21 days of unparalleled birding in Cambodia with an optional 3 day extension camping in Aural Mountain

The now legendary SVC Birding Supertour takes you to all the most important Cambodian bird sites, many in the WCS conservation areas where we work. This tour is a totally unique chance to go after all Cambodia’s critically endangered, endangered and endemic species and incredible diversity of habitats.

The tour is limited to eight participants to ensure a high-quality and personal experience.

Day 1: Arrival at Siem Reap  
Day 2: Angkor Wat  
Day 3: Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary  
Day 4: Ang Trapaeng Thmor Sarus Crane Reserve (ATT)  
Day 5: Changkran Roy  
Day 6: Bengal Florican Conservation Area and Prey Veng  
Day 7: Prey Veng village  
Day 8: Prey Veng village to Tmat Boey  
Day 9: Tmat Boey  
Day 10: Tmat Boey to Okoki  
Day 11: Okoki  
Day 12: Okoki to Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant  
Day 13: Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant to Kratie  
Day 14: Kratie to Keo Seima Protected Forest  
Day 15 to 16: Keo Seima Protected Forest  
Day 17: Transfer to Kampot via Cambodian Tailorbird Site  
Day 18 to 19: Bokor National Park  
Day 20: Kampot to Pursat Grasslands  
Day 21: Pursat Grasslands to Phnom Penh OR Aural Mountain Extension  
Day 22 to 23: Aural Mountain  
Day 24: Aural Mountain to Phnom Penh
DAY 1: AIRPORT PICK-UP IN SIEM REAP

ITINERARY

Time chosen by you – Pick up from Airport by SVC Guide

Please send us your flight details and our English-speaking bird guides will meet you at arrivals at Siem Reap Airport.

The airport is 20 minutes from Siem Reap town centre. Check in at your hotel and relax

19:00- Dinner with SVC guide

Introductions and briefing of the trip. Opportunity to ask questions and get your first taste of Khmer food.

21:00- Back you the hotel to rest

Drive Time:
20-30 minutes
DAY 2: ANGKOR WAT

ITINERARY

For full Angkor Wat bird list: CLICK HERE

**04:45 – Pick up from Hotel in Siem Reap**
Pick up Angkor Pass if needed. Before sunrise we will search for Brown Boobook.

**05:30 – Sunrise at Angkor Wat**
A prepared breakfast will be provided during sunrise. Alternatively, we can go owling instead of the sunrise.

**06:00 – Birding around Angkor Wat**
Hope to see Hainan Blue Flycatcher, White-throated Rock thrush, Forest Wagtail and more. Please note that locations for birding may be flexible depending on the location of bird species and the number of tourists on the day.

**09:15 – Visit Angkor Wat Temple to see the most famous tourist attraction in Cambodia**

**10:45 – Birding at Bayon Temple Complex**
All of the SVC guides are certified temple guides and will take you through the history of this breathtaking complex.

**12:30 – Lunch**
This will be at a local restaurant within the complex.

**13:30 – Birding at Ta Prohm and surrounding forest areas**
See Red-breasted Parakeet and Alexandrine Parakeet.

**16:00 – Return to hotel in Siem Reap**

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**Drive Time:**
20-30 minutes

**Walking Distance:**
4-7km

**Key Species:**
Forest Wagtail, White-throated Rock Thrush, Black Baza, Red-breasted Parakeet, Alexandrine Parakeet, Asian Barred Owlet, Common Hill Myna, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Hainan Blue-flycatcher

**Habitat:**
Deciduous dipterocarp forest with semi-evergreen forest patches.
DAY 3: PREK TOAL BIRD SANCTUARY

ITINERARY

For full Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary bird list: CLICK HERE

05:30 – Pickup from your hotel by an English speaking SVC guide and travel to Chong Khneas or Mechrey

06:00 – Board the boat to take us across the great Tonle Sap Lake to Prek Toal
With breakfast and a full briefing from the guide on the way.

07:30 – Arrive to Prek Toal
At Prek Toal we will pick up a ranger and swap to a community motorboat for the boat trip into the core bird reserve flooded forest. Please note that the motorboat can be noisy. We will view a wide range of birds at a custom built treetop observation deck.

