipping on the trails or anywhere else.

A dry bag will be useful for optics and important documentation, in case of rain.

LANGUAGE

Filipino is designated as the official language in the Philippines and it is based primarily on Tagalog as spoken in Metro Manila, with vocabulary and influences drawn from other regional Philippine languages. English is the second official language. Millions of Filipinos speak

regional native tongues, such as Cebuano (Bisaya), Ilocano, Hiligaynon (Ilonggo), Waray, Kapampangan, Bikol, Pangasinan, and Tausug.

BOOKS

Birds of the Philippines – Desmond Allen (2020), Lynx and BirdLife International Field Guides. We recommend this paperback for your Philippines bird tour.

Please take a look at our recommended field guide blog for additional information on this region. Some of the other bird books relevant to the Philippines include:

A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines – Robert Kennedy, Pedro C. Gonzales, Edward Dickinson, Hector Miranda, and T. Fisher (2000). Oxford University Press.

Birds of the Philippines, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Borneo, Sulawesi, the Lesser Sundas, and the Moluccas – Norman Arlott (2018). William Collins (HarperCollins imprint).

A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of the Philippines – Maia Tañedo, Adrian Constantino, Trinket Constantino, and Robert Hutchinson (2026). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Bloomsbury Pocket Photo Guides: Birds of the Philippines – Tim Fisher and Nigel Hicks (2020). Helm.

Other specific-interest books, such as those covering reptiles, mammals, and other aspects of natural history, etc.:

A Naturalist's Guide to the Reptiles of the Philippines – Emerson Y. Sy (2023). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Mammals of Southeast Asia (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) – Chris R. Shepherd and Loretta Ann Shepherd (2024). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Butterflies of the Philippines – Jade Aster T. Badon (2023). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Field Guide to the Butterflies of The Philippines – Peter B. Hardy and James M. Lawrence (2017). Siri Scientific Press.

Wild Philippines: The Landscapes, Habitats, and Wildlife of the Philippine Islands – Nigel Hicks (2026). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Fishes of the Philippines – Genevieve Broad (2003). Anvil Publishing Inc.

A Guide to the Dendrobium of the Philippines – Jim Cootes and George Tiong (2015). Natural History Publications Borneo.

Coral Reefs Philippines: Reef ID Books – Andrey S. Ryanskiy (2018). Andrey S. Ryanskiy.

SOUND RECORDINGS

You can listen to and download a range of bird calls and songs from the Philippines on the excellent xeno-canto bird sound library. Additional recordings may be found on eBird species accounts, Birds of the World, and some of the apps referenced below.

USEFUL WEBSITE RESOURCES AND APPS

Bird Call Xeno – this app allows you to download a good selection of bird songs from the xeno-canto website onto your smartphone.

eBird/Merlin – loads of information that is easy to gather on your smartphone or other devices such as tablets and computers. Sound, photo, and video galleries exist for almost every species in the Philippines, via the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library. We recommend downloading the Philippines data pack.

Lonely Planet – contains lots of general travel information on the Philippines, though some of the places we will be going to are not likely to be mentioned. If you are interested in extending your stay in the Philippines before or after the tour, this will help you find some must-see places.



*We will hope for good views of the beautiful **Philippine Fairy-bluebird**.*