

Thailand Bird Photography

Professional Bird Watching & Bird Photography Tours

North+ Central Thailand Bird Photography Tour 10 Days

Guest Name:

Tour Request: North + Central Thailand Bird Photography Tour 10 Days

Tour Date:

Tour Code: Cr+NrTBW#00010D

Duration: 10 Days.

Destination: /Doi Lang/Doi Inthanon NP/Doi Ang Khang/Kaeng Krachan.

Bird Leader:

Vehicle Type:

Driver Name:

Room Type Request:

Deposit: 30% **After Confirm the Trip.**

Cash on Tours: 70% or **One Week before Departure Date.**

Sample Itinerary

Day 1: Chiang Mai-Pha Plong Temple-Doi Ang Khang.

-Starting from Chiang Mai. After breakfast drive an hour or so to Pha Plong Temple. This is not an especially notable place for photography but it gives you a location in the morning not too far from Chiang Mai city, to take advantage of the morning light. Our best spots are just a bit too far for the first stop. Here there are some commoner birds, often in low trees and flowering bushes; bulbuls, spiderhunters, sunbirds, orioles.

Continue the journey to Doi Ang Khang. This area has some spectacular scenery and well-planted gardens are a magnet for birds. The photography is done freestyle, there may be a photo stakeout for a few species but the focus will probably be on the gardens.

12:00 Lunch.

16:00 Transfer to Fang District/Check into **Tangerine Ville Hotel.**

18:30 Dinner

-Meals: B/L/D

-Overnight at: Tangerine Ville Hotel.

-Expert Bird Leader:

Day 2: Doi Sanju or Doi Lang West.

-All day at Doi Lang West. Arriving very early gives you an excellent chance of photographing Mrs Hume's Pheasant at a feeding area (you have another day at least here so no need for the very early start if you are still feeling jet-lagged). Other birds that visit the feeding area include Mountain Bamboo Partridge, Japanese Tit, Buff-throated Warbler, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Olive-backed Pipit, Ultramarine Flycatcher, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, White-browed Laughingthrush and Grey-backed Shrike.

On Doi Lang West there are a number of regular photo stakeouts which you can visit over the course of your two visits. You can usually get all of the stakeout birds in one day but two visits allows you to get them in the best light; the midday light can be rather harsh. Species I would expect include Silver-eared Laughingthrush, White-gorgetted Flycatcher, Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher, White-tailed Redstart, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, Hill Prinia, Slaty-blue Flycatcher, Siberian Rubythroat, White-browed Laughingthrush, Blue Whistling Thrush and possibly others depending on the conditions.

12:00 Lunch.

16:00 Transfer to Fang District/Check into **Tangerine Ville Hotel.**

18:30 Dinner

-Meals: B/L/D

-Overnight at: Tangerine Ville Hotel.

-Expert Bird Leader:

Day 3: Doi Lang East.

-Today there is a bit of a bumpy ride up Doi Lang East but it is worth it for a couple of stakeouts at the top of the road. Here you can photograph Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Spectacled Barwing, Large Niltava, Black-backed Sibia, Himalayan Bluetail, Silver-eared Laughingthrush, White-tailed Robin. In “cold” years there can be a thrush or two visiting too. In surrounding trees “freestyle” photography is often quite good too with flocks of small birds regularly passing through visiting low trees with small fruits. Usually there are decent chances to photograph Whiskered Yuhina, Striated Bulbul, Mountain Bulbul, Buff-barred Warbler, Davison’s Leaf Warbler, Grey-chinned Minivet, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Golden-throated Barbet.

12:00 Lunch.

16:00 Transfer to Fang District/Check into **Tangerine Ville Hotel.**

18:30 Dinner

-Meals: B/L/D

-Overnight at: Tangerine Ville Hotel.

-Expert Bird Leader:

Day 4: Doi Sanju or Doi Lang West.

-Another trip to Doi Sanju or Doi Lang West. This area is really great for birds and there are miles of birding along an extremely quiet road along the Thai/Myanmar border. You get another chance at Mrs. Hume’s Pheasant should you need it and another chance to visit the stakeouts for the best light.