11:30 – Return to floating village for lunch
Have lunch in a floating house.

13:00 – Paddle boat tour of the floating village (optional)

14:30 – Return boat trip to Siem Reap
Arriving back at your hotel around 16:30.

Drive/Boat Time:
3 hours

Walking Distance:
2km

Key Species:

Birds: Greater Adjutant, Lesser Adjutant, Painted Stork, Milky Stork, Black-headed Ibis, Grey-headed Fish-eagle, Spot-billed Pelican

Mammals: Silvered Langur, Long-tailed Macaque, Smooth-coated Otter, Hairy-nosed Otter

Habitat:
Seasonally flooded forest and scrub. Open water retreats to reveal muddy lakeshore.

CLICK HERE for full Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary bird list.
DAY 4: ANG TRAPAENG THMOR (ATT)

ITINERARY

For full Ang Trapaeng Thmor bird list: CLICK HERE

05:30 – Pick up at your hotel by an English-speaking SVC bird guide for the 90 minute trip to ATT
We stop for a packed breakfast on the road at some excellent birding spots.

07:30 – Arrive at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) ATT station
Receive a briefing with the local guide.

08:30 – Birding around and inside the reservoir.

11:00 – Visit Phnom Srok village
See unique silk items being created, or continue birding around the reservoir.

12:00 – Home cooked Khmer lunch at the WCS station

13:00 – Explore further bird sites on the far side of the reservoir
We will look for bird species we may have missed in the morning.

15:00 – Leave ATT site.
Return to Siem Reap at 17:00.

Drive Time:
4 hours

Walking Distance:
5-7km

Key Species:

Birds: Sarus Crane, Painted Stork, Greater Adjutant, Greater Spotted Eagle, Black-necked Stork, Black-headed Ibis, Rufous-winged Buzzard, Comb Duck, Spotted Wood-owl, Asian Barred Owlet, Common Barn Owl, Spotted Owlet, Pied Harrier.

Mammals: Elds Deer- Please note that this is extremely rare species but hopefully we will get lucky.

Habitat:

A large reservoir surrounded by rice paddies, with a range of grassland and sedge habitats on the northern edge, and a small area of degraded deciduous forest.
DAY 5: CHANGKRAN ROY

ITINERARY

For full Changran Roy bird list: CLICK HERE

05:00 – Pick up at your hotel before the 90 minute trip to Changkan Roy

We stop for a packed breakfast on the road at some excellent birding spots.

07:00- All day at Changkan Roy

The Varin Community tented safari camp is just a one and a half hours from Siem Reap, by beautiful waterfalls in semi evergreen forest at the base of the mountain at Changkan Roy. This incredible natural, volcanic phenomenon looks like hundreds of traditional stone stoves. This forest area is rich in birdlife, butterflies and dragonflies as well as being famous for its traditional medicine plants and the community are happy to share their knowledge during your forest bird or wildlife spotting treks.

There are mammals such as Indochinese Ground Squirrel, Cambodian Striped Squirrel and Muntjac that can still be spotted – Great Slaty Woodpecker, Black-headed Woodpecker, Grey-headed Fish-eagle, White-bellied Woodpecker, Rufous-winged Buzzard, Brown Prinia and Indochinese Bushlark. The ecotourism community here still practises traditional farming techniques which visitors can learn about during a visit to the village, and there is the opportunity to see an ancient Buddhist temple at the base of the mountain.

15:00 – Leave Changkan Roy for Siem Reap

Return to Siem Reap at 17:00.

Drive Time:
4 hours

Walking Distance:
5-7km

Key Species:

Birds: Rufous-winged Buzzard, Bar-bellied Pitta, Indochinese Bushlark, Large Scimitar Babbler, Siberian Blue Robin, Blyth’s Paradise Flycatcher


Mammals: Indochinese Ground Squirrel, Cambodian Striped Squirrel

Habitat:
Semi-evergreen forest, DDF, mountain, riversine, waterfall

For full Changkan Roy bird list: CLICK HERE
DAY 6: BENGAL FLORICAN CONSERVATION AREA AND PREY VENG

ITINERARY

For full Bengal Florican Conservation Area bird list: CLICK HERE

05:00 – Pick up from your hotel
This is a 2 hour drive from Siem Reap to Stoung Bengal Florican Conservation Area. A prepared breakfast will be provided when we arrive at the site.

