



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Indonesia

### Bali Birding Extension

21<sup>st</sup> July to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (7 days)



Bali Starling by Dubi Shapiro

*The magical island of Bali forms part of the chain of tropical islands in the Indonesian archipelago and, although it's most famous as a beach tourism Mecca, Bali has a lot to offer the birder and naturalist. Situated at the eastern end of the Greater Sundas, Bali provides superb birding and wildlife viewing. The island's most iconic bird, the beautiful and very rare Bali Myna or Bali Starling, will be top of the hit list during our Bali birding extension. Most of our time will be spent at the world-renowned Bali Barat National Park. Here we will search for some of the last few wild Bali Mynas in existence, and we will also be treated to numerous other avian treasures, many of which are only shared with neighbouring Java. These include the endangered Black-winged Starling, Beach Stone-curlew, the dazzling Cerulean Kingfisher, Green Junglefowl, Javan Plover, Java Sparrow and the spectacular Javan Banded Pitta!*

*Our trip also ventures into the highlands where specialities include Crescent-chested Babbler, Javan Whistling and Sunda Thrushes, Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, the delightful Sunda Warbler, Blood-breasted Flowerpecker and Grey-throated Ibon. The Bali countryside is eye-catching and we*

will additionally find ourselves enjoying such wonderful and range-restricted species as White-capped and Javan Munias, the stunning Javan Kingfisher and Cinnamon Bittern while gazing across emerald-green rice paddies, uniquely punctuated with Hindu temples and soaking in the island’s incredible beauty. Bali makes for a splendid week-long birding adventure, offering exceptional island birding, sensational scenery, world class coral reef snorkelling and fascinating art and culture.

**THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Day 1</b>          | <b>Arrival in Denpasar, Bali</b>                               |
| <b>Day 2</b>          | <b>Denpasar to Bali Barat National Park area</b>               |
| <b>Days 3 &amp; 4</b> | <b>Bali Barat National Park and surrounds</b>                  |
| <b>Day 5</b>          | <b>Bali Barat National Park to Bedugul (Central Highlands)</b> |
| <b>Day 6</b>          | <b>Bedugul area to Denpasar</b>                                |
| <b>Day 7</b>          | <b>Denpasar and Departure</b>                                  |

**TOUR MAP**



## THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

### **Day 1: Arrival in Denpasar, Bali.**

Upon arriving in Denpasar, Bali's bustling capital, we will transfer to our comfortable eco-lodge situated on a 10-hectare reserve. If time allows, we will enjoy a birding outing on our lodge property where over 50 bird and 80 butterfly species can be seen. Tonight we will enjoy a welcome dinner and can also use the opportunity to discuss our forthcoming adventures in the days ahead.



Sunda Warbler by Rich Lindie

### **Day 2: Denpasar to Bali Barat National Park area.**

This morning we will have time to visit nearby coastal mudflats, ponds and mangroves before heading off to Bali Barat National Park. Here we will scan the area for species that may include Purple, Pacific Reef and Striated Herons, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Grey Teal, the sought-after Javan Plover, Gull-billed Tern and, if we are very fortunate, perhaps an Eastern Curlew. Sacred, Collared and the radiant Cerulean (also known as Small Blue) Kingfisher are also usually present and the mangroves may yield Golden-bellied Gerygone, Island Collared Dove, Sunda Pygmy and Laced Woodpeckers, Pied Fantail, Bar-winged Prinia (an Indonesian endemic restricted to Sumatra, Java and Bali), the often difficult Mangrove Whistler, and the splendid Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker (another Indonesian endemic).

We also have a good chance of finding Savanna Nightjar on its day roost before making our way through Denpasar traffic and driving to the western edge of the island, where the world-renowned Bali Barat National Park is situated. On our scenic routes over the highlands of central Bali, we will soak in the unique Balinese Hindu culture with its abundant temples and acres of green rice paddies. We will also keep a lookout for birds along the way, including the stunning and near-endemic Javan Kingfisher, Long-tailed Shrike, Paddyfield Pipit, Pied Bush Chat and Black-crowned Night Heron.

Expanses of tall, seeding grass in and adjacent to the rice paddies could yield four very special birds



Javan Owlet by David Hoddinott

in the form of White-capped, Javan and White-headed Munias and the beautifully-patterned Java Sparrow, as well as the more common and widespread Scaly-breasted Munia. Greater and Lesser Coucals, Striated Grassbird, Cinnamon Bittern and Javan Pond Heron also occupy this habitat.

