



Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

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Dubai area



short birding tour *(16-19 March 2022, preceding Uganda tour)*

This is a short tour of the 'triangle' part of the United Arab Emirates: the peninsula to the south-east and north-east of Dubai. The avifauna is an east-meets-west blend of Palearctic and Oriental species, amongst the latter being ubiquitous Purple Sunbirds, Red-wattled Lapwings, Little Green Bee-eaters and Grey Francolins. Add to all these possibilities the attraction of migrant or wintering species such as Grey Hypocolius, Hume's Wheatears, White-throated Robin as well as Pallid Scops Owl, Pintail Snipe, Arabian Partridge, Greater Flamingo, Crab Plover and many other species and you can see why the UAE is such a popular birding destination. The topography of the peninsula contains large areas of sand and

gravel desert, with high dunes inland and lower meandering dunes systems in the north and east (often with large shading *ghaf* trees) reaching the coast. The Hajar mountains are bounded to the west by a narrow acacia savannah on a down-washed gravel plain, while many wadis (valleys) warrant exploration, especially those supporting permanent freshwater pools. Inter-tidal areas abound, with many khors (blind tidal inlets) vital for migratory waterfowl.

The country is extremely modern, unrivalled in terms of security, free from health risks and with liberal attitudes towards visitors. The road network is of the highest standard, as is the quality of hotel accommodation. Join us on this exciting short tour!

Tour starts & finishes: Dubai International airport, United Arab Emirates

Scheduled departure & return dates:
• 16 – 19 Mar 2022

Leader: Peter Waanders and/or Steve Potter

Trip reports and photos of previous tours:
<http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports>

Questions? Contact BELLBIRD BIRDING TOURS :

- Freecall 1800-BIRDING
- email birds@bellbirdtours.com

READ ON FOR:

- Further tour details
- Daily itinerary
- Booking information

Dubai short birding tour



Tour details

Tour starts & finishes: Dubai Int'l Airport (see itinerary for details of transfers)

Scheduled departure and return dates: Tour commences with dinner on 16 March 2022 and finishes before breakfast on 20 Mar 2022. See daily itinerary for further details.

Leader: Peter Waanders and/or Steve Potter.

Difficulty: Low/~~Medium~~/~~High~~/~~Excellent~~ level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace and walks are on mostly flat, often paved, surfaces, but may include some very short climbs. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

What to bring: Please travel light. Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors (British style), insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, travel umbrella, hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses with tripods, and very heavy hard-cased suitcases are discouraged.

Accommodation: Private en-suite rooms in hotels. Standard of accommodation is high.

Clothing: Lightweight long pants, t-shirt and long-sleeved shirt, over the top of which you can wear layers that can be taken off as necessary, including a jumper/sweater and rain-proof jacket. Neat casual attire for dinners. Shorts and sandals or thongs (flip-flops) are acceptable for non-birding time.

Group size: Minimum 4, maximum 8 participants.

Cost: US\$2,300 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of US\$550. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expenses. Earlybird or return-client discounts are not available on this short tour.

Bookings: Online at <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> or please complete the booking form in the back of this brochure.

Dubai short birding tour

Day 0: (16 Mar). Arrival in Dubai. Transfer to Premier Inn hotel, close to the airport. Introduction dinner. Included: transfer, dinner, en-suite hotel room. Overnight: **Premier Inn Hotel, Dubai** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: D).

Day 1: (17 Mar). We start with a very early start for the drive towards Green Mubazzarah, an oasis at the bottom of Jebel Hafit, a steep mountain near the city of Al Ain. Arriving there around sunrise we should see common birds including White-eared Bulbul, Red-wattled Lapwing, Laughing Dove and House Sparrow and if we're lucky, Sand Partridge and Grey Francolin in the dry stream into the slopes. On the rocks, Humes' Wheatears should be present, while the bushes hold White-spectacled Bulbul. One of the highlights of this area is Arabian Partridge, which we may see around the rocky top of the hill. Time to drive up the mountain of Jebel Hafit for our next targets: Desert Lark and Hooded Wheatear and who knows, a Chukar Partridge or two.

Mid-morning we start driving across the country towards the east coast. The landscape along the road is dry, rocky, undulating to hilly terrain with sparse thorny bushes where Brown-necked Raven is readily seen. A short stroll through a lush oasis around mid-day may yield the beautiful Purple Sunbird, and then it's time for lunch and a short break.

