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SAM VEASNA CONSERVATION
TOURS



A pair of Giant Ibis at the nesting site

Tour Name: Custom Tour Prek Toal, Giant Ibis, and Aural Mountain Birding Tour

Date: 11th November 2025, 13th – 15th November and 17th-20th November 2025

Tour Guide: Sophear Somrich

Client: Jochen Schwarz

Introduction

What is the remarkable eight-day tour with Jochen Schwarz to Prek Toal, the Giant Ibis, and the Aural Mountain birding Tour! Welcome back, everyone, to explore the avian wonders of Cambodia. We all have the freedom to travel to most countries around the globe. In particular, do not overlook the charming landscapes and nature of Cambodia. We are always eager to welcome you. Sam Veasna Conservation Tours is consistently prepared to host visitors from around the world to experience the stunning birds and natural beauty. Our nation boasts a diverse range of habitats that support a wide variety of wildlife, including mammals and birds. These include primary forests, deciduous forests, semi-evergreen forests, evergreen forests, grasslands, bamboo forests, and seasonal wetlands. Each of these habitats is home to a unique set of bird species.

The journey commenced in Siem Reap province, proceeding to the Prek Toal bird colony. The following day, we traveled from Siem Reap Province to the Bengal Florican Grassland site located in Kompong Thum Province. Subsequently, we move from the Bengal Florican Grassland to Tmat Boey, situated in the Northern Plain of Cambodia, specifically in Preah Vihear Province. It was an exceptional day during the tour. We were able to observe our target species, which included Milky Stork, the Greater Adjutant, the Giant Ibis, and the White-shouldered Ibis. The next and last tour is Aural Mountain. We were able to observe our target species, which included the Cambodian Laughing Thrush, the Cambodian Flowerpecker, and other species.

Highlights

- Milky Stork
- Greater Adjutant
- Lesser Adjutant
- Giant Ibis
- White-shoulder Ibis
- Asian Wolly-necked Stork
- Cambodian Laughingthrush
- Cambodian Flowerpecker

Day 1: Siem Reap to Bird Colony. (Prek Toal)

We commenced our tour from Siem Reap to Prek Toal. During our journey, we engaged in birdwatching while traveling by boat through the Meachery Floating Village along the Channel, where we also had breakfast. It took us an hour to reach Prek Toal Village. Numerous bird species could be observed along the way, including the Oriental Darter, Little Cormorant, Gray Heron, Purple Heron, Large-billed Crow, and Common Kingfisher, among others. Upon our arrival, we switched to a smaller boat to continue to our next destination. This leg of the journey was expected to take about an hour to reach the Bird Colony. We continued our birdwatching during this segment, spotting various species such as the Little Grebe, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, and Spot-billed Pelican. Once we reached the platform, it was an opportune moment to observe many birds nesting and flying around. We were fortunate to witness a Milky Stork in flight. Numerous Spot-billed Pelicans were perched in the trees, and the Greater Adjutant provided a clear and impressive view. After spending several hours at the platform, we decided it was time to depart. On our return journey, we made a stop to observe the Pin-striped Tit Babbler, which we successfully spotted.



A flock of Spot-billed Pelicans and Greater Adjutant in the nest

Lunch is prepared for us. We relished our meal and then embarked on the paddle boat to explore the fish farm, crocodile farm, and take in the sights of the floating village. After completing this, we returned on the larger boat to admire the view of the Tonle Sap Lake. We then made our way back to the car, stopping along the way to see the bird. It is a wonderful location for observing birds. Numerous species can be seen, including Little Egrets, Great Egrets, Medium Egrets, Whiskered Terns, Eastern Yellow Wagtails, and others. As rain approached, we decided to return to Siem Reap. We arrived back safely, and my client expressed enjoyment of the trip. The journey concluded with memorable experiences.

Day 2: Morning at Bengal Florican and Noon time at Tmat Boey

We commenced our tour from Siem Reap to Bengal Florican Grassland at 5:30 AM. The journey took approximately an hour and a half. Upon arrival, we engaged in birdwatching and breakfast at Bengal Florican Grassland for about four hours, but unfortunately, the Bengal Florican did not appear. Although we did not observe the Bengal Florican, we were able to spot several other species, including the Little Green Bee-eater, Amur Stonechat, Pied Harrier, and Painted Stork, among others. After our birding session at Bengal Florican Grassland, we proceeded to the Tmat Boey Site. Before resuming our birdwatching, we made a stop at a restaurant for lunch to replenish our energy for the upcoming locations.



