



TOUR INFORMATION FOR SOUTHERN INDIA AND ANDAMAN ISLANDS

These notes are designed to help you prepare for your tour. Please read carefully.

ENTERING INDIA: United Kingdom citizens will need a passport valid for at least six months from date of departure and a tourist visa to enter India.

If you are booked on the main tour only and using one of nine specific ports of entry an online E-Tourist Visa facility is now available to nationals of the United Kingdom. It is not available to British Subjects, British Protected Persons, British Overseas Citizens, British National (Overseas) and British Overseas Territories Citizens. Your application would be rejected if your nationality is other than United Kingdom. Visit <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html> for full details. The Indian visa is valid for 60 days from arrival in India and can be applied for between 120 days and 4 days before arrival. If you are combining this tour with another India tour back-to-back you must check how many days, in total, you will be in India before applying for an E-visa. The scheme has been extended to other countries too.

Please specify Kochi, Ooty, Munnar, and Periyar National Park (NP) as places you intend to visit when making your application for an Indian visa for the main tour.

If you are booked on the main tour and the Andaman Islands extension you must apply for a regular tourist visa through the India High Commission's outsourced visa application service VFS Global India Visa Centre. In other words, you will need to get proper paper Indian visas in order to visit the Andamans. Electronic e-visas are now not valid for entry to the Andamans.

You need to complete the visa form online, print out and either post to VFS Global, or go to one of their offices. You either pay online or at the office using a debit or credit card. Cheques are not accepted. For further details please visit their website at <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk> or telephone their Visa Helpline on 0905 757 0045 (Mon to Fri) (08:30 hrs - 17:30 GMT). This is a premium number service. Applying for a visa using an outsource agency also involves supplying photographs to accompany the visa application. At present, the size required is 5cm x 5cm, which is different to the standard size you can get printed in a photo kiosk. Please check with your nearest Visa Office for the most up-to-date information. For visa processing VFS Global have offices in London (Victoria), Edinburgh and Birmingham, but expect to wait for at least 2 hours before your name is called.

*Please specify Kochi, Ooty, Munnar, Periyar National Park (NP) as places you intend to visit when making your application for an Indian visa. **Important: Special permits are required to visit the Andaman Islands, and these will be obtained for us by our ground agent so please do NOT mention this as a place you intend to visit when making your application for an Indian visa.***

Citizens of other nations may be able to use the E-visa system too, however we recommend that you contact your nearest Indian High Commission for full details.

There are other visa service agencies that can provide you with an information pack on how to obtain a visa. They will also process your application for you however they will charge a handling and processing fee. One such company is Trailfinders Visa Service <https://www.trailfinders.com/visas> (Tel: 020 7074 6506). Trailfinders will give you a discount on their processing fee if your flights are also booked with them. The leader has used another UK based visa service, VisaGenie, <https://visagenie.co.uk/home> and has found them to be quick and efficient.

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As soon as you book on the tour, please email the Sunbird office a colour scan of your passport – the page(s) with your photograph and passport details. This is needed by our ground agent to obtain permits to enter various reserves. Once you have sent your passport scan it is then crucially important that you do NOT change your passport for this tour.

Once you have received your Indian visa please email the office a copy of that as well.

It is always a good idea to take a photocopy of your passport and air ticket with you when travelling abroad. They can prove invaluable in helping you get replacements if your originals are lost or stolen. Obviously, you should keep the photocopies in a separate bag to the originals.

CURRENCY: The currency is the Indian rupee (INR). Indian rupees may not be brought in to or taken out of the country, but there are currency exchange services at the airports in Kochi (Cochin) and Chennai (Madras). Our hotels in Ooty, Kochi and Chennai and occasionally Munnar can also change foreign currency. Please note that traveller's cheques are increasingly rarely accepted in India, and elsewhere. ATM machines accepting foreign cards can be found at several sites that we will visit including Ooty, Kochi and Chennai but clients have occasionally found problems using these and they should NOT be relied on as your sole source of Indian rupees. Credit cards are quite widely accepted especially in the larger cities such as Kochi and Chennai. As the tour price includes all travel, hotel, and main meal costs, you need only bring enough money to cover snacks, drinks with meals and picnics, or other purchases of a purely personal nature.