We can expect to arrive at our luxurious lodge set back from the gorgeous northern coastline in the early afternoon. After dropping our bags, we will head across to the nearby Bali Barat National Park. This wonderful reserve remains the last refuge for one of the world's rarest birds, the



critically endangered, and striking Bali Myna. We will explore dry monsoon forests as well as lush lowland rainforest, mangrove, saltpans and savanna areas during our time here at the western end of Bali and close (separated by the 2 mile Bali Strait) to the great island of Java.

**Days 3 & 4: Bali Barat National Park and surrounds.** Our main target over the next two days will be the mostly white (but sporting a blue eye-ring) Bali Starling. Not only is it one of the most eye-catching of all the world's starlings, it also happens to be a bird on the brink of extinction. This is tragically due to the relentless trapping of the species for the international cage-bird trade and there are currently believed to be fewer than 20 birds left in the wild! We do, however, have an excellent chance of seeing this, Bali's only endemic and much-desired species, during our time in the park.



Green Junglefowl by David Hoddinott

The park harbours many other mouth-watering birds and we will be on the lookout for the rare and near-endemic Black-winged Starling, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, lovely Zebra Dove, stunning Black-naped Monarch, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Plaintive Cuckoo, Common Flameback (a stunning woodpecker), Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, White-shouldered Triller (an Indonesian endemic), flocks of Small Minivet, Lineated and Coppersmith Barbet, Oriental Dollarbird, Common Iora, Mangrove Whistler, Ashy and Hair-crested Drongo, Racket-tailed Treepie, Cinereous Tit, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, regionally endemic Olive-backed Tailorbird, and Olive-backed Sunbird. Green Junglefowl is another localised target species that occurs in good numbers, most easily encountered in the early morning or late afternoon.

Blue-tailed and the stunning Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters can both be found hawking insects from exposed perches, and White-breasted Woodswallows, Grey-rumped Treeswifts and both Cave and Edible-nest Swiftlets forage overhead. We may also flush Large-tailed Nightjars during our forays or tape it into view in the early evening. Another speciality in the area is the splendid Javan Banded Pitta (a recent split of the Banded Pitta) and we stand excellent chances of tracking down this beauty.



Java Sparrow by Adam Riley

During the heat of the day we shall spend some time scanning the surrounding forest from vantage points for such delights as Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Black Eagle and the tiny Black-thighed Falconet.

During one of our days here, we will head out by boat to a nearby islet that is also within the national park. Here we will have the opportunity to marvel at the wonder-world of colourful fish and other marine life that abound in truly fantastic numbers on the



corals that proliferate here. A short walk on the island may reveal the small island specialists, Lemon-bellied White-eye and Freckle-breasted Woodpecker.

An early morning excursion into the lush forests elsewhere in Bali Barat National Park should produce the scarce Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher, the rare and elusive Black-banded Barbet, Black-naped Fruit Dove if we are lucky, and the cheerful Crescent-chested Babbler. A short, high-pitched call may alert us to the presence of another



**Javan Banded Pitta by Rich Lindie**

rainforest gem, the minuscule Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher that favours stream-side snags in the forest interior. We will also seek out the much larger Javan Flameback (a split from Greater Flameback) and floppy Oriental Pied Hornbills. Other birds we will look out for include Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Javan Cuckooshrike, Scarlet Minivet, Sooty-headed and the uncommon Ruby-throated Bulbuls, and Pale-bellied (or Javan) Myna.

The nearby coastline may yield a few great birds, including the uncommon and often-elusive Beach Stone-curlew, Lesser Adjutant and Great-billed Heron, as well as Black-naped, Greater and Lesser Crested, Little and elegant Roseate Terns. A visit to a nearby salt works will produce a plethora of wetland species, including more Javan Pond Herons, our best chances of Sunda Teal, close encounters with Javan Plover, White-headed Stilt and the first of the overwintering migrant waders that should have arrived by now. We will also try our luck with some of the area's rare owl species and, with a bit of effort and good fortune, we may find the sought-after Javan Owlet, Sunda Scops Owl, Brown Hawk-Owl or, if we are exceptionally lucky, Buffy Fish Owl!

Bali is not well known for its mammals and we are sadly too late to see the extinct Bali Tiger (the smallest of the Tiger subspecies, the last one was shot in 1937, although they were still reported as late as 1972) or Leopard, which is now also extinct in Bali. Banteng too are extinct, but these wild cattle are still present in their domesticated form, and we will commonly encounter these attractive animals.



