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## Nepal and Bhutan Bird Watching Tour

Kathmandu, Phulchowki, Koshi Tappu, Chitwan National Park, Paro, Thimphu, Phobjikha, Trongsa, Tingtibi, Shemgang, Gomphu, Trongsa, Punakha and Tashithang

Best Time: Mid-Feb to April

Duration: 21 Days

Tour Pace: Easy to Moderate

Minimum tour participants: 02 / Maximum tour participants: 08

Transport: Exclusive

Birding guide: Asian Adventures Guides

Tour Code: 114

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International Flight details (To be booked by guest)

Day 01: Arrive Kathmandu in the evening

Day 21: Departure from Kathmandu in morning / late morning

International and Domestic Flight details (Asian Adventures can book on request / extra cost)

Day 02: Kathmandu to Biratnagar

Day 08: Kathmandu to Paro

Day 20: Paro to Kathmandu

PS: Asian Adventures will also assist in getting Bhutan Visa

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### Description

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is located in the Sapta-Kosi River plain in the south-eastern corner of Nepal, next to India. The vast expanse of water comprises of marshes, lagoons, sandbanks, mudflats. It offers the wetland habitat and the finest birdwatching sites. Nepal's long list of waders, storks, ibises, egrets, terns and gulls occur here. The local specialities are Bengal Florican, Indian Courser, Swamp Francolin, Red-necked Falcon, Striated Grassbird and Rufous-vented Prinia, Grey Hornbill, Woodpeckers, Minivets, Drongos, Flycatchers, Jerdon's Baza, Blue-eared Barbet, Black-naped Oriole and Siberian Blue Robin. Mammals are Wild Buffalo, Asian Elephant, Leopard, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Smooth-coated Otter, Golden Jackal, Spotted Deer, Hog Deer, Nilgai, Indian Flying Fox, Black Giant Squirrel, Common Palm and Indian Palm Civet, Bengal Fox, and the endangered Ganges River Dolphin.

The major highlight of Nepal is the Chitwan National Park. It is the first National Park of Nepal. The park harbours many mammal species such as golden jackals, fishing cats, jungle cats, leopard cats, large and small Indian civets, Asian palm civets, crab-eating mongooses and yellow-throated martens. There is great diversity in the avifauna as well. The birds

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commonly found in the park are Bengal florican, the vulnerable lesser adjutant, grey-crowned prinia, swamp francolin, grass warblers, slender-billed babblers, Oriental darter, egrets, bitterns, storks and kingfishers.

Situated at the Eastern end of the Himalayas, and located between India and Tibet, The Kingdom of Bhutan is a land locked country of just half a million people with an area of 47,000 square kilometres. Bhutan forms a giant staircase geographically, starting in the south, from a narrow strip of land in the plains of India at an altitude of 100 m, the elevation rises to high Himalayan peaks over 7000 m in the North on the borders with Tibet.

Some of the rare species that can be seen are Rufous-necked Hornbill, beautiful Nuthatch, White bellied heron, Palla's Fishing Eagle, Satyr Tragopan, Black-necked Crane, Wood Snipe, Ward's Trogon, Blyth's Kingfisher, Yellow-rumped Honey Guide, Purple Cochoa, Rufus-throated Wren Babbler, Red-headed Parrotbill, Grey Crowned Prinia, and Dark-rumped swift. You will also encounter the fabulous Ibisbill, Fire-tailed Myzornis and a plethora of other gorgeous and little known Himalayan species.

#### Itinerary overview

Day 01: Arrive Kathmandu

Day 02: Kathmandu to Phulchowki to Kathmandu drop

Day 03: Kathmandu to Biratnagar to Koshi Tappu

Day 04: Koshi Tappu

Day 05: Koshi Tappu to Chitwan National Park.

Day 06: Chitwan National Park

Day 07: Chitwan to Kathmandu

Day 08: Kathmandu-Paro

Day 09: Paro to Chelela and continue to Thimphu

Day 10: Thimphu to Phobjikha

Day 11: Phobjikha to Trongsa

Day 12: Trongsa to Tingtibi

Day 13: Tingtibi to Shemgang Old Road excursion.

Day 14: Tingtibi to Gomphu and back

Day 15: In and around Tingtibi

Day 16: Tingtibi to Trongsa via Wangduegang

Day 17: Trongsa to Punakha

Day 18: AM Tashithang (JDN Park) excursion

Day 19: Punakha to Paro

Day 20: Paro to Kathmandu

Day 21: Kathmandu to Departure





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## Highlights

- Excellent Birding
- Tiger Tracking and mammal watching
- Elephant ride
- Pristine Himalayas
- Amazing architecture
- Interesting road journeys
- Great Indo-Tibetan food
- Sightseeing

## ITINERARY

Day 01: Arrive Kathmandu

Meals: On own

Accommodation: Marriott

Arrive Kathmandu in the afternoon. You will be met and transferred to the overnight stay.



Day 02: Kathmandu to Phulchowki to Kathmandu drop

Meals: Breakfast and packed Lunch

Accommodation: Marriott

Full day birding excursion. Phulchowki is situated about 15 km Southeast of Kathmandu, this mountain is 2759m high. It is a good spot for hiking. Rhododendron of different varieties and colours from pure white to dark red are found here. This is also the most popular bird watching spot in the valley. 265 species of birds are recorded here till date. overnight stay.