06:30 – Birding at Stoung Bengal Florican Conservation Area
Our guides have a very good track record of finding these Critically Endangered birds, the first of the six targets, they should be seen within the first few hours of the trip. Whilst we are enjoying the floricans, other birds we typically see include Sarus Crane, storks, Manchurian Reed Warbler, Pied and Eastern Marsh Harrier, Small Buttonquail, Bluethroat and Red Avadavat.

10:00 – Leave Stoung Bengal Florican Conservation Area for Prey Veng Ecolodge
We will travel to the Prey Veng Ecolodge, birding in dry forest along the way. During our birding stops, we will have lunch and hope to see White-rumped Pygmy Falcon.

15:00 – Arrive at Prey Veng Ecolodge.
We will get checked into the Prey Veng Ecolodge. After we have settled in and had a short rest, we will drive to the White-winged Duck roosting site. This will take 1 hour. We will park near the site and walk to the roosting tree. This short walk through the bush can attract a variety of incredible species. Stay at the roosting site until the sun goes down.

19:30 – Dinner and night at Prey Veng Ecolodge
DAY 7: PREY VENG VILLAGE

ITINERARY

04:10 – Leave Prey Veng Ecolodge to return to the roosting tree to view the White-winged Duck
If we didn’t see White-winged Duck the previous day then we will return to the roost tree for a second attempt. If requested, you can choose not to do this and rest. Prepared breakfast will be provided. When the sun rises, we will explore around the roosting site in search for Black-headed Woodpecker and White-rumped Pygmy Falcon. We will continue birding in this area until 10:00.

11:00 – Return to the Ecolodge to rest.
Lunch at 12:00

14:30 – Explore the Chen Srom Temple complex whilst birding
This temple is a 15 minute walk from the lodge and is one of the most remote temple sites in Cambodia with no visitors.

17:00 – Return to the Ecolodge for rest

18:30 – Dinner

19:15 – Option for owlimg in the evening
Collared Scops Owl and Brown Boobook are common around the site. This will take 30 minutes to 1 hour.

For full Prey Veng village bird list: CLICK HERE

Drive Time:
2 hours

Walking Distance:
7-10km

Key Species:


Mammals: Indochinese Ground Squirrel, Cambodian Striped Squirrel, Muntjac

Habitat:

Lowland deciduous dipterocarp forest, often mistakenly referred to as dry forest. Trapeangs dot the landscape and there is tall semi-evergreen forest in riverine areas.
DAY 8: PREY VENG VILLAGE TO TMAT BOEY

ITINERARY

For full Tmat Boey bird list: CLICK HERE

06:30 – Breakfast in the morning

07:00 – Explore the ancient baray for Sarus Crane and Giant Ibis
As well as other species we may have missed in the previous days.

10:30 – Arrive at the Ecolodge for rest and lunch at 11:15

12:00 – Leave Prey Veng Ecolodge

14:30 – Arrive at Tmat Boey Ecolodge
We will get checked in and settled before birding in the afternoon.

15:00 – Leave the lodge to explore White-shouldered Ibis or Giant Ibis site
We will search for the ibises until it is dark (17:30/18:00). We will take 30 minutes to search for the Oriental Scops Owl before returning to the lodge.

19:00 – Return to the Ecolodge for dinner and rest.

Drive Time:
3-4 hours

Walking Distance:
4-6km

Key Species:


Mammals: Indochinese Ground Squirrel, Cambodian Striped Squirrel

Habitat:

Lowland deciduous dipterocarp forest, often mistakenly referred to as dry forest. Trapeangs dot the landscape and there are fairly extensive areas of bamboo in riverine areas.
04:30 ~ 18:00 – Wake up to search for Giant Ibis followed by a full day of birding

SVC coordinates a scheme where the local people are paid to protect the nests of the two Critically Endangered ibis present – Giant and White-shouldered Ibis. Consequently our guides have a 100% record of finding these species for visiting birders! We will try to get good views of both species during the time we spend here. The birding is excellent and our guides, with the help of the SVC-trained local guides, have made a special effort to locate the day roosts of nocturnal species such as Spotted Wood Owl and Brown Fish Owl.

