

Thailand

“Spoon-billed Pitta” Tour

2022: Saturday 5th November – Friday 18th November (14 days)



Spoon-billed Sandpiper amongst other waders at Pak Thale © Chris Collins

WildWings has been visiting the wintering grounds of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand for many years and on this new and improved itinerary, we will combine some of the most diverse wader-watching on the planet with visits to two of Thailand's best national parks, Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachen.

This combination will allow us to look for a great range of species and during our days in these famous forest reserves, we will hope to find birds such as Blue Pitta, Eared Pitta, Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo, Silver Pheasant, Siamese Fireback and Grey Peacock-Pheasant.

Our holiday will then conclude with three nights near the coast to give us access to the famous shorebird sites of Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia where it is possible to see over 40 species of waders. Since WildWings started running tours to this region in 2008, we have not failed to see Spoon-billed Sandpiper and whilst there can never be any guarantees, we are very hopefully of finding it.

There are plenty of other species to see including Nordmann's Greenshank, Asian Dowitcher, Malaysian Plover and supporting cast of Great Knot, Far-eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Red-necked and Long-toed Stints, plus Painted and Pintail Snipes; indeed, we could potentially see almost 25% of the world's waders !!

Led by WildWings guide Mark Andrews and English-speaking Thai guide and author of the new Lynx Editions Field Guide to Thailand, Wich'yanan Limparungpatthanakij (otherwise known as "Jay"), this promises to be a fabulous opportunity to enjoy some of the special birding highlights of Thailand.

Highlights

- Superb introduction to the amazing birdlife of Thailand
- Abundance of resident Thai birds and outstanding for wintering shorebirds
- Three nights on the coast for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Nordmann’s Greenshank, Asian Dowitcher, White-faced Plover and many other shorebirds
- Four nights at Khao Yai, exploring the tropical lowland forests of this impressive national park with chances for Silver Pheasant, Siamese Fireback, Blue Pitta and Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo
- Four nights at Kaeng Krachen looking for Kalij Pheasant, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Orange-breasted Trogon and Rusty-cheeked Hornbill
- Led by WildWings guide Mark Andrews and English-speaking Thai guide Wich’yanan Limparungpattanakij

What’s Included?

- WildWings Tour Leader and expert local Thai guide
- 11 nights accommodation in Thailand
- All main meals
- Transportation by air-conditioned minibus
- Boat trip at Laem Pak Bia
- All excursions, entry fees, permits, local guides and taxes
- WildWings checklist of birds

Outline Itinerary

- Day 1:** Depart UK for Bangkok, Thailand
- Day 2:** Morning arrival and transfer to Khao Yai National Park
- Day 3-5:** Khao Yai National Park
- Day 6:** Depart Khao Yai for Kaeng Krachan
- Day 7-9:** Kaeng Krachan National Park
- Day 10:** Transfer to Phetchaburi
- Day 11-12:** Wader habitats around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia
- Day 13:** Final morning at Phetchaburi. Leave for Bangkok airport. Depart Thailand
- Day 14:** Arrive UK

Tour Overview

Many birders will surely have done a double-take when they first saw a plate or photograph of a Spoon-billed Sandpiper for this is a truly unique wader with its extraordinary spatulate-shaped bill. Sadly, however, it is now also one of the rarest birds on the planet (and classified as 'critically endangered' by Birdlife International) with a world population that may number only 150 pairs, all of which are believed to breed in the remote Russian province of Chukotka.

Whilst WildWings has been offering the opportunity to visit the breeding grounds since 2011, for many years we have also been running trips to see this special bird on the wintering grounds in Thailand and on this new and improved itinerary, we will combine some of the most diverse wader-watching on the planet with visits to two of Thailand's best national parks, Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachen.

Our holiday will start with us heading north from Bangkok for three full days at the Khao Yai National Park, although on the way there, we will look for the highly localised and endemic Rufous Limestone Babbler which is only found in a relatively small part of Central Thailand.

Unlike the national parks in some South-East Asian countries where the designation means little, the Thais have done a great job and Khao Yai has a team of forest rangers who protect the park and there is an excellent network of roads and trails we will use to explore this bird-rich location. Throughout our visit, we plan to stay in a hotel close to one of the entrances to allow us access early each morning.



