



TOGETHER FOR NATURE

Kenya

October 14-29 ,2021

Tentative Itinerary

Flight departure on October 13th from PDX

October 14 DAY 1: ARRIVAL

On arrival, you will be met at the airport by your Portland Audubon tour guides, Dan and Candace, as well as our Kenyan guide, Washington Wachira. You will be transferred to the nearby hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you may be able to spot your first Kenyan birds along the road from the airport.

We'll enjoy a rest this afternoon, and then meet for a tour briefing and enjoy dinner as a group, as we get to know each other ahead of the big safari.

Lodging: The Boma Inn, Nairobi <https://www.theboma.co.ke/en/bin.html>

October 15 DAY 2: NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

We'll spend the day in Nairobi National Park. This is Kenya's first National Park, located just about 4 miles (7km) from the edge of Nairobi, Kenya's capital. Indeed, this is Kenya's capital birding location with over 500 species recorded in the park. Some species to expect include Secretarybird, Spotted Thick-knee, Black-winged Plover, African Finfoot, Kori Bustard, Saddle-billed Stork, African Martial Eagle, African Crowned Eagle, African Quail-finch, Zebra Waxbill, and Lappet-faced Vulture,

The park also hosts four of the African Big Five mammals (African Buffalo, African Lion, Leopard and Black Rhino) and many other interesting animals that you'll enjoy during the visit. The excitement will build as we have our first chances of seeing Common Wildebeest (Gnu), Bushbuck, Plains Zebra, Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles, Impala, Olive Baboon, and more.

Lodging: The Boma Inn, Nairobi

October 16 DAY 3: LAKE MAGADI AND OLOGESAILIE PREHISTORIC SITE

Enjoy a day in this exciting part of Southern Kenya. We will start the day with a visit to the famous Lake Magadi, about 75 mile (120km) from Nairobi. This vivid pink lake hosts a local soda ash (sodium carbonate) mining factory as well as a huge array of birds. Some local, dry country mammals may be encountered too, such as the Gerenuk antelope, Maasai Giraffe, Common Wildebeest, Common Zebra, and Bushy-tailed Mongoose. The lake has multiple hot springs that can be explored on foot, allowing you to try out the therapeutic properties on your skin. On our way back, we'll enjoy a short lecture at the Ologesailie prehistoric site. This is often referred as the "factory of stone tools" and scientific evidence has shown that this place used to host a lake basin that acted as the lifeline of the human species about 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. Here you will enjoy learning about the ancient peoples of the Acheuleus or "Hand axe" culture.

Highlight birds of the day may include Red-and-Yellow Barbet, Long-billed Pipit, Abyssinian Wheatear, African Grey Hornbill, Verreaux's Eagle, Yellow-spotted Petronia, Eastern Paradise Whydah, Black-necked Weaver, Brown Snake-Eagle, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Blue-naped Mousebird, White-bellied Canary, and Beautiful Sunbird.

Lodging: The Boma Inn, Nairobi

October 17 DAY 4: MT. KENYA NATIONAL PARK AND HINDE'S BABBLER

We'll depart early from Nairobi and drive straight to a local site where we will try our luck at one of Kenya's most-sought-after endemic species, the Hinde's Babbler. We'll also spend some time birding this site with a local guide and take a break to enjoy some refreshments.

We'll then continue to Mt. Kenya, an extinct volcano that rises to over 17,000' (5,199m). The highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest mountain in Africa. The highest mountain in Africa is Mt. Kilimanjaro at 19,341' (5895m) in neighboring Tanzania. Mt. Kenya is about 100 miles (160km) from Nairobi.

The montane forest around the lodge will be a refreshing change from the savannah. Here we'll bird around the lodge and forest trails, targeting forest and woodland species such as African Cuckoo-Hawk, Mountain Buzzard, Crowned Eagle, Mountain Wagtail, Cape Wagtail, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Crowned Hornbill, Malachite Sunbird, White-headed Wood-Hoopoe, Bar-tailed Trogon, and Lemon Dove. Montane mammals are likely, including monkeys, antelopes, mongooses, genets, pigs, hogs, elephants and buffalo.

Lodging: Serena Mountain Lodge, Mt. Kenya

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g319715-d625378-Reviews-Serena_Mountain_Lodge-Mount_Kenya_National_Park.html

October 18 DAY 5: MT. KENYA TO SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

We'll spend the morning enjoying more birds of Mt. Kenya, targeting species we missed the previous day; we hope to add a good number to our already growing list. Later, we leave for Samburu and Buffalo Springs with birding on the way. We will cover about 140 miles (220km) to reach our next destination. As we approach Samburu, we'll pass some dry country where we'll keep an eye for specialties such as the Straw-tailed Whydah, Steel-blue Whydah, Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark, Rufous Bush Chat, Fan-tailed Raven, Bristle-crowned Starling, Magpie Starling, Ruppell's Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, White-bellied (Variable) Sunbird and Pink-breasted Lark. We'll also enjoy a game drive in Samburu this afternoon.

