In Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

About our tours
We are offering tours that range from being focused on birding to more general nature that include mammals, butterflies, flowers and local cultural interest. All our guide are bird experts so it is not necessary for you to be a very experienced birder, our guides will be happy to help you along. All you need is enthusiasm!

We usually start early after breakfast at hotel from 5:30 - 6:00 am, to be out when birding is best. Sometimes we start before breakfast for searching target of birds. We head out by walking, car or local transportation types (boat, jeep, truck...). In the mid-day, we have picnic lunch at a nice spot for birding but sometimes, especially at the hot climate areas, we return to hotel for a short rest then go out in late afternoon. Before or after dinner, we meet as a group to record daily checklist, discuss what we saw and plan for the next day. Some evenings we do owling or night safari for owls, nightjars and frogmouths.

A typical day of Wildtour Birding
VIETNAM

Vietnam is one of the most beautiful, friendly and fascinating countries in Asia and an early season visit there finds the country at its best: the winter birds still present and the resident birds gearing up for breeding. Vietnam hosts, according to your splitting beliefs, no less than fourteen true endemic species, and this number continues to increase as further work is done and new discoveries made. A further seven or so are restricted to Indochina as well as a number of very interesting and distinct “subspecies” several of which are destined to be future splits. A large range of Southeast Asian species of wider distribution and a host of birds wintering from further north add to the richness of this destination.

CAMBODIA

Cambodia on the other hand is covered more by deciduous dipterocarp forests that once spread across much of Indochina, which was formerly home to the greatest aggregation of large mammals and water birds that have existed beyond the savannas of Africa. These forests have largely disappeared from Thailand and Vietnam, currently, the Northern and Eastern Plains of Cambodia form the largest remaining contiguous block of this unique and critically important habitat.

LAOS

In 2009 with the discovery of Bare-faced Bulbul and new info free available on the internet about Na Hin Forest, a beautiful area which features some karst limestone forest where the new Bulbul is found. More birders have visited Laos since mid-2009 than ever before and no wonder, the birding can be excellent. In addition to the limestone forest, other habitats with easy access for birding include evergreen hill forests and a rare patch of lowland forest on level ground.

WHERE TO GO BIRDING

The three countries have some well-known birding spots in each, beside many hotspots already known by international birders, lot of other sites are developing for nature tourism that promise to become incredible place of birding in the future. Vietnam has the most advanced eco-tourism sites and the best-known network. In Cambodia, recent conservation work has discovered several excellent areas. Lao is still developing and birding is not popular yet in the country.

WHEN TO GO BIRDING

As the monsoon climate, the best time to visit southern Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao is during dry season (winter) during December-April, when many species are breeding, they usually active and vocal during this time, especially in the morning. The North Vietnam is a bit different, Spring occurs in March-May, the best period to visit mountainous parks to avoid misty, cold and fogy in winter or hot and humid in summer.
VIETNAM
1. Sapa
2. Tam Dao National Park
3. Ba Vi National Park
4. Cuc Phuong National Park
5. Xuan Thuy National Park
6. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park
7. Bach Ma National Park
8. Loxo Pass
9. Mang Den - Kontum
10. Yokdon National Park
11. Da Lat Plateau - Lam Dong
12. Cat Tien National Park
13. Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve
14. Tan Thanh Beach
15. Tram Chim National Park

LAOS
16. Na Hin
17. Dong Hua Sao
18. Xe Pian
19. Dong Amphan

CAMPUCHIA
20. Tmat Baeuy
21. Ang Trapeang, Thmor
22. Bengal Florican Grassland
23. Kratie
Bird fauna - Birding

About 350 species have been recorded in this area. The avifauna of the area has strong Himalayan affinities, and includes many species that are known from few or no other sites in Vietnam, such as Gould's Shortwing, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Crested Finchbill and White-collared Yuhina. Although bird richness is high, abundance, particularly of medium-sized birds, is low, relative to certain other forest areas in Vietnam, and a considerable amount of effort is needed to see a high proportion of the area’s specialities.

Most highlights


Birding routes

Ham Rong Orchid Garden: The Ham Rong Orchid Garden is found behind Sa Pa town, with access to it along the road behind the church. The garden comprises a series of ornamental gardens, linked by pathways, all of which reward careful exploration for birds. With a bit of searching, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, White-browed Laughingthrush and Ashy-throated and Vinous-throated Parrotbills can be found year-round, while, during the winter, the site is good for passerine migrants.

