

Birding Ecotours



**ASSAM, INDIA:
KAZIRANGA AND NAMERI NATIONAL PARKS**

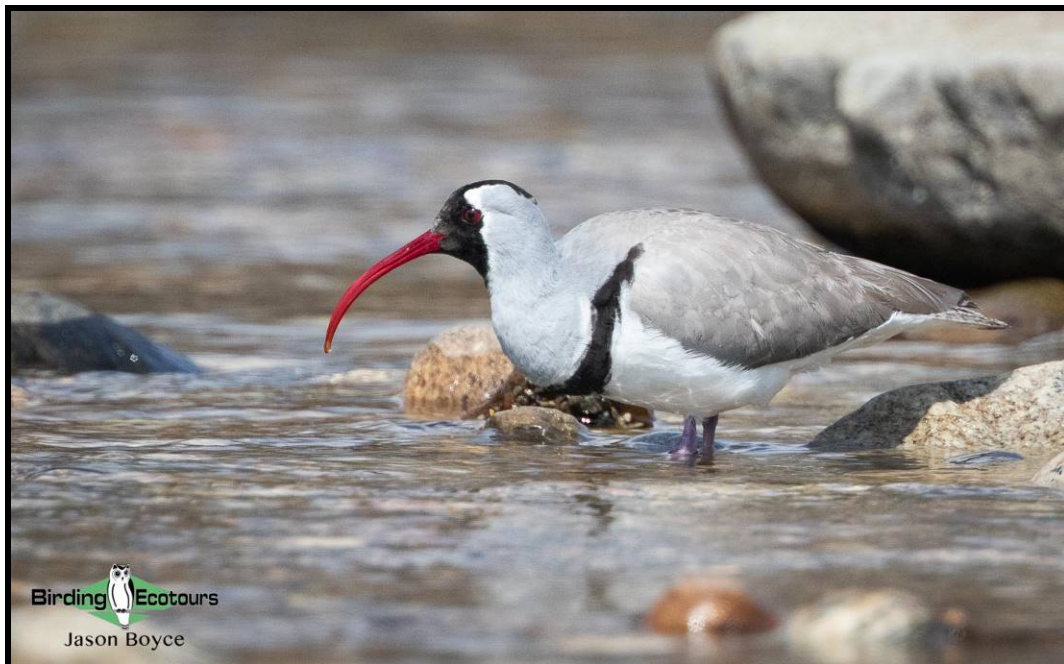
17- 24 NOVEMBER 2024



Greater One-horned (Indian) Rhinoceros is one of the big mammal targets (literally) on this trip, but of course we will also see some highly sought birds on this tour.

This short, standalone tour, or extension to our **Birding Tour Bhutan: Bhutan in Spring** and our **Birding Tour Bhutan: Bhutan in Fall** goes to the Indian state of Assam, home to two magnificent national parks for us to visit. In fact, the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River here are considered one of the most biologically diverse areas in all of India, and a great bird-and-wildlife-filled trip will be in the cards.

After our arrival in Guwahati, the largest city in Assam, situated on the bank of the Brahmaputra River, we will head through the Assamese plains, looking for some difficult yet highly prized species in and around the wondrous Kaziranga National Park, such as **Bengal Florican, Greater Adjutant, Blue-naped Pitta, Indian Grassbird, and Swamp Francolin**. After three full days here we will continue our travels through the beautiful, undisturbed wilderness of the Himalayan foothills to Nameri National Park, where we will have two full days exploring. This area protects numerous species, and here we will look for special birds such as **White-winged Duck, Ibisbill, and Greater Adjutant**. Once we have finished here we will head back to Guwahati, where this short but exhilarating trip will conclude.



*The unique, beautiful, and monotypic **Ibisbill** will hopefully be encountered in the flowing rivers in the area.*

This trip will also offer fantastic opportunities of some of India's major mammals and reptiles such as **Greater One-horned (Indian) Rhinoceros** (the only place in the world where this species can be seen reliably), **Asian Elephant, Barasingha (Swamp Deer), Gaur, Wild Water Buffalo, Indian Leopard, Western Hoolock Gibbon, Ganges River Dolphin, and Gharial**, along with plenty of more common and widespread species. With luck we may even find **Bengal Tiger or Clouded Leopard**, either one sure to be yet another highlight. The game drives we will take (called safaris here) usually give good photographic opportunities of the animals encountered.