The afternoon will be spent around Fujairah Port beach, where White-cheeked Tern, Socotra Cormorant, Sooty Gull, Slender-billed Gull, Steppe Gull, Lesser Sandplover, Ruddy Turnstones and other shorebirds await us, plus Sanderling, Common Tern, Whimbrel and Bridled Tern. We'll drive to Kor Khalba, just a few km's south. A mix of mangroves, tidal creeks and a beach, this area is well protected – in fact, the area has been closed to the public but from the bridge it's good birding. The main target here is Sykes' Warbler, while Graceful Prinia, Crested Lark and Lesser Masked Weaver are also present here. Common birds to be seen around here include House Crow, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-eared Bulbul, House Sparrow and Rose-ringed Parakeet. On the way back along the coastal road we'll stop and scan the ocean a few times to look for Persian Shearwater before returning to our hotel in Fujairah where we'll enjoy dinner. Overnight **hotel in Fujairah** (en-suite private room; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 2: (18 Mar). We have an early start this morning for a 1-hr drive to Masafi Wadi (in the north). This unassuming area of rocky hills, dry riverbeds and thorny shrubs is a stronghold for Scrub Warbler and Long-billed Pipit. In addition, the sought-after Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse both occur here, and our best chance of seeing them is around sunrise. There are also Humes' Wheatears, Striolated Bunting, Red-tailed Wheatear here.



Grey Francolin, Greater Flamingo, Green Mubazzarah, Desert Lark, Chukar Partridge (c) Peter Waanders - Bellbird Tours

Dubai short birding tour

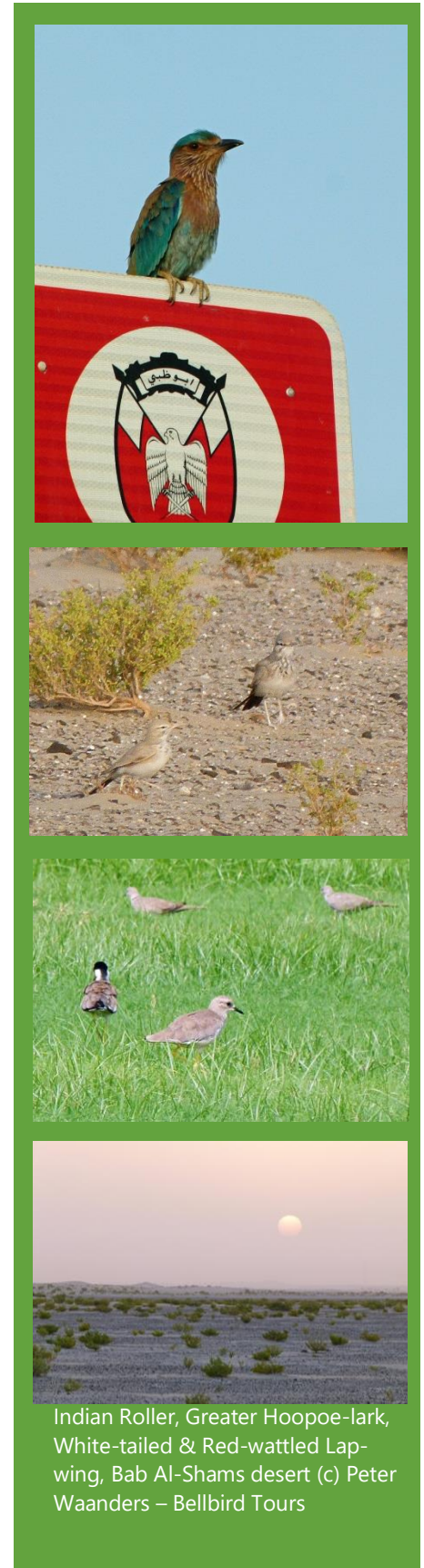
After leaving this site we'll travel across the peninsula west again to the Hamraniyah irrigation area. This area is great for a variety of local and migratory birds and holds species such as Arabian Babbler, Tawny Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Indian Silverbill, Indian Roller, Eurasian Hoopoe, Lesser Whitethroat, Plain Leaf-warbler, Graceful Prinia, Rose-ringed Parakeet while the irrigated farms have bee-eaters, Red-wattled Lapwing and White-spectacled Bulbul. Then it is time to head off to search for one of the main targets of this trip: Crab Plover. Following the west coast south, we will check coastal mudflats and mangroves in search of the amazing Crab Plovers. We should also find some oystercatchers, reef herons and Greater Flamingoes.