SHOPPING: We are frequently asked about the opportunities for shopping in India. The best opportunities that we will have are in Periyar National Park and in Kochi and Chennai where a wide variety of items are available ranging from maps and books on natural history, to packets of locally grown spices through local handicrafts such as silk garments and embroidery to more expensive objects such as carpets and jewellery. Credit cards are accepted at many of these places.

LANGUAGE: The national language is Hindi, but this isn't used very much in South India. Instead local people speak a variety of local languages – Karnataka and Tamil being the two that are most widely used. English is widely spoken.

CLIMATE: Most of our days in the lowlands around Kochi as well as in the Mudumalai, Periyar and Thattekad Sanctuaries should be pleasant with daytime temperatures in the range of 20-30°C (68-86°F). However, it can be quite humid, especially on the coast. Ooty (Ootacamund) in the Nilgiri mountains is nearly 2100 metres (7000 feet) above sea level and is noticeably cooler with nighttime temperatures occasionally dropping to almost freezing. Rain is unlikely anywhere but should not be totally discounted; it's perhaps slightly more likely at Ooty, Munnar and Chennai.

The Andaman Islands have little seasonal variation in climate. Continuous sea breezes keep daytime temperatures within the 23°-32°C (73-89°F) range though again the humidity is high.

PACE OF TOUR AND DAILY ROUTINE: The tour will not be particularly physically strenuous. There will be optional early morning bird watching excursions on several days. On a couple of these we may leave the hotel as early as 05:30 (it's typically light at about 06:15) and return for breakfast while on other days we will head out shortly after breakfast. We will take packed breakfasts to be eaten in the field on a couple of occasions and packed lunches on a good number of days. There will be the opportunity to stay out bird watching until dusk many evenings or, on occasion, to return earlier to the hotel if you so wish. There will also be a couple of evening owling excursions - these will usually take place after dinner and may last an hour or about one-and-a-half hours.

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On the first full day of the tour we will drive about 170 kilometres from Kochi to Ooty where we will spend the following two nights. We will make a series of stops during this drive and do not anticipate arriving at our Ooty hotel until about 17:00.

We will probably have breakfast in our Ooty hotel the following morning at about 07:00 and head out, with packed lunches shortly after that. The following morning, we will check-out and take a packed breakfast as we head down to our next accommodation, at a site just outside Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary.

We will spend two nights here and will do most, if not all, of our birding outside the Tiger reserve. In this way we will not be constrained or restricted to staying inside our vehicles and will be able to explore areas of good habitat on foot.

We expect to make a few stops as we travel from Ooty to Mudumalai, some to simply stretch our legs others to do some more focused birding. Nevertheless, we expect to reach our next guest house for lunch. We will head out again after lunch, birding areas not very far from the accommodation. Dinner here is normally at 20:30.

The following morning, we will take both a packed breakfast and a packed lunch and head away from our Mudumalai accommodation. In the morning, we will explore an area of lowland, moist forest, in the afternoon an area of more open and drier grassland. We will return to our guest house for dinner.

We will have breakfast and possibly a sit-down lunch (whether we have a sit-down lunch, or a picnic lunch will be determined largely by what birds we have and haven't seen at that stage) at our guest house near Mudumalai and in the later afternoon will return to the same hotel in Ooty that we used earlier.