White-shouldered Ibis on the roosting tree

Once lunch was completed, we found a suitable spot for birdwatching at the pagoda, where we sought the White-rumped Falcon and other bird species. We dedicated approximately 30 minutes to birding there before heading to Tmat Boey. During this period, there were not many birds present, but we did encounter some species, such as the [Taiga Flycatcher](#) and [Crested Treeswift](#). Upon our arrival at the Tmat Boey Lodge, we took a break for about 30 minutes before embarking on another birdwatching session. Time passed quickly, and we began our birding while waiting for [the White-shouldered Ibis](#). The bird made its appearance around 5:45 PM, with a total of 12 White-shouldered Ibises. We relished the sounds and presence of these birds, marking the conclusion of our second day.

Day 3: Full-Day Birding at Tmat Boey Area

Morning Birding commenced from 6:00 to 11:00 AM. Since the Giant Ibis was nesting, we opted not to leave too early. We brought our breakfast along. The Giant Ibis nest is located close to the community area. It is truly delightful to observe the Giant Ibis family in the early morning. They were exchanged for feeding the chicks. While we were on the lookout for our special bird, we took pleasure in observing other species, including the Crested Serpent Eagle, Rufous-winged Buzzard, Common Flameback, White-rumped Falcon, and others. We decided to search for the Spotted Wood-owl, but it was not present. We spent approximately 40 minutes searching for it. We then returned to the Lodge for lunch.

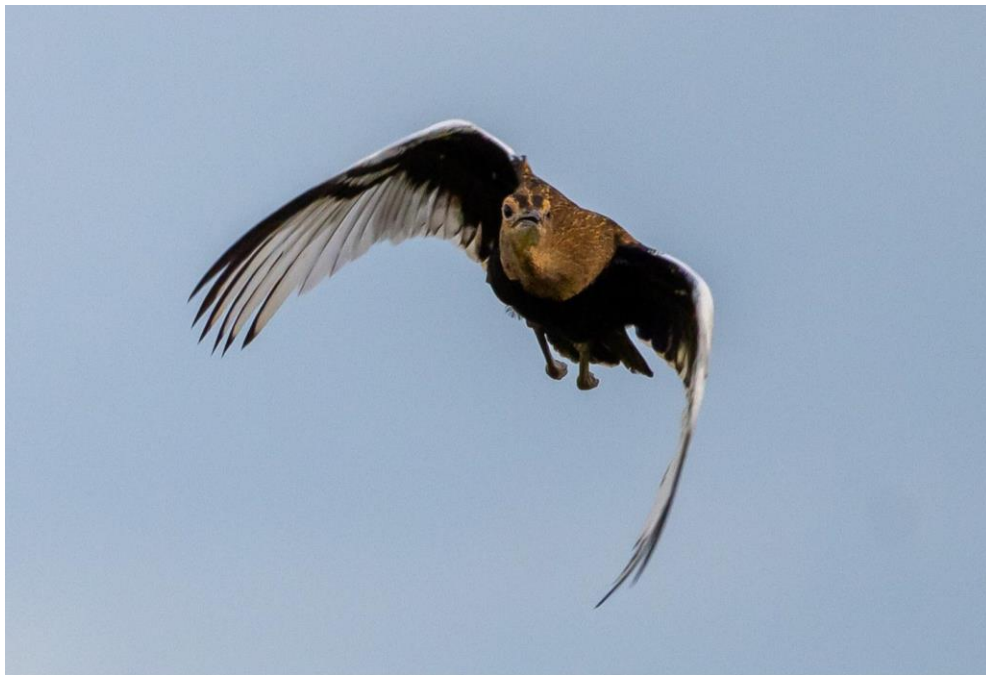


A Pair of Giant Ibis for incubation

Noon Birding began at 3:00-6:30 PM. The weather was quite pleasant. We hoped the birds would appear. This afternoon, we were in pursuit of the Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Savanna Nightjar, and various other species. Upon arriving at the birding location, it was very quiet. There were not many birds to observe, particularly no Woodpecker. However, we were fortunate enough to spot Savanna Nightjar. Afterward, we walked back to the car and paused for owling. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate the Oriental Scops-Owl. Numerous farmers were busy with their harvest, which could pose a challenge for us in finding the bird. We decided to return to the lodge and prepare for dinner. This marked the end of the third day.

