






Vietnam's Rare Primates Tour

Destination: North, Central & South Vietnam

Season: April - May

-  Expert local guide & assistance throughout – access to scientific study troops
-  Night walks and spotlighting in as many locations as possible
-  Boat cruise around Van Long Reserve looking for Delacour's Langur
-  Up to 20 species of primates can be seen on this trip – along with other mammals
-  A unique trip which includes time looking for all three species of Douc Langurs

Dates:

Next group tour: 1st Apr – 15th Apr 2024

Private / Tailored Tour information:

This tour can be booked anytime of the year, but there is a peak season in April and May (subject to availability), when weather conditions are very favourable for travelling around this great country.

So we choose the dates we do as these are right at the end of the dry season when conditions are deemed the absolute best for our targeted species. However in recent years the rainy season has been harder to predict successfully.

Whilst we have a good success rate in filling tours some people prefer to book a private tour to avoid any disappointment and guarantee the departure.

We can run this tour with any number of people (up to a maximum of 12 people), however the price advertised for our group tour is our cheapest rate (based on a full trip), for lower numbers the per person price does increase.

We also have flexibility for the duration of trip you would like to book.

We have a range of other options in Vietnam for wildlife and other areas nearby such as Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia and China which you can combine with this itinerary into a tailor made wildlife watching tour.

Trips for any group size and any duration are possible, please enquire further for more information on our tailored Vietnam wildlife tours.

Prices (2024 season):

Group Tour (14 nights)
£3,995 per person
*single supplement £580

Overview

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City

Days 2-4: Cat Tien NP

Day 5: Cat Tien NP / Danang

Day 6: Nui Thanh Reserve

Day 7: Son Tra / Bach Ma NP

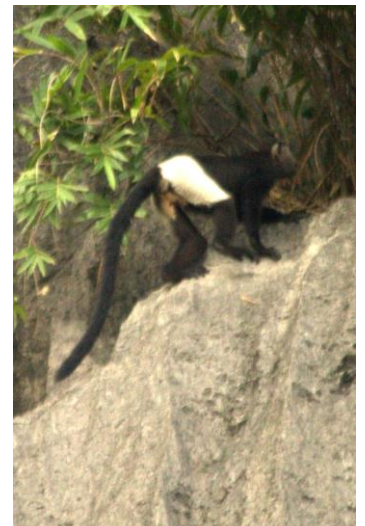
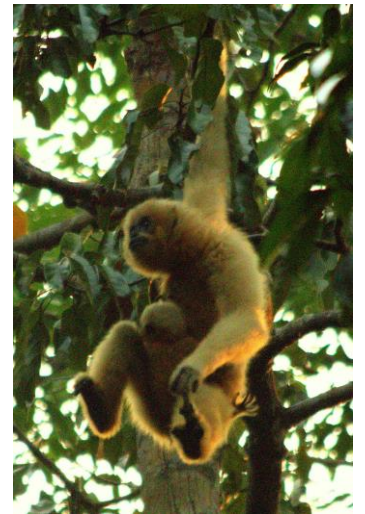
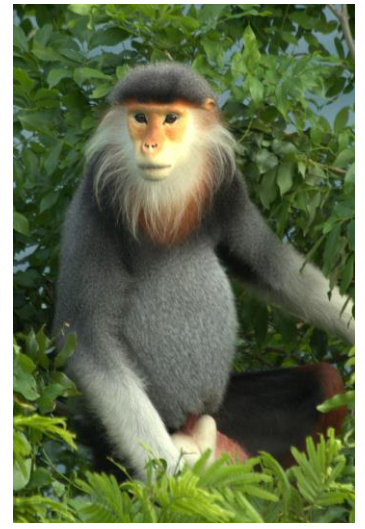
Day 8: Bach Ma NP

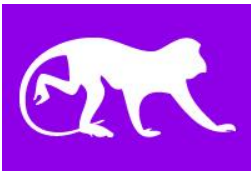
Days 9-11: Phong Nha NP

Day 12: Ninh Binh

Days 13-14: Van Long Reserve

Day 15: Hanoi / Home





Tour Information

Introduction

Vietnam is home to 25 species of wild primate, for such a small country with a huge human (not one of the primates included) population this is incredible. This tour aims to showcase as many of these primate species as possible, we will not see all 25, but we do hope to be able to see around half (with some good luck). This tour travels from the south to the north and visits various locations which are among some of the only places where certain species still cling to existence.

