

## **Itinerary for Naturresor Group 1: Dibrugarh-Kaziranga-Singalila March 12 to 27, 2018**

**March 12:** Arrive in Delhi, overnight at 5 star hotel near Airport, Raddison Blu or similar. Guests must rest today and sleep early for a next day departure to Assam.

**March 13:** Arrive in Dibrugarh from Delhi. Transfer to Mancotta Bungalow, an old tea estate bungalow. Afternoon at leisure, guests can use this time to settle in and relax. Optional tea estate walk can be arranged to see local tea growing practices and watch some common birds. Dinner and overnight at Mancotta Bungalow

**March 14:** Early morning departure (4:30 AM) to Barakohi village settlement in search for the Hoolock Gibbon, India's only Ape species and the most endangered primate. The Western Hoolock Gibbon, *Hoolock hoolock* is a primate from the gibbon family, Hylobatidae. The species is found in Assam, Mizoram, Bangladesh and in Myanmar west of the Chindwin River. The population in Barakohi village settlement is unique because there are 25 wild Gibbons here that thrive in a human dominated landscape. This community has protected this Gibbon population for almost 300 years and only because of their efforts these Gibbons survive. We will meet Diplop Chutia, a young but motivated man who working hard to revive the Gibbon population of this area. The Gibbon search will end at approx. 12 noon (depending on sightings) and then we will break for a toilet and lunch stop. At 2:00 PM, we go to Magudi Bheel, an important bird area to try and see some rare migratory species like Baikal Teal, Tufted Duck, Red Crested Pochard and more. We also will have the chance to see some rare resident birds like Jerdon's Babbler, Chestnut Capped Babbler, Black Bittern, Yellow Bittern and many more. This afternoon apart from our tour leaders, we will have local bird expert Palash Phukan. We will search for birds till 5:00 PM and then make our way back to Mancotta Bungalow. Dinner and overnight at Mancotta Bungalow.

**March 15:** Early morning departure (4:30 AM) to Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary. This will be a 3:30 hour drive. We will now attempt to see Gibbons in their wild and natural habitat. From 8:00 AM till lunch we will search for Hoolock Gibbons. Apart from Gibbons, this sanctuary is home to 6 non-human primates and we will have chance of seeing Northern Pig Tailed Macaque, Stump Tailed Macaque, Rhesus Macaque, Assamese Macaque and Capped Langur. This park also has a population of Bengal Slow Loris, but since it is a nocturnal animal it is very difficult to see. We will also have our birding guide with us and search for some exotic rainforest birds like Red Headed Trogon, Black Backed Forktail, White Rumped Shama, Sultan Tit, Thick Billed Green Pigeon, Green Magpie and many more. After lunch we will proceed to Kaziranga National Park, A UNESCO World Heritage Site and the home of the Indian One Horned Rhinoceros. Evening will be at leisure. Dinner and Overnight at Infinity Kaziranga.

**Day March 16 to March 18:** At Kaziranga we will explore the park in 4X4 jeeps in the morning and evening sessions. We will also do 1 elephant safari to get a different perspective on viewing the Rhinoceros. Kaziranga is divided into 3 zone, East, West and Central and we will ensure that all these area get covered. Here we will also utilize some time to see the community and wildlife conservation work carried out by the Corbett Foundation, a leading non-profit organization involved in rehabilitation of various wild communities and landscapes. We will spend all our 4 nights at infinity Kaziranga and apart from the tour leaders we will have the resident naturalist of the lodge guiding us on safaris. Kaziranga is home to a wide range of mammals including Indian One Horned Rhino, Asiatic Elephant, Asiatic Wild Buffaloes, Hog Deer, Smooth Coated Otters, Bengal Tiger, Capped Langur, Hoolock Gibbon and many more. Kaziranga is also home to a plethora of bird species including Black Necked Stork, Greater Adjutant Stork, Great & Oriental Pied Hornbills and several other migratory and resident bird species.

**March 19:** After early morning breakfast, we will depart for Guwahati Airport to take a flight to Bagdogra. Here we will spend a night in a city hotel (Sinclair's Siliguri or Summit Milestone) while we transit.

**March 20:** Depart at 6:30 AM for Manebhanjen the entry point of Singalila National Park, the home to the rare and endangered Red Panda. En-route we will stop for breakfast and reach Manebhanjen at 10:00 AM. From here we will have to change vehicles to a vintage Land Rover and drive further 2 hours to Habre's Nest our home for 7 nights. Habre's Nest is an exclusive home stay and a community based tourism project specializing in Red Panda viewing and tourism. After lunch, guests can settle in and have a light orientation about local flora and fauna.

**March 21 to 26:** Habre's Nest has a trained team of trackers who will go out all day to search for the elusive Red Panda. Guests too have to participate in this and guests will go in directions that trackers have not gone. While we search for Red Panda we will also come across exotic Eastern Himalayan bird species like Satyr Tragopan, Khali Pheasant, Golden Bush Robin, Fire Tailed Mizornis, Slender Billed Scimitar Babbler and many more. Every day guests will go on different nature trails as trackers search for the Red Panda simultaneously. Other mammals that you are likely to see include Yellow Throated Marten, Muntjac and Orange Bellied Himalayan Squirrel. Although many other mammals like Clouded Leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, Serow, Common Leopard, Leopard Cat, Large Indian Civet and others exist in this forest they are very shy and difficult to see. For this part of the expedition our primary target species will be Red Panda.

**March 27:** Check out and drive to Bagdogra Airport for onward flight connection.

## **Itinerary for Naturresor Group 2: Singalila, March 25 to April 3, 2018**

**March 25:** Arrive in Delhi, overnight at 5 star hotel near Airport, Raddison Blu or similar. Guests must rest today and sleep early for a next day departure to Singalila National Park.

**March 26:** After breakfast at hotel depart for Delhi airport for a midday flight to Bagdogra Airport. Arrival at Bagdogra will be close to lunch time. Guests will be picked up and taken to their hotel where they will spend the night. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight at hotel for early morning departure to Singalila National Park.

**March 27:** Depart at 6:30 AM for Manebhanjen the entry point of Singalila National Park, the home to the rare and endangered Red Panda. En-route we will stop for breakfast and reach Manebhanjen at 10:00 AM. From here we will have to change vehicles to a vintage Land Rover and drive further 2 hours to Habre's Nest our home for 7 nights. Habre's Nest is an exclusive home stay and a community based tourism project specializing in Red Panda viewing and tourism. After lunch, guests can settle in and have a light orientation about local flora and fauna.

**March 28 to April 2:** Habre's Nest has a trained team of trackers who will go out all day to search for the elusive Red Panda. Guests too have to participate in this and guests will go in directions that trackers have not gone. While we search for Red Panda we will also come across exotic Eastern Himalayan bird species like Satyr Tragopan, Khali Pheasant, Golden Bush Robin, Fire Tailed Munia, Slender Billed Scimitar Babbler and many more. Every day guests will go on different nature trails as trackers search for the Red Panda simultaneously. Other mammals that you are likely to see include Yellow Throated Marten, Muntjac and Orange Bellied Himalayan Squirrel. Although many other mammals like Clouded Leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, Serow, Common Leopard, Leopard Cat, Large Indian Civet and others exist in this forest they are very shy and difficult to see. For this part of the expedition our primary target species will be Red Panda.

**April 3:** Check out and drive to Bagdogra Airport for onward flight connection.