At Doi Sanju or Doi Lang general freestyle photography can be rewarding too with flocks of birds passing through and visiting fruiting trees. We often get photo opportunities of species such as Golden-throated Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Hume’s Treecreeper, Grey-chinned Minivet, various warblers, bulbuls and even Himalayan Cutia. Spot-breasted Parrotbill usually poses nicely for photos and at this time of the year there will be other photographers around and there will probably be a few surprises nailed down at fruiting trees or feeding stations. By this time of year some resident birds will be starting to nest so you can hope for Black-throated Tit, Giant Nuthatch and many others. It is just a question of which birds allow a photographic opportunity.

By late afternoon start driving south towards Chiang Mai. The drive is around 3.5-4 hours including a stop for lunch. There is probably some time to make a few stops along the way.

12:00 Lunch.

17:00 Check into **Touch Star Resort.**

18:30 Dinner

-Meals: B/L/D

-Overnight at: Touch Star Resort.

-Expert Bird Leader:

Day 5-6: Doi Inthanon NP.

-We’ll spend 2 full days at Doi Inthanon, Thailand’s highest mountain (you can drive to the top, no hiking needed). Here there are a couple of hides at different altitudes where species such as Streaked Spiderhunter, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Small Niltava, Yunnan Fulvetta, Hill Blue Flycatcher, White-browed Fantail, Ochraceous Bulbul, Pygmy Cupwing, Plumbeous Redstart, Blue Whistling Thrush, Slaty-backed Forktail, White-crowned Forktail and others regularly show.

The summit of the mountain is also good for photos. No stakeouts but a great abundance of birds that are not afraid of people. Sometimes you arrive and not much is happening but spending time up here always gives good photo opportunities; Mrs Gould’s Sunbird, Chestnut-tailed Minla, Green-tailed Sunbird, Rufous-winged Fulvetta, Black-backed Sibia, Silver-eared Laughingthrush, Ashy-throated Warbler, Davison’s Leaf Warbler, Blyth’s Leaf Warbler and Yellow-browed Tit roam in flocks, often just a few metres away. Rufous-throated Partridge, Pygmy Cupwing, Ashy Woodpigeon, Dark-sided Thrush are a bit harder but often seen and photographed. At this time of the year a low fruiting tree should attract Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, Grey-sided Thrush and Eyebrowed Thrush. It is a productive spot.

12:00 Lunch.

17:00 Check into **Touch Star Resort.**

18:30 Dinner

-Meals: B/L/D

-Overnight at: Touch Star Resort.

-Expert Bird Leader:

Day 7: Doi Inthanon NP.

-A final morning at Doi Inthanon. We usually use this to visit a hide overlooking a small stream for forktails. By mid-morning drive to Chiang Mai airport. Here you will be dropped off. I will book your flights that take you to Don Muang airport in the north of Bangkok.

***Arrive at the Air-port/Pick up and drive to Kaeng Krachan NP/Check into Baan Maka Nature Lodge.**

12:00 Lunch.

18:00 Check into **Baan Maka Nature Lodge.**

19:00 Dinner

-Meals: B/L/D

-Overnight at: Baan Maka Nature Lodge.

-Expert Bird Leader:

Day 8-10: Kaeng Krachan NP.

06:00 Breakfast/We'll spend 3 full days in Kaeng Krachan NP.

-Kaeng Krachan National Park is huge and the number of birds here is impressive. Photography in the forest takes some patience but there are usually some good opportunities with patience. Visiting the right spots at the right time will often reveal Oriental Pied Hornbill, Hill Myna, Common Flameback, Greater Flameback, Sultan Tit, Great Hornbill, Orange-breasted Trogon, various bulbuls, sunbirds and hopefully a few broadbills. This type of photography while birding can be good at times but requires patience. The best is if you find a fruiting tree.

However, your guide will plan these sessions around the best photography set ups which will be at the several hides around the national park. You will visit at least **2** hides, probably **3** where you have a good chance of photographing, at close range many of the following; Kalij Pheasant, Bar-backed Partridge, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Scaly-breasted Partridge, Large Scimitar Babbler, Blue Pitta (we hope), Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Racket-tailed Treepie, Black-crested Bulbul, Black-naped Monarch, Abbott's Babbler, Common Green Magpie, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Puff-throated babbler, Ferruginous Partridge, Greater Yellownape, Stripe-throated Bulbul, Red Junglefowl, Grey peacock Pheasant.

The gardens of Baan Maka are a nice place to relax and there are birds to photograph here too. The owners sometimes have a few feeding stations. To be honest, another day here is probably something you would enjoy depending on how you like to do your photography and birding.

