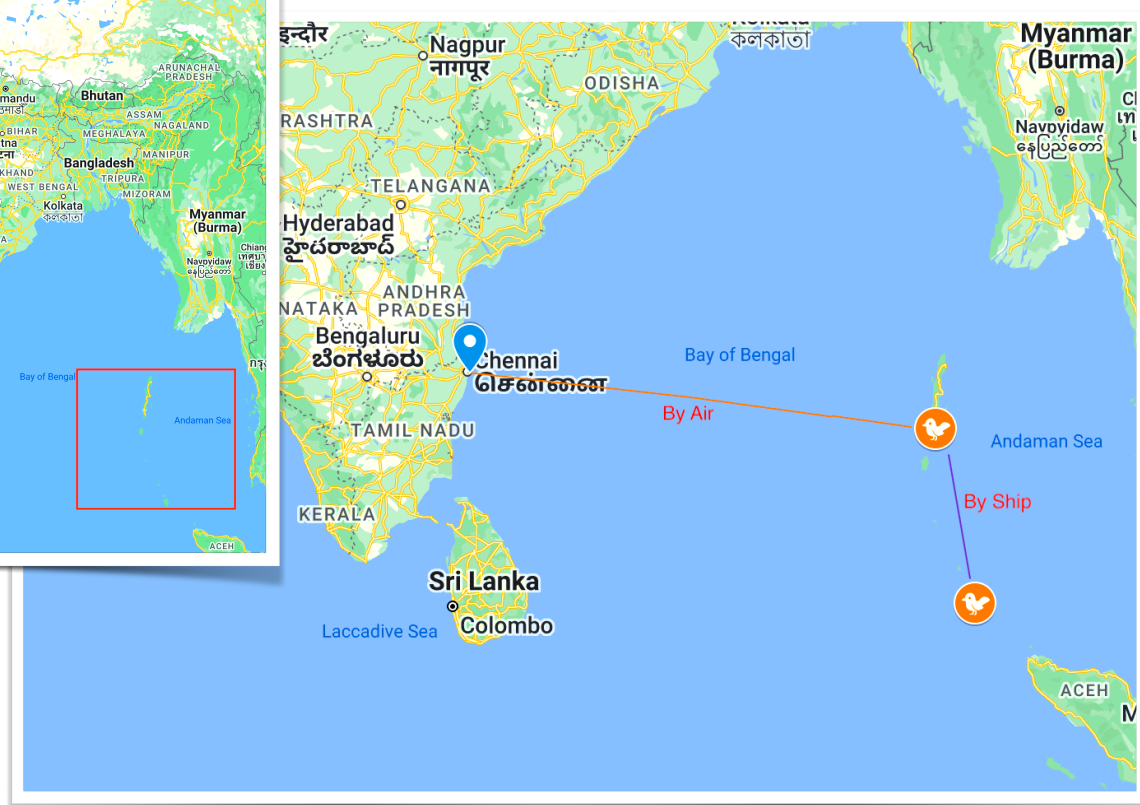


# Andaman & Greater Nicobar

## Birding/Photography Tour

12 Days





## ANDAMAN & NICOBAR BIRDING TOUR

When the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are known to the world as a destination to enjoy the sandy beaches while basking in the sun, only a few visit the islands to live in the birder's paradise it really is. With a distinct terrestrial eco-region and prolific tropical rainforests, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is home to a broad spectrum of breathtaking endemic species of birds and animals. The vegetation of the islands ranging from inland grasslands and coastal mangrove forests to evergreen and deciduous tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests, hosts diverse varieties of birds, making it an enthralling experience for birding enthusiasts. Word has it that the islands are home to over 270 species of birds, including endemic and migratory birds. Every year, numerous species of birds flock to these enchanted islands, where birdwatchers experience one of the most blissful times of their lifetimes.