Fan Si Pan moutain: All three trails to the summit of Fan Si Pan mountain (from Cat Cat village, Sin Chai village and Tram Ton pass) are good for montane species, particularly higher elevations. The trails are difficult going in places, and can be dangerous during bad weather. Therefore, it is inadvisable to attempt any of these routes without a guide, or to attempt them at all during the rainy season.

Located in the north-west of Hanoi, adjacent Chinese border, and is the last part of the Himalayas. Avifauna here is completely different to other areas of Vietnam. However, the rugged terrain, harsh climate, making bird watching activities in less developed here than in other areas.
Located 60km in the north of Hanoi, Tam Dao national park is a moutainous area which three main peaks. The highest peak is about 1,500 meters with the evergreen forest cover most of the area.

Bird fauna - Birding
About 100 species have been recorded at Tam Dao, specialities include Purple and Green Cochoas, Chestnut Bulbul, Grey Laughingthrush, Coral-billed and Streak-breasted Scimitar Babblers and Greater Rufous-headed and Short-tailed Parrotbills. Winter visitors that may turn up here between December and March include Black-breasted, Japanese, Eyebrowed and Grey-backed Thrush and Fujian Niltava.

Most highlights
Grey Laughingthrush, Black-throated Laughingthrush, Green and Purple Cochoas and Short-tailed Parrotbill.

Birding routes
The route from Tam Dao town, which lies within the national park, to Rung Rinh has long been the favoured birding route (known as the ‘Contour Trail’ or ‘Water Tank Trail’) but is currently being upgraded into a road. Short-tailed Parrotbill and Blue-naped Pitta used to be seen along this route but is unclear whether this will continue to be the case, after the road construction is completed.

Television Tower Trail: Walking up the 500 or so steps to the television tower above Tam Dao town, birders may encounter Grey Laughingthrush, Chestnut Bulbul, and, if they are fortunate, Green Cochoa. Be warned: this trail becomes very crowded with noisy students on weekends.

The route to Nung village from behind the park headquarters is a good walk through forest, which may yield Ratchet-tailed Treepie and Black-throated Laughingthrush. Note that permission is required from the national park to walk this route.

Other small trails around the foot of the mountain and along the road to Tam Dao town can turn up Spot-necked Babbler.
Bird fauna - Birding

Birding can be a frustrating business at Ba Vi as like Tam Dao and Sapa it is often shrouded in thick fog. The main target for birders at Ba Vi is the Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, once considered a subspecies of the Grey Laughingthrush but now a species in its own right with a limited range in north-western Vietnam, neighbouring areas of Laos and on China’s Hainan Island. Ba Vi is also a good place to search out over-wintering thrushes.

Most highlights
Bird fauna - Birding
To date, 248 species of bird have been recorded at Cuc Phuong National Park, including two globally threatened species, Chestnut-necklaced Partridge and Red-collared Woodpecker, and 12 globally near-threatened species. The national park supports populations of Red-vented Barbet and Bar-bellied Pitta, which are endemic to Indochina and Thailand. Cuc Phuong National Park is situated at the northern end of the Annamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Area. However, none of the restricted-range bird species restricted to this EBA have yet been recorded at the national park.

Most highlights

Birding routes
Main road from HQ to Bong is range for many species, if you go through in the early morning in winter thruses are encountered. Malaysian Night-heron is easy to see along the road in April-July.

Forest trails around Bong such loops trail, village trail are Eared, Blue-rumped and bar-bellied Pittas, Pied Falconet, Red-collared Woodpecker, Limestone Warbler normally locating.

Botanical garden by gate HQ is a good spot for White-winged Magpie, Rachet-tailed Treepie and Blue-rumped Pitta.
Bird fauna - Birding
In addition to its importance for waterbirds, Xuan Thuy is also an important migratory stop-over for non-waterbirds, with large numbers of passerines passing through the site during the spring and autumn migrations. Unfortunately despite being a national park and Vietnam’s first Ramsar Site, Xuan Thuy’s biodiversity is under threat from the spread of aquaculture and unsustainable levels of fishing and shellfish harvesting within the park boundaries.