The gorgeous Blue Pitta is one of the special birds we hope to find at Khao Yai © Mark Andrews

There is an impressive list of species which can be found here and those we will be particularly keen to locate include Blue Pitta, Eared Pitta, Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo, Silver Pheasant, Siamese Fireback, Austen’s Brown Hornbill and Banded, Silver-breasted and Long-tailed Broadbills. The list of birds which have been recorded at the park runs to over 300 and we will aim to see as many as possible during our time here along with also looking for some of the mammals which occur inside the park.

At both Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan, we have decent chances to see Asian Elephant, but we will also hope to see both White-handed and Pileated Gibbons and Malaysian Porcupine during our time at Khao Yai.



Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo is never easy to see but is one of the species we will look for at Khao Yai © Mark Andrews

We will then head southwest to another famous national park, Kaeng Krachan, which has a surprisingly different avifauna. Around the outskirts of the park, there are a number of hides which have been specifically constructed to allow birders and wildlife photographers to get some amazing views of some of the trickier forest species with these sometimes attracting some of the pittas which occur here.

We have three full days to explore the park and during our stay will hope to find some fruiting trees as these can act as a real magnet for some species with orioles, barbets and hornbills, for example, flocking to feed on the bounty and we could see Great, Oriental Pied, Wreathed and Rusty-cheeked Hornbills.

Kaeng Krachan is also home to an impressive number of broadbills, and we will look for Black-and-Red, Black-and-Yellow, Banded, Silver-breasted and Long-tailed. Both Kalij Pheasant and Grey Peacock-Pheasant are also present, and the park is also home to an impressive list of mammals, including Sun Bear and Leopard, although we would be extraordinarily lucky to encounter either of these. We should, however, see the gorgeous Dusky and Banded Langurs, White-handed Gibbon and the impressive Black Giant Squirrel and, as at Khao Yai, there is a fair chance of Asian Elephant.

For the final part of our holiday, we will spend three nights near the coast at Phetchaburi to give us access to the famous shorebird sites of Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia where it is possible to see over 40 species of waders. Since WildWings started running tours to this region in 2008, we have not failed to see Spoon-billed Sandpiper and whilst there can never be any guarantees (since sadly the population of this extraordinary bird continues to fall), we are very hopefully of finding it.

Whilst 'spoonie' may be our main target, there are plenty of other species to see including two which have also declined markedly in recent years, namely Nordmann's Greenshank and Asian Dowitcher. We are also likely to find the regionally endemic Malaysian Plover and will also make a special effort to see the 'new' wader species, White-faced or Swinhoe's Plover.

There will also be plenty of other waders to enjoy with the list likely to include Great Knot, Far-eastern Curlew, Marsh, Terek and Broad-billed Sandpipers, Red-necked, Long-toed and Temminck's Stints, Pacific Golden Plover, both Greater and Lesser Sandpipers plus Painted and Pintail Snipes - incredibly almost 25% of the world's waders are possible!!

Assuming we manage to find our main wader targets, we also plan to explore the rice fields at Nong Pla Lai, plus the freshwater wetlands and mangroves around Phetchaburi where we should find another suite of species including various bee-eaters, kingfishers, and a good selection of more open country species.

So, join WildWings guide Mark Andrews and the English-speaking Thai guide and author of the new Lynx Editions Field Guide to Thailand, Wich'yanan Limparungpatthanakij (otherwise known as "Jay"), for a fabulous tour enjoying some of the special birding highlights of Thailand.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Depart UK for Bangkok

Day 2: Arrive Bangkok airport and transfer to Khao Yai National Park

We plan to use a flight that will reach Bangkok in the morning and after meeting up with our local Thai bird guide, Wich'yanan Limparungpatthanakij (who is known as "Jay" after living in North America for a while), we will set off for Khao Yai. The journey should take about three to four hours; however, we will aim to stop to look for the endemic and somewhat localised Rufous Limestone Babbler on the way.

After checking in to our comfortable resort hotel near the entrance to the national park, if we have sufficient daylight, we will explore some of the nearby farmland at Ta Ngoi for open country species such as Asian Openbill, White-throated Kingfisher, Indochinese Roller, Brown Shrike, Paddyfield Pipit and Chestnut-tailed Starling. We may also see our first barbets of the trip with both Coppersmith and Lineated being possible here, along with Ashy Minivet, Indochinese Bushlark, Taiga Flycatcher and Asian Golden Weaver.

