India has a great diversity of bird life, with some species being of Palearctic origin, others African, and still others originating in southeastern Asia. There is even a greater diversity of diurnal raptors—an impressive 69 species, of which we should see 50 or more, as well as many species of other animals.

While most of India is now under cultivation, some areas remain essentially natural; these areas are where we are going to find our raptors.

Indians have had a great reverence for animal life; as a result, few animals are persecuted or hunted. Thus many individuals are relatively tame. We will get to watch many Indian raptors up close, and with a little luck, a Tiger!

Tour visits Elephanta Island, Little Rann of Kutch, Kaziranga, Keoladeo, and Corbett National Parks, among other places, to maximize species coverage. Don’t miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to explore India for three weeks in search for raptors along with Bill Clark and Sergio Seipke!

Brahminy Kites are stunningly handsome. © R. DeCandido

White-bellied Sea Eagle © S. Seipke

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Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 | 24 NOVEMBER

Arrive in Mumbai at Mumbai, India (Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, IATA code: BOM). Transfer to our hotel.

Day 2 | 25 NOVEMBER

All-day trip to Elephanta Island. We will travel by boat approx. an hour through Bombay harbor to this undisturbed island. Here we will climb to a peak and watch the all day procession of flying raptors (chairs are available to be carried to the top for a small fee). There is a pond on the nearby ridge where many come to drink and loaf. We will see many Brahminy and Black Kites, as well as Common Buzzard, Shikra, Black-shouldered Kite, Booted Eagle, Eurasian Hobby, and others. Here is our best chance to see the White-bellied Sea Eagle. There is a nice restaurant on the island for lunch.

Day 3 | 26 NOVEMBER

Fly early morning to Rajkot in Gujarat. We go to the Little Rann of Kutch, where we may see Imperial Eagles & Peregrines, and on the way, Red-headed Falcons. We should also see Tawny Eagle & Long-legged Buzzard. Kavery Hotel, Rajkot.

Day 4 | 27 NOVEMBER

Travel by road to Velavedar National Park, arriving at this wonderful grassland in the afternoon in time to observe hundreds of harriers coming to roost. We will see Montagu’s, Pallid, & Marsh Harriers perched and flying by close. Dinner and overnight in Bhavnagar.

Day 5 | 28 NOVEMBER

Morning drive through Velavedar, then drive to Desert Coursers. After lunch we will drive into the Little Rann of Kutch to see wildlife,
especially Wild Asses, but also many raptors. Desert Courser.

Day 6 | 29 NOVEMBER
Morning drive through the Little Rann, then on to Ahmadabad, where we catch our flight to New Delhi. Dinner and overnight in New Delhi.

Day 7 | 30 NOVEMBER
Early morning flight to Guhawati, then drive to Kaziranga National Park. We should see some raptors en route.

Day 8 | 1 DECEMBER
In Kaziranga we will see species more representative of southeastern Asia, such as Jerdon’s & Black Bazas, Crested Goshawks, & Pied and Striped Harriers. We will also see Grey-headed Fishing Eagles, and maybe a Tiger.

Day 9 | 2 DECEMBER
Return to Guhawati to catch flight back to New Delhi. Dinner and overnight in New Delhi.

Day 10 | 3 DECEMBER
Morning drive to Bharatpur, site of the famous Keoladeo Park. Here we shall stay for a few exciting days. Bharatpur Forest Lodge.

Days 11–12 | 4–5 DECEMBER
Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur). We will continue to explore all corners of this fascinating raptor concentration area. We should see many individuals of many species, including Greater & Lesser Spotted, Pallas’ Fishing, Bonelli’s, Booted, & Short-toed Eagles. Peregrine Falcon is almost always resident in winter. After morning outings, we will return to the lodge to sip tea or soda and watch the soaring raptors. Often as many as 12 species can be observed in several hours. After lunch and a short rest, we continue with afternoon excursions into the park. We should be able to see Spotted Owl, Collared Scops Owl, and Dusky Eagle-Owl. Perhaps we might see a Brown Hawk-Owl. Bharatpur Forest Lodge.

Day 13 | 6 DECEMBER
Morning drive to Agra for a visit to the famous Taj Mahal. After lunch we start for Corbett National Park, stopping for the night at Gajuraula.

Day 14 | 7 DECEMBER
Continue to Corbett National Park by vehicle, with stops to see interesting raptors. Quality Inn.

Days 15–16 | 8–9 DECEMBER
Excursions outside the park and up to the mountains to the north. We can expect to see many of the species already observed and in addition, see Changeable & Mountain Hawk-Eagles, Rufous-bellied, & Black Eagles, Osprey, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, several species of vultures, and Hen Harrier. Lunch at hotel or picnic lunch. Quality Inn.

Day 19 | 12 DECEMBER
Drive back to New Delhi. Claridge’s Hotel.

Day 20 | 13 DECEMBER
Catch flights back home.
Tour Guides

Bill Clark

Bill has been observing, studying, and photographing raptors for over 50 years. He coauthored the recently revised *Hawks*, the raptor field guide in the Peterson series and *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*. He has also published numerous articles on identification, migration, and distribution of birds of prey.

Bill has traveled extensively in Mexico and is familiar with the raptors and other birds there. He has almost finished a raptor field guide for Mexico and Central America!

Bill speaks **English** and **Spanish**.

Sergio Seipke

Sergio has observed and photographed raptors for the past 20 years. He was born in Argentina, and enjoys helping others to search for and identify raptors.

Sergio is currently working on *Raptors of South America*, to be published by Princeton University Press, and the first field guide to the raptors of the region.

Sergio is the owner of Raptours, L.L.C. and carries on Bill Clark’s legacy of raptor touring.

