Djibouti

Extension

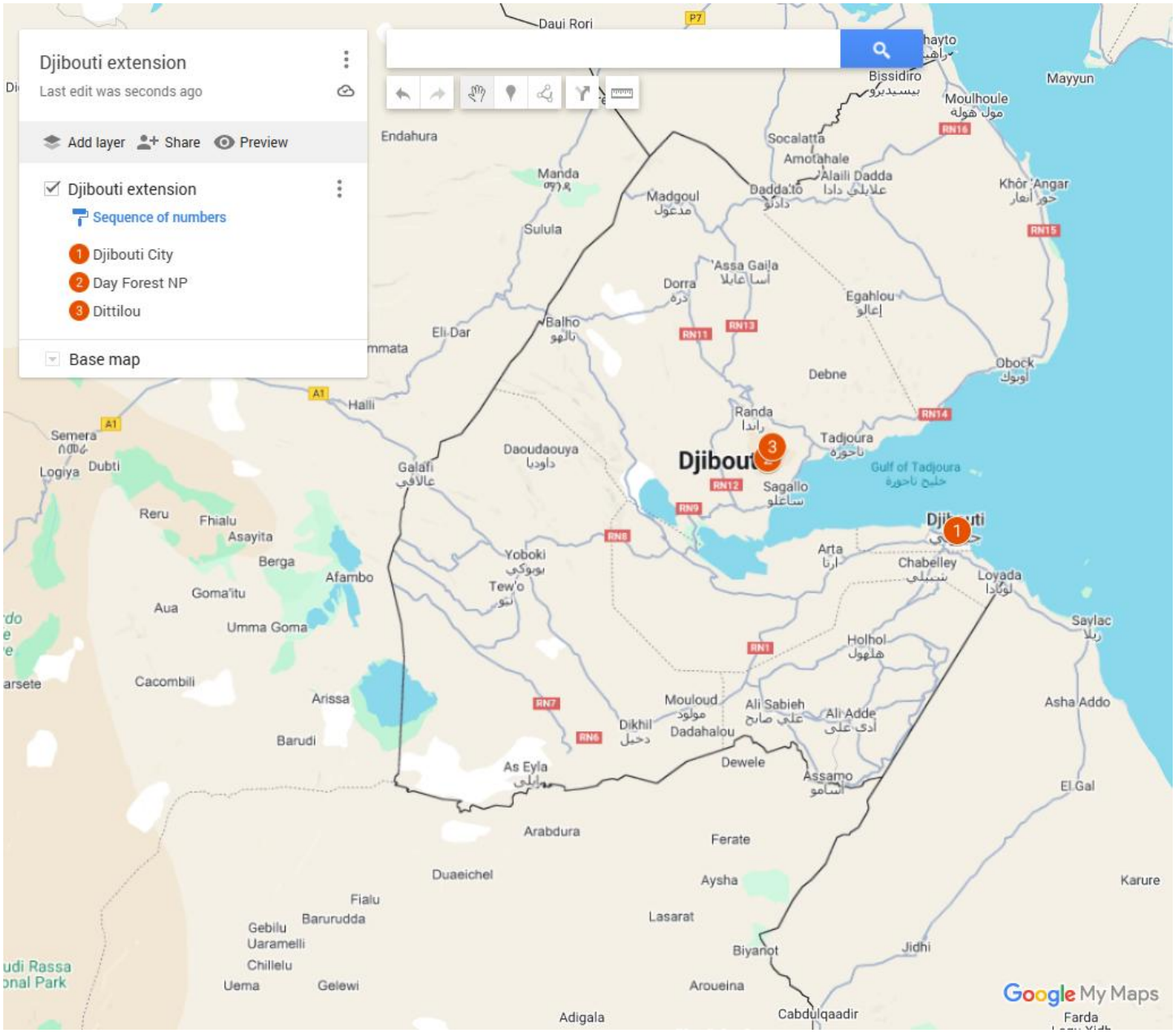


Arabian Golden Sparrow by David Hoddinott

Simply put, Djibouti is one of Africa's least visited birding tours destinations. This trip is aimed at finding Djibouti's only endemic, Djibouti Spurfowl, along with several other species that can be difficult to locate elsewhere. These include Somali Starling, beautiful Arabian Golden Sparrow, Sombre Rock Chat, White-eyed Gull, Crab-plover, and Somali Sparrow. This tour takes us to places where very few birders have ever been, which, along with some superb birding, witnessing spectacular scenery and diverse and interesting cultures, makes this Djibouti extension a must for the intrepid birder.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival into Djibouti**
Day 2	**City of Djibouti to Day Forest National Park (Forêt du Day)**
Day 3	**Day Forest National Park (Forêt du Day) to Dittilou**
Day 4	**Dittilou to City of Djibouti**
Day 5	**Final departure**



Birding sites in detail

City of Djibouti area. From our convenient base, we'll then explore the nearby Djibouti Bay, where we'll search for the Red Sea endemic White-eyed Gull as well as Sooty and Slender-billed Gulls, Gull-billed and Saunders's Terns, and Crab-plover. Other species we may see in the vicinity include Eurasian Spoonbill (of the resident race *archeri*), European Oystercatcher and Kentish Plover amongst a host of waders, and Clamorous Reed Warbler.