Lodging: Samburu Sopa Lodge, Samburu

<https://www.sopalodges.com/samburu-sopa-lodge/the-lodge>

October 19 DAY 6: BUFFALO SPRINGS AND SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVES

Today will be a full day of wildlife watching! We'll keep an eye out for birds as we enjoy the local mammals, such as Leopard, Beisa Oryx, Gerenuk, Plains and Grevy's Zebra, Cheetah, Reticulated Giraffe, African Lion, Hippopotamus and Savannah Elephants. Birds may include Somali Ostrich, Somali Courser, Golden Pipit, Northern White-crowned Shrike, White-headed Mousebird, Hunter's Sunbird, Black-bellied Sunbird, Shining Sunbird, Red-billed Hornbill, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Fire-fronted Bishop, Somali Bee-eater, Dusky Nightjar, Vulturine Guineafowl, African Mourning Dove, European Turtle Dove, Egyptian Vulture, Bateleur, and Martial Eagle.

Lodging: Samburu Sopa Lodge, Samburu

October 20 DAY 7: LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

We'll leave early and drive straight to Lake Nakuru. If time allows, we may make a short stop-over at some local cliffs that host the rare Mackinder's Eagle-Owl. This highland owl species is often found on farmlands and local farmers have become ambassadors for the species. We'll meet the farmers as we stop for some brief birding.

Our destination today is Lake Nakuru National Park. Our biggest travel day we will cover 215 mile (340km). The word Nakuru means 'dusty place' in maasai language. This park is famous as a bird watcher's paradise, and indeed was the first national park in Africa to be set up with an avian conservation objective. The key attraction here are the flocks of Lesser Flamingos. Other birds include the Woolly-necked Stork, Mocking Cliff Chat, Reed Cormorant, Pink-backed Pelican, Pied Avocet, Kittlitz's Plover, Blacksmith Plover, Coqui Francolin, Levallant's Cuckoo, African Cuckoo, Cape Teal, Brimstone Canary, Hottentot Teal, Red-billed Teal, Dusky Nightjar, and Montane Nightjar.

The park is also a great sanctuary for rhinos and hosts three members of the Big Five (Black Rhino, African Lion and Leopard). We may encounter these and other mammals such as herds of grazing herbivores and the endangered Rothschild's Giraffe.

Lodging: Lake Nakuru Lodge, Nakuru

<https://lakenakurulodge.com>

October 21 DAY 8: LAKE NAKURU TO LAKE BARINGO

We'll enjoy the Nakuru area in the morning, then leave for Lake Baringo about 90 miles (142 km). Birding will be good along the way and we'll also enjoy a brief stop at the Equator, where we'll get to meet local crafts-ladies displaying their art for sale. Soon enough, we shall arrive at Lake Baringo. In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a nature walk around the area scouting for owls and nightjars; among many other beautiful birds.

Birds we'll hope to encounter here include the Greyish Eagle-Owl, Northern White-faced Scops Owl, Shikra, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Verreaux's Eagle, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Northern Masked Weaver, White-billed Buffalo-Weaver, White-bellied Canary, Beautiful Sunbird, Black-headed Plover, Yellow-billed Hornbill, Northern Red Bishop, among many other wonderful species of this region.

Lodging: Soi Safari Lodge, Baringo

<https://www.soisafarilodge-lkbaringo.com>

October 22 DAY 9: LAKE BARINGO

We'll start the day with a boat ride over Lake Baringo, in search of water birds like African Jacana, Black Crake, Goliath Heron, Little Bittern, Purple Heron and White-faced Whistling Duck. We'll enjoy the beauty of the lake and views of the local African Fish Eagles advertising their territories as they hunt. We'll also watch the local fishermen skillfully floating over the lake with their traditional wood-made submerged canoes.

We'll return to the lodge for breakfast then scout the local scrubland and nearby cliffs. After lunch, we'll take some time to relax and enjoy our views from the lodge. Later in the afternoon, we'll take a walk seeking nightjars (slender-tailed) and owls (African Scops-, Northern White-faced, Grayish and Verreaux's and Pearl-spotted), among other birds.

We'll then enjoy a Turkana Tribe/Community dance before or during dinner; culminating our stay at the beautiful Lake Baringo.

Lodging: Soi Safari Lodge, Baringo

<https://www.soisafarilodge-lkbaringo.com>

October 23,24 DAY 10 AND 11: KAKAMEGA FOREST

We'll depart early for Kakamega tropical rainforest, and drive through the vast Kerio Valley. Today we travel 160 miles (260 km) but we'll make several stops on the way to enjoy local birds such as White-crested Turaco, Rufous Chatterer, Boran Cisticola, Gambaga Flycatcher, Silverbird and Fan-tailed Raven. We shall then climb out of the Rift Valley and head farther West.

