



Guided Birding
Tour
VANGHAT
4 Nights & 5 Days

Himalayan rubythroat
(*Calliope pectoralis*)
Georgina Steytler

Guided Birding Tour - Vanghat

Landscape

Broad-leafed & riverine hill forest and river valleys of Vanghat - Ramganga Valley – Kosi Valley – adjoining hills.

Best Time

November till May.

Birds Expected

Ibisbill, Collared falconet, White tailed Rubythroat, Common green Magpie, Wallcreeper, Indian Pitta, Long Tailed Broadbill, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Lesser and Pallas's Fish Eagle, Brown & Tawny Fish Owl etc.

Mammals Expected

Ghoral Goat Antelope, Indian Crested Porcupine, Common Smooth coated Otter, Barking and Sambhar Deer, Himalayan Langurs, Numerous Bat Species and Asian Elephant etc.

DAY 01, 02, 03 & 04: VANGHAT



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Overview

Geographically hemmed between the Himalayan foothills and the Indo-Gangetic plains, the Corbett area along with the adjoining hills and the wetlands is definitely one of the richest bird habitats of Asia and boasts a bird count of over 600 species including long distance and altitudinal migrants. Our birding tour covers the diverse habitats of grasslands, broadleaf tropical forest, riverine and high-altitude forest of conifers and oak with a backdrop of the mighty Himalayas. Birdwatchers will encounter Pale-arctic and altitudinal migrants like Siberian Rubythroat, Ibisbill and Wallcreeper, whereas summer visitors (April - September) will encounter Cuckoos, Indian & Hooded Pittas and the gregarious Chestnut-tailed Starling.

Accompanied by experienced guides you spend the maximum time in the field rather than travelling from lodge to bird sites and so forth. This tour aims to base you at all birding spots of the area, ensuring that your birding starts the moment you wake up, and you fall asleep to the calls of Owls or Thick-knees.



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Long- tailed Broadbill,
(*Psarisomus dalhousiae*)
Kalyan Singh Sajwan



Arm chair birding
Sunal Kumar

Operational Itinerary

DAY 01:

Where

Vanghat – Ramganga Valley

Detail

Arrive at Marchula. Waiting birding guides and porters guide you over a hike of 1.8 km; this hike itself will offer us views of numerous Birds of prey this valley is famous for.

As we approach the banks of the Ramganga River, Crested Kingfishers and Lesser & Pallas's Fish Eagles greet us. As bamboo raft ferries you across to remote Vanghat, Plumbeous and White Capped Water Redstarts, Brown Dipper & Wallcreeper are seen frequently.



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Our birding lodge Vanghat is nestled deep in the awe -inspiring Ramganga valley exclusively crafted for birders, wildlife and nature enthusiasts. The enviable location of the lodge affords long walks in the wild country and unexplored territories.

The rich riverine habitat of the Ramganga, surrounded by broad -leafed forested hills and proximity to higher hills will reveal an exceptional variety of bird life. Birders will find it a privilege to be able to walk in this rich bird habitat. From the thatched dining area at a vantage point one is able to spot gems like Pallas's and Lesser Fish Eagles, and Great Hornbills flying over the lodge provide a delightful sight. Slaty -headed Parakeets, Gold-fronted Leafbird and Spot-winged Starling abound in the giant Silk Cotton trees that dominate the lodge. Probing bushes close by will reveal White-tailed Rubythroat, Bluethroat and the vocal Scimitar Babbler. Moist undergrowth will be investigated for Chestnut-headed Tesia & the Nepal Wren Babbler.

Overnight

Vanghat (L, D)



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Red-billed Leiothrix,
(*Leiothrix lutea*)
Kalyan Singh Sajwan

DAY 02 & 03:

Where	Vanghat – adjoining forests
Detail	<p>We continue our exploration of the birds and their habitats around the lodge. Brown Dippers and the Little Forktail breed close by and the beautiful Wallcreeper is regularly sighted. White -capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts and wagtails are common in winter. River Lapwings and Common Sandpipers are seen along with Ruddy Shelduck and sometimes Black Storks.</p> <p>Probing higher treeless ridges may reveal Mountain Hawk Eagle, Himalayan Griffon, and Red -headed Vultures, and often in the same party... Lammergeyer!</p>
Overnight	Vanghat (B, L, D)



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Tawny fish Owl,
(*Ketupa Flavipes*)
Kalyan Singh Sajwan



Ibisbill,
(*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*)
Christopher Mills

DAY 04:

Where

Vanghat - Kosi Valley & hills

Detail

Early morning drive to Kosi River in the quest of this coral red -billed Himalayan wader the mythical Ibisbill. Other birds that share this riverine landscape are Wallcreepers, Great Thick -knees, Pied and Crested Kingfishers. In such surroundings we shall have our picnic breakfast.

