



16 Days South China Birding Tour

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Nov 15-30, 2023



Outline

- Day 1: Arrive Guangzhou, China
- Day 2: Guangzhou / Nanling
- Day 3-5: Nanling NR
- Day 6: Nanling / Guangzhou / Sanya / Jianfengling
- Day 7-9: Jianfengling
- Day 10: Jianfengling / Haiwei
- Day 11: Haiwei / Haikou
- Day 12: Haikou / Nanning / Nonggang
- Day 13-14: Nonggang
- Day 15: Nonggang / Nanning
- Day 16: Nanning / Depart



Red Junglefowl



Highlights

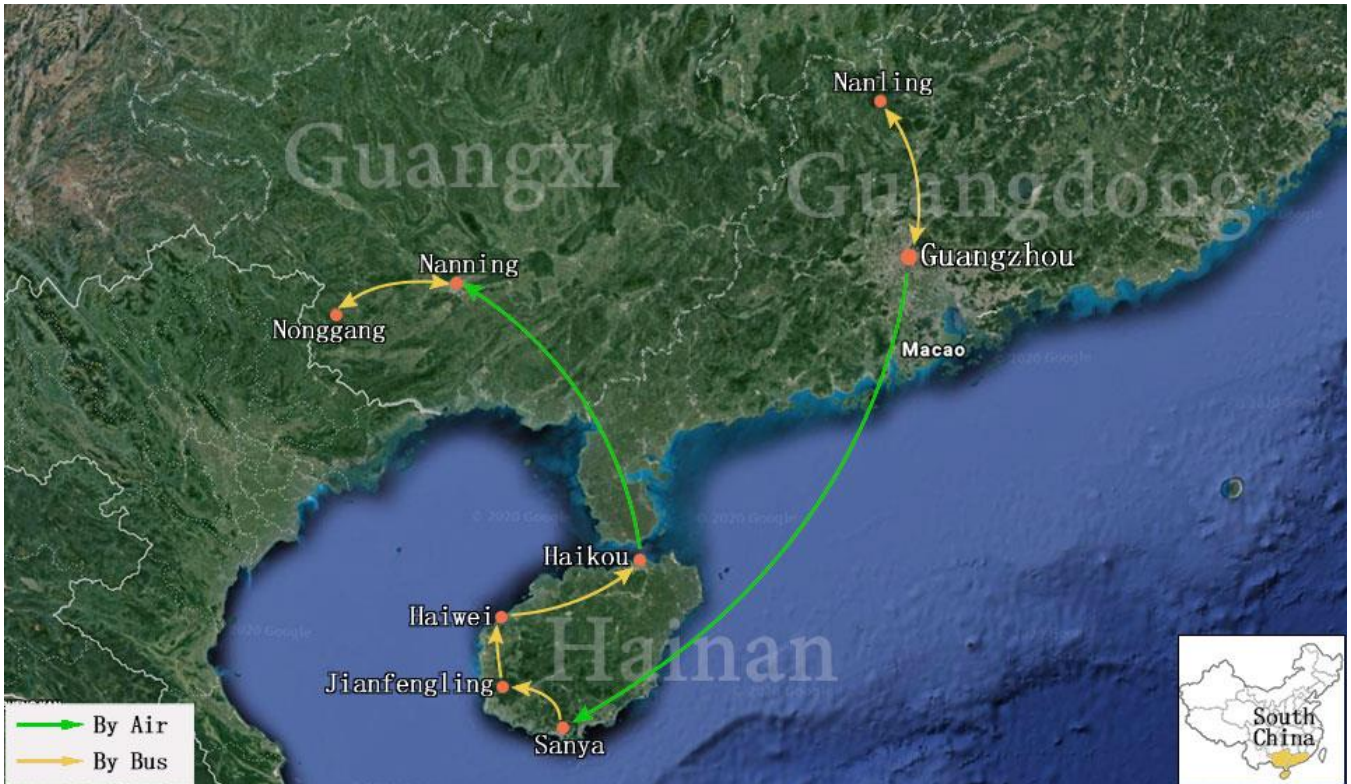
1. Visiting Hainan Island for its endemics and specials.
2. Exploring Nanling and Nonggang nature reserves for its unique forest species.
3. Guided by a professional national bird guide and an experienced local guide to ensure a high-end birding experience.
4. Traveling in a small group size of no more than 8 birders.
5. We have worked as a local partner for some prestigious western companies specialized in birds and wildlife for more than 15 years.
6. Supported by a strong logistic team in the office to ensure the smooth operation and full enjoyment of the trip by every participant.