Leaving Ooty after breakfast the following day we will drive back down into the plains before climbing again up to our next accommodation at Munnar. We will spend two nights in a comfortable hotel here before moving on to Periyar National Park for a further three nights and then Thattekad for another two nights. At Thattekad we will stay in a tented camp – every tent has electricity, air conditioning and ceiling fan and each has an on-suite brick house bathroom at the rear. These bathrooms have showers, a wash basin and a western toilet. Each tent is equipped with two beds is comfortable and spacious and each has a small sitting area at the front.

We try to make as many of the birding excursions as possible optional so that if you find the pace too tiring it is possible to take some time off and relax. Although the tour moves on quite frequently there will be several opportunities for anyone to take even a complete 'day off' if they wish to. However please note that this will only be possible in places where we spend two nights - at Ooty, Munnar and Periyar.

Much of the bird watching will be done along quiet roads and jeep tracks. We will frequently walk down hill ahead of the coach with our driver catching us up at intervals. There will be a few occasions where we venture off onto forest trails. Hardly any of the walking will be over rugged terrain and most of the walks will last a maximum of four hours. The only exception to this will be at Munnar where we hope to be able to make an excursion in search of the Broad-tailed Grassbird.

This excursion involves an hour jeep ride and then about a 1.5 kilometre walk up a forest trail. We will return the same way. The walking is very difficult, and the entire group will take it slowly. At Periyar NP we will have one full morning's walk, setting off after breakfast and taking water with us. We anticipate walking a circular trail of about three or four kilometres in total.

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On the Andamans foreigners are only allowed to stay overnight in Port Blair. This is between 1 and 1½ hours travelling time from the two best areas of forest. As it will be hot during the middle of the day and bird activity will decrease, we anticipate making a series of very early starts (often leaving the hotel at around 04.00) to capitalise on the early mornings when the birds are at their most active. On such days, we will take packed breakfasts and eat these in the field and we will usually have lunch and a midday break back at the hotel.

However, since we expect to be using several vehicles on the islands there will often be the option of remaining at our hotel for breakfast and joining the group at your leisure later. Several of the Andaman's ornithological specialties are night birds and seeing them may involve staying out quite late, possibly as late as 22.00. On this and other days there will obviously be the option of returning to the hotel earlier.

HEALTH: It is essential that you contact your own doctor to obtain the latest information on the regions you are visiting. Please contact your doctor well in advance of your tour's departure as some medication must be initiated weeks before the period of possible exposure.

It is recommended that you are up-to-date on routine vaccinations. It is further recommended that most travellers have protection against Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

Although we will not see many mosquitoes there might be a few, especially in the lowlands at Mudumalai and Periyar National Parks. There are typically a few more mosquitoes on the Andaman Islands.

Useful information on all aspects of malaria, including how to reduce your chances of being bitten can be found at the website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/malaria/prevention>

Biting insects, except the occasional mosquito, are uncommon on this tour. Insect repellent will provide adequate protection. Many brands use diethyltoluamide (DEET) which, while providing the best protection, can be corrosive and therefore require care when using. There are many 'natural' and less-harmful repellents available from various camping supply stores.

Tap water is not safe to drink and should be avoided at all times. Bottled water (which the leader provides at mealtimes), soft drinks and beer are widely available. Do not eat any salads or peeled fruit.

On some of the forest trails in the lowland moist forests near Mudumalai, Periyar and especially at Thattekad we may encounter a few small terrestrial leeches. These are well known to travellers in South Asia and are not harmful. They are found on the forest floor and the best way to prevent them from getting onto your feet and ankles is to spray your footwear with insect repellent.

Be careful however to ensure that your boots will not be damaged by the chemicals in the repellent, which is mildly corrosive on rubber and some synthetic materials. Canvas and especially suede desert boots are not affected and are ideal for spraying with repellent.