Later in the morning we will drive up to rich bird areas of Mohan, Kumeria with fair chances of seeing the fantastic Collared Falconet. Forest streams and brooks will have Spotted & Little Forktails and Chestnut Headed Tesias .

We will have hot organic lunch at the wonderful Pahari Organic before proceeding to the Kath - Ki Naula ridge at an altitude of about 2000 meters



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This pleasant hilly region covered with temperate forests of Oak and conifers with a backdrop of the higher Himalayas & open valleys, makes this an ideal landscape for altitudinal migrants and a wide array of resident birds. Chukar, Koklass & Khalij Pheasants, Crested Bunting & Upland Pipit could be spotted. Mature oak forests are good for Speckled Wood Pigeon, Rufous, Himalayan, Brown-fronted & Fulvous-breasted Woodpeckers and about 9 species of Tits including the not-so-common Fire-capped Tit. Flocks of Rufous Breasted Accentor are spotted at rocky outcrops. While returning to camp at dusk you have fair chances of seeing a Brown fish Owl, a Spotted Owlet & Mountain Scops Owl.

Overnight

Vanghat (B, L, D)



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Small Niltava,
(*Niltava macgrigoriae*)
Kalyan Singh Sajwan

DAY 05:

Where

Depart

Detail

Early morning spend time in the garden and close to lodge, just within the premises about 120 species have been spotted. Red-billed Leiothrix, White Tailed Rubythroat, Rusty cheeked Scimitar Babbler and Great Hornbill to name a few.

After hot breakfast depart for onward destination.

Overnight

N/A



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Envisaged:

- Vanghat – 04 Nights.

Cost inclusions:

- Accommodation for 04 nights at lodge mentioned above on twin share basis.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- 1 drive by open Gypsy for Kosi river for Ibisbill. (Upto 03 guests in 1).
- Service of English speaking local naturalist/guide for Vanghat & Kosi River.
- All applicable taxes at the time of quoting.



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Cost exclusions:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, tips, use of payable items in room mini bar, any kind of alcoholic non -alcoholic beverages (unless specified).
- Air Fare.
- Any jeep safari.
- Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
- Cost incurred in case of hospitalization or evacuation.
- Tips gratuities given to drivers/ guides, restaurant waiters etc.
- Please note that in case of any revision in government tax structure or substantial fuel hike we reserve the right to revise the tour cost. However, marginal difference will be absorbed by us.



Important:

- Itinerary order may change however number of days and general programme will remain the same



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BOOKING & CANCELATION POLICY

Booking Conditions:

- A 50% advance confirms your trip with us. Balance needs to be deposited at least 30 days before trip date.

Cancelation Policy:

- Less than 15 days before the arrival date - no refund
- Less than 20 days before the arrival date - 60% refund
- Less than 25 days before the arrival date - 75% refund
- No refund in case of road block, accident, no show etc



- ❖ The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credit will be given for services not used. We recommend that you obtain travel insurance upon booking.
- ❖ It is mandatory for guests to present valid photo identification at the time of check -in.
- ❖ The inclusion of extra bed with a booking is facilitated with a folding cot or a mattress as an extra bed.
- ❖ Early check-in or late check-out is subject to availability and may be chargeable by the lodge. The standard check -in time is 1 PM and the standard check-out time is 11 AM.
- ❖ The room tariff includes all taxes. The amount paid for the room does not include charges for optional services and facilities (such as room service, mini bar, snacks or telephone calls). These will be charged at the time of check -out.
- ❖ The hotel/lodge reserves the right of admission. Accommodation can be denied to guests posing as a couple if suitable proof of identification is not presented at check -in. Vanghat Lodge and associates will not be responsible for any check -in denied by the hotel/lodge due to the aforesaid reason.



Important Note:

In case of any revision in government tax structure or fuel prices, Vanghat reserves the right to revise the tour price. However, marginal revision in tour price will be absorbed by us.

Liabilities:

- We are not responsible for termination of tour or revision of itinerary in case of Force Majeure factors, where things are beyond our control, such as natural calamities, riots, political strikes, flight/train delay etc.
- We are not liable to pay any compensation for any unutilized services in case of termination of tour due to any Force Majeure factors.
- In any kind of Force Majeure factors we will look for the most suitable/ possible alternative services with consent of the clients or foreign associate. Any extra cost incurred for organizing alternative services would be debited to clients or the principal agents.



- In case of termination of tour mid -way due to any of the above factors retentions or penalties charged for unutilized services would be borne by the client or principal agents .

- ❖ To book the above tour, please write to Sumantha Ghosh at vanghat@gmail.com. We will be happy to tailor -make a bird tour to suit the number of days that you may have.
- ❖ Do write to us if you want us to pick you up from Delhi airport, make arrangements for accommodation in Delhi, taxi and organize guided tours in Delhi or Rajasthan.



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Wallcreeper,
(*Tichodroma muraria*)
Kevin Bartlett