

India - Goa

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 17th November 2025



Sri Lanka Frogmouth



Blue-eared Kingfisher



Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl



Yellow-browed Bulbul

Tour report by Loven Pereira



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Tour participants: Loven Pereira (leader) with two Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 8th November

The clients departed the UK.

Day 2

Sunday 9th November

Arrival at North Goa

After arrival at Dabolim airport, the clients were picked up around 5.40pm and transferred to their hotel, Mandrem Beach Resort, in North Goa, where they would be staying for three nights.

On arrival at the hotel around 7.15pm, the clients checked in and, after a brief talk with them, it was decided that we would be starting from the hotel at 5.45am and returning by 10.30am for a late breakfast for the next couple of days.

Day 3

Monday 10th November

Socorro plateau and Siolim marshes

I picked up the clients at 5.45am and departed for birding at Socorro plateau and Siolim marshes. On arrival at the plateau, it was a bit misty, but the place was bustling with a lot of bird calls. After a while, when the mist cleared, we saw quite a lot of birds. When it started warming up, we left for Siolim marshes, which was en route to the hotel, and spent half an hour birding there, arriving back for breakfast around 10.15am.

For afternoon birding, we visited Parcem and Morjim beach. We had quite a few species at both these sites, including a flock of around thirty Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, which are a rarity in Goa. We returned to the hotel by 6.30pm.

Specialities seen during the day were Oriental Skylark, Oriental Turtle Dove, Nilgiri Flowerpecker, Indian Golden Oriole, Lesser Adjutant, Asian Openbill, Indian Roller, Stork-billed Kingfisher and White-browed Bulbul.

Day 4

Tuesday 11th November

Carambolim lake and Agassaim beach

I picked up the clients at 5.45am and departed for birding at Carambolim lake, Dhado wetland and Agassaim beach. On arrival at the wetlands, it was a bit misty, and again the place was active with a lot of birds. After birding for slightly over an hour and a half, we moved on for birding at the lake, until about 9.00am. We then left for Agassaim beach, for some gulls, terns, and other shorebirds. We spent only half an hour birding there, as it was getting quite hot, and we went back to the hotel around 11.00am for a late breakfast.

In the afternoon, we visited Aldona fields. We added a few more species to the list birding at this site, and returned to the hotel by 6.15pm.

Specialities seen during the day were Malabar Lark, Chestnut-shouldered Petronia, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Indian Swiftlet, Greater Spotted Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Black-headed Bunting, Woolly-necked Stork and lots of gulls, terns, plovers, sandpipers, 'shanks, stints, godwits and Great Knot.

Day 5**Wednesday 12th November**

Transfer to Backwoods Camp and Tambdi Surla

Today being the day for check out from Mandrem Beach Resort and transfer to Backwoods Camp, the clients requested a relaxed morning for packing, with a late pick-up. I picked them up at 10.30am and we departed for Backwoods Camp, arriving for lunch at 1.30pm.



Great Knot and Tibetan Sand Plovers



Malabar Barbet



Long-tailed Shrike



Malabar Pied Hornbill

For our afternoon birding, we visited the famous thirteenth-century Mahadeva Temple and its surroundings at Tambdi Surla. We added a few more specialities to the list at this site, returning to the camp by 6.15pm.

Specialities seen during the day were Fork-tailed Drongo-cuckoo, Lesser Cuckoo, Malabar Imperial Pigeon, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Crested Goshawk, White-bellied Woodpecker, Malabar Barbet and Yellow-browed Bulbul.

Day 6**Thursday 13th November**

Bolcornem and Deumol

We departed at 6.30am for birding at Bolcornem and Tambdi Surla. It was a misty morning again, but we saw many species at both sites and returned at 9.30am for breakfast.

After lunch at 1.00pm, we departed around 3.45pm for the afternoon birding at Deumol. We had quite a few more specialities here, and then returned to Backwoods Camp by 6.15pm.

Specialities seen during the day were Grey-fronted Green Pigeon, Crested Serpent Eagle, Malabar Trogon, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, Dark-fronted Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, Asian Fairy-bluebird, White-rumped Shama, Asian Brown Flycatcher and Tricolored Munia.

Day 7

Friday 14th November

Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary

We departed at 6.00am for birding at Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary. It was another misty morning start, but we had many species here and, after breakfast at Bondla, I took the clients for a visit to a spice farm.

The clients enjoyed the guided spice tour around the property, and we had some bird sightings too. After the tour, the clients had a sumptuous buffet lunch, sitting at a table on the water's edge in the dining area which borders a beautiful lake. We returned to Backwoods Camp around 2.00pm. We departed around 4.00pm for the afternoon birding at Dharge. We added some more species here, and then returned to Backwoods Camp by 6.00pm.

Specialities seen during the day were Grey Junglefowl, Crested Hawk-eagle, Malabar Flameback, Rufous Woodpecker, Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Coppersmith Barbet, Ashy Woodswallow, Scarlet Minivet, Flame-throated Bulbul, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Malabar Whistling Thrush and Little Spiderhunter.

