



EASTERN TANZANIA

Endemic Birds & Mammals

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PEMBA ISLAND EXTENSION

March 28 – April 15, 2027

April 16 – 18, 2027



African Lion (Photo: Dion Hobcroft)

The tour begins in Arusha beneath the shadow of Mount Meru. Here, a three-night stay takes us into Arusha National Park and the famed Lark Plains with bird rich forest surrounding our lodge. We then continue to Mkomazi National Park, spending two nights in dry woodlands at Babu Safari Camp. From there we shift to the lush Usambara Mountains, exploring both Magamba Forest in the west and Amani Forest in the east, staying at Muller's Mountain Lodge and Amani Forest Bandas.

The journey continues to Morogoro and the Uluguru Mountains before moving to the bird and mammal rich miombo woodlands of Mikumi National Park for two nights. We then travel to Kisolanza Farm for rural hospitality and excellent garden, woodland and wetland birding for two nights and then continuing to Hondo Hondo Forest camp at the base of the Udzungwa Mountains for another two-night stay. The tour concludes in Dar-es-Salaam

where participants can either fly home or if they wish, make the three-night extension to Pemba Island that offers several more endemics. We anticipate a massive bird list of more than 400 species and a healthy mammal list in excess of 40 species. It is a unique chance to visit this area comfortably without camping and is sure to give even the most-seasoned world lister a good bunch of new birds.

PEMBA ISLAND EXTENSION

From Dar-es-salaam we will take the short flight to Pemba Island for a two-night stay at Pemba Paradise Resort. Beyond the four key island endemics, it offers a good bunch of coastal East African birds with a chance for global specials like White-cheeked Tern, Crab Plover, Brown-headed Parrot, Dickinson's Kestrel and Mangrove Kingfisher. On the third day, we will return to Dar-es-Salaam to get ready to head for home.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS AND MAMMALS

The number of special birds to look for is very extensive and includes Pemba Green-Pigeon, Fischer's Turaco, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Southern Banded Snake-Eagle, Fraser's Eagle-Owl, Pemba Scops Owl, Pale-billed Hornbill, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, Bohm's Bee-eater, Racket-tailed Roller, Green Tinkerbird, Green Barbet, Brown-breasted Barbet, Beesley's and Friedmann's larks, Striped Pipit, White-chested Alethe, Green-headed Oriole, Short-tailed, Dark and Pale Batis, Yellow Flycatcher, Scaly Chatterer, South Pare, Kilimanjaro and Pemba white-eyes, Retz's Helmetshrike, Zanzibar Boubou, Rosy-patched and Uluguru bushshrikes, Kretschmer's Longbill, African and Long-billed tailorbirds, Usambara Greenbul, Tanzanian Illadopsis, Orange Ground-Thrush, Usambara Thrush, Sharpe's Akalat, Spot-throat, Uluguru Violet-backed, Moreau's, Amani, Banded and Pemba sunbirds, White-tailed and Kilombero cisticolas, Usambara and Taveta Golden weavers, Oriole Finch and Lesser Seedcracker to mention a few.

For the mammal enthusiast Lion, Masai Giraffe, Plains Zebra, African Elephant, a good variety of antelopes and primates with chances for rarer species including Sable Antelope and Udzungwa Red Colobus.

March 28-29: Days 1-2: Arrival into Arusha

Participants should plan to leave the USA on March 28 to arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport (airport code JRO) on March 29. Upon arrival and after clearing customs, participants will be met by the local operator and transferred to our lodge. Due to the uncertain nature of international travel delays arriving a day early can be arranged by the VENT office. It can help reduce jetlag and sometimes the stress.

Ngare Sero is a peaceful and relaxing lodge, with surrounding forest and ponds that offer good birding. Species we have regularly encountered here include African Black Duck, Giant Kingfisher, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Brown-headed Kingfisher, White-eared and Brown-breasted barbets, Retz's Helmetshrike, Mountain Wagtail, Kenrick's Starling, Red-throated Twinspot and Taveta Golden-Weaver. Participants will enjoy a first meal together at dinner on Day 2.

