

## Taiwan Shortwing - Fairy Pitta Tour

This very special tour will spend an extra day in the Huben area to view the Fairy Pitta and an extra day at Alishan/Tataka to view the Taiwan Shortwing, the most difficult Taiwan endemic to actually see, (we will hear it at many locations). We expect to see all 32 endemics, plus an additional 180 species or more. Taiwan has a total bird species list of 464 birds.

- **Group Size:** 10 travelers plus two birding guides
- **Trip Length:** 21 days
- **Rate** per person: \$6,720 per person for double occupancy with an additional \$1,575 for single occupancy.
- **Rates include:** Domestic transfers and travel, lodging, breakfast, lunch, dinner, scheduled group tours, park entrance fees and basic travel insurance.
- **Not included:** International airfare, customs & immigration fees and visas, alcohol, snacks in between meals, trip cancellation insurance.
- **Adventure level:** Moderate because of some high altitude locations, but mostly a very easy trip. We are often birding close to the vehicle and the walking is often on level ground.
- **Reservations:** To reserve a spot on the trip, an \$800 deposit is required. The balance is due 6-months prior to the start of the trip.
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- **High Altitude:** Please be aware that this trip has two lodging nights at 5,700 feet (Ren'ai), two nights at 7,500 feet (Dasyueshan). Ren'ai has a high point of 10,750 for a day trip to Hehuanshan pass, which is the highest point on the Taiwan highway system. There is also high elevation days (9,000 feet) at Alishan and Tataka. If you are concerned about the high altitude, you can skip the day trips to the higher elevations and stay at the hotel for the day. The hotel areas are lovely locations to spend the day birding.

**Special offer:** Included with your trip (one per room) is a copy of the field guide "Birds of Taiwan", by Wild Bird Society of Taipei. You will receive this when you reserve your trip so you will have time to study the beautiful birds of Taiwan.

**Mammals** we have seen in Taiwan: Formosan rock macaque, serow, muntjac, crab-eating mongoose, Siberian weasel, masked palm civet, Coxing's white-bellied rat, red-and-white giant flying squirrel, maritime striped squirrel, Perny's long-nosed squirrel, Pallas's squirrel

### Basic Itinerary:

#### Day 1: Arrival in Taiwan

Flights are overnight with arrival on day one. Flights arrive in Taipei at the Taoyuan International Airport (TPE), and you will be greeted at the airport and shuttled to the **Rido Hotel** in the Da'an neighborhood in Taipei, where we will spend 3-nights. Just across the street from the hotel is Da'an Park, which is a great place for viewing local birds such as the Taiwan Barbet, Common Kingfisher, Black Drongo, Malayan Night-Heron, Spotted Dove, Grey Treepie, Black Bulbul, Crested Goshawk, Light-vented Bulbul, Black Bulbul, and Swinhoe's White-eye.

### Day 2: Taipei

Taipei is full of wonderful parks for birding. It also has great museums and monuments. In the morning we will visit the Taipei Botanical Gardens and the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Park. Birds: Brown Shrike, Oriental Turtle Dove, Eurasian Magpie, Black Bulbul, Asian Glossy Starling, and Black-collared Starling. Evergreen Shipping has a very impressive Maritime Museum, one of the best in the world, and we usually have lunch there.

### Day 3: Taipei

We will visit birding areas just outside of the city of Taipei. Specific locations depend on recent sightings. A few of our favorite places are in the Wulai area.

### Day 4: Hsinchu and Taichung

From Taipei, it is a 2-hour drive to coastal area of Hsinchu where we will find numerous wetland areas for excellent birding. Lodging for 1-night will be at the **Taichung Harbor Hotel**. This area is great for shorebirds and raptors.

### Day 5: Dasyueshan

From Taichung, it is a 2-hour drive to Dasyueshan National Forest where we will be spending 2-nights at **Dasyueshan Lodge** located within the recreation area at 7,500 feet. Dasyueshan is a mountain paradise with great wildlife viewing, birding, and many miles of great hiking trails. Once we get within the Dasyueshan area, there will be great viewing of both the Mikado Pheasant and Swinhoe's Pheasant, as well as the Yellow Tit, Eurasian Jay, Taiwan Fulvetta, Southern Nutcracker, and White-eared Sibia.

### Day 6: Dasyueshan

We will spend the day on the mountain ranging in elevations from 6,100 – 7,900 feet. There are nearly 20 endemic species at Dasyueshan, and this area is home to numerous mammals including the Formosa Rock Macaque, giant flying squirrels, barking deer, and serow. Dasyueshan is a birding hot spot for Taiwan. We will have a full day to see all the important bird species.

### Day 7: Guoxing and Huisun

It is a 2-hour drive to the next location at Guoxing where we will stay at the **Pei Kong Creek Resort** for 1-night. Located along the Pei Kong River, the resort has several hot spring pools. The river is beautiful, and we will see the Common Kingfisher and Plumbeous Redstart. Other birds seen at this location: Black Kite, Taiwan Barbet, Taiwan Blue Magpie, Taiwan Whistling Thrush, Grey Wagtail, and Black-naped Monarch just to name a few. A short 20-minute drive from the resort is the Huisun National Forest Park. There are numerous butterfly species here and flocks of Taiwan Blue Magpie. Gray Treepies gather to feed and bath in the gardens. Huisun is one of our favorite places in Taiwan. This area is great for endemic species and birds in general including Taiwan Bamboo Partridge, Swinhoe's Pheasant, Taiwan Fulvetta, Chestnut-bellied Tit, and also Grey-chinned Minivets, Fulvettas and Laughing-thrushes.

