

Itinerary for Northeast India 2027 for Nigel Marven

17 April – 09 May

Day 01 Delhi - Guwahati - Nameri

Meals: Lunch and dinner

Upon arrival in Guwahati, you will be met outside Guwahati Airport by your bird guide for the duration of the tour and driven (6 hrs) to Nameri Eco Camp. **On the way to stop and look for the Greater Adjutants.**

Nameri is a scenic sanctuary on the border of the Assam Valley and mountainous Arunachal Pradesh. Target species here include the White-winged **Duck, Wreathed Hornbill, Ibisbill, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Long-tailed Broadbill, Green Cochoa, and Blyth's Kingfisher**, though some of these birds can be difficult to see. Other likely species include the green-billed **malkoha, sultan tit, wedge-tailed green pigeon, Asian fairy bluebird, vernal hanging parrot, and Siberian rubythroat**. Nameri is one of the best sites to see the capped langur. **Overnight at Nameri Eco Camp** in a permanent tent with an attached toilet and shower.

Meals: All meals are included from arrival today till breakfast on the last morning at Kaziranga.

Day 02 : Nameri

Spend the day exploring the local area. On this day you will trek in the forests in search of the white-winged **duck**. On the walk you will be accompanied by an armed guard, as Asian elephants, tigers, leopards, and gaur are present here but seldom seen. Expect to see **Abbott's Babbler, Striped Tit Babbler, Great Tit, White-tailed and Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, Little and Streaked Spiderhunters, and Lesser Racket-tailed and Hair-crested Drongos**. Also, it may be possible to go rafting (once) on the River Jai Bhoreli in search of **Ibisbill and Long-billed Plover**. You may also see **Pallas's fish eagle, lesser adjutant, and small pratincole**. **Overnight at Nameri Eco Camp** in a permanent tent with an attached toilet and shower.

Day 03: Nameri–Dirang

After some early morning birding around the camp (if required), you will drive onwards to the drier valleys of Dirang (**190 km / 7 hrs**), situated at an altitude of 1500 m, with birding en route. In the Dirang/Sangti Valley/Sela Pass areas one can see Black-necked Crane (Nov-Feb), Black-tailed Crake, Little Bunting, Hoary-throated Barwing, Nutcracker, Grandala, Long-billed Plover, Himalayan Monal, Blood Pheasant, Snow

Partridge, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Snowcock and Wallcreeper Overnight at **Mon Guest House**. There should be some time at the end of the day to pick up one or two local species in Sangti Valley. Note: The hotel is cold.

Day 04: Dirang - Sangti Valley

Spend the whole day birding in Sangti Valley and the adjoining area. In Sangti Valley you will look for the Black-necked Crane and Black-tailed Crane. Other species might include the Rufous-breasted Bush Robin, Red-flanked Bluetail, Hodgson's and Blue-fronted Redstarts, White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts, Striated Laughingthrush, Buff-breasted Babbler, Mountain Hawk Eagle, and Black Eagle. Time should allow a visit to the productive Mandala Road, where extra species might be added, such as the White-collared Blackbird, Ashy-throated, Lemon-rumped, Buff-barred, Grey-hooded, and White-spectacled Warblers, and Rufous-gorgetted and Slaty blue Flycatchers. Return to **Mon Guest House** for the night.

Day 05: Dirang - Sela Pass

Weather conditions permitting, you'll be taken up to Sela Pass. The journey is about 2 ½ hrs. Enjoy birding on the way up to Sela Pass itself (at 4500 m) and time at this higher altitude. Hopefully, weather permitting, there will be plenty to see along the way, including various rosefinches (dark-breasted, common, white-browed, and Blanford's), tits, laughingthrushes, and bush robins. Weather permitting, higher altitude species could include Grandala, Himalayan Monal, Snow Partridge, Blood Pheasant, and perhaps Solitary Snipe. You may also see Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, White-browed Bush Robin, White-throated Redstart, Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, Green Shrike-babbler, Chestnut-tailed and Red-tailed Minlas, Red-headed and Grey-headed Bullfinches, Gold-naped Finch, Brown-throated Fulvetta, and Whiskered Yuhina. While scanning the slopes for birds, you may come across mammals such as the Himalayan or grey goral and the bharal, or Himalayan blue sheep, though these are not easy to find, as they are still hunted for food. Overnight at **Mon Guest House**.

Day 06 and 07: Dirang – Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary – Lama Camp

On this day you will birdwatch on the journey to Eaglenest. There are several camps (all relatively close together), so you could stay at one of a couple of sites during your stay. Lama Camp is at a height of 2350 m and

is where the Bugun Liocichla was first discovered. A wide range of species can be seen locally, including the long-tailed thrush, red-headed and grey-headed bullfinches, and green shrike-babbler. The next few nights will be in fully serviced camps at **Eaglenest**.

Easy road access through the pristine and diverse montane forests of Eaglenest provides ample opportunities for some spectacular birding. The nights in Eaglenest will be spent in various campsites, which might include Lama, Ramaling, and/or Bonpu Camp. The use of jeeps provides a great deal of flexibility in choosing the altitudinal range to bird on any given day, depending on the weather conditions and our priorities. Eaglenest includes many sought-after species such as Ward's Trogon, Beautiful Nuthatch, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Bugun Liocichla, Blue-fronted Robin, Chestnut-breasted Hill-Partridge, Blyth's Tragopan, Temminck's Tragopan, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, various wren-babblers and parrotbills, Cutia, Pied Falconet, and Purple Cochoa, to name a few.

