This Tanzania Mega Birding Tour is one of the ultimate African birding adventures, and has been specifically designed to take in the entire range of sought-after forest endemics that Tanzania has to offer! Our tour kicks off with an exploration of the nearby Pemba Island, home to four species of endemics that include Pemba Scops Owl, Pemba White-eye, Pemba Sunbird and Pemba Green Pigeon. The lush forests of the impressive Eastern Arc Mountains are home to an amazing array of highly localised specials. Gems such as Winifred’s (Mrs Moreau’s) Warbler, Loveridge’s Sunbird, Usambara Akalat, Usambara Weaver, Spot-throat and Fischer’s Turaco are just a few of the wonderful species that
we will be searching for. We will also take time to track down the elusive and recently discovered Udzungwa Forest Partridge — a species that shares close affinities with partridges from Asia — and another rare bird, the splendid Rufous-winged Sunbird.

Other fabulous endemics and regional specialities include Amani Sunbird, Kretschmer’s Longbill, Uluguru Bushshrike, Iringa Akalat, and Olive-flanked Ground Robin, together with a bunch of recently described species that include Kilombero and White-tailed Cisticolas and Kilombero Weaver.

### THE ITINERARY

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THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

Day 1: Arrival Dar es Salaam. This afternoon you will be met at the airport and will immediately transfer to the hotel in Dar es Salaam for an overnight stay.

Day 2: Dar es Salaam to Pemba Island. This morning, we will be on the early flight to Pemba Island. The island is a great beach holiday destination and has some remarkable reefs where scuba diving, in particular, is very popular. We will mainly bird the north-west corner of the island for the four endemics, with Ngezi Forest being the prime location. A couple of endemics, such as the Pemba White-eye and Pemba Sunbird, are common in all habitats throughout the island; while the Pemba Scops Owl and the Pemba Green Pigeon prefer the well-forested areas, as well as clove plantations. We will also keep a
lookout for the endemic subspecies of African Goshawk, African Paradise Flycatcher and Olive Sunbird, as well as Java Sparrow, which was introduced and can be particularly difficult to find in its native country.

The sandy beaches here are good areas for waders. The strange Crab-plover, a pied shorebird that is placed in its own monotypic family, can sometimes be seen striding the beaches. Other waders include Greater Sand Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Common Ringed Plover and Whimbrel. Dimorphic Egrets are fairly common and the sandbars are the best areas to find roosting terns – including Swift, Lesser Crested, Gull-billed, the diminutive Saunder’s and Common. A number of gulls are also present, with Sooty, Lesser Black-backed and Grey-hooded Gulls being regularly encountered. Pied and House Crows dominate the avifauna on the island; while other good species to watch out for include Dickinson’s Kestrel, Brown-headed Parrot, Mangrove Kingfisher and Palm-nut Vulture. A small wetland nearby hosts a good variety of waterfowl, and amongst others we may see African Pygmy Goose and White-backed Duck.

**Day 3: Pemba Island to Morogoro via Dar es Salaam.** This morning, we depart this tropical island for the Tanzanian capital once again. After arrival on the mainland, we transfer to our waiting four-wheel-drive vehicles and begin the journey towards Morogoro – a small and rather dilapidated town at the base of the Uluguru Mountains. Leaving Dar es Salaam, the drive takes us through heavily cultivated areas, where common Tanzanian roadside species such as Dark Chanting Goshawk, Lizard Buzzard and Black-winged Kite can be seen on exposed perches. Other easily-seen species include Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Village Weaver and Speckled Mousebird. We expect to arrive in Morogoro in the late afternoon. Birding around our hotel grounds can be interesting, and we will keep a lookout for the handsome Brown-breasted Barbet.

**Days 4 & 5: Uluguru Mountains.** Today will be an early start as we leave the town of Morogoro for the high forests of the Ulugurus. We will depart with four-wheel-drive vehicles for our initial climb up the mountain; however, the vehicles can go only so far, and we will climb the rest of the way to enable access to good primary forest. Most of the lower slopes have unfortunately been deforested; however, there are still large tracts of unspoiled forests on the higher ground of the mountains. While
walking in the open areas on the way up, we will keep our eyes open for White-eared Barbet, Angola Swallow and Bertram’s Weaver. Our key target this morning is the rare and elusive Uluguru Bushshrike, which is endemic to these mountains – it is an endangered and shy bird that is a mega in every sense of the word. Other great forest species that we may encounter here include Fülleborn’s Boubou, Sharpe’s Akalat, Green Barbet, Moustached Tinkerbird, Usambara Weaver, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Chapin’s and the beautiful White-winged Apalis, stunning Bar-tailed Trogon and the outrageous Green-headed Oriole. After having our packed lunch, we will return to our vehicles and take a drive to our camp, situated in a different area of the Ulugurus. We will be camping at Bunduki Camp for the next two nights, which gives us excellent access to prime montane forest on the Uluguru Mountains, where a number of severely range-restricted species can be found.