***On Day 10: Afternoon transfer to Air-port or your hotel in Bangkok/End of the Trips.**

12:00 Lunch.

17:00 Return back our Resort.

19:00 Dinner.

-Meals: B/L/D

-Overnight at: Baan Maka Nature Lodge

-Expert Bird Leader:

***Remark:**

Inclusion:

- Transfers as itinerary
- Accommodation (twin share) with private bathroom & A/C
- English-speaking Bird Leader.
- Meals, Fruit, Coffee and Tea
- Park entrance fees
- Refreshment
- Insurance

Exclusion:

- Any other service not mentioned in the programs
- Personal expenses
- All alcoholic.

Preparation:

- Light walking boots or Sports Shoes
 - Camera+Lens
 - Long trousers and Long-sleeved Shirt for walking in the Forest
 - Mosquito Repellent, Sun hat and Sun Cream.
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Health & Safety

Thailand has an excellent health care system with hospitals and clinics in every small town and large village. However, make sure you have travel insurance that covers you sufficiently as for foreigners it is not free at point of service (although cheap by the standards of most countries).

Obviously, I am not a health provider but as far as I know there are no requirements for any vaccinations of any sort for entry. There may be some exception to that regarding yellow fever depending on your age and where you have travelled, so check that. Thailand is a safe country and tropical diseases are not prevalent, malaria is not really an issue and my understanding is that all cases are in the rainy season and the strain of malaria in SE Asia is resistant to medications, apart from, perhaps, the antibiotic doxycycline.

Most Thais are still wearing masks for covid but it is not a legal requirement. More and more people are dispensing with them and my attitude would be wear them if you feel comfortable with them, don't if you do not want to. I would bring some with you though just in case.

Thailand is really safe, it is highly unlikely that you would be the victim of the type of crime that is prevalent in many societies – mugging, car break-ins and suchlike. However, use your common sense when in tourist areas.

When in Kaeng Krachan National Park there are wild elephants and each year a few people are killed. However, it is always people who are behaving stupidly. Just listen to Tony on this and if he tells you to get into the vehicle, do so.

Be careful when crossing the road. By far the biggest danger in Thailand is the traffic.

Equipment

Obviously bring all your birding/photography equipment. Do bring a tripod and /or monopod. In hides and some stakeouts although birds are fairly tame they do get spooked by movement so if you keep bringing your camera up quickly they fly off. Also in some of the hides the light levels can be challenging so having the camera on a tripod is almost essential really.

In the early mornings it can be cold in the mountains in the early morning, evening and night so bring a warm sweatshirt or fleece or something. No need to go over the top with this but do bring something, in some years it can get quite cold although by February things are usually warming up. Make sure whatever you bring is soft in nature and not stiff and scratchy. I had a terrible time once with someone's coat making a noise every time he moved with birds flying away when he did so.

In the lowlands, particularly while watching the shorebirds, the temperature can be very high with no shade so bring a sunhat and sunscreen.

No special footwear is really required but do bring a change of shoes in case one gets wet. I would always recommend closed shoes rather than sandals.

Equally I recommend long trousers rather than shorts so that biting insects and scratchy plants do not get you.

Please remember to wear dull colours. In the dark forest this makes a big difference and certainly shy birds will not emerge if you are wearing pale colours in the field. I have had some people wearing pale stone-coloured birding clothing that might be appropriate in some places but certainly not in tropical forests.

Internet

Most of the places you will stay have decent internet connections but if it is essential for you I would suggest buying a Thai Sim with internet when you arrive at the airport. Internet requires a password at most places you will stay at so ask for this when you check in.

Alcoholic Drinks

These are not included in the cost so please pay your bill every night if you have a beer. From memory everywhere you stay sells local beers, very few places sell spirits. I do not think anywhere sells wine. If you want to drink wine you will need to ask your guide to take you to a 7/11 store, some of which sell it, or a supermarket.

Laundry

You can get laundry done cheaply at Tangerine Ville Hotel at Fang, Inthanon Highland Resort and Baan Maka Nature Lodge or from your hotel or resort, where you stay.

Problems

Please let your guide know immediately if there is anything that needs dealing with. While we cannot promise that everything will go perfectly, we do know that issues that are not raised until the trip ends cannot be addressed.