NIGHT: (March 29) Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge

March 30: Day 3: Arusha National Park

A beautiful national park in the shadow of Mount Meru, Arusha offers a diverse array of habitats from montane rainforests to soda lakes and open grassland. It is home to a large population of Masai Giraffe, Plains Zebra (Grant's) and African Elephant. There are Guereza, Colobus, and Blue Monkey, and a good cross-section of smaller ungulates including Harvey's Duiker. The lakes hold good numbers of both Lesser and Greater flamingos. The grassland is good for Pangani Longclaw, and, in the forest, there are plenty of great birds ranging from Crowned Eagle to both Bar-tailed and Narina Trogon. It will be an action-packed first day.

NIGHT: Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge

March 31: Day 4: Birding Lark Plains (Engikaret)

A dry treeless plain, 30 miles north of Arusha where Masai herders graze their cattle, this fascinating area gets its name because it is the only site for the very rare Beesley's Lark, a

Tanzanian endemic. Only about 60 birds are known in the population and we are reliant on the local Masai herders to help guide us in to find this well camouflaged bird in a vast plain. There are plenty of other great birds including White-headed and Blue-naped Mousebirds, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Pygmy Falcon, Pygmy Batis, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Somali Short-toed and Short-tailed larks, Scaly Chatterer, Somali Bunting, African Bare-eyed Thrush, Superb Starling and Speke's Weaver. It is always exciting birding here and excellent for photography and scenery with the plains contrasting with Mount Meru. Some mammals are possible including Plains Zebra, Masai Giraffe and Thomson's Gazelle.

NIGHT: Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge



Taveta Golden-Weaver (Photo: Crammy Wanyama)

April 1: Day 5: Birding to Mkomazi National Park

We will set out early to make the lengthy drive (273 km/ 5 hours) to Mkomazi National Park. Along the way we will head to Merelani, a special site for Masai biome endemics. It gives us a good chance to encounter Steel-blue and Straw-tailed whydahs, the brilliantly coloured Golden-breasted Starling and equally brilliant Tsavo, Hunter's and Gorgeous sunbirds. Other exciting finds should include Pearl-spotted Owlet, Northern Crombec, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Mouse-coloured Penduline-Tit and Parrot-billed Sparrow. After a good birding

session at Merelani, we will drive onto Mkomazi where we plan to arrive in the afternoon and settle into our accommodation.

NIGHT: Babu Safari Camp

April 2: Day 6: Mkomazi National Park

This little-known national park is relatively quiet for tourists and protects outstanding dry woodlands that are rich in both birds and mammals. The park bird list is huge with amongst the 400 species on the checklist! It makes for a rich safari location. Common Ostrich, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Vulturine Guinea fowl, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Hartlaub's Turaco, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked Barbet, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Purple Roller, White-browed Robin-Chat, White-crested Helmetshrike, Tiny Cisticola, Fischer's Starling, Amethyst, Variable and Eastern Violet-backed sunbirds, Eastern Paradise-Whydah and African Silverbill are amongst the many possibilities. With some luck we will encounter the rare and mysterious Friedman's Lark with its distinctive "whee-oo" whistle.

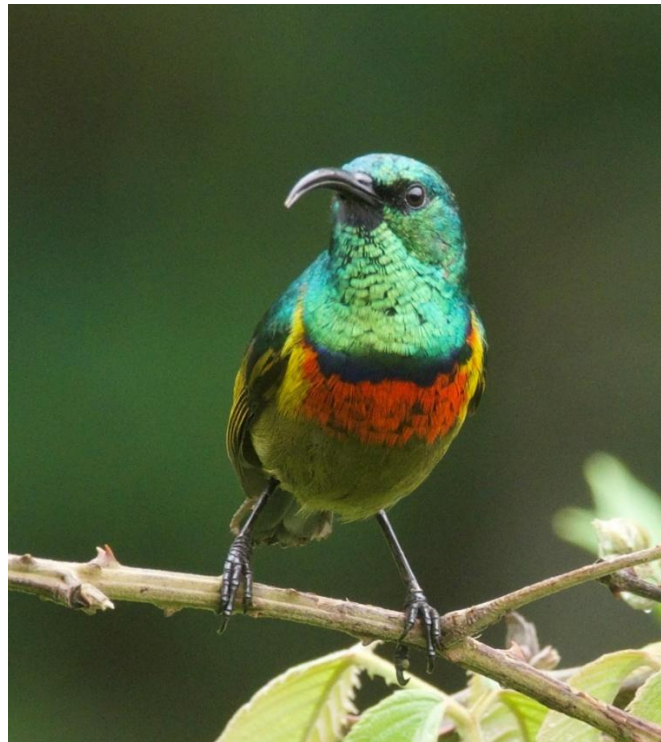
Mammal-watching is good here as well with Eland, Coke's Hartebeest, Grant's Gazelle, Warthog, Masai Giraffe, Plains Zebra (Grant's) being reasonably common. Shyer and less common are Kirk's Dik-dik, Gerenuk, Beisa Oryx, Steenbok, Impala, Lesser Kudu, African Buffalo, African Elephant with African Lion, Black-backed Jackal, Dwarf and Banded mongoose and Yellow Baboon all possible. Conservation populations (not genuinely wild) are held of both Black Rhinoceros and African Wild Dog in large fenced intensively-protected reserves within the park.

