

*Birds & Paradise
West Sikkim*

07 Nights / 08 Days





01

Bagdogra to Hilley (9000 fts/140 kms/6 hrs)

A gateway to Barsay Rhododendron sanctuary is a small village at 9000 fts and offers quite mesmerizing views of the surroundings. With few numbers of homestay, this place is also a starting point to the trek to Phoktay Dara-Singalila range to Uttaray on the other side of the western part of Sikkim. Rich in bio-diversity, the place offers a numerous advantage for the wildlife habitat to make it their home and many species of birds to nest.

Overnight stay in the Homestay at Hilley.

02

Birding at Barsay Rhododendron sanctuary

The Barsay Rhododendron Sanctuary is home to silver fir, hemlock, magnolia and the rhododendron and also considered one of the favorite sites to go for a bird watching where in the month of September sighting of huge gathering of Rose finches like Common Rose finches, Dark-breasted Rose finch, White-Browed Rose finch and even Beautiful Rose finch. Other birds to look out for in this sanctuary are the magnificent Spotted Laughing thrush, few species of Parrot bills, Small Beautiful Fire-capped Tit, Species of Short wings like White- Browed and Lesser Short wings, Kalij Pheasants and Satyr Tragopan. The chances of seeing the state animal of Sikkim Red Panda is also high in this sanctuary.

Overnight stay at the Guras kunj at Barsay.

03

Excursion/Birding - Hilley

The day is scheduled to walk back to Hilley through the same trail which is just 04 kms from Barsay and the trail is through the rich forest of silver fir, hemlock, magnolia and the rhododendron, offers a grand chances to sight many more species of birds around. Upon reaching Hilley, check into the homestay, refresh and have lunch. After lunch, can opt to go for a walk to sight few more birds. Overnight stay at Homestay.

