



Birding and Tracking in Panda Habitat

13 Days Birding and Tracking in Panda Habitat

Mar 7-19, 2024



Outline

- Day 1: Chengdu, China
- Day 2: Chengdu / Qionglai Mountains
- Day 3-5: Qionglai Mountains
- Day 6: Qionglai Mountains / Minshan Mountains
- Day 7-11: Minshan Mountains
- Day 12: Minshan Mountains / Chengdu
- Day 13: Chengdu / Depart



Giant Panda



Overview

In distant Southwest China, hidden the mysterious kingdom of the wild panda. Although panda used to hold a much wider distribution, it now can only be found in Southwest China's Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu provinces, among them, over 70% of the wild pandas inhabit Sichuan—a place renowned for being the "Hometown of Giant Panda" and the "Land of Abundance".

This itinerary focuses on the panda habitat in the Minshan and Qionglai mountains, two of the six mountain ranges of wild panda habitat, in which we can explore the habitat and learn the ecology and life of the panda.

Panda is known as an "umbrella species" in conservation, which means by protecting panda, a lot of its companion animals and floras also get protected. Exploring the habitat, we can also expect some exciting mammals, birds, floras, etc.



Highlights

1. Tracing wildlife in reliable panda habitats with nice opportunities for panda's companion animals.



2. We run the trip in the best season when pandas and their companion animals are during mating season and more active.
3. An experienced and professional wildlife guide that has guided this trip many times ensures you a lifetime traveling experience.
4. A small group size of no more than 8 travelers.
5. Years of working as a local partner for some prestigious western companies specialized in birds and wildlife.
6. A strong logistic team in the office to ensure our trip goes smoothly and every participant has a comfortable and memorable journey.

Tour Info Sheet

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Highlight Birds | Golden Pheasant, Blood Pheasant, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Spectacled Parrotbill, Fulvous Parrotbill, Great Parrotbill, Collared Grosbeak, White-winged Grosbeak, Goldcrest, Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush, Giant Laughingthrush, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Barred Laughingthrush, White-throated Laughingthrush, Rufous-capped Babbler, Sooty Tit, etc. |
| Numbers of Species to Expect | 150-200 |
| Ease of Birding | moderate with a few tricky species |
| Highlight Mammals | Red Panda, Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, Leopard Cat, Hog Badger, Takin, Tibetan Macaque, Reeves's Muntjac, Chinese Goral, Tufted Deer, Masked Palm Civet, etc. |
| Habitats Covered | subtropical forests |
| Expected Climate | cold at high elevation, rain is possible |
| Physical Requirements | moderate to demanding |



Map



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Chengdu, China.

On the first day of the tour, a private guide or driver will meet you at the airport. Then, you will be transferred 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: Chengdu to Qionglai Mountains.

We will visit Chengdu Botanical Garden before venturing into panda habitats. Chengdu Botanical Garden is considered one of the best city parks for birding due to its big diversity of flora and high forest coverage. We can find some urban and special resident birds here, including Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Chinese Bulbul, White-browed Laughingthrush, Red-billed Leiothrix, Japanese White-eye, Chinese Blackbird, Chinese Grosbeak, Collared Finchbill, Long-tailed Shrike, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Hoopoe, etc.

Following the exploration, we will drive on into Qionglai Mountains—the second largest wild panda habitat.

Day 3-5: Qionglai Mountains.

Greeted by the vernal breeze, the spring of the Qionglai Mountains starts in March when pandas become more socially active. As pandas keep a solitary life, we can barely see them during other seasons. We will explore the habitat with great patience as we have chances to encounter them when they travel for partners. The other strategy is to wait at certain spots that we spotted pandas in our previous tours.



Red Panda

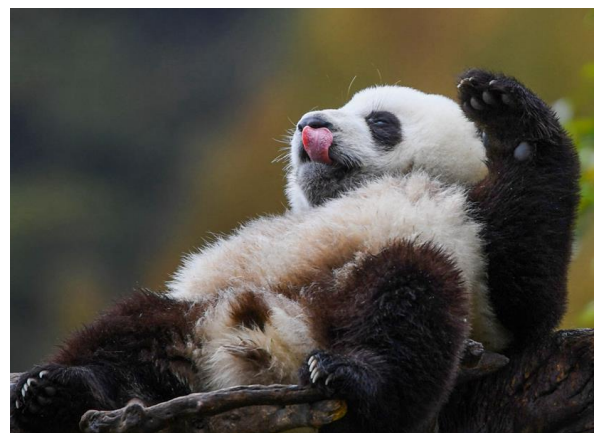
When exploring the panda, we will get to see some of the panda's companion animals including the gorgeous Red Panda, Chinese Goral, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Great Parrotbill, etc.

Day 6: Qionglai Mountains to Minshan Mountains.

Today, we will transfer to the Minshan Mountains—the largest wild panda habitat to continue our exploration. As the two mountain ranges are located in different directions, we can expect some different exciting species.

Day 7-11: Minshan Mountains.

Depending on how we do with our targets, we may plan some trekkings inside the habitat where dense bamboos filled the understory. Walking through the dense habitat can be bothering sometimes, but it gives us chances to observe wildlife from a closer distance. In this area, we can expect mammals like Takin, Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, Tibetan Macaque, Chinese Goral, Reeves's Muntjac, etc.



Giant Panda

Besides, birding is also exciting here as we can expect species like Golden Pheasant, Rufous-capped Babbler, Barred Laughingthrush, White-throated Laughingthrush, Spectacled Parrotbill, Sooty Tit, etc.



Golden Pheasant

Day 12: Minshan Mountains to Chengdu.

We can spend more time in the habitat if needed, otherwise, we will dive back to Chengdu. We will have the far-famed Sichuan Hotpot for dinner tonight.

Day 13: Departure from Chengdu.

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



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