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AAT-1127

BIRD WATCHING: ETHIOPIA'S ENDEMIC BIRDS

Duration: 14 Days / 13 Nights



Tour Highlights:

- Visit one of the most attractive birding sites in Africa accompanied by an experienced birding guide
- Over 850 species of birds live in Ethiopia. Enjoy endemic, near-endemic, localized and less often found species
- See Awash National Park, the Rift Valley Lakes and the famous Bale Mountains National Park with its spectacular landscapes and afro-alpine vegetation
- Drive in a modern, air-conditioned 4WD and stay in the best available accommodations
- Traditional Ethiopian farewell dinner with “coffee ceremony” and traditional dances of different ethnic groups

Travel date:

Every day departure with a minimum of two participants.

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<p>Day 1: Arrival in Addis Ababa WELCOME TO ETHIOPIA. On arrival in Addis Ababa our representative will meet you at the airport. After transfer to your hotel an overview of the program will be given. We spend some time birding around the extensive grounds of the Ghion Hotel. Among the species spotted here are the White-backed Black Tit and the Brown Tit Warbler. After lunch we leave for Geferssa Reservoir where Blue-winged Goose, Black-headed Siskin, Abyssinian Long Claw and Wattled Ibis can be seen. In the evening return to Addis Ababa. Overnight Ghion Hotel (4-star)</p> <p>Day 2: Debre Libanos Monastery Early start to Debre Libanos Monastery about 110 km from Addis Ababa. We stop at the Sululta plains for a few birds like Black-bellied Plover, Red-breasted Wheatear, Tawny Eagle, Pectoral-patch Cisticola and some others. Around the monastery and the gorge, we expect to see White-billed Starlings, African Black-headed Orioles, White-winged Cliff Chats, the endemic Abyssinian Woodpecker and Rupell's Chat. In the river gorge itself birds of prey like Lammergeyer, Verreaux's Eagle, Egyptian and White-backed Vultures, Lanner Falcon, Peregrine and more can be seen.</p> <p>Day 3: Jimma Valley Proceed to Jimma Valley for the endemic Harwood's Francolin who lives only in this area. In the valley we also look for the Foxy Cist Cola, Lesser Kestrel, White-winged Cliff Chat, White-billed Starling, Erckel's Francolin, Lammergeyer and different raptors. In the late afternoon drive to Debre Brehan.</p> <p>Day 4: Ankober and Melka Jebdhu Full day birding around Ankober and Melka Jebdhu for the localized endemics Ankober Serine, Yellow-throated Seedeater and many more.</p> <p>Day 5: Drive to Lake Ziway and Langanu The drive takes us to Lake Ziway, where we are spending most time this afternoon. Lake Ziway is one of the bird paradises in the Ethiopian Rift Valley. It accommodates a great number of aquatic birds. A variety of gulls, Lesser Jacana, Skimmer, Common Redshank, Black Heron, African Pygmy Goose, Temminck's and Little Stints, Common Snipe, Woodland Kingfisher, Black-tailed Godwit and more can be seen here. Late afternoon we drive to Langanu. En route we have a short stop at the acacia woodland of the cattle ranch for a few species like Black-billed Woodhoopoes, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Buff Bellied Warblers, Red Faced Crombec, White-headed Buffalo Weavers and Ring Necked Dove.</p> <p>Day 6: Drive to Bale Mountains National Park Pre breakfast birding in the acacia woodland nearby the Langanu resort. This woodland is home of many birds like the Black-checked and Common Waxbills, Abyssinian Black Wheatear, Dederic and Klaas's Cuckoos, Rattling Cist Colas, Red-billed and Von de Decken's Hornbills - to name just a few. After breakfast, we drive to the Bale Mountains. In addition to the bird life endemic Mountain Nyalas and Menelik's Bushbucks can be seen in the park.</p> <p>Day 7: Senette Plateau The Senette Plateau with its afro-alpine vegetation is one of the highlights of the tour. The majority of the vegetation is low which ensures good views of our target species: the endemic Spot-breasted Plover and Simien Red Wolf. It is unlikely to be disappointed in our search for these species. Also we</p>		



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look for Yellow-billed and Ruddy Shelduck, Chestnut-naped and Moorland Francolin, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Wattled Crane, Slender-billed Starling and the endemic Starck's Hare. We drive down the escarpment to the Herrena Forest in search for: Mountain Buzzard, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler and endemic Abyssinian Woodpecker, Brown Sawwing and near endemic White-cheeked Turaco. Then descend further to the area where Prince Ruspoli's Turacos can be found. A variety of raptors, plover, weaver and many more can be seen on the way.