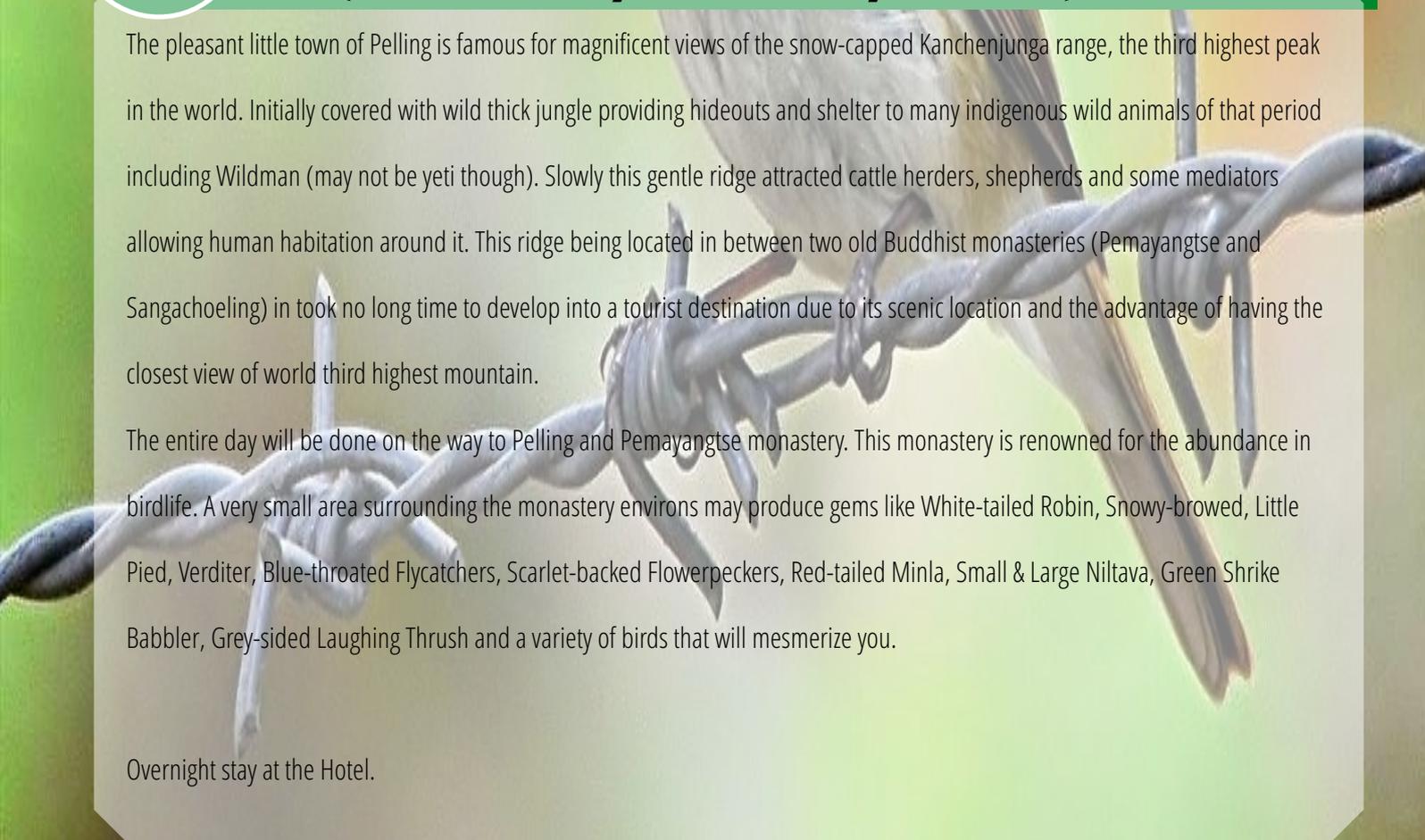
**04**

Hilley-Pelling (6250 fts/93 kms/4 hrs)

The pleasant little town of Pelling is famous for magnificent views of the snow-capped Kanchenjunga range, the third highest peak in the world. Initially covered with wild thick jungle providing hideouts and shelter to many indigenous wild animals of that period including Wildman (may not be yeti though). Slowly this gentle ridge attracted cattle herders, shepherds and some mediators allowing human habitation around it. This ridge being located in between two old Buddhist monasteries (Pemayangtse and Sangachoeling) in took no long time to develop into a tourist destination due to its scenic location and the advantage of having the closest view of world third highest mountain.

The entire day will be done on the way to Pelling and Pemayangtse monastery. This monastery is renowned for the abundance in birdlife. A very small area surrounding the monastery environs may produce gems like White-tailed Robin, Snowy-browed, Little Pied, Verditer, Blue-throated Flycatchers, Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers, Red-tailed Minla, Small & Large Niltava, Green Shrike Babbler, Grey-sided Laughing Thrush and a variety of birds that will mesmerize you.

Overnight stay at the Hotel.





05

Excursion / Birding

To-day we bird for the full day in the adjoining areas including visit to Pemayangtse and Sangachoeling Monasteries and birding in the Sidkyeong Tulku bird Sanctuary (Rabdentse Palace Jungle) which is named after one of the former king of Sikkim. Birds likely to sight are : Mountain Hawk Eagle, Black Eagle, Himalayan Griffon, Indian Cuckoo, White throated Needletail, Great Barbet, Grey headed and Bay Woodpecker, Lesser Yellow nape, Grey Tree pie, Striated Bulbul, Rufus capped and black chinned Babbler, Hoary throated and Rusty fronted Barwing, Striated, Rey sided and Greater Necklaced Laughing thrush, etc.

Overnight at the Hotel.

