



Taiwan

The Heart of Asia

Tour Leaders: Rob Ripma and Kuan-Chieh Hung

April 10-22, 2022

Join us as we offer our first tour to the incredible island of Taiwan! We'll explore many of the wonderful parks throughout the island covering everything from Taipei all the way south to Kenting and out to the island of Lanyu. Some of our stops include Dasyueshan Forest, Taroko National Park, Budai and Augo wetlands, and much more!

Itinerary Overview:

April 10: Arrival in Taipei and Birding Yangmingshan National Park
April 11: Birding Basianshan and Dasyueshan (Low to Mid Elevation)
April 12: Birding Dasyueshan (High Elevation)
April 13: Birding Dasyueshan and Puli
April 14: Birding Hehuanshan (Taroko NP) and the Chiayi Coast
April 15: Birding the Southwest Coast and Alishan Region
April 16: Birding the Alishan Region and Tataka Recreation Area (Yushan NP)
April 17: Birding Tataka and Kenting National Park
April 18: Ferry to Lanyu and spend the day birding
April 19: Birding in Lanyu, ferry to Kenting, and drive to Douliu
April 20: Birding for Fairy Pitta and drive to Taipei
April 21: Northeast Coast Birding
April 22: Departure from Taipei

Detailed Itinerary:

April 10: Arrival in Taipei and Birding Yangmingshan National Park

After overnight flights from the US, you'll be met at the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) in Taipei. If you choose to arrive early, we will arrange pickup with you. From the airport, we'll stop for breakfast and then go to Yangmingshan National Park for our first birding experience in Taiwan.

First, we'll bird in Qianshan Park, which is located in the middle of Yangmingshan NP. Common urban birds and some endemic species are the targets here, such as Malayan Night-Heron, Taiwan Blue-Magpie and Taiwan Whistling-Thrush. The next stop will be Menghuan Pond on other side of Yangmingshan NP, a popular hiking trail. The target at this location is Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge, which is accustomed to being fed by hikers here. Other possible species include Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler and Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler.

We will drive southward to Dongshi after lunch where we'll do some additional birding in the lower elevations of Dasyueshan National Forest Park if time permits.

-Overnight: Dongshi District, Taichung

April 11: Birding Basianshan and Dasyueshan (Low to Mid Elevation)

This morning, we'll drive about an hour to Basianshan National Forest Recreation Area. Chestnut-bellied Tit, a locally distributed breeding bird, is the main target in this region. We can also try for Brown Dipper in this area.

After we get the Chestnut-bellied Tit, we'll drive to Dasyueshan Forest. Dasyueshan is the most important birding spot for endemic species as it is primary forest. After roadside birding in the morning, we'll spend the afternoon in low to mid elevations trying to get some important bird species for the trip. Potential highlights today include Swinhoe's Pheasant, Taiwan Partridge, Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush, Rusty Laughingthrush, and Taiwan Yellow Tit.



Swinhoe's Pheasant

After dinner, we can head back to the road for some owling. Collared Scops-Owl and Mountain Scops-Owl are the targets tonight.

-Overnight: Dongshi District, Taichung

April 12: Birding Dasyueshan (High Elevation)

Today, we'll spend all day in mid to high elevations of Dasyueshan looking for more endemic species distributed in these higher elevations. If time permits, our day will end at the top of the road where Mikado Pheasant tends to make an appearance each morning and evening. Other highlights today could include White-whiskered Laughingthrush, Taiwan Rosefinch, Taiwan Fulvetta, Taiwan Bush-Warbler, Black-headed Bullfinch, Taiwan Yellow Tit, Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush, Rusty Laughingthrush, Taiwan Barwing, Little Forktail. After dinner, we'll take a short walk looking for two nocturnal mammals, Formosan Serow and White-faced Flying Squirrel, which are typically easy to see around the lodge.

-Overnight: Anmashan Lodge

April 13: Birding Dasyueshan and Puli

This morning will start at highest point in Dasyueshan looking for any high-elevation birds we missed yesterday. The main targets are three endemic species, Taiwan Yellow Tit, Rusty Laughingthrush, and Rufous-crowned Laughingthrush. We will arrive in Puli, Nantou before lunch. Here we'll look for Maroon



Taiwan Yellow Tit

Oriole and Taiwan Hwamei. After lunch, we'll drive to Qingjing Farm Guest House where we will stay for the night. The tea plantation here is a wonderful place to try for the shy Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge and other mid-elevation species.