Day 8: Drive to Negele

Proceed to Negele Borena (285 km) through the Harrena forest. En route, stop at Ganalle River for the rare and localized endemic Prince Ruspoli's Turaco. On the drive to Negele you can see a great variety of lowland species like Shelly's & Golden-breasted Starlings and more.



Day 9: Around Negele

Full day bird watching around Negele. The localized Sidamo Lark is our target bird of the day. On the Negele Plains we also expect to see Somali Short-toed Lark and Heuglin's Bustards.

Day 10: Drive to Yabello



Today we enter the region of the endemic White-tailed Swallow and Streseman's Bushcrow, which we expect to see. Other species like Ostrich, Secretary Bird, Rueppell's Griffon Vulture, Martial Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard, Pygmy Falcon, Vulturine Guineafowl, Kori Bustard, Donaldson Smith's Nightjar, Star-spotted Nightjar, Coqui Francolin, Yellow-billed Hornbill, Lilac-breasted Roller and many more live in the area.

Day 11: Yabello Wildlife Reserve, Drive to Wondo Genet

Spend part of the day in the Yabello Wildlife Reserve where we look for Streseman's Bushcrow, White-tailed Swallow, Somali Courser, African Bare-eyed Thrush, Little-spotted Woodpecker, Pringle's Puff-back, Little Tawny Pipit, etc. Also mammals like Burchell's Zebra, Aardvark, Grant's and Thompson's Gazelle and Lesser-spotted Genet inhabit the reserve. Bird the acacia bush land en route to Wondo Genet.



Day 12: Drive to Awash National Park

Spend part of the day birding around the Wondo Genet forests. Afterwards drive to the Awash National Park along the crater lakes of Debre Zeyit, which are good for birding. We stop in Nazareth for lunch and later on at Lake Beseka for birding. Then we continue to Awash National Park.

Day 13: Awash National Park

All day birding in Awash National Park, which is located in the Rift Valley. Many species of birds and mammals live here. African Orange-bellied Parrots, Bustards, Weavers, European Hoopoe, Sombor Rock-chat, Yellow-throated Serine, Red-fronted Barbet, Pygmy Baits, Lesser Striped Swallow, House Martin,... - just to name a few. Also mammals like the Anubis Baboon, Colobus Monkey, Black-backed Jackal, Bat-eared Fox, Warthog, Beisa Oryx, Soemmering's Gazelle, Lesser Kudu and Dik-dik live in the park.



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<p>Day 14: Drive to Addis Ababa, departure Drive to Addis Ababa, birding along the way. Evening fare well dinner party, with dances from the different ethnic groups, in a traditional Ethiopian restaurant and transfer to the airport for flight home.</p>		
<p><u>PRICE</u></p> <p>Price per person (on the basis of 2 travellers) = US \$ 2.887 Price per person (on the basis of 3 travellers) = US \$ 2.280 Price per person (on the basis of 4 travellers) = US \$ 2.000 Single room supplement = US \$ 210</p>		
<p>Price includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special qualified birding guide as well as mandatory local guide or scout fees in parks and villages - 4-star hotel in Addis Ababa and the best available accommodation outside of Addis Ababa - All accommodation based on twin room occupancy - Meals in Addis, on bed and breakfast basis - Meals out of Addis, on full board basis - Farewell dinner in Addis to enjoy traditional Ethiopian food and music - All entrance fees at sites, churches, parks and villages - All transfers and visits in Addis Ababa using mini-bus according to the itinerary - All ground transportation including insurance, fuel and all costs of the driver - Traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony at a convenient time in the program - Government taxes <p>Price doesn't include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International flights - Lunch and dinner in Addis Ababa - Any kind of drinks, alcoholic or non-alcoholic, incidental meals and snacks - Video filming and photographing fees - Tips and items of personal nature like laundry, souvenirs, etc . - All what is not included in the list above 		