Days 3-5: Khao Yai National Park

Khao Yai National Park is a World Heritage Site, and we have three full days here which will give us plenty of time to look for a great selection of birds. Well over 350 species have been recorded in this fantastic national park and some of the ground-dwelling specialities we will hope to find include two stunning pheasants, Silver Pheasant and Siamese Fireback, as well as both Eared and Blue Pittas. Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo is also possible, but we will count ourselves as very fortunate if we manage to track down all five of these elusive species.



Although not as colourful as Blue Pitta, nevertheless, we will still aim to find Eared Pitta during our visit to Khao Yai © Mark Andrews

Other possibilities include Changeable Hawk Eagle, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Asian Emerald Cuckoo, Green-billed Malkoha, Asian Barred Owlet, Oriental Scops Owl, Collared Scops Owl, Buffy Fish Owl, Great-eared Nightjar, Large-tailed Nightjar, Orange-breasted Trogon, Red-headed Trogon, Banded Kingfisher, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Green-eared Barbet and Moustached Barbet.

During our time at Khao Yai, we will hope to track down a fruiting tree as these often act as a magnet for the forest's frugivores including several species of hornbill with the possibilities including Oriental Pied, Great, Austen's Brown and Wreathed Hornbills.

A good selection of mammals are also possible at Khao Yai and we will certainly hope to see Asian Elephant with other possibilities including White-handed and Pileated Gibbons and Malaysian Porcupine.

Day 6: Depart Khao Yai for Kaeng Krachan

We will check out of our resort hotel in the early morning and what we do on our way to Kaeng Krachan will largely be determined by what we have seen over the last few days. If we were unsuccessful in our previous search for Rufous Limestone Babbler, we may make a second attempt for this endemic, with another option being a second visit to the Ta Ngoi Farmlands.

The journey to the outskirts of Kaeng Krachan will take about five hours but we will aim to make the occasional stop especially if we see anything of interest on the way.

Depending on what time we arrive there may be time for some late afternoon birding around our hotel at Baan Maka.

Days 7-9: Full day birding in and around Kaeng Krachan National Park

We have three full days to explore Kaeng Krachan and the area around this fantastic national park. There are a number of privately run hides closeby and we will certainly want to visit some of these, as they sometimes provide an opportunity to get views of (and photographs) a number of tricky forest species including, for example, the stunning Ferruginous Partridge.



Ferruginous Partridge © Mark Andrews

We will also spend time exploring different elevations within Kaeng Krachan and despite it being only 150 miles or so in a straight line from Khao Yai, there is a surprisingly different avifauna, and we can expect to see a number of species we are unlikely to have found earlier in our trip. The possibilities include Kalij Pheasant, Grey Peacock Pheasant, Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Wedge-tailed Green

Pigeon, Green-billed Malkoha, Asian Barred Owlet, Great-eared Nightjar, Large-tailed Nightjar, Orange-breasted Trogon, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Great Hornbill and Rusty-cheeked Hornbill.

Day 10: Kaeng Krachan to Phetchaburi

We will have a final opportunity to explore during the morning (possibly visiting another bird hide) before leaving Kaeng Krachan for Phetchaburi. We plan, however, to make an afternoon stop to visit the drier forests at Khao Luk Chang where the possibilities include Pink-necked Green-Pigeon, Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Greater Flameback, Malaysian Pied Fantail, Rufous Treepie, Sooty-headed Bulbul and Pin-striped Tit-babbler. We will then continue on to Phetchaburi for a three-night stay.

Days 11-12: Pak Thale, Laem Phak Bia and Nong Pla Lai

We have two days to explore the amazing wader habitats around Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia which arguably are amongst the best places on the planet for wader diversity. There is no denying, however, that one small shorebird will be our priority and that is the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Sadly, this extraordinary bird has declined markedly in recent years and there may now be less than 150 pairs left, although a handful of individuals have been consistently found every winter around Pak Thale.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint at Pak Thale © Chris Collins

Although locating at least one 'Spoonie' will be our priority, there are plenty of other waders to enjoy and we will aim to see as many species as possible during our time exploring the saltpans and mudflats of Pak Thale. Another target will be Nordmann's Greenshank as like Spoon-billed Sandpiper, the population of this Russian endemic breeder has dropped significantly over the last couple of decades and some experts have suggested it may now be almost as threatened as the sandpiper.