Tour Info Sheet

Highlight Birds	Cabot's Tragopan, White-necklaced Partridge, Hainan Partridge, Bar-backed Partridge, Red Junglefowl, Silver Pheasant, Mountain Scops Owl, Collared Scops Owl, Brown Wood Owl, Nonggang Babbler, Chinese Barbet, Green-billed Malkoha, Greater Coucal, Lesser Coucal, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo, White-browed Piculet, Bay Woodpecker, Long-tailed Broadbill, Blue-rumped Pitta, Black-naped Monarch, White-rumped Shama, Indochinese Green Magpie, White-winged Magpie, Golden-headed Cisticola, Black-crested Bulbul, Crested Serpent Eagle, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Large Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Blue-throated Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Crow-billed Drongo, Sultan Tit, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Eyebrowed Wren Babbler, Streaked Wren Babbler, Pygmy Cupwing, Hainan Leaf Warbler, Limestone Leaf Warbler, Pale-footed Bush Warbler, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Chestnut-capped Babbler, Mountain Tailorbird, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Golden Parrotbill, Whistling Duck, Grey-headed Swamphen, Black-faced Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilt, Grey Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Kentish Plover, etc.
Numbers of Species to Expect	180-220
Ease of Birding	mostly easy birding with a few tricky species
Highlight Mammals	White-headed Langur, Francois' Langur, etc.
Other Attractions	Cantonese cuisine, Lingnan architecture, rich ethnic minority culture, stunning island scenery
Photography Opportunities	birding focused but with very good photography chances
Habitats Covered	subtropical forests, woodlands, wetlands, coast, island
Expected Climate	cold in the morning, windy on the coast, rain is possible
Physical Requirements	mostly easy, demanding but optional on certain part
Accommodation	very comfortable
Transportation	19-seat van



Map




Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Guangzhou, China.

On the first day of the tour, a private guide or driver will meet you upon your arrival at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport. After you board our transportation, you will be driven for about 30 minutes to the downtown hotel for one night stay. For early arrivals, we will go for a relaxing birding at a local park nearby.

Day 2: Guangzhou to Nanling National Nature Reserve.

We will have a short visit to Zhongshan University before driving to the Nanling region. Found in 1924, Zhongshan University is one of the top universities in China. The beautiful environments inside the campus have attracted lots of birds. In the woods and by the side of small lakes inside the campus we will have opportunity to see Hainan Blue Flycatcher, Common Tailorbird, Mountain Tailorbird, Slaty-legged Crake, Collared Scops Owl, Asian Barred Owl, Plaintive Cuckoo, Great Barbet, Japanese Paradise Flycatcher, Tiger Shrike, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Light-vented Bulbul, Chestnut Bulbul, Orange-headed Thrush, Grey-backed Thrush, Blue-and-white Flycatcher, Rufous-tailed Robin, Siberian Blue Robin, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Fork-tailed Sunbird, etc.

Following the exploration, we will complete a 4-hours journey to Nanling.



Day 3-5: Nanling National Nature Reserve.

Established in 1984 and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1994, Nanling National Nature Reserve covers 58,400 hectares. With a 98% forest coverage, the reserve is lying in Shaoguan and Qingyuan cities north of Guangdong. It is the source of Beiji River—a branch of Pearl River. It is the distribution center of the sub-tropical broad-leaved evergreen forest where the boreal and austral creatures are mixed together. More than 300 bird species have been recorded in the reserve. We will spend three days birding in this fascinating birding site trying to find birds like Cabot's Tragopan, White-necklaced Partridge, Silver Pheasant, Greater Coucal, Lesser Coucal, Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo, Crested Serpent Eagle, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Chinese Sparrowhawk, Blue-throated Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Chinese Barbet, Crow-billed Drongo, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Pygmy Cupwing, Chestnut Bulbul, Mountain Bulbul, Sulphur-breasted Warbler, Mountain Tailorbird, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Golden Parrotbill, Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Small Niltava, etc.

Day 6: Nanling to Guangzhou, then fly to Sanya and drive to Jianfengling.

Today is a long day of travel. After breakfast in the hotel this morning, we will drive 3.5 hours to Guangzhou to catch our flight to Sanya of Hainan, and then drive about 1.5 hours to the Jianfengling area.