Most highlights

Located 150 km from the south-west of Hanoi, in the coastal zone of the Red River Delta, the national park comprises of three islands and mudflats, the most important habitat being the intertidal mudflats and natural mangroves. Xuan Thuy is an internationally important wintering area for migratory waterbirds including such rarities as Asian Dowitcher, Nordmann’s Greenshank, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Saunders’s Gull and Black-faced Spoonbill.
Bird fauna - Birding
Over 200 bird species have been recorded at Phong Nha-Ke Bang, several globally threatened species, including Crested Argus, Chestnut-necklaced Partridge and Red-collared Woodpecker, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler. On the basis of the occurrence of four restricted-range bird species, Phong Nha lies within the Annamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Area. Phong Nha area is considered to be of particular importance for bird conservation, because the populations of species of conservation concern are not at immediate risk of extirpation or major population declines.

Most highlights
Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, Red-collared Woodpecker, Brown Hornbill, Sooty Babbler, Limestone Warbler, Blue-rumped and Bar-bellied Pittas

Birding routes
The park has been opened for tourist recently, visitors can visit several trail inside the park, to see Sooty Babbler and Limestone Warbler, you just hang around Tra Ang bridge area (the junction of road 15 and road 20). The new trail to Thien Duong cave is also best to see both Babbler and Warbler as well as other species like Silver-breasted Broadbill, Red-headed Trogon.

Transportation
Car, motorbike, airplane. Phong Nha-Ke Bang is a major tourist attraction, and can be easily accessed by road from Dong Hoi city or from Hue.

Accommodations
There are several guesthouse and hotels around the park, and also restaurants.
Bird fauna - Birding

Around 330 bird species have been recorded at Bach Ma National Park. There are plenty of galliforms to attract birders, including Annam Partridge, Rufous-throated Partridge and the beli subspecies of Silver Pheasant. Bach Ma is most famous for its population of Crested Argus, although this species is more often heard than seen. In addition, the abundant and diverse forest avifauna of Bach Ma provides visiting birders opportunities to observe many other birds.

**Most highlights**

**Birding routes**
Bach Ma offers a range of trails for visitors. Each trail takes less than one day and many small trails can be explored from the road to the summit. Visitors can get details from the park visitor centre.

**Transportation**
Car or motorbike. Bach Ma National Park is 40 km from Hue city, which can be reached by flights from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

**Accommodations**
Bach Ma National Park has six guesthouses.
**Bird fauna - Birding**

One of the most important birds, Black-crowned Barwing, discovered in 1996 and known from only three sites in Vietnam and Laos, seems to favour the easily accessed scrub and secondary growth bordering the highway. Other good birds such as Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Short-tailed Scimitar-babbler (Indochinese Wren-babbler) are found on the Dakblo Rd leading to Lao, unfortunately it hard to access this site due to military security permission in recent years.

**Most highlights**


Lo Xo is actually the name of a pass on Ho Chi Minh road leading Da Nang southwest-ward to Kon Tum. The mountain forest along Vietnam’s border with Laos. It is located in the Kontum Plateau EBA nearby Ngoc Linh national park, the tantalizingly close but for now off-limits Mount Ngoc Linh, are mostly covered in primary evergreen forest although the effects of wartime defoliation can still clearly be seen at certain points along the highway.
Within the Kontum Plateau EBA, the little-known Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush can be found here is the most highlight for almost birders, it was described as recently as the late 1990s this enigmatic species is known only from the Kontum Plateau and until “rediscovery” in mid-2010 although we had tried many time since 2006.

**Bird fauna - Birding**

The town itself is a mix pine-broadleaf forest, many birds can be encountered including Black-hooded Laughingthrush, Red-vented Barbet, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Silver Pheasant, Blue Pitta, Roufous-faced Warbler and Tits. As mentioned above, the Mang Canh forest is the best spot for Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush, moreover, Rusty-naped, Blue and Bluerrumped Pittas can be founded in some difficult ways, Brown Hornbill, White-winged Magpie, Rachet-tailed Treepie are along the main road.

**Most highlights**

Yok Don is the largest national park in Vietnam, it holds a forest dominated by depterocarps which is open in dry season or called deciduous forest, the ecosystem that is almost as productive as the African savanna. Gaur, Banteng, Elephant, Kouprey, Water Buffalo, Tiger, Asian Wild Dog, Edf’s Deer, Muntjac and Wild Pig are some of the large mammals who inhabit this ecosystem.

Birdlife of this park is also different which not found in other type of habitats such as White-rumped Falcon, Collared Falconet, Rufous Treepie, Black-headed Woodpecker...