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Day 03: Kathmandu to Biratnagar to Koshi Tappu  
Meals: Breakfast in Kathmandu hotel, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Koshi Camp or similar

Morning transfer to Kathmandu airport to connect flight to Biratnagar at 0745 hrs. Arrive Biratnagar at 0830 hrs. You will be meet and greet by your main birding guide of the tour. Transfer to Koshi Tappu. Rest of the day birding in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve which lies on the flood plains of the Sapta Koshi in Saptari and Sunsari districts of Eastern Nepal. The Reserve offers important habitat for a variety of wildlife. Overnight stay



Day 04: Koshi Tappu  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Koshi Camp or similar

Spend the full day bird watching on foot and in boats. Koshi Tappu is one of the finest wetlands in Asia. Overnight stay



Day 05: Koshi Tappu to Chitwan National Park  
Meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch and Dinner in Chitwan  
Accommodation: Machan Country Villa or similar

After breakfast, drive to Chitwan (birding on the way). Evening birding. Overnight stay



Day 06: Chitwan National Park  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Machan Country Villa or similar

Full day in Chitwan for birds and mammals. Overnight stay



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Day 07: Chitwan to Kathmandu  
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch in Chitwan  
Accommodation: Royal Singhi or similar

Morning birding in Chitwan. Afternoon drive back to Kathmandu. Arrive Kathmandu in the evening. Overnight stay



Day 08: Kathmandu to Paro  
Meals: Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Tenzinling or similar

This morning you depart on Druk Airlines, arriving into Paro at noon. Upon arrival at the new Paro International Airport, you will be met by your guide. Overnight stay



Day 09: Paro to Chelela and continue to Thimphu (130kms)  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

After breakfast, drive to Chelela. After birding, continue drive to Thimphu. Evening birding in Thimphu. Overnight stay



Day 10: Thimphu to Phobjikha (140 kms).  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel Gakiling or similar

Stopping over at Dochu L, Lampelri Botanical Park and Noboding Road.  
Overnight stay



Day 11: Phobjikha to Trongsa (88km)  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel Punzhi Resort.

Early morning drive to Pelela for high altitude bird species and amazing Rhododendrons in bloom. Overnight stay



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Day 12: Trongsa to Tingtibi (140km)  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel Twang

Stopping along Langthel and Koshala for birds and flowers. Overnight stay



Day 13: Tingtibi to Shemgang Old Road excursion.  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel Twang

Exploring Shemgang and Tingtibi (one of the best birding hot-spots in all of Asia).  
Overnight stay



Day 14: Tingtibi to Gomphu and back (80 kms return drive).  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel Twang

Exploring the Royal Manas National Park. Overnight stay



Day 15: In and around Tingtibi  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel Twang

Optional hike to the village of Berthi to sight the rarest bird in Bhutan the White-bellied Heron, perhaps with the nest. Overnight stay



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Day 16: Tingtibi to Trongsa via Wangduegang (130km)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Yangkhil Resort

Birding along the Wangduegang road. Overnight stay



Day 17: Trongsa to Punakha (125km)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Meri Puensum Resort

Stop for birds and flowers along Chendibji and Pelela road. Overnight stay



Day 18: AM Tashithang (JDN Park) excursion (65kms).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Meri Puensum Resort

PM visit the magnificent Punakha Dzong. Overnight stay



Day 19: Punakha to Paro (125kms)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Olathang

Stop at Lumetshawa and Lampelri for birds and flowers. Overnight stay







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20 April 2018: Paro to Kathmandu  
Meals: Breakfast  
Accommodation: Hotel Royal Singhi

Morning transfer to Paro airport. Flight KB-400 Paro (1145 hrs) to Kathmandu (1230 hrs). You will be met and transferred to overnight stay.



21 April 2018: Kathmandu to Departure  
Meals: Breakfast

Morning transfer to Kathmandu to connect flight back to home via Delhi. Tour ends.



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Tour cost (per person)  
US\$ 6100 (minimum 06-08 paying persons)  
US\$ 6300 (minimum 04 paying persons)  
US\$ 6600 (minimum 02 paying persons)





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Services includes only:

- Accommodation for 20 nights / 21 days on twin sharing basis
- Meals in Nepal as per the itinerary
- All permits and entrances of Phulchowki, Koshi Tappu and Chitwan National Park
- All jeep safaris in Chitwan National Park
- Dedicated birding guide in Nepal
- All meals in Bhutan (03 meals per night basis)
- All transport services in Bhutan
- Dedicated birding guide in Bhutan
- All permits and entrances of Bhutan
- All taxes



Above cost does not include:

- Optional tours, tips, laundry, drinks, bottle water, personal expenses
- Air fare, Nepal and Bhutan visa, insurance
- Any other services not mentioned in cost inclusions



Passport details required of all the participants for booking safaris & tickets

- Full Names as mentioned on passport
- Gender
- Date of Birth
- Nationality
- Passport Number
- Passport Issue date
- Passport Expiry date



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