NIGHT: Babu Safari Camp

April 3: Day 7: Birding Chome Forest Reserve and then transfer to Lushoto

We begin the day with early morning birding in the Chome Forest Reserve, situated in the South Pare Mountains. The reserve protects a mix of montane forest remnants and

grassland, home to several endemics and other restricted-range species. Key targets include the rare and endangered South Pare White-eye along with Fulleborn's Boubou, Usambara and Olive-headed greenbuls, African Hill Babbler, Cinnamon Bracken and Evergreen Forest warblers, Usambara Double-collared Sunbird, Usambara Thrush and with luck the striking Oriole Finch. Raptors include the enormous Crowned Eagle and the uncommon Ayre's Hawk-Eagle.



Moreau's Sunbird (Photo: Crammy Wanyama)

After a solid session of morning birding, we will set out on a travel day (230 km/5 hours) to reach to one of the most important bird areas in Tanzania, located in the West Usambara Mountains. The route offers scenic views across the Eastern Arc mountains, and we will make birding stops along the way.

NIGHT: Muller's Mountain Lodge

April 4: Day 8: Magamba Forest

We will be searching for a lot of key birds today: Fischer's Turaco, Fraser's Eagle-Owl (will require night time effort), Green Barbet, Green-headed Oriole, Short-tailed Batis, Fulleborn's

Boubou, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Black-headed Mountain Greenbul, Orange Ground-Thrush, Usambara Thrush, African Tailorbird, White-chested Alethe, Usambara Akalat, the extremely shy Spot-throat and its even shyer close relative Dapple-throat, Usambara Double-collared Sunbird, Usambara Weaver and Oriole Finch. Beyond these birds we hope to see Montane Nightjar, African Wood Owl, Moustached Tinkerbird, Olive Woodpecker, White-starred Robin, Evergreen Forest and Cinnamon Bracken warblers, Cabanis', Shelley's and Yellow-streaked greenbuls and Red-faced Crimsonwing.

NIGHT: Muller's Mountain Lodge



African Tailorbird (Photo: Crammy Wanyama)

April 5: Day 9: Birding to Amani Forest

After a final morning of birding at Magamba, we will transfer from the West Usambara mountains through to the East Usambara mountains and base ourselves for two nights at Armani Forest Bandas. On the drive, we will pass through some rock outcrop and cliff areas

that are habitat for Brown-breasted Barbet, Mocking Cliff-Chat, Grey-olive Greenbul and Zanzibar Boubou. We will then start climbing back up into the mountains. Please note, these are not luxury accommodations, rather simple wooden cabins with private in-house facilities and a very modest restaurant. They are used primarily by researchers and birders who come here to see the amazing variety of birds, and indeed a visit here is primarily for the birds.

NIGHT: Amani Forest Bandas

April 6: Day 10: Birding Amani Forest

Another must visit key forest site in Tanzania we will again be on the lookout for a variety of key birds. Green Tinkerbird, Mombasa and Little Spotted woodpeckers, Pale Batis, Chestnut-fronted Bushshrike, Zanzibar Boubou, Kretschmer's Longbill, the critically endangered Long-billed Tailorbird, Yellow Flycatcher, Usambara Hyliota, Tanzanian Illadopsis, Sharpe's Akalat, Plain-backed, Uluguru Violet-backed, Purple-banded, Banded Green and the rare Amani sunbirds. We will have more chances to try for several of the species mentioned at Magamba. Beyond these special birds it is generally good birding with species like Green Malkoha, Narina Trogon, Trumpeter Hornbill, Red-tailed Ant-Thrush, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher and Black-and-white Shrike Flycatcher, African Citril and Yellow-bellied Waxbill amongst the possibilities. Mammal wise, Amani holds several interesting species. Blue Monkey, Angolan Colobus, Mountain Dwarf and Garnett's galagos, Zanj Sun Squirrel and at night if we are lucky, we may find an African Palm Civet or hear the explosive call of the Eastern Tree Hyrax. There are also several species of fascinating chameleon.

