



Vietnam

The Best of the South

Tour Leader: Rob Ripma

February 2-13, 2028

Itinerary Overview:

February 2: Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City

February 3: Ma Da Forest and Cat Tien National Park

February 4-5: Birding Cat Tien National Park

February 6: Transfer to Da Lat

February 7-9: Birding Da Lat

February 10: Transfer to Di Linh

February 11: Birding Deo Nui San

February 12: Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City

February 13: Departure from Ho Chi Minh City

Detailed Itinerary:

February 2: Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City

Upon arrival in Ho Chi Minh City, you'll be met by our local guide and transferred to our city hotel. You'll have free time until our welcome dinner that evening.

-Overnight: The Majestic Hotel or similar

February 3: Ma Da Forest and Cat Tien National Park

In the morning, we will drive to Ma Da Forest and Bird Hides, 2.5 hours from Ho Chi Minh City, about halfway between Ho Chi Minh City and Cat Tien National Park. Our main targets are Siamese Fireback, Bar-bellied Pitta, Blue-rumped Pitta, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Racket-tailed Treepie, and White-throated Rock-Thrush.

In the afternoon we will continue to Cat Tien National Park, the largest remaining lowland rainforest in Vietnam, and one of the best birding destinations in the country. It harbors an incredible diversity of wildlife, including over 350 bird species. We will likely arrive around dusk so we'll keep an eye out for Great Eared-Nightjar

-Overnight: Cat Tien National Park Guest House

February 4-5: Birding Cat Tien National Park

We will spend the next two full days exploring Cat Tien National Park. We will spend time at the bird hides, where our main targets include Bar-bellied Pitta, Blue-rumped Pitta, Germain's Peacock Pheasant, Siamese Fireback, and much more.

Cat Tien also has many roads and trails that we can walk along looking for birds. These roads and trails pass through forests, grasslands, and riparian corridors. We'll spend some time each day birding these habitats allowing us to find the many species in the park that do not come to hides. Some of our targets will be Green Peafowl, Orange-breasted Trogon, Banded Kingfisher, Dusky, Banded,

and Black-and-red Broadbills, Large-tailed Nightjar, multiple woodpecker species, Collared Falconet, Asian Fairy-bluebird and much more! We can also see two special primates, Black-shanked Douc Langur and Yellow-cheeked Gibbon.

-Overnight: Cat Tien National Park Guest House



Silver-breasted Broadbill

February 6: Transfer to Da Lat

After some final birding along the roads and trails at Cat Tien, we will drive north to Da Lat for a four-night stay. We will arrive in time to begin exploring the Da Lat Plateau, the location with the largest number of endemic species and specialties in Vietnam. We'll decide on our best birding location for the afternoon based on recent reports and our arrival time.

-Overnight: Ana Mandara Villas Dalat Resort or similar

February 7-9: Birding Da Lat

We will have three full days to explore the excellent birding sites and bird hides in the Da Lat Plateau. Our main targets in the bird hides include the beautiful endemic Collared Laughingthrush, the rare Rusty-naped Pitta, Lesser Shortwing, White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, and Siberian and Or-

ange-headed Thrushes among many other species.



White-browed Shrike-Babbler

In addition to our visits to the hides, will be spent time birding the excellent sites around Da Lat. The region has many incredible places to go birding and we will explore as many of them as possible while here. Most of the areas we'll visit are forested areas and are either small parks that we can walk in or are roadside birding with little traffic. Some of the birds that we will be searching for include Vietnamese Greenfinch, Red Crossbill, White-cheeked Laughingthrush, Necklaced and Indochinese Barbets, White-browed Shrike-Babbler (endemic subspecies), Black-throated Sunbird (endemic subspecies), Mrs. Gould's Sunbird (endemic subspecies), and more!

-Overnight: Ana Mandara Villas Dalat Resort or similar

February 10: Transfer to Di Linh

We will drive south toward Di Linh after our final birding at the Da Lat Plateau this morning. Our final birding spots in Da Lat will be determined by what species we still need or need to see better. Once we are finished birding, we'll drive to the Deo Nui San area and start birding this wonderful area.

-Overnight: Ivory Falls Villa Resort or similar

February 11: Birding Deo Nui San

We'll spend today visiting bird hides and birding along the roadside at Deo Nui San, a pass surrounded by impressive, forested hills. Our main targets include Blue and Blue-rumped Pittas, Indochinese Green Magpie, Black-headed Parrotbill, Ochraceous Bulbul, Vietnamese Greenfinch, White-throated Rock-Thrush, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, and Silver-breasted and Long-tailed Broadbills.

-Overnight: Ivory Falls Villa Resort or similar

February 12: Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City

After some final birding at Deo Nui San looking for anything we may have missed, we'll start driving back to Ho Chi Minh City for the final night of the tour. We will have a final group meal together in the evening and will try and decide on a "bird of the trip", which we can assure you will be no easy task based on previous experiences here!

-Overnight: *Holiday Inn Saigon Airport or similar*

February 13: Departure from Ho Chi Minh City

The tour concludes with your departure from Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Ho Chi Minh City anytime during the day.



Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Quito, Ecuador: \$7,999

Single Supplement: \$900

Min Participants: 4

Max Participants: 6

Price Includes:

2 Expert Guides

Ground Transportation in Vietnam

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

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 (November 4, 2027).

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

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