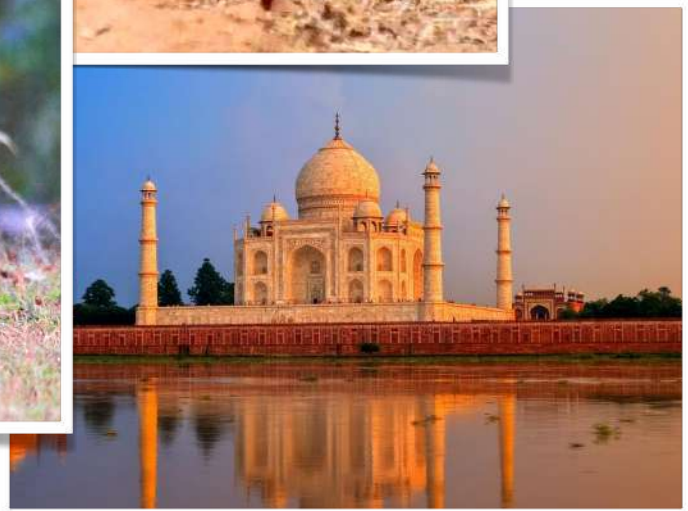


# Maga India Birds Wildlife and Taj Tour 2026

**31 Days | Across India | 8 participants**



## **Taj, Tiger, and Birds: Mega India Wildlife Tour – 31Days**

Crafted by *Endemic Explorer*

Embark on an unparalleled journey with Endemic Explorer, where India's wild soul unfolds across 31 breathtaking days. From the arid tiger havens of the west to the misty Himalayan foothills, the remote Andaman Islands, and the lush Western Ghats, this itinerary is a love letter to birdwatchers and wildlife photographers. With over 600 bird species to chase, iconic animals like tigers and rhinos to track, and the timeless Taj Mahal as a cultural crown, this tour blends nature's spectacle with India's rich heritage. Our 12 years of expertise, anchored by our dedicated India office, ensure every moment is seamless, immersive, and unforgettable.



### **Day 1: Arrival in Delhi (6 January 2026)**

Elevation: 216 m

Temperature: 7°C to 20°C

Touch down in Delhi, India's vibrant capital, where your adventure begins! After landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport, we'll whisk you to a cosy hotel near the airport. Delhi hums with a chaotic charm—ancient forts jostle with modern sprawl—but tonight, it's all about resting up. Tomorrow, the wild calls, and you'll need your energy for the avian and cultural marvels ahead.

### **Day 2: Delhi to Agra (7 January 2026)**

Travel: 240 km, 4–5 hours

Elevation: 171 m

Temperature: 8°C to 22°C

Rise early and journey south to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. After a hearty breakfast, settle in for the drive, arriving in time for lunch. The afternoon belongs to the Taj—a shimmering marble masterpiece that glows at sunset. While here, keep an eye out for urban birds like the Indian Robin, Red-wattled Lapwing, and Black Kite soaring above the city's bustle. Overnight in Agra, dreaming of the wild days ahead.

Birds to Spot: Indian Robin, Red-wattled Lapwing, Black Kite, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Bank Myna.



### **Day 3: Chambal River Safari & Bharatpur (8 January 2026)**

Travel: 70 km to Chambal (1.5 hours), 60 km to Bharatpur (1.5 hours)

Elevation: 150 m

Temperature: 8°C to 22°C

Leave Agra at dawn for the Chambal River, a pristine lifeline cutting through rugged ravines in northern India. This boat safari is a treasure trove for birders, with the endangered Indian Skimmer slicing through the air and the majestic Sarus Crane standing tall along the banks. The river's ecosystem also shelters Gharials, Gangetic Dolphins, and Marsh Crocodiles, making it a wildlife photographer's dream. After this thrilling ride, head to Bharatpur, the gateway to Keoladeo National Park. Located in Rajasthan, this town sits on the edge of one of the world's premier birding sites, where wetlands and woodlands promise a symphony of wings. Settle in for the night, anticipation building for the days ahead.

