



**CENTRAL THAILAND BIRDING TOUR:  
SHOREBIRD SPECTACLE AND JUNGLE BIRDING**

**27 JANUARY – 05 FEBRUARY 2025**

**26 JANUARY – 04 FEBRUARY 2026**



*Spoon-billed Sandpiper, one of the most sought-after birds on earth.*

This short, small-group tour forms a circuit around central Thailand, starting and ending in Bangkok. After arrival in Bangkok, we head south to the shores of the Bay of Bangkok and the vast areas of saltpans that form the vital overwintering habitat for hundreds of thousands of shorebirds, where one of the most highly sought birds on the planet, **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**, can be found during the non-breeding season. We will be putting all of our efforts into finding this sought-after bird, along with many other species. In fact, over 40 species of shorebirds can be found here in a couple of days birdwatching! It really is quite staggering witnessing the huge numbers of birds and the species diversity. Other key birds on our radar here include **Great Knot**, **Nordmann's Greenshank**, **Asian Dowitcher**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, **Malaysian Plover**, and **White-faced Plover**. There are of course many other potential highlights to search for during our time here, and **Chinese Egret** will be high on that list.



*We will search for **Chinese Egret** along the coast near Laem Pak Bia.*

After our time at the coast we will venture into farmland (including some rice paddies), where we will look for impressive raptors, such as **Greater Spotted** and **Eastern Imperial Eagles**, and with luck we will find the spectacular **Pied Harrier**, possibly one of the best-looking harriers on the planet. There will also be a long list of typical farmland birds of the region, such as weavers, shrikes, and a wide range of interesting passerines.

We will then dive into about a week of forest birding across two phenomenal reserves, Kaeng Krachan National Park and Khao Yai National Park. The potential list of species of birds and other wildlife across these two locations is massive (see the detailed itinerary below for extra details). Some of the most interesting and exciting birds we might find here could include **Blue** and **Eared Pittas**, **Great**, **Wreathed**, **Tickell's Brown**, **Austen's Brown**, and **Oriental Pied Hornbills**, **Black-and-red**, **Banded**, **Black-and-yellow**, **Dusky**, **Silver-breasted**, and **Long-**



tailed Broadbills, Banded Kingfisher, Kalij and Silver Pheasants, Red Junglefowl, Siamese Fireback, White-fronted Scops Owl, Oriental Bay Owl, Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo, Red-bearded and Blue-bearded Bee-eaters, Common Green Magpie, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Red-headed and Orange-breasted Trogons, Orange-headed Thrush, and Bamboo, Heart-spotted, and Great Slaty Woodpeckers. Non-avian highlights could include Lar (White-handed) and Pileated Gibbons, Asian Elephant, the Indochinese subspecies of Leopard (*Panthera pardus delacouri*), which may include the melanistic form known as "Black Panther", Sloth Bear, and Siamese Crocodile.



*We will bird the forests of Kaeng Krachan National Park for **Silver-breasted Broadbill** and many other broadbill species.*

This tour visits some stunning forest, and we will also sample some of Thailand's famed, delicious food during our journey. Some of the temples that we will drive past while birding are absolutely spectacular and worth spending time to appreciate them in their own right. Several sites visited also offer very good photographic opportunities for those with an interest.

This central Thailand birding tour can also easily be combined with our two other Thai birdwatching tours, making for a comprehensive month-long, once-in-a-lifetime bird tour of Thailand, one of the best birding destinations in Southeast Asia. Our **Northern Thailand Birding Tour: Spectacular Resident and Migrant Birds** features exciting species like **Rusty-naped Pitta**, **Siberian Rubythroat**, **Spot-breasted Parrotbill**, **Mrs. Hume's Pheasant**, **Baer's Pochard**, and an amazing **Pied Harrier** roost. In addition, our **Southern Thailand Birding Tour: Jewels of the South** also features many great birds, like **Malayan Banded Pitta**, **Mangrove Pitta**, **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, **White-crowned Hornbill**, and **Helmeted Hornbill**, etc.



*The gorgeous **Blue Pitta** will be searched for during our forest birding.*

## Detailed Itinerary (10 days/9 nights)

### Day 1. Arrival in Bangkok

After your afternoon arrival at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok you will take the short transfer to our nearby hotel for the night, with the rest of the day at leisure. We will have a group evening meal together.

