

# THE AVIAN ODYSSEY

*Kenya*

Here's a well-structured itinerary for a 11-day bird-watching expedition in Kenya, combining an overland adventure, camping, and fine lodging. The journey covers diverse habitats, from forests and lakes to savannahs, providing excellent opportunities for bird-watching.

## Day 1: Arrival in Nairobi

### • Travel:

- Arrive at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport early in the morning, meet your guide and prepare for the expedition.
- Drive to Lake Naivasha (approx. 1.5–2 hours from Nairobi).

### • Activities:

- Afternoon bird-watching walk along the lake. Spot birds like *Haliaeetus vocifer*, *Corythornis cristatus*, and *Balearica regulorum*

### • Accommodation:

- Camping at Camp Carnelly's.

## Day 2: Naivasha – Hell's Gate National Park

### • Activities:

- Full-day exploration of Hell's Gate National Park. Bird species include *Aquila verreauxii*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, and *Buteo augur*.

### • Accommodation:

- Camping at Camp Carnelly's.

## Day 3: Naivasha – Lake Baringo (Tumbili Cliff Lodge)

### • Travel:

- Drive to Lake Baringo (approx. 4.5 hours).

### • Activities:

-Afternoon bird-watching along the shores of Lake Baringo to spot *Rynchops flavirostris*, *Ardea goliath*, and other waterbirds. Within the compound of Tumbili Cliff Lodge, a birder can spot over 30 species of birds just seated!

*Otus senegalensis*, *Otus leucotis*, Verreaux eagle owl, *Bubo lacteus*, *Burhinus capensis*, *Cursorius heuglini*... rare are these birds, but with our local guides, they are easily spotted!

### Accommodation:

- Tumbili Cliff Lodge.



## Day 4: Lake Baringo

- **Activities:**

- The Magic of the Lake is discovered early in the morning by a boat ride that takes you to meet the hippos returning to the water from their overnight grazing, crocodiles sunbathing at the shore and a great variety of the aquatic birds. The boat ride leads to several Islands inhabited by the Njemps, a maa speaking community. Get to meet them and learn their culture

- **Accommodation:**

- Tumbili Cliff Lodge.

## Day 5: Lake Baringo – Kakamega Forest (Rondo Retreat Centre)

- **Travel:**

- Drive to Kakamega Forest (approx. 5-6 hours).

- **Activities:**

- Late afternoon bird-watching in the forest. Target species include, Tauraco corythaix, Psittacus erithacus and Tockus subcoronatus

- **Accommodation:** Rondo Retreat Centre.

## Day 6: Kakamega Forest Exploration

- **Activities:**

- Full-day bird-watching in the forest with a local guide. Look out for rare species like Eremomela turneri, Merops muelleri, and Sheppardia aequatorialis.

- **Accommodation:**

- Rondo Retreat Centre.

## Day 7: Kakamega – Rusinga Island Lodge in Lake Victoria

- **Travel:**

- Drive to Rusinga Island (approx. 6 hours)

- **Activities:**

- Evening relaxation and bird-watching along the shores of Lake Victoria. Rusinga's grounds are home to more than 369 species of local and migratory birds many not found elsewhere in Kenya

- **Accommodation:**

- Camping at Rusinga Island Lodge.

## Day 8: Mfangano Island Excursion

- **Activities:**

- Morning boat trip to Mfangano Island for bird-watching. Spot species like Anastomus lamelligerus, Vanellus crassirostris and Ceryle rudis

- **Accommodation:**

- Camping at Rusinga Island Lodge.



## Day 9: Rusinga Island – Maasai Mara (Ashnil Mara Camp)

- **Travel:**

- Drive to Maasai Mara (approx. 6-7 hours). The Maasai Mara National Reserve is one of Kenya's most iconic wildlife destinations, renowned for its incredible biodiversity and sweeping savannah landscapes, offering unparalleled opportunities for both bird-watching and game viewing. The reserve is a haven for bird enthusiasts, with over 450 recorded bird species

- **Activities:**

- Evening game drive with bird-watching. Look for Savannah species like *Coracias caudatus*, *Sagittarius serpentarius*, and *Balearica regulorum*.

- **Accommodation:**

- Ashnil Mara Camp

## Day 10: Maasai Mara Exploration

- **Activities:**

- Full-day game drives in Maasai Mara, with a focus on birds and wildlife. Target species include *Struthio camelus*, *Ardeotis kori*, and *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*. Get ready to search for the “Big Fives” as well: Elephant, Rhino, Lion, Leopard and Buffalo

- **Accommodation:**

- Ashnil Mara Camp.

## Day 11: Maasai Mara – Nairobi

- **Travel:**

- Morning bird-watching within the camp and then drive back to Nairobi (approx. 5-6 hours).
- Drop off at JKIA for your flight back home or to your Hotel in Nairobi

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Transport in a comfortable overland track
- ✓ Diverse ecosystems offering excellent bird-watching.
- ✓ Opportunities for boating, forest trekking, and game drives.
- ✓ Local guides available to make the expedition a total success
- ✓ A balanced mix of camping and luxury lodges for a comfortable experience.

**Fee: 3,080** Euros per person (sharing room) Limited slots

Book with 30% to ensure your booking

**Dates:** April & November 2025 (Specific dates to be fixed)

Maximum 15 people

Minimum 10 people

Terms and conditions apply