Day 4: Half-Day Birding at Tmat Boey Area and Bengal Florican

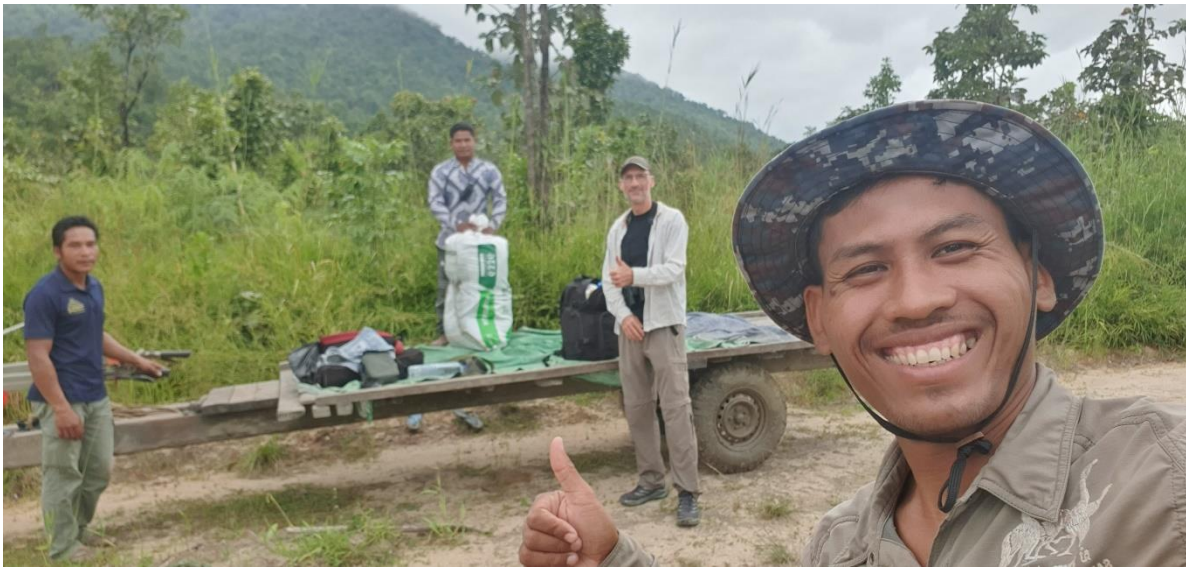
Morning arrives, signaling another opportunity for birdwatching. We still depart at 06:00 AM. Our objective is to locate additional species that we did not encounter during this tour. At this hour, there were not many birds present. However, we did observe a few, including the Asian Green Bee-eater, Oriental Honey-buzzard, Gray Capped Pygmy Woodpecker, among other species. We are now returning to the lodge for an early lunch. Our aim to find the Bengal Florican once more leads us to the Bengal Florican Grassland. We are pleased to spot the Bengal Florican at noon. We spent just 30 minutes during this observation. What is the optimal time to see it? We successfully located it and then departed from the area. This marks the conclusion of our day.



A male Bengal Florican in flight

Day 5: Phnom Penh to Aural Mountain

Departed at 05:30 AM from Phnom Penh to Aural Mountain by car. The journey to the community house takes 2 hours and 30 minutes. Additional time is required to travel from the community house to the base of the mountain via Walking Tractor. Our hiking commenced upon our arrival at the mountain. The objectives of our excursion include hiking and birdwatching. Various bird species can be observed along the route, including the Great Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, and Olive-backed Pipit, among others. We dedicated approximately six hours to hiking the mountain until we reached the campsite. Birds remain present near the camp. This concludes the day's activities.



Free style before our hiking to the top of Aural Mountain

Day 6: Aural Mountain Full-day Birding

A delightful morning atop the mountain following our first night. We commenced birdwatching at 06:00 AM. Our plan was to observe birds near the camp, specifically the Chestnut-headed Partridge and the Cambodian Laughingthrush. We dedicated several hours to observing these species. Unfortunately, there were no calls or songs from the birds. The wind was quite strong during this time. We then decided to return to the camp. On our way back, we heard the Cambodian Laughingthrush. We attempted to locate it and call to it, but the bird fled from us and was soon out of earshot. Thus, our morning birdwatching proved to be unsuccessful.

Noon commenced birdwatching at 1:00 PM. The windy conditions continue to keep the birds quiet. We were able to spot and hear several species, including the Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, Banded Kingfisher, White-browed Shrike-Babbler, among others. Unfortunately, the entire day passed without encountering our target species. The day has come to a close.



Halfway to the top of Aural Mt

Day 7: Full day in Aural Mountain

The morning arrived, accompanied by the onset of rain. However, it was not heavy rain. This morning, we made the decision to ascend to the summit. Our objective for this trip is birdwatching. We observed various species, including the White-throated Fantail, Mountain Bulbul, and Hume's White-eye, among others. We dedicated several hours to reaching the top. An unexpected bird was both called and sighted. We encountered the Indochinese Green Magpie and the Olive-backed Pipit. It was a remarkable sight. The combination of birdwatching and hot coffee is truly delightful.