-Overnight: Qingjing Farm Guest House

April 14: Birding Hehuanshan (Taroko NP) and the Chiayi Coast

Our morning will start early at the tea plantation behind the guest house, and we'll try to find the shy Taiwan Bamboo-Partridge and Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler. After breakfast, we'll head to the highest road of Taiwan and East Asia -Wuling (10,700 feet). This is the only chance for us to see Alpine Accentor. The beautiful White-whiskered Laughingthrush is common here as well. Not only are there special birds here, but the high-elevation scenery is also breathtaking.

From here, we have a 3.5-hour drive to our next birding location near Chiayi. We'll plan to do some coastal birding before arriving at our hotel for the evening.

-Overnight: Budai Ocean Hotel

April 15: Birding the Southwest Coast and Alishan Region

Today will be spent exploring the Budai and Augo wetlands. Budai was a salt pan but is no longer in use and has now become a great wetland for birds. The amazing Black-faced Spoonbill is the most important target here. Other East Asian shorebirds such as Long-toed Stint and sometimes the rare Asian Dowitcher can be present as well.

After we are finished birding the wetlands, we'll drive to our lodge in the Alishan National Forest Recreation Area region where we will stay for the next two nights.

-Overnight: Firefly Lodge

April 16: Birding the Alishan Region and Tataka Recreation Area (Yushan NP)

Our birding will start at Tataka Recreation Area which is the highest part of Yushan National Park. The avian fauna should be similar to Dasyueshan, but the Taiwan Shortwing and Golden Parrotbill are easier here than at other high elevation sites.

The late afternoon will be spent in a private bird hide run by our lodge. Here we hope to see Swinhoe's Pheasant and Taiwan Partridge.

-Overnight: Firefly Lodge

April 17: Birding Tataka and Kenting National Park

Before breakfast, we will take an easy walk around the lodge. Depending on what species we are still missing, after breakfast we can either head back to the higher elevations of Tataka or we can move to

lower elevations to look for other species. After our morning birding, we'll make a 3-hour drive to Kenting. We'll do some light birding this afternoon and get ready for our ferry ride to Lanyu the next day.

-Overnight: Kenting

April 18: Ferry to Lanyu and spend the day birding

We will take a very early ferry to Lanyu this morning. If weather conditions are good, we can spend our time on deck looking for sea birds. Possible species include but are not limited to Bulwer's Petrel, Streaked and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, and Brown Booby.

Lanyu is a small island with its own distinct avian fauna. The Ryukyu Scops-Owl and the awesome Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher are targets here. It will be a relaxed day of island birding.

-Overnight: Lanyu

April 19: Birding in Lanyu, ferry to Kenting, and drive to Douliu

We'll spend the morning exploring more of the island looking for any species that we missed yesterday as well as any Asian migrants that we can find. After lunch on the island, we'll take the ferry back to Kenting. Upon arrival back in Kenting, we'll drive 3 hours to Douliu.

-Overnight: Taishing Hotel

April 20: Birding for Fairy Pitta and drive to Taipei

Today will be an exciting day looking for the Fairy Pitta. We'll join our local pitta guide to help us to find this difficult to see pitta. After we finish here, we'll make the 2.5-hour drive back to Taipei.

-Overnight: Taipei

April 21: Northeast Coast Birding

Since we are visiting during the prime migration season in Taiwan, we'll spend the day birding at the country's premier migration hotspot, Yehliu Geographic Park. This is the most famous birding site for migrants in Taiwan. As is the case many times with migration hotspots, we never know what we might find!

-Overnight: Taipei

April 22: Departure from Taipei



Taiwan Partridge

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Taipei, Taiwan: \$4,999

Single Supplement: \$500

Minimum Participants: 4

Maximum Participants: 8

Price Includes:

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Taiwan

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Taipei, Taiwan

Visa and Passport Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Tips

Travel Insurance

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (January 10, 2022).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact Rob at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

Sabrewing Nature Tours acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Sabrewing Nature Tours and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Sabrewing Nature Tours. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.