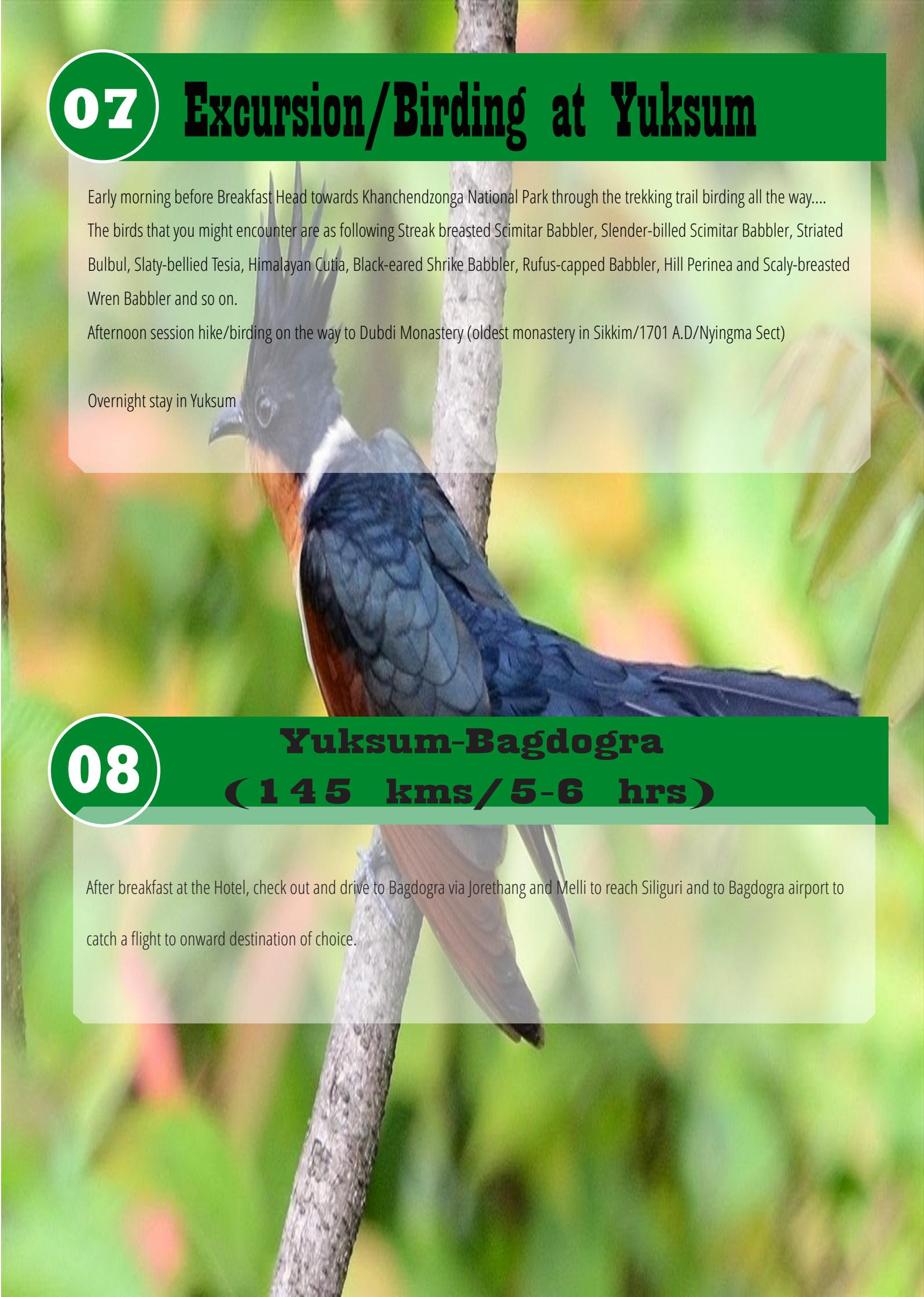
06

Pelling-Yuksum (5500 fts/34 kms/02 hrs)

Yuksum is the last town to the northwest of Sikkim; it is also the beginning of the popular Khanchendzonga trekking trail. Further, it was the first capital of the Kingdom of Sikkim established in the year 1641-42 A.D when the first Chogyal (King) was crowned and coronated by the three learned monks starting the Namgyal Dynasty of Sikkim who ruled this tiny Himalayan kingdom for 333 years ending in the year 1975 when the kingdom was merged to the Indian Union as the 22nd state.

The schedule of the day is to drive towards lower valley of Kewzing and Tashiding (02 hours straight drive) and full Day birding to look out for low altitude species like Sultan Tit, Streaked Spider hunter, White bellied Yuhina, Black-chinned Yuhina, Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrike, White-browed Peculate, Ashy Bulbul, Puff-throated Babbler, Long-tailed Broadbill, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Velvet fronted Nuthatch, Crested Kingfisher, Brown Dipper and Ibis bill, little fork tail in Rangit River and many more.

Overnight stay in Yuksum

A close-up photograph of a bird, likely a Himalayan monal pheasant, perched on a tree branch. The bird has a dark blue crest, a white collar around its neck, and a bright orange breast. Its wings and back are a deep blue. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

07

Excursion/Birding at Yuksum

Early morning before Breakfast Head towards Khanchenzonga National Park through the trekking trail birding all the way....

The birds that you might encounter are as following Streak breasted Scimitar Babbler, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Striated Bulbul, Slaty-bellied Tesia, Himalayan Cutia, Black-eared Shrike Babbler, Rufus-capped Babbler, Hill Perinea and Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler and so on.

Afternoon session hike/birding on the way to Dubdi Monastery (oldest monastery in Sikkim/1701 A.D/Nyingma Sect)

Overnight stay in Yuksum

08

Yuksum-Bagdogra (145 kms/5-6 hrs)

After breakfast at the Hotel, check out and drive to Bagdogra via Jorethang and Melli to reach Siliguri and to Bagdogra airport to catch a flight to onward destination of choice.