

## Himalayan Red Panda Phototrip

### Sample Trip Itinerary

**Day One:** Arrive at Kathmandu airport and be greeted transported to your accommodations. Free time before meeting with fellow ecotrippers and RPN team and then dinner and trip debriefing in the evening.

**Day Two:** All day guided site seeing in the vibrant and beautiful Kathmandu Valley – visiting palaces, marketplaces and temples.

Photography mission of the day: Capture some of the most iconic Nepali locations and hone your travel photography skills!

**Day Three:** Late morning 45-minute domestic flight to Bhadrapur, with spectacular views of the Himalaya ranges including Mt. Everest, Mt. Kangchenjunga, Mt. Lhotse, Mt. Makalu. Then we travel by road to Ilam and begin our journey north into the mountains, passing tea gardens and Nepali communities. Overnight hotel stay in Ilam. Overlook the tea gardens.

Photography mission of the day: Learn landscape photography techniques and how to use bracketing -a photography technique- and apply filters to your wide-angle lenses. You will also learn other with your wide angle and telephoto lens.

#### **Day Four:**

Leave Ilam after breakfast, bird watching and then drive higher into red panda habitat. We arrive at Dobato (perched on a mountain ridge-2655 m) in the late afternoon, the village closest to red panda habitat and our base for the next four nights. Light hike in the evening for bird and mammal watching. Overnight homestay at Dobato.

Photography mission of the day: Learn how to prepare yourself for your next travel, wildlife and bird photography shoot.

#### **Day Four, Five & Six**

The next two days we will wake up early to begin tracking red pandas in the alpine temperate forests with RPN Forest Guardians. We will also likely see other mammal and bird species throughout the day. We will stop in local homes for lunch and hot refreshments and immerse ourselves in the community with fun tasks in the evenings. 2 nights home stays in Dobato.

Photography missions of the day: The real adventure begins now! Learn how to track wildlife and professional wildlife photographer techniques including camera traps. While visiting visit Nepali communities learn how to tell a travel photography story with our cameras.

### **Day Seven**

Leave Dobato after breakfast and look for red pandas and other wildlife along the way. Lunch at Kalpokhari (3026 m) on the Nepal and India border in the afternoon with beautiful elevated views of the Mai River Valley. Hike up to the highest peak in the Singhalila range (3636 m), with breathtaking sunsets over Mt Kanchenjunga and Mt Everest. Overnight stay in a hotel at Sandakpur.

Photography mission of the day: Learn how to use telephoto lens and action and bird photography skills.

### **Day Eight**

Rising in the early morning we make our way to vantage points for the panoramic view of the impressive Himalayas during sunrise. After breakfast and refreshing we hike back down to Dobato for lunch, and then drive back to Ilam.

Photography mission of the day: BECOME A PRO LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER! Learn how to use a telephoto lens for landscape photos including sunrises and sunsets.

### **Day Nine**

Our last day, depart Ilam after breakfast by road for the return journey back to Kathmandu. Group farewell dinner in the evening.