South East Asian wildlife (and particularly Vietnamese) is at a turning point in terms of its conservation; currently there are still huge tracts of forest intact, with connecting forest corridors linking vital protected areas and cross boundary forests; where many endangered species still have large enough populations to survive into the future. However this can only happen with the right level of protection and awareness from the local people and their respective governments, as well as international eco-tourism really taking off here. But South East Asia is also the part of the world that is seeing huge deforestation and the proliferation in the illegal animal trade. The billions of US dollars in illegal logging and the animal trafficking trade is taking its toll, so now is the time for people (international tourists and locals) to appreciate what wonderful national parks there are here and also contribute to the local economies so that the locals begin to see that intact forests and living animals are worth more alive than exploited.

Whilst on this particular trip the primates are major focus of this trip; with some of the rarest species in the world inhabiting these forests. Some of the langurs, gibbons and douc-langurs are so endangered that there are only 50-100 left in the world. Some of these species are intensively studying and we have a very good chance of seeing them, some are not protected very well at all and so they will be harder to find, but we will endeavour to do our best at all locations or course. Once again (as with all Royle Safaris trips) we will employ the best local guides at each national park who will work alongside our own zoologist escort to try and find as many species and interpret the amazing behaviour we see.

Alongside the primates we will also be watching out for the larger species that inhabit these forests such as sambar deer, muntjacs and of course a whole host of rarer species such as sun bears, leopards, Indo-Chinese clouded leopards, binturongs and dozens of other species or mammals and the bird life is also incredibly varied with hundreds of species possible including a good number of hornbills with the magnificent great hornbill being the undisputed highlight.

Whilst exploring the forests and looking for all of these species and more you can rest assured that we will be exploring some of the least visited forests and national parks and seeing a range of wildlife that is unparalleled in other wildlife watching holidays.

Itinerary

Day 1 **Ho Chi Minh City**

Arrival

Accommodation:

TBC (3* Hotel)

Food:

No meals are included today.

Transportation:

Private vehicle.

On your arrival at Ho Chi Minh City airport you will be met by your zoologist escort (subject to availability) and your local guide and transferred to your accommodation, there are no further plans for today, however if you arrive early enough you can explore some of this famous city.

Day 2 **Cat Tien National Park**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

National Park
Accommodation
(Forest Chalets)

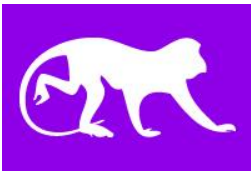
Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel, lunch and dinner at the new lodge.

Transportation:

Private vehicle &
Walking.

Today you will be collected from your hotel and taken directly to Cat Tien National Park which is roughly 150 km drive to the north (5 hours). Cat Tien National Park contains the largest remaining area of lowland tropical forest in southern Vietnam and an incredible diversity of mammals and birds. Cat Tien is home to three of Vietnam's endangered primates; the Black-shanked douc, Annamese silvered langur and Southern buff-cheeked gibbon. Upon our arrival, we will check in to the lodge and you then have the rest of the evening to settle into your new



surroundings. Subject to the availability and the time we arrive we may be able to book on the nocturnal safari drive that is managed by the national park. Cat Tien National Park covers 719km² of lowland forest and swamp and is home to some of the highest biodiversity in South East Asia. Among the mammal species here are a number of primates such as the endemic southern buff-cheeked gibbon and the red-shanked douc, other mammals that inhabit the park include Asiatic black bears, Asiatic elephants, sun bears and gaur as well as around 100 other species. Over 350 species of birds have been recorded including specialities like Germain's peacock pheasant, bar-bellied pitta and the rare endemic orange-necked partridge. The range of life found here is incredible with over 120 reptile and amphibian species, over 130 species of freshwater fish, around 460 species of butterflies and to date over 1,610 species of plants have been recorded. Tomorrow we will hope to see as much of this flora and fauna as possible.

