Full Detailed Itinerary - China Photo Tour

Day 1: Arrival in Shanghai

Flights arrive in Shanghai. After transferring to the hotel, there may be some time in the afternoon to head out into the field to photograph Reed and Vinous-throated Parrotbills. Night in Shanghai.

Day 2: Shanghai – Sanming City – Dangzhou Village

We take a morning high-speed train from Shanghai to Sanming Bei, then drive for two hours to the mountainous Dangzhou Village. We'll spend time photographing the endemic Elliot’s Pheasant from a hide, with a chance to also find Silver Pheasant. If conditions allow, there may be an evening outing to photograph the elusive and rare White-eared Night Heron. Night in Dangzhou.

Day 3: Dangzhou Village

We spend another morning at the Elliot’s Pheasant hide, then set out in search of the Blyth’s Kingfisher. Other possible bird sightings include Huet’s Fulvetta, Gray-sided Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, Rufous-faced Warbler, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Gray Treepie, and Chinese Hwamei, among others. Night in Dangzhou.

Day 4: Dangzhou – Jianou City

After a few more hours of photography here, if needed, we drive for three hours to Jianou City. We spend the afternoon at Li Mountain at a hide where we hope to shoot Cabot’s Tragopan. Night in Jianou City.

Day 5: Li Mountain

We spend at least part of the day photographing birds at the tragopan hide. If we have successfully captured good shots of the tragopan, we can spend time searching for species such as Huet’s Fulvetta, Gray-sided Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, Rufous-faced Warbler, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Gray Treepie, Chinese Hwamei, and more. Night in Jianou City.

Day 6: Jianou City – Wuyuan

If needed, we may return to the tragopan hide in the morning, then drive to Wuyuan Village. If time allows, we will search for Chinese Scaly-sided Merganser. These birds typically winter here, but some individuals may remain until mid-April. Night in Wuyuan.

Day 7: Wuyuan

We start the morning at a hide to photograph Pied Falconet, then spend time looking for Short-tailed Parrotbill, Green Shrike Babbler, Moustached Laughingthrush, Spotted Elachura, White-crowned Forktail, Gray-headed Parrotbill, and more. We have a second night in Wuyuan.

Day 8: Wuyuan – Dongzhai

We take the high-speed train to Xinyang, then drive for one hour to Dongzhai National Nature Reserve. In the afternoon we visit a hide for the endemic Reeve's Pheasant. Night in Dongzhai.

Day 9: Dongzhai

Target species today include Reeve's Pheasant, Crested Ibis, Collared Crow, Yellow-bellied Tit, Silver-throated Tit, Yellow-browed Bunting, Crested Kingfisher, and more. We have another night in Dongzhai.

Day 10: Dongzhai – Quan Shui Wan

After a final opportunity to photograph Reeve's Pheasant, we drive to Quanshui Wan in the afternoon (4.5 hours). We'll spend three nights here.

Days 11-12: Quan Shui Wan

We have two full days of bird photography around Quan Shui Wan. Main targets include the endemic Golden Pheasant and Koklass Pheasant. Other notable species include Chukar, Chinese Thrush, Masked Laughingthrush, and Yellow-throated Bunting.

Day 13: Quanshui Wan – Chengdu – Wuzhi Mountain

This is a travel day as we drive for two hours to Luoyang Longmen Station, then take a high-speed train to Chengdu (4.5 hours). After arrival, it is another four hours drive to Wuzhi Mountain, where we spend the next three nights.

Days 14-15: Wuzhi Mountain Nature Reserve

We leave early each morning to reach the best feeding stations for bird photography. Target species include the endemic Sichuan Partridge, Slaty Bunting, Emeishan Liocichla, Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Temminck's Tragopan, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Silver Pheasant, and Red-billed Leiothrix. Other notable species we may find along the trails include Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Ashy-throated Parrotbill, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, and Chinese Babax, among others.

Day 16: Wuzhi Mountain – Chengdu

After one last morning here, we drive back to Chengdu and spend the night.

Day 17: Departure

The tour concludes today with transfers to the airport. No photography is planned for today.

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