Tmat Boey also supports an incredible 16 species of woodpecker including the fantastic Black-headed Woodpecker, the huge Great Slaty Woodpecker and the scarce Rufous-bellied Woodpecker. Our guides know where to find these and all of the dry forest specialties such as Indian Spotted Eagle, White-rumped Pygmy Falcon, Collared Falconet, Rufous-winged Buzzard, Indochinese Bushlark, Brown Prinia, Neglected Nuthatch and White-browed Fantail at this or nearby sites. Today and the following morning are very flexible as we rely on trained local guides to give us up-to-date information on key species. Prepared breakfast and lunch will be provided in at the birding sites. Hot dinner at the eco-lodge in the evening.
DAY 10: TMAT BOEY TO OKOKI

ITINERARY

For full Tmat Boey bird list: CLICK HERE

04:30 – Wake up for last morning of birding in Tmat Boey
Prepared breakfast will be provided. We will be concentrating on anything that we have not already seen before we travel to Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant.

11:00 – Lunch at Tmat Boey Ecolodge

12:30 – Leave for Okoki
We will spend one hour in T’beng town to resupply our trip. It will take 3 hours overall to get to Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant.

15:30 – Arrive at Okoki and late-afternoon birding
Our local guides will have already set up large safari-style tents for us to sleep in. Certain species may be easier to see here than at Tmatboey.

19:00 – Dinner and sleep at Okoki.
Hot dinner. We have the option to do some owling before bed with the hope to see Oriental Scops Owl and Large-tailed Nightjar. This will take 30 minutes to 1 hour. Rest before early start the next day.

Drive Time:
3-4 hours

Walking Distance:
6-8km

Key Species:


Mammals: Indochinese Ground Squirrel, Cambodian Striped Squirrel

Habitat:

Lowland deciduous dipterocarp forest, often mistakenly referred to as dry forest. Trapeangs dot the landscape and there are fairly extensive areas of bamboo in riverine areas.
DAY 11: OKOKI

ITINERARY

For full Okoki bird list: CLICK HERE

04:30 – All day birding in Okoki
Prepared breakfast will be provided. This is one of the most pristine parts of Cambodia — its limited population gives us the possibility of also seeing mammals.

Gaur are sometimes seen and in 2009 Asian elephants passed near the campsite during the rainy season. Pileated Gibbon are regularly heard and occasionally seen and there are signs of Banteng, Sambar, Wild pig, Red Muntjac, Long-tailed Macaque, Fishing Cat and Asian Jackal.

The group will stay here for 2 nights, rising early to walk through the forest to arrive predawn at hides constructed next to the pools favored by the duck. Bird watching throughout the day could produce a plethora of dry-forest specialists including Green Peafowl and White-rumped Pygmy-falcon. In the gallery forest we can find a different suite of birds including Bar-bellied Pitta, Banded Broadbill and Banded Kingfisher.

On our night walks we are likely to encounter Oriental Bay Owl and Blyth’s Frogmouth. Overnights are once more spent in safari-style tents; with drop toilets crowned with porcelain lavatories. A cook will travel with the group and necessary supplies of beer can be organized before leaving town.

Drive Time:
0 hours

Walking Distance:
6-8km

Key Species:
White-winged Duck, Bar-bellied Pitta, Woolly-necked Stork, Oriental Bay Owl, Blyth’s Frogmouth, Lesser Adjutant, Siamese Fireback, Variety of Woodpeckers, and DDF speices.

Habitat:
DDF, Semi evergreen, evergreen, rivera and Trapeang.
DAY 12: OKOKI TO BOENG TOAL VULTURE RESTAURANT

ITINERARY

For full Okoki bird list: CLICK HERE

04:30 – Wake up for last morning of birding in Okoki
Prepared breakfast will be provided. We will be concentrating on anything that we have not already seen before we travel to Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant.

12:30 – Leave for Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant
We will spend one hour in T’beng town to resupply our trip. It will take 3 hours overall to get to Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant.

15:30 – Arrive at Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant and late-afternoon birding
Our local guides will have already set up large safari-style tents for us to sleep in. The vultures will not be fed until the next day, so there will be time for some birding in the dry forest in the later afternoon and certain species may be easier to see here than at Tmatboey.