Days 3-4 **Cat Tien National Park**

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

Accommodation:

National Park
Accommodation
(Forest Chalets)

Food:

All meals will be served when in Cat Tien NP and then lunch and dinner in Ho Chi Minh and Danang are not included.

Transportation:

Private vehicles,
Walking & Internal
flight.

For the next two days we will start very early in the morning and take a walk into the forest for time to observe the primates as they start their daily routines; our main targets here will be the endangered northern buff-cheeked gibbons. This species make territorial calls in the mornings and could be located this way along with black-shanked douc langurs and Annamese silvered langurs; we will also have a good chance of seeing various squirrel species and the common slender-tailed tree shrew. After seeing as many of these species as possible we will return for breakfast. After breakfast a car will then take us through 9km of lush, green forest towards Crocodile Lake (Bau Sau), we will then walk a little way to reach the shores of the lake. We will then enjoy the beauty of the lake wetland ecosystem stretches and its various bird life. The lake is over 13 hectares which swells to a massive 151 hectares when flooded. This lake plays an important role in the maintenance and conservation of the biodiversity in the region as well as the social and economic life of communities around the Dong Nai River Basin. We will also look out for some of the Siamese crocodiles that inhabit the lake, they were part of a 2000 reintroduction programme and have increased steadily in number since then. There are some small caves around the lake and its trails which we will explore a little as well. In the afternoon, we discover and enjoy the variety of trees and listen to the sounds of jungle as well as explore the forest again, before returning for lunch. In the evening we take part in a night safari. We begin by taking a car along the jungle trails to observe wild animals such as sambar deer, muntjacs, wild boar, Malay crested porcupines, gaur (rare) and yellow-throated martens. We will also hope for various civet species and maybe a pygmy slow loris after dark on the scheduled night safari and also be walking with your guide to areas known to be the habitat of pygmy slow loris.

Day 5 **Cat Tien NP - Danang**

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

Accommodation:

TBC
(3* Hotel)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel with a packed lunch taken into the reserve and dinner not included.

Transportation:

Private vehicle &
Flying.

This morning will be one more chance to explore the park looking for wildlife before we leave in our vehicle to Ho Chi Minh City to catch our flight to the city of Danang. Danang is roughly in the middle of Vietnam and a great stop off as we will explore a couple of forests in this general area over the next couple of days. From Danang we will travel further and get to Nui Thanh which is the closest place to stay to the grey-shanked douc langur colony.

Day 6 **Nui Thanh Reserve**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

3* Hotel.

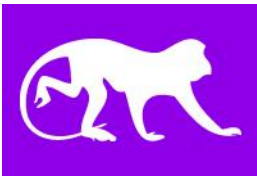
Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel, a packed lunch will be taken into the reserve and dinner is at the hotel in Bach Ma National Park.

Transportation:

Private vehicle &
Walking.

Today you will have a full day excursion in the Nui Thanh district, Danang province where we will search for the critically endangered grey-shanked douc. Vietnam has about 1,500-2,000 grey-shanked douc, 1,000 of them can be found in five central and central highlands provinces including Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai and



Quang Nam. There are about 200 gray-shanked douc langurs in Quang Nam, 50 of which are discovered living in a 25-hectare forest of Nui Thanh District. Those langurs live separately and are facing dangers from poachers, urbanisation, and bad weather. The 50 langurs in Nui Thanh District are the only ones that can be easily observed in nature; and it is this population we aim to see today. You will then return to Danang for the night.

Day 7 **Son Tra Reserve / Bach Ma NP** *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

Accommodation:

National Park
Hotel

Food:

All of our meals will be served at the hotel.

Transportation:

Private vehicle &
Walking.

This morning you will be taken to a known location for watching Red-shanked douc in Son Tra Peninsula Nature Reserve.

This is a small forest that still boasts populations of primates including red shanked doucs and rhesus macaques. We will spend some time here on our way to Bach Ma National Park and leave when the sun is getting too high and the temperatures increase. As well as the beautiful red shanked douc we will look for rhesus macaques, stump-tailed macaques, northern pig-tailed macaques and various species of squirrels. There are also 118 bird species recorded from this forest as well. For its size Son Tra is an excellent little reserve and well worth the half day here. From there we will travel on to the much larger forested park of Bach Ma. After driving uphill to our accommodation, we will check into our hotel and then spend the afternoon exploring the park.