Our next destination is the air-conditioned bird hide of the Ras-al-Khor wetland. There are usually quite a few common shorebirds present, as well as a good number of Greater Flamingos, Little Stints, Kentish Plovers and Glossy Ibis. We'll then return to Dubai for dinner at our hotel. Overnight: **Premier Inn Hotel, Dubai** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

Day 3: (19 Mar). This morning we'll visit the Bab al-Shams desert, a very sparsely vegetated area with undulating sandy terrain. Target species here are Black-crowned Sparrow-lark, Greater Hoopoe-lark, Chestnut-breasted and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse while a small lake in the desert holds a raft of water-birds including Eurasian Teal, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Ruff, Redshank and the surrounding trees are a 'migrant trap' with endless possibilities including Lesser and Desert Whitethroat, Menetries Warbler, Plain Leaf Warbler, Chiffchaff, Black Redstart and Eurasian Hoopoe.

Our final stop for the day is Mushrif National Park, located on the outskirts of Dubai. The park protects a native patch of woodland and has recreational facilities as well as a mosque. We'll explore the park and hope to come across species such as Arabian Babbler, Yellow-throated Sparrow, Grey Francolin, Indian Rollers, European Hoopoes, Red-vented and White-eared Bulbul, Green and Blue-eared Bee-eaters, Indian Silverbill and Rose-ringed Parakeet. We'll return to our hotel for a final dinner and to finalise the checklist. Overnight: **Premier Inn Hotel, Dubai** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

From 20-30 March 2022 we offer a 10-day wildlife & birding trip in Uganda, a 5 hr flight from Dubai. Please contact us for details or check the website.



Indian Roller, Greater Hoopoe-lark, White-tailed & Red-wattled Lapwing, Bab Al-Shams desert (c) Peter Waanders – Bellbird Tours

Dubai short birding tour

Important information for your tour:

- Recommended reading: [Birds of the United Arab Emirates, by Simon Aspinall & Richard Porter](#)
- Travel insurance is compulsory for this tour and you will be required to provide evidence of such, prior to paying your final balance.
- Arranging flights to and from Dubai are your own responsibility.
- Visas can be obtained upon arrival. Please ensure you have a valid passport.
- Please make your own enquiries regarding visas, inoculations and travel health issues.

Pre- and post tour options:

If you wish to arrive earlier in Dubai, please make your own way to your accommodation for Day 0, in time for dinner and introductions. We can book you into our hotel for any number of nights leading up to, or after, the tour, please enquire. We can also arrange your international and domestic flights, hotel bookings, travel insurance and other travel arrangements for you through our partnership with HelloWorld. Please tick the relevant boxes on the booking form and we'll contact you to discuss.

Price inclusions and exclusions:

Tour price: The tour price is set in US\$ and is payable into our US\$ bank account.

Included: All meals commencing with Dinner on Day 0 and finishing with Dinner on Day 3, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms, transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, expert Australian guiding, any entry fees during the tour, taxes.

Excluded: Travel to the meeting point if you're already in Dubai; onward travel arrangements, Pre- & post trip accommodation, Meals before the first dinner, and after the last dinner, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance, visa / passport fees, anything else not specifically included.



Dubai short birding tour

Possible species list (not exhaustive)

