



Day 01:

ARRIVE MUMBAI- AHMEDABAD

*Itinerary specially created*

*For*

*- Birding Tour*

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**Flight**  
**Arrive Mumbai**

**TBA**  
**TBA Hrs**

**On arrival in Mumbai:** Company representatives cannot come into the baggage collection area. Having cleared immigration, collected your luggage and passed through customs, please make your way towards the exit of the terminal building where you will see a bank of people waiting for you. Amongst them will be a **Indian Wildlife Experiences Representative**, who will be waiting to greet you with a paging board with your name on. Please note that the crowds can be enormous and it is possible that you may not spot our representative, despite their making every effort to be as visible as possible, so please keep an eye out for them.

Your travel documents will be issued in India and will be given to you on arrival.

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your airport to board the flight to Ahmedabad.

**Flight**  
**Departs Mumbai**  
**Arrive Ahmedabad**

**6E - 243**  
**1745 Hrs**  
**1905 Hrs**

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Arrive and check in at the hotel.

**Overnight is at The Gateway Hotel, Ahmedabad [Standard Room with Breakfast]**  
<http://www.thegatewayhotels.com/ummedahmedabad/about-ahmedabad.aspx>

**Day 02: AHMEDABAD – LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Little Rann of Kutch [**Approx. 130 Kms- 03 Hours**].

On reaching, check in to the hotel.

Later after lunch you will enjoy an **afternoon Safari**.

**The sanctuary** is known for its herds of the handsome chestnut brown Asiatic wild ass, which is the last of India's wild horse family, does not survive elsewhere in Indian lowlands, but also supports a thriving population of gazelle, blue bull, wolf, and Indian foxes, jackal, jungle cat, hare and birds from the houbara bustard, spotted & Indian sandgrouse, francolin partridge, bustard quails, desert wheatear, desert larks, steppe eagle, imperial eagle, short toed eagle, 4 species of vulture, laggar falcon, flamingoes, pelicans, ducks, cranes and storks.

**Overnight is at the Rann Riders, Little Rann of Kutch [Standard Room with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]**  
<http://www.rannriders.com/>

**Day 03 - 04: LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, enjoy a walking tour around the resort.

With its **small lake and extensive fields**, **Rann Riders** offers **good birding at the resort itself**. Grey and pond herons, egrets, pied and white-breasted kingfishers, spotbill, nakta (comb duck), saras cranes and other birds can be seen at the waterfront. The bushes are also rich in birds and shikra hawks have been seen perched on the trees at the resort. The resort is also a roosting spot for rosy pastor (rose-coloured starling).

**The trees** also provide suitable nesting areas for ibises, egrets and pond herons to breed.

**The Little Rann of Kutch** is a birding paradise and has been declared a **Ramsar Site**. **During the safaris** in the Rann expect to see **large flocks of larks**, and **other dryland birds** like sandgrouse, coursers, plovers, chats, warblers, babblers, shrikes. Among the many winter visitors are the houbara bustard and spotted sandgrouse.



The best birding is **at the lakes and marshes in and around the Rann** where birds gather in numbers beyond comprehension during the winter months from October to March. These are the months when **demossile and common cranes** are seen in incredibly large numbers. The wetlands also attract flamingos, pelicans, storks, ibises, spoonbill, a variety of ducks and other waterfowl.

The Rann is also the hunting ground of **raptors** like the short-toed eagle, aquila eagles, six species of falcon, buzzards and three species of harrier. It is one of the few places where harriers can be seen roosting on open-ground at night.



Rann Riders is the base to visit the bird-rich **Nawa Talao lake**, a number of seasonal wetlands near Dasada, the village lake of Dasada, the wetland near Patdi fort, Viramgam town lake and many reservoirs of Surendranagar district that offer good winter birding opportunities. Birds like rose-coloured starling and green pigeon are often seen at Dasada village.

In the monsoon months of July, August and September, lesser florican visits the grasslands of **Surendranagar District** to breed and the vegetation around the wetlands becomes the breeding area for painted storks, several species of resident ducks and other waterfowl. Lesser flamingo breeding colonies have been recorded and photographed in the Little Rann of Kutch during these months.

**Overnight is at the Rann Riders, Little Rann of Kutch [Standard Room with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]**

<http://www.rannriders.com/>

**Day 05:****LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH - AHMEDABAD - MUMBAI**

Early morning, visit the **Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary** [Approx. 44 kms / 1 hr]

**Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary** is 105 sq km sanctuary comprising a large lake and its surrounds. Nalsarovar is renowned as one of the finest birding places in Western India. Besides the extensive variety of birds seen in large flocks at the lake, and their predators like the marsh harrier and fishing eagles, visitors can also watch passerine birds at the neighbouring bushes, grasslands and fields. Saras cranes are a frequent sighting in the fields around Nalsarovar.



Return back to the hotel by noon.

**Later get transferred to the Ahmedabad airport to board the flight to Mumbai.**

**Flight****Departs Ahmedabad****Arrive Mumbai****G8 - 370****2045 Hrs****2205 Hrs**

On arrival at Mumbai, you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

**Overnight is at the Kohinoor Continental, Mumbai [Standard Room with Breakfast]**

<http://www.hotelkohinoorcontinental.com/>

**Day 06:****MUMBAI - COCHIN - THATEKKAD**

Early in the morning you will be met and transferred to the Mumbai airport to board the flight to Nagpur.