Whilst here we will try and search out the rare southern white-cheeked gibbon (one of the hardest species on this trip) as well as some of the terrestrial mammals such as Owston's civet, large-antlered muntjac, Annamite muntjac and serow. If we are allowed (as the rules change so quickly) we will spotlight after dark and look for the pygmy slow loris and other nocturnal mammals.

Day 8 **Bach Ma National Park** *Wildlife Watching*

Accommodation:

National Park hotel

Food:

All of your meals will be served at the hotel in
between wildlife watching activities.

Transportation:

Private vehicle &
Walking.

Today is a full day exploring Bach Ma National Park, the morning will be spent listening out for the calls of the gibbons and then trying to locate them. The mornings are always the best time to see primates and particularly gibbons as the only call until around midday and then spend the rest of the day in almost silence. Bach Ma itself is 220km² and harbours a great diversity of life, it is also up for consideration to be extended, the thinking being that the park could form a link from the coast through a protected area in neighbouring Laos, and becoming a huge connected and protected ecosystem.

This would be fantastic for Vietnam as the geographical position of Bach Ma (being in the overlap zone of the northern and southern Vietnam biomes as well as being part of the Annamite mountains) means its biodiversity is among the highest in the region. It is also one of the few places in Vietnam where wild Asiatic Elephants are still known from. Once again we will come back to the accommodation for our meals and if we are allowed we will head back into the forest after dark for some spotlighting.

Day 9 **Phong Nha National Park** *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

Accommodation:

Dong Le Town (3*
Hotel)

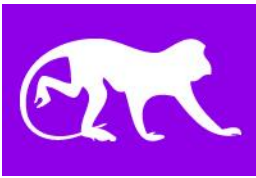
Food:

All of our meals will be served at the hotel with packed
lunches taken into the park.

Transportation:

Private vehicle &
Walking.

This morning will be our last in Bach Ma National Park to look for any species that we have missed or if you wish we can have a relaxed morning. After breakfast we will depart and drive north to Phong Nha National Park and World Biosphere Reserve (5 hours), Phong Nha is regarded as one of the most beautiful parks in the region with a river that is bluer than blue and middle of limestone karsts covered in very thick evergreen forest. In a country as agricultural as Vietnam is amazing that a place so wild and rugged still exists. There are some of the same primates here but also some new species such as Indochinese black langur, but we would look hard for these tomorrow morning. We would today check into our new hotel and then if we have time go into the forest in the afternoon.



Days 10-11

Phong Nha National Park

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Dong Le Town (3* Hotel)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel with lunch en route and dinner not included.

Transportation:

Private Vehicles & Walking.

The next 2 days will be spent around the wonderful limestone karsts of Phong Nha National Park, our main target here is the range restricted Ha Tinh langur. Also found here are red shanked douc, southern white-cheeked gibbons and the rare Indochinese black langurs. We will of course be on the look out for all of these species with the Ha Tinh langur and Indochinese langur the higher priorities here. There are also some caves around the forest here which we could explore, bat species that are known from here include Leschenault's rousette, trident roundleaf bats and many more. The largest cave here is the Phong Nha cave and we can take a small boat ride through the cave and see the stunning rock formations and reflections on the water. Again it is not always possible to spotlight here because of the park rangers lack of interest or just bad attitudes, but we will see if it is possible and if so the chances of Owston's civet and pygmy slow loris would increase. In between our safari activities we will return to the accommodation for our meals.

Day 12

Ninh Binh

Travelling

Accommodation:

Van Long Hotel & Restaurant (3* Hotel)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel with dinner also at the hotel and lunch not included.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Flying.

This morning we will have a little free time before our guide will collect us from the guest house and drive us to the small town of Hue, from here we will fly to Hanoi. On arrival in Hanoi we will be collected from the airport and driven the 2 hours or so to Ninh Binh.

Ninh Binh is a large province in the north west of Vietnam. It is known for its lush green valleys and many limestone karsts. It is the limestone karsts that have become the home to our second to last endangered langur we hope to see. But this is for tomorrow, today we will arrive at the hotel and check in and have the rest of the afternoon to rest and relax before our last day searching for Vietnam's rare primates.