NIGHT: Amani Forest Bandas

April 7: Day 11: Birding to Morogoro via Zigi Forest

We will start with a morning of birding in the Zigi Forest located in the foothills of the East Usambara Mountains. The lower altitude here will give us better chances for some of the special birds in this location with a particular focus on Fischer's Turaco, African Broadbill, Usambara Hyliota and Eastern Nicator. We will also make a stop at the Wami Bridge that will hopefully deliver the much-wanted Bohm's Bee-eater. Birds found in this location are quite

diverse and include chances for Black-collared Barbet and Black-throated Wattle-eye. After the birding slows down, we will make the drive through to Morogoro (313 km/5 hours).

NIGHT: Morogoro Hotel

April 8: Day 12: Birding Morogoro and Bunduki

This morning we will make drive to the Bunduki Reserve in the Uluguru Mountains where we will spend most of the day birding in this rich montane forest. Some of the key birds here are Livingstone's Turaco, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Dark Batis, if we are lucky the rare Uluguru Bushshrike, African Tailorbird, Moreau's Warbler, the stunning White-winged Apalis, the more chestnut Chapin's Apalis and Loveridge's Sunbird. It will give us repeat chances to try for several of the previously mentioned birds if we are still searching for them.

NIGHT: Morogoro Hotel

April 9: Day 13: Birding to Mikumi National Park

As we cross over from the agricultural country into Mikumi National Park there is a good chance to start encountering vultures (African White-backed, Lappet-faced, Hooded, if we are lucky White-headed) and open country raptors like the Bateleur. After lunch we can spend an afternoon on safari exploring the park properly.

NIGHT: Tan-Swiss Motel

April 10: Day 14: Birding Mikumi National Park

The park offers outstanding Miombo woodland birding. Miombo woodlands are dominated by tree species in the genus *Brachystegia*. They support a whole community of distinct woodland birds. This habitat is found only found only in central eastern Africa and sneaks into this region of Tanzania. Racket-tailed Roller, Pale-billed Hornbill, Southern Ground-Hornbill, Speckle-throated Woodpecker, Livingstone's Flycatcher, Arnot's Chat, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Rufous-bellied Tit and Bohm's Bee-eater are all signature species of this

habitat. This park is great for mammals with populations of African Elephant, Masai Giraffe, Plains Zebra (Crayshaw's), African Buffalo, Impala and Warthog. African Lion is definitely possible, and the spectacular Sable Antelope is occasionally reported.

NIGHT: Tan-Swiss Motel

April 11: Day 15: Birding to Kisolanza

After a final morning scouting around for anything that we are still looking for, we will head south and west towards Kisolanza Farm House. It is one of those wonderful birding locations with a variety of gardens that provide excellent birding opportunities.

NIGHT: Kisolanza Farm House

April 12: Day 16: Birding Kisolanza

In the morning we will explore the well-kept gardens and surrounding woodlands. We will be on the lookout for Whyte's Barbet, Uhehe Fiscal (a distinct subspecies of Southern Fiscal), Miombo Wren-Warbler, Rufous-bellied Tit, African Spotted Creeper, Miombo Rock Thrush, Miombo Double-collared Sunbird and Reichard's Seedeater. The nearby Kiponzero depressions hold seasonal wetlands and grasslands. Quite a few different species are possible here including Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Denham's Bustard, Striped Pipit, Fulleborn's Longclaw and with luck the nomadic Locustfinch and Pale-crowned Cisticola. Spotted Eagle-Owl, African Wood Owl and even African Grass Owl are recorded nearby. The contrast between the wooded farmland and open country ensures a high diversity of species, making this stop an excellent addition to our Eastern Tanzania birding circuit.

