Kenya

Comprehensive



Hinde's Babbler by Greg de Klerk

This comprehensive Kenya birding adventure is designed to showcase the country's extraordinary ecological diversity, from highland grasslands and montane forests to arid savannas and coastal endemism hotspots. Over three weeks of birding, we expect to record an exceptional species list, alongside a remarkable array of mammals, dramatic scenery, and some of East Africa's finest lodges and tented camps, all hosted by Kenya's famously warm and welcoming people.

We begin in Nairobi before heading into the highlands of Kinangop and Soysambu Conservancy, where grassland and acacia habitats support a suite of localized species including Sharpe's Longclaw, Aberdare Cisticola, and the striking Jackson's Widowbird. From here we descend into the Rift Valley, exploring Lake Nakuru and continuing to the shores of Lake Victoria at Kisumu, where papyrus swamps and lakeside habitats offer specialties such as Papyrus Gonolek, Carruthers's Cisticola, and the localized Papyrus Yellow Warbler.

Our journey then takes us into the famed Kakamega Forest, Kenya's only true equatorial rainforest and a stronghold of Guinea-Congo biome species. Here we target an exciting collection of western forest specials including Blue-headed Bee-eater, Turner's Eremomela, Chapin's Flycatcher, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye.

Heading back into drier country, we explore Lake Baringo and the Kerio Valley, where the dramatic shift in habitat produces a completely new avifauna. Key targets include Jackson's Hornbill, Northern Masked Weaver, Bristle-crowned Starling, Somali Sparrow, and Hemprich's Hornbill. We then climb once more into the central highlands, birding the forests of the Aberdare Range and Mount Kenya, where montane specials such as Jackson's Francolin, Bar-tailed Trogon, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, and Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon await, alongside regional endemics like Hinde's Babbler.

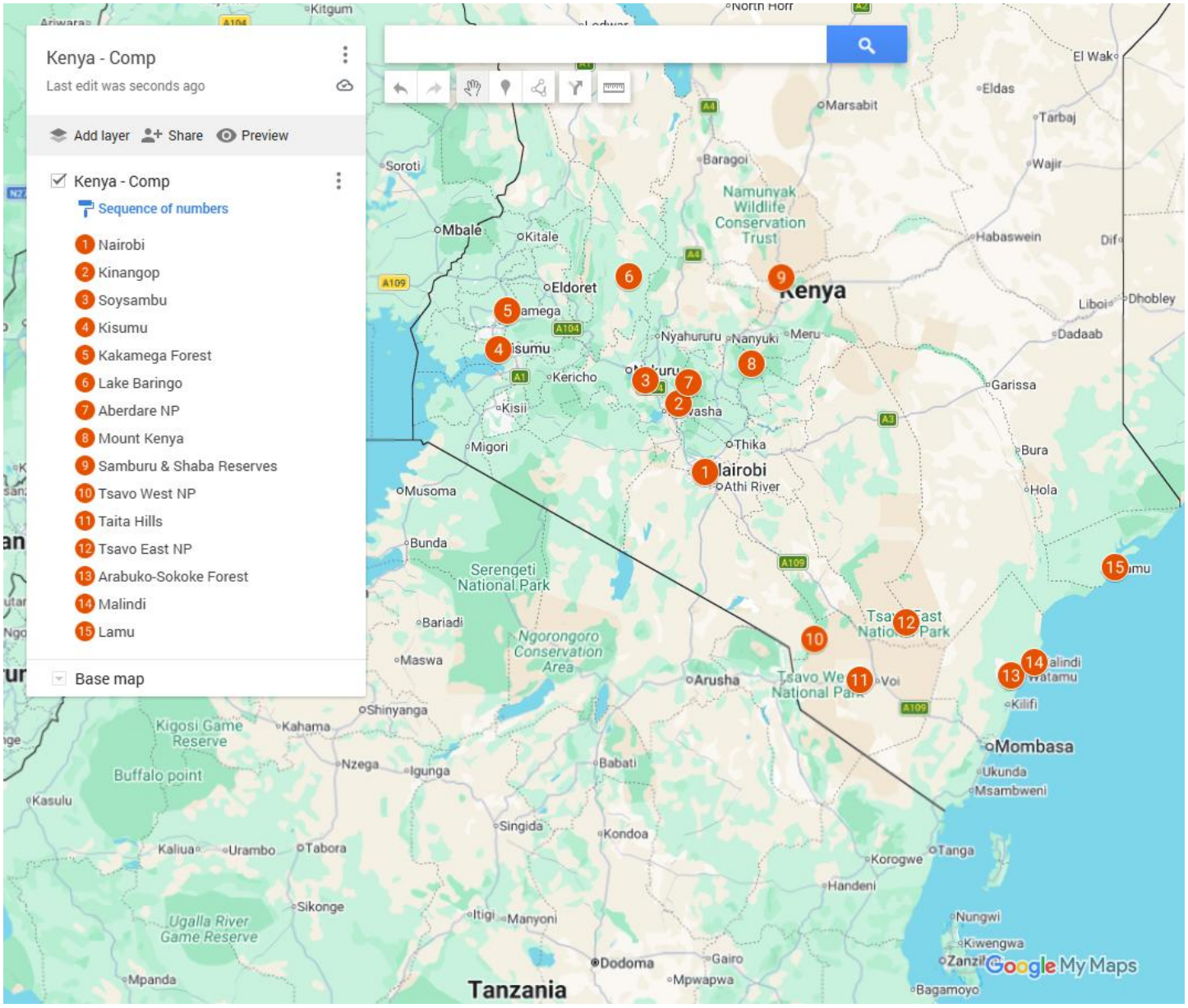
From here we venture north into the semi-arid Samburu and Shaba National Reserves, one of Kenya's most distinctive birding regions. This area is famed for its charismatic dry-country species, and we will search for Golden-breasted Starling, Vulturine Guineafowl, Somali Bee-eater, Williams's Lark, and Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse.