Birds to Spot: Indian Skimmer, Sarus Crane, Black-bellied Tern, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Bar-headed Goose.

Animals to Spot: Gharial, Gangetic Dolphin, Smooth-coated Otter, Marsh Crocodile.



### **Days 4–5: Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (9–10 January 2026)**

Elevation: 180 m

Temperature: 7°C to 22°C

Welcome to Keoladeo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Rajasthan that's a global birding legend. Once a royal hunting ground, this 29-square-kilometre sanctuary now teems with over 370 bird species, its wetlands and forests a haven for migrants and residents alike. Glide through on cycle rickshaws, camera ready for Cranes and Storks, or the stealthy Greater Spotted Eagle. Wildlife photographers will revel in the golden light illuminating Sambar Deer, Nilgai, and Golden Jackals amid the reeds. Two full days here let you soak in the park's magic—morning mists revealing herons, evenings alive with owl hoots. This is India's avian crown jewel, and you're in the front row.

**Birds to Spot:** Aquatic birds and Migratory Ducks, many resident species

**Animals to Spot:** Sambar Deer, Nilgai, Golden Jackal, Indian Python.

### **Day 6: Ranthambore National Park (11 January 2026)**

Travel: 250 km, 5–6 hours

Elevation: 250 m

Temperature: 5°C to 20°C

Journey deeper into Rajasthan to Ranthambore National Park, India's tiger stronghold. Nestled between the Aravali and Vindhya hills, this former royal hunting ground spans rugged forests, lakes, and ancient ruins, including a 10th-century fort. Arrive by afternoon and ease into birding along the park's fringes—listen for the haunting call of the Indian Eagle-Owl or spot the flamboyant Indian Peafowl strutting by. Ranthambore's 300+ bird species share the stage with its famed Bengal tigers, leopards, and sloth bears, offering a thrilling prelude to tomorrow's safari. Check into your lodge, the wild whispers of the night setting the scene for an epic day ahead.

**Birds to Spot:** Indian Eagle-Owl, Crested Serpent Eagle, Painted Spurfowl, Indian Peafowl, Rufous Treepie.

**Animals to Spot:** Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Spotted Deer.





### Day 7: Ranthambore Safari (12 January 2026)

Elevation: 250 m

Temperature: 5°C to 20°C

Today, Ranthambore's wild heart opens wide. Two jeep safaris plunge you into its untamed beauty—one at dawn, another in the late afternoon. The park's mix of dense forests and open grasslands is a tiger's playground, and January's cool weather boosts your chances of spotting these elusive cats. Between tiger tracks, focus your binoculars on the Changeable Hawk-Eagle soaring overhead or the Indian Roller flashing its iridescent wings. Leopards slink through the shadows, wild boars rustle in the undergrowth, and striped hyenas prowl at dusk. With every turn, Ranthambore blends raw wildlife drama with avian artistry, leaving you breathless and lens-happy.

Overnight at your lodge, replaying the day's wonders.

Birds to Spot: Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Sirkeer Malkoha, Indian Roller, Common Kingfisher, Plum-headed Parakeet.

Animals to Spot: Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Wild Boar, Striped Hyena.

### Day 8: Ranthambore to Jaipur (13 January 2026)

Travel: 180 km, 4 hours

Elevation: 431 m

Temperature: 8°C to 22°C

After a final morning safari, bid Ranthambore farewell and drive to Jaipur, Rajasthan's Pink City. Known for its rose-hued architecture, this capital city buzzes with history and colour. Arrive by afternoon and spend the evening wandering its vibrant markets or marvelling at landmarks like the Hawa Mahal. Birders can catch urban species like the White-eared Bulbul or Green Bee-eater flitting among the chaos. Jaipur offers a cultural breather before the Himalayan leg begins, blending the wild with the regal. Overnight here, soaking in the city's charm.

Birds to Spot: White-eared Bulbul, Eurasian Hoopoe, Indian Silverbill, Green Bee-eater.

