# Tanzania

## Mega Birding Tour



**Pemba Scops Owl by Adam Riley**

*This Tanzania Mega Birding Tour is one of the ultimate African birding adventures and has been specifically designed to take in the entire range of sought-after forest endemics that Tanzania has to offer! Our tour kicks off with an exploration of the nearby Pemba Island, home to four species of endemics that include Pemba Scops Owl, Pemba White-eye, Pemba Sunbird and Pemba Green Pigeon. We make an exploratory trip into the Rubeho Mountains for Rubeho Warbler and Rubeho Akalat before moving to the lush forests of the impressive Eastern Arc Mountains, home to an amazing array of highly localised specials. Gems such as Winifred's (Mrs Moreau's) Warbler, Loveridge's Sunbird, Usambara Akalat, Usambara Weaver, Spot-throat and Fischer's Turaco are just a few of the wonderful species that we will be searching for. We will also take time to track down the elusive and recently discovered Udzungwa Forest Partridge – a species that shares close affinities with partridges from Asia – and another rare bird, the splendid Rufous-winged Sunbird.*

*Other fabulous endemics and regional specialities include Amani Sunbird, Kretschmer's Longbill, Uluguru Bushshrike, Iringa Akalat, and Olive-flanked Ground Robin, together with a bunch of recently described species that include Kilombero and White-tailed Cisticolas and Kilombero Weaver.*