Another speciality of this region is Asian Dowitcher but for anyone who has not explored Asia before, there should be plenty of new waders to enjoy with the possibilities including Pacific Golden Plover, Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Malaysian Plover, Great Knot, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Long-toed and Red-necked Stints, Pin-tailed Snipe, Terek Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper and Oriental Pratincole.

During our stay, we also plan to take a boat trip out to the Laem Phak Bia sandspit which is where we hope to find White-faced Plover. Although originally described as a full species over 150 years, this bird has essentially been overlooked since then (due to its similarity to the closely related Kentish Plover) but it is now widely regarded as a good species, albeit one that is still poorly known. Another rare bird we will hope to find during our boat trip is Chinese Egret.

Depending on how long it takes to find our priority shorebirds, we also intend to explore the lakes, wetlands and mangroves around Phetchaburi which will allow us to see a much wider range of

species including White-throated and Black-capped Kingfishers and Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters.

Day 13: Birding around Phetchaburi and depart Thailand

There should be time for some final birding (and what we will do is likely to be determined by any species we may have failed to see) before we make the c.2.5-hour journey to Thailand's main international airport for our flights back to the UK.

Day 14: Arrive UK**Trip Information****GROUP SIZE**

10 participants plus one UK-based WildWings leader (Mark Andrews) and an expert Thai Bird Guide (Wich'yanan Limparungpatthanakij otherwise known as "Jay").

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is primarily a birding tour with a mixed focus of looking for forest birds and the waders at Pak Thale. We hope to see some mammals, eg primates and hopefully Asian Elephant, but our primary objective will be birds.

Located in the tropics (Bangkok, for example, is at approximately 13°N), Thailand has a warm-very hot and generally humid climate, and we can expect high temperatures throughout the holiday with the chance of rain at times.

When we are at the two national parks, ie Khao Yai and Kaeng Krachan, we will spend much of our time exploring forest trails as well as birding along roadsides, so there is likely to be some shade from the sun, however, when looking for waders at Pak Thale, for example, there is little shelter, so we recommend not only bringing high factor sunblock and a hat but also a collapsible umbrella as this can not only be useful for any rain we encounter but also to provide shade against the sun.

You should expect to start early each morning throughout the trip as bird activity is generally best shortly after dawn. On some days, we make take a siesta or rest up during the heat of the middle of the day and then start looking for birds and other wildlife again in the middle to late afternoon. There may be some opportunities to look for nocturnal birds and mammals after dark but due to the challenges presented by Elephants, this is somewhat limited.

There should be good photographic opportunities from some of the hides we visit on the outskirts of Kaeng Krachan National Park and when birding along roadsides and more open areas but when we are walking the forest trails, the low light levels can make photography more challenging.

ACCOMMODATION

Eleven nights' accommodation at three different locations. We have decided to stay close to but not inside Khao Yai National Park, as the quality of the accommodation in the park is now not of the standard we require. At all locations we will, however, be staying at comfortable resort hotels.

MEALS

Food will be good quality Thai cooking and it should be possible to cater for vegetarians and gluten-free diets.

All main meals are included in the tour price, commencing with lunch on Day 2 and concluding with breakfast on Day 13. Lunches will primarily be taken either at mixture of restaurants in the national parks or elsewhere and mostly not at the hotels where we are staying, although there may be a few picnics.

The occasional breakfast on this tour may be a packed breakfast.

WALKING

Mostly easy to moderate although it will be hot and humid which can make it more tiring so some participants may wish to bring a lightweight stool as we can be out for 4-5 hours on occasions, although we will mostly have our transport nearby. Most walks are on mainly easy terrain. A few walks may be a longer but taken at a gentle pace.

As we are spending several nights at each location, clients are usually able to 'opt out' of excursions (when we are then returning to the hotel) should they wish.

Comfortable waterproof walking shoes with stout corrugated soles for grip are advised especially when we go on forest trails.

TRAVEL

Due to the pandemic, it is proving extremely difficult to predict future flight prices and schedules, especially when a trip is scheduled for beyond the period when flights can be booked. As a result, we have taken the decision to price our holidays as excluding all flights.