Egyptian Goose	Lappet-faced Vulture	Bar-tailed Godwit	Arctic Skua
Common Shelduck	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Whimbrel Numenius	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse
Ruddy Shelduck	Greater Spotted	Eurasian Curlew	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse
Gadwall	Booted Eagle	Spotted Redshank	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse
Eurasian Wigeon	Steppe Eagle	Common Redshank	Rock Dove
Mallard	Eastern Imperial	Marsh Sandpiper	Common Wood
Northern Shoveler	Bonelli's Eagle	Common Greenshank	European Turtle-dove
Northern Pintail	Shikra	Green Sandpiper	Oriental Turtle-dove
Garganey	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Wood Sandpiper	Eurasian Collared-dove
Eurasian Teal	Western Marsh	Terek Sandpiper	Laughing Dove
Marbled Duck	Hen Harrier	Common Sandpiper	Namaqua Dove
Common Pochard	Pallid Harrier	Ruddy Turnstone	Common Cuckoo
Ferruginous Duck	Montagu's Harrier	Great Knot	Western Barn Owl
Tufted Duck	Black Kite	Sanderling Calidris	Pallid Scops
Chukar	Long-legged Buzzard	Little Stint	Eurasian Scops Owl
Sand Partridge	Steppe Buzzard	Temminck's Stint	Pharaoh Eagle-Owl
Grey Francolin	Corncrake Crex	Curlew Sandpiper	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Persian Shearwater	Spotted Crake	Dunlin Calidris	Little Owl
Little Grebe	Common Moorhen	Broad-billed Sandpiper	Short-eared Owl
Greater Flamingo	Eurasian Coot	Ruff	European Nightjar
White Stork	Eurasian Stone-curlew	Red-necked Phalarope	Egyptian Nightjar
Glossy Ibis	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Cream-coloured Courser	Alpine Swift
Eurasian Spoonbill	Crab-plover	Collared Pratincole	Common Swift
Eurasian Bittern	Black-winged Stilt	Slender-billed Gull	Pallid Swift
Little Bittern	Pied Avocet	Black-headed Gull	Pacific Swift
Black-crowned Night	Northern Lapwing	Pallas's Gull	Little Swift
Striated Heron	Red-wattled Lapwing	Sooty Gull	Indian Roller
Squacco Heron	Sociable Lapwing	Caspian Gull	European Roller
Indian Pond	White-tailed Lapwing	Lesser Black-backed	Collared Kingfisher
Western Cattle	Pacific Golden	Gull-billed	Common Kingfisher
Grey Heron	Grey Plover	Caspian Tern	Green Bee-eater
Purple Heron	Common Ringed	Greater Crested	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater
Great Egret	Little Ringed Plover	Lesser Crested	European Bee-eater
Little Egret	Kentish Plover	Sandwich Tern	Eurasian Hoopoe
Western Reef	Lesser Sand Plover	Little Tern	Eurasian Wryneck
Great Cormorant	Greater Sand	Saunders's Tern	Lesser Kestrel
Socotra Cormorant	Caspian Plover	Bridled Tern	Common Kestrel
Western Osprey	Jack Snipe	Common Tern	Amur Falcon
Egyptian Vulture	Pin-tailed Snipe	Whiskered Tern	Sooty Falcon
European Honey Buzzard	Common Snipe	White-winged Tern	Merlin Falco
Crested Honey Buzzard	Black-tailed Godwit	Pomarine Skua	Eurasian Hobby

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Peregrine Falcon	Plain Leaf	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Water Pipit
Barbary Falcon	Wood Warbler	Eversmann's Redstart	Trumpeter Finch
Alexandrine Parakeet	Great Reed Warbler	Black Redstart	Common Rosefinch
Rose-ringed Parakeet	Clamorous Reed	Common Redstart	Eurasian Siskin
Red-backed Shrike	Sedge Warbler	Common Rock Thrush	Corn Bunting
Daurian Shrike	Eurasian Reed Warbler	Blue Rock Thrush	Yellowhammer
Bay-backed Shrike	Marsh Warbler	Whinchat Saxicola	Cinereous Bunting
Lesser Grey Shrike	Sykes's Warbler	European Stonechat	Ortolan Bunting
Great Grey Shrike	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Siberian Stonechat	Striolated Bunting
Steppe Grey Shrike	Upcher's Warbler	Northern Wheatear	Black-headed Bunting
Woodchat Shrike	Common Grasshopper	Isabelline Wheatear	
Masked Shrike	Savi's Warbler	Hooded Wheatear	
Eurasian Golden	Graceful Prinia	Desert Wheatear	
House Crow	Arabian Babbler	Black-eared Wheatear	
Brown-necked Raven	Eurasian Blackcap	Pied Wheatear	
Grey Hypocolius	Garden Warbler	Variable Wheatear	
Greater Hoopoe-Lark	Barred Warbler	Hume's Wheatear	
Bimaculated Lark	Lesser Whitethroat	Mourning Wheatear	
Bar-tailed Lark	Eastern Orphean	Red-tailed Wheatear	
Desert Lark	Asian Desert	Purple Sunbird	
Greater Short-toed	Common Whitethroat	House Sparrow	
Lesser Short-toed	Menetries's Warbler	Spanish Sparrow	
Crested Lark	Bank Myna	Pale Rockfinch	
Eurasian Skylark	Common Myna	Yellow-throated Sparrow	
Oriental Skylark	Pied Myna	Golden-backed Weaver	
Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark	Brahminy Starling	Streaked Weaver	
White-eared Bulbul	Rose-coloured Starling	Indian Silverbill	
Red-vented Bulbul	Common Starling	Scaly-breasted Munia	
White-spectacled Bulbul	Common Blackbird	Citrine Wagtail	
Sand Martin	Black-throated Thrush	White Wagtail	
Pale Martin	Song Thrush	Richard's Pipit	
Barn Swallow	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	Paddyfield Pipit	
Eurasian Crag	Spotted Flycatcher	Blyth's Pipit	
Pale Crag	European Robin	Tawny Pipit	
Common House	Bluethroat Luscinia	Long-billed Pipit	
Red-rumped Swallow	Thrush Nightingale	Meadow Pipit	
Streaked Scrub Warbler	Common Nightingale	Tree Pipit	
Willow Warbler	White-throated Robin	Olive-backed Pipit	
Common Chiffchaff	Semicollared Flycatcher	Red-throated Pipit	
		Buff-bellied Pipit	