The other widely used technique is to make a pair of 'leech socks'. These are made from material such as densely woven cotton and come above the ankles onto the calf. They should have a drawstring at the top to hold them in place. These can also be sprayed with repellent (which leeches hate) and usually guarantees that the little beasts will not get through to bare skin! Leech socks are available for purchase cheaply at Periyar National Park and can also be bought from the Oriental Bird Club sales, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, or visit their website: www.orientalbirdclub.org

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Mild upset stomachs, often brought on simply by a change of diet, can be hard to avoid in India. We suggest bringing anti-diarrhoea medicine such as Imodium or Arret. Packets of Dioralyte are also worth bringing as they replace the vital salts and minerals lost during a bout of diarrhoea. Finally, be sure to bring adequate supplies of all personal medication as it may be impossible to obtain them during the tour.

For further information on health advice refer to the Medical Advisory Services for Travellers Abroad website www.masta-travel-health.com

ACCOMMODATION: The accommodation is of a moderate to good standard throughout this tour. In Kochi, Ooty, Chennai (Madras) and on the Andaman Islands we will stay in good quality international style hotels. At Mudumalai we will stay at a beautifully-situated, family-run, safari-style lodge in a wooded area outside the Tiger Reserve. The accommodation and food are of a good standard. Most of the accommodation here is in small cottages, again with single or double rooms, each with a private toilet and private washing facilities.

At Munnar we will stay in a good, government-owned, hotel. The rooms are well appointed and clean, the restaurant serves excellent food and the staff are very amenable. At Periyar National Park we will also stay at a Government Hotel – this one right in the centre of the park. The accommodation here is of a good standard as is the food. At Thattekad we will stay in a privately-owned tented camp outside the sanctuary and again the rooms are of a good standard, all have A/C and a ceiling fan, and the food is delicious.

LAUNDRY: Laundry facilities are available at our hotels in Ooty, near Mudumalai, at Munnar and Periyar, and also on the optional Andamans extension. These laundry services are quick, such that items dropped off in the morning will normally be returned that evening, and cheap. People should be wary of handing in delicate items as these are occasionally damaged.

ELECTRICITY: 220V AC 50 Hz. The sockets require a plug with two or three round pins, so an adaptor is required. An international travel plug is useful and can be bought in most airport departure lounges. You may find the following website helpful: <http://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>. Power cuts are still fairly common in parts of Indian and as we will also spend quite a bit of time doing (optional) night-bird excursions please bring a torch.

FOOD: Throughout the tour we are served a wide variety of good quality Indian food. Salads or salad garnishes are frequently offered but these should always be declined or left on the edge of your plate. The food we are served always includes a good selection of vegetarian dishes. In some of the places that we will visit, meals are buffet-style with several different dishes available while in other places set meals are provided. However, a typical Indian set meal actually consists of three or four different dishes to choose from. We appreciate that not everyone likes to eat Indian food (which can occasionally be a little bit spicy) everyday or even at all and several of the places we visit will, if requested, provide western food. If a buffet is being served this normally includes one or two western-style dishes. However, if you require western-style food and cannot eat Indian food please advise the Sunbird Office in advance and the leader once you are on the tour. Not everywhere that we stay will provide a western-style meal and it must be said that even those places that can cater for westerners the chefs are able to cook Indian food to a much better standard than they cook western food.

Our tours are all-inclusive and no refunds can be issued for any tour meals participants choose to miss. While we will try to do all, we can to accommodate the requirements of all participants, please note that we cannot guarantee all causes of food allergies can be avoided at every destination. Many restaurants offer set menus and are unable to accommodate all special requests within a group. Thus, participants with significant food allergies or special dietary needs should bring appropriate foods with them for those times when their needs can, regrettably, not be accommodated.

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Our tours are carefully scheduled to insure the best possible birding experience and although the leaders will do all they can to make sure the group eats at a reasonable time; sometimes early or late lunches and/or evening meals cannot be avoided. Any participants who need to eat at specific times may need to bring supplemental food with them.

DRINKS: Bottled water, a soft drink, or a beer (or glass of wine if appropriate) are provided at meals, as is coffee or tea. In addition, we keep a supply of bottled water on the tour vehicles. Bottled or filtered water may also be provided in some rooms where we stay.

