

\*\*\* STOP PRESS\*\*\*

3 places available on Sandwich Bird Tours – GOA birds of the Western Ghats November 11-25<sup>th</sup> 2019 subject to flight and accommodation availability.  
£2090pp B&B basis including flights and local bird guide  
Hotel accommodation on the beach.

A two week birdwatching trip to Goa is a great introduction to the avian delights of the Indian sub continent. Weather conditions are usually warm, dry and sunny. So, with great food, a friendly atmosphere, a comfortable hotel on the beach and a two night stay up country for easy access to the forests we are likely to exceed 200 species.

Goa's infrastructure is well developed, making it easy to get around, and we expect our stay to be comfortable and enjoyable.

The tour will be led by Gary Stewart with Lloyd Fernandes our local bird guide. We have worked with Lloyd before and his experience and knowledge will be invaluable.  
Please note that food is quite cheap and excellent quality.

Despite being a fairly small region of India Goa boasts a huge variety of birds. Visiting all the best sites, we cover the full range of habitats available concentrating on many small, easily worked areas. There are approx 30 endemics within the Western Ghats, alongside many regional specialities and near-endemics.

Our target species include Malabar Whistling Thrush, Malabar Barbet, White-bellied Blue Flycatcher, Malabar Trogon, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Blue-capped Rock Thrush, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Crimson-fronted Barbet, Black-rumped Flameback, Verditer Flycatcher, Asian Fairy Bluebird and Golden-fronted Leafbird to name but a few.

Asian migrants including Citrine Wagtail, Greenish and Paddyfield Warbler, Bluethroat (red-spotted race) and several species of pipit may be found along with up to eight species of Kingfisher and three species of Bee-eater. Coastal wetlands hold Terek and Marsh Sandpiper, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser and Greater Sandplover while the beautiful Painted Snipe may also feature on our list.

Other species of interest may include Indian Scops Owl, Indian Scimitar Babbler, Indian Pitta, Jerdon's Nightjar, Vigor's Sunbird amongst many others.

Itinerary for Goa trip from 11/11 to 23/11 November 2019.  
All start times are planned for 06.30 unless otherwise stated.

**Day 01 11/11 Carambolim Lake and Fields.**

This is a fantastically bird rich area. Today we will be taking in the lake and the woods but concentrating most of our efforts on the marsh area.

**Day 02 12/11 Socorro Plateau.**

For forest birds such as the Leaf birds, Treepies, Orioles, Munias, Barbets, Plum-headed Parakeet, Bulbuls, Koels, Starlings, Doves, Jungle Babblers, Peafowls, Blue tailed Bee-eaters, Woodpeckers, Sunbirds, Small minivets, Racket tailed drongos and if we're lucky Orange breasted green pigeons. We then call in at Paithona stream and Pilerne lake for Kingfishers, Storks, Bronze winged jacanas, Herons, Shrikes, Swallows, Indian rollers, Black-shouldered kites, and Harriers. PM Saligoa Spring.

**Day 03 13/11 Morjim Beach and Siolim Fields.**

Barred Buttonquails are regular at this site but Gull and Terns will be the order of this trip. Looking east from the causeway at Siolim Rice Fields its possible to see hundreds of herons and Open-billed Storks. This area is worth checking for flocks of Little Pratincole too.

**Day 04 14/11 Arpora Woods and Baga Fields.**

Although the habitat is marginal, this productive wood is well worth a dawn visit. A number of interesting species, including Jungle Owlet, Indian Scops Owl, Malabar Whistling Thrush, Orange-headed Thrush and Asian Palm Swift have been recorded here. PM Divar Island. Smaller and quieter than neighbouring Chorao, Divar has a more pastoral atmosphere and offers a good selection of species. The dry fields and woodland surrounding villages host much the same species as those found on Chorao, but some interesting birds do turn up here and we are likely to see a number of larks and pipits, various waders and raptors but is most popular for its regular evening passage of harriers flying to roost, Western Marsh-harriers, Montagu's and Pallid are all possibilities.

**Day 05 15/11 Shirgoa Marsh.**

We visit this site for the highly localised Red Avadavat and Tihazan Marsh.

**Day 06 16/11 Dona Paula Plateau and Santa Cruze Fields am, Socorro Plateau for Nightjars pm.**

This area has a good mixture of wetlands that can be great for waders, herons, cormorants etc If the water levels are right, these rice paddies can be teeming with waders, On the other side of the path is a tidal creek good for Prinias and Warblers

**Day 07 17/11 Boat Trip am, Neura Marsh pm.**

Looking for two otherwise difficult kingfishers – Black-capped and Collared, we could potentially see 4 other species of kingfisher and our guide along with the boatman will try to find other species such as storks, herons and eagles sitting in the riverside trees. Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

**Day 08 18/11 Tambdi Surla Temple.**

The open area immediately around the temple will have a few interesting birds but the main attraction is the river, the surrounding woodland and the nearby fields where key species such as Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, White-bellied Woodpecker and Jerdon's Nightjar are possible. PM. Night halt at Mollem. 5.30 am start.

**Day 09 19/11 Tambdi Surla.**

Am, Approach road PM, near Nature's Nest. Night halt at Mollem.

**Day 10 20/11 Bondla.**

and return to coast

**Day 11 21/11 Verna Plateau and Batim Lake.**

Easier to work than Carambolim and may actually provide better viewing, you can expect Lesser Whistling Duck, Cotton Pygmy-goose, Purple Swamphen and both jacanas here; Comb Duck, Spot-billed Duck and Darter are also possible and the nearby salt-pans can be good for waders.

**Day 12 22/11 Aguada Plateau and Pilerna Lake.**

Despite being very close to Calangute, this site is worth visiting to look for waterfowl and Yellow-wattled Lapwing, bitterns and Painted Snipe are also possible. PM Pilerna Plateau.

**Day 13 23/11 Carambolim Woods and Spice Plantation.**

Carambolim Wood is where most visiting birders get to see Brown Hawk Owl and Jungle Owlet.

**Day 14 24/11 Free day.**

Free to relax, swim, shop etc as our flight is 01.55 on the 25th.