**Flight****Departs Mumbai****Arrive Cochin****6E 413****0635 Hrs****0815 Hrs**

On arrival, you will be met and driven to Thattekkad [Approx.50 Kms-01 Hr] and check in.

Enjoy an afternoon **bird watching tour at Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.**

**Overnight is at the Hornbill [Standard Tent with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]**

[http://www.hornbillcamp.in/about\\_us.html](http://www.hornbillcamp.in/about_us.html)

**Day 07 - 08:****THATEKKAD**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, enjoy a full day birding tour at the **sanctuary and at the Edamalayar forest.**

**The Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary**, covering an area of barely 25 km<sup>2</sup>, and located about 12 km



from Kothamangalam (Kerala state, India), was **the first bird sanctuary** in Kerala. **Salim Ali**, one of the best known ornithologists described this sanctuary as the **richest bird habitat** on peninsular India. **Thattekkad** literally means flat forest, and the region is an evergreen low-land forest located between the branches of Periyar River, the longest river in Kerala.

**The Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary** has a rich and varied birdlife. Several species of birds, both forest birds as well as the water birds, visit the sanctuaries, and the important ones include the following:

**The Indian Pitta**, which visits the sanctuary during winter and spends almost six months here.

- Orange-headed Thrush
- Large-billed Leaf-warbler
- Jerdon's Nightjar
- Indian Cuckoo
- Oriental Darter
- Cormorants
- Whiskered Terns
- Collared Scops Owl
- Ceylon Frogmouth
- Pompadour Green Pigeon
- Yellow-browed Bulbuls



The sanctuary is a habitat for **different varieties of cuckoos** and a region of the sanctuary popularly called "**Cuckoo Paradise**" is home to them, among which are the:

- Drongo Cuckoo, which may be easily mistaken for Drongo,
- Indian Hawk Cuckoo, which is highly vocal, and the
- Large Hawk Cuckoo, which looks relatively massive compared to other types of cuckoos, and is characterized by a dark grey and heavily streaked throat.



**The Edamalayar forest** is located about 15 km from Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary. This is also an evergreen forest located above the Edamalayar River.



The **Mountain Hawk Eagles** are found in this forest. Other birds in this forest include Dark-fronted Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, Brown-backed and White-rumped Needletails, and Emerald Green Pigeons.

**Overnight is at the Hornbill [Standard Tent with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]**

[http://www.hornbillcamp.in/about\\_us.html](http://www.hornbillcamp.in/about_us.html)

**Day 09:**

**THATEKKAD - THEKKADY**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, drive to Thekkady [**Approx. 130 kms / 4.5 hrs**].

On arrival at Periyar, check in to the hotel.

Enjoy a walk around the resort. Evening at leisure.

**Overnight is at the Cardamom County [Cottage with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]**

<http://raxacollective.com/cardamom/>



**Day 10 - 11:**

**THEKKADY**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, enjoy a **morning boat safari** at the Periyar Lake.

**Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** is

a protected area in the districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta in Kerala, India. It is notable as an elephant reserve and a tiger reserve. The protected area covers an area of 925 km<sup>2</sup> (357 sq mi).

350 km<sup>2</sup>(140 sq mi) of the core zone was declared as the Periyar National Park in 1982.

The park is often called the **Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary or Thekkady**. It is located high in the Cardamom Hills and Pandalam Hills of the southern Western Ghats along the border with Tamil Nadu.

**Flora:** The park is made up of tropical evergreen and moist deciduous forests, grasslands, stands of eucalyptus, and lake and river ecosystems. There are many hundreds of flowering plant taxa, including about 171 species of grass and 140 species of orchids. The park is surrounded by agricultural



regions, especially plantations of such crops as tea, cardamom, and coffee.

**Fauna:**

**Mammals** - There are 35 species of mammals recorded in the park, including many threatened species. It is an important tiger and elephant reserve. A total of 24 Bengal tigers were counted across 640 square kilometers of the park in 2008. It is valuable for Indian elephant. Other mammals include the gaur, sambar, wild pig, Indian giant squirrel, Travancore flying squirrel, jungle cat, sloth bear, Nilgiri tahr, lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Salim Ali's fruit bat, stripe-necked mongoose, and Nilgiri marten.

**Birds**- About 265 species of birds can be seen in the park, including migrants. Endemic birds include the Malabar Grey Hornbill, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Blue-winged Parakeet, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Crimson-backed Sunbird, and White-bellied Blue Flycatcher. Other birds include the Black Baza, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl, Nilgiri Thrush, Little Spiderhunter, Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Great Hornbill, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Oriental Darter, and Black-necked Stork.



Later enjoy a 4 to 5 km hike through diverse habitats of the reserve. This **half day outing** offers an excellent opportunity to watch birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

In the afternoon enjoy another afternoon **boat safari** at the Periyar Lake.

**Overnight is at the Cardamom County [Cottage with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]**

<http://raxacollective.com/cardamom/>

**Day 12:**

**THEKKADY - COCHIN**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast at the hotel, get driven to Cochin [Approx. 160 kms / 4.5 hrs]

On arrival you will be transferred to the hotel for check in.

Later, enjoy a **half day city tour** of Cochin followed by a **Kathakali Dance Show** in the evening.



**Overnight at Old Harbour Hotel, Fort Kochi [Standard Room with Breakfast]**

<http://www.oldharbourhotel.com/>

**Day 13:**

**DEPART COCHIN**

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After breakfast, you will be transferred to Cochin airport to board flight for your onward journey.

**Flight**  
**Departs Cochin**

**TBA**  
**TBA**

**[End of Services]**