Day 13-14 Van Long Reserve & Cuc Phong NP

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Van Long Hotel & Restaurant (3* Hotel)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel with lunch and dinner not included.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Boat cruise.

We will be a full day exploring the regions around Van Long Reserve. Van Long is also known as "Cat Scratch" mountain – the only home of the critically endangered Delacour's langur (Voọc in Vietnamese) these are some of the most critically endangered animals in the world with only 250 remaining in the wild. In order to see them we will travel to Van Long Wharf where we will take a boat trip along the reservoir of Van Long Nature Reserve. This is the largest wetland of Northern Vietnam and the mountain in the reserve is around 1km boat trip and it is these limestone cliffs that are the best (if not only) place in the world to see the Delacour's langur. In the mornings and late afternoons these primates aggregate here and are quite easy to see despite their very low numbers. From here we will then depart back to the hotel for the night.

Whilst here we will also visit Cuc Phuong National Park with Endangered Primate Rescue Center and Small Carnivores Rescue Center to see what wildlife we can find in the park and also the work that is being done at the rescue centre.

Day 15

Hanoi / Home

Travelling

Accommodation:

NA

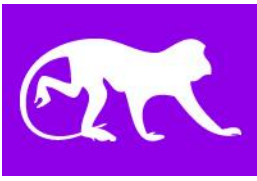
Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel with no other meals included today.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & international flight.

This morning you will leave Ninh Binh and drive to Hanoi and once here be taken to your hotel (if you are choosing to overnight in the city today (not included) or the airport to catch your flight home – please book late afternoon or



later flights as it takes 1.5 hours to reach the city from Ninh Binh and traffic can increase that time.

Your tour and all Royle Safaris services end upon transfer to the airport

Please note that the itinerary stated above is correct as our planned intentions for the tour. However adverse weather conditions and other local considerations can necessitate some modifications of the itinerary during the course of the tour; any changes will be made to make the best of the time, weather conditions and other constraints forced upon us and all changes will be made in conjunction with our terms and conditions.

Tour Inclusions

Absolutely everything mentioned in the above itinerary is included (except where it is expressly mentioned as an optional extra).

- All accommodation as mentioned above or of a similar standard as mentioned.
- All meals as mentioned in the itinerary; ***please note that some lunches and dinners are not included when travelling through major cities in this itinerary.***
- Bottled mineral or purified (boiled) water will be provided throughout and on request.
- Private vehicles and boats for all transfers and safari drives / cruises.
- Night drives and walks will be included where possible to undertake them.
- English speaking local driver and guide with years of experience in working in the areas we are travelling.
- All fuel, tolls, taxes and other expenses relating to driving.
- Professional zoologist escort provided by Royle Safaris from arrival until departure.
- All safari drives, hikes, boat trips and night safaris as mentioned in the itinerary.
- A selection of field guides of the local areas will be available on request from the zoologist escort.
- Also documentaries about the local area are sometimes available (depending on the electricity usage in the areas we are camping).
- Entrance fees and permits needed.

Tour Exclusions

Nearly everything you will need is included in the price you have already paid for the tour. However there are some things not included.

- International flights to and from the tour start and end points.
- Travel insurance including any fees that result from emergency medical or evacuation needs.
- Visa fees for entering the country(s).
- Vaccinations and any medication are not included.
- Any food other than the meals provided and mentioned in the above itinerary; ***please note that some lunches and dinners when travelling through major cities are not included in this itinerary***
- Any drinks not including in the meal.
- Any items of a personal nature are not included, such as souvenirs, medication, toiletries, laundry and phone calls.
- Tips are also not included.
- If any internal flights are cancelled on this trip (should any be included in the itinerary); due to unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances then any extra costs incurred such as hotels, food and transfers are extra.
- Any departure taxes which may be due when leaving are not included (but may be included in the cost of your flights).

Please refer to our Terms & Conditions (<http://www.royle-safaris.co.uk/terms-conditions/>) before booking any trips – email or paper copies of Terms & Conditions can be provided if needed