

BIRDWATCHING Doi Inthanon & Doi Suthep 3 Days / 2 Nights



Trip Highlights: Montane species, easy moderate trekking.

Duration: 3 days, 2 nights

Group size: 2 to 6 people
(One birding leader per group)

Private Package: Flexible departures

Background

Home to Thailand's highest mountain of 2,530 m, Doi Inthanon National Park is an internationally recognised bird-watching location. With some 340 species of birds, the park consists of a range of habitat types from dry dipterocarp forests on lower slopes to hill evergreen and pine forests at higher altitudes. On the lower slopes, birds to look out for include wintering species such as Grey Bushchats, Siberian Rubythroats, Buff-throated, Radde's and Yellow-streaked warblers and a few Little and Chestnut Buntings. Buzzards and occasional Grey faced Buzzard may also be found. In the Hill evergreen forest above 1,500 m and montane-type forest around the summit species include Red-flanked Bluetails, White-tailed and Ashy-throated leaf-warblers, together with wintering Orange-barred leaf-warblers. Flocks of Scarlet Rosefinches are often present and frequently contain occasional surprise visitors, such as the Dark-breasted Rosefinch. Located close to Chiang Mai town, Doi Suthep National Park boasts over 360 species of birds including rarities such as Hume's pheasants and Green Cochoas.

ITINERARY:

Day 01: Doi Inthanon National Park (B, L, D)

Doi Inthanon NP. Pick up from your Chiang Mai hotel at 0600 and transfer by private vehicle on the 1-hour drive to Doi Inthanon National Park. Breakfast and coffee at Mr. Dang's Café, before a full day of birdwatching with your expert guide. Start bird-watching from the first checkpoint gate before heading up to the second checkpoint where typical species include Pigeon, Black-headed Sebia, Fulietta, Minivet, and Nuthatch. Next to the summit of Doi Inthanon where exciting species such as the Pygmy Wren Babbler can be found. Late afternoon bird-watching at Ban Phar Mork waterfall before leaving the park to check in at your resort.

Overnight at Inthanon Highland Resort

Day 02: Doi Inthanon National Park (B, L)

Doi Inthanon National Park. A second full day of bird watching in Doi Inthanon National Park. At the end of the day, transfer to Chiang Mai town. Free evening to explore the markets and cultural delights of this amazing town.

Overnight at Chiang Mai Hotel

Day 03: Doi Suthep National Park (B, L)

Depart your Chiang Mai hotel at 0600 for the short drive to the nearby Doi Suthep National Park. Start birding in the foothills before moving to Rue Sri cave or a short trek on a nature trail. In this area, species include Black-throated Sunbirds, more than 8 species of Bulbul, White-eyes, Minivets, Babblers and Flycatchers. After lunch head higher to trek around the summit of Doi Pui before returning you to your Chiang Mai at 1800. Reach your hotel or airport. End of our services.

*****End of service*****

Included Services:

- Expert English-speaking bird watching guide (with spotting scope)
- Meals as indicated
- Accommodation (twin share) with private bathroom, and A/C.
- Transfers by private vehicle
- Park entrance fees

Things to bring:

- Light walking boots or sports shoes, long trousers and long-sleeved shirt for in the forest
- Camera and binoculars
- Mosquito repellent, sun hat and sun protection cream

Note: This is a sample itinerary, and the routes and timing may change according to local conditions, but the general contents of the trip will remain the same.

BIRDWATCHING

Kaeng Krachan & Khao Sam Roi Yot

3 Days / 2 Nights



Background

The country's largest national park, and regarded as one of Thailand's most important remaining wildlife habitats, Kaeng Krachan is truly a bird watching must. Located only 4 hours drive from Bangkok, Kaeng Krachan boasts some of the best birding and wildlife viewing opportunities in the country. With over 400 bird species, the park is home to five species of hornbill: the great, pied, brown, wreathed and plain-poached. At the higher elevations of the park, other delights include the long-tailed broadbill and the racket-tailed treepie (in Thailand, can only be found in Kaeng Krachan).

A mere 2 hours drive from Kaeng Krachan is Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, home to some of the best shoreline/wetland bird habitat in Thailand. Listed as a site of global conservation importance in the Asian Wetlands Directory of the IUCN, the marshlands support wintering populations of at least 28 larger wetland species and some 275 species in total.

ITINERARY:

Day 01: Bangkok - Petchaburi (B, L, D)

Depart Bangkok at 0600 (breakfast enroute) for the one-hour drive to Samut Sakhorn, a coastal area which supports a wide variety of shorebirds. Next, continue on to Kaeng Krachan National Park. Have a relaxing lunch overlooking Kaeng Krachan lake before heading into the park for an afternoon of bird watching. As the day draws in, settle down at a stunning view point in the heart of the forest for a Thai dinner prepared by your support team. Exit the park after dusk on the lookout for nocturnal birds such as the Indian nightjar and mammals such as porcupine, civet, elephant and more.

Overnight at Kaeng Krachan Country Club.

Day 02: Petchaburi - Prachuabkirikhan (B, L, D)

Depart the resort at 0500 for a drive back to Kaeng Krachan National Park. Spend much of the day birding along the track that leads some 30kms in to some of Thailand's best bird watching territory. A relaxing lunch, prepared for you by the support team, gives you a chance to reflect on the wide range of bird species you have recorded. Mid-afternoon, exit the forest for the 2 hours drive to the coastal birding jewel of Khao Sam Roi Yot. Arrive your beachfront resort in time for a refreshing swim in the sea before dinner.

Overnight at Dolphin Bay Resort

Day 03: Prachuabkirikhan - Bangkok (B, L)

Up early for birding in Khao Sam Roi Yot. In addition to a wealth of shorebirds and waterbirds, wildlife sightings at Khao Sam Roi Yot often include monkeys such as dusky langur and long-tailed macaque, and reptiles such as the giant water monitor lizard. After a memorable morning of birding and a delicious lunch by the water, transfer back to your Bangkok hotel in time for dinner.

*****End of service*****

Included Services

- Expert English-speaking birding guide
- Meals as indicated
- Accommodation (twin share basis) 2-3 stars, private bathroom, A/C
- Transfers by private vehicle
- Park entrance fees

Things to bring:

- Light walking boots or sports shoes
- Camera, binoculars
- Long trousers and long-sleeved shirt for walking in the forest
- Mosquito repellent, sun hat and sun protection cream

Note: This is a sample itinerary, and the routes and timing may change according to local conditions, but the general contents of the trip will remain the same.