### Day 8: Puli and Qingjing

From Guoxing, it is a 2-hour drive to the Qingjing Farm/Ren'ai area. This area is located at 5,700 feet. A little further up this mountain road is a good birding hot spot for high elevation birds like the Taiwan Rosefinch, Taiwan Bullfinch, and the Alpine Accentor. Here we will also see the Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler, Black-necklaced Scimitar-Babbler, and the Chestnut-bellied Tit, and many other birds. We be staying at the **Ailiga Travel Lodge** for 2-nights.

#### Day 9: Hehuanshan Pass

Full day birding the high altitude habitats of Hehuanshan pass. Here we will get looks at the Alpine Accentor, Taiwan Rosefinch, Taiwan Bullfinch, and the Taiwan Bush Warbler.

#### Day 10: Xitou

From our hotel in Qingjing, it is a 1-hour drive to the Xitou Nature Education area. We will spend 2-nights at the **Nantou Xitou Riverside Homestay B&B**. Our lodging is located along a river where we have seen Brown Dippers, and both Morrison's and Taiwan Fulvettas.

#### Day 11: Sun-Link-Sea

Early morning departure for the Sun-Link-Sea Nature Resort, where we will spend a full day birding. Here we will find the Little Forktail, Brown Dipper, Mandarin Duck, and the Taiwan Cupwing. This area is also good for swifts and swallows. This area has beautiful waterfalls and hiking trails.

#### Day 12: Xitou and Douliu

Early morning departure for the Xitou Nature Center where we will find the Taiwan Barwing and the Brown Bullfinch. In the afternoon we will head to the city of Douliu, where we will spend one night at the **Grand Earl Hotel**. The hotel has a great roof top bar where we can eat dinner and watch Savanna nightjars take flight after roosting on the rooftops for the day.

#### Day 13: Fairy Pitta day

Early morning departure to a location on private property to view the Fairy Pitta. In this area, our main focus will be to find the Fairy Pitta, but there are many bird species to view as well. The Huben and Douliu area is located near the confluence of the Zhuoshui River, which is the longest river in Taiwan. This area has many small parks and waterways which are excellent for birding. Close to Huben is the Longguomai Forest Trail. Our favorite spot is the Fairy Pitta Cafe and the Tiansheng Temple for viewing raptors. From Huben, it is a 3-hour drive to Alishan National Recreation Area where we will spend 2-nights at the **Yin Shan Hotel**.

#### Day 14: Taiwan Shortwing Day

Full day dedicated to viewing the very difficult endemic Taiwan Shortwing. This bird loves to hide and rarely shows itself, but at Tataka, we have the best chance to view this bird and other birds and endemics as well. The Alishan and Tataka areas are also home to a small population of Taiwan's endemic Formosan black bear population.

#### Day 15: Budai

Next we will head to Budai where we will stay at the **Ocean Hotel** for 2-nights. Budai is a fun town. It is a fishing village, where they also farm oysters. There are great restaurants here and we always have a great time after a full day of birding. Here we will see terns and gulls by the thousands: Great Crested Terns, White-winged Terns, Whiskered Terns, and Caspian Terns.

#### Day 16: Budai

The area of Budai is along the southwestern coast of Taiwan and is a bird watchers paradise with numerous marshes, reserves, canals, and salt flats for viewing birds. The gem of them all is the Black-faced Spoonbill Reserve where numerous other species can be seen including Sacred Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill, and many species of shore birds. A few of our favorite shore birds that we see are Cinnamon Bittern, Yellow Bittern, Greater Painted Snipe, and thousands of shorebirds.

#### Day 17: Kenting National Park

Our travels will have brought us to southern Taiwan near the city Tainan, the oldest city and former capitol city of Taiwan, established by the Qing Dynasty in 1683. The Nankunshen Temple, which is one of the largest temples in Taiwan, is located just outside the village of Beimen. We will also visit the Pheasant-tailed Jacana reserve and hope see Ruddy-breasted Crakes as well. From Tainan, it is a 3-hour drive to our next lodging location at the **Kenting Youth Activity Center**. Here we will spend 2-nights.

#### Day 18: Kenting National Park

Southern Taiwan is home to the endemic Styan's Bulbul. Once we travel south of the town of Fangliao, Styan's bulbuls are everywhere. In northern Taiwan, the light-vented bulbul is everywhere. We will have a full day of birding Kenting National Park, Hengchun Peninsula, and Cape Eluanbi. At Cape Eluanbi there is a hawk-watch station for fall raptor migration when 30,000 Grey-faced buzzards head south for the winter. Even during early May, we will see raptor heading north.

#### Day 19: Taipei

From Kenting, it is a 2-hour drive to the city of Kaohsiung, with birding along the way. From there, we will take the high speed train (185 mph) back to Taipei where we will be staying at the **Rido Hotel** across the street from the Da'an Park for 2-nights.

#### Day 20: Taipei

A full day in Taipei. There are no scheduled events for this day. We are happy to organize a birding day, a culture/city day, or you can have a free day to do your own exploring. Directly across the street from our hotel is Da'an Park, which has a bird list of 165 species. As of April and May 2026, there was a family of Collared Scops Owls nesting and roosting in the bamboo in the park.

#### Day 21: Fly Home

There will be a shuttle to the airport for flights home.