We commenced our birdwatching journey from the summit down to the campsite. Lunch is included. We remain vigilant, both visually and audibly, to the desired species. No calls are heard until we approach the camp. We pursued that sound. Remarkably, the Cambodian Laughingthrush was calling near the camp. We observed them clearly and took great pleasure in the experience. The day concludes with happiness.



Little Pied Flycatcher

Day 8: Half-day in Aural Mountain and back to Phnom Penh

The final day has arrived for us. Breakfast has been completed. We commenced our birdwatching as we made our way back to the base of the mountain. It is now time to bid farewell to the wildlife and avian species in the vicinity. There are several species to observe along the route, including the Rufous-bellied Eagle, Cambodian Flowerpecker, and Black-throated Sunbird, among others. We returned to the community house safe and sound. Phnom Penh awaits, and it is time to say goodbye to the community. The journey back to Phnom Penh will take three hours. This marks the conclusion of our trip, ensuring safety and well-being. Farewell, as this is the final day with my client.



Bird List

Species Name

Scientific Name

1. Scaly-breasted Partridge	<i>Tropicoperdix chloropus</i>
2. Chinese Francolin	<i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>
1. Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
2. Red Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
3. Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
4. Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
5. Mountain Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>
6. Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>
7. Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
8. Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>
9. Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
10. Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>
11. Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>
12. White-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>
13. Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>
14. Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
15. Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
16. Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
17. Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>
18. Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
19. Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
20. Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
21. Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
22. Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
23. Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
24. Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
25. Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
26. Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
27. Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
28. Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
29. Giant Ibis	<i>Pseudibis gigantea</i>
30. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
31. Chinese Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
32. Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
33. Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
34. Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
35. Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
36. Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
37. Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
38. Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>

39. Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
40. Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>
41. Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
42. Rufous-winged Buzzard	<i>Butastur liventer</i>
43. Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
44. Great Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
45. Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>
46. Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
47. Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
48. Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
49. Banded Kingfisher	<i>Lacedo pulchella</i>
50. White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
51. Indochinese Roller	<i>Coracias affinis</i>
52. Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon cyanotis</i>
53. Moustached Barbet	<i>Psilopogon incognitus</i>
54. Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>
55. Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
56. Black-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus erythropygius</i>
57. Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>
58. White-rumped Falcon	<i>Neohierax insignis</i>
59. Blossom-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>
60. Red-breasted Parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
61. Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
62. Oriental Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina javensis</i>
63. White-browed Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>
64. White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>
65. Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
66. Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
67. Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
68. Malaysian Pied-Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>
69. White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
70. White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
71. Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
72. Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
73. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
74. Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
75. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
76. Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
77. Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
78. Burmese Shrike	<i>Lanius collurioides</i>
79. Red-billed Blue-Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>
80. Indochinese Green-Magpie	<i>Cissa hypoleuca</i>
81. Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>

82. Racket-tailed Treepie	<i>Crypsirina temia</i>
83. Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
84. Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
85. Indochinese Bushlark	<i>Plocealauda erythrocephala</i>
86. Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
87. Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
88. Brown Prinia	<i>Prinia polychroa</i>
89. Rufescent Prinia	<i>Prinia rufescens</i>
90. Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
91. Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
92. Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
93. Ochraceous Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus ochraceus</i>
94. Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mccllellandii</i>
95. Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Rubigula flaviventris</i>
96. Streak-eared Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus conradi</i>
97. Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
98. Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>
99. Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
100. Two-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus</i>
101. Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
102. Davison's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus intensior</i>
103. Hume's White-eye	<i>Zosterops auriventer</i>
104. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Mixornis gularis</i>
105. White-browed Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i>
106. Scaly-crowned Babbler	<i>Malacopteron cinereum</i>
107. White-crested Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>
108. Cambodian Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ferrarius</i>
109. Burmese Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neglecta</i>
110. Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>
111. Siamese Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica floweri</i>
112. Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
113. Great Myna	<i>Acridotheres grandis</i>
114. Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
115. Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
116. White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>
117. Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
118. Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>
119. Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
120. Amur Stonechat	<i>Saxicola stejnegeri</i>
121. Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
122. Cambodian Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cambodianum</i>
123. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
124. Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>

125.	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
126.	Ornate Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris ornatus</i>
127.	Black-throated Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga saturata</i>
128.	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
129.	Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
130.	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis moluccensis</i>
131.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
132.	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
133.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
134.	Plain-backed Sparrow	<i>Passer flaveolus</i>
135.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
136.	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>
137.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
138.	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>

Mammal List (Optional)

Pileated gibbon

Hylobates pileatus



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