



TOGETHER FOR NATURE

Kenya

August 24-September 5, 2023

Tentative Itinerary

Flight departure on August 23th from PDX

August 24 DAY 1: ARRIVAL

On arrival, you will be met at the airport by your Portland Audubon tour guides, Dan and Candace and transferred to the nearby hotel, where we will get you checked-in and oriented for the morning, when we begin our grand adventure.

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

August 25 DAY 2: NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

After a short briefing in the morning after breakfast, we'll depart for a full 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 recorded species. We could see Secretarybird, Black-winged Plover, Saddle-billed Stork, African Crowned Eagle, African Quail-finch, and Zebra Waxbill among the many birds we are sure to encounter on our first big day.

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 we'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

August 26 DAY 3: MT. KENYA NATIONAL PARK

We'll depart early from Nairobi to Mt. Kenya National Park, a journey of about 100 miles (160km), where we will get in some excellent birding at the main gate. Mt. Kenya, an

extinct volcano, rises to over 17,000' (5,199m) and is 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.)

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

Lodging: Castle Forest, Mt. Kenya

<https://www.castleforestlodge.com>

August 27 DAY 4: MT. KENYA TO SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

We'll spend the morning enjoying the 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 out for specialties such as the Fan-tailed Raven, Bristle-crowned Starling, Magpie Starling, Ruppell's Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, and Pink-breasted Lark. Once we enter the park we'll see Grevy's Zebra with its handsome stripes, the incomparable long necked Gerenuk and the stunning Beisa Oryx.

Lodging: Samburu Simba Lodge, Samburu

<http://www.simbalodges.com/samburu-simba-lodge>

August 28 & 29 DAY 5 & 6: BUFFALO SPRINGS AND SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVES

We spend two full days in these amazing reserves, seeking out a wide array of exciting wildlife! We be watching for many local mammals, such as Leopard, Beisa Oryx, Gerenuk, Plains and Grevy's Zebra, Cheetah, Reticulated Giraffe, African Lion, Hippopotamus and Savannah Elephants. Birds will be a major highlight here as well, with nearly 400 species recorded in the reserves including Somali Ostrich, Northern White-crowned Shrike, White-headed Mousebird, Hunter's Sunbird, Shining Sunbird, Red-billed Hornbill, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Somali Bee-eater, Dusky Nightjar, Vulturine Guineafowl, African Mourning Dove, European Turtle Dove, Egyptian Vulture, Bateleur, and Martial Eagle.

Lodging: Samburu Simba Lodge, Samburu

August 30 DAY 7: LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

We'll leave early and drive straight to Lake Nakuru. If time allows, we'll seek out the rare

and endemic Hinde's Babbler, and we'll make a short stop 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 these dynamic raptors. We'll meet the farmers as we stop for some brief birding.

Our destination today is Lake Nakuru National Park. This will be our biggest travel day covering 215 mile (340km). The word Nakuru means 'dusty place' in Maasai language. This park is famous as a birdwatcher's paradise, and indeed was the first national park in Africa to be set up with an avian conservation objective. The key attraction here is the large flocks of Lesser Flamingos. Other possible birds include the Woolly-necked Stork, Mocking Cliff Chat, Long-tailed Cormorant, Pink-backed Pelican, Pied Avocet, Kittlitz's Plover, Blacksmith Plover, Cape Teal, and Brimstone Canary,

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>

August 31 DAY 8: LAKE NAIVASHA

After a morning safari drive around Lake Nakuru, we'll drive about 90 km to Lake Naivasha. On arrival, we'll bird around our lodge and the lake shores and prepare to take a morning boat ride on Lake Naivasha to search for various waterbirds. Target species include Mosque Swallow, Chestnut Sparrow, White-fronted Bee-eater, Bearded Woodpecker, Giant Kingfisher, Cape Teal, Pied Avocet, Black Heron, Goliath Heron, Lesser Flamingo, Great White Pelican, African Fish Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Hybrid Lovebird, Red-throated Wryneck, Gray-crowned Crane, and Hoopoe.

Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort, Naivasha

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

September 1 DAY 9: 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.

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

September 2, 3 & 4 DAY 10, 11 & 12: MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

In the morning, we make our way to the Masai Mara! 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) to herds of grazing herbivores including our first Topi Antelope. This area is about 135 miles (220km) to the south of Naivasha and we will spend three nights in this amazing place. The large reserve continues into Tanzania as the Serengeti, and hosts the great migration of Wildebeest when up to 1.5 million of these large antelopes cross the savanna. Our trip is timed to give us the best chance of viewing this incredible spectacle..

Birding will be busy along 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. Target 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, 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.

We will also enjoy the traditional dances of the Masai and have a chance to join in!

Lodging: Mara Serena Lodge

September 5 DAY 13: 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.