



Grey-crowned Crane



TANZANIA

BIRDING IN EAST AFRICA
14 Days | Choose your dates

CUSTOMIZE
THIS PROGRAM

As home to more than 1,000 avian species, Tanzania provides a truly unique and distinctive bird-watching adventure. Explore the exotic birds of Tanzania on this 14-day journey through some of Africa's most renowned national parks, including Tarangire National Park and the famous Serengeti National Park. From the dazzling and aptly-named Beautiful Sunbird to the grotesque Marabou Stork, Tanzania offers a world of contrasts that no birder can afford to miss. Centrally located accommodations, cultural interactions with Maasai people, and incredible wildlife viewing opportunities await you in beautiful Tanzania.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Traverse the Serengeti and spot East African endemics such as Grey-crested Helmetshrike, Red-throated Tit and Karamoja Apalis.
- Explore Oldupai Gorge, famous for its fossilized plants and animals, where you might spot Purple Grenadier or Kenya Sparrow.
- Observe the famous African Elephants of the Tarangire National Park.
- Visit a Maasai village to witness traditional dancing and learn about the brave Maasai warriors.
- Keep an eye out for waterfowl like the African Openbill and Goliath Heron when visiting the Silale Swamp.
- Descend nearly 2,000 feet to the floor of Ngorongoro Crater and get up close and personal with some of Africa's big game.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - DEPARTURE

Depart the United States.

DAY 2 - ARUSHA

Arrive in Europe and connect with a flight to Kilimanjaro Airport. After arrival at the airport, transfer to the lodge. The grounds of Rivertrees Country Inn attract many bird enthusiasts due to the wide variety of species living right on the property. *Overnight at Rivertrees Country Inn.*

DAY 3 - TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast spend the morning at leisure to relax and enjoy the stunning views from this beautiful lodge. Begin your East African safari with a transfer to Tarangire National Park. En route there will be birding stops, especially in the drier Acacia woodland and scrubby areas. This roadside birding can often be very productive and may include sightings of Blue-naped Mousebird, Von der Decken's Hornbill, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird and Golden-backed Weaver. *Overnight at Tarangire Ndovu Camp. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

The Tarangire ecosystem is the third largest in Tanzania, sprawling over a vast 7,700 square miles. Seasonally, the park supports the second largest concentration of wildlife in Tanzania surpassed only by the Serengeti during peak migration. However, Tarangire is most famous for its huge numbers of African Elephants that congregate along the meandering Tarangire River. You will observe these massive pachyderms and their tender family interactions. Other mammals likely to be seen include the stately waterbuck, impala, comical warthog and giraffe. The Acacia woodland and Baobab-studded grasslands also provide a home for a large number of avians, with the park total being well over 500 species. You will have the opportunity to look for African Hawk Eagle, the diminutive Pygmy Falcon, Double-banded Courser, Red-necked and Yellow-necked Spurrow, Black-faced Sandgrouse, White-bellied Bustard, Meyer's and Red-bellied Parrots, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Red-and-yellow and D'Arnaud's Barbets, Mottled Spinetail, Spotted Palm Thrush, Banded Warbler and flocks of Northern Pied Babbler. Two major targets for the area are the East African endemics Ashy Starling and Yellow-collared Lovebird. Also visit the vast Silale Swamp which is excellent for waterfowl. Species to look out for will be African Openbill, Goliath Heron, Southern Pochard, Fulvous Whistling Duck, African Jacana and Long-toed Lapwing. If we are fortunate we may spot a Black Coucal, or flush out a secretive African Crane. Night birding around our lodge can also be fruitful. Look out for Slender-tailed and Freckled Nightjars and the diminutive African Scops Owl. *Overnight at Tarangire Ndovu Camp. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - NGORONGORO CRATER

After breakfast, leave Tarangire and strike out west for the vast Ngorongoro Conservation Area. This 3,200 square mile World Heritage Site protects Earth's largest intact volcanic caldera (100 square miles) and one of the world's most scenically breathtaking natural areas. What's more, the crater is also home to one of the planet's densest populations of large mammals. Our wonderful lodge is nestled on the edge of the crater rim with spectacular views of the crater itself. The forests that cloak the rim of this iconic site are home to a variety of Afro-montane forest birds. You may find Hildebrandt's Francolin, Schalow's Turaco, the elusive Brown-backed Woodpecker, beautiful Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Mountain Greenbul, Brown-headed Apalis, Brown Warbler, skulking Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, and busy flocks of Montane White-eye, dazzling Tacazze, Golden-winged and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds. From the lodge we are able to gaze down at the Ngorongoro Crater below and watch distant elephants and herds of antelope and buffalo moving over the plains. *Overnight at Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - NGORONGORO CRATER

After an early breakfast, descend 1,970 feet to the Ngorongoro Crater floor. The crater is prime "Big Five" territory and a photographer's dream. Most of the animals are extremely relaxed and habituated to the presence of human admirers. The high crater walls, usually cloaked in a pure white frosting of clouds, make for dramatic backdrops to animal photographs. In addition, the crater floor provides a mini example of a complete African ecosystem with forests, lakes, grasslands, swamps and rivers. Between 25,000 and 30,000 large animals reside in the crater and great concentrations of Blue Wildebeest and Common Zebra are supplemented by smaller numbers of African Elephant,