One of the important factor that greatly increases the biological diversity of the park is the presence of scattered wetlands. These relatively small, shallow wetlands support habitats for large waterbirds such as Sarus Crane, Lesser Adjutant, Black-necked and Woolly-necked Storks, Giant and White-shouldered Ibis.

**Bird fauna - Birding**

About 300 species have been recorded for the park, the high number of lowland birds, many widespread species are very common here such as Sooty-headed Bulbul, Indian Roller, Greater Flameback, Black-hooded Oriole. Beside those common species, many sought after species that are only can be seen here and no where else in Vietnam.

**Most highlights**


**Transportation**

About an hour drive from Ban Me Thuot city (40 km). There are flights from Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh city to Ban Me Thuot airport everyday. From Da Lat, you can travel on relative road 27, it takes about 5 hours however this is the good way to connect the excellent birding site of Da Lat.
**Bird fauna - Birding**

The Dalat Plateau is one of the five endemic bird areas in Vietnam identified by BirdLife International. Eight of the eight restricted-range bird species that occur in this EBA: Crested Argus, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Black-hooded Laughingthrush, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Collared Laughingthrush, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, Grey-crowned Crocias and Vietnamese Greenfinch.

The Dalat Plateau also supports distinctive and endemic sub-species of Rufous-backed Sibia, Black-headed Sibia, Blue-winged Minla, Black-throated Sunbird and Red Crossbill, Vietnamese Cutia, Black-crowned Fuvetta, Black-headed Parrotbill.

**Most highlights**


Located on the central highland of Vietnam, most of the terrain is covered by mountains, the elevation is from 800 meters to 2400 meters, the average temperature is about 26 degrees during the day.

The Dalat Plateau is one of the five endemic bird areas (EBAs) in Vietnam identified by BirdLife International.
LangBian Mountain
Vietnamese Greenfinch can be found in the pines all the way along the trail, with Red Crossbill in the pines nearer the summit. The endemic Collared Laughingthrush Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Black-crowned Fulvetta can be found in the evergreen forest leading up to the summit. Other interesting species found here include Green Cochoa, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Black-throated Sunbird and Vietnamese Cutia.

Tuyen Lam lake
There are some trails through the forest but they are poorly marked and hard to find. Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Black-hooded Laughingthrush, Grey-crowned Crocias and Vietnamese Greenfinch, Vietnamese Cutia are among the local specialities.

Ta Nung valley
This site is one of the best sites for Grey-crowned Crocias. Indochinese Green Magpie, Black-hooded, White-cheeked and ‘Orange-breasted’ Laughingthrush, and Grey-headed Parrotbill can also be seen here.

Nui San Pass
This forested mountain pass on the main road from Di Linh to Phan Thiet around 80 km from Da Lat is the most reliable site for ‘Orange-breasted’ Laughingthrush. Blue and Rusty-naped Pittas, Green Cochoa, Black-hooded and White-cheeked Laughingthrushes, Indochinese Fulvetta and Grey-headed Parrotbill are also possible here.

Bidoup - Nui Ba National Park
About 60 km from Da Lat city with altitude from 1,500 to 2,400 m, habitat is mostly pine forest and evergreen broadleaf forest. It contains most of the birds can be found in other places of Dalat however two rarest birds that can be found in here are Indochinese Fulvetta and Blyth’s Kingfisher.

The cool climate, pine forests, lakes and waterfalls make Dalat a popular destination for Vietnamese tourists. Weekends and, especially, public holidays can be very busy. The Dalat area is also known throughout Vietnam for its market gardens and nurseries growing vegetables and flowers.
Cat Tien National Park is located about 150 km from Ho Chi Minh city, this is one of the largest national parks with the best protection in southern Vietnam. Fauna and flora are abundant here. To date, 76 mammal, 320 bird, 74 reptile, 35 amphibian, 99 fish and 435 butterfly species have been confirmed to occur at the national park. Of which 16 mammals, 15 birds and 8 reptiles that are globally threatened.

**Most highlights**

**Transportation**
Cat Tien is about 3.5 to 4 hours (depends on traffic) by car from Ho Chi Minh City (150 km) and 3.5 hours from Da Lat city. The site is situated off National Highway 20 between Ho Chi Minh City and Da Lat.

