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Northeast India Birding Tour – 20 Days

 **Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh & Mishmi Hills**

 **Duration: 20 Days** |  **Focus: Eastern Himalayan Endemics, Regional Specialties & Rare Species**

Tour Type: Small Group / Expert-led | Pace: Moderate to Intense Birding

Overview

Northeast India is one of Asia's most exciting birding frontiers — a true hotspot of avian diversity. This 20-day guided birding expedition is designed to explore a wide range of habitats, from the misty pine forests of Meghalaya to the grasslands of Assam, the temperate and bamboo forests of Arunachal Pradesh, and the remote montane forests of Mishmi Hills.

We aim to observe 300+ species, with a strong focus on Eastern Himalayan specialties, Himalayan endemics, bamboo specialists, and lowland forest rarities. Accompanied by a skilled guide and expert local spotters, this tour is ideal for birders seeking lifers, photographers looking for striking Himalayan species, and nature lovers wanting to experience India's wild northeast.

Day-by-Day Itinerary with Key Target Species

Day 1: Arrival in Guwahati – Drive to Shillong (Meghalaya)

Upon arrival at Guwahati Airport, we begin our journey with a scenic 3–4 hour drive to Shillong, the hill station capital of Meghalaya. If time allows, we enjoy a short evening birding session in nearby pine forests.

 Target Species: Gray Sibia

Day 2: Full-Day Birding in Shillong Area

We explore Shillong Peak, Mawphlang Sacred Grove, and nearby evergreen forests. Meghalaya's cooler climate and unique elevation host several regional specialties.

 Target Species: Gray Sibia, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Khasi Hill Partridge (chance), Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Striated Bulbul

Day 3: Drive to Nameri National Park (Assam)

A scenic drive through forested valleys and Brahmaputra plains brings us to Nameri, situated at the Assam–Arunachal border. Evening birding near the river.

 Target Species: Blyth's Kingfisher, Pale-chinned Flycatcher, Tickell's Thrush, Bengal Bushlark, Oriental Hobby

Day 4: Morning Birding at Nameri – Transfer to Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh)

Early birding on forest edges and riverine trails for some key species, followed by a full-day drive to Dirang, a beautiful Himalayan town at ~1600m elevation.

 Target Species: Tawny Fish-Owl, Wreathed Hornbill, Small Niltava

Day 5: Full-Day Birding at Mandala Phudung

We bird the Mandala Road, a high-altitude hotspot with stunning mixed broadleaf and bamboo forest.

 Target Species: Broad-billed Warbler, Hume's Bush Warbler, Scaly Laughingthrush, Brown-throated Fulvetta, Red-headed Bullfinch, Pink-browed Rosefinch, White-breasted Parrotbill

Day 6: Birding at Sela Pass (4,200 m)

A thrilling high-altitude day at Sela Pass, where snowfields and alpine vegetation host hardy Himalayan specialists.

 Target Species: Blanford's Rosefinch, Alpine Thrush, Himalayan Thrush, Snow Pigeon, Grandala (seasonal), Rosy Pipit

Day 7: Drive to Tenga Valley – Mid-Elevation Forest Birding

We descend to Tenga, birding forested slopes and bamboo groves. The transition zone here is rich in mixed flocks.

 Target Species: Bugun Liocichla (rare), Spotted Elachura, Cutia, Striated and White-naped Yuhina

Day 8: Lama Camp – Entering Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary

We begin our exploration of legendary Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, starting at Lama Camp.

 Target Species: Bugun Liocichla, Ward's Trogon, Gray Peacock-Pheasant, Rusty-bellied Shortwing

Day 9: Full-Day Birding around Lama Camp

Birding on foot in rich trails near Lama Camp, known for dense undergrowth and flocks.

 Target Species: Black-headed Shrike-Babbler, Spotted Elachura, Black-throated Parrotbill, Rufous-vented Yuhina

Day 10: Lama to Bompu Camp – Birding en route

We travel deeper into Eaglenest, toward Bompu Camp, passing through various altitudinal zones.

 Target Species: Rufous-throated Partridge, Purple Cochoa, Beautiful Sibia, Coral-billed Scimitar-Babbler

Day 11: Bompou to Rompi Camp – Lower Altitude Birding

Birding into the foothill forests of Rompi, a little-explored area with distinct species.

 Target Species: Long-billed Thrush, Streak-throated Barwing, White-hooded Babbler, Yellow-bellied Warbler

Day 12–13: Birding at Khellong Zone

We descend to the Khellong region for lowland specialties. This warmer area hosts a new set of birds.

 Target Species: Gray-sided Laughingthrush, Black-crowned Scimitar-Babbler, Marsh Babbler, Collared Treepie, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler

Day 14: Transfer to Kaziranga National Park

Drive to world-famous Kaziranga National Park, home of the One-horned Rhino and over 480 bird species.

 Target Species: Finn's Weaver, Swamp Francolin, Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Pied Harrier

Day 15: Drive to Tinsukia – Upper Assam Base

Continue eastward to Tinsukia, gateway to Dibru-Saikhowa, Maguri Beel, and nearby birding wetlands.

 Target Species: Western Hooded Pitta, Rusty-bellied Shortwing, Jerdon's Babbler

Day 16: Full-Day Birding in Tinsukia Area

Explore rich floodplains and grasslands around Maguri Beel, Dibru-Saikhowa, and forest edge habitats.

 Target Species: White-hooded Babbler, Marsh Babbler, Collared Treepie, Swamp Prinia

Day 17: Drive to Mishmi Hills (Arunachal Pradesh)

Cross the mighty Lohit River and ascend into the Mishmi Hills, a remote birding paradise with endemic-rich bamboo forests.

 Target Species: Manipur Fulvetta, Black-throated Parrotbill

Day 18–19: Full Birding in Mishmi Hills

Birding full days in various altitudes and microhabitats of Mishmi, focusing on bamboo zones and ravine forests.

 Target Species: Gould's Shortwing, Blue-fronted Robin, Pale-billed Parrotbill, Gray-lored Broadbill, Green Cochoa, Scaly-breasted Cupwing

Day 20: Drive to Dibrugarh – Departure

After optional morning birding, we drive back to Dibrugarh Airport for departure.



Key Target Species Highlights

- Bugun Liocichla, Ward's Trogon, White-breasted Parrotbill
- Spotted Elachura, Purple Cochoa, Gray Peacock-Pheasant
- Finn's Weaver, Rusty-bellied Shortwing, Blue-fronted Robin
- Pale-billed Parrotbill, Blanford's Rosefinch, Gould's Shortwing



Tour Includes:

- Accommodation in eco-lodges and campsites
- All meals (from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 20)
- All transport with expert driver
- Expert birding guide throughout
- All park entry fees, permits, and local guide fees



Not Included:

- International/domestic flights
- Personal expenses, tips, laundry, alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance



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