African Buffalo, the highly sought after Black Rhinoceros, hippopotamus, Eland and Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles. The crater reputedly boasts the world's highest concentration of predators including lion, cheetah, leopard, serval, Bat-eared Fox, Spotted Hyena and Golden and Black-backed Jackal. The birding is equally rewarding; we can expect to find many of the picture-book species that make Africa so famous. Pink rafts of Greater and Lesser Flamingos on Lake Magadi, Common Ostrich striding over the grasslands, regal Kori Bustard (the world's heaviest flying bird), the elegant Grey-crowned Crane and good numbers of raptors including the unique Secretary Bird, Bateleur and Martial Eagle. Among the many other species that we may encounter, we hope to see the uncommon Shelley's Francolin, Black-bellied Bustard, Dusky Turtle Dove, White-headed Barbet, Pectoral-patch Cisticola, comical Anteater Chat, Black-crowned Tchagra, the striking Rosy-throated Longclaw, Fan-tailed Widowbird and the skittish African Quailfinch, the latter probably more easily seen here than anywhere else. In the evening, we ascend to our lodge on the scenic crater rim and at dusk will attempt to track down the Montane Nightjar. *Overnight at Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

This morning travel to the world famous Serengeti National Park. En route we pass through an area that is home to the Maasai people. These tall, proud nomadic warriors are famous for their legendary prowess in battle and single-handed acts of bravery in fights with wild animals. There will be an opportunity for an excursion to a traditional Maasai village. A local guide will explain their unique culture as you watch the people busy about their daily chores. There will be a display of the famous Maasai dancing and photography opportunities. Lunch will be at the well-known Oldupai Gorge, so named after the wild Sisal plant that grows in the gorge. As a result of massive geological activities over the eons, Oldupai provides a unique record of countless years of fossilized creatures and plants in a series of stratified rock layers. Most famous of all discoveries, which revolutionized thinking on hominid evolution, have been those of Australopithecine hominid remains found by the Leakey family. After an introductory lecture we have time to explore the very informative museum at the site which exhibits replicas of the hominid fossils and extinct animals that used to inhabit the region, ranging from River Elephant and Giant Swine to Short-necked Giraffe. A bird walk around the site may yield a variety of arid country species such as the vocal Slate-colored Boubou, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Rufous Chatterer, Kenya Sparrow, Vitelline Masked Weaver, beautiful Purple Grenadier and both White-bellied and Southern Grosbeak Canaries. After lunch continue traveling westward on the rutted dirt track across the vast, flat and seemingly endless Serengeti Plains, to spend three nights in one of the world's most renowned game reserves. *Overnight at Naona Moru Camp. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Extending for an incredible 5,790 square miles, the Serengeti is one of the world's largest natural sanctuaries. Despite the vast space, the amount of game that you can expect to see is still astounding. The Serengeti, meaning "Endless Plain" in Maasai, consists mostly of grasslands interspersed with Acacia woodlands and rocky outcrops. There is little permanent water in the park, which, combined with a fairly regular rainfall pattern, has resulted in the world famous wildebeest migration, when up to two million large wildebeests move between the Serengeti in Tanzania and Maasai Mara in Kenya. During our visit to the Serengeti we will explore the southern and central areas. We hope to see lazing prides of lions, leopards draped over large trees, aloof cheetahs resting on or near vantage points, skulking Spotted Hyenas, jackals and, if we are fortunate, the bizarre Bat-eared Fox. Several species of smaller cats such as caracal, serval or African Wild Cat may also be seen. Besides the wildebeest, the Serengeti supports huge populations of Common Zebra, African Buffalo, Maasai Giraffe, warthog, Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles, impala, topi, kongoni, Bohor Reedbuck, Eland and smaller numbers of African Elephant, hippopotamus, Rubber-nosed Kirk's Dik-dik, Oribi and Defassa Waterbuck. *Overnight at Naona Moru Camp. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Another day of exploration. There will certainly be an array of superb birds to keep you very busy for the time spent exploring the park. Star birds include several East African endemics: Grey-crested Helmetshrike, Red-throated Tit, Steel-blue Whydah and the highly localized Karamoja Apalis. Other specialties are Grey-breasted Spurrow, Fischer's Lovebird, Rufous-tailed Weaver, the localized race of D'Arnaud's Barbet (sometimes split as Usambiro Barbet) and Athi Short-toed Lark. These birds can be found together with a host of other species such as the magnificent Saddle-billed Stork, up to six species of vulture, the grotesque Marabou Stork, stately Secretary Bird, Bateleur, Chestnut-bellied and Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Kori Bustard, coveys of