After returning briefly to Nairobi, we head south into the vast landscapes of Tsavo West and Tsavo East National Parks, combining excellent big game viewing with a rich birdlife that includes dry-country specials and widespread savanna species. The nearby Taita Hills provide a sharp contrast, hosting some of Kenya's most threatened and range-restricted birds, including the critically endangered Taita Thrush and Taita Apalis.

Our tour concludes along the Kenyan coast, beginning with the globally important Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and nearby coastal habitats. This is one of Africa's most important centres of endemism, and we will search for a suite of highly sought-after species including Sokoke Scops Owl, Sokoke Pipit, Amani Sunbird and the scarce Kilifi Weaver. We then continue to Malindi before flying to the historic island of Lamu, where coastal birding takes on a different character. Here we will target one of East Africa's most elusive and seldom-recorded species, the enigmatic Black Boubou - alongside a variety of coastal and island specialists. This unique finale, blending exceptional birding with rich Swahili culture, provides a memorable and fitting end to this truly diverse Kenyan adventure.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Nairobi**
Day 2	**Nairobi to Soysambu Conservancy via Kinangop**
Day 3	**Nakuru National Park to Kisumu & Hippo Point**
Day 4	**Kisumu to Kakamega Forest**
Day 5	**Kakamega Forest**
Day 6	**Kakamega to Baringo, Kerio Valley**
Day 7	**Lake Baringo**
Day 8	**Baringo to Aberdare National Park**
Day 9	**Aberdare National Park to Mount Kenya**
Day 10	**Mount Kenya**
Day 11	**Mount Kenya to Samburu / Shaba National Reserves via Imenti Forest**
Day 12	**Samburu / Shaba National Reserves**
Day 13	**Samburu / Shaba National Reserves to Nairobi**
Day 14	**Nairobi to Tsavo West National Park**
Day 15	**Tsavo West National Park**
Day 16	**Tsavo West National Park to Taita Hills**
Day 17	**Taita Hills to Tsavo East National Park**
Day 18	**Tsavo East National Park to Arabuko**
Day 19	**Arabuko-Sokoke Forest**
Day 20	**Malindi; flight to Lamu**
Day 21	**Lamu; flight to Nairobi & final departure**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Sequence of numbers
1 Nairobi
2 Kinangop
3 Soysambu
4 Kisumu
5 Kakamega Forest
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7 Aberdare NP
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9 Samburu & Shaba Reserves
10 Tsavo West NP
11 Taita Hills
12 Tsavo East NP
13 Arabuko-Sokoke Forest
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Base map
Kenya
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Mombasa
Eldoret
Kisumu
Arusha
Dodoma
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Birding sites in detail