NIGHT: Kisolanza Farm House

April 13: Day 17: Birding to Udzungwa and Kilombero Floodplain

We will make an early departure from Kisolanza and start driving back towards the east coast. In the afternoon, we will arrive at Hondo Hondo Forest Camp on the edge of the Udzungwa National Park. Like Kisolanza it provides us with several habitat options. We will visit these different habitat sites in our time here. One key location is the Kilombero Floodplain. A visiting Swiss birder realized that he had found three scientifically unknown species on the Kilombero Floodplain in the 1980's; two cisticolas and a weaver. His astute observations led to them all being recently described: the Kilombero Cisticola, White-tailed Cisticola and Kilombero Weaver. We aim to see all three on our visit here. It is also a good site for the localised Coppery-tailed Coucal, White-crowned Lapwing and Rufous-bellied Heron.

NIGHT: Hondo Hondo Forest Camp



Lesser Seedcracker (Photo: Crammy Wanyama)

April 14: Day 18: Birding Udzungwa National Park

More excellent birding awaits us at Hondo Hondo. Rice fields adjoining secondary forest provide a rich ecotone. Magpie Mannikin, the very scarce and beautiful Lesser Seedcracker, Crimson-rumped and Orange-breasted waxbills, Zanzibar Red Bishop are likely to be present,

hidden in amongst the Fan-tailed Widowbirds and Red-billed Firefinches. Some nearby forest patches can turn up White-eared Barbet, Kenrick's Starling, Pel's Fishing-Owl and the rare Kretschmer's Longbill if we are still looking for it. Mammal-watching here offers some rare and localised species like the Udzungwa Red Colobus, Sanje Mangabey, Zanzibar Dwarf Galago and some chance for the unusual Chequered Elephant Shrew (Sengi).

NIGHT: Hondo Hondo Forest Camp

April 15: Day 19: Transfer to Dar-es-Salaam

To make the most of our time and to avoid heavy afternoon traffic in Dar-es-salaam, we will leave early (6:30am), allowing for relaxed birding en route and timely arrival in the city. Along the way we will make an essential stop on the Ruvu River floodplain, where target birds include the highly localised Ruvu Weaver, Scaly Babbler, Coastal Cisticola and Plain-backed Sunbird. This concludes the main tour. If you are keen, we can still add some more endemic birds on the Pemba extension. Participants are free to fly out in the evening if you wish. A day room will be available to freshen up and get prepared for the trip home. For those continuing on, we will overnight and fly to Pemba the following morning.

NIGHT/DAY ROOM: Serena Dar-es-salaam

PEMBA ISLAND EXTENSION



Pemba Scops-Owl (Photo: Crammy Wanyama)

April 16: Day 20: Fly to Pemba

A short flight (80 minutes) from Dar-es-salaam to Pemba Island is often made with a stop at Zanzibar. Indeed, Pemba is part of the Zanzibar archipelago, lying off the Swahili coast in the tropical Indian Ocean. The island is close to 600 square miles in size and rises to only 119 metres above sea-level. It is warm to hot, tropical, lush and green with cloves farms, patches of forest and stunning white sandy beaches. It is home to four endemic birds: Pemba Green-Pigeon, Pemba Scops-Owl, Pemba White-eye and Pemba Sunbird. In the afternoon after we have settled into our beach resort, we will commence our search for these four key birds. It promises to be a rather relaxed few days of birding and a lovely way to finish the tour.

NIGHT: Pemba Paradise Resort

April 17: Day 21: Pemba

Beyond the endemics the island offers a good cross-section of other East African birds with several good global targets like White-backed Duck, Sooty Gull, White-cheeked Tern, Crab Plover, occasional Malagasy Pond-Heron, an endemic subspecies of African Goshawk, the scarce Mangrove Kingfisher, Olive Bee-eater, Dickinson's Kestrel, Brown-headed Parrot, Black-bellied Starling and Black-winged Bishop. At this time of the year there is quite a bit of migration going on, so we may catch up with a few Eurasian migrant birds on the move. We will make time to look for the endemic Pemba Flying-fox, a giant species of fruit-bat.

NIGHT: Pemba Paradise Resort

April 18: Day 22: Pemba to Dar-es-salaam

Having hopefully had success in seeing all the key birds and mammals, we will fly back to Dar-es-salaam. Participants should book their international flights from DAR to their home after 6:00 pm local time.