Day 8

Saturday 15th November

Sancordem and Deumol

We departed at 6.15am for birding at Sancordem. It was a misty morning start, but we saw many of the species again and well, and added a few species here, and then returned to Backwoods Camp by 10.00am for breakfast.

After lunch at 1.00pm, we departed around 3.45pm for the afternoon birding at Deumol. We had quite a few more specialities here, and then returned to Backwoods Camp by 6.15pm.

Specialities seen during the day were Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, White-bellied Blue Flycatcher, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl and Sri Lanka Frogmouth.

Day 9

Sunday 16th November

Departure

The morning was at leisure, as requested by the clients. We departed for the airport at Dabolim after breakfast at Backwoods Camp. I dropped the clients at the airport at 12.15pm, and bade farewell to the lovely couple.



Malabar Flameback

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		November 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>		✓	✓					
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>			✓					
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>		✓						
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>							✓	
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>			✓					✓
Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>			✓		✓			
Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus dicruroides</i>				✓				
Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>					✓			
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓						
Nilgiri Wood Pigeon - E	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>		✓						
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey-fronted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron affinis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>					✓			
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		✓	✓					
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓					✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓					
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>			✓					
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Tibetan Sand Plover	<i>Anarhynchus atrifrons</i>			✓					
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>			✓					
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>			✓					
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>		✓						
Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>		✓						
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓					
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			✓					
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓					
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓					
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓					
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓					
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓					
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			✓					
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>			✓					
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>			✓					
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			✓					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓					
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			✓					
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			✓					
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓					
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>			✓					
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>			✓					
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓					

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		November 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓					
Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>			✓					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓					
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		✓	✓					
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓					
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>			✓					
Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>			✓					
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>		✓	✓					
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		✓	✓					
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		✓	✓					
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		✓	✓					
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>		✓	✓					
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>		✓						
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓					
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>		✓	✓					
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓					
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓					
Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>							✓	
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>		✓						
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			✓					✓
Indian Swiftlet - N	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>			✓	✓				
Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa nipalensis</i>								✓
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓					
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>			✓					
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>						✓	✓	
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>								✓
Indian Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga hastata</i>			✓					
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>			✓					
Crested Goshawk	<i>Lophospiza trivirgata</i>					✓			
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>			✓					✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓	✓					
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓	✓					
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga leucogaster</i>			✓					
Malabar Trogan - N	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>							✓	
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					✓			
Malabar Grey Hornbill - E	<i>Ocyceros griseus</i>					✓	✓		✓
Malabar Pied Hornbill - N	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>						✓	✓	✓
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓						
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		✓						
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓				✓	

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		November 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓	✓					
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>		✓	✓					
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Malabar Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon malabaricus</i>				✓				✓
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>							✓	
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>							✓	
White-cheeked Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon viridis</i>				✓		✓		
Heart-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus canente</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>							✓	
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>					✓	✓	✓	
White-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>				✓				
Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>							✓	
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus nanus</i>							✓	
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Blue-winged Parakeet - E	<i>Psittacula columbooides</i>					✓	✓		
Vernal Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	✓					✓		
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>						✓		
Indian Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	✓							
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melanoptera</i>	✓					✓		
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>						✓	✓	
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>							✓	
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-spotted Fantail - E	<i>Rhipidura albogularis</i>		✓						
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	✓						✓	
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	✓			✓	✓			✓
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓						
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	✓	✓						
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	✓	✓			✓			
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>				✓		✓		
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>					✓	✓		
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Indian Black-lored Tit - E	<i>Machlolophus aplonotus</i>	✓						✓	
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	✓	✓						
Malabar Lark - E	<i>Galerida malabarica</i>	✓	✓						
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	✓						✓	
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>			✓					
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	✓	✓						
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	✓	✓						
Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>					✓			

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		November 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>		✓	✓					✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓					
Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>								✓
Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Flame-throated Bulbul - E	<i>Rubigula gularis</i>							✓	✓
White-browed Bulbul - N	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>		✓						
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-browed Bulbul - N	<i>Acritillas indica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>			✓				✓	
Dark-fronted Babbler - N	<i>Dumetia atriceps</i>						✓		✓
Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>			✓				✓	
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>						✓	✓	
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>		✓						
Chestnut-tailed (Malabar) Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>		✓	✓					
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>			✓	✓				
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>					✓	✓		
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>						✓		
Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>								✓
White-bellied Blue Flycatcher - E	<i>Cyornis pallidipes</i>								✓
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Malabar Whistling Thrush - E	<i>Myophonus horsfieldii</i>							✓	
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>			✓					
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>		✓	✓					
Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Pachyglossa agilis</i>					✓	✓		
Nilgiri Flowerpecker - E	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>							✓	
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Crimson-backed Sunbird - E	<i>Leptocoma minima</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Loten's Sunbird - N	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Jerdon's Leafbird - N	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>							✓	
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>				✓	✓	✓		
Bay Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>			✓					
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>		✓	✓			✓		
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Tricoloured Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>						✓		
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>			✓					✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓						✓
Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>		✓						
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>		✓	✓					
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓				

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Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>			✓					

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macaca radiata</i>
Malabar Sacred Langur	<i>Semnopithecus hypoleucus</i>
Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>
Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
Indian Gray Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>