Day 7-9: Jianfengling National Forest Park.

Located in Ledong County, the southwest of Hainan Island, Jianfengling National Forest Park is 90 kilometers away from Sanya City. The park covers 1,600 hectares and was established in 1992 to preserve the rainforest and rare animals live there. It is the largest and most preserved tropical rainforest in China that is home to 215 species of birds. The birding tour to Jianfengling is highlighted by the Mingfenggu Valley section where has the most typical original tropical highland rainforest and is known for its variety of birds.

We will spend three days birding in Jianfengling trying to find birds including Hainan Partridge, Red Junglefowl, Silver Pheasant, Barred Cuckoo Dove, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Greater Coucal, Green-billed Malkoha, Crested Serpent Eagle, Crested Goshawk, Mountain Scops Owl, Collared Scops Owl, Brown Wood Owl, Chinese Barbet, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, White-winged Magpie, Indochinese Green Magpie, Ratchet-tailed Treepie, Sultan Tit, Hainan Leaf Warbler, Hartert's Leaf Warbler, Large Scimitar Babbler, Eyebrowed Wren Babbler, Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, etc.

Day 10: Jianfengling to Haiwei Wetland Park.

This morning we will have another chance to search for our targets again before driving to Haiwei Wetland Park. On the way, we will visit Black-faced Spoonbill Nature Reserve and look for some wetland birds including Black-faced Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilt, Grey Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Kentish Plover, Eurasian Curlew, Dunlin, Terek Sandpiper, Grey Heron, Great White Egret, Intermediate Egret, White-throated Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, etc.



Day 11: Haiwei Wetland Park to Haikou, and visit Dongzhai Harbour.

Haiwei Wetland Park is located on the west coast of Hainan, it is a flat and thick coastal beach which is a rare and well-protected wetland in Hainan that provides a good habitat for many wetland birds. Here, we will try to find Lesser Whistling Duck, Grey-headed Swamphen, Purple Heron, Chinese Pond Heron, Greater Coucal, Black-winged Kite, Western Osprey, Manchurian Bush Warbler, Dusky Warbler, etc.

After our exploration in the park, we will drive on and finish a 3-hour journey to Haikou and visit Dongzhai Harbour National Mangrove Nature Reserve. Dongzhai Harbor is located in the northeast of Hainan that has the largest mangrove forest in China. Here we have chance to find birds like Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Greater Coucal, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Ruff, Red-necked Phalarope, Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Black-collared Starling, White-shouldered Starling, Olive-backed Sunbird, etc.

Day 12: Haikou to Nanning by air, then drive to Nonggang.

After breakfast in the hotel, we will drive to Haikou Meilan International Airport to catch our flight to Nanning of Guangxi, then we drive about 3 hours to Nonggang.

Day 13 & 14: Nonggang National Nature Reserve.

Covering 10,077 hectares, Nonggang is located in Longzhou and Ningming counties. The reserve was established in 1979 and upgraded to a national level reserve in 1994. It is lying on the north edge of tropics; aims to protect rare and precious species and the habitats they depend on. The unique karst forest ecosystem makes Nonggang one of the 14 key regions of biodiversity protection in China.

There are 203 bird species that have been recorded in the reserve so far. The reserve is the best spot to try the new species of Nonggang Babbler that identified in 2008. Other birds we have good chances to see in this area including Bar-backed Partridge, Red Junglefowl, Greater Coucal, Green-billed Malkoha, Crested Honey-buzzard, Jerdon's Baza, Crested Serpent Eagle, Collared Scops Owl, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Dollarbird, White-browed Piculet, Bay Woodpecker, Long-tailed Broadbill, Blue-rumped Pitta, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Black-naped Monarch, Indochinese Green Magpie, White-winged Magpie, Golden-headed Cisticola, Puff-throated Bulbul, Black-crested Bulbul, Limestone Leaf Warbler, Pale-footed Bush Warbler, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Chestnut-capped Babbler, Large Scimitar Babbler, Spot-necked Babbler, Streaked Wren Babbler, White-rumped Shama, Hainan Blue Flycatcher, etc.

Day 15: Nonggang to Nanning.

Continue our exploration in Nonggang in the morning. After that, we will drive back to Nanning to have a nice stay.



Day 16: Departure from Nanning.

Following a lovely breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport to depart from Nanning. This will conclude the services for this scheduled itinerary from AlpineBirding.



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