Coqui Francolin, White-bellied Bustard, Temminck's Courser, Pearl-spotted Owllet, Red-fronted Barbet, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, the whimsical Southern Ground Hornbill, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Black-lored Babbler, Taita and Grey-backed Fiscals, Magpie Shrike, Hildebrandt's Starling, both species of oxpecker, Silverbird, the cute Buff-bellied Warbler, aptly named Beautiful Sunbird, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Black-faced Waxbill and, if you are fortunate, Grey-headed Silverbill. Not only is this a great place in which to find game and birds, but the wide green-gold savanna, dotted with thorn trees, also make it ideal for photography. The Serengeti is ravishingly beautiful and offers long, undisturbed views and utterly dramatic panoramas. *Overnight at Naona Moru Camp. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy another day in the Serengeti. *Overnight at Naona Moru Camp. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - NGORONGORO

After breakfast, drive to Ngorongoro Farm House to explore the lush, rambling gardens of this colonial-era mansion. This private estate is built in the style of an old colonial farm, rustically decorated with local materials and full of tasteful details. Facing the Oldeani Volcano, just three miles from the Ngorongoro Lodare gate, the lodge is home to several target species, including Grey-capped Warbler, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Green-headed Sunbird and Southern Citril. In the evening you may spot the local pair of Greater Galagos that make their home in the gardens. *Overnight at Ngorongoro Farm House. (BLD)*

DAY 12 - ARUSHA

After some early morning birding and breakfast, depart the Farm House and head back to Arusha. En route you might find White-fronted Bee-eater, which can often be seen sallying for insects from roadside perches. *Overnight at Rivertrees Country Inn. (BLD)*

DAY 13 - DEPARTURE

Take a birding excursion to Arusha National Park. This evening celebrate your stay in Tanzania with a special farewell dinner before being transferred to the Kilimanjaro International Airport. *Day room at Rivertrees Country Inn. (BLD)*

DAY 14 - DEPARTURE

Arrive home.

This itinerary can be customized.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$5,385 (11 participants + 1 leader)

Includes:

- Activities
- Accommodations
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Full-time local guide
- Private in-country transportation
- Carbon Offsetting

Not included: International airfare, gratuities, travel/trip cancellation insurance, optional activities, items of a personal nature, alcoholic beverages, \$100 visa fee in Tanzania.

Rate is based on double occupancy for participants; single supplements may be available for an additional cost (limited availability). Valid for travel in 2016 and 2017.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable.

Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Binoculars are required for this program. We recommend wide angle binoculars, something within the range of 7x35, 8x40 or even 10x50 with good light gathering characteristics. Although light and comfortable, pocket binoculars don't work as well in low light conditions. Participants should be in good physical condition and able to walk unassisted for several hours per day.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Rivertrees Country Inn

Rivertrees Country Inn combines old-world ambience with African country elegance to create a comfortable and relaxing experience. This peaceful country estate lies at the foothills of Mount Meru with views of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Room amenities: Private bathrooms with shower or bathtub, mosquito netting, hot water, refrigerator.

Facility amenities: Laundry service, wifi, restaurant, spa, swimming pool, bar, room service.

Tarangire Ndovu Camp

Tarangire Ndovu Camp, located in the heart of the Tarangire National Park, creates an intimate and luxurious atmosphere while respecting the local wildlife. The camp is comprised of eight spacious tents made from heavy duty safari canvas and adorned with earth-toned decorations.

Room amenities: Mosquito nets, 32 ft x 13 ft tent, ensuite bathroom.

Facility amenities: Dining tent, solar lighting system.

Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge

The lodge is strategically built on the rim of Ngorongoro's large crater, affording amazing views of the crater floor and its diverse wildlife. Buildings were constructed out of mostly local materials, including stone and wood. Rooms have large windows facing the crater.

Room amenities: The double occupancy rooms have private bathrooms and central heating.

Facility amenities: Dining tent, solar-powered lighting system.

Naona Moru Camp

A luxury camp in one of the most scenic areas of the Serengeti, the Naona Moru Camp consists of seven spacious tented suites. Situated on an elevated viewing point, guests can view the southern plains of the Serengeti from the comfort of this high-end camp.

Room amenities: Ensuite bathrooms, 39 ft x 24 ft tents.

Facility amenities: Hot water, wifi, verandah with comfortable seating.

Ngorongoro Farm House

The exclusive Ngorongoro Farm House is a rustic, colonial-style mansion nestled in a picturesque wooded area. The tasteful details of the farm house are decorated using local materials, emitting an atmosphere of the old days.

Room amenities: Double occupancy rooms, private bathrooms and central heating.

Facility amenities: Restaurant, lounge/bar, wifi, room service, pool.

The Arusha Hotel

Located in the heart of its own tropical gardens, The Arusha Hotel combines first-class service with the atmosphere of a bygone era.

Room amenities: Private bathrooms, air conditioning, electronic safe, iPod docks, flat screen televisions with satellite TV channels.

Facility amenities: Wifi, swimming pool, gym, restaurant and bar, gardens, room service, laundry service, conferencing and business center.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Visit holbrooktravel.com/birding or reach a travel consultant at 800-451-7111 or travel@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY

Top row: Lou Newman
 Middle row: Chris Williams, Lou Newman
 Bottom row: Lou Newman, Lou Newman, Bill Richardson