Flight departure on February 5th from PDX

February 6-7, DAYS 1 and 2: ARRIVAL and NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

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. Depending on your arrival time, you may spot your first Kenya birds on the transfer!

After breakfast the next morning, 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  
https://www.theboma.co.ke/en/bin.html
February 8-9, DAYS 3 and 4: AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

We’ll depart early from Nairobi to Amboseli National Park at the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro, arriving in time for lunch and then spending the afternoon and the entire next day on safari drives in the park, enjoying the plentiful birds and mammals, as well as the outstanding scenery. While Mt. Kilimanjaro--popularly referred to as the “Roof of Africa” at over 19,000 feet and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world--is located in neighboring Tanzania, the very best views are actually from this exciting National Park. Amboseli is also graced by mighty Savannah Elephants, and hosts the most famous and longest-running elephant research program in the entire world! Birding will be rich--we’ll be hoping for encounters with African Fish Eagle, Fischer’s Sparrow-Lark, Two-banded Courser, Cardinal Quelea, White-bellied Canary, Red-headed Weaver, Taveta Golden Weaver, Speckle-fronted Weaver, White-headed Mousebird, Eastern Chanting Goshawk and Saddle-billed Stork among many others. We’ll also visit a Maasai village and learn about the local, traditional culture and dance!

Lodging: **Serena Amboseli**
[https://www.serenahotels.com/amboseli/](https://www.serenahotels.com/amboseli/)

February 10-11, DAYS 5 and 6: TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK

The next several days are spent in the vast Tsavo area, beginning with the expansive Tsavo West National Park, brimming with exciting mammals, colorful reptiles, and so many birds! We’ll be on the lookout for Harlequin Quail, Scaly Chatterer, Three-streaked Tchagra, Black-headed Plover, Spotted Thick-knee, Golden-breasted Starling, Shelley’s Starling, Magpie Starling, Sombre and Donaldson-Smith’s Nightjars, Jameson’s Firefinch, Tsavo Sunbird, Blue-capped Cordon-Bleu, Somali Bunting, Tiny Cisticola, Lesser Spotted Eagle and Eastern Paradise Whydah, plus multiple lark, batis and tit species as well! We will also visit the famous Mzima Springs, a superb wetland, where birding and wildlife watching can also be done on foot. And we’ll make a stop at the Lake Jipe area where we shall scan the wetland for more localized species on the lakeshore and the nearby dry land. As we will find throughout this trip, relaxing and rewarding birding can also be done from the comfort of our beautiful lodges!

Lodging: **Kilaguni Lodge Tsavo West**
[https://www.serenahotels.com/kilaguni](https://www.serenahotels.com/kilaguni)
February 12-13, DAYS 7 and 8: TAITA HILLS RANCH AND CONSERVANCY

We next move into the Taita Hills, an amazing grassland savannah with very exciting riverine habitat as well. We expect mammals such as African Buffalo, Coke’s Hartebeest, Waterbuck, Elephant, Fringe-eared Oryx, Cheetah and Lions, among many! New birds we’ll be hoping to enjoy include Hartlaub’s Bustard, Kori Bustard, Marsh Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Crested Francolin, Singing Bush Lark, Ashy Cisticola, Woolly-necked Stork, African Golden Oriole, Pangani Longclaw, White-browed Coucal, Palm-nut Vulture, African Hawk-Eagle and Lizard Buzzard. We can also find various megafauna enjoying the watering hole visible from our beautiful lodge deck.

Lodging: Taita Salt Lick Lodge
https://saltlicksafarilodge.com/

February 14-15, DAYS 9 and 10: TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK

This area is very diverse and occupies a vast land mass across the drylands of Eastern Kenya. It is considered one of the world’s biodiversity strongholds, hosting great numbers of animals including the famous Tsavo Lion, with its unique social structure and maneless males. The park is bathed by the massive Athi-Galana-Sabaki River, which serves as the lifeline of this great park. Birding and other wildlife watching will be very interesting and you can expect many new encounters here! Our target bird species include Brown-headed Parrot, Somali Sparrow, Somali Ostrich, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Golden Palm Weaver, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Von der Decken’s Hornbill, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Nubian and Slender-tailed Nightjars, Flappet Lark, Chestnut-backed and Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Larks, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Grasshopper Buzzard, White-headed Vulture, Egyptian Vulture and Broad-billed Roller.

Lodging: Ashnil Tsavo East Lodge
https://ashnilhotels.com/aruba/

February 16-19, DAYS 11, 12, 13 and 14: ARABUKO SOKOKE FOREST, SABAKI RIVER MOUTH AND MIDA CREEK

We spend four nights on the stunning Indian Ocean coast of Kenya, which will give us ample time for exploring and relaxing in this wonderful region. Birding at the coastal lowland is best during early morning hours, so expect some early starts to the day, followed by midday breaks to enjoy the lodge and the shore before heading out in the afternoons. The
possibilities for forest birds are seemingly endless: we’ll hope to see species such as Southern Banded Snake-Eagle, Lizard Buzzard, Red-tailed Ant Thrush, Sokoke Pipit, Four-coloured Bush-Shrike, Eastern Nicator, Crested Guineafowl, East Coast Akalat, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Thick-billed Cuckoo, African Wood Owl, Green Barbet, Green Tinkerbird, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Forest Batis, Pale Batis, Eastern Olive Sunbird, Plain-backed Sunbird, Violet-breasted Sunbird and Amani Sunbird, plus the spectacular Fischer’s Turaco and Trumpeter Hornbill, four species of greenbul and many others! The local endemic Sengis and various monkey species can also be found here.

One afternoon will include a visit to the local marine wetlands, where shorebirds are plentiful, including a visit to the famous Mida Creek for marine shorebirds, terns and gulls depending on the tide. Common Greenshank, Crab Plover, White-fronted Plover, Grey Plover, Sooty Gull and Greater Crested Tern are some of our desired species here. On another afternoon, we’ll visit the Sabaki River Mouth, keeping an eye out for the local population of Malindi Pipits, and the elusive Mangrove Kingfisher. And at Arabuko, we shall also search for nocturnal species such as the Sokoke Scops Owl, African Barred Owlet and Fiery-necked Nightjar.

We’ll visit the Gede Museum, an archeological treasure surrounded by the Gede indigenous forest, sacred to the surrounding community. Finally, we’ll be sure to enjoy the delightful waters of the Indian Ocean--our last day will be spent swimming or sauntering, and includes a boat trip to snorkel at the ocean reef!

Lodging: **Turtle Bay Resort, Watamu**
https://www.tbbckenya.com/

February 20, DAY 15: RETURN TO NAIROBI AND DEPARTURE FLIGHTS HOME

On our final day together, we’ll enjoy a relaxed morning at the lodge, taking in some final Kenyan bird sightings and sharing many memories of our incredible adventure. We shall then check out and enjoy lunch; in the afternoon, we take a short flight back to Nairobi – marking the end to our lovely tour.