

Anggi Giji basin

Extension to Arfak montane specialties birding break

3 days/3 nights

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

The twin mountain lakes of Anggi Giji and Anggi Gita, situated at 1,860 m elevation in the Sougbcountry of the southern Arfak Mountains, were first visited by a western naturalist in 1904, but it was a young Ernst Mayr who in 1928, at the beginning of an extremely productive career in ornithology and evolutionary biology, discovered the area's paramount ornithological attraction on the eastern shores of Anggi Giji: the beautiful Grey-banded Munia, until today known only from here and nowhere else on Earth! The visually stunning Anggi Giji basin is also an excellent place to come to grips with more widely ranging wet grassland specialists like Lewin's Rail and Spotless Crake, and stands of swampy *Pandanus*-dominated forest at the base of the surrounding slopes support the nearly mythical Shovel-billed Kookaburra, with a good selection of the montane Arfak avifauna waiting to be explored uphill.

When?

Possible year-round, but most certainly best from June to November.

Scheduled departures

Please enquire for details on our upcoming departures.

Physical effort

Relaxed birding in flat or only slightly sloping terrain.

Tour summary

Day 1 > Mount Indon and Anggi Giji basin.

Day 2 > Anggi Giji basin.

Day 3 > Anggi Giji basin and Manokwari.

Tour description

Day 1 > Mount Indon and Anggi Giji basin Following breakfast and a final morning's birding in the Mount Indon area of the Arfak Mountains, we shall set out on the three hours' drive by chartered 4WD-vehicle to our host village near the shores of Lake Anggi Giji, enjoying a packed lunch en route. Along the seasonally fluctuating lake edge, Pacific Black Duck, Tricolored Grebe, Rufous Night Heron, Great and Intermediate Egret, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorant, and Common Coot can be numerous, and it shall not take long before we spot our first Grey-banded Munias, which in season can congregate in flocks of more than 150 individuals. But observing the two secretive rails may require considerable effort and is influenced also by water levels in the basin. Come evening and we shall take up position at locally exposed muddy stretches at the interface between grassland and reedbeds bordering the lake's edge. Here both Lewin's Rail and Spotless Crake ordinarily come out to feed at dusk, and we may hear both species vocalizing in season. Other birds we may see here include Yellow and Black Bittern, White-shouldered Fairywren, Australian Reed Warbler, and Papuan Grassbird. Dinner and overnight in village residence.

Day 2 > Anggi Giji basin After a hearty nocturnal breakfast, a pre-dawn foray could produce Papuan Boobook, Feline and Mountain Owlet-nightjar, and Large-tailed Nightjar. Around the crack of dawn we hope to find the nearly mythical Shovel-billed Kookaburra as it starts calling from the surrounding forested hill slopes. Other noteworthy forest birds that we may encounter here include New Guinea Woodcock, New Guinea Eagle, Vogelkop Bowerbird, Rufous-sided and Western Smoky Honeyeater, Vogelkop Melidectes, Mountain Mouse-warbler, Vogelkop Scrubwren, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Papuan Sittella, Black Sicklebill, Ashy Robin, and Lesser Ground Robin. Following a packed lunch on site, we shall continue our search for some of these most elusive species throughout the afternoon, with a potential resit for the Shovel-billed Kookaburra around dusk. Dinner and overnight in village residence.

Day 3 > Anggi Giji basin and Manokwari After breakfast and a final morning's birding in the Anggi Giji basin, we shall enjoy an early lunch at our village abode and drive back to Manokwari. Dinner and overnight in Manokwari hotel.

Related links

Browse our terms and conditions from the PE web site through the following link
<http://www.PapuaExpeditions.com/conditions.html>