The following morning, we will take an all-day hike up into the forest. Here our main targets will include the tricky Uluguru Greenbul – this mountain greenbul is often split – and beautiful Winifred’s Warbler. Patience and a dose of good luck will be needed to track down these elusive species. The forest edge and bush will also provide us with some superb birds, and we are likely to encounter Southern Citril, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Variable Sunbird, Blue-spotted Wood Dove and Bar-throated Apalis, amongst others.

Forest patches in the area also provide us with good chances of Livingstone’s Turaco, Red-capped Forest Warbler, White-chested Alethe, African Hill Babbler and Red-faced Crimsonwing. We found a roosting Spotted Eagle-Owl here on our 2017 tour.

**Day 6: Ulugurus to Iringa via Mikumi NP.** We make our way down the Uluguru Mountains today and continue south on the drive to Iringa. En route we will keep a lookout for raptors, which may include Brown Snake Eagle and Bateleur. Other interesting species that are possible include the dazzling Lilac-breasted Roller, Giant Kingfisher, the sought-after Pale-billed Hornbill, Southern Ground Hornbill, White-crested Helmetshrike, endemic Ashy Starling, Zanzibar, Black-winged and Yellow Bishops and White-
winged Widowbird – with orange shoulder patches of the distinctive subspecies *eques*. This is mainly a travel day, and we plan to arrive in Iringa in the early evening.

**Day 7: Iringa and day trip to Uluti Forest (West Udzungwa Mountains).** In 1983, a new and very distinctive species of sunbird, Rufous-winged Sunbird, was discovered here. This morning, we travel to the scarp forest at Uluti. Here we have our best opportunity of seeing this key endemic. This beautiful species enjoys feeding on the flowers of several tree species which prefer the edges of clearings, and we will spend some time in these areas, giving us our best chance to track down this rarity. Other notable species occurring here include the highly elusive Dapple-throat, Swynnerton’s Robin, Orange Ground Thrush, Iringa Akalat, Mountain Buzzard, White-winged Apalis and Scarce Swift. In marshy areas nearby, we may find Churring Cisticola and Forest Double-collared Sunbird.

**Day 8: Iringa to West Udzungwa Mountains.** Some early morning birding around our lodge may produce Grey-olive Greenbul, Miombo Double-collared Sunbird and Brimstone Canary. Shortly after a hearty breakfast, we will depart to the remote West Udzungwa Mountains.

Once we leave the main road, a scenic drive will take us further and further from civilisation to the remote wilderness of this endemic hotspot. Species we may encounter during the drive include Black-collared Barbet, Purple-crested Turaco, White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike, White-bellied Tit, Trilling and Short-winged Cisticolas, Yellow-throated Greenbul, Red-winged Warbler, Bronzy Sunbird, Yellow-throated Petronia, Purple Indigobird, Jameson’s Firefinch, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Reichard’s Seedeater and Cabanis’s Bunting.

The Udzungwa National Park protects at least 1,900 square kilometres of montane forest and grassland in Tanzania’s Eastern Arc range. This area is extremely remote, and very few people have ever ventured into this region. It is for this very reason that a number of extremely localised species have been found to occur in these forests. As recently as 1991, the Udzungwa Forest Partridge was discovered (initially in a researcher’s bowl of stew!) and, interestingly, it is believed that its closest relatives are found in south-east Asia. This mega special will form the basis of our focus while exploring the West Udzungwa...
forests, and we will need a good deal of luck and patience to find it, as the partridge is rather shy.

A variety of other highly localised endemics also occur in these remote mountains, and while searching for the partridge we should come across a number of them. The next three nights will be spent at our camp high up in the remote West Udzungwa Mountains. We will have a special team of porters who will set up our camp in the forest and carry up all of our necessities. Being so remote, there are no trails in existence and the knowledge of the locals is essential – often the best way through the forest is to find an old Elephant path!