Overnight: Bangkok Airport area

### Day 2. Birding Pak Thale and Laem Pak Bia

After breakfast we will depart our hotel, drive straight to the coast, and start a few days of birding along the edge of the Bay of Bangkok, one of the most important overwintering areas for shorebirds in the whole of Southeast Asia. We will spend the late morning and, after checking in to our nearby hotel and having lunch, the remainder of the afternoon birding in this incredible area. We will be searching through thousands of shorebirds made up of flocks of **Great Knot**, **Common Greenshank**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Eurasian Curlew**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Black-winged Stilt**, and **Red-necked Stint**, but among them we will also try to find one of the most unique and Critically Endangered ([BirdLife International](http://BirdLife International)) shorebirds of them all, the incredible **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**. Other high-value targets will include **Nordmann's Greenshank**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, and **Asian Dowitcher**.

Overnight: Chao Samran Beach





*Nordmann's Greenshank is another globally rare wader that we will search for during this Thai birding tour.*



*White-faced Plover was recently elevated to full-species status and is considered data-deficient by BirdLife International because it is still very poorly known. Central Thailand offers the most realistic chance of seeing this species anywhere in the world.*

### Day 3. Birding Pak Thale and Laem Pak Bia

We will spend the full day birding within a few different areas of salt pans and coastal environments around the Pak Thale and Laem Pak Bia areas, where we hope to find **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**, along with the range of shorebirds listed above, but there will also be other birds possible while visiting different habitats. The number of birds here can be mesmerizing, and these may include **Malaysian Plover**, **White-faced Plover**, **Kentish Plover**, **Long-toed Stint**, **Grey-headed Lapwing**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Pied Avocet**, **Pin-tailed Snipe**, **Greater Painted-snipe**, and many more.

There will be plenty of other birds to look at while we are in this area, including a wide range of herons, egrets (including **Chinese Egret**), cormorants, storks (including the gorgeous **Painted Stork**), gulls, and terns. There are also plenty of raptors in this area (there is lots of food for hungry **Peregrine Falcons**), and other highlights could include **Mangrove Whistler**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, **Common**, **Pied**, **Collared**, and **Black-capped Kingfishers**, **Eurasian Wryneck**, **Freckle-breasted Woodpecker**, **Oriental Skylark**, **White-shouldered Starling**, **Black-browed Reed Warbler**, and **Plain-backed Sparrow**.

Overnight: Chao Samran Beach



*Black-capped Kingfisher is a striking bird.*

### Day 4. Birding Nong Pla Lai Rice Paddies to travel to Kaeng Krachan National Park

We will leave the coast after breakfast and will check out a few sites around the Nong Pla Lai area, where we will spend the majority of the morning birding, before continuing on to the Kaeng Krachan National Park area, our base for the next few nights. We will be looking for **Greater Spotted Eagle**, **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, **Eastern Marsh** and **Pied Harriers**, **Grey-**



**headed Lapwing, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Green-billed Malkoha, Coppersmith Barbet, Asian Green Bee-eater, Freckle-breasted Woodpecker, Streaked Weaver, Baya Weaver, Asian Golden Weaver, and Bluethroat.**

After checking into our accommodation near Kaeng Krachan National Park, we will spend the late afternoon birding from a bird blind (bird hide) in the forest, where we might find a range of babblers and bulbuls visiting, as well as, potentially, **Bar-backed** and **Green-legged Partridges, Large Scimitar Babbler, Common Green Magpie, Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin**, or, with extreme luck, **Eared Pitta** coming in to drink/bath at a small forest pool.

Overnight: Near Kaeng Krachan National Park

### Days 5 – 6. Birding Kaeng Krachan National Park

We will spend two days birding within and around this exciting park. Our time will be spent at a range of elevations to connect with the associated species of these areas. At the higher elevations of the park we are restricted to birding along a few roads that cut through the park, but this still gives us some fantastic opportunities for some range-restricted species, such as **Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Collared, Spot-necked, Grey-throated, Golden, and Rufous-fronted Babblers**, and **Black-throated Laughingthrush**. Other species on offer here include **Red-headed Trogon, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Ferruginous Partridge, Kalij Pheasant, Grey Peacock-Pheasant, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Silver-breasted and Long-tailed Broadbills, Great Hornbill, Banded Kingfisher, Great Barbet, and Bamboo Woodpecker**, along with lots of bulbuls, babblers, and warblers.

