



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

ABA Kenya **Kakamega Forest Extension** *15th to 18th February 2022 (4 days)*



Lühder's Bushshrike by Markus Lilje

Our Kakamega extension offers some of the finest forest birding in all of Africa. On this extension we have 3 nights based at the beautifully appointed Rondo Retreat, which is based right in the middle of the forest and gives immediate access to some wonderful forest trails right from the rooms. Kakamega holds a myriad of incredible birds but is probably most famous as being the only reliably accessible site for the magnificent Blue-headed Bee-eater and Turner's Eremomela. Other species that are always high on the wish list include Yellow-bellied and Jameson's Wattle-eyes, Blue-shouldered and Grey-winged

Robin-Chats, and we even have a chance for Grey-chested Babbler, a species often placed in a unique African bird family with Spot-throat and Dapplethroat and is regarded as one of the more difficult bird families to connect with. Join us for what promises to be a bird filled forest experience with wonderful trails and stunning accommodation.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	Maasai Mara Game Reserve to Kakamega Forest
Days 2& 3	Kakamega Forest
Day 4	Kakamega Forest to Nairobi and depart

TOUR MAP:



THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

Day 1: Maasai Mara to Kakamega Forest.

After breakfast and morning birding, we depart from the Maasai Mara and head to the famous Kakamega Forest. We expect to arrive at Kakamega in the late afternoon and we should have an opportunity to bird around the grounds of the peaceful Rondo Retreat Centre. Kakamega Forest is one of Africa's most famous birding forests and it supports numerous species that can only be found in Central or West Africa.



Brown-chested Alethe by Keith Valentine

Days 3 & 4: Kakamega Forest. During our time at Kakamega we have two full days to explore the various forest trails and micro sections within this fabulous forest block. Our accommodations are also wonderfully

positioned in the middle of the protected forest zone and we can expect a bounty of birds right from within the grounds and on the trails that begin from the retreat itself. This area can be excellent for Bocage's (Grey-green) and Lühder's Bushshrikes, Turner's Eremomela and even the local forest dwelling race of Southern Hyliota, which is occasionally split off as Kakamega Hyliota, the secretive White-spotted Flufftail, which we will make a concerted effort to see, skulking Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Great Blue Turaco, Stuhlmann's Starling, Grey-throated Barbet, Mackinnon's Shrike and Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat.

We will also spend time venturing out to different sections of the forest making use of a variety of trails where we will keep a sharp eye out for the uncommon but highly desirable Blue-headed Bee-eater. These sections can also be good for Turner's Eremomela while the highly localized Chapin's Flycatcher is



Grey-winged Robin-Chat by Keith Valentine

another of the forest's specials. We will also keep watching for mixed species flocks which can hold a wide variety of species including Blue Malkoha, Yellow-throated Leaflove, African Blue Flycatcher, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Pink-footed Puffback, a bevy of greenbuls including Kakamega, Anson's, Cabanis's, Slender-billed, Honeyguide, the rare Toro Olive and Joyful Greenbul, Brown-eared, Buff-spotted and Yellow-crested Woodpeckers, Dusky Tit, and Dark-backed and Brown-capped Weavers.

Other species we will also keep a lookout for will definitely include Crowned Eagle, Western Banded Snake Eagle, African Goshawk, Grey Parrot (now rare in Kakamega), Black-billed



Turaco, African Emerald and Black Cuckoos, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Yellow-billed, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Thick-billed Honeyguide and Cassin's Honeybird, African Broadbill, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, African Shrike-flycatcher, Brown-throated, Chestnut, Jameson's and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes (the last two mentioned species are absolute stunners!), White-chinned and Black-faced Prinias, Buff-throated and the beautiful Black-throated Apalis, Green Hylia, Uganda Woodland Warbler (much easier to find here than in Uganda!), beautiful but shy Grey-chested Babbler, White-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas, stunning Red-headed Bluebill, Black-crowned Waxbill, Black-billed and Vieillot's Black Weavers, Red-headed Malimbe and Olive Sunbird.



Black-faced Rufous Warbler by Daniel Danckwerts

Another feature of Kakamega is the ant swarms, which can often be extremely productive given the number of shy species that can be often be associated with them. White-tailed Ant Thrush, Brown-chested Alethe, Equatorial Akalat, Scaly-breasted and more rarely Pale-breasted and Brown Illadopsis are all possibilities.

Mammals we might find include the long-tailed Blue Monkey, Red-tailed Monkey and regal Guereza Colobus.

Day 4: Kakamega to Nairobi and depart. This morning we have another opportunity for some morning birding around Kakamega before we begin the drive back to Nairobi where our tour concludes.

