



## Endemics & Specialities of Southern Vietnam

10 Days: Ho Chi Minh City ♦ Cat Tien National Park  
Di Linh ♦ Dalat ♦ Ho Chi Minh City



Grey-crowned Crocias by Chris Bradshaw

### 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 elusive Orange-necked Partridge while the mammal list includes Leopard Cat, Lesser Mousedeer, Gaur and three beautiful primates, Black-shanked Douc Langur, Silvered Langur and Buff-cheeked Gibbon. Overnight at Cat Tien National Park.

### Days 2, 3 & 4: Cat Tien National Park

Three full days of 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 park jeeps are used. The 5 km walk through semi-evergreen forest to Crocodile Lake can be good for the near-endemic Germain's Peacock-pheasant and Blue-rumped & Bar-bellied pittas while the beautiful Siamese Fireback can often be seen on an early morning drive to the start of the Crocodile Lake trail. 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 & 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 locally as Deo Suoi Lanh is an excellent site to look for several Dalat Plateau specialities including Black-hooded, White-cheeked & 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 Pitta, Indochinese Green Magpie, Spotted Forktail and Green Cochoa, before continuing along Highway 20 to the cooler climes of Dalat. Arrive at Dalat in the early afternoon and transfer to the hotel. The Dalat Plateau is home to several of Vietnam's endemic bird species as well as many distinctive local subspecies. In the afternoon start exploring some of the exciting birding sites around Dalat. Overnight at Dalat.

#### **Days 7, 8 & 9: Dalat**

A full three days of birding includes visits to Mount Lang Bian, a 2,169 m high peak 20 minutes from Dalat, and the shores of Ho Tuyen Lam, a man-made lake just outside the town. Vietnamese endemics found at Dalat include Dalat Shrike-babbler, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Orange-breasted & Collared laughingthrushes and Grey-crowned Crocias. Near endemics here include Grey-crowned Tit, Black-crowned Parrotbill, White-cheeked and Black-hooded laughingthrushes, and Vietnamese Cutia. Other target birds in this bird-rich area are the elusive Blue & Rusty-naped pittas, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Slender-billed Oriole, Hume's Treecreeper, Yellow-billed Nuthatch and a very distinctive race of Red Crossbill. Overnight at Dalat.

#### **Day 10: Dalat to Ho Chi Minh City**

A final morning of birding around Dalat before transferring to the airport for the short afternoon flight back to Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport.