Ethiopia

Remote East

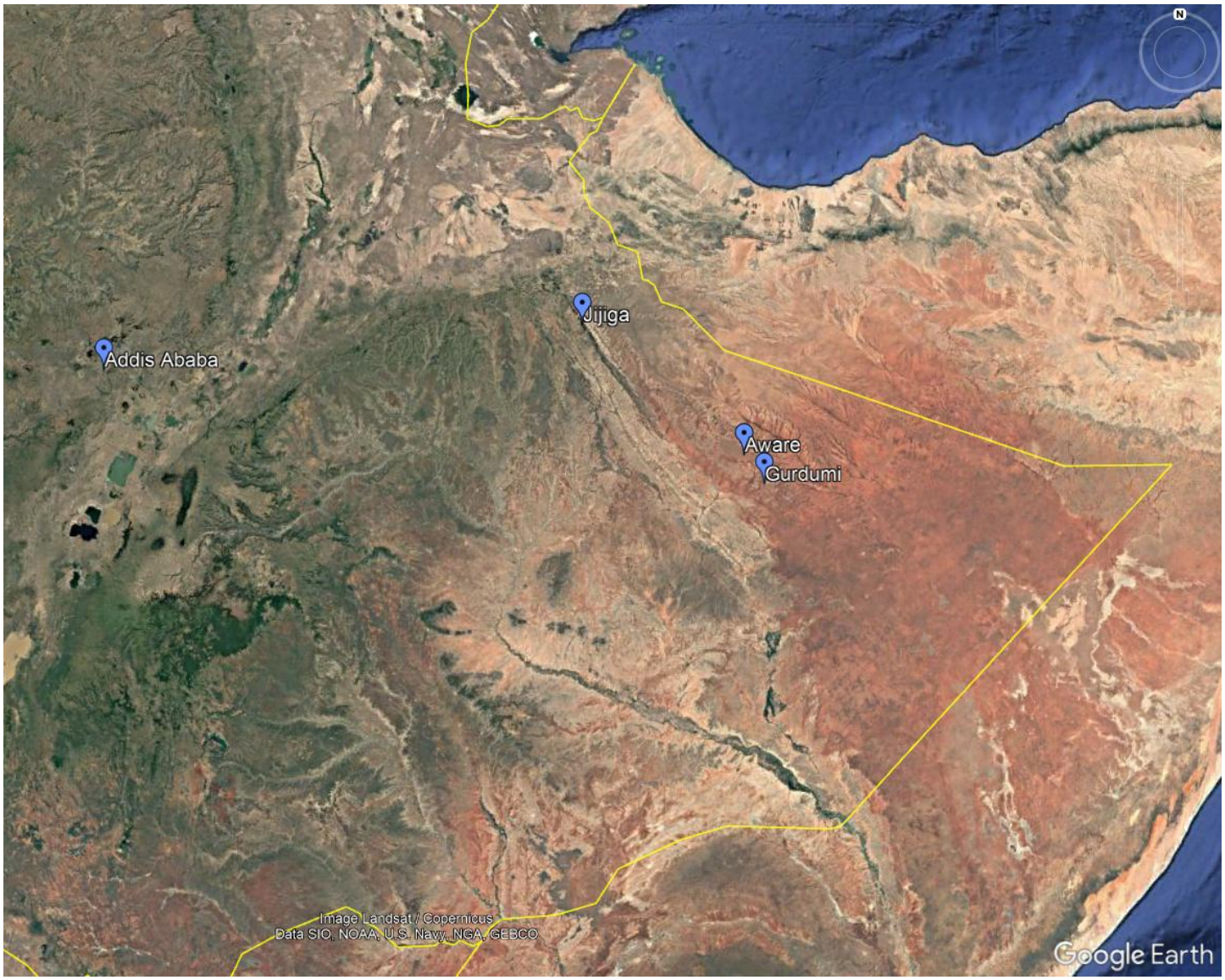


Little Brown Bustard by David Hoddinott

This tour has been specifically designed to look for the tricky endemic Archer's Lark (its usual haunt on the Liben Plains no longer accessible) as well as Little Brown Bustard and Philippa's Crombec which otherwise occur only regularly in Somaliland. There are a whole set of range restricted species we can also expect to see on this trip including Somali Courser, Little Owl (this sub-species may be split), Somali Bee-eater, Red-naped Bushshrike, Pringle's Puffback, Somali Crow, Gillett's Lark, Somali Short-toed Lark and Somali Crombec. If very fortunate we may even see Heuglin's Bustard or Archer's Buzzard. There is also a fabulous selection of mammals to see and these include the rare and elusive Dibatag, Gerenuk, Silver, Gunther's & Salt's (Harar) Dik-diks, Speke's Pectinator and Desert Warthog.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Addis Ababa**
Day 2	**Addis Ababa; flight to Jijiga & transfer to Aware area**
Day 3	**Aware to Gurdumi**
Days 4 & 5	**Gurdumi**
Day 6	**Gurdumi to near Jijiga**
Day 7	**Jijiga**
Day 8	**Jijiga; flight to Addis Abana & final departure**



Birding sites in detail



Somali Bee-eater by David Hoddinott



Philippa's Crombec by David Hoddinott

Aware. This area is predominantly *Acacia* woodland and hosts a remarkable selection of bird species. In the more open areas, we will search for the rare and little-known Little Brown Bustard. Other notable species here include Vulturine Guineafowl, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Donaldson Smith's Nightjar, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Buff-crested Bustard, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Namaqua Dove, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Black-throated Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Pygmy Falcon, Pygmy Batis, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Acacia Tit, Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Somali Crombec, Red-fronted Prinia, Banded Parisoma, Golden-breasted Starling, White-headed Buffalo Weaver, Cut-throat Finch, Purple Grenadier and Somali Bunting.