Our departure today will be early, as we have a fairly long drive and then long walk to reach our target area – the afternoon will be spent on the hike in. Most of the walking on our hike will be through scrubby deforested areas, with the primary forests only being reached in the afternoon. Birds that we will be on the lookout for on the walk include African Black Duck, Mountain Buzzard, the elusive Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk and majestic Crowned Eagle overhead. In the surrounding scrub, we will watch for Brown-headed Apalis, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, dazzling Malachite Sunbird, Baglafecht Weaver, Red-collared Widowbird, shy Red-faced Crimsonwing and localised Yellow-browed Seedeater. We should arrive at our campsite in the late afternoon.

**Days 9 & 10: West Udzungwa Mountains - Camp 1.** We have two full days to explore the various forest patches and forest edge. Our time will be focused on searching for the mega Udzungwa Forest Partridge. The forests in this area are generally quiet; but despite this, a number of other very special birds can be found. This area will also provide us with the chance of finding the rare Kipengere Seedeater. The mornings are generally the most productive for birding, and we will attempt to track down some of the serious skulkers that inhabit these forests, such as the rare Dapple-throat, Sharpe’s Akalat, Spot-throat and Lemon Dove. Other great birds include a number of flock-associated species, such as Moreau’s Sunbird, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Olive Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Grey Cuckooshrike, Bartailed Trogon, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Shelley’s and Yellow-streaked Greenbuls, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Dark Batis and Chapin’s and Black-headed Apalises. The forest edge is often home to Black-lored Cisticola and Waller’s and Slender-billed Starlings. An evening excursion may produce
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African Wood Owl and Ruwenzori Nightjar. Mammals we may encounter in the Udzungwas include the highly localised Iringa Red Colobus.

Day 11: West Udzungwa Mountains - Camp 2. Today we transfer to another camp for the night. The walk out will take considerable time, but we will look for species we may not have seen. For a pleasant change from tough interior forest birding, we’ll take a short drive through surrounding woodland in the afternoon. This can be particularly productive, and our prime target will be the localised Uhehe Fiscal. Other species we may see include Harlequin Quail, Dusky Turtle Dove, Moustached Tinkerbird, Marsh Tchagra (sometimes split as Anchieta’s), Tropical Boubou, Singing Cisticola, Brown Warbler, Cape Robin-Chat, African Firefinch and the mega Kipengere Seedeater.

Day 12: West to East Udzungwa Mountains. Today we will depart early on the long drive to the East Udzungwas. We will again have the chance to search for Uhehe Fiscal and Kipengere Seedeater on the way out. Travelling north, we pass through a wonderful Baobab Forest, and can stretch our legs and enjoy some open country birding. Species we may encounter here include impressive Martial Eagle, Mourning Collared Dove, Meyer’s Parrot, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Mottled Spinetail, Blue-naped Mousebird, Purple Roller, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked and D’Arnaud’s Barbets, Nubian Woodpecker, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Brown-crowned Tchagra, White-necked Raven, Red-faced Crombec, Western Violet-backed and Beautiful Sunbirds, Lesser Masked Weaver and Cut-throat Finch.

On nearing our destination, we will watch out for Black-and-white Flycatcher and the smart Livingstone’s Flycatcher. We should arrive in the afternoon for a rest and overnight stay at the Udzungwa Guest House.

Day 13: Udzungwa Mountains to Kilombero Floodplain and transfer to Mikumi NP. Leaving the splendour of the Udzungwa Mountains behind, we depart for another exciting location, the Kilombero River floodplain. This lovely area has become famous as recently as 1986, when a survey team located three new species to science, namely: White-tailed Cisticola, Kilombero Cisticola and Kilombero Weaver.

These species are confined to the floodplain area of the Kilombero River. After a morning’s
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birding in search of these specials, we may commence on a dugout canoe trip on the Kilombero River (depends on boat availability). Species we may see here include flocks of African Openbill, Glossy Ibis, Pink-backed and Great White Pelicans, Black Heron, Palm-nut Vulture and Red-necked Falcon overhead, Water Thick-knee, White-crowned and African Wattled Lapwings along with African Skimmer on the sandbars, Coppery-tailed Coucal, delightful White-fronted Bee-eater, Red-winged Warbler, and many seedeaters, including Red-headed Quelea, Orange-breasted Waxbill and Magpie Mannikin. In the afternoon, we make our way to the broad-