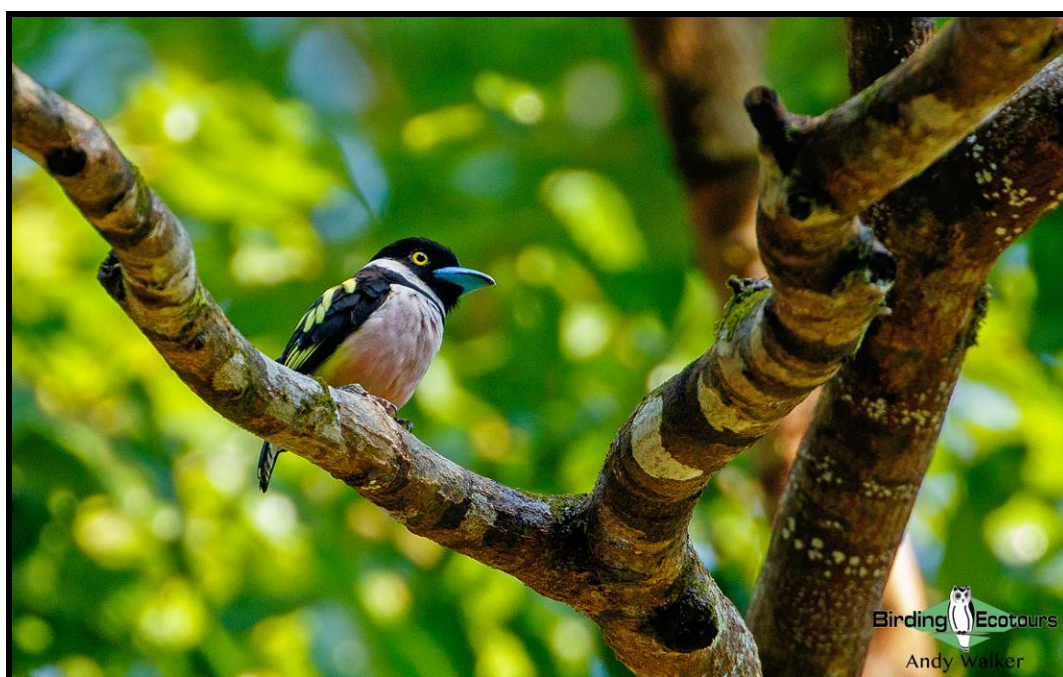


*Red-bearded Bee-eater is another beautiful target while in Kaeng Krachan National Park.*

The middle- and lower-elevation areas of the national park and adjacent farmland and scrub habitats give us the chance for further exploration of this wonderful area. The long national park entrance road provides great opportunities for stopping and checking out vantage points to look at patches of forest (often with the sound of **Lar** (White-handed) **Gibbons** echoing throughout), and there are several trails and roads we can walk to get closer to the birds. Some of the most exciting birds we could find here may include **Blue** and **Eared Pittas**, **White-fronted Scops Owl**, **Oriental Bay Owl**, **Brown Hawk-Owl**, **Vernal Hanging Parrot**, **Heart-spotted** and **Great Slaty Woodpeckers**, **Tickell's Brown**, **Wreathed**, and **Oriental Pied Hornbills**, **Black-thighed Falconet**, **Banded**, **Black-and-red**, **Black-and-yellow**, and **Dusky Broadbills**, **Orange-breasted Trogon**, **Common Green Magpie**, **Sultan Tit**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Golden-crested** and **Common Hill Mynas**, and **Asian Fairy-bluebird**, along with a wide range of bulbuls, leafbirds, woodpeckers, babblers, and barbets.

During the early morning and late-evening drives into and out of the national park we may get lucky and spot shy mammals, such as **Asian Elephant**, **Leopard** (maybe even including the rare and elusive "Black Panther"), or even a **Sloth Bear**!

Overnight (two nights): Near Kaeng Krachan National Park



*Black-and-yellow Broadbill is always a popular target bird.*

## Day 7. Morning birding Kaeng Krachan area and transfer to Khao Yai area

We will spend the early morning in a bird blind (bird hide) in the forest near Kaeng Krachan National Park, where we hope to get good views of **Kalij Pheasant**, **Red Junglefowl**, **Bar-backed Partridge**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Puff-throated Babbler**, **Racket-tailed Treepie**, **Common Green Magpie**, **White-browed Scimitar Babbler**, **Greater Necklaced** and **Lesser**



**Necklaced Laughingthrushes, White-rumped Shama,** and an assorted range of other interesting passerines.



*The colors on the gorgeous **Common Green Magpie** need to be seen to be believed.*

In the late morning we will commence our journey from the Kaeng Krachan area back around Bangkok and to the northeast of the Thai capital city. We will stop for lunch along the way and will visit a small temple to look for **Rufous Limestone Babbler** along the way. We will check into our comfortable hotel late in the afternoon for the next three nights.