The coastal scrub supports an interesting array of species and key birds we'll look for include the beautiful Arabian Golden Sparrow that is very localised in Africa, tricky Somali Sparrow, Graceful Prinia and Somali Bulbul. The area also hosts Nile Valley Sunbird and the beautifully marked Rosy-patched Bushshrike.



White-eyed Gull by David Hoddinott

City of Djibouti to Day Forest National Park. This very scenic drive crosses the Rift Valley with its huge, black lava flows. We may see Bonelli's and Verreaux's Eagles, Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark and White-crowned Wheatear, whilst we will also keep a careful watch for Arabian and Menetries's Warblers and the vagrant Cretzschmar's Bunting. Further along we will stop to take photo's of Lake Assal, the lowest point in Africa, at 155 metres below sea-level!

Day Forest National Park. We'll make a concerted effort to find the endangered endemic, Djibouti Spurfowl, which may require significant effort to track down and acquire decent views of. Other species we may see in the vicinity are Somali Starling, Gambaga Flycatcher, Abyssinian White-eye, Sombre Rock Chat and, if we are lucky, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl. We are also likely to find the cute Speke's Pectinator, Dorcas Gazelle, Unstriped Ground Squirrel and the scarcer Hamadryas Baboon.



Djibouti Spurfowl by David Hoddinott

Dittilou. Here we have chances for the morphologically unique Green-winged Pytilia (a probable split tentatively called Yellow-tailed Pytilia), Yellow-rumped Seedeater and an almost mythical species, the undescribed 'Toha Sunbird', seen in 1985 and never again.

Other species we may see here include Bruce's Green Pigeon, Bonelli's Eagle, Shikra, Eastern Yellow-billed and Hemprich's Hornbills, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Grey-headed Batis, Glossy-backed Drongo, Red-tailed and Great Grey Shrikes, Basra Reed and Menetries's Warblers, Abyssinian White-eye, Somali Starling, and Black Redstart.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease	🟥 🟨 ⬜	Difficult to moderate. This a Mega style tour designed for the dedicated lister & serious birder. Not suitable for dedicated or avid photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease	⬜ 🟨 ⬜	Moderate. Whilst most birding is in open conditions, several species are low density or very localised.
Accommodation	🟥 🟨 ⬜	Variable. Comfortable in large towns, otherwise basic camping.
Walking / Trails	⬜ 🟨 🟩	Mostly short walks on flat ground. Predominantly roadside birding.
Vehicles / Roads	🟥 ⬜ ⬜	4x4 style vehicles. Several long drives. Unsealed roads are variable, sealed roads have potholes & livestock.
Photography	⬜ 🟨 🟩	Good to worthwhile. No dedicated hides. Habitat & lighting are often conducive.
Annoyances	⬜ 🟨 ⬜	Food diversity is limited. Weather is typically hot & dry.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

This tour is made available through our Tailor-made tours department. To explore this offering further for pricing, precise day to day itinerary, inclusions & exclusions, or to tailor the tour to your personal requirements, please contact our Tailor-made team on tailormade@rockjumper.com

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.

- **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.**

- The itinerary will remain flexible so that if we have seen the target species in a particular area, we can then move camp to the next area, thereby making the most of our time.
- It can be hot in some areas, whilst the highlands can get cold especially at night. Rain may be experienced.
- There are some long drives on this short tour, but we will take regular rest and birding stops to break the journeys. They are scenic and full of interesting waypoints!
- Accommodation is comfortable in the City of Djibouti, but basic camping elsewhere.

- Food is generally basic and consists of both western and local cuisine. We will have “bush breakfasts and lunches” on the side of the road whilst in good birding areas.
- Special dietary requirements (other than vegetarians) are for all intents and purposes impossible to cater for in Ethiopia.

Arrival and Departure Details

The extension will depart from Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on day 1, and will conclude here after a morning flight from Djibouti on day 5.

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.

Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa (IATA: ADD) is the main port of entry and 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.