



# Bellbird

BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO TOURS

*Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!*

**Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd**

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## Highlights of Vietnam 15-day birding tour

February 2026

Vietnam is one of the must-do birding hotspots within South-east Asia, with a similar number of species as Australia but in an area roughly 23 times smaller! A country full of vibrant birds, welcoming people and varied yet incredible cuisines make this tour one not to be missed. This tour focuses on the Southern and Central Highlands where most of our time will be spent in cooler climes, with misty mornings and breathtaking scenery. We have secured good quality accommodation throughout the tour: all lodgings have wifi, private bathrooms and air conditioning. Your Australian guide, alongside one of Vietnam's top birding guides will ensure a smooth, efficient, enjoyable and memorable tour. A paradise for bird-watchers, Vietnam boasts a rich diversity of bird species amidst stunning natural landscapes. On our Highlights of

Vietnam birding tour we're likely to observe over 200 species, many of which will provide great photographic opportunities. Lush forests and limestone karsts are home to a variety of endemic species including the sought-after Blue-rumped Pitta, Orange-necked Partridge, Siamese Fireback and Orange-breasted Trogon. The must-visit Da Lat plateau offers endemic as such as Orange-breasted Laughingthrush, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Vietnamese Red Crossbill, Blue Pitta, Spotted Forktail, Vietnamese Cutia and many more. We'll visit the 'roof of Vietnam': forest-clad Ngoc Linh mountain with its laughingthrushes, fulvetas, sunbirds and White-winged Magpie. Mammals are not forgotten with a highlight being no doubt the rare Pygmy Loris and many primates including the colourful, endemic Red-shanked Duoc Langur. Spaces are limited so don't wait to book this exciting tour!

**Tour starts:** Ho Chi Minh International airport, Vietnam

**Tour finishes:** Da Nang airport, Vietnam

**Scheduled departure & return dates:**

• 3 – 18 February 2026

**Price:** US\$4,699 all-inclusive (discounts available).

**Leader:** Peter Waanders and local guide

**Trip reports and photos of previous tours:**

<http://www.bellbirdtours.com/reports>

**Questions? Contact BELLBIRD BIRDING TOURS :**

- Freecall 1800-BIRDING
- email [birds@bellbirdtours.com](mailto:birds@bellbirdtours.com)

**READ ON FOR:**

- Further tour details
- Daily itinerary
- Booking information



## Tour details

**Tour starts** ~~Tour starts~~: Ho Chi Minh International airport, Vietnam

**Tour finishes**: Da Nang airport, Vietnam

**Scheduled departure and return dates**: Tour commences with dinner on 3 February 2026 and finishes after lunch on 18 February 2026. See daily itinerary for further details.

**Leader**: Peter Waanders and local guide

**Difficulty**: ~~Low/Medium/High/Excellent~~ 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 short climbs. We generally walk slowly with lots of stops. We also sit in bird hides. You can opt out of any challenging activities.

**What to bring**: Please travel light. Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors (2 flat pins), strong insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, rain poncho, travel umbrella, hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses with tripods, and heavy suitcases are discouraged.

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

**Group size**: Minimum 4, maximum 8 participants.

**Cost**: US\$4,699 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of US\$290. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expenses. Earlybird discount of \$99 for bookings received up to 12 months before departure date. Return-client discount may apply.

**Bookings**: Online at <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/> - see last page of this brochure.

## ITINERARY

### Highlights of Vietnam birding tour

**Day 0** (3 February 2026). Fly to Ho Chi Minh International Airport (own arrangements), where you will be greeted by our representative and transferred to your hotel (transfer and hotel included in price) to rest and refresh. Should you decide to travel earlier, please make your own way to our hotel this evening. We will meet for dinner, introductions and orientation. Overnight: **Hotel in H Chi Min city** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: D).