**Javan Plover by Adam Riley**

Most people are surprised at the number of indigenous mammals that are encountered here, including the abundant Long-tailed Macaques, many of which live around the temples where they are held sacred and therefore fed. They can also be seen far out to sea on the reefs at low tide where they have earned themselves their alternative name of Crab-eating Macaque. Much rarer – and we will seek them out in the lush forests – are Javanese or Ebony Leaf-Monkeys. This species is endemic to



Java and Bali, and troops of these black primates can be found in Bali Barat National Park and, if we are fortunate, we will also observe their bright chestnut youngsters. Javan Rusa Deer are common and we should also see numerous Asian Palm Squirrels. Much tougher, however, is the huge Black Giant Squirrel, which prefers deeper forests. We are likely to observe Indian Muntjac or Barking Deer and Wild Boar, but we would need to be very fortunate to find Leopard Cat or Sunda Pangolin!

**Day 5: Bali Barat National Park to Bedugul (Central Highlands).** This morning, after breakfast and some final birding in the Bali Barat area, we will embark on our journey eastwards and wind our way up into the Central Highlands.

Our accommodation here is nestled inside the crater of an extinct volcano at an altitude of 1,140m (3,740ft) above sea level. The surrounding lush, green, montane forests and nearby crater lakes offer excellent birding and we will spend the afternoon and the following day searching this cool and lovely area for exciting new species that could include the near-endemic Flame-fronted Barbet, Sunda Cuckoo, Black-naped Oriole, Little Pied Flycatcher and Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, the absolutely darling Sunda Warbler and, along forested steams, the boldly-patterned White-crowned Forktail. We'll also keep a lookout for the uncommon Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, Besra and Crested Goshawk, which can sometimes be seen patrolling the forests.

**Day 6: Bedugul area to Denpasar.** This morning we will head out into the productive hill forest in the Bedugul area, where we will spend the morning ambling along forested roads and trails, marvelling at the stunning Bali Botanical Gardens. The dense forest undergrowth here supports Sunda Bush Warbler and the extremely shy and skulking Lesser Shortwing, which is far more readily heard than seen. We will also search the area for Horsfield's and near-endemic Crescent-chested Babbler as well as the attractive Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler. Mixed species flocks could very well produce stunners such as Mountain Tailorbird, Yellow-bellied and Mountain Leaf Warblers, Oriental



Blood-breasted Flowerpecker by Adam Riley



Javan Kingfisher by Keith Valentine

and Mountain White-eyes, and Grey-throated Ibon (an aberrant white-eye species). With some luck we may also manage to obtain views of the uncommon and secretive Javan Whistling Thrush, with even more luck being required for the retiring Sunda Thrush in the early morning, while the forest edge often produces delightful birds, including Short-tailed Starling, Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Green and Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons, Australian Golden Whistler, the rather scarce and near-endemic Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, Grey-cheeked Bulbul, the localised Indonesian Honeyeater, and further chances for Javan



Owlet! In the late afternoon, we will then begin the journey back to Denpasar for our final night's stay on this magical island.

**Day 7: Denpasar and departure.** This morning we will transfer to the Ngurah Rai International Airport after breakfast to connect with our respective flights. Those carrying on and doing the Lesser Sunda Endemics tour will fly to Umbu Mehan Kunda Airport in Waingapu, East Sumba for the start of the fabulous Lesser Sundas birding adventure.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

**Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.**

This includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 7;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- Extra activities as mentioned in the itinerary; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY flights;**
- Any beverages;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls and
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.

**Single Supplement:** The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

**a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.**

**b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.**

**c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**

**d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

**Tiping:** As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have



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given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

**Please Note:**

- This tour involves some moderate walking but is for the most part fairly easy. You should be in good health and of reasonable fitness to undertake this tour. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort please do let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.
- Most days in the lowlands will be hot and sunny, but overcast conditions are fairly frequent and some rain, heavy at times, can be expected. In montane areas, it will range from very cool to warm. The humidity is often rather high in the lowlands.

**ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:**

This tour does not include ANY airfares. The tour will depart from Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (IATA: DPS) on day 1 and, as this is an arrival day, you are welcome to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude at Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (IATA: DPS) after breakfast on day 7.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

**FLIGHTS:**

Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar (IATA: DPS) is the main port of entry for international flights on this tour. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