### Day 9: Jaipur to Sattal via Pantnagar (14 January 2026)

Travel: Flight to Pantnagar, then 300 km drive (6–7 hours)

Elevation: 1,370 m

Temperature: 2°C to 15°C



Fly from Jaipur to Pantnagar, then wind your way into the Kumaon Himalayas to Sattal, a serene cluster of seven lakes cradled by oak and pine forests. At 1,370 metres, this Uttarakhand gem is a birder's retreat, its crisp air alive with the calls of Great Barbets and Rufous Sibias. Arrive by late afternoon, and if time allows, dip into roadside birding—Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches and Blue-winged Minlas might greet you. Sattal's tranquil beauty and rich avian diversity set the stage for three days of Himalayan exploration. Settle into your lodge; the mountain silence is a soothing balm.

Birds to Spot: Great Barbet, Blue-winged Minla, Rufous Sibia, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch.

### **Days 10–12: Sattal, Shyamkhet, Chafi River, and Ranikhet (15–17 January 2026)**

Elevation: 1,370 m (Sattal), 1,800 m (Ranikhet)  
Temperature: 2°C to 15°C

Dive into the lower Himalayas' avian splendour across three enchanting days. Sattal's interconnected lakes and mixed forests hum with life—Himalayan Griffons wheel above while Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers tap rhythmically below. Move to Shyamkhet, a mid-altitude haven where White-throated Laughingthrushes chatter in the undergrowth. Along the Chafi River, flowing through Uttarakhand's lush valleys, spot riverine gems like the Slaty-headed Parakeet amid serene waters. Finally, ascend to Ranikhet, a picturesque hill station at 1,800 metres, where bird hides reveal Koklass Pheasants and Yellow-breasted Greenfinches against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks. Though wildlife is subtler here, Himalayan Black Bears and gorals roam the shadows. This trio of destinations offers a photographer's palette of forest greens and mountain blues, brimming with lifers.

Birds to Spot: Himalayan Griffon, Koklass Pheasant, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, White-throated Laughingthrush, Red-billed Leiothrix.

### **Days 13–14: Pangot and Jim Corbett National Park (18–19 January 2026)**

Elevation: 2,100 m (Pangot), 400 m (Jim Corbett)  
Temperature: 4°C to 18°C

Ascend to Pangot, a high-altitude birding paradise in Uttarakhand's Nainital district, where oak and rhododendron forests cloak the slopes at 2,100 metres. At Koklass Point, pheasants strut and wallcreepers defy gravity on sheer cliffs, while great hornbills boom through the canopy. Next, descend to Jim Corbett National Park, India's oldest tiger reserve, sprawling across 520 square kilometres of grasslands, sal forests, and riverine belts. Jeep safaris here unveil Pallas's Fish Eagles diving for prey and Tawny Fish Owls peering from dusk-lit branches. Tigers and Asian





elephants rule this domain, with Himalayan Black Bears adding intrigue. From Pangot's lofty serenity to Corbett's raw wilderness, these days blend altitude and attitude, leaving your bird list and memory card gloriously full.



Birds to Spot: Collared Falconet, Great Hornbill, Wallcreeper, Long-tailed Broadbill, Black Francolin.

Animals to Spot: Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, Himalayan Black Bear, Goral.

### **Day 15: Jim Corbett to Assam (20 January 2026)**

Elevation: 400 m

Temperature: 5°C to 20°C

Savour one last Corbett safari at dawn, chasing crested kingfishers or elusive tigers. After breakfast, drive to Pantnagar Airport for a flight to Guwahati, Assam's gateway to the northeast. This travel day bridges the Himalayas and the Brahmaputra Valley, landing you in Assam by evening. Check into Krishna Grand or something similar, and rest up for Kaziranga's wild embrace tomorrow. If time permits, a quick birding stop near Corbett's outskirts might yield a bonus lifer.