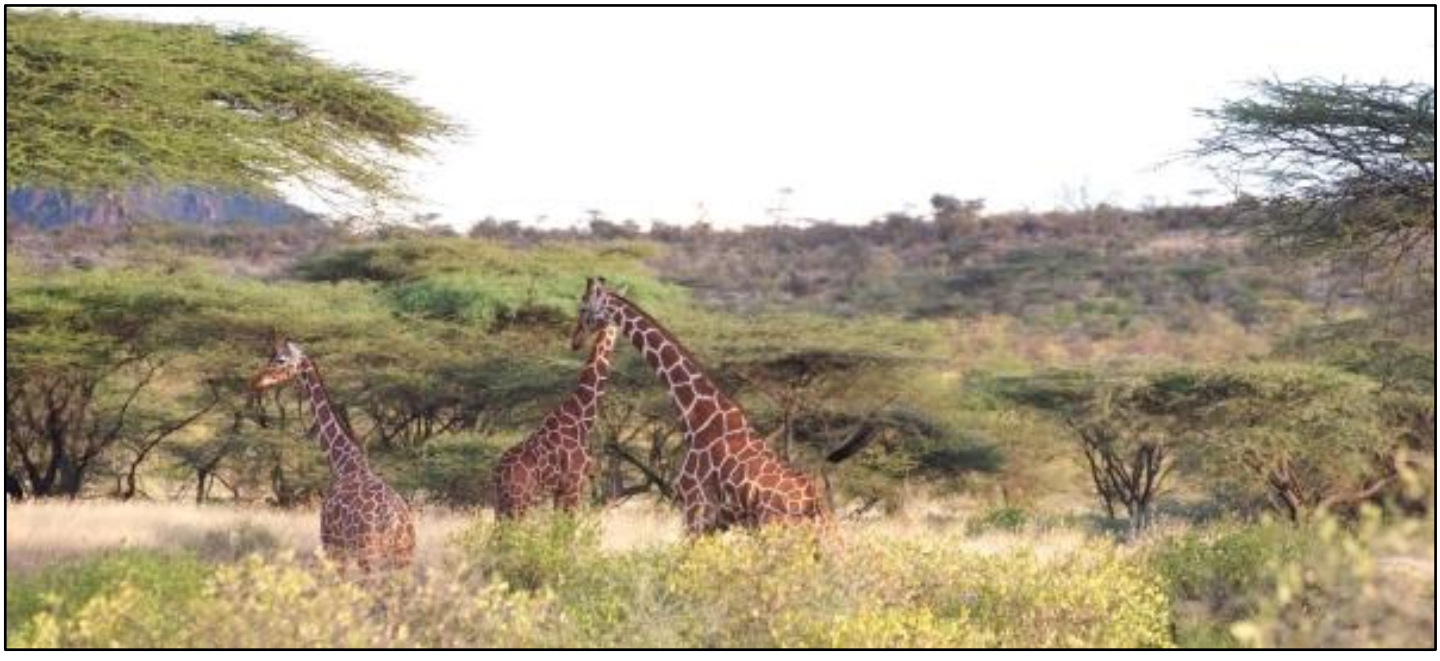
Kinangop Plateau. Here we hope to find Lesser Jacana, Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, and Sharpe's Longclaw. From Kinangop, we will drop down the eastern rim of the Great Rift Valley towards Soysambu Conservancy.



Sharpe's Longclaw by Stratton Hatfield

Soysambu Conservancy. The Soysambu Conservancy is located on the shores of Lake Elementeita, one of the rift valley's famous flamingo filled alkaline lakes. The levels of the blue-green alkaline waters of the lake vary and this, with other accompanying environmental changes, causes considerable variation in the flamingo population. However, when they are present en masse the lake turns a gorgeous rosy pink and the Lesser Flamingos usually form a "pink wall" along the entire length of the lake. Our lovely lodge offers a unique vantage point overlooking this spectacle.

Aside from the flamingos, other waterbirds abound, and we can expect to find good numbers of Great White Pelican, cormorants, egrets, ibis, ducks, African Spoonbill, the regal African Fish Eagle and noisy groups of Pied Kingfisher. Further species we may encounter include Coqui and Hildebrandt's Francolins, Grey-crested Herlmetshrike, White-fronted Bee-eater, Green Wood Hoopoe, Brown Parisoma, Red-rumped and Mosque Swallows, Mocking Cliff Chat, Little Rock Thrush, Abyssinian (Schalow's) Wheatear, Arrow-marked Babbler, the scarce Lynes's Cisticola, Rüppell's Starling and Speke's Weaver.