### DAY 1: Port Blair

Our 12 day-long Andaman and Nicobar Birding expedition will start from Port Blair, the capital city of the Andaman Islands. After you arrive at Port Blair on the morning flight, our guide will meet your guide to ferry you to the hotel or begin birding right away. We will bird around the tropical moist evergreen forest of Chidiya Tapu Reserve Forest. We stand fat chances to spot the Andaman Woodpecker, Andaman Wood Pigeon,

Andaman Cuckoo Dove, Andaman Crane, Andaman Serpent Eagle, Andaman Coucal, Andaman Flowerpecker, Andaman Treepie, Andaman Drongo, Andaman Bulbul, Andaman Shama, Andaman White-headed Starling, Andaman Green Pigeon, Black-naped Oriole, Orange-headed Thrush, Olive-backed Sunbird, Alexandrine Parakeet, Red-breasted Parakeet, long-tailed Parakeet, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Dollarbird, Collared Kingfisher and many more. We will then head back to the hotel for lunch and drive to Mount Harriet National Park or nearby areas to spot night birds like Andaman Scops Owl, Andaman Hawk Owl, Oriental Scops Owl (Andaman Race) and Hume's Owl.

### **DAY 2: Port Blair**

On the following morning, we drive towards Ferrargunj Forest Reserve, looking for Andaman Teal, Andaman Drongo, Andaman cuckoo shrike, the Edible nest Swiftlet, and the remaining endemics and some other non-endemic species. We head back to the hotel by noon for lunch and visit Sippy Ghat to look for some waders and night birds around Chidiya Tapu.

### **DAY 3 & 4: Ship to Nicobar**

On the third day, we sail to Great Nicobar. The voyage will take almost two days, with the destination of Great Nicobar being a dream destination for birders, worth all the efforts.

### **DAY 5,6,7,8: Nicobar**

We will spend the next four days exploring Great Nicobar and especially looking for Nicobar Endemics and near-endemics in the area.

Target species: Nicobar Serpent Eagle, Nicobar Imperial Pigeon, Nicobar Megapode, Nicobar Scops owl, Nicobar Pigeon, Nicobar Parakeet, Nicobar Jungle Flycatcher, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Hooded Pitta, Asian Glossy Starling (Nicobar Race ), Asian Koel (Nicobar Race) and more

Special Note: Infrastructure and facilities are very basic on this pristine island since the authorities have restricted many modern-day developments. We will stay in government-owned guest houses with limited facilities.

### **DAY 9: Ship to Port Blair**

On day 9, we will sail back to Port Blair in the morning.

### **DAY 10: Port Blair**

After reaching Port Blair by late evening, we will have some night-birding sessions in Chidiya Tappu.

### **DAY 11: Port Blair**



We drive to the Sholbay Forest (Mangrove Forest) area in the morning, hoping to spot the Ruddy Kingfisher and some other endemics and non-endemics. We will make a revisit in the afternoon to spot any missed endemics.

## **DAY 12: Port Blair**

After a brief and final birding session in the morning, we will proceed to the airport for departure.

Accommodation: Comfortable hotels in Andaman & Government guesthouses in Nicobar

**Best time to visit:** Jan to May

**Group size:** 6

**Accommodations:** Standard/Comfortable in Andaman, Government guest houses in Greater Nicobar.

## **Tour Cost : TBA**

**Please Note:** Remember to carry extra cash as sometimes, due to any unanticipated cancellation of the ship service, we would need to take an urgent Helicopter/Chopper facility. In that case, the ship fare will be refunded to you, and you can pay the additional Helicopter/Chopper charges to come back to Port Blair from Nicobar.

### *Disclaimer*

*This is an indicative itinerary. The Ground Operators will have the right and freedom to make any changes in the itinerary if they feel that such changes are required to have a productive and safe tour. Cancellation flights, ship cancellation, tribal disturbances etc, can also lead to altering the itinerary. No parties involved in this offer /tour guarantee sighting of any birds named in this itinerary. Participants are solely responsible for their health, personal safety and belongings.*