### **Days 16–18: Kaziranga National Park (21–23 January 2026)**

Elevation: 60 m

Temperature: 10°C to 25°C

Enter Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Assam, where the Brahmaputra River's floodplains nurture a biodiversity bonanza. Famous for hosting two-thirds of the world's Indian one-horned rhinoceroses, this 430-square-kilometre expanse also shelters Bengal tigers, Asian elephants, and Asiatic wild buffalo. Over three days, five half-day safaris weave through grasslands, wetlands, and forests; each ride offers a chance to spot the endangered Bengal florican or the statuesque Greater Adjutant. Pallas's Fish Eagles soar above, while swamp francolins skulk below, offering photographers endless frames. Hoolock gibbons swing through the treetops, adding a playful note to this wild symphony. Kaziranga's raw beauty and rare species make it a pinnacle of your Indian odyssey. Stay at Infinity Resort or similar, immersed in nature's pulse.

Birds to Spot: Bengal Florican, Greater Adjutant, Swamp Francolin, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Pied Harrier.

Animals to Spot: Indian One-horned Rhinoceros, Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Wild Buffalo, Swamp Deer.



### **Day 19: Kaziranga to Chennai (24 January 2026)**

Travel: Flight from Guwahati to Chennai

Elevation: 6 m

Temperature: 20°C to 30°C

Rise early and depart Kaziranga for Guwahati Airport, catching a noon flight to Chennai. This bustling South Indian metropolis on the Bay of Bengal is your stepping stone to the Andamans. Arrive by evening, check into Accord Chrome or similar, and enjoy a relaxed dinner. Tomorrow, the islands beckon with their endemic treasures.

### **Day 20: Chennai to Port Blair, Andaman Islands (25 January 2026)**

Travel: Flight to Port Blair

Elevation: Sea Level

Temperature: 23°C to 30°C

Fly over 1,000 kilometres across the Bay of Bengal to Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This tropical archipelago, fringed by coral reefs and emerald waters, is a biodiversity hotspot isolated from mainland India. Its lush forests and coastal habitats



harbour over 20 endemic bird species, from the Andaman Woodpecker drumming on trunks to the Andaman Serpent Eagle ruling the skies. Arrive at SeaShell Port Blair or similar, your base for exploring this remote paradise. Starting tomorrow, the islands' pristine beaches and wartime history add layers to your birding quest.

Birds to Spot: Andaman Woodpecker, Andaman Serpent Eagle, Andaman Cuckoo-Dove, Andaman Crane, Andaman Drongo.



### **Days 21–23: Andaman Birding Expedition (26–28 January 2026)**

Elevation: Sea Level

Temperature: 23°C to 30°C

Three days of Andaman exploration unfold across Chidiya Tapu, Sippighat Wetlands, Mount Harriet National Park, and Shoal Bay. This insular Eden, 1,200 kilometres from India's coast, teems with endemics found nowhere else. At Chidiya Tapu, the "Bird Island," spot Andaman nightjars haunting the dusk and white-headed starlings gleaming in the sun. Sippighat's marshes reveal the secretive Andaman Crane, while Mount Harriet's misty trails host the Nicobar Pigeon's iridescent sheen. Nocturnal outings target rare owls—such as Andaman scops owls and masked owls—adding a thrill to your nights. With no large predators, the focus is pure avian magic, framed by turquoise seas and dense jungles. Stay at SeaShell Port Blair, each day

deepening your island love affair.

Birds to Spot: Andaman Nightjar, Andaman Scops Owl, Andaman Masked Owl, White-headed Starling, Nicobar Pigeon.

### **Day 24: Port Blair to Ooty via Coimbatore (29 January 2026)**

Travel: Flight to Coimbatore, then drive 90 km (3–4 hours)

Elevation: 2,240 m

Temperature: 5°C to 18°C

Catch an early flight back to mainland India, landing in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu's gateway to the Western Ghats. Drive up winding roads to Ooty, a colonial hill station in the Nilgiri Hills at 2,240 metres. Known as the "Queen of Hills," Ooty's rolling tea estates and cool climate cradle a biodiversity hotspot. Check into Logan Camp or similar, your base for chasing Western Ghats endemics. Tomorrow, the Nilgiris' montane forests unveil their secrets.

