

WILD ABOUT TRAVEL - INDIA



Ref: B1

Budget Birding at Bharatpur (with Chambal visit)

Best time to visit: November – February. *The perfect introductory tour for birdwatchers, wildlife enthusiasts and photographers alike - extensions available*

9 days Delhi – Bharatpur (with day trip to the Chambal River) – Delhi

Visits to the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri and Deeg can easily be incorporated. Tour extensions and full version of this itinerary are available on website.

Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary is a magical place. In years of good rain the Park is alive with the sights and sounds of thousands of birds. Watch raucous breeding colonies of storks and herons, Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas trotting over the floating vegetation and Sarus Cranes as they take huge strides across the marsh. If water levels are right, your guide might be able to show you Black Bittern and the attractive Greater Painted Snipe. Indian Courser and Yellow-wattled Lapwing are often seen outside the Sanctuary. Several mammals live here, including Sambar deer and Nilgai antelope. As the sun sets, the sounds of Dusky Eagle-owls, Nightjars and Jackals will accompany you back to the Park gates.



Sarus Crane ©

Itinerary

Day 1: Flight (excluded but easily booked via the internet or a travel agent)

Day 2: Delhi – Bharatpur

You will be welcomed at Delhi International Airport by our representative and taken to Bharatpur (5 hrs). Check in at your hotel, perfectly located close to the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary entrance gate. Relax for remainder of day at your hotel. (L) (D)

Day 3, 4 and 5: Bharatpur

After an early breakfast leave with your experienced bird guide for a full day inside Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. A cycle rickshaw drop and pick up once each day is included in the price to help you get to the heart of the wetland and woodland areas more quickly. Wildlife will be apparent straight away. You may see Spotted Owlet and perhaps even Indian Scops Owl before you reach the main wetland areas! Indian and Oriental Magpie Robins, Pied Bushchats and Bluethroats hop around the edge of the track with White-breasted Waterhens. Grey and Large-tailed Nightjars are seen in the tree nursery with Orange-headed Thrush. With so many confiding species it's the perfect location for photographers. Siberian Rubythroat is much more skulking, but sometimes seen with more searching effort. Packed lunch can be eaten inside the park to keep you in the best habitats. Bharatpur has experienced several years of drought recently but, despite this, the diversity of species is amazing even though numbers of waterbirds drops significantly. You can often see cranes, pelicans, night-herons and ibises in the area around the Temple. You'll explore dry arid scrub and grassland areas where you could see Baya Weaver and their intricate hanging nests and perhaps even Red Avadavat. Common raptors include Crested Serpent-eagle, Black

Kite, Black-winged Kite, Oriental Honey-buzzard and Shikra. Return to your hotel each evening satisfied with what you have seen. (B) (PL) (D)

Day 6: Bharatpur – Chambal – Bharatpur

The journey to the National Chambal Sanctuary (with guide accompanying) will take about 1½ hours. Here the rare Gangetic River Dolphin breeds in the clear waters. Gharial bask alongside Marsh Crocodile. On a river-safari see these animals and much more including Indian Skimmer, Small Pratincole, Black Ibis and Greater Thick-knee. Then either spend some time exploring local arid areas, or leave to visit the Taj Mahal in Agra (entrance and monument guide on direct payment). (B) (PL) (D)

Day 7: Bharatpur

Today check outside of the Sanctuary for Greater Painted Snipe, Indian Courser and Yellow-wattled Lapwing. Also scan the skies for Indian Spotted, Greater Spotted, Tawny, Bonelli's and Short-toed Eagles and, as the day draws to an end, definitely experience for one last time a view of the noisy stork and egret colonies with the sunset as a glorious back drop. (B) (PL) (D)

Day 8: Bharatpur - Delhi

Enjoy a final morning inside the sanctuary with your guide. You will now be familiar with the calls of Coppersmith and Brown-headed Barbets, Rufous Treepie, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Black-rumped Flameback Woodpecker and Indian Peafowl. Head back to your hotel, say goodbye to your guide and enjoy lunch before heading back to Delhi (5 hrs, depending on traffic). Check in at hotel in Delhi close to the airport. (B) (L)

Day 9: Delhi

On this day we have included a departure transfer to the airport to connect with your international flight home (to be booked by you directly). (B)

Tour ends.



Dusky Eagle-owl © R Thomas



Siberian Rubythroat (left) and Yellow-footed Green-pigeon (right)
© C Bradshaw

Price per person (valid till 31 March 2012) on twin-share basis for two travelling: £610, for three travelling: £550 *, for four travelling: £430 Single Room supplement: £105. * Single room supplement to be applied for extra room. Deluxe and luxury options are available on request. Full itinerary is available on website. The booking of this itinerary is with Wild About Travel and their booking conditions apply.

Price includes:

Accommodation and meals as per itinerary. Air-conditioned vehicle for transfers. Cycle rickshaw to drop you inside Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary and return you back to hotel (once a day). Experienced bird guide for 5½ days (Bpur and Chambal). 3 hour boat safari on the Chambal River at Dholpur (entry fee included).

Price excludes:

International flights. Tourist visa and travel insurance. Meals not listed. Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary & Taj Mahal entry fees (£7 p.p. & £10 per p.p. entry). Camera / camcorder fee where not included in park/monument entrance fee. Any expenses of a personal nature such as hard/soft drinks.

Call or email Wild About Travel and we would be happy to assist. Tel: +44 (0)1480 370593 Mobile: +44 (0)7817 574235

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