19:00 – Dinner and sleep at Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant.
Hot dinner. We have the option to do some owling before bed with the hope to see Oriental Scops Owl and Large-tailed Nightjar. This will take 30 minutes to 1 hour. Rest before early start the next day.

Drive Time:
3 hours

Walking Distance:
6-8km

Key Species:
White-winged Duck, Bar-bellied Pitta, Woolly-necked Stork, Oriental Bay Owl, Blyth’s Frogmouth, Lesser Adjutant, Siamese Fireback, Variety of Woodpeckers, and DDF speices.

Habitat:
DDF, Semi evergreen, evergreen, rivera and Trapeang.
DAY 13: BOENG TOAL
VULTURE RESTAURANT TO
KRATIE

ITINERARY

For full Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant bird list: [CLICK HERE]

04:30 – Wake up to go to Vulture Restaurant site
As vulture populations have crashed across Asia, Cambodia has held onto populations of the three species currently considered Critically Endangered. However, owing to a decline in wild cattle populations, Cambodia’s vultures are now reliant on supplementary feeding. Joining this tour offsets the cost of running the 'vulture restaurant' and includes the local community in the efforts to save these impressive, macabre birds. A cow will be provided to the vultures and from dawn we will be able to watch the spectacle of up to fifty White-rumped, Slender-billed and Red-headed Vultures feeding on the carcass. A prepared breakfast will be provided at the Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant site.

12:00 – Lunch to the way to Kratie
After lunch we commence a 3 hour drive to Kratie.

16:00 – Arrive in Kratie and check into the hotel
After checking in we will go to a local birding site and go birding until 18:00 for Yellow-breasted Bunting and Asian Golden Weaver.

19:00 – Back to the hotel for dinner and rest

Drive Time:
3 hours

Walking Distance:
4-6km

Key Species:


Mammals: Golden Jackal

Habitat:
Deciduous dipterocarp forest, Semi-evergreen forest.

For full Boeng Toal Vulture Restaurant bird list: [CLICK HERE]
DAY 14: KRATIE TO KEO SEIMA PROTECTED FOREST

ITINERARY

For full Kratie bird list: CLICK HERE

06:30 – Breakfast in the hotel

07:00 – Leave the hotel to go to the river

It will be 25 minutes to reach the pier to embark on the boat. We will be looking for the Mekong Wagtail- this can take 15 minutes to 1 hour depending on our luck! After we find the Mekong Wagtail, we will go to view the Irrawaddy Dolphin.

10:00 – Return to the hotel
Check out and drive to Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary We will have lunch on the way.

14:00- Arrive at Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Afternoon birding to see Green Peafowl and others.

17:00 - Arrive at hotel in Sen Monorom

Check in at hotel, dinner and relaxation.

Drive Time:
3 hours to Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Walking Distance:
4-6km

Key Species:

Birds: Mekong Wagtail, Asian Golden Weaver, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Watercock, Ruddy-breasted Crane, White-browed Crane, Black-browed & Oriental Reed Warblers, Streaked & Baya Weavers, Red-throated Pipit, Zitting & Golden-headed Cisticolas

Mammals: Irrawaddy Dolphin

Habitat:

Large low-land river with small rocky islands covered in dense bush.
DAY 15 TO 16: KEO SEIMA
PROTECTED FOREST

ITINERARY

For full Keo Seima Protected Forest bird list: CLICK HERE

Two full days to experience the birds and mammals of this spectacular forest.

Top of most birders wish lists is the Orange-necked Partridge, a species which went missing for much of the last century, only to be rediscovered in the 1990s. We have a moderate success rate with this species but there are many other spectacular species to keep our interest during our time here, including Green Peafowl, Germain’s Peacock Pheasant, Red-vented Barbet, Scaly-breasted Partridge and Pale-headed Woodpecker, all of which have been seen on the trails close to the WCS station.

Cambodia may be the best place in the world for woodpeckers. The largest woodpecker in the world, the Great Slaty, can be seen at forested sites throughout the trip and is particularly easy to see in Seima. We’ll also aim to see White-bellied, Laced, Heart-spotted and Black-and-buff Woodpeckers here. We’ll make a special effort to seek out fruiting trees because these often hold in Hill and Golden-crested Myna as well as a range of barbets, pigeons and hornbills.