## *Itinerary & Map*

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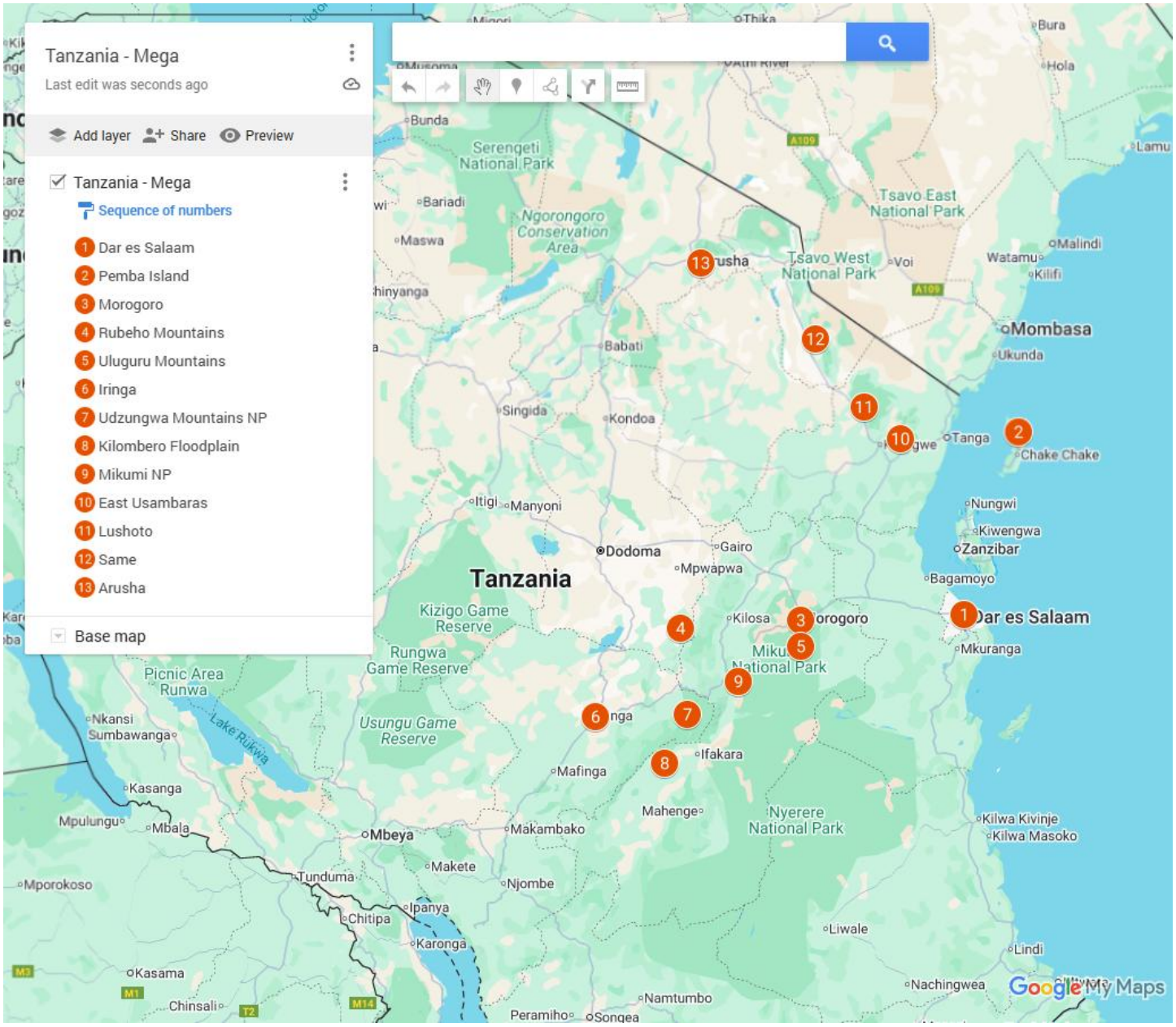
|---|---|
| **Day 1** | **Arrival Dar es Salaam** |
| **Day 2** | **Dar es Salaam, flight to Pemba Island** |
| **Day 3** | **Pemba Island, flight to Dar es Salaam, transfer to Morogoro** |
| **Day 4** | **Morogoro to Rubeho Mountains** |
| **Day 5** | **Day trip to Uluguru Mountains (Tegetero)** |
| **Day 6** | **Morogoro to Uluguru Mountains (Bunduki)** |
| **Day 7** | **Bunduki to Iringa** |
| **Day 8** | **Day trip to Uluti Forest** |
| **Day 9** | **Iringa to West Udzungwa Mountains** |
| **Days 10 to 12** | **West Udzungwa Mountains** |
| **Day 13** | **West Udzungwa Mountains to East Udzungwa Mountains** |
| **Day 14** | **East Udzungwa Mountains to Mikumi NP via Kilombero Floodplain** |
| **Day 15** | **Mikumi National Park** |
| **Day 16** | **Mikumi National Park to Amani, East Usambaras** |
| **Day 17 & 18** | **Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras** |
| **Day 19** | **Amani to Lushoto, West Usambaras** |
| **Day 20** | **West Usambaras** |
| **Day 21** | **Lushoto to Same** |
| **Day 22** | **Same to Arusha & final departure** |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Sequence of numbers
1 Dar es Salaam
2 Pemba Island
3 Morogoro
4 Rubeho Mountains
5 Uluguru Mountains
6 Iringa
7 Udzungwa Mountains NP
8 Kilombero Floodplain
9 Mikumi NP
10 East Usambaras
11 Lushoto
12 Same
13 Arusha
Base map
Tanzania
Dar es Salaam
Mombasa
Dodoma
Morogoro
Zanzibar
Tanga
Chake Chake
Mikumi National Park
Nyerere National Park
Serengeti National Park
Ngorongoro Conservation Area
Tsavo East National Park
Tsavo West National Park
Kizigo Game Reserve
Rungwa Game Reserve
Usungu Game Reserve
Picnic Area Runwa
Lake Rukwa
Mbeya
Google My Maps

## *Birding sites in detail*



Pemba Green Pigeon by David Hoddinott

**Pemba Island.** The island is a great beach holiday destination and has some remarkable reefs where scuba diving is very popular. We will mainly bird the north-west corner of the island for the four endemics, with Ngezi Forest being the prime location. A couple of endemics, such as the Pemba White-eye and Pemba Sunbird, are common in all habitats throughout the island; while the Pemba Scops Owl and the Pemba Green Pigeon prefer the well-forested areas, as well as clove plantations. We will also keep a lookout for the endemic subspecies of African Goshawk, African Paradise Flycatcher and Olive Sunbird, as well as Java Sparrow, which was introduced and can be particularly difficult to find in its native country.