INTERNET AND MOBILE PHONE ACCESS: Most of the hotels that we will stay at have Wifi internet access. At some of them there is a fee for using this service at others it is complementary. Wifi is available in the lobby of our hotel at Ooty, in the dining room/reception at Jungle Hut near Masinagudi, in the hotel lobbies at Munnar and Periyar and throughout the hotel at Kochi. At the time of writing the hotel at Thattekad does not have wireless internet but, in the past, it has been possible, for a fee, to use a computer in the reception to connect. The hotel on the Andamans claims to have Wifi in the lobby but it is of such poor quality and so slow that it's rarely possible to connect.

Mobile phones can be useful while on tour but keep in mind that many countries operate on a different cellular technology. Your phone may be incompatible with the local system, so please check with your local carrier. Fortunately, with the advent of smartphones, it is easy to download applications such as Skype or Google Voice, which can make calling home free or very inexpensive. Another option is to replace the data ("SIM") card in your phone in-country. The SIM cards, including data can be very cheap. If you wish to use this option you will need to check that your smart phone has a SIM card slot. Mobile phone coverage on the Andaman Islands is particularly poor and dropouts are frequently experienced, even in the regional capital, Port Blair.

CLOTHING: Please bring subdued clothing for birdwatching in the forest. Light, warm-weather wear is the general rule including a suitable hat and long-sleeved garments for protection against the sun. A jacket, sweater and gloves are required for the potentially cold and windy mountains around Ooty and the cool early mornings elsewhere. Light footwear will be adequate most of the time, but the occasional longer walks require comfortable walking shoes or light-weight boots. Rain is possible in the mountains and so adequate rainwear is advisable. Several of our hotels (the ones at Periyar and Kochi [Cochin] as well as on the Andamans have swimming pools so swimwear may be desirable. You might find a small folding umbrella useful.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: Please bring the following:

Note book and pencil	Alarm clock
Small rucksack or shoulder bag	Towel
Torch with extra batteries	Sun glasses and sun screen
Good quality water bottle	Sun hat or umbrella
Insect repellent	Universal sink plug
Personal medication	Leech socks (see Health above)

Optional: Telescope and tripod (you may find your own tripod-mounted telescope useful), spare binoculars and spare spectacles (in case of loss or damage), field guide.

LEADER'S EQUIPMENT: The leader will provide the following:

Telescope and tripod	Small first-aid kit
Reference books	Maps
Laser pointer	Playback equipment

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LUGGAGE: Our Final Information document, which will be sent to you approximately three weeks before departure, will give details about baggage weight and size restrictions imposed by the airline used for this tour.

If possible, please bring your luggage in soft-sided bags or cases (rather than large hard 'Samsonite'-type suitcases) as these pack more easily into our vehicles during the tour. Please note that on many tours there are no porters to carry your luggage so please ensure that **no bag is so heavy that you are unable to lift and carry it yourself**. As a general rule, in addition to using your luggage labels, it is a good idea to fix identification to the *inside* of each piece of luggage.

Andaman Islands extension: Note that the free luggage allowances on the internal flights is 7kg for hand luggage and 15kg for checked-in luggage. At the time of writing, the excess checked-in luggage charges range from £5 to £15 per extra 5kg (airline dependent) and you will be asked to pay this at the domestic airport. The leader will help and advice.

PHOTOGRAPHY: India offers abundant photographic opportunities. Bring more memory cards than you expect to use as both are expensive or difficult to obtain in India and less common types may be impossible to find. Since dust may be a problem, equipment should be packed in plastic bags. If you wish to 'digiscope' please ensure that you bring your own telescope. Please note that there is a modest fee (usually 50 Indian rupees – currently about £0.60) for using still cameras in the Rajamalai Sanctuary at Munnar, at Periyar, at Thattekad and at two sanctuaries we will visit on the Andaman Islands.