NIGHT/DAY ROOM: Serena Dar-es-salaam

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR SIZE: This tour is limited to 8 tour participants. However, VENT reserves the right to increase the tour limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space is available

TOUR LEADERS: This tour is led by **Dion Hobcroft** and **Crammy Wanyama**



Dion Hobcroft has been working for VENT since 2001. He has led many tours (more than 200) to Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, Bhutan, Indonesia, India, China, Southwest Pacific, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Malawi, Myanmar, Japan, Russia, Alaska, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Antarctic. In 2007 and 2013–2019, 2022–24 alone, Dion showed more than 2,000 species of birds to VENT clients. His informative, relaxed, and educational nature, combined with sharp eyes and ears, has established Dion as a favorite of many tour participants. His fieldwork for over 40 years on birds and other terrestrial vertebrates has allowed him to amass an extraordinary knowledge of the biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region. Born in Tasmania and based in Sydney, Dion has travelled widely throughout Australasia, listing over 1,200 species, placing him in the top echelons of the region's birders. He is very tuned-in to the songs of bird species in the Asia-Pacific region and specializes in rare and elusive species. He is delighted to show these skulking rarities to his travel companions. Dion has published several papers on field ornithology, served on national and state rare bird committees, managed *Birdline NSW*, run introduction to ornithology courses for Sydney University, and, before he travelled so continuously, was a popular speaker with various natural history societies. Dion has worked for many research and government agencies ranging from the Antarctic Division, Department of Environment NSW, Agriculture Protection WA, Taronga Zoo, Australian Museum, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industry. Dion lives in Sydney with his wife, Lise, and two adult children, Grace (age 24) and Daniel (age 20).



Crammy Wanyama is a bird tour leader based in East Africa living in Entebbe with his wife and children. Since 2010 he has been working in ecotourism and primarily birding safaris. His extensive travels throughout East Africa make him one of the top local guides and he has been voted “Best Birding Guide” and “Best Guide” in Uganda more than once by that country’s safari guide association (USAGA). He has travelled extensively throughout East Africa including into its remotest corners. Keen to share his knowledge, coupled with a great sense of humour, sharp eyes and ears have made him ever popular. Actively involved in guide training, raising conservation awareness and supporting local birding clubs Crammy has found his true vocation in life. Crammy is currently completing his Master of Business Administration.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

Tanzania Main Tour FEE: \$19,695 per person based on double occupancy or **\$20,995** for a person requiring single accommodation. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 2 through lunch on Day 19, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, all ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does **not** include airfare to nor from the starting/ending city; however, flights within the tour (if any) are included. The fee also excludes laundry, personal expenses, and other items of a personal nature. For information about gratuities, please see the “TIPPING” sub-section below. If the minimum group size is not met, each participant will be charged a small-group supplement—shared equally and communicated in advance—to allow the tour to proceed.

Pemba Island Extension FEE: \$4,895 per person based on double occupancy or **\$5,245** for a person requiring single accommodation. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 19 through lunch on Day 22, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, all ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does **not** include airfare from the ending city; however, flights within the tour (if any) are included. The fee also excludes laundry, personal expenses, and other items of a personal nature. If the minimum group size is not met, each participant will be charged a small-group supplement—shared equally and communicated in advance—to allow the tour to proceed.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for both tours through the VENT [website](#) or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The initial deposit for each tour is **\$1,000** per person. At 180 days prior to the tour start date, VENT will collect a second deposit that brings the total deposit amount to 40% of the tour price. We accept MasterCard and Visa for both deposits.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date which is November 28, 2026.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES: Tour prices are based on the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If rates change drastically, it may be necessary to impose a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges have been passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Our prices are based on fuel prices at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TIPPING: An important part of the value of a VENT tour is knowing that tips for local service providers at our destinations—restaurant staff, hotel staff, drivers, local guides, and various other support staff—are included in your tour fee. If you would like to offer any of your local guides an additional tip, \$5 to \$10 a day is a common amount.

Tips for your VENT tour leader(s) are **not** included, but it is customary to tip one or both if you feel that you have received exceptional service. To assist in your planning, we

recommend tipping your VENT tour leader(s) \$15 to \$20 per day, or the equivalent of approximately 2–4% of the tour fee.

If you plan to give tips by cash, they should be given directly to your tour leader at the end of the tour and **not** sent to the VENT office. Some of our tour leaders use mobile payment applications such as Venmo, PayPal, and Wise. If you would like to use this method, please ask your tour leaders directly whether they can accept tips through such an application.