Mammals include the Asian elephant and Indian wild dogs. Signs could reveal the presence of lesser mammals such as the porcupine and yellow-throated marten, and with a lot of luck you may even see the red panda! There have been two sightings of the red panda in the recent past near Eaglenest Pass.

Day 08 to 12 (five full days): Birding at Eaglenest

You will spend five full days birding in the Eaglenest area, where many species are likely and might include Cutia, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Scaly-breasted, Long-billed, Wedge-billed, and Rufous-throated Wren Babblers, Crimson-breasted and Bay Woodpeckers, Maroon-backed Accentor, Plain-backed Thrush, Black-faced and Ashy-throated Warblers, Red-flanked Bluetail, White-browed Bush Robins, Chestnut-crowned and White-throated Laughingthrushes, Rufous-capped Babbler, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Golden Babbler, Black-eared Shrike Babbler, Beautiful and Long-tailed Sibias, White-naped, Whiskered, Stripe-throated, and Black-chinned Yuhinas; Black-throated, Yellow-cheeked, and Yellow-browed Tits; Black-throated Parrotbill; and Black-throated Sunbird. Nights at fully- serviced Bonpu tented camps.

Day 13 : Eaglenest to Kaziranga

Today you will leave for Kaziranga—a journey of **7 hours or more**. Home to the one-horned rhino, swamp deer, Asiatic wild buffalo, and Asian elephant, the tiger and sloth bear are also a possibility, besides the smooth-coated otter, hog deer, and wild boar. Birding is equally as diverse, and with some luck you might see Finn's Weaver, Bengal Florican, and Blue-naped Pitta among the target species. Both Pallas's and Grey-headed Fish Eagles are far more prominent, along with Lesser and sometimes Greater Adjutant Storks. Night at Bonhabi Resort.

DAY -14,15 (two full days): Kaziranga

You'll spend time looking for the Bengal Florican, Swamp Francolin, Spot-billed Pelican, and many other species inside Kaziranga, where the Blue-naped Pitta can also be seen, as well as outside the park in the tea plantations. You will spend more time searching for the latter species in the tea gardens outside of the park, and hopefully you'll see lesser and greater-necklaced laughingthrushes and blue-eared barbets with some extra luck. Other species might include the Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Spot-winged and Chestnut-tailed Starlings, Green Magpie, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, White-rumped Shama, and Rufous-necked Laughingthrush. Nights at **Bonhabi Resort**.

DAY 16:: Kaziranga – Tinsukia

Drive from Kaziranga to Tinsukia and spend the night at **Hotel Centre Point**. Depending on your time of arrival, if there is enough daylight, you will visit Maguri Beel.

DAY 17 : Tinsukhia to Roing: Arunachal Pradesh This morning you'll drive to Saikhowa Ghat, to cross the ferry. Depending on the river it can sometimes take 1 ½ hrs to reach the other side. From here you'll drive to Roing for lunch and afterwards drive a few kilometers across the river to bird in the bamboos with Bay Woodpecker, Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Red and Coral-billed Scimitar Babblers and Hodgson's Frogmouth (after dark) as target species. Overnight at **Roing**.

Day 18: Mishmi

Early morning drive to Mayodhiya and birding en route. Target species today include Blyth's tragopan, Ward's trogon, Mishmi wren babbler, lemon-rumped honeyguide, etc. Overnight Roing

Day 19 : Mishmi

Morning drive to Mayodhiya Pass. Target species are Sclater's Monal (if very lucky), Bar-winged Wren Babbler, White-browed Scimitar Babbler, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Manipur Fulvetta, Gould's Shortwing, etc. overnight at Roing.

Day 20, 21: Mishmi

Morning birding drive to Roing with birding en route, the same as before (but will also target the Bengal Florican), and will also try again for the Hodgson's Frogmouth if missed earlier. Overnight at **Roing**.

Day 22: Mishmi–Tinsukia

Morning birding locally, and leave for the Ghat to cross the Brahmaputra river before 1300 hours. Drive back to Tinsukhia, and if time permits, visit Maguri Beel again.

The next morning at Dibru-Saikhowa and PM Maguri Bheel.

Overnight at **Hotel Centre Point**.

Day 23: Tinsukia – Dibrugarh – Delhi [=Kolkata]

This morning you'll drive to Digboi Oil Fields for the chestnut-backed laughingthrush and back to Dibrugarh airport for departure to arrive in good time to check in for your flight (booked by you) to Delhi.

Cost for 03 Pax = INR 410000.00 (\$4,285.00) Per Person

Cost for 04 Pax = INR 320000.00 (\$3,344.00) Per Person

Cost for 05 Pax = INR 270000.00 (\$2,821) Per Person

Single room supplement = INR 68000.00 (\$710.00)

05 percent government service tax (may go up if tax structure is revised)

What is included in your price?

Reception at the airport on arrival and send-off.

Accommodation on full board on twin share with all meals, as given in the itinerary.

In Eaglesnest, all camping arrangements include all meals and a 3-4 man tent shared by 02 persons

Exclusive transport for all transfers and birding trips as per itinerary: -

Hardtop Jeep 08-seater to be shared by 03 plus guide.

Park Entry fees for all parks

Bugun community fees

Restricted Area Permit for Arunachal Pradesh

04 Jeep Safaris at Kaziranga

Peter Lobo as the Guide for Day 01 to Departure

Price does not include:

Camera fees at all places applicable

Airfare, domestic or international; personal expenses; bar; mineral water; laundry; telephone; medical expenses; and insurance.

Adventure Gurudongma is covered by liability insurance from ICICI Lombard—a leading general insurance company in India.