The fee for video cameras is higher – usually about 500 Rs per visit – and again participants carrying a camera or video camera be expected to pay these fees themselves. Please note that this is essentially a birdwatching tour. There will be plenty of opportunities to take photographs of birds, mammals and scenery and the leaders will do all they can to accommodate anyone wishing to take photographs. However, if you are a serious photographer please bear in mind that this is first and foremost a birdwatching tour. Please do not allow your photographic desires to conflict with other participants' birdwatching activities.

TRANSPORT: Transportation between sites is by coach or internal flights. We are not allowed to use our own vehicle inside Rajamalai National Park, Munnar and instead will use a park bus to take us the four or five kilometres from the ticket office up in to the sanctuary and back. We will share this with other visitors to the reserve. Elsewhere around Munnar we will probably use local jeeps to access a couple of other sites near this mountain resort. We might use similar jeeps when we search for Yellow-throated Bulbul on our way from Munnar to Periyar National Park.

Some of the roads in South India are poorly maintained, rough and pot-holed. This can make for bumpy, slightly uncomfortable journeys on a couple of days. Note however that we operate a seating rotation within our vehicles and, especially on the bumpier roads will be travelling slowly and stopping frequently to stretch our legs and to birdwatch.

SMOKING: Smoking or vaping is not allowed in the vehicle or when the group is gathered for meals, checklists etc. If you are sharing a room with a non-smoker, please do not smoke in the room. If you smoke in the field, we ask that you do so well away and downwind from the group if possible.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel insurance is essential, and we insist that you take out suitable cover as soon as your tour is booked. If you are bringing expensive optical equipment or other valuable items, please make sure they are also adequately insured on your home contents policy, as most travel insurance policies do not cover very expensive individual items. You may wish to consult your insurance broker regarding coverage. Please also ensure that your policy covers you in the event of a medical emergency, cancellation of a trip or severe delays. Medical costs abroad can often be extremely expensive.

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Please note that Sunbird is not liable for any medical or repatriation costs resulting from injury or illness during a tour or for covering any costs resulting from a flight delay such as extra hotel accommodation.

If you wish, insurance can be arranged by Helen Fisher, Bullerwell Independent Insurance Brokers, 13 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3JY. Tel: 01234-866964. Please contact Helen for a quote and she will send the schedule directly to you.

TIPPING: All tour-based tips are included in the tour price. These include tips to local guides, drivers, hotel porters, and waiters and waitresses when we have group meals together in restaurants. You only need to pay tips for personal services such as room service or drinks from the bar.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bikram Grewal, Sumit Sen, Sarwandeep Singh, Nikhil Devasar & Garima Bhatia 2017. *A Photographic Field Guide to the Birds of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh*. Princeton University Press. (ISBN-13: 9780691176499) A superb guide but at 792 pages & containing over 4000 colour photos and 1300 colour distribution maps it more of a reference book than a field guide.

Grimmett, R., Inskipp, T. 2005. *Birds of South India*. Helm Field Guides. (ISBN 10: 0713651644 and ISBN-13: 978-0713651645) Another excellent field guide covering all the birds that we will see on the tour.

Grimmett, R., Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T. 2012. *Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. Christopher Helm. London. (ISBN-13: 9781408127636). An excellent portable field guide that illustrates all the species we will see on this tour using most of the same plates as the same authors' hefty 'Birds of the Indian Subcontinent'.

Kazmierczak, K. 2000. *A Field Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. Another excellent and compact guide.

Kazmierczak, K. 1999. *A Bird Watchers' Guide to India*. Prion, Sandy, U.K. A useful and informative bird finding guide that covers several of the places that we will visit on this tour.

