



Best of Vietnam & Cambodia Birding (17 Days)

Ho Chi Minh City ♦ Cat Tien National Park ♦ Di Linh ♦ Dalat ♦ Siem Reap
Kompong Thom ♦ Tmatboey ♦ Kratie ♦ Angkor ♦ Siem Reap



Giant Ibis

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

Pick up at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport or from your hotel 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 while areas further afield such as Crocodile Lake can be reached by park jeeps. Spectacular avian delights to be found in Cat Tien's semi-evergreen forest include Germain's Peacock-pheasant, Siamese Fireback, Blue-rumped and Bar-bellied Pittas, Dusky, Black-and-red and Banded Broadbills, Orange-breasted Trogon, Great, Oriental Pied and Wreathed Hornbills. Cat Tien is woodpecker heaven with 17 species on the park list including Heart-spotted, Pale-headed, Black-and-buff, Great Slaty and White-bellied. Lesser Adjutant, Asian Woollyneck and Crested Serpent-eagle can often be seen circling over the forest. 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 the cooler climes of the Dalat Plateau. The afternoon is spent birding at a forested mountain pass known locally as Deo Suoi Lanh, a short drive from the town of Di Linh. The montane evergreen forest at Deo Suoi Lanh is a great place to become acquainted with some of the Dalat Plateau specialities including Black-headed Parrotbill, Orange-breasted, Black-hooded and White-cheeked Laughingthrushes. Overnight at Di Linh.

Day 6: Di Linh to Dalat

Return to Deo Suoi Lanh after breakfast for a full morning of birding. Other exciting possibilities to look out for here include Bar-backed Partridge, Blue Pitta, Indochinese Green Magpie, Green Cochoa and Spotted Forktail. After lunch continue north along Highway 20 to the bustling hill resort of Dalat and start exploring some of the exciting birding sites around town. Overnight at Dalat.

Days 7, 8 & 9: Dalat

Three days of birding in the montane evergreen and coniferous forests around Dalat includes visits to Mount Lang Bian, the shores of Ho Tuyen Lam and the Ta Nung Valley. The Dalat Plateau is one of the endemic hotspots of South-East Asia and is home to many unique species and subspecies including Dalat Shrike-babbler, Annam Minivet, Annam Prinia, Annam Grasshopper-warbler, Black-crowned Fulvetta, Orange-breasted and Collared Laughingthrushes, Grey-crowned Crocias, Langbian and Annam Sunbirds and Vietnamese Greenfinch. Other local specialities include Lowe's Green-pigeon, Red-vented, Necklaced and Annam Barbets, Rusty-naped and Blue Pittas, Slender-billed Oriole, Yellow-crowned Green Magpie, Langbian Tit, Brown-backed Bulbul, Grey-crowned Tit, Black-headed Parrotbill, Vietnamese Cutia, Black-hooded and White-cheeked Laughingthrushes, White-spectacled Sibia, Plain Minla, Manipur Treecreeper, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Liangbian Lesser Shortwing and Red Crossbill. Overnight at Dalat.

Day 10: Dalat to Siem Reap

Leave Dalat after an early 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 rare and endangered Bengal Florican. Raptors including Greater Spotted Eagle, Eastern Marsh-harrier and Pied Harrier 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 White-shouldered and Giant Ibises. Giant Ibis is only found at remote waterholes, or trapangs, far from human settlements and tracking these secretive birds can involve long walks. Other sought-after species at Tmatboey include Pale-capped Pigeon, Greater Adjutant, Black-necked Stork, White-rumped Pygmy-falcon and several species of owl. Overnight at Tmatboey.

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. In addition to the wagtail, Indian Spot-billed Duck, River Lapwing, Little Pratincole, River Tern, and the extremely rare and endangered Irrawaddy River Dolphin are all possible here. 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.