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ABN 40 159 352 002

Tour Booking Form

This form contains 3 pages. Please print out and complete each page, and sign where indicated. Scan and email, or send by postal mail, with payment (see last page) to the address above.

Tour details:

Name of tour _____

Starting and Ending dates _____

Your details:

Name and address of the registrant(s) *(only 1 form is needed for people residing at the same address)*

Name(s) _____

Date of birth _____

Address _____

Identification document and number (passport for international visitors) _____

Telephone (Home) _____

(Work) _____ (Mobile) _____

Email _____

tick if you do not want to receive future updates, news and special offers from Bellbird Tours by email

Emergency Contact Name, relationship and telephone number *(required field)*

(continued on next page)

Accommodation requirements (please tick):

- Single Room (surcharge applies)
- Double Room (2 people, 1 bed, usually queen-size, but this cannot always be guaranteed)
- Twin Share (2 people, 2 beds) (If you are a solo traveller and want to share a room: we will try to team you up with another solo traveller, however this cannot be guaranteed. Single surcharge applies for single occupancy)

Medical conditions and dietary requirements:

Do you have any medical conditions (eg. disabilities, illnesses or allergies) that might restrict your full involvement in any aspect of the tour?

No / Yes

If Yes, please provide details: _____

If you have other special requirements (eg dietary requirements), please advise. While we cannot guarantee to accommodate them, we will make every attempt to do so.

Optional extras:

Please indicate if you would like us to arrange any of the following (we'll contact you to discuss):

- Domestic flights
- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Pre and/or post tour hotel bookings

(continued on next page)



Terms and Conditions:

Please read the [terms and conditions](http://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) and the [release of liability waiver](http://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) (both can be found on <http://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions>), then sign below.

I/we agree to book this tour. I/we have read and understood, and accept the terms and conditions. I/we accept the release and waiver from liability.

Signature 1: _____ Signature 2: _____

Print Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

To secure a seat, a deposit of 20% of the tour price is required at the time of booking. Full payment is due 60 days prior to the departure date. Until full payment has been received, Bellbird Tours reserves the right to change the tour price (eg due to changing fuel prices).

Please tick which of the following payment options you will be using to pay the deposit:

PayPal & credit cards through PayPal: They charge us a fee of between 2.6-3.9% to receive your money, which unfortunately we have to pass on to you. Do not send money without notice - please contact us if you want to use this option, and we'll email you a secure PayPal invoice.

electronic funds transfer: please send funds in US Dollars (+ bank charges at your end) to the following bank account:

- Account Name: TransferWise FBO Peter Ivar Waanders
- Account number: 8310209261
- Wire Routing Number: 026073008
- ACH Routing Number: 026073150
- If possible, please use your *surname* as the reference.
- Address: TransferWise, 19 W 24th Street, New York 10010 United States.
- Please note that you, the sender, will need to cover any fees your bank may charge you (which we aren't aware of or can't control).
- Many of our clients use an online service like TransferWise or CurrencyFair to send funds: it's cheaper and faster than traditional banks.