### **Days 25–26: Ooty Birding Expedition (30–31 January 2026)**

Elevation: 2,240 m

Temperature: 5°C to 18°C

The Nilgiri Hills, part of the Western Ghats UNESCO site, beckon with two days of high-altitude birding. Ooty's shola forests and grassy slopes harbour treasures like the Nilgiri Laughingthrush, its cheerful song echoing through the mist, and the elusive Nilgiri Flycatcher, a sapphire flash amid the green. Explore Doddabetta Peak, Avalanche Lake, and Mudumalai's fringes, where black-and-orange flycatchers and Malabar whistling thrushes thrive. Though wildlife is quieter here, elusive leopards and sloth bears roam the shadows. The Nilgiris' cool air and endemic richness make every sighting a triumph, with sweeping vistas perfect for photography. Logan Camp keeps you cosy amid this montane marvel.

Birds to Spot: Nilgiri Laughingthrush, Nilgiri Flycatcher, White-bellied Blue Robin, Black-and-orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Thrush.



### **Day 27: Ooty to Thattekad Bird Sanctuary (1 February 2026)**

Travel: 280 km, 6–7 hours

Elevation: 120 m

Temperature: 18°C to 30°C

Descend from Ooty's heights to Thattekad Bird Sanctuary in Kerala, near the Periyar River. Dubbed the "richest bird habitat in peninsular India" by Dr Salim Ali, this lowland evergreen forest sprawls across 25 square kilometres, hosting over 350 species. Arrive at Bird Murmur Camp or similar, your home for the final leg. Thattekad's humid trails promise Sri Lanka Frogmouths croaking at dusk and Malabar Trogons glowing in the canopy—endemics that define the Western Ghats. Settle in, the sanctuary's chorus lulling you into tomorrow's adventure.

### **Days 28–30: Thattekad Birding & Munnar Excursion (2–4 February 2026)**

Elevation: 120 m (Thattekad), 1,500 m (Munnar)

Temperature: 15°C to 28°C

Spend three days immersed in Thattekad's avian riches, where white-bellied treepies and rufous babblers flit through dense foliage, and the rare black baza perches in regal silence. Trails and bird hides maximise your sightings, with the sanctuary's wetlands adding diversity. On Day 29, an excursion to Munnar, a tea-carpeted hill station at 1,500 metres, unveils high-altitude endemics like the Kerala Laughingthrush, missed in Ooty. Back in

Thattekad, the final day seals your journey with lifers and lush landscapes. Elephants and gaurs roam these forests, adding heft to your wildlife tally. Bird Murmur Camp keeps you close to the action, every moment a celebration of the Western Ghats' wild pulse.

Birds to Spot: Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, White-bellied Treepie, Grey-headed Bulbul, Kerala Laughingthrush.

### **Day 31: Departure from Kochi (5 February 2026)**

After 30 days of wings, paws, and wonders, enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Thattekad before transferring to Kochi International Airport. Depart by 3:00 PM, your heart and camera brimming with over 700 bird species, iconic wildlife, and the real India—curated by Endemic Explorer.



### **Tour Details**

**Start:** 6 Jan 2026, Ibis Airport Hotel, New Delhi

**End:** 3:00 PM, 5 Feb 2026, Kochi International Airport

**Birds Expected:** 600+ Species

**Key Animals:** Tiger, Leopard, Asian Elephant, Sloth Bear, Indian Rhino, Water Buffalo, Primates

**Accommodations:** Birding lodges to 4-star resorts

**Food:** Indian & Continental (vegetarian options available)

**Flights Included:** Jaipur–Pantnagar–Guwahati–Chennai–Port Blair–Coimbatore



**Tour Cost: USD 7550/-** (Per Person-Twinshare basis)

**or USD 8800/- for single-room accommodation**

### **Included in the Tour Cost:**

All accommodations as per the itinerary, domestic flight tickets, all meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), guide fees, ground transportation, river cruise on the Chambal River, three tiger safaris, entrance fees, and land permits.