Rasmussen Pamela C. and John C. Anderton. 2012. 2nd edition *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*. Lynx Edicions. (ISBN-13: 9788496553859). Volumes I & II. The most complete guide to the birds of the region. Includes much previously unpublished data on identification, distribution, vocalizations, and taxonomy, along with a critical re-appraisal of historic information. Published in two parts – one of the hard-bound books containing detailed information on ranges, identification, vocalisations, habits, and habitat preferences etc. while the other, and slimmer volume, contains all the maps and plates with captions. **Recommended.**

Other references:

Daniel, J.C. 1983. *The book of Indian Reptiles*. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. An excellent guide to the reptiles of India with many good colour plates.

Das, Indraneil. 2002. *Snakes & other Reptiles of India*. New Holland, U.K. (ISBN 1 84330 125 3). A useful & well illustrated guide to Indian reptiles.

Gurun K.K. & Raj Singh. 1997. *Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent and where to watch them*. This excellent new guide contains good colour plates and covers the vast majority of the mammals which occur in the Indian Subcontinent.

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The guide has been published privately in Great Britain to a very high quality but is not available for sale to the general public. We have a limited supply of the guides in the office should you wish to order a copy to take on the tour. The cost is £16.00 per copy (including postage and packing).

Inskipp, T., Lindsey, N. & Duckworth, W. *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region*. (1966) *Oriental Bird Club*. (ISBN 0-9529545-0-8). An excellent and authoritative list of all the birds of the Oriental region giving preferred English and scientific names, pseudonyms, and a wealth of information on recent, not so recent, and potential taxonomic changes.

Israel, Samuel and Toby Sinclair. 1987. *Indian Wildlife*. APA Productions, Singapore. An excellent guide to Indian wildlife illustrated with many colour photographs. Good background reading before the tour.

Jackson, M & A. Robertson. 1992. *The Birds of Periyar*. T. & W.S.I., Jaipur. An excellent booklet on the birds of this well-known South Indian sanctuary contains some useful identification hints. Now out-of-print and difficult to obtain.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Mammals of India: Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

Bikram Grewal & Rohit Chakravarty 2016 *A Naturalist's Guide to the Mammals of India*. John Beaufoy Books (ISBN-13: 9781909612808)

Sivaperuman, C, Gokulakrishnan, G, Rasmussen, P.C. and Parthipan, P.2018. Avifauna of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with an Updated Checklist in Sivaperuman, C. & Venkataraman, K. (eds.) 2018. *Indian Hotspots*. This excellent chapter is available to download at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327243574_Avifauna_of_Andaman_and_Nicobar_Islands_with_an_Updated_Checklist_Vertebrate_Faunal_Diversity_Conservation_and_Management_Volume_2

Tikader, B.K. 1984. *Birds of Andaman and Nicobar Islands*. Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. Not particularly useful as an aid to identification but has a fairly complete (though now somewhat dated) listing of the Bay Islands' birds with their known distribution and occurrence. No longer readily available in the U.K. but it may still be possible to get hold of copies in Port Blair or from a specialist second-hand book dealer.

Sound Guides:

Jannes, Hannu. 2002. *Bird Sounds of Goa & South India*. Privately published, Helsinki, Finland. An excellent CD with recordings of 99 species including a good number of common & not so common Goan birds many of which we will see on this South Indian tour. Available from WildSounds (see below).

Sivaprasad, P. S. 1994. *An Audio Guide to the Birds of South India*. Part 1. A useful introduction to some of the endemic species as well as the commoner birds of the southern subcontinent, covering 66 species on 90 minutes of tape. Now out-of-print and difficult to obtain.

ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB: Please support this charity which aims to raise money to support conservation projects, encourages an interest in the conservation of birds, and liaises with and promotes the work of existing societies within the region. You will find their contact details and further information about the Club at www.orientalbirdclub.org

FINAL INFORMATION: Final information with instructions for meeting the group, hotel addresses etc., and your international air tickets will be sent out about three weeks before the start of the tour. If you have any questions, please contact us.