Reticulated Giraffe by Clayton Burne

Megafauna in the reserve includes African Buffalo, Plains Zebra, glamorous Rothschild's Giraffe, several antelope species and both Lion and Leopard.



Papyrus Gonolek by Stratton Hatfield

Kisumu. Kisumu is located at the edge of Lake Victoria, where we'll visit Hippo Point (Dunga Swamp) for a bounty of new and exciting species. Nesting weavers of various types will grab our attention and include Northern Brown-throated, Slender-billed, Black-headed, Village and Golden-backed. Swamp Flycatchers and Red-chested Sunbirds perch at the papyrus-edge and we'll also watch out for Black-headed Gonolek, the uncommon Papyrus Canary, Winding Cisticola and Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Double-toothed Barbet and Eastern Plantain-eater in the surrounding trees.

We'll take some time to bird the area's papyrus specialties such as the rare Papyrus Yellow Warbler, stunning Papyrus Gonolek, Carruthers's Cisticola, the localized White-winged, Greater Swamp and Highland Rush Warblers and the scarce Papyrus Canary, while other interesting species we might find include Little Bittern, Western Reef and Purple Herons, Blue-headed Coucal, Woolly-necked Stork, African Openbill, Sacred and Glossy Ibis, African Jacana, Gull-billed Tern, African Reed, Sedge and Lesser Swamp Warblers and if we're extremely lucky, Allen's Gallinule or Lesser Moorhen.

Kakamega Forest. Kakamega Forest is one of Africa's most celebrated birding sites and supports numerous species otherwise only found in Central and West Africa. Around our lodge, we are likely to encounter a variety of exciting species including White-headed Saw-wing, Brown-capped, Vieillot's Black and Baglafecht Weavers, Grey-throated Barbet, Joyful Greenbul, Yellow-throated Leaflove, African Blue Flycatcher, Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill, and the dazzling African Emerald Cuckoo.



Black-faced Rufous Warbler by Daniel Danckwerts

Birding along the forest trails, we will search for key species such as Great Blue and Black-billed Turacos, Grey Parrot (now scarce here), Blue Malkoha, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Blue-headed Bee-eater, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, African Broadbill, Red-bellied

Paradise Flycatcher, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Lühder's and Bocage's Bushshrikes, African Shrike-flycatcher, and a range of wattle-eyes and greenbuls, including the localized Kakamega Greenbul. Other specials include Turner's Eremomela, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Dusky Tit, Red-headed Bluebill, and Black-billed Weaver.

The forest understory holds a number of elusive species such as Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Grey-chested Babbler, and several Illadopsis species. If we encounter an ant swarm, we will look for species such as Brown-chested Alethe and White-tailed Rufous Thrush attending these gatherings.

At forest edge clearings, we may see Crowned Eagle or African Goshawk overhead, while species such as Yellow-mantled Widowbird, Stout Cisticola, and Fan-tailed Grassbird occur in adjacent grasslands. With luck, we may even find the localized Orange-tufted Sunbird or the highly elusive Blue Quail.



Jackson's Widowbird by Julian Parsons

Kakamega to Lake Baringo. Time permitting, we may make a targeted stop in suitable bamboo habitat in the Katotoi Hills area. This site has become one of the most reliable locations in Kenya for the localized Bamboo Warbler, and we will search carefully for this often elusive species along with other forest-edge and montane birds.

Lake Baringo. Lake Baringo is one of Kenya's premier birding locations, and we will spend time exploring the lake edge, surrounding woodlands, and nearby cliffs. Two of the most sought-after species here are Jackson's Hornbill and Northern Masked Weaver, both of which have relatively restricted distributions and are regularly recorded in this area.



Elgon Francolin by Stratton Hatfield

Other species we will look for include Hemprich's Hornbill, Stripe-breasted Seedeater, Bristle-crowned Starling, Mocking Cliff Chat, Pygmy Batis, Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Beautiful Sunbird, and a variety of weavers and bishops. The area is also excellent for owls and nightbirds, and we may search for Verreaux's and Greyish Eagle-Owls, Northern White-faced Owl, African Scops Owl, and Slender-tailed Nightjar.