**Accommodations**
A range of standard accommodation is available at the park headquarter, and it is also possible to stay at Crocodile Lake, a ranger station in the heart of the park.
Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve is the coastal zone of Can Gio district, Ho Chi Minh City. The area is situated in a recently formed estuary complex of tidal flats, where the Vam Co, Saigon and Dong Nai rivers discharge into the sea.

Bird fauna - Birding

The mudflats and sandbanks at the Can Gio Mangrove and the Biosphere Reserve are important habitats for migratory shorebirds. There are more than 160 species of bird found in Can Gio, several globally threatened and near-threatened waterbird species have been recorded at Can Gio, including Nordmann’s Greenshank, Asian Dowitcher, Spotbilled Pelican, Painted Stork, Black-faced Spoonbill, Chinese Egret.

In additional the mangroves forest is home to many widespread passerines and herons, birders might keen to see Mangrove Whistler, Golden-bellied Gerygone.
The Mekong Delta is the region in southwestern Vietnam where the Mekong River approaches and empties into the sea through a network of distributaries. Here is lowland, seasonally flooded, covering about 39,000 square kilometers.

**Bird fauna - Birding**
About 350 species of birds have been recorded in the area, which are mainly waterbirds. Of which, many species are endangered or threatened such as Sarus Crane, Lesser Adjutant, Bengal Florican. Egrets and herons are the most common in reserved areas and birds sanctuaries. Waterfowls, Cormorants, Kingfishers and Bee-eaters can be found almost everywhere. To the river mouths or muddy beaches, waders including Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Plovers, Greenshanks.

**Most highlights**
Sarus Crane, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Nordmann’s Greenshank, Asian Golden Weaver, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and lots of waterbirds.

**Birding routes**
Birding in Mekong delta is relative easy as the habitats are mainly open, grassland or cannals. Birders can visit these sites for 1 or 2 days.

**Tan Thanh beach:** Located in Go Cong district, Tien Giang province. This relative new site is the best for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, beside that, Nordmann’s Greenshank, White-faced Plover with lots of Red-necked Stint, Red and Great Knots, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew.

**Tram Chim National Park:** Located near Tram Chim town, Tam Nong district, Dong Thap province. In dry season (January - May), the Sarus Crane can be seen easily. Numbers of bitterns, egrets, Painted and Asian Open-billed Storks, Darter, Cormorants, Indian Spot-billed Duck are among about 200 bird species recorded for this park.
Na Hin Forest is a fairly new birdwatching site, located in the middle of the road No. 8 between Khammouane town and Vietnam border.

Bird fauna - Birding

The recently new discovery species Bare-faced Bulbul at Na Hin forest, Khammouane province, has attracted birders around the World to visit this limestone karst. Some of the very best species also recently found at Na Hin Forest now are Red-headed Woodpecker, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Blue-naped Pitta, Yellow-vented and White-bellied Green Pigeons, Red-vented Barbet, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl, Rufous-tailed Robin, Green Cochoa, Pale-capped Pigeon and Woolly-necked Stork. Other sought-after species include Eared Pitta, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, White-browed Piculet, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Ruddy Kingfisher, Oriental Hobby, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Nepal House-Martin, Silver-backed Needletail, Limestone Wren Babbler, Green-backed Tit, Silver Pheasant, Spot-necked Babbler, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Rufous-throated Fulvetta, Wreathed Hornbill, Rufous-winged Buzzard and White-tailed Flycatcher.
Kratie
Kratie (Kampi village) with the small vegetated islands is home to the recently described Mekong Wagtail. An added attraction while searching for these birds is the small population of the critically endangered Irrawaddy Dolphin, which are resident in small numbers here, and we can hope to be entertained by several of these wonderful creatures. Other bird species could include the declining Grey-throated Sand Martin, Small Pratincole and Pied Kingfisher.

Kompong Thom
The grasslands in the Kompong Thom area is Bengal Florican reserve, it also holds many species of wintering passerines including Manchurian Reed Warbler, which winters in the long grasses in small numbers around Kompong Thom. While searching for this species, we hope to come across a number of other winter visitors; Black-browed and Oriental Reed Warblers, Bluethroat, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Pallas’s Grasshopper, Dusky and Lanceolated Warbler are all present. Large numbers of raptors also winter here, including Greater Spotted Eagle.