To keep the process as simple as possible for our clients, however, we are now working closely with a dedicated agent at Travel Counsellors who will be able to advise you which flights we are recommending, and he will be able to book these for you.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

At the time of writing, there were no compulsory requirements for visiting Thailand, however, as always, you should check with your GP for recommendations. If the forest sites are wet, mosquitoes and leeches may be present, so you are advised to bring suitable preventative measures.

Food hygiene standards are generally reasonably good in Thailand but, as always, only drink bottled water and avoid peeled fruit etc.

Mark will have a basic field first aid kit with him, and the vehicles always carry drinking water.

MONEY

The current exchange rate (February 2022) is about 40 Thai Baht to the Pound. We would suggest taking cash for this trip, either in Bahts or US Dollars. Please obtain your currency before departure to save time on arrival in Bangkok though be aware that ATMs are widely available.

GROUND TRANSPORT

By minibus or other private vehicles.

We will also take a boat trip to the sandspit at Laem Phak Bia.

COMMUNICATION

Mobile phone coverage is generally good but not in the forest itself. Local pre-pay Sim Cards are also readily available but will only work in mobiles not locked to a specific contract.

Internet cafes abound and some of our hotels have wifi.

CULTURE

Thai culture does not include displays of public affection or of more possible relevance, displays of bare flesh. Please respect this in spite of the fact most Western visitors do not it seems!

CLOTHING

In general terms, base your packing on light-weight tropical attire and keep covered up. Footwear which gives some ankle support is recommended in the forest but sandals unless you burn easily are fine for the salt pans. Please do not bring any white clothing (including hats!) for birding, especially in the forests as it is essential to blend in. The range of this type of clothing by Paramo and Rohan is hard to beat and some of this is impregnated with anti-mosquito features.

A small torch is essential for any night-birding as potentially dangerous snakes and scorpions are present.

ELECTRICITY

The national voltage is 220 AC / 50Hz and both round and square two-pin plugs are used. The supply is generally reliable. Health and safety standards are not up the UK in this respect, so please be careful if using local sockets.

BOOKS

Many bird books are available which cover this area and the bird families. The best field guide now seems to be the 'new' Birds of Thailand which is co-authored by our Thai guide Wich'yanan Limparungpatthanakij. Another option is Craig Robson's Birds of Thailand.

For mammals, The Mammals of SE Asia by Charles Francis is suggested.

PHOTOGRAPHY

When we are birding along roadsides in the two national parks, there are usually good opportunities for photography but due to low light levels, it can be more challenging on forest trails. We also plan to spend some time visiting some of the hides on the outskirts of Kaeng Krachan which can be excellent for photography. There should be great chances to photograph some of the waders and open country when we are at Pak Thale.

Financial Security

Wildwings (which is a division of Birds and Wildlife Limited) has financial failure insurance provided by Travel Vault which fully protects you should Birds and Wildlife Limited cease trading.

All passenger bookings are fully insured including the initial deposit and balance payments. The policy also includes repatriation, arising from the cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements in the unlikely event of the insolvency of Birds and Wildlife Limited.

For full details please see <https://wildwings.co.uk/about/financial-protection/>

How to book

Check availability on our website or with our office. We are happy to hold a provisional reservation for up to 7 days. After this, we require a booking form and deposit to confirm your place on a tour.

Book online, by phone or by post

You can book and pay the deposit simply and securely via our website using the “Book this Tour” button on the relevant tour page. Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing by completion of a booking form (available to download from our website) and emailed or posted to us.

Please be sure to read our booking conditions and general information prior to booking. Links to this can be found from the footer on every page of our website.

When to book

Early booking is advised as all our tours have small group sizes and so they can fill very quickly; indeed, occasionally this can happen before we have even uploaded details to the website.

The number of single rooms is sometimes limited, and these are often taken quickly so we encourage you to plan ahead if you would like one.

When a trip becomes a ‘guaranteed departure’ early on, this also means that everyone can book flights which is advantageous for all.

Last-minute bookings

We inevitably receive a few unexpected cancellations over the course of a season, so it is always worth enquiring about availability on any tour – even at short notice.