Kerio Valley. We will depart through the scenic Kerio Valley often lively with bird activity, and up the eastern

escarpment of the Great Rift Valley. Birds that we could see along the way include Grey Kestrel, Lizard Buzzard, the stunning White-crested and Ross's Turacos, Green-backed Eremomela, Pale and another chance at finding the rare Gambaga Flycatcher, Silverbird, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Golden-breasted Bunting, Yellow-billed Shrike, Western Black-headed Batis, Boran Cisticola, Double-toothed Barbet and Hemprich's Hornbill.



Kikuyu White-eye by Adam Riley

Aberdare National Park. Our time in the northern Aberdares will undoubtedly be our coldest of the trip. At dawn we will be journeying to the high elevation moorlands in search of several range restricted and localized species. Our targets for the morning will include the near endemic and recently split Elgon Francolin, the comically tame Jackson's Francolin, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Alpine Chat, Slender-billed Starling, the endemic Aberdare Cisticola, and Red-tufted Sunbird (formerly Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird). Temperatures on our morning walk might dip below freezing and we will near 10 500 feet above sea level (3 200 meters) so those sensitive to altitude sickness should bring appropriate medication.

Aberdare National Park to Mount Kenya. We'll make a stop at a local quarry to look for the rare Cape Eagle-Owl at a day roost. The race here is sometimes split off as Mackinder's Eagle-Owl.

Mount Kenya. We will spend the majority of the day exploring the lush forests around our lodge. Birds that we will be targeting include the rare and secretive Olive Ibis, endemic Kikuyu White-eye, Black Sparrowhawk, the magnificent Crowned Eagle, African Olive and Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeons, Red-fronted Parrot, Scarce Swift, Crowned and Silvery-cheeked Hornbills, beautiful Bar-tailed Trogon, secretive Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Moustached and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Black Saw-wing, Yellow-whiskered, Slender-billed and Olive-breasted Greenbuls, White-starred Robin, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-throated, Grey and Black-throated Apalises, White-browed Crombec, White-bellied Tit, Grey Cuckooshrike, Waller's Starling, the scarce Abbott's Starling, Brown-capped Weaver, Yellow-bellied and Kandt's Waxbills, the secretive Abyssinian Crimsonwing, Thick-billed Seedeater, Yellow-crowned Canary and, if we are lucky, even Oriole Finch. Mammals we may see include the beautiful Sykes' Monkey and Guereza Colobus. At night we should hear the eerie screams of Eastern Tree Hyrax.



Aberdare Cisticola by Stratton Hatfield

Imenti Forest (Meru). Situated on the northeastern slopes of Mount Kenya, Imenti Forest protects a rich tract of montane forest and is one of the best sites in Kenya for the localized Kenrick's Starling. We will spend time birding along forest edges and interior tracks, where mixed feeding flocks can be productive and may include a range of highland species. In addition to our main target, other possibilities include Bar-tailed Trogon, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, White-starred Robin, and a variety of greenbuls, sunbirds, and forest warblers.



William's Lark by Stratton Hatfield

Imenti Forest to Shaba National Reserve. The habitat changes dramatically on this drive, from rich forest to dry acacia bushveld. Birds, which we will keep our eyes open for, that occur in this habitat include Eastern Chanting and Gabar Goshawks, Spotted Thick-knee, Somali and Three-banded Coursers, Chestnut-bellied, Black-faced and Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Red-bellied Parrot, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Rufous Chatterer and Somali Bunting.

Samburu & Shaba National Reserves. This area holds a number of north-east African dry country species shared with Ethiopia and Somalia. We will be on the lookout for the implausible Vulturine Guineafowl, Secretarybird, Greater Kestrel, Red-necked and Lanner Falcons, localized White-headed Mousebird, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Somali Bee-eater, Pygmy Batis, African Bare-eyed Thrush,



Vulturine Guineafowls by Glen Valentine

Pink-breasted, Red-winged and Singing Bush Larks, Brown-tailed Rock Chat, Fischer's and Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Larks, Acacia Tit, Northern Brownbul, stunning Golden Pipit, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Ashy Cisticola, Grey Wren-Warbler, Banded Parisoma, Spotted Palm Thrush, Fischer's and Golden-breasted Starlings, Hunter's, Marico, Shining and Black-bellied Sunbirds, Chestnut Weaver, Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver, Black-capped Social Weaver and Reichenow's Seedeater. Early in the day we will visit an area where we will search for the extremely range-restricted William's Lark. This species was first discovered in 1955 and still today very little is known.



Somali Bee-eater by David Hoddinott

Mammals that we will be on the lookout for include the bizarre Gerenuk, Beisa Oryx, Grevy's Zebra, Reticulated Giraffe, Lesser Kudu, Klipspringer, Gunther's Dik-dik, Guereza Colobus, Cheetah, Leopard and Lion.

Samburu to Nairobi. We'll bird moist woodlands en route for the Kenyan endemic Hinde's Pied Babbler and Black-and-white Shrike-flycatchers.

Nairobi to Tsavo West National Park. In the open grasslands south of Nairobi, we will search for a suite of localized dry-country species. Key targets include Short-tailed, Athi Short-toed and White-tailed Larks, Hartlaub's Bustard, and Shelley's Francolin, along with other plains game and grassland birds typical of this unique habitat.



Athi Short-toed Lark by Stratton Hatfield

Tsavo West National Park. Our well situated lodge often provides superb birding around the grounds. At certain times of the year, the lights of the hotel attract large numbers of Palearctic passerines during their nocturnal migration. We will look out for Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, White-throated Robin, Common and Thrush Nightingales, Common Whitethroat, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Lesser Grey, Red-backed, Red-tailed and Isabelline Shrikes and a bevy of warblers that might include Marsh, Olive-tree, Barred, River, Upcher's and the little-known Basra Reed.

Traversing the arid acacia savanna that dominates Tsavo West National Park, we'll target a number of special, arid-country



Cheetah by David Hoddinott

species such as the rare and localised Friedmann's Lark, Tiny and Ashy Cisticolas, Pygmy and Eastern Black-headed Batis, Rufous and the rare and secretive Scaly Chatterers, White-bellied and Acacia Tits, Mouse-colored Penduline Tit, Hunter's, Black-bellied, Eastern Violet-backed and the localised Tsavo Sunbirds, Long-tailed and Taita Fiscals, Pringle's Puffback, Three-streaked Tchagra, the rare and skulking Red-naped Bushshrike, Golden-breasted and Magpie Starlings, Chestnut and Parrot-billed Sparrows, Black-cheeked Waxbill, African and Grey-headed Silverbills, Slate-colored Boubous, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Somali Bunting, Bare-eyed Thrush, Black-capped Social Weaver, Chestnut Weaver, D'Arnaud's, Red-and-yellow and Spot-flanked Barbets, the nomadic Golden Pipit, Pale White-eye, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu and the stunning Purple Grenadier.

Other likely possibilities include Common Ostrich, Martial, Verreaux's, Tawny and Long-crested Eagles, Crested Francolin, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Harlequin Quail, Black-bellied and Hartlaub's Bustards, Southern Ground Hornbill, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Northern Crombec, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Tawny-flanked and Pale Prinias, African Grey, Pale and Spotted Flycatchers, Chinspot Batis, Amethyst, Beautiful and Variable Sunbirds, Tropical Boubou, Brubru, Black-backed Puffback, Black-crowned Tchagras, Orange-breasted and Grey-headed Bushshrikes, Northern White-crowned Shrike, White-crested Helmetshrike, Black-headed, African Golden and Eurasian Golden Orioles, both Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers perched atop large mammals like Giraffe and Buffalo, the brilliant Greater Blue-eared, Violet-backed and Superb Starlings, Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, White-headed and Red-billed Buffalo Weavers, Lesser and Vitelline Masked, Spectacled, Baglafecht, Black-necked and Red-headed Weavers, Green-winged Pytilia, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Jameson's Firefinch, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, Bronze Mannikin, Long-tailed Paradise and Straw-tailed Whydahs and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting.



Tsavo Sunbird by David Hoddinott

Over 60 species of mammals occur in the park, including the scarce and elusive Lesser Kudu and African Wild Dog, while Lion, Spotted Hyena, Yellow-spotted Hyrax, Banded and Dwarf Mongooses, Beisa Oryx and Coke's Hartebeest are more likely. We will certainly be treated to an exceptional African birding and big game experience today!

We have a chance for a few species of nightjar with scarce species such as Sombre and Donaldson-Smith's being possible together with Eurasian.

Taita Hills. These hills famously harbor three highly endangered endemics, namely Taita Thrush, Taita Apalis and Taita White-eye. Recent research has found the Apalis to be the species most at risk of extinction as it appears to be completely absent from the largest extant patch of forest in the Taita Range. The entire world population may be less than 100 breeding pairs! Ngangao forest, the patch we visit, holds some of the last pairs of this rare species. The thrush, while shy occurs in reasonable numbers but is never easy to find while the white-eye is the most numerous. Other species that we will be on the lookout for include Augur Buzzard, Mottled and Alpine Swifts, White-necked Raven, Stripe-faced and Placid Greenbuls, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Striped Pipit, Singing Cisticola and White-starred Robin.



Taita Thrush by David Hoddinott

Tsavo East National Park. We have a time to explore the massive Tsavo East National Park. Our day will be full of both bird and mammal highlights as we search for Egyptian, Hooded, White-headed, White-backed, Rüppell's and Lappet-faced Vultures, Blue-cheeked, Kori, Buff-crested and White-bellied Bustards, Black-faced and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Somali Courser, the brilliant Golden Pipit, Somali Ostrich, Black-headed Lapwing, Olive and Somali Bee-eaters, Lilac-breasted, Purple and European Rollers, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Northern Red-billed and Von der Decken's Hornbills, Nubian, Bearded and Cardinal Woodpeckers, Greater and Lesser Honeyguides, D'Arnaud's and Red-and-yellow Barbets, Eastern Olivaceous and Barred Warblers, Pink-breasted, Red-winged, Foxy and Flappet Larks, Chestnut-headed and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Blue-naped Mousebird, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Slate-colored Boubou, Red-tailed Shrike, Red-fronted and Pale Prinias, Grey Wren-Warbler, Pied Wheatear, roving family groups of Vulturine Guineafowl and the stunning Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird among many other incredible dry-country birds.



Taita White-eye by David Hoddinott

Mammal highlights could include Lion, Cheetah, Plains Zebra, the strange-looking Gerenuk, regal Grant's Gazelle, tiny Kirk's Dikdik, African Buffalo, the specialized Lesser Kudu, huge Common Eland, Waterbuck, Impala, Warthog and Giraffe. The Tsavo complex is home to the largest population of African Elephant in Kenya (said to number over 7000), a small population of Black Rhinoceros and even an introduced population of the critically endangered Hirola.

Tsavo East National Park to Arabuko. Checking large baobab trees en route could produce sightings of both Broad-billed Roller and, occasionally, Brown-headed Parrot. Our journey passes through extensive arid acacia savanna that offers excellent birding. Species we will look for include Golden-breasted, Shelley's, Magpie, and Fischer's Starlings, Tsavo Sunbird, Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydahs, and a variety of raptors such as Black-chested and Brown Snake Eagles, African Hawk-Eagle, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, migrant Steppe and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Bateleur, Pygmy Falcon, Grasshopper Buzzard, and Eurasian Hobby.



Sokoke Scops Owl by David Hoddinott

If necessary, we will make a brief stop at Jilore Swamp on the northern edge of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, where species such as Zanzibar Red Bishop, Coastal Cisticola, Spotted Palm Thrush, and Golden Palm Weaver may be found.

Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. With our time carefully focused in this remarkable coastal forest, we will concentrate on the most productive areas and key target species. While exploring selected trails and forest edge habitats, we will search for mixed-species flocks that may include Green Malkoha, Fischer's Turaco, Narina Trogon, Mombasa Woodpecker, Scaly-throated and Pallid Honeyguides, Sombre, Fischer's and Lowland Tiny Greenbuls, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Black-headed Apalis, Eastern Nicator, Pale and Forest Batis, Retz's and Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrikes, Gorgeous Bushshrike, and Plain-backed Sunbird. Dead trees and clearings can be particularly productive, offering species such as Green Tinkerbird, White-eared and Green Barbets, and raptors including Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, and both Black and Little Sparrowhawks. Overhead, we may encounter Böhm's Spinetail, Ethiopian Swallow, and the scarce Forbes-Watson's Swift.



Sokoke Pipit by Yoav Perlman

Along the forest edge and in suitable interior habitat, we will concentrate on the area's key endemics and specials. These include the near-endemic Sokoke Pipit, which quietly creeps through leaf litter, the shy East Coast Akalat, the highly localized Amani Sunbird. Other sought-after species include Scaly Babbler and Eastern Black-headed Batis. A major highlight will be tracking down the diminutive Sokoke Scops Owl, with our local guide monitoring known day roosts. If required, we may remain into dusk to listen for calling birds, with additional possibilities including African Wood

Owl, African Barred Owlet (sometimes treated as the distinct "Sokoke" or "Sheffler's" Owlet), and Fiery-necked Nightjar.



Golden Pipit by Glen Valentine

During our visit, we will also keep a close watch for the localized Kilifi (Clarke's) Weaver, a coastal near-endemic that can be particularly active at this time of year. When conditions are favourable, this species may be found around its nesting colonies, adding another exciting dimension to our time in this remarkable forest.

If time and conditions allow, we may make a brief visit to the Arabuko Swamp in the northern part of the reserve, a site that can hold the localized Malindi Pipit. When water levels are suitable, additional species such as White-backed Duck, African Pygmy Goose, Coastal Cisticola, Zanzibar Red Bishop, Black Coucal, and Dwarf Bittern may also be present.

Mammals here are equally interesting, and we will keep an eye out for Blue Monkey, the tiny Blue Duiker, and the remarkable Golden-rumped Elephant-Shrew.

Lamu Island. Lamu Island provides a memorable finale, where coastal birding is combined with the rich cultural atmosphere of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Exploring coastal scrub, mangroves, and island habitats, we will search for a range of East African coastal species, with particular focus on one of the region's most elusive birds—the rarely recorded Black Boubou (also known as Manda Boubou), known from remarkably few documented sightings. Other species may include Mangrove Kingfisher, Crab Plover, Saunders's Tern, Malagasy Pond Heron, and a variety of coastal waders and seabirds.



Crab-plovers by Rob Williams

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate to difficult. This is a comprehensive birding tour designed for dedicated birders seeking a wide range of Kenya's key habitats & specialties. It is not well suited to photographers seeking extended viewing opportunities, inexperienced birders, or those with mobility or significant health limitations.
Birding Ease		Easy to demanding. Species density can be low in certain habitats, & forest birding presents typical challenges. Several key targets are difficult & require persistence.
Accommodation		Moderate to comfortable, including a mix of safari tented camps and some simpler lodges.
Walking / Trails		Birding is conducted from vehicles in megafauna reserves, with additional roadside & lodge garden birding. Moderate walking is required at several locations, with the possibility of some off-trail hiking (ie: Arabuko-Sokoke)
Vehicles / Roads		Comfortable safari vehicle with pop-up roof is used throughout. Most travel between major towns is on sealed roads, with dirt roads in wildlife areas. Road conditions can be variable, particularly in the wet season, some long drives are unavoidable.
Photography		Worthwhile to good, though opportunities may be limited by the pace of the tour.
Annoyances		Coastal areas can be hot & humid. Biting insects such as tsetse flies may be present in some regions. One morning will be spent at high altitude (3,200 m), where temperatures can be very cold, occasionally dropping below freezing.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 21;
- All lodgings;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check-in luggage and 8kg (18lb) for hand luggage.
- To cover the variety of sites in this large country, there are some long drives. Our vehicle is a comfortable safari modified Toyota Landcruiser.
- We will be visiting several national parks and reserves where there are good numbers of megafauna; for our safety we are naturally confined to the vehicles while on game drives but can exit at dedicated rest stops.
- We will be birding in some parts of this beautiful land that are far away from medical facilities.
- This tour is a fast-paced birding adventure designed for the dedicated lister and birder. The focus of the tour is to see as many of the endemics, near endemics and area specials as possible in the time given. To cover the

route needed to maximize the species list we stay for a single night only at most sites. This tour is not suitable for those with a casual interest in birds or those who do not enjoy a fast paced and demanding tour.



Typical 4x4 birding and game viewing Toyota Landcruiser.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour begins in Nairobi with a welcome dinner in the evening of day 1. The tour concludes mid-morning in Nairobi after an internal flight from Lamu on day 21.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi (IATA: NBO) is the main port of entry/departure for this tour.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.