Ang Trapeang Thmor
The entire 10,000 hectares of the protected area, ATT is good site for a day-trip from Siem Reap where we can see many waterbirds including Cotton Pigmy-goose, Lesser Whistling-duck, White-browed Crake, Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacana and especially Sarus Crane as well as a chance for Black-necked Stork.
Tmatboey
Locates in remote Preah Vihear province, this dipterocarp forest is home to some of the rarest species in south-east Asia. The landscape is dominated by open, dry savannah interspersed with extensive tracts of deciduous forest along the waterways that called small waterholes, or ‘trapeangs’, which offer us the best chance of locating the near-mythical Giant and White-shouldered Ibises, which use these trapeangs to feed. In between visiting these waterholes good numbers of other species will be encountered, including an array of wintering passerines found in large feeding flocks. Up to sixteen species of woodpecker make this forest their home, including the spectacular Black-headed, gigantic Great Slaty and striking White-bellied. Other localised species here include Burmese Shrike, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Rufous-winged Buzzard, four species of prinia including the localised Brown Prinia, Blossom-headed, Red-breasted and Alexandra Parakeets, Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike, Indochinese Bushlark, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Black-hooded Oriole and White-rumped Falcon. Night-birding is often productive; Spotted and Brown Wood Owls, Collared and Oriental Scops Owl, Brown Fish Owl and Spotted Owlet all being possible along with Savannah and Large-tailed Nightjars.

Prek Toal
Prek Toal is one of the three core areas on the Tonle Sap Lake, a Biosphere Reserve. Situated in Battambang Province the village of Prek Toal lies at the mouth of the Sangke River. The area consists of seasonally inundated freshwater swamp forest with a high botanical diversity. Short tree shrub makes up most of the landscape, forming a dense under story with scattered large trees, which form the vital nesting ground for large water birds. Prek Toal is unmatched throughout South East Asia for the number and populations of endangered water birds it supports through the dry season. Large flocks of cormorants, storks and pelicans are almost guaranteed from January to May, along with herons, egrets and terns.
Top Most-wanted Birds in Indochina

White-eared Night-Heron
_Gorsachius magnificus_

Long thought endemic to south China and at one time considered as a breeding bird only on Hainan Island it is only recently that the colony at Ba Be has reached the ken of western birders.

Orange-necked Partridge
_Arborophila davidi_

Endemic to northeast Cochinchina and now very rarely seen in its former stronghold at Cat Tien National park. Tan Phu forest is one of the best site for this species.

Annam Partridge
_Arborophila merlini_

Distributes Bach Ma National park. Endemic to Central Annam.

Edward’s Pheasant
_Lophura edwardsi_

Vietnamese Pheasant
_L. hatinhensis_

The two endemics (maybe one) Pheasants of Vietnam are amongst the least observed species on earth and only Vietnamese has been seen with any certainty in recent years.

Germain’s Peacock-Pheasant
_Polyplectron germaini_

Occurs in east Cambodia but Vietnam is its stronghold especially at Cat Tien national park.

Red-vented Barbet
_Megalaima lagrandieri_

Although it occurs in Cambodia and Laos as well as Vietnam it is usually most easy to see here.

Indochinese Barbet
_Megalaima annamensis_

Recently finally split from Black-browed and confined south Laos and south Annam.
Red-collared Woodpecker
_Picus rabieri_

Although it occurs in Laos, Vietnam is the only logical place to search for this bird. Astonishingly elusive for a Woodpecker it totally eluded us as it does most tour groups.

Blue-rumped Pitta
_Pitta soror_

Allegedly widespread in Indo-China and occurring as far west as west Thailand it is rarely seen outside Vietnam (and often missed within as well).

Bar-bellied Pitta
_Pitta elliottii_

Again occurring as far west as Thailand and again rarely seen outside of Vietnam.

White-winged Magpie
_Urocissa whiteheadi_

Again fairly widespread but rarely seen outside of Vietnam or southwest China.

Grey-crowned Tit
_Aegithalos annamensis_

Confined to south Laos and Annam. Now generally recognised as distinct from Black-throated.

Yellow-billed Nuthatch
_Sitta solangiae_

Again, although it occurs outside of Vietnam, only really findable within its borders.

Limestone Warbler
_Phyloscopus calcicola_

Occurring in limestone country in central Laos and central Annam, but again only realistically findable in Vietnam. A recent split from Sulphur-breasted.

Black-headed Parrotbill
_Paradoxornis margaritae_

Now recognised as distinct from Grey-headed and confined to south Annam.
Black-hooded Laughingthrush
*Garrulax milleti*

Again just reaching into Laos otherwise confined to Vietnam.

Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush
*Garrulax castanotis*

Occurs on Hainan Island and central Laos but only on Mt Ba Vi in Vietnam.

White-cheeked Laughingthrush
*Garrulax vassali*

Fairly widespread in Indochina.

Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush
*Garrulax konkakinhensis*

Only known from Mt Kon Ka Kinh in central Annam until it located and photographed it at Mang Canh in 2010.

Orange-breasted Laughingthrush
*Garrulax annamensis*

Now split from Spot-breasted and endemic to south Annam.

Golden-winged Laughingthrush
*Garrulax ngoclinensis*

The new taxa was first described in 1999 and so far only known from Mt Ngoc Linh in central Annam.

Collared Laughingthrush
*Garrulax yersini*

Only found in south Annam, centred round Mt Langbian, Bidoup Nui Ba national park and Chu Yang Sin national park.

Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler
*Jabouilleia danjoui*

Virtually confined to Annam and Tonkin. Also call Indochinese Wren Babbler.
White-throated Wren-Babbler
*Rimator pasquieri*

A recent split from Long-billed and confined to Mt Fan Si Pan in west Tonkin. Information on this species is currently being researched and written and will appear here shortly.

Sooty Babbler
*Stachyris herberti*

 Formerly considered endemic to limestone country in central Laos but now known to be thriving in central Annam. Locally common in Phong Nha Ke Bang national park.

Grey-crowned Crocias
*Crocias langbianis*

Endemic to south Annam and very localised. Ta Nung, Tuyen Lam and a site at Dam Rong on the road 28 Da Lat and Ban Me Thuot.

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Vietnamese Cutia
*Cutia legalleni*

Now split from Himalayan and confined to south Annam. Found fairly common in Da Lat, Di Linh.

Vietnamese Greenfinch
*Carduelis monguilloti*

Confined to pine forest in south Annam, common in Da Lat and Di Linh.

Black-crowned Barwing
*Actinodura sodangoram*

Only recently described and confined to southeast Laos and southern central Annam. Best site is Lo Xo pass.

Indochinese Fulvetta
*Alcippe danisi*

A Lao special also found in central and south Annam. Found on Bidoup mountain.

Black-crowned Fulvetta
*Alcippe klossi*

A split from Rufous-winged confined to south Annam. Easy to see on Langbian and Bidoup mountains.

Grey-crowned Crocias
*Crocias langbianis*

Endemic to south Annam and very localised. Ta Nung, Tuyen Lam and a site at Dam Rong on the road 28 Da Lat and Ban Me Thuot.
Bare-faced Bulbul
*Pycnonotus hualon*

A species of bulbul described from Laos in 2009. It is one of the very few Asian songbirds with a bald face and is the first new species of bulbul to be described from Asia in over a century. The only endemic species of Laos but it is expected found in Vietnamese borderland.

Bengal florican
*Houbaropsis bengalensis*

This species used to be found in Vietnam however due to habitat lost, the only reliable site to see it is the grassland near Tonle Sap, Kompong Thom province in Cambodia.

Giant Ibis
*Thaumatibis gigantea*

This ibis has an extremely small population, which has undergone an extremely rapid decline as a result of hunting, disturbance and lowland deforestation. It is likely to continue to decline extremely rapidly owing to on-going deforestation and human disturbance. Tmatbouey ecotourism site is the best chance for this mythical bird.

White-shouldered Ibis
*Pseudibis davisoni*

Like Giant Ibis, Tmatbouey supports a small population but birders can find them with helping by local villager guide.
About our tours

We are offering tours that range from being focused on birding to more general nature that include mammals, butterflies, flowers and local cultural interest. All our guide are bird experts so it is not necessary for you to be a very experienced birder, our guides will be happy to help you along. All you need is enthusiasm!

A typical day of Wildtour Birding

We usually start early after breakfast at hotel from 5:30 - 6:00 am, to be out when birding is best. Sometimes we start before breakfast for searching target of birds. We head out by walking, car or local transportation types (boat, jeep, truck...). In the mid-day, we have picnic lunch at a nice spot for birding but sometimes, especially at the hot climate areas, we return to hotel for a short rest then go out in late afternoon. Before or after dinner, we meet as a group to record daily checklist, discuss what we saw and plan for the next day. Some evenings we do owling or night safari for owls, nightjars and frogmouths.