Seima is home to the largest population of Black-shanked Douc Langur in the world, along with Northern Pig-tailed and Long-tailed Macaque and Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, all of which are regularly seen on our tours. Very lucky visitors have seen Gaur.

Overnight at hotel in Sen Monorom.

Drive Time:
1 hour a day

Walking Distance:
8-10km a day

Key Species:


Mammals: Pig-tailed Macaque, Southern Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon, Black Giant Squirrel, Cambodian Striped Squirrel, Variable Squirrel, Asian Elephant, Black-shanked Douc, (Banteng, Sunbear tracks can be seen)

Habitat:

Lowland evergreen forest on low hills. Some areas support large-stemmed bamboo species.
DAY 17: TRANSFER TO KAMPOT VIA CAMBODIAN TAILORBIRD SITE

ITINERARY

For full Cambodian Tailorbird Site bird list: CLICK HERE

After the last morning of birding at Seima we will begin the nine-hour trip to Kampot, where Bokor National Park is located.

We will make a stop along the way to locate the newly discovered species of Cambodian Tailorbird (Orthotomus chaktomuk), which was described to science by WCS. This species is only found in the floodplain wetlands where the mighty Mekong River meets the Tonle Sap and Bassac Rivers.

This area is also excellent for open-country species such as Plain-backed Sparrow and we often see large waterbirds such as Oriental Darter and Painted Stork. In the scrub in which the tailorbird is found, we should also see a range of winter visitors, such as Black-browed Reed-warbler, Brown Shrike and Siberian Rubythroat.

Overnight at hotel in Kampot, our base for two nights, arriving late evening in this small town to get ready for the cloudy and chilly mountain of Bokor the next day.

Drive Time:
9 hours

Walking Distance:
4-6km

Key Species:
Cambodian Tailorbird, Watercock, Black Bittern, Oriental Darter, Plain-backed Sparrow, Siberian Rubythroat, Forest Wagtail, Painted Stork, Black-headed Ibis

Habitat:
Seasonally inundated outer-floodplain grassland with some small areas of scrub.
DAY 18-19: BOKOR NATIONAL PARK

ITINERARY

For full Bokor National Park bird list: [CLICK HERE]

Bokor National Park was an historic hill station situated at 1,081 meters above sea level with jungle, a waterfall (Popokvil), rivers, and ruins.

It is located at the southern tip of the Elephant Mountains near the Vietnam border. Though the part is now being developed as a major tourist destination, the bird species can still be found, surprisingly undisturbed, so far. As we ascend through the evergreen forest to Bokor we will start to notice species not found in other parts of the country, and by the time we reach the top of the escarpment we will be in refreshingly cool, stunted montane forest, a welcome relief from the steamy-hot lowlands we have left behind.

Our key bird targets at Bokor are the near-endemic Chestnut-headed Partridge and Silver Broadbill, Long-tailed Broadbill, Indochinese Green Magpie, Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon.

We have recorded over 60 bird species here.

Packed lunches will be brought from Kampot Town.

Overnight at hotel in Kampot.

Drive Time:
9 hours

Walking Distance:
6-8km a day

Key Species:

Birds: Chestnut-Headed Partridge, Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Blue Pitta, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Green-eared Barbet, Moustached Barbet, Long-tailed Broadbill, Spot-bellied Eagle-owl, Buff-bellied Flowerpecker

Mammals: Pileated Gibbon, Pig-tailed Macaque, Yellow-throated Martin

Habitat:

Hill evergreen forest with stunted forest on the plateau.
On our last morning in Kampot we will visit the salt pans where we hope to find some shorebirds to add to our list.

A trip to this area in 2013 produced Nordman’s Greenshank and a host of other waders such as Whimbrel, sandpipers, Little-ringed Plover and Red-necked Phalarope.

After that we will drive to Pursat Province and stay overnight in a hotel.
DAY 21: PURSAT GRASSLANDS AND PHNOM PENH

ITINERARY

For full Pursat Grassland bird list: CLICK HERE

Our last day in the morning, we are leaving early with packed breakfast and drive around an hour and half to the grassland near Tonle Sap Lake.

