

Biak Island

Birding walk

0.5 or 1 day

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

Of truly oceanic origin, the twin islands of Biak and Supiori, only separated from one another by a narrow mangrove-lined channel, harbor the most highly endemic avifauna of any singular land area in the entire New Guinea region, with up to 15 endemic taxa variously treated at species level. In addition, more than 20, often morphologically highly distinctive, endemic subspecies exist on the islands. So join us as we sound out speciation in these insular taxa, and later still be in the fortunate opportunity to continually add 'new species' to your life list from the comfort of your easy chair.

When?

Rewarding year-round.

Scheduled departures

Please enquire for details on our upcoming departures.

Physical effort

Relaxed birding in flat or only slightly undulating terrain.

Tour description

We shall set out pre-dawn on the one hour's drive by chartered vehicle to an area of road-side secondary forest in eastern Biak. Here we shall focus the first hour of light or so on a couple of forest clearings, where we could be rewarded with sightings of Pacific Baza, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Gurney's Eagle, Variable Goshawk, Sultan's and Great Cuckoo-Dove, Yellow-bibbed and Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, Geelvink Imperial Pigeon, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Moustached Treeswift, Black-winged Lory, Biak Lorikeet, Red-fronted Lorikeet, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrot, Emperor Fairywren, Dusky Myzomela, Hooded Butcherbird, Common Cicadabird, Biak Triller, Biak Black and Shining Flycatcher, Biak White-eye, Metallic and Long-tailed Starling, and Red-capped Flowerpecker. We shall then spend the rest of the morning birding along this tranquil road, making incursions into the forest as necessary. Delightful Biak Paradise Kingfishers and Hooded Pittas, the latter of the distinctive *rosenbergii*-subspecies here, call everywhere in these dense forests. But to see the wary Biak Megapode, shy and secretive Biak Coucal, diminutive Geelvink Pygmy Parrot, and scarce Biak Gerygone, Biak Monarch and Biak Leaf Warbler, we shall need to persevere. Other noteworthy species we may come across here include Common Emerald Dove, Little Shrikethrush, Northern Fantail, and Golden Monarch, all represented by highly distinctive endemic subspecies.

If you stick with us for the entire day, we shall enjoy a packed lunch on site so to continue our quest for some of the more elusive species mentioned above throughout the afternoon. Evening shall see us gathered at a vantage point in anticipation of evening flights of parrots, which may still include a few Black-capped Lory, here of the distinctive yet heavily persecuted *cyanauchen*-subspecies. A nocturnal foray could produce the rarely seen Biak Scops Owl as well as Papuan Frogmouth and Large-tailed Nightjar.

Related links

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<http://www.PapuaExpeditions.com/conditions.html>