The sandy beaches here are good areas for waders. The strange Crab-plover, a pied shorebird that is placed in its own monotypic family, can sometimes be seen striding the beaches. Other waders include Greater Sand Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Common Ringed Plover, and Eurasian Whimbrel. Dimorphic Egrets are fairly common, and the sandbars are the best areas to find roosting terns – including Greater and Lesser Crested, Gull-billed, the diminutive Saunder's and Common. Several gulls are also present, with Sooty, Lesser Black-backed and Grey-hooded Gulls being regularly encountered. Pied and House Crows dominate the avifauna on the island; while other good species to watch out for include Dickinson's Kestrel, Brown-headed Parrot, Mangrove Kingfisher, and Palm-nut Vulture. A small wetland nearby hosts a good variety of waterfowl, and amongst others we may see African Pygmy Goose and White-backed Duck.

**Dar es Salaam to Morogoro.** After arrival on the mainland, we transfer to our waiting four-wheel-drive vehicles and begin the journey towards Morogoro – a small and rather dilapidated town at the base of the Uluguru Mountains. Leaving Dar es Salaam, the drive takes us through heavily cultivated areas, where common Tanzanian roadside species such as Dark Chanting Goshawk, Lizard Buzzard and Black-winged Kite can be seen on exposed perches. Other easily seen species include Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Village Weaver, and Speckled Mousebird. With a little luck, we should find the endemic Ruvu Weaver.



White-winged Apalis by David Hoddinott

**Rubeho Mountains.** Birding is somewhat exploratory today, as we head into the Rubeho Mountains. Our pirmary targets are the endemic Rubeho Warbler and Rubeho Akalat. During our time here, we



Rubeho Warbler by David Hoddinott

may also find Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Mountain Buzzard, Moustached Tinkerbird, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Fulleborn's Boubou, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Chapin's Apalis, Oriole Finch, Moreau's Sunbird, Red-capped Forest Warbler, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Olive-flanked Robin-Chat and Red-faced Crimsonwing.

**Uluguru Mountains.** We'll head to the Uluguru Mountains with four-wheel-drive vehicles for our initial climb up the mountain; however, the vehicles can go only so far, and we will climb the rest of the way to enable access to good primary forest. Most of the lower slopes have unfortunately been deforested; however, there are still large tracts of unspoiled forests on the higher ground of the mountains. While walking in the open areas on the way up, we will keep our eyes open for White-eared Barbet, Angola Swallow and Bertram's Weaver. Our key target this morning is the rare and elusive Uluguru Bushshrike, which is endemic to these mountains – it is an endangered and shy bird that is a mega in every sense of the word. Other great forest species that we may encounter here include Fülleborn's Boubou, Sharpe's Akalat, Green Barbet, Moustached Tinkerbird, Usambara Weaver, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Chapin's and the beautiful White-winged Apalis, stunning Bar-tailed Trogon and the outrageous Green-headed Oriole. After having our packed lunch, we will return to our vehicles and take a drive to our camp, situated in a different area of the Ulugurus.

The following morning, we will take an all-day hike up into the forest. Here our main targets will include the tricky Uluguru Greenbul (this mountain greenbul is often split), and beautiful Winifred's Warbler. Patience and a dose of good luck will be needed to track down these elusive species. The forest edge and bush will also provide us with some superb birds, and we are likely to encounter Southern Citril, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Variable Sunbird, Blue-spotted Wood Dove and Bar-throated Apalis, amongst others.

Forest patches in the area also provide us with good chances of Livingstone's Turaco, Red-capped Forest Warbler, White-chested Alethe, African Hill Babbler and Red-faced Crimsonwing. We found a roosting Spotted Eagle-Owl here on our 2017 tour.

