



Best of Vietnam & Cambodia Birding

17 Days: Cat Tien National Park ♦ Di Linh ♦ Dalat
Kompong Thom ♦ Tmatboey ♦ Kratie ♦ Angkor



Indochinese Green Magpie

Day 1: Arrive Ho Chi Minh City. Ho Chi Minh City to Cat Tien National Park

Arrive at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport and transfer by road to Cat Tien National Park, 150 km to the north. Cat Tien National Park contains the largest remaining area of lowland tropical forest in southern Vietnam and an incredible diversity of birds and mammals. Endangered birds found at Cat Tien include Germain's Peacock-pheasant, Green Peafowl and the very elusive Orange-necked Partridge while the mammal list includes Leopard Cat, Lesser Mousedeer, Sambar, Gaur and two endangered primates, Black-shanked Douc Langur and Buff-cheeked Gibbon. Overnight at Cat Tien National Park.

Days 2, 3 & 4: Cat Tien National Park

Three days birding at Cat Tien National Park. There are excellent trails starting right at the park headquarters and for areas further afield such as Crocodile Lake jeeps are used. The 5 km walk through semi-evergreen forest to Crocodile Lake is a great place to look for the near-endemic Germain's Peacock-pheasant, Blue-rumped and Bar-bellied Pittas while Siamese Fireback can often be seen on an early morning drive through the park. Among the many other avian treats to be found at Cat Tien are Scaly-breasted Partridge, Woolly-necked Stork, Lesser Adjutant, White-bellied, Great Slaty, Pale-headed, Black-and-buff and Heart-spotted Woodpeckers, three species of broadbill and the Indochinese-endemic Grey-faced Tit-Babbler. Overnight at Cat Tien National Park.

Day 5: Cat Tien National Park to Di Linh

There is time for some final early morning birding at Cat Tien National Park before heading up Highway 20 to Di Linh. A short drive from Di Linh town a forested mountain pass known as Deo Suoi Lanh is an excellent site to look for several Dalat Plateau specialities including Black-hooded, White-cheeked and Orange-breasted Laughingthrushes and the near-endemic Black-crowned Parrotbill. After an afternoon's birding at Deo Suoi Lanh return to Di Linh for the night. Overnight at Di Linh.

Day 6: Di Linh to Dalat

An early morning visit to Deo Suoi Lanh to look for other exciting possibilities that could include Blue or Rusty-naped Pittas, Indochinese Green Magpie, Spotted Forktail or Green Cochoa, before continuing along Highway 20 to the cooler climes of Dalat. In the afternoon make the first of several visits to the Ta Nung Valley, a small but bird-filled area of remnant evergreen forest 10 km from Dalat. This is the most accessible site for the rare and endemic Grey-crowned Crocias and Orange-breasted Laughingthrush. In addition the very distinct local subspecies of Blue-winged Siva, Black-headed Sibia and Black-throated Sunbird are common here. Overnight at Dalat.

Days 7, 8 & 9: Dalat

There are several other excellent birding sites around Dalat. At Mount Lang Bian, a 2,169 m high peak 20 minutes from Dalat, Hume's Treecreeper, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Grey-crowned Tit, Vietnamese Cutia and Black-crowned Fulvetta can be found in the remaining evergreen forest below the summit. The most sought-after species here however is the beautiful and skulking endemic Collared Laughingthrush. Ho Tuyen Lam, a man-made lake just out of town, is a great place to look for some of the local pine specialists such as Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Slender-billed Oriole, Burmese Shrike, Red Crossbill and Vietnamese Greenfinch. Overnight at Dalat.



Jonathan C. Eames

Grey-crowned Crocias

Day 10: Dalat to Ho Chi Minh City. Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap

Leave Dalat after breakfast for the short morning flight to Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat Airport. On arrival in Ho Chi Minh City transfer to the late morning flight to Siem Reap. Transfer directly to hotel on arrival in Siem Reap. The rest of the day is at leisure in Siem Reap. Overnight at Siem Reap.

Day 11: 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 12 & 13: Tmatboey

Two full days at Tmatboey to search for the critically endangered Giant Ibis and White-shouldered Ibis. Giant Ibis is 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.



Jonathan C. Eames

Giant Ibis

Day 14: 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 15: 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 16: 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 17: Depart Siem Reap

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



Angkor Wat