**Day 1: Ho Chi Minh to Tan Phu** (4 Feb '26). After a leisurely breakfast we'll pack up and travel to Tan Phu, 150 km to the north, making various birding stops along the way to get our eyes and ears into Vietnam's birds. This area comprises an ecosystem of lowland evergreen forest with a very high biodiversity. Importantly, this forest is home to many special birds such as Orange-necked Partridge, Germain's Peacock, Siamese Fireback, Lesser Adjutant, Woolly-necked Stork, Bar-bellied & Blue-rumped Pitta, Grey-faced Tit Babbler. Overnight **Suoi Mo Resort** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

**Day 2: Tan Phu** (5 Feb '26) A full day's birding awaits at at Tan Phu where our target birds include Bar-bellied and Blue-rumped Pitta, Siamese Fireback, Orange-necked Partridge, Germain's Peacock Pheasant, Grey-faced Tit Babbler...plus many others species in the area such as: Abbott's, Puff-throated, Puff-breasted Babblers, Green-leeged Partridge, Black and red, Banded and Dusky Broadbills, Banded Kingfisher, Orange-breasted Trogon. At night, for those keen, we might try a bit of owling for Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, Oriental Bay Owl, Collared & Oriental Scops Owl and the rare Pygmy Loris. Overnight **Suoi Mo Resort** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

**Day 3: Tan Phu to Cattien** (6 Feb '26). A full morning birding at Tan Phu and then it's time to pack up. In the afternoon we will journey to Cat Tien National Park, one of the best-protected lowland forest reserves in Vietnam and in fact, all of Indochina. We will arrive in the late afternoon. After checking in and a walk around the lodge grounds, we'll have dinner and look for Great-eared Nightjar. Overnight: **Hotel near Cattien** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

**Day 4: Cattien National Park to Dilinh** (7 Feb '26). Cat Tien was the first national park to be established in southern Vietnam. The park has an impressive bird list, with more than 300 species, including several globally threatened species and Indochinese endemics. Our targets are Green Peafowl, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Buff-cheeked Gibbon, Black-shanked Duoc Langur, Annamese Silver Lagur. Later we will drive to Nui San Pass near Di Linh town, a forested pass where we will look for one of the most beautiful birds in the region, Indochinese Green Magpie, along with near-endemic Black-headed Parrotbill. Other possibilities include Silver-breasted Broadbill, Black-hooded Laughingthrush, Red-vented



Bar-bellied Pitta, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Black-backed Kingfisher, Sultan Tit, Collared Laughingthrush (c) Annam Birding

## Highlights of Vietnam birding tour

Barbet, Orange-headed Thrush, Black-chinned Yuhina, and Hainan Blue Flycatcher. Overnight: **Ivory Villa Resort** (en-suite hotel room, meals incl.: B, L, D).

**Day 5: Dilinh to Dalat** (8 Feb '26). We'll spend most of the day birding at Dilinh for Black-headed Parrotbill, Indochinese Green Magpie and other species as mentioned above, and come late afternoon we'll move on to Dalat. We will have lunch along the way and do some afternoon birding near Da Lat city after our arrival, where we will look for Red-vented Barbet, Long-tailed Broadbill, and other interesting targets. Overnight: **Dreams Hotel, Dilinh** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

**Days 6, 7 & 8: Dalat Plateau** (9, 10 & 11 Feb '26). The Dalat Plateau is one of the best birding hotspots in Southern Vietnam - with various national parks comprising evergreen forests, montane zones, lakes and streams it contains no less than 8 endemics, many near-endemics and subspecies. The main birding sites include Ta Nung Valley, Suoi Tia trail, Tuyen Lam Lake, Langbian Mountain and Bi Doup National Park. The plateau reaches elevations of over 1500 meters, several mountains in this area rise to over 2,000 m. We have three full days at Da Lat Plateau, we are focus on all endemics as such as: Collared and Orange-breasted Laughingthrush, Vietnamese Greenfinch, Vietnamese Red Crossbill, Dalat Shrike Babbler and near endemics such as the rare Indochinese Wren Babbler, White-checked Laughingthrush, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Grey-bellied Tesia, Blue Pitta, Rusty-naped Pitta, Spotted Forktail and other lucky finds such as Grey-crowed Crocias, Black-crowed Fulvetta and Vietnamese Cutia. We will spend time utilising bird hides (bird blinds) for a range of special birds and will birdwatch along forest trails and remote roadsides to mop up our many target birds. Overnight: **Dreams Hotel, Dilinh** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

**Day 9: Dalat to Yokdon** (12 Feb '26). Our final morning birding in the Dalat region before we pack up and take a longish drive to Yokdon, making various stops along the way for leg-stretches, snacks, lunch and of course, roadside birding. Overnight: **Muong Thanh Hotel**. Meals: B, L, D.

**Day 10: Yokdon to Mang Den** (13 Feb '26). We'll spend most of the day birding at Yokdon National Park, Vietnam's second largest National Park comprising the largest dipterocarp forest in Vietnam. It contains many endangered, precious and rare species such as elephants, gaurs, ungulates and precious trees. One of the top birds of the region we'll target is the increasingly rare, recently discovered, and endemic Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush. At the end of the day we move on to Mang Den. Overnight: **Mang Den Green Hotel**. Meals: B, L, D.



Blue Pitta, Germain's Peacock Pheasant, Siamese Fireback, Vietnamese Cutia, Oriental Pied Hornbill  
(c) Annam Birding

## Highlights of Vietnam birding tour

**Day 11: Mang Den** (14 Feb '26). At an altitude of 1,200 meters, Mang Den is an idyllic setting, accessible through a snaky mountain pass, surrounded by pine-laden forests. Mang Den has lakes, waterfalls, forests, plantations, farms, and cool, crisp, sunny weather. Our full day's birding at Mang Den targets Black-hooded & Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, White-winged Magpie, Rufous-faced Warbler, Grey-headed Parrotbill and many more. Overnight: **Mang Den Green Hotel** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

**Day 12: Mang Den to Ngoc Linh** (15 Feb '26). There will be some time for early morning birding at Mang Den looking for more of the above species. In the afternoon we move on to Ngoc Linh. Overnight: **Hotel in Tumorong** (en-suite hotel room; meals included: B, L, D).

**Day 13: Ngoc Linh** (16 Feb '26). At 2,598-metres-high, Ngoc Linh is Vietnam's second-highest mountain. The associated Nature Reserve supports populations of several endemic trees as well as the recently discovered Golden-winged Laughingthrush. We have a full day at Ngoc Linh, and during our time here we will bird forest trails, remote mountain roadsides, and make use of bird hides (blinds) which may offer excellent photo opportunities of some of the most desired species. Additional targets are Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Black-crowned Barwing, Indochinese Fulvetta, Rufous-winged & Rusty-capped Fulvettas, Scarlet-breasted, Black-throated, Green-tailed Sunbirds, White-winged Magpie and more. Overnight: **Hotel in Tumorong**. Meals: B, L, D.

**Day 14: Ngoc Linh to Danang** (17 Feb '26). A morning's birding following which we depart. Today is a longish travel day as we make our way from Tu Mo Rong in the mountains down to Da Nang, Vietnam's third largest city, on the coast. We will make a few birding stops along the way and stop for breaks and lunch as needed. We'll no doubt spot some interesting birds during some of these breaks, such as Wire-tailed Swallow and Striated Swallow. Upon arrival to we look for the unique, Critically Endangered, colourful Red-shanked Duc Langur. Overnight: **Hotel in Danang**. Meals: B, L, D.

**Day 15: Danang & Departure** (18 Feb '26). The final morning of the tour will be spent bird and mammal watching at the Son Tra Peninsula. We will look for the rather special Red-shanked Douc Langur as our main target, one highly desired primate. Interesting birds we'll look for here include White-crested Laughingthrush, Racket-tailed Treepie, Indochinese Blue Flycatcher, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Ornate Sunbird, and Crimson Sunbird. At lunch we will finalise the bird checklist after which we'll drop you at the airport for your flight back to Ho Chi Minh City (own arrangements). Meals: B, L.



Black-backed Kingfisher, Blue-rumped Pitta, Streak-throated Woodpecker © Annam Birding

## Highlights of Vietnam birding tour

### Important information for your tour:

- Recommended reading: [Birds of South-east Asia, by Craig Robson](#) [A Guide to the Mammals of Southeast Asia, by Charles Francis](#)
- 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 Ho Chi Minh city and back from Da Nang are your own responsibility.
- Please ensure you have a valid e-Visas before travelling, and a valid passport.
- Please make your own enquiries regarding visas, inoculations and travel health issues.
- Please let us know your flight details and arrival terminal.

### Pre- and post tour options:

Da Nang is a coastal city in central Vietnam known for its sandy beaches and history as a French colonial port. It's a popular base for visiting the inland Bà Nà hills to the west of the city. Here the hillside Hải Vân Pass has views of Da Nang Bay and the Marble Mountains. These 5 limestone outcrops are topped with pagodas and hide caves containing Buddhist shrines. If you wish to stay on in Da Nang, we can book you into a hotel for any number of nights leading up to, or after, the tour, please enquire and we'll contact you to discuss.

Equally, if you wish to arrive earlier in Ho Chi Minh city and would like us to book you into the hotel we'll be using for the tour, for any number of nights leading up to the tour, please let us know.

### Price inclusions and exclusions:

**Included:** All meals commencing with Dinner on Day 0 and finishing with Lunch on Day 15, 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 accompanied by a local guide, airport transfers, any entry fees during the tour, taxes.

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

**Currency:** The tour price is set in US\$.

**Bookings:** Please book online: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/> - see the last page of this brochure.

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

## Highlights of Vietnam birding tour Possible species list

|                            |                              |                               |                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rock Dove                  | Necklaced Barbet             | Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo   | Kloss's Leaf Warbler           |
| Oriental Turtle-Dove       | Indochinese Barbet           | Greater Racket-tailed Drongo  | Golden-headed Cisticola        |
| Red Collared Dove          | Blue-eared Barbet            | Hair-crested Drongo           | Annam Prinia                   |
| Spotted Dove               | Coppersmith Barbet           | Ashy Drongo                   | Hill Prinia                    |
| Barred Cuckoo-Dove         | Speckled Piculet             | Black Drongo                  | Rufescent Prinia               |
| Common Emerald Dove        | White-browed Piculet         | White-throated Fantail        | Yellow-bellied Prinia          |
| Zebra Dove                 | Heart-spotted Woodpecker     | Black-naped Monarch           | Plain Prinia                   |
| Orange-breasted Green      | Grey-capped Pygmy            | Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher   | Common Tailorbird              |
| Pigeon                     | Woodpecker                   | Burmese Shrike                | Dark-necked Tailorbird         |
| Ashy-headed Green Pigeon   | White-bellied Woodpecker     | Brown Shrike                  | Grey-headed Parrotbill         |
| Thick-billed Green Pigeon  | Greater Yellownappe          | Long-tailed Shrike            | Black-headed Parrotbill        |
| Yellow-vented Green Pigeon | Lesser Yellownappe           | Indochinese Green Magpie      | Black-chinned Yuhina           |
| Green Imperial Pigeon      | Laced Woodpecker             | Racket-tailed Treepie         | Indian White-eye               |
| Mountain Imperial Pigeon   | Grey-headed Woodpecker       | Ratchet-tailed Treepie        | Grey-faced Tit-Babbler         |
| Common Moorhen             | Common Flameback             | Eastern Jungle Crow           | Pin-striped Tit-Babbler        |
| Slaty-legged Crake         | Greater Flameback            | Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher | Golden Babbler                 |
| White-breasted Waterhen    | Pale-headed Woodpecker       | Sultan Tit                    | Rufous-capped Babbler          |
| Little Grebe               | Bay Woodpecker               | Green-backed Tit              | Brown-crowned Scimitar Babbler |
| Common Sandpiper           | Black-and-buff Woodpecker    | Yellow-cheeked Tit            | Red-billed Scimitar Babbler    |
| Wood Sandpiper             | Collared Falconet            | Ochraceous Bulbul             | White-browed Scimitar Babbler  |
| Black-tailed Gull          | Peregrine Falcon             | Puff-throated Bulbul          | Babbler                        |
| Little Cormorant           | Red-breasted Parakeet        | Grey-eyed Bulbul              | Grey-throated Babbler          |
| Yellow Bittern             | Vernal Hanging Parrot        | Ashy Bulbul                   | Scaly-crowned Babbler          |
| Pacific Reef Heron         | Long-tailed Broadbill        | Mountain Bulbul               | Collared Babbler               |
| Little Egret               | Dusky Broadbill              | Black Bulbul                  | Rufous-winged Fulvetta         |
| Chinese Pond Heron         | Silver-breasted Broadbill    | Black-headed Bulbul           | Black-crowned Fulvetta         |
| Eastern Cattle Egret       | Black-and-red Broadbill      | Black-crested Bulbul          | Rusty-capped Fulvetta          |
| Great Egret                | Banded Broadbill             | Streak-eared Bulbul           | Puff-throated Babbler          |
| Eastern Osprey             | Rusty-naped Pitta            | Stripe-throated Bulbul        | Buff-breasted Babbler          |
| Black-winged Kite          | Blue-rumped Pitta            | Flavescent Bulbul             | Abbott's Babbler               |
| Crested Honey Buzzard      | Blue Pitta                   | Red-whiskered Bulbul          | Streaked Wren-Babbler          |
| Crested Serpent Eagle      | Bar-bellied Pitta            | Yellow-vented Bulbul          | Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler  |
| Black Eagle                | Australasian                 | Sooty-headed Bulbul           | Mountain Fulvetta              |
| Crested Goshawk            | Golden-bellied Gerygone      | Sand Martin                   | Vietnamese Cutia               |
| Shikra                     | Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike | Dusky Crag Martin             | Grey-crowned Crocias           |
| Grey-faced Buzzard         | Large Woodshrike             | Barn Swallow                  | Red-tailed Laughingthrush      |
| Brown Boobook              | Ashy Woodswallow             | Wire-tailed Swallow           | Collared Laughingthrush        |
| Collared Owlet             | Common Iora                  | Asian House Martin            | Golden-winged                  |
| Asian Barred Owlet         | Great Iora                   | Red-rumped Swallow            | Laughingthrush                 |
| Oriental Scops Owl         | Grey-chinned Minivet         | Striated Swallow              | Black-headed Sibia             |
| Collared Scops Owl         | Short-billed Minivet         | Pygmy Cupwing                 | Blue-winged Minla              |
| Orange-breasted Trogon     | Long-tailed Minivet          | Yellow-bellied Warbler        | Black-crowned Barwing          |
| Red-headed Trogon          | Scarlet Minivet              | Rufous-faced Warbler          | Silver-eared Mesia             |
| Eurasian Hoopoe            | Swinhoe's Minivet            | Grey-bellied Tesia            | Red-tailed Minla               |
| Oriental Pied Hornbill     | Large Cuckooshrike           | Black-throated Bushtit        | Rufous-backed Sibia            |
| Indochinese Roller         | Black-winged Cuckooshrike    | Yellow-browed Warbler         | White-crested                  |
| Oriental Dollarbird        | Indochinese Cuckooshrike     | Dusky Warbler                 | Laughingthrush                 |
| Banded Kingfisher          | White-browed Shrike-babbler  | White-spectacled Warbler      | Black-hooded                   |
| White-throated Kingfisher  | Clicking Shrike-babbler      | Grey-cheeked Warbler          | Laughingthrush                 |
| Common Kingfisher          | White-bellied Erpornis       | Alström's Warbler             | White-cheeked                  |
| Blue-bearded Bee-eater     | Maroon Oriole                | Two-barred Warbler            | Laughingthrush                 |
| Chestnut-headed Bee-eater  | Black-hooded Oriole          | Pale-legged Leaf Warbler      | Asian Fairy-bluebird           |
| Red-vented Barbet          | Black-naped Oriole           | Chestnut-crowned Warbler      |                                |
| Lineated Barbet            | Bronzed Drongo               | Blyth's Leaf Warbler          |                                |
| Green-eared Barbet         |                              |                               |                                |

