



Bellbird

BIRDING TOURS

Unique and unforgettable nature experiences!

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Highlights of Vietnam 15-day birding tour

Jan-Feb 2028

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 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, fulvettas, 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:

• 21 January – 6 February 2026

Price: US\$4,999 all-inclusive (discounts available).

Leader: Bellbird leader + 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

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 21 January 2028 and finishes after breakfast on 6 February 2028. See daily itinerary for further details.

Leader: Bellbird tour leader and local guide

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 short climbs. We walk slowly with lots of stops. There is one day where we'll have a ~30 min hike up an at times steep jungle trail. 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\$4,999 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of US\$330. Not included: drinks, tips, personal expenses. Earlybird discount of \$99 for bookings received up to 12 months before departure

ITINERARY

Highlights of Vietnam birding tour

Day 0 (21 January 2028). 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 (22 Jan '28). 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 (23 Jan '28) 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 (24 Jan '28). 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 (25 Jan '28). 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

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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 (26 Jan '28). 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: Dalat Plateau (27 & 28 Jan '28). 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-crowned Crocias, , Black-crowned 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 8: Dalat to Yokdon (29 Jan '28). 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 9: Yokdon NP (30 Jan '28). 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. Overnight: **Muong Thanh 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 10: Yokdon to Mang Den (31 Jan '28). We'll spend the morning birding Yokdon NP targeting species such as Freckle-breasted Woodpecker, White-rumped Falcon, Small Minivet, Rufous Treepie, Burmese Nuthatch and more. After lunch we move on to Mang Den. Overnight: **Mang Den Green Hotel**. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 11: Mang Den (1 Feb '28). 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 (2 Feb '28). 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 (3 Feb '28). 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 (4 Feb '28). 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 Duoc Langur. Overnight: **Hotel in Danang**. Meals: B, L, D.



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

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Day 15: Danang area (5 Feb '28). The final day 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. Along the coast we look for Yellow Bittern, White-faced Plover, Masked Laughingthrush, Chinese Blackbird and many more interesting bird species. At dinner we will finalise the bird checklist

Day 16: Departure (6 Feb '28). Today after breakfast we'll drop you at the airport for your flight out (own arrangements). Meals: B. (*Note: if you're staying on for any number of days, you'll need to make your own airport transfer arrangements*).

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-Visa 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 Breakfast on Day 16, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private en-suite rooms, transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, expert Bellbird tour leader 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\$.

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

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

[Click here to head over to our secure online booking page:](https://www.wetravel.com/checkout_embed?uuid=1126746579&source=direct_link)

[https://www.wetravel.com/checkout_embed?uuid=1126746579&source=direct link](https://www.wetravel.com/checkout_embed?uuid=1126746579&source=direct_link)

Complete the form.

Step 3: Pay the deposit

The booking form will allow you to pay a deposit by bank transfer, credit card (3% fee) or international wire transfer in your local currency.

Step 4: You're done!

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