The floodplain grasslands of Pursat Province support a number of bird species that are absent from the Florican Grasslands closer to Siem Reap. Star of the show is Chinese Grassbird (formerly Rufous-rumped Grassbird), only discovered here in 2013 at this, one of only two sites in Southeast Asia where they’ve been seen in the last 80 years! With a bit of patience and an early start from the hotel the grassbird is relatively easy to see.

After that we will drive back to the hotel and collect our luggage then we transfer you to Phnom Penh.

END TRIP

OR- Depart for Aural Mountain for Cambodian Laughingthrush Extension

Go to hotel at Kampong Spue town

One night in hotel near Aural Mountain ready to being in the morning.

Drive Time:
3 hours

Walking Distance:
6-8km

Key Species:

Birds: Chinese (Rufous-rumped) Grassbird, Manchurian Reed-warbler, Blunt-winged Warbler, Australasian Bushlark, Blue-breasted Quail, Small Buttonquail, Asian Golden Weaver, Yellow-breasted Bunting

Habitat:
Seasonally flooded tall inner-floodplain grassland with some areas of scrub and agricultural land.
DAY 22-23: AURAL MOUNTAIN EXTENSION

ITINERARY

For full Aural Mountain bird list: CLICK HERE

Starting early, we drive to the base of the mountain before travelling the remainder of the way on foot. On the climb up the highest mountain in the Cardamom range we hope to see the Cambodian Laughingthrush.

We spent two nights and three days on the mountain. With no camps or villages on the mountain, we set up our own simple campsite. Porters will bring all the necessary gear: hammocks, stools, food, water, and other basic necessities (only). They can carry some of your personal gear as well if requested.

WARNING: Climbing a mountain in Cambodia can be tough due to the hot climate. Even though you can have your bags carried up the mountain you should still have a good level of fitness and be prepared to sweat! At night the temperature drops down to 10-14 degree Celsius so a sleeping bag or warm clothes is recommended.

We will make a special effort to see White-tailed Robin and Blue-winged Minla, both of which are represented here by a decidedly distinctive subspecies that are endemic to higher elevations in the Cardamoms and are likely future splits. Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo and Bay Owl are regularly heard around our campsite.

Overnight at camp.

Drive/Boat Time:
0 hours

Walking Distance:
10-12km a day

Key Species:

Birds: Cambodian Laughingthrush, Silver Pheasant, Chestnut-headed Partridge, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Long-tailed Broadbill, Blue Pitta, Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Green Cochoa, Mountain Scops-owl, Cambodian Blue Robin, Blue Wined Siva and other high-elevation species.

Habitat:

Heavily degraded deciduous forest in the lowlands gives way to hill evergreen forest on the slopes and montane forest on the peak, Cambodia’s highest at 1,813 m elevation.

For full Aural Mountain bird list: CLICK HERE
DAY 24: AURAL MOUNTAIN TO PHNOM PENH

ITINERARY

For full Aural Mountain bird list: CLICK HERE

AM- Descend Aural Mountains.

After breakfast, we will climb down to village, but if we miss some birds, we can spend one to two hours look for the species. We will pack our lunch, because at some points there are some good birds around, Great Hornbill, Wreath Hornbill, Chestnut-headed Partridge etc.

It usually takes around 2 to 3 hours before we meet our off road truck driver. We will get back to Mr. Chhim’s house and prepare for departure to Phnom Penh.

PM- Transfer to Phnom Penh Airport/Hotel

We will aim to be back in Phnom Penh by 16:00 and drop you off at your hotel or airport.

Drive/Boat Time:
0 hours

Walking Distance:
8-10km a day

Key Species:

Birds: Cambodian Laughingthrush, Silver Pheasant, Chestnut-headed Partridge, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Long-tailed Broadbill, Blue Pitta, Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Green Cochoa, Mountain Scops-owl, Cambodian Blue Robin, Blue Wined Siva and other high-elevation species.

Habitat:

Heavily degraded deciduous forest in the lowlands gives way to hill evergreen forest on the slopes and montane forest on the peak, Cambodia’s highest at 1,813 m elevation.