Overnight: Khao Yai

### **Days 8 – 9. Birding Khao Yai National Park**

Another two exciting, bird-filled days await, this time in the famous Khao Yai National Park. This is a very popular national park with locals and foreigners alike, due to its proximity to the capital of Bangkok, but the birds seem to be used to the visitors, and due to the good road network through and around the park, it is usually possible to find quiet areas where we can enjoy the birds to ourselves.

We will head up to the higher parts of the national park first, where we will look for **Silver Pheasant, Red-headed Trogon, Collared Owlet, Black-throated Laughingthrush, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Moustached Barbet, Grey-backed Shrike, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Ashy Bulbul,** and **Blue Rock Thrush**. After enjoying some time in the slightly cooler part of the forest we will drop down to lower elevations in search of some different birds.



*Silver Pheasant is a spectacular target bird during our time in Khao Yai National Park.*

The forests along the way to the higher elevations can support some spectacular birds, and a few strategic stops may yield **Long-tailed Broadbill**, **Banded Broadbill**, **Siamese Fireback**, **Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo**, **Blue Pitta**, **Eared Pitta**, **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Orange-breasted Trogon**, **Common Hill Myna**, and **Sultan Tit**.

The central plateau area of the national park offers some more great birding, and hornbills also feature in this part of the park. We will look for **Wreathed Hornbill**, **Great Hornbill**, **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, and **Austen's Brown Hornbill**, along with **Banded Kingfisher**, **Red Junglefowl**, **Scarlet Minivet**, **Green-eared Barbet**, **Laced Woodpecker**, **Streak-breasted Woodpecker**, **Greater Flameback**, **Hainan Blue Flycatcher**, **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, **Buffy Fish Owl**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Blue-eared Kingfisher**, **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**, **Brown-backed Needletail**, and **White-throated Rock Thrush**.

Forest trails, a bit lower down below the central plateau area, are not only good for the aforementioned hornbills, but also for other species too, such as **Eared Pitta**, **White-crested Laughingthrush**, **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush**, **Siamese Fireback**, **Orange-breasted Trogon**, **Banded Kingfisher**, **Banded Broadbill**, **Long-tailed Broadbill**, **Siberian Blue Robin**, and **Orange-headed Thrush**.

This park also gives us a chance for observing **Asian Elephant**, and we might also find **Pileated Gibbon**, **Sambar**, **Southern Red Muntjac**, **Black Giant Squirrel**, and other interesting animals, perhaps even the rare **Siamese Crocodile**.

Overnight (two nights): Khao Yai





***Wreathed Hornbill** occurs in Khao Yai National Park, and we will listen out for its heavy wingbeats to try and locate this beautiful, huge bird.*

#### **Day 10. Birding Khao Yai area and transfer to Bangkok, where the tour concludes**

We will have a final morning's birding around the Khao Yai area, outside of the national park. **Red-breasted Parakeets** are often around our hotel, as are a range of barbets and starlings/mynas, maybe **Pied Bush Chat** or **Eurasian Hoopoe** too, so we will keep a lookout for these before we drive back to Bangkok for your international departure from Thailand or further travel on another of our exciting Thai birdwatching tours.

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:** 10 days  
**Group Size:** 4 - 8  
**Dates:** 29 January - 07 February 2024  
26 January - 04 February 2026

**Start:** Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok  
**End:** Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok  
**Prices:** US\$5,794 per person sharing – based on 4-8 participants (2025)  
US\$6,373 per person sharing – based on 4-8 participants (2026)  
**Single Supplements:** US\$762 (2025)  
US\$838 (2026)

**Price includes:**

Meals (from evening meal on Day 1 until lunch on Day 10)  
Bottled water (please bring a refillable water bottle)  
Accommodation as shown (based on two participants sharing)  
Guiding fees  
All entrance fees to national parks, nature reserves, bird blinds/hides,  
etc. All ground transport while on tour  
Toll fees

**Price excludes:**

Flights to and from Bangkok, where tour starts and ends  
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, minibar, etc.  
Alcoholic and soft drinks  
Personal insurance  
Visa fees if applicable  
Gratuities