**Morogoro to Iringa.** This is mainly a travel day, but we will keep a lookout for raptors, which may include Brown Snake Eagle and Bateleur. Other interesting species that are possible include the dazzling Lilac-breasted Roller, Giant Kingfisher, the sought-after Pale-billed Hornbill, Southern Ground Hornbill, White-crested Helmetshrike, endemic Ashy Starling, Zanzibar, Black-winged and Yellow Bishops and White-winged Widowbird – with



Ruvu Weaver by David Hoddinott

orange shoulder patches of the distinctive subspecies.



Uluguru Bushshrike by David Hoddinott

**Uluti Forest.** In 1983, a new and very distinctive species of sunbird, Rufous-winged Sunbird, was discovered here. This morning, we travel to the scarp forest at Uluti. Here we have our best opportunity of seeing this key endemic. This beautiful species enjoys feeding on the flowers of several tree species which prefer the edges of clearings, and we will spend some time in these areas, giving us our best chance to track down this rarity. Other notable species occurring here include the highly elusive Dapple-throat, Swynnerton's Robin, Orange Ground Thrush, Iringa Akalat, Mountain Buzzard, White-winged Apalis and Scarce Swift. In marshy areas nearby, we may find Churring Cisticola and Forest Double-collared Sunbird.

**Iringa to West Udzungwa Mountains.** Some early morning birding around our lodge may produce Grey-olive Greenbul, Miombo Double-collared Sunbird and Brimstone Canary. Shortly after a hearty breakfast, we will depart for the remote West Udzungwa Mountains.

Once we leave the main road, a scenic drive will take us further and further from civilisation to the remote wilderness of this endemic hotspot. Species we may encounter during the drive include Black-collared Barbet, Purple-crested Turaco, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, White-bellied Tit, Trilling and Short-winged Cisticolas, Yellow-throated Greenbul, Red-winged Warbler, Bronzy Sunbird, Yellow-throated Petronia, Purple Indigobird, Jameson's Firefinch, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Reichard's Seedeater and Cabanis's Bunting.

**West Udzungwa Mountains.** The Udzungwa National Park protects at least 1,900 square kilometres of montane forest and grassland in Tanzania's Eastern Arc range. This area is extremely remote, and very few people have ever ventured into this region. It is for this very reason that several extremely localised species have been found to occur in these forests. As recently as 1991, the Udzungwa Forest Partridge was discovered (initially in a researcher's bowl of stew!) and, interestingly, it is believed that its closest relatives are found in south-east Asia. This mega special will form the basis of our focus while exploring the West Udzungwa forests, and we will need a good deal of luck and patience to find it, as the partridge is rather shy.



Winifred's Warbler by David Hoddinott

A variety of other highly localised endemics also occur in these remote mountains, and while searching for the partridge we should come across several of them. Most of our time here will be spent at a camp high up in the remote West



**Spot-throat by Adam Riley**

Udzungwa Mountains. We will have a special team of porters who will set up our camp in the forest and carry up all our necessities. There are no trails here, so the knowledge of the locals is essential – often the best way through the forest is to find an old Elephant path!

Most of the walking on our hike will be through scrubby deforested areas, with the primary forests only being reached in the afternoon. Birds that we will be on the lookout for on the walk include African Black Duck, Mountain Buzzard, the elusive Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, and majestic Crowned Eagle overhead. In the surrounding scrub, we will watch for Brown-headed Apalis, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, dazzling Malachite Sunbird, Baglafecht Weaver, Red-collared Widowbird, shy Red-faced Crimsonwing and localised Yellow-browed Seedeater.

Over the next few days, our time will be focused on searching for the mega Udzungwa Forest Partridge. The forests in this area are generally quiet, but also provide us with the chance of finding the rare Kipengere Seedeater. The mornings are generally the most productive for birding, and we will attempt to track down some of the serious skulkers that inhabit these forests, such as the rare Dapple-throat, Sharpe's Akalat, Spot-throat and Lemon Dove. Other great birds include several flock-associated species, such as Moreau's Sunbird, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Olive Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Grey Cuckooshrike, Bar-tailed Trogon, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Shelley's and Yellow-streaked Greenbuls, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Dark Batis and Chapin's and Black-headed Apalises. The forest edge is often home to Black-lored Cisticola and Waller's and Slender-billed Starlings.

An evening excursion may produce African Wood Owl and Ruwenzori Nightjar. Mammals we may encounter in the Udzungwas include the highly localised Iringa Red Colobus.

We will move camp for one night, descending from our high camp towards the lowlands. For a pleasant change from tough interior forest birding, we'll take a short drive through surrounding woodland in the afternoon. This can be particularly productive, and our prime target will be the localised Uhehe Fiscal. Other species we may see include Harlequin Quail, Dusky Turtle Dove, Moustached Tinkerbird, Marsh Tchagra (sometimes split as Anchieta's), Tropical Boubou, Singing Cisticola, Brown Warbler, Cape Robin-Chat, African Firefinch and the mega Kipengere Seedeater.



**White-chested Alethe by David Hoddinott**



Fischer's Turaco by Glen Valentine

**West Udzungwa Mountains to East Udzungwa Mountains.** We depart early on the long drive to the East Udzungwas. We will again have the chance to search for Uhehe Fiscal and Kipengere Seedeater on the way out. Travelling north, we pass through a wonderful Baobab Forest, and can stretch our legs and enjoy some open country birding. Species we may encounter here include impressive Martial Eagle, Mourning Collared Dove, Meyer's Parrot, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Mottled Spinetail, Blue-naped Mousebird, Purple Roller, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked and D'Arnaud's Barbets, Nubian Woodpecker, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Brown-crowned Tchagra, White-necked Raven, Red-faced Crombec, Western Violet-backed and Beautiful Sunbirds, Lesser Masked Weaver and Cut-throat Finch. On nearing our destination, we will watch out for Black-and-white Flycatcher and the smart Livingstone's Flycatcher.

**Kilombero Floodplain.** This lovely area has become famous as recently as 1986, when a survey team located three new species to science, namely: White-tailed Cisticola, Kilombero Cisticola and Kilombero Weaver.

These species are confined to the floodplain area of the Kilombero River. After a morning's birding in search of these specials, we may commence on a dugout canoe trip on the Kilombero River (depending on boat availability). Species we may see here include flocks of African Openbill, Glossy Ibis, Pink-backed and Great White Pelicans, Black Heron, Palm-nut Vulture and Red-necked Falcon overhead, Water Thick-knee, White-crowned and African Wattled Lapwings along with African Skimmer on the sandbars, Coppery-tailed Coucal, delightful White-fronted Bee-eater, Red-winged Warbler, and many seedeaters, including Red-headed Quelea, Orange-breasted Waxbill and Magpie Mannikin.

**Mikumi National Park.** This park is home to numerous broad-leafed and miombo specialities, including Brown-necked Parrot, African Barred Owlet, Böhm's Spinetail, Racket-tailed Roller, Pale-billed Hornbill, elusive Speckle-throated Woodpecker, Cinnamon-breasted Tit, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Miombo Blue-eared Starling, Kurrichane Thrush, Bearded Scrub Robin, Arnot's Chat, Pale Flycatcher, Hofmann's Sunbird (recently split from Shelley's) and Red-headed Weaver. Other species we may see in the park include Crested Barbet, Brown-backed Honeybird, Red-throated Wryneck, Golden-tailed and Green-backed Woodpeckers, Croaking Cisticola,



Hofmann's Sunbird by David Hoddinott



**Usambara Hyliota by David Hoddinott**

Neddicky, Yellow-bellied Eremomela and Northern Pied Babbler. Mammals around our comfortable lodge may include Small-eared Galago, Porcupine, African Civet, Blotched Genet, Gambian Giant Pouched Rat, and Honey Badger. The lovely Yellow-headed Dwarf Gecko is often seen around the restaurant.

**Mikumi National Park to Amani, East Usambaras.** On our drive north, we will have the opportunity to look for Bohm's Bee-eater, and at a forest patch nearing Amani, we will have a chance of finding Kretschmer's Longbill.

**Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.** The forests in Amani have been severely reduced by vast tea estates and is now mostly restricted to the tops of the mountains. Fortunately, the remaining area has been declared a nature reserve and this is the area that we will focus our efforts on.

Our days will be spent birding the various forested habitats through the East Usambaras in search of some of the extremely localised species that lurk here. The highly endangered Long-billed Forest Warbler will be one of our biggest targets, as this is one of the last remaining areas where the bird can be found with some regularity. The Amani Sunbird, which is known and named from the area, is rather scarce here, especially when compared to its relative abundance in coastal Kenya.

There are several other localised and range-restricted birds that we will be on the lookout for, which include Kretschmer's Longbill, Green-headed Oriole, Fischer's Turaco, Uluguru Violet-backed and Banded Green Sunbirds, Sharpe's Akalat and the rare and little-known Usambara Hyliota.

We will make a couple of night excursions to have a shot at locating the scarce Usambara Eagle-Owl. A large assortment of other great birds could easily add to the spectacle, and include Mottled Spinetail, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Green Barbet, Scaly-throated and Pallid Honeyguides, African Broadbill, Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Lowland Tiny Greenbul, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Tanzanian Illadopsis, Black-bellied Starling, Red-tailed Rufous Thrush, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Plain-backed Sunbird and Red-throated Twinspot. The scenery here is fantastic, and while enjoying the views of the surrounding landscape, we will watch out for several raptors that could include Black Sparrowhawk, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, African Goshawk and even the majestic Crowned Eagle could come cruising past.



**Green-headed Oriole by Daniel Danckwerts**

**Amani to Lushoto.** We'll have a final chance to search for some species we may not have seen, including the elusive Green Tinkerbird. Other species we will search for include Mottled Swift, Zanzibar Boubou, Eastern Nicator, Sombre



**Fischer's Starling by Adam Riley**

and Yellow-bellied Greenbuls, Red-rumped Swallow, Coastal Cisticola, Kurrichane Thrush, Collared Palm Thrush, Mocking Cliff Chat, Amethyst Sunbird, Eastern Golden Weaver and Black-and-white (Red-backed) Mannikin.

**Lushoto, West Usambara.** The West Usambaras rise a fair bit higher than the mountains in the east; and with this resultant altitudinal change, we can expect some different species. We will spend our time birding in the lush forests above Lushoto. One of the best areas to search for the West Usambara specials is the famous Magamba Sawmill Road.

Topping the list of specialities is the rare Usambara Weaver, and the rather non-descript Usambara Akalat. The weaver tends to associate with mixed species flocks, while the akalat spends much of the time hiding in dark spots among the leaf litter.

We will put in a fair amount of effort in attempting to track these two rare birds down. While birding for the specials, we will be on a constant lookout for any signs of activity, and hope to locate other tricky forest species – that include Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Hartlaub's Turaco, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Montane Tiny, Stripe-faced and Mountain Greenbuls (the latter sub-species *usambarae*), Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, endemic Red-capped Forest Warbler, shy Spot-throat, Kenrick's Starling, Usambara Thrush (recently split from Olive Thrush), White-chested Alethe, Usambara Double-collared Sunbird and smart Oriole Finch.

**Lushoto to Same.** We leave the forests behind and drive into the drier lowlands of Tanzania. Birding stops on our drive can be interesting, and we could find Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Black-throated Barbet, Pygmy Batis, Pringle's Puffback, Pink-breasted Lark, Dodson's Bulbul, Mosque Swallow, Tiny Cisticola, Red-fronted Apalis, Grey Wren-Warbler, elusive Scaly Chatterer, Golden-breasted and Fischer's Starlings, Bare-eyed Thrush, Eastern Violet-backed, Hunter's and Tsavo Sunbirds, Yellow-spotted Petronia, Black-necked and Vitelline Masked Weavers, Green-winged Pytilia, Purple Grenadier, White-bellied Canary and Somali Bunting.



**Usambara Akalat by David Hoddinott**

Our lunch stop near the Pangani River may produce African Pygmy Kingfisher, Northern Brownbul, rare, Black-bellied Sunbird and sought-after Taveta Weaver.

Before reaching Same, we will make a detour to track down the local endemic South Pare White-eye – which is only found on these mountains. The road to reach the habitat can be rather difficult going, but once in the area, we should



**Usambara Weaver by David Hoddinott**

find our target amongst some other interesting species, including Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, White-bellied Tit, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Bar-throated Apalis, Abyssinian White-eye, White-starred Robin, African Firefinch, Reichenow's Seedeater and Southern Grosbeak Canary.

**Same to Arusha.** The morning will be spent birding the extremely productive bush country around Same. Many of the species in this habitat are very conspicuous and confiding, especially when compared to the tough forest birding that we have become accustomed to. Purple Roller, Von der Decken's Hornbill, and Red-bellied Parrot are often seen perched on prominent, exposed branches. Several real specials are also found in this habitat, and we hope to encounter White-headed Mousebird, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit and Acacia Tit.

An excursion to a nearby reservoir may produce numerous waterbird species, along with surrounding dry country species. Interesting species seen in the area include Black-faced Sandgrouse, Northern Crombec, Parrot-billed Sparrow and Black-faced Waxbill.

## *Tour Grading & Key*

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| **Overall Ease** | 🟥⬜⬜ | Difficult. This a Mega style tour designed for the dedicated lister and serious birder. Not suitable for dedicated photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges. |
| **Birding Ease** | 🟥🟨⬜ | Demanding. Many rare or difficult target species. |
| **Accommodation** | 🟥🟨⬜ | Comfortable in most town, some lodges are simple. Basic camping on several nights. |
| **Walking / Trails** | 🟥🟨🟩 | Varies from easy roadside & lodge birding to several days of narrow trails inside forest, which can be very muddy after rain. Some trails are steep, hiking poles are recommended. |
| **Vehicles / Roads** | ⬜🟨⬜ | Several long drives. Mostly sealed roads between towns, changing to dirt in remoter areas. Some sites may be unreachable if roads have been washed out. 4x4 vehicles necessary at some locations. |
| **Photography** | ⬜🟨⬜ | Worthwhile, but very limited time due to nature of tour & difficult hiking/forest trails. |
| **Annoyances** | ⬜🟨⬜ | Temperatures can vary from cool to very hot depending on location and elevation. Long travel days with limited down time. |

# *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 lunch on day 22;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings, including camping equipment;
- 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 guided forest walks;
- 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.**

- Our Mega tours are very fast-paced birding adventures designed for the dedicated lister and serious birder. The focus of the tour is to see as many of the endemics and area specials as possible in our given time. To cover the necessary route to maximise the species list, we stay for only a single night at many sites.
- This tour is not suitable for novice birders or dedicated photographers.
- Expect long days (early starts and late finishes) and several long drives.
- Frequently we may be walking on narrow and/or steep trails that can get even more strenuous if it should rain. There are at least 5 days when the walking will be demanding, and this requires good fitness.

- Only birders in good health should attempt this tour. We will be birding in some remote parts of this beautiful land far away from medical facilities. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions, please communicate with the office regarding the suitability of you doing the tour.
- There are several nights camping on this tour. Accommodation is on ground-level mattresses in dome tents and will be prepared and set up by experienced camp staff. When camping, ablutions include sitting toilets and hot bucket showers are provided.
- Dining while camping is in a mess tent with tables and stools. Very good, wholesome, and filling meals will be prepared by a chef that is part of the touring party.
- To ensure your comfort and that of your companions, please limit yourself to one medium-sized suitcase or duffel bag (20 kg) and one carry-on bag, as space in the vehicles are limited and on the flight to Pemba Island the cost of excess baggage will be expensive.

## *Arrival and Departure Details*

The tour starts with a welcome dinner on the evening of day 1 in Dar es Salaam. As this is an arrival day, you are free to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude in the mid to late afternoon of day 22.

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.

Julius Nyerere International Airport, Dar es Salaam (IATA: DAR) is the main port of entry for this tour, while Kilimanjaro International Airport, Arusha (IATA: JRO) is the main port of departure.

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.**