

# *Birds of Sikkim*

*07 Nights/08 Days*





## **NJP/ Bagdogra- Ravangla (7000 fts/125 kms/5 hrs)**

The drive is via Melli and is around 05 hrs to Ravangla which is in the South Sikkim is situated at an altitude of 7000 fts, located on a ridge between Maenam hill & Tendong hill. Ravangla attracts a lot of Himalayan birds and is a bird watcher's paradise. Birds like **verditer flycatchers, blue-fronted redstarts, grey bush chats, dark-throated thrush, blue whistling-thrush, green-backed tit and white-browed fantails** can be easily spotted.

The species sighted in the surrounding forest are as follows- Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Red headed Bullfinch, Lesser Short wing, White-browed Short wing, Indian Blue Robin, Red flanked Blue Tail, Large Niltava, Yellow billed Magpie, Fire tailed Sunbird, Fire Tailed Myzornis, Nepal House Martin and Fork-tailed Swift nesting on the rock slope at Damthang and many more birds.

Overnight stay at Hotel.



## **Hike/Birding at Maenam WLS**

Early morning after breakfast head via vehicle crossing Ravangla town and towards Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary entry gate (10 Kms/30 mins) [Maenam WLS has an altitudinal gradient ranging from 2300 m – 3263 m. The sanctuary is most famous for Satyr Tragopan (on the top of the hill) a rear Pheasant found in Eastern Himalayas, Fire tailed Myzornis, Rufus vented Tit, Grey Crested Tit, Rufus-fronted Tit, Green Shrike Babbler, Tibetan Siskin, Dark breasted Rose finch, White browed Rose finch, Scaly Laughing thrush, White collared Black Bird, Darjeeling woodpecker, Crimson breasted Woodpecker, Himalayan Cutia and many more. We will scan for the state animal of Sikkim Red Panda.

Time taken to reach the top –four to six hours - Pack -lunch will be served during the trek....After the lunch trek horizontal towards Bhaleydunga birding to find Satyr Tragopan...Once reaching Bhaleydunga trek back to Ravangla about two hours downhill.

Overnight stay at Hotel.



## Birding at Ravangla-Damthang road + Ralang

Full day birding in Ravangla-Damthang road.

Lunch at Ravangla. After lunch, excursion and birding in Ralang Road. Same species of birds are found here too.

Overnight stay at Hotel.



## Ravangla- Tashiding- Yuksum (5500 fts/58 kms/3 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



## Excursion/Birding at Yuksum

Early morning before Breakfast Head towards Khanchendzonga 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



## Yuksum- Pelling (6250 fts/34 kms/2 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 in Pelling.



## 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.



## Pelling-Bagdogra (140 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.