Itinerary (8 days/7 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Guwahati and transfer to Kaziranga National Park

If you are coming from our Bhutan tour you will arrive with us in Guwahati from Paro (in Bhutan), otherwise your tour begins in Guwahati. From here we will drive to Kaziranga National Park, our base for the next four nights. We will leave Guwahati at lunchtime.

Overnight: Kaziranga National Park



*The incredibly vivid **Verditer Flycatcher** stands out in almost any foliage and habitat – always a treat to get in your binoculars.*

Days 2 - 4. Kaziranga National Park

We will have three full days to explore this fascinating and exciting national park, where we will take jeep safaris to travel around. Some very special birds are possible during our stay here, and key birds we will be looking for include **Bengal Florican, Greater Adjutant, Blue-naped Pitta, Indian Grassbird, Swamp Francolin, Spot-billed Pelican, and Pallas's Fish Eagle**. However, while looking for the above species (and the animals referenced below) there are plenty of other birds for which we will keep our eyes open as we make our way through various open grasslands and wetlands, such as **Black-necked Stork, Painted Stork, Woolly-necked Stork, Black Stork, Asian Openbill, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Grey-headed Lapwing, Alexandrine Parakeet, Red-breasted Parakeet, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Zitting Cisticola, Chestnut Munia, Red Avadavat, Bengal Bush Lark, Finn's Weaver, Baya Weaver, Streaked Weaver, Black-breasted Weaver, and Spot-winged Starling**.



Painted Stork is a rather spectacular-looking bird, and we should get some nice views of it.



Not as common as its name would suggest, a stunning Common Green Magpie

The more scrubby and wooded areas within and around the national park hold **Siberian Rubythroat**, **Common Green Magpie**, **Kalij Pheasant**, **Red Junglefowl**, **Common Emerald Dove**, **White-rumped Shama**, **Rufous Woodpecker**, **Grey-headed (Black-naped) Woodpecker**, **Fulvous-**

breasted Woodpecker, Speckled Piculet, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Maroon Oriole, Blue-eared Barbet, Great Barbet, Verditer Flycatcher, and Smoky Warbler.

A fine suite of mammals also occurs in Kaziranga National Park, and we will look for **Greater One-horned (Indian) Rhinoceros, Asian Elephant, Gaur, Wild Water Buffalo, Barasingha (Swamp Deer), Sloth Bear, and Western Hoolock Gibbon.** With some luck we may even come across the rare and secretive **Bengal Tiger, Indian Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Jungle Cat, Fishing Cat, or Leopard Cat** while here. Furthermore, the river here is home to the Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Gharial** and the Endangered (IUCN) **Ganges River Dolphin**, two other highly sought species in a long list of potential non-avian highlights. Our visit in and around this national park is sure to be a very interesting, bird-and-wildlife-packed time.

Overnight: Kaziranga National Park

Day 5. Kaziranga National Park to Nameri National Park

We will leave the Kaziranga National Park area after a final early-morning bird-and-wildlife-watching session before commencing our journey to Nameri National Park, where we will be based for the next three nights. If we have time we will start birding here in the afternoon to make a start on some of the possible highlights of the area. **Great Hornbill** and **Red-breasted Parakeet** are occasionally around our accommodation, so we will be on the lookout for those.

