

West India Birding Tour

Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat & Maharashtra

(21 Days)

(Can be combined with Northeast India)

This grand tour of **western India** takes us through five bird-rich states. Beginning in the high-altitude valleys of **Kashmir**, we'll search for wintering finches and endemics like **Orange Bullfinch** before flying to **Punjab**, where marshes hold **Sind Sparrow** and **Rufous-vented Grass Babbler**. We then head through the arid and semi-arid habitats of **Rajasthan** and **Gujarat** in search of rarities such as the **Great Indian Bustard**, **Macqueen's Bustard**, **Hypocolius**, **Stoliczka's Bushchat**, and finally to **Maharashtra** for the oncemythical **Forest Owlet**. Mammals such as **Indian Wild Ass**, **Striped Hyena**, **Blackbuck**, and perhaps Leopard add to the excitement.

Itinerary (2027):-

Day 1

Arrive Delhi and connect to **Srinagar** (Kashmir). Afternoon birding around Srinagar. Night in Srinagar.

Days 2–3

Two full days birding in Srinagar region. Key species: **Orange Bullfinch**, **Kashmir & White-cheeked Nuthatch**, **Rufous-naped Tit**, **Spectacled Finch**, **Kashmir Nutcracker**, **Black-throated Thrush**, and chances of **Blyth's Rosefinch**. Nights in Srinagar

Day 4

Fly from Srinagar to **Amritsar (Punjab)**. Night in Amritsar

Day 5

Birding at **Harike Wetlands**. Main targets: **Rufous-vented Grass Babbler, Sind Sparrow, White-tailed Stonechat, Jerdon's Babbler, Moustached Warbler, Mountain Chiffchaff**. Night in Amritsar

Day 6

Early birding at Harike, then long drive to **Tal Chhapar (Rajasthan)**. Night at Tal Chhapar

Day 7

Full day birding Tal Chhapar. Highlights: **Indian Spotted-creeper, Demoiselle Crane, Indian Eagle Owl, Rock Bush Quail, Steppe Eagle, Blackbuck, White-bellied Minivet**. Night at Tal Chhapar

Day 8

Pre-dawn visit to **Bikaner dump** for **Yellow-eyed Dove**, then drive to **Jaisalmer**. Optional afternoon birding. Night in Jaisalmer

Days 9–10

Full birding in Desert National Park. Priority: **Great Indian Bustard, Stoliczka's Bushchat, Cream-coloured Courser, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Asian Desert Warbler, Steppe & Imperial Eagle, Vultures**.
Nights in Jaisalmer

Day 11

Drive to **Siana** (chance of Striped Hyena, **White-bellied Minivet**, Painted Sandgrouse). Night in Siana

Day 12

Full day birding in Siana with morning and afternoon jeep safaris. Night in Siana

Day 13

Early drive to **Mount Abu** for **Green Avadavat**, **White-capped & Crested Buntings**, then to **Little Rann of Kutch**. Night at Little Rann of Kutch

Day 14

Morning and afternoon safaris in the Little Rann. Highlights: **Macqueen's Bustard**, **Sykes's Nightjar**, **Pallid Scops Owl**, **Indian Wild Ass**, **Greater Hoopoe Lark**, **Flamingos**, **Raptors**. Night at Little Rann of Kutch

Day 15

Drive west to **Bhuj**, birding en route. Targets: **Sykes's Lark**, **White-naped Tit**, **Marshall's Iora**, **Painted Sandgrouse**. Night in Bhuj

Days 16–17

Full birding in and around Bhuj. Specialties: **Hypocolius**, **Sociable Lapwing**, **White-naped Tit**, **Crab Plover**, **Red-tailed Wheatear**, **Dalmatian Pelican**, **Indian Eagle Owl**. Nights in Bhuj

Day 18

Fly from Bhuj to **Mumbai**, then drive to forested reserve for **Forest Owlet**.

Night at Forest Owlet reserve

Day 19

Full day for **Forest Owlet** and other species: **Mottled Wood Owl, Vigors's Sunbird, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Jungle Owlet, Western Crowned Warbler**. Night near reserve area of Tansa.

Day 20 –

Final morning birding. Return to Mumbai for farewell dinner.

Night near **Mumbai** Airport

Day 21 – March

International departures from Mumbai.

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Northeast India – Early March 2026 (Contact for details)

Explore the dense forests and riverine ecosystems of **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam**, with opportunities to see **Bugun Liocichla, Blyth's Tragopan, Ward's Trogon, Beautiful Nuthatch, Rufous-necked Hornbill**, and a host of Himalayan and Indo-Burmese specialties.