We emphasize that tipping is optional and that these amounts are only recommendations. The amount you decide to tip is based entirely on your experience and at your discretion.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT:

- **More than 120 days prior to the tour start date:** A refund of all monies paid will be issued, less 50% of the deposit (including initial and second deposit)
- **120 days or fewer prior to the tour start date:** No refund will be provided.
- **Optional add-ons:** Some tours offer optional add-ons that are designated as non-refundable. Any such add-ons are clearly identified as non-refundable at the time of booking. By selecting and purchasing an optional add-on, the participant acknowledges and accepts its non-refundable status. Fees paid for non-refundable add-ons are not refundable under any circumstances, regardless of when the tour is cancelled.

This cancellation policy applies to all participants and all tours (Pre-Tours and Extensions are considered self-contained tours separate from the main tour). Because unexpected events can occur, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance.

CANCELLATION BY VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a

participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A “**Force Majeure**” event means any act beyond VENT’s control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE/PROTECTION REQUIREMENT: This tour visits remote locations where immediate access to primary medical care may not be available. **For this reason, travel insurance/travel protection which covers you for emergency evacuation is required for participation on this tour.** This coverage is included in the **Ripcord Rescue Travel Insurance™** program. Alternatively, comparable service can be obtained through **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist** plan. If you choose not to purchase insurance/travel protection through Ripcord or Medjet, you are required to obtain it through another provider. Please refer to the TRAVEL INSURANCE/TRAVEL PROTECTION section for additional information.

SUGGESTED OPTIONS: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with **Redpoint Travel**

Protection as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive Ripcord plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit. With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®** plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet, the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Redpoint Travel's Ripcord Plan

Ripcord is a completely integrated travel insurance program with single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims. Critical benefits include comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [Ripcord Travel Insurance](#); or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help > Preparation and Insurance > Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, second deposit, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The "pay as you go" approach reduces up-front expense and ensures

that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to “pay as you go,” you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a [Coronavirus FAQ page](#) on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

About Medjet’s MedjetAssist Plan

MedjetAssist is a membership program that functions like AAA for motorists. The company’s primary service is air medical transport. Critical benefits of MedjetAssist include a staff on call and ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; all-expenses-paid air medical transport in the United States and internationally to medical facility of choice, regardless of medical necessity; repatriation of remains; and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

For travelers under 75, MedjetAssist may be purchased as Short-Term Memberships of 8, 15, 21, and 30 days, or Regular Annual Memberships from 1 to 5 years. For travelers 75–84, Medjet offers a Diamond Membership that is the same program but with a few additional conditions.

For a price quote or to purchase MedjetAssist, please visit: [Medjet.com/VentBird](https://www.Medjet.com/VentBird) or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

GETTING THERE & REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize

the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements. **Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be held responsible for any air ticket penalties.**

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your pre-departure materials and/or airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to improve airport security, we recommend that you check the website of the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) for information pertaining to permissible carry-on items.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

PASSPORTS: A passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure from Tanzania is required.

VISAs: Visas are required for U.S. citizens traveling to this destination. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your consulate or embassy for the most accurate guidance.

IMPORTANT: The visa details above are current for U.S. citizens as of July 16, 2026. Because entry requirements can change without notice, we kindly remind all participants to double-check the latest information before traveling. Travelers using non-U.S. passports are responsible for confirming any entry requirements that apply to their home country.

CLOTHING: General clothing information – optional

- **Long Sleeve Shirts:** neutral colors and fast drying.
- **Pants:** neutral colors and fast drying
- **Jacket:** for cooler evenings
- **Sun Hat**
- **Swimwear**

FOOTWEAR:

- **Sturdy Hiking Boots**

EQUIPMENT: Having the right equipment makes the travel experience more enjoyable.

Below is a list of items that will ensure you are well prepared:

- **Sunglasses**

Binoculars: We strongly recommend you bring a pair of good binoculars of 8x32, 8x42, or 10x42 magnification. Please do not bring mini-binoculars of any kind. Some people like them because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. You will find that 8x32 binoculars are compact and light enough.

Spotting Scopes: Your tour leaders will have scopes available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

DESTINATION INFORMATION & LOCAL CONDITIONS

CLIMATE & WEATHER: The rainy and dry seasons have become less well-defined and predictable in recent years. However, we are expecting mainly dry, warm to hot weather with daytime temperatures ranging from 77 to 88 F. In the highlands evenings can be chilly, with cool, misty mornings when temperatures may be around the mid 50's. Generally, the temperatures and climate are quite pleasant and comfortable, but it does become

increasingly hot and humid on the coast and on Pemba Island. We are quite likely to experience some rainstorms with the onset of the rainy season. Typically, the rain is good as it brings the birds into breeding plumage and many species nest at this time of year.

