



# Best of Cambodia Birding

10 Days: Prek Toal Biosphere Reserve ♦ Ang Trapeang Thmor Nature Reserve ♦ Kompong Thom Tmatboey ♦ Kratie ♦ Angkor



White-shouldered Ibis

## Day 1: Arrive Siem Reap

Arrive in Siem Reap and transfer to hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight at Siem Reap.

## Day 2: Prek Toal Biosphere Reserve

An early start to transfer Cambodia's great lake, Tonle Sap. After a quick breakfast the day is spent birding at the Prek Toal Biosphere Reserve by boat and from watchtowers in the flooded forest. Prek Toal has one of the largest concentrations of waterbirds in South-East Asia with Oriental Darter, Spot-billed Pelican, Painted and Milky storks, Asian Openbill, Greater and Lesser adjutants among the species that can be seen. Return to Siem Reap in the late afternoon after a visit to the small GECKO (Global Environmental Chhong Kneas Office) visitor centre if the water level allows. This itinerary may vary depending on local conditions at Tonle Sap. Overnight at Siem Reap.

## Day 3: Ang Trapeang Thmor Nature Reserve

Leave Siem Reap after breakfast for a day trip to Ang Trapeang Thmor, a nature reserve based around a reservoir dating from the Khmer Rouge era. The reserve is a unique wetland set amongst grasslands, dipterocarp forest and rice fields and is an important wintering site for the endangered Eastern Sarus Crane. Highlights of Ang Trapeang Thmor are the breeding colonies of Spot-billed Pelican and Painted Stork and large numbers of waterfowl including Spot-billed Duck, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Garganey, Black-backed Swamphen, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas. Return to Siem Reap in the late afternoon. Overnight at Siem Reap.

## Day 4: Siem Reap to Tmatboey via Kompong Thom

Leave Siem Reap after breakfast for the grasslands at Kompong Thom to search for the critically-endangered Bengal Florican and wintering Manchurian Warbler. Raptors including Eastern Marsh Harrier, Pied Harrier and Greater Spotted Eagle are often seen cruising over the grasslands here. In the afternoon continue to Tmatboey. Overnight at Tmatboey.

### **Days 5 & 6: Tmatboey**

Two full days at Tmatboey to search for the critically endangered Giant Ibis and White-shouldered Ibis. The ibises are only found at remote waterholes called trapeangs far from human settlements and tracking these mysterious and highly secretive birds can involve long walks of up to 10 km. Other sought-after species at Tmatboey include Greater Adjutant, Black-necked Stork, Greater Spotted Eagle, White-rumped Falcon and Pale-capped Pigeon. Overnight at Tmatboey.



Mekong Wagtail

### **Day 7: Tmatboey to Kratie**

Leave Tmatboey after some final early morning birding and head to Kratie by road. On arrival in Kratie take a boat to look for the recently described Mekong Wagtail on stony islands in the river. Spot-billed Duck, River Lapwing, River Tern, Small Pratincole and the extremely rare and endangered Irrawaddy River Dolphin are all possible here too. Overnight at Kratie.

### **Day 8: Kratie to Siem Reap**

Depart Kratie and head back to Siem Reap. On arrival in Siem Reap the rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight at Siem Reap.

### **Day 9: Angkor**

A full day tour of the Angkor temples includes the magnificent 12th century Angkor Wat, the fabulous Ta Prohm Temple, embraced by the roots of enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers, the mysterious Bayon Temple and the Terrace of Elephants. Overnight at Siem Reap.

### **Day 10: Depart Siem Reap**

The day is at leisure in Siem Reap before transferring to Siem Reap International Airport for departure flight.



Angkor Wat