### **Not Included in the Tour Cost:**

International flight tickets, visa fees, travel insurance, laundry, additional food and drinks, and tips for guides and staff.

### **Tour Leader:**

An experienced guide/tour manager will accompany you throughout the trip, supported by various local guides.

### **Key Species Expected**

**Birds:** 600+ species expected- including: Andaman Crake, Andaman Cuckoo-Dove, Andaman Drongo, Andaman Masked Owl, Andaman Nightjar, Andaman Scops Owl, Andaman Serpent Eagle, Andaman Shama, Andaman Woodpecker, Bank Myna, Bar-headed Goose, Bay Owl, Black Francolin, Black Kite, Black-and-orange Flycatcher, Black-bellied Tern, Black-headed Ibis, Blue-winged Minla, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Cheer Pheasant, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Collared Falconet, Common Kingfisher, Crested Serpent Eagle, Eurasian Hoopoe, Great Barbet, Great Hornbill, Green Bee-eater, Grey-headed Bulbul, Himalayan Griffon, Ibisbill, Indian Eagle-Owl, Indian Peafowl, Indian Robin, Indian Roller, Indian Scops Owl, Indian Silverbill, Indian Skimmer, Kerala Laughingthrush, Koklass Pheasant, Long-tailed Broadbill, Malabar Barbet, Malabar Flameback, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Lark, Malabar Parakeet, Malabar Starling, Malabar Trogon, Malabar Whistling Thrush, Malabar Woodshrike, Mottled Wood Owl, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Nilgiri Laughingthrush, Nilgiri Pipit, Nilgiri Thrush, Painted Spurfowl, Painted Stork, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Pied Hornbill, Plum-headed Parakeet, Purple Heron, Red-billed Leiothrix, Rufous Sibia, Grey Treepie, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Sarus Crane, Siberian Rubythroat, Sirkeer Malkoha, Slaty-headed Parakeet, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Tawny Fish Owl, Wallcreeper, White-bellied Blue Robin, White-bellied Eagle-Owl, White-bellied Treepie, White-eared Bulbul, White-headed Starling, White-throated Laughingthrush, Yellow-breasted Greenfinch and many more.

**Animals:** Asian Elephant, Bengal Tiger, Gangetic Dolphin, Gaur, Gharial, Golden Jackal, Goral, Indian Python, Leopard, Marsh Crocodile, Nilgai, Sambar Deer, Sloth Bear, Otter, Spotted Deer, Nilgiri Thar, Indian Rhino, Water buffalo, Hoolock Gibbon etc.

## Important Notes

1. **Flexible Itinerary**  
This is a carefully crafted travel plan; however, day-to-day scheduling may be adjusted by our team in response to local conditions and logistical needs.
2. **Dynamic Nature of the Expedition**  
Due to the nature of wildlife travel, you may experience delays or last-minute changes. Flexibility and patience are essential companions on this journey.
3. **Physical Readiness**  
While this is not a physically strenuous expedition, it spans a long duration and covers diverse terrains. Please ensure you are in good health and reasonably fit to participate fully.
4. **Non-Refundable in Case of Early Exit**  
In the event you are unable to complete the tour due to health issues or any other personal reason, please note that refunds will not be possible, as the trip involves pre-booked logistics across multiple regions.
5. **Accommodation Standards**  
We will be staying in comfortable hotels at most locations. However, some birding lodges may be more basic in nature, prioritising proximity to wildlife over luxury.
6. **Travel Insurance**  
It is essential that your travel insurance covers the full duration of your trip, including medical emergencies, travel disruptions, and any unforeseen events.
7. **Photography-Friendly**  
This is a photography-friendly tour. We accommodate photographers with ample time for sightings and support for capturing key moments throughout the journey.
8. **Sightings and Species Count**  
Although our aim is to observe 600+ bird species during this tour, wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Nature operates on its own terms, and we do not guarantee specific species or sightings.



**Endemic Explorer LTD**

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