## Steps to book this tour:

### Step 1: Essential reading

- Download, save and read the itinerary (this document)
- Read our [terms and conditions](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) and the [release of liability waiver](https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions) (both can be found on <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions>).
- Read our [health & safety information](https://bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/) page (<https://bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/>)

### Step 2: Online booking

Head over to our secure online booking page: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings>.

### Step 3: Pay the deposit

To secure your 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). Payment options:

- Visa, Mastercard & Google Pay*: through Pin Payments (an easy, secure online payment system). They add a processing fee of ~3.5%. Please contact us to use this option, and we'll email you a secure payment link.
- International electronic funds transfer*: please send funds in US Dollars (+ bank charges at your end) to the following bank account:
  - for payments from *outside* the USA please use international swift/bic code: CMFGUS33
  - for payments from *inside* the USA please use ACH and Wire routing number 026073150
  - checking account name: Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd
  - account no. 8313528314
  - bank address: Community Federal Savings bank, 30 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Sixth Floor, New York NY 10010, USA
    - If possible, please use your *surname* as the booking reference.
    - If you are asked to provide our physical address, this is: 101 Chilton Road, Berri, SA 5343, Australia.
    - Please specify US\$ as the recipient's currency, and the correct amount. Select the option for you to incur any charges at *both* ends; if no such option exists, please add US\$15 to cover the bank fee at the recipient's end.

Any discrepancy between the amount payable and amount received will be added to the final balance, or payable in cash at the start of the tour. Prices and fees are not negotiable.

### Step 4: You're done!

Sit back and wait for your booking confirmation to arrive (24-48 hrs). Meanwhile, should you have any questions, please contact us via: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/about-us/>.