Overnight: Nameri National Park

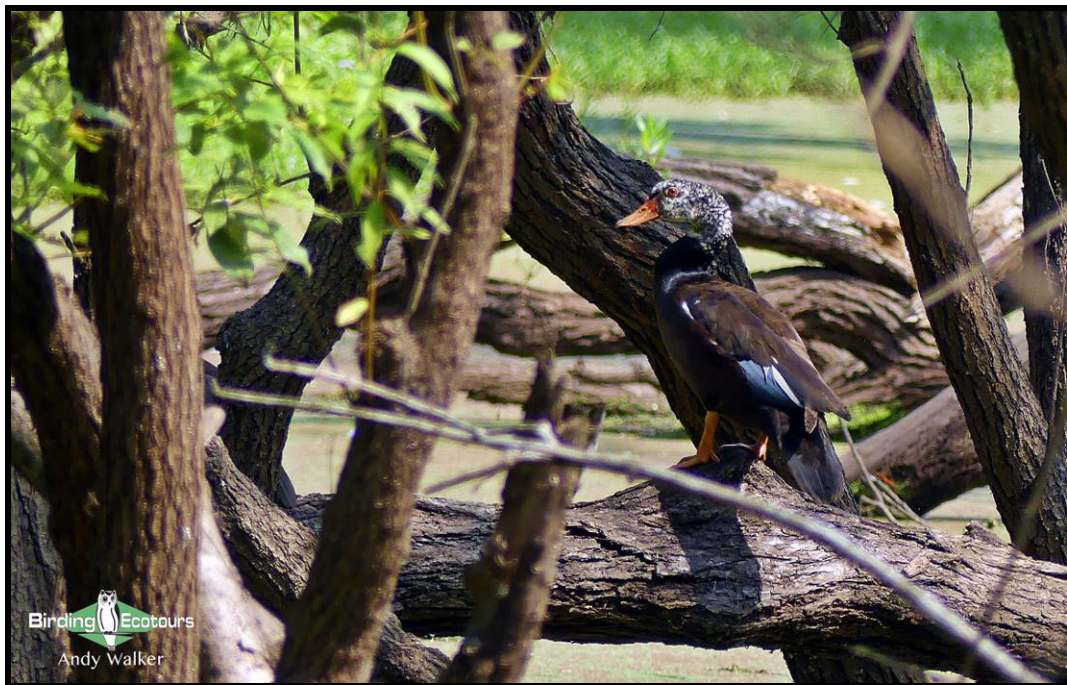


*This is one amazing raptor, **Pied Harrier** — quite probably one of the best-looking raptors in the world and always a treat if we are lucky enough to see one.*

Days 6 - 7. Nameri National Park

Nameri National Park is a gorgeous, undulating wilderness area in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas. A large proportion of the national park area is made up of swamp forest, interspersed with areas of open grassland split up by many river tributaries. Nameri is one of the best places in the world to try to find the rare, highly elusive, and Endangered (IUCN) **White-winged Duck**, and this will be one of the major objectives of our time here. There are, however, numerous other great species possible here, such as **Greater Adjutant**, **Green Cochoa**, **Long-tailed Broadbill**, **Great Hornbill**, **Wreathed Hornbill**, **Blue-bearded Bee-eater**, **Pied Falconet**, **Pied Harrier**, **Oriental Hobby**, **White-browed Piculet**, **Grey-bellied Tesia**, **Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher**, and **Black-backed Forktail**, and we will make sure to try to find as many of these as possible. On one day we will take a boat/raft ride along the river here, where we could find the monotypic and highly sought **Ibisbill** along with exciting species such as **Small Pratincole**, **River Tern**, **River Lapwing**, **Great Stone-curlew**, **Sand Lark**, **Bengal Bush Lark**, **Striated Grassbird**, and the huge **Crested Kingfisher**.

Overnight: Nameri National Park



*The highly prized **White-winged Duck** will be one of many target birds during our time in Nameri National Park, where the species occurs in the swamp forest.*

Day 8. Nameri National Park to Guwahati

After some final early-morning birding we will head back to Guwahati during the morning, where the tour will end after a final group lunch together. From here you can connect to Kolkata or to New Delhi and fly home.

Or if you would rather not fly back home on this evening we can organize additional nights in India, or we can further extend your birding or provide you with a cultural tour in any other part of India.

Just let us know what you would like to do and see, maybe an extension to visit the Taj Mahal, or Ranthambhore National Park to look for the majestic **Bengal Tiger** and some very different birds to those seen on this tour, such as **Painted Spurfowl** and **Indian Courser**, or the Chambal River to look for **Ganges River Dolphin** and yet more exciting birds such as **Indian Skimmer**? There are lots of choices on offer.

Overnight: Not included.



Small Pratincole can be fairly sporadic in the Nameri area but also occurs in massive numbers on other occasions.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration:	8 days
Group Size:	4 - 8
Dates:	17 – 24 November 2024
Start:	Guwahati
End:	Guwahati
Prices:	US\$4,415 per person sharing – based on 4 - 8 participants (November 2024)

Single Supplements: US\$507 (November 2024)

Price includes:

All accommodation (as described above)

Meals (from lunch on day 1 until lunch on day 8)

Drinking water – two bottles of mineral water per day per person from our tour vehicle, please bring a refillable water bottle (if taken from the hotel this will be at your own cost)

Expert tour leader

Local bird and wildlife guide fees

National park/birdwatching reserve entrance fees and jeep safaris

All ground transport and tolls while on tour, including airport pick-up and drop-off

Raft trip at Nameri

Price excludes:

Flights to/from Guwahati

Visa

Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, etc.

Optional tours (e.g. monument entrance fees and associated additional travel expenses)

Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions

Soft/alcoholic drinks

Camera (still/video) permits

Personal travel insurance

Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))