Registration Taiwan 2022

Participant 1:

Name (as it appears on your passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number (if applicable)

Passport Expiration (if applicable)

Passport Country of Origin (if applicable)

List current health and physical limitations:

List any allergies:

List any medications:

List any dietary restrictions or preferences:

In case of emergency please notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Participant 2:

Name (as it appears on your passport)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

Passport Number (if applicable)

Passport Expiration (if applicable)

Passport Country of Origin (if applicable)

List current health and physical limitations:

List any allergies:

List any medications:

List any dietary restrictions or preferences:

In case of emergency please notify:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Sabrewing Nature Tours

Terms, Conditions, and Waiver

TERMS: To register for a tour or workshop please complete the above registration form and sign below to acknowledge the terms. Send this form along with you Tour/Workshop Registration Form and your deposit or full tour amount to Sabrewing Nature Tours (SNT) at the below address. Registrations will be processed on a first come first served basis. We will place your name on the waiting list if your tour is full.

The deposit for this trip is \$500 per participant. Deposits and all signed forms are required to secure registration of your spot on the tour. Deposits are refundable less a 20% processing fee ONLY if the spot can be filled with another participant at the full tour price. Deposits received after a tour has filled will be returned and your name will be placed on a waiting list. Payment in full is due at least 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Registrants who have not paid their remaining balance will forfeit their deposit and their place on the tour. Payment by personal check is strongly preferred. If you would like to pay with a credit card, additional fees will apply. We strongly suggest you consider trip insurance to cover you in the event of a medical or other emergency that would prohibit you from joining the tour.

The activity level required for each tour will be described on the tour page. If in doubt, please contact SNT to determine if a tour is right for you. Any physical or medical concerns including allergies and/or dietary restrictions should be communicated to SNT. All tours will be non-smoking during group activities including but not limited to meals, slide programs, vehicle travel, and when birding/photographing in close proximity to other participants. Tour groups will be kept small for the enjoyment of all participants. Target group sizes are listed in each tour description on our web site. SNT reserves the right to exceed the target group size by no more than one participant.

Tours will be held regardless of weather conditions. Severe weather may dictate informal discussion and/or a slide program while we wait for the weather to break. Tours will begin at the scheduled time. Tardiness may result in missing the boat, or van so to speak. There are no guarantees in nature. Tours are designed to coincide with excellent nature viewing opportunities. Decisions will be made daily to determine where the group should be to maximize opportunities. Deviation from the scheduled itinerary may be necessary.

It is imperative that all participants follow rules and suggestions set forth by the leaders and/or local guides. Failure to comply could pose a safety risk to you or other tour participants. For the safety of all clients we reserve the right to restrict access to tour functions at any time.

Airfare is NOT included in the price of the tour unless otherwise noted on the tour page. Registered participants will receive more specific details of what to bring as well as a more detailed outline of what can be expected on the tour upon payment in full and no later than 60 days prior to the start of the tour.

Photo tour participants wishing to get the most from their tour will have a working knowledge of their camera equipment prior to the tour. Suggestions on exposure modes, camera settings and a variety of techniques will be verbalized throughout the tour. Do bring your camera's manual. Every camera is unique in its operation thus it is impossible to know every feature of every camera model. Participants will be put in the best locations to take advantage of the light, wind, and habitat. We will work to improve compositions and make suggestions to vary your perspective that will improve your resulting images. Participants will also learn techniques to successfully capture action and behavior images.

Waiver: I am aware that certain risks and dangers are inherent to nature travel and photography and may occur during a Sabrewing Nature Tours event and that such risk and dangers cannot be eliminated without diminishing the quality of the workshop/tour for which I have registered. Risks include but are not limited to theft or other loss of equipment or personal belongings; illness, injury, accident or death; travel hazards by air, boat, automobile or other vehicle; exposure to elements and other forces of nature and acts of God; both native and non-native wildlife, insects and flora as well as political, civil or military disturbance, strike, quarantine, government restriction and terrorist threat. I understand on or off trail hiking can present risk of falls that may result in damage to camera equipment, or significant personal injury or death. I understand Sabrewing Nature Tours is not responsible for inclement weather and cannot and does not guarantee subject matter will be available for photography on any given date or location. I further understand I am solely responsible for additional expenses incurred by me due to medical emergency or other travel delays, including but not limited to the expense of extra nights lodging or flight itinerary changes. I voluntarily assume all risks and will hold Sabrewing Nature Tours, its partners and cooperating agents, the workshop leader(s), any and all co-leaders, assistants and other participants harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, claims, debts, and demands which arise in connection with the tour. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, administrators, and executors, and for all members of my family, including any minors accompanying me. In the event a lawsuit is filed, the enrolling participant agrees to do so solely in Hamilton County in the State of Indiana.

I have read and agree with the above terms and conditions.

Participant 1: Signature

Date

Participant 2: Signature

Date

Please complete forms, sign the second form, and send them with your deposit or full tour amount.