CONDITIONS: Overall like any typical birding tour: walking on trails and roadsides and birding from a vehicle quite frequently, particularly in national parks with large mammals. Some uphill trails for those who are keen to move into the forest interior for shy birds that avoid the forest edge. Several long drives between key sites but regularly stopping to stretch, bird and use restrooms/bush stops along the way. Some packed lunches on these longer drives. In certain areas we will expect the roads to be slow, pot-holed and bumpy. In certain areas like the Lark Plains and Merelani it may be dusty. Much depends on recent rainfall, so it is hard to predict. Easy for participants to opt for birding around the lodges if they choose to rest; many locations offer good birding right on the doorstep. Generally, very pleasant with plenty of bird and mammal activity in wonderful Tanzanian landscapes

FOOD & WATER: Bottled water is recommended at all times, and you should be wary of eating uncooked food.

CURRENCY & SPENDING: There are opportunities to exchange U.S. dollars for Tanzanian Shillings at some of the lodges, but you will not need large amounts. Almost all places (including souvenir and gift shops) will accept U.S. dollars and major credit cards. There are ATM machines at Arusha-bring your PIN number and don't forget to notify your bank of your travel plan, so activity is not seen as suspicious. Please note that it is impossible to exchange (or use as payment) U.S. dollars of any denomination that was printed prior to 2013-neither banks nor merchants will accept these older style notes that lack the most recent anti-counterfeiting designs. All notes should be also clean and unmarked and untorn.

ELECTRICITY: 220/240 volts. In Tanzania you will encounter two plug types, Type D (three round pins) and Type G (three flat pins), the same as the UK. You will need a Type G/D plug adaptor.

INTERNET ACCESS: Spotty. Generally good in larger towns and Wi-Fi is available in the lodges but often in the reception areas only in more remote locations.

LANGUAGE: Kiswahili and English are the official languages

TIME: 9 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Widely available at most of our hotels along the way.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance for avoiding COVID-19

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun’s ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes), even in winter and early spring. Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and will affect your level of enjoyment. Always protect yourself when outdoors and be sure to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

BITING INSECTS: Mosquitoes can be a nuisance in coastal lowland areas and forests.

Recommendation is insect repellent, long sleeves and pants for these situations.

INSECT REPELLENTS: There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- **DEET:** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.
- **Picaridin:** A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- **Herbal insect repellents:** Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

Insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- **Permanone® (Permethrin):** is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for pre-treatment of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so it is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment must be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- **Insect Shield® apparel:** Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

SUGGESTED READING & TRIP PREPARATION

A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

FIELD GUIDES:

Birds

Fanshawe, J. and T. Stevenson. *Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Randa and Burundi*. Second Edition. 2020. This is the book to buy. Well-illustrated, up to date and recommended. Note that this is the greatly revised Second Edition and is part of the Princeton University Press Field Guides line up.

Mammals

Kingdon, Jonathan. *The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals*. London: Christopher Helm, 2004. A smaller pocket version of the larger and heavier field guide with excellent illustrations and information.

CLO Apps

eBird. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Among the largest and most successful citizen science projects in existence, eBird is an essential tool in promoting bird study and conservation.

Among a range of benefits, eBird allows users to keep a variety of lists in a single application. When taxonomic splits are incorporated, lists are automatically updated. Additionally, trip leaders can share daily lists, so one only need accept a shared list and it will upload to your files. Highly recommended.

Merlin Bird ID. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Merlin is an app designed as a birding coach for beginning and intermediate birdwatchers. Excellent for use in the field, Merlin asks the observer a series of questions about his or her bird sighting, including date and location, and color, size, and behavior of a bird. Merlin then processes the viewer's responses to present a shortlist of possible identifications, from which the user can choose the likely bird. Species profiles include a brief physical description, photographs, and sound samples. The Photo ID feature allows anyone with a camera to snap a photo and obtain a list of suggestions. Merlin's Sound ID feature allows identification of birds through audible recognition. To use Merlin, download the app and the appropriate regional "pack." Highly recommended.

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, "**VENT**") act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on July 17, 2026 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "**Airline**") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

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