Payments

- **Deposit:** the amount of booking deposit per person is shown alongside every tour. We accept deposit payments by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details), UK debit/credit cards and cheques (made payable to *Birds and Wildlife Ltd* and drawn on a UK bank in GB£ sterling)
- **Balance:** full payment of the tour balance is due no later than 12 weeks prior to departure or 20 weeks in the case of certain tours and cruises. We will send you an invoice before the balance is due. We accept payments of balances by electronic bank transfer or cheque.
- **Payment by overseas customers:** These must be in GB£ Sterling and made by electronic bank transfer (please ask for our bank details).
- We do not accept cheques on US banks in US\$ or cheques in Euros or Eurocheque. For customers living outside of the UK and the European Economic Area, we can accept balance payments by Visa and MasterCard credit cards but with an additional charge of 3% to help offset credit card company charges.

Late booking payments: for us to guarantee hotel rooms etc, full payment is required at the time of booking (ie bookings made within 12 weeks of departure).

Passports and Visas

For UK passport holders your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the last day of the tour.

Current entry requirements for UK citizens travelling abroad can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Health and Vaccinations

For full and up to date information on vaccines visit <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries> and select your destination country.

General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is also available on the NHS 'Fit for Travel' website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you are abroad.

Your safety and travel advice

An unavoidable aspect of travelling abroad is the risk it may pose to your safety and security. The best advice on current risks is provided by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

To assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination, we strongly advise that you refer to the relevant FCDO travel advice both prior to booking and regularly before you travel. This

information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

“Travel aware” is a travel safety campaign run by the FCDO and another useful resource and details can be found at <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk>.

Travel Insurance

Good travel insurance is essential before setting off on any overseas trip. In common with all responsible tour operators, it is a condition of booking that all clients are fully and adequately insured before travelling with us.

Be aware that some destinations may require you to produce proof of comprehensive travel insurance (eg a valid insurance certificate) at Immigration on arrival in the country, so you should carry your documentation with you.

Your travel insurance should cover against cancellation, curtailment, missed departure, delay, personal accident, death, loss of baggage and valuables (see note below), personal liability and legal expenses.

Most importantly, your insurance must cover you fully in respect of medical care and repatriation should you become too ill to continue with the tour, including the cost of emergency evacuation by helicopter or air ambulance should this be necessary.

Note that passenger liability insurance covering the transportation that we hire, particularly in less developed countries, may be inadequate; it is, therefore important that your insurance cover includes sufficient provision for your dependents in the event of an accident.

We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as possible after booking your holiday to ensure you are fully protected in the event of unexpected cancellation prior to departure. You must inform your insurers of any pre-existing medical conditions (including those of persons not necessarily travelling but upon whom your holiday may depend) that may require treatment during a period of overseas travel or might cause you to cancel the trip.

Once you have arranged your insurance, please be sure to send us the following essential details: name and contact details of your insurance provider, your policy number, expiry date and your insurers 24hr emergency assistance number.

Important things to note about insurance

Travel insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover for valuable optical equipment, which is often best protected under your own household insurance policy. If in doubt, ask your insurers for advice prior to travel.

Most travel insurance policies limit the amount of cover, typically up to a maximum tour cost of £5000 per person. If the tour you are booking exceeds this amount, additional cover can usually be provided upon payment of an additional premium. We recommend all travellers check their individual policy limit to ensure the full cost of their holiday is covered.

Arranging your insurance

Due to UK government legislation, we are not allowed to offer or recommend travel related insurance. Premiums can vary widely according to your age, needs, health, choice of destination and other factors, while many people nowadays have annual travel insurance cover.

General Information

www.wildwings.co.uk

Our website gives easy access to detailed tour itineraries (tour info packs), trip reports, trip photos and the latest WildWings News.

Special diets & other requests

We pass on all such requests to the hotels and other suppliers, and do our best to ensure (but, of course, cannot guarantee) that your needs will be met. Please be sure to tell us about these (in as much detail as possible) at the time of booking, to allow good time to make the necessary arrangements.

Smoking and vaping

Almost all our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. For the enjoyment and comfort of all, we ask that smokers refrain from smoking in proximity to the group and respect our no smoking policy in the vehicle, at mealtimes and when watching wildlife.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please email us at tours@wildwings.co.uk or call the office and we will do our best to assist you.

Our office is open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday. In the event we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on our answerphone (24 hrs) and we will contact you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your interest in our tours. We do hope that you will be able to join us.