Gurdumi. This area is more open *Acacia* and *Commiphera* woodland, euphorbia scrub, small pans (wetlands) and hosts a wonderful selection of bird species. These included Philippa's Crombec, Little Brown Bustard, Heuglin's Bustard, Little Owl, Red-naped Bushshrike, Pringle's Puffback, Three-banded Courser, Somali Bee-eater, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Red-bellied Parrot, Somali Crow, Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark, Gillett's Lark, White-crowned Starling, Eastern Violet-backed and Nile Valley Sunbird. This area is also very good for mammals, and we'll search for very rarely seen Dibatag, Gerenuk, Desert Warthog, Speke's Pectinator (Gundi), Silver Dik-dik and more.

Jijiga. This area is mostly open grasslands. Species we will look for here include Archer's Lark, Somali Short-toed Lark, Blanford's Lark, Somali Courser and Kori Bustard amongst others.



Dibatag by David Hoddinott



Speke's Pectinator by David Hoddinott

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. This a tour designed for the dedicated lister and serious birder. Not suitable for anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease		Moderate to good. Some rare or difficult target species but mostly easy birding
Accommodation		5 nights basic camping. Comfortable hotel in cities.
Walking / Trails		Easy roadside and trail birding.
Vehicles / Roads		4x4 vehicles, reasonable asphalt roads with several dirt roads at some locations which are generally in good repair.
Photography		Worthwhile as birds fairly confiding in open habitats.
Annoyances		Temperatures can vary from cool to very hot depending on location & elevation.

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 focus of the tour is to see as many of the endemics and area specials as possible in our given time.
- Expect long days (early starts and late finishes) and a few long drives.
- A good level of fitness is required as we will be walking a fair amount, although this is on mostly flat terrain
- 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.

- There are several nights of basic camping on this tour. Accommodation is on ground-level mattresses in dome tents and will be prepared and set up by experienced camp staff. 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.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour starts with a welcome dinner on the evening of day 1 in Addis Ababa. As this is an arrival day, you are free to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude in the late afternoon of day 8 in Addis Ababa.

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 for international flights for this tour and is well serviced by most of the world's major airlines.

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.