Sergio speaks **English**, **Spanish** and **Portuguese**.

TOUR LEADER

Bill Clark

TOUR CO-LEADER

Sergio Seipke

SUGGESTED FIELD GUIDES


Make a difference!

RAPTOURS®, L.L.C. will make a financial contribution to *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary* for every member that signs up for this tour. Join us on this tour and make a lasting contribution to raptor conservation.
Tour Details

TOUR PRICE
Tour price per person (to be announced) includes hotels (double occupancy), meals, soft drinks, tips, entry fees, ground transportation, domestic flights, and guide services.

Extra nights in Mumbai, alcoholic beverages, items of personal nature, and insurance of any kind are not included.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
Single supplement price is to be announced.

Roommates will be assigned to those participants willing to share a room. If a roommate is not available, you will be required to pay the single supplement.

COUNTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Visit Government of India’s India Visa Online website to learn about entry requirements according to nationality and country of residence.

DIFFICULTY
The level of difficulty of this tour is easy. No strenuous hikes are involved.

The only difficulty of this tour is keeping the count of the numbers of raptor species watched!

COMFORT
Accommodations range from good to excellent.

We will drive in a comfortable van.

Guide-to-passenger ratio will be 1:4 or better.

WEATHER & CLOTHING
By November the monsoon has passed and very little rain is expected. It has probably the most pleasant weather all around, with cool evenings. Average temperatures reach highs around 90 °F / 32 °C, and average lows around 75 °F / 23 °C. The climate overall is sunny and dry.

Hat and sunglasses are highly recommended for this tour. Sunscreen is also essential. DEET (N,N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide) is effective against mosquito bites, and is highly recommended.

HEALTH
There is no risk of yellow fever in India. The Indian government only requires proof of vaccinations against yellow fever if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever.

Travel medical insurance is strongly recommended.

For detailed information on health precautions and vaccines recommended for India visit CDC’s website 6 weeks before departure.

LOCAL CURRENCY
Local currency in India is the Indian rupee, and exchange rate is nearly 60 Indian rupees for U.S. dollar.

It is recommended to start the trip with Indian rupees cash for expenses such as souvenirs, drinks or phone calls.

NEED TO KNOW

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Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk

I understand that the tour to which I am a party demands that I be in good health and physical condition. I acknowledge the risk and hazards of travel in remote areas where injury, delay or unanticipated events may occur. I understand that such risks simply cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity. I may be subjecting myself to dangers and hazards which could result in illness, injury, or death. I recognize that such risks, dangers, and hazards may be present at any time during the trip. I also realize that medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during some or all of the time in which I am participating in the tour. I realize that I will be traveling in remote areas with poor or no access to emergency and/or medical services. I understand that there is a risk that accidents or illness can occur in remote places where medical facilities, emergency treatment or other services cannot be rendered. I understand that there is a risk involved in the consumption of food or drink.

The undersigned, being of lawful age, in consideration, and as part payment for the right to participate in the trip/tour, and associated activities, services, and food arranged for me by Raptours, L.L.C., and its agents, employees, affiliates or associates, I have and do hereby fully assume all risk of illness, injury or death, and hereby release, hold harmless, and discharge Raptours, L.L.C. and its agents, employees, affiliates or associates from all actions, claims, demands, or lawsuits for any accident, injury, property damage or personal loss to me or to those traveling with me in connection with any accommodation, transportation or other travel service, resulting from, related to, or arising in any manner out of my participation in the tour, as well as from any act of terrorism, defect in vehicle, break down in equipment, strike, theft, delay, or cancellation or of changes in itinerary or schedule, whether foreseen or unforeseen.

The undersigned understands that Raptours, L.L.C., its owners, operators, or agents have booked transportation, made reservations for lodging, made land arrangements for local transportation and is conducting the above prearranged tour; that the undersigned assumes the risk that the owners, operators and agents of the transport companies, hotels, and resorts may cancel or change the times, types or method of transportation or accommodations; that the undersigned understands that Raptours, L.L.C., its owners, operators or agents does not have control or responsibility for any such cancellations or changes in times, types, or methods of transportation or accommodations; that the undersigned may incur additional charges and expenses because of the cancellations and changes to the times, type or method of transportation or accommodations; and the undersigned hereby releases and discharges Raptours, L.L.C., its owners, operators or agents from any additional charges or expenses incurred by the undersigned. The undersigned agrees to promptly pay the additional charges and expenses because the owners, operators and agents of the transport companies, hotels, and resorts have cancelled or changed the times, type or method of transportation or accommodations.

I agree that I will not sue Raptours, L.L.C. and its agents, employees, affiliates or associates for damages incurred as a consequence of my participation in tour caused by the negligence or other acts of Raptours, L.L.C. and its agents, employees, affiliates or associates or any employee, agent or contractor thereof. Should Raptours, L.L.C. or anyone acting on their behalf, be required to incur attorney’s fees and costs to enforce this Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk, I agree to indemnify and hold them harmless for all such fees and costs.

I agree that if I suffer injury or illness, Raptours, L.L.C. and its agents, employees, affiliates, or associates can, at my cost, arrange medical treatment and emergency evacuation service, as Raptours, L.L.C. and its agents, employees, affiliates or associates deem necessary for my safety.

I agree that the foregoing obligation, release and assumption of risk shall be binding upon me personally, as well as upon my spouse, heirs, executors, assigns, and administrators, and for all members of my family, including any minor accompanying me. I have carefully read this Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk and fully understand its contents, terms, and conditions. I am aware that this is a release of liability and contract between me and Raptours, L.L.C. and/or its affiliated organizations or representatives, and I sign it of my own free will.

I state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this affirmation and Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk; that I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital; and that I have signed this Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk as my own free act.

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