On arrival in Kakamega, we'll walk the lodge compound to enjoy our first birds of the forest. The following day we will be out birding both in the morning and the afternoon. We'll take a break to enjoy lunch and relax at the lodge. Kakamega forest is a remnant of the Guineo-Congolian Equatorial forest. Species diversity here is rich and we hope to have a huge addition to our list. Here we expect species such as the Yellow-shouldered (-mantled) Widowbird, Kakamega Greenbul, Cameroon Sombre Greenbul, Great Blue Turaco, Western Banded Snake-Eagle, Crowned Eagle, Oriole Finch, Green Sunbird, Green-throated Sunbird, Black-crowned Waxbill, Bar-tailed Trogon, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, and Blue-headed Bee-eater. The forest is also great with different unique monkeys such as Blue (Sykes), Red-tail and Vervet.

Lodging: Kakamega Rondo Retreat, Kakamega

<https://www.rondoretreat.com>

October 25 DAY 12: LAKE NAIVASHA

After some morning birding in Kakamega, we'll begin our journey back to the Rift Valley and drive to Lake Naivasha. We will cover about 185 mile (300km) with stops enroute, seeking some specialties that occur along the road.

On arrival, we'll bird around our lodge and the lake shores. We'll take a nice boat ride on Lake Naivasha to search for various waterbirds. Expected species include Mosque Swallow, Chestnut Sparrow, White-fronted Bee-eater, Bearded Woodpecker, Giant Kingfisher, Cape Teal, Pied Avocet, Black Heron, Goliath Heron, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck, Great White Pelican, Common Greenshank, Ruff, Green Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, African Fish Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Osprey, Hybrid Lovebird, Red-throated Wryneck, Grey Crowned Crane, Black Cuckoo and Hoopoe.

Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort, Naivasha

<https://sopalodges.com/lake-naivasha-sopa-resort/the-resort>

October 26 DAY 13: KINANGOP PLATEAU AND ABERDARE NATIONAL PARK

We'll make a day trip to this exciting region that is arguably one of the top endemic hotspots in Kenya. This area hosts four Kenyan endemics, including Sharpe's Longclaw, Jackson's

Francolin, Aberdare Cisticola and Kikuyu White-eye. We'll enjoy birding the grasslands and farmlands that host many of the target species. Here, we'll learn from the local farmers who champion the conservation of these highland grasslands and their birds. We'll enjoy a cultural dance from the Kikuyu Tribe/Community who inhabit this beautiful area.

Next, we'll climb into the highland forest and bamboo zone of the Aberdares. Our highest zone will be the moorland habitat on the peaks of this great mountain. We'll hope to see many local birds as we scout various spots across this region including Black-winged Plover, Red-throated Wryneck, Common Quail, Long-tailed Widowbird, Angola Swallow, Montane Nightjar, Martial Eagle, Mountain Buzzard, White-headed Wood-Hoopoe, Bar-tailed Trogon, Black-tailed Godwit, African Snipe, Lesser Jacana, and Olive Ibis.

Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort, Naivasha

October 27,28 DAY 14 AND 15: MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Described by many as the top safari destination in Kenya and maybe in Africa, this area will have lots to offer from the Big Five (Black Rhino, African Lion, Leopard, African Buffalo, Savannah Elephant), herds of grazing herbivores, to the amazing birdlife. This area is about 135 mile (220km) to the south of Naivasha and we will spend two nights in this amazing place. Birding will be busy with several transects across this vast savannah. Each area will provide a unique habitat, and we will be seeking different species on each section of the reserve. This large reserve continues into Tanzania as the Serengetti.

Likely birds species include Southern Ground-Hornbill, Rufous-bellied Heron, Pennant-winged Nightjar, Square-tailed Nightjar, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Lappet-faced Vulture, Short-toed Snake-Eagle, White-headed Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, Secretarybird, Grey Kestrel, Kori Bustard, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Familiar Chat, Wattled Plover, Woolly-necked Stork, Saddle-billed Stork and Magpie Shrike.

Mammals will abound and we will continue to enjoy the variety and the unforgettable sounds. This will be our best location to see Cheetah and we will undoubtedly capture new moments with the amazing wildlife of Africa that we have been experiencing throughout this amazing trip.

On one of the afternoons we'll enjoy a visit to a Maasai Tribe/Community village; where we will learn about their way of life. We shall also have a chance to enjoy and join in the traditional dances.

Lodging: Sentrim Mara

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g294209-d1606179-Reviews-Sentrim_Mara_Camp-Maasai_Mara_National_Reserve_Rift_Valley_Province.html

October 29 DAY 16: MASAI MARA TO NAIROBI; AND DEPARTURE FLIGHTS HOME

After some final birding in the Mara, we shall drive to Nairobi; with birding on the way. We may stop at a roadside swamp near Nairobi for more waterfowl and arrive in Nairobi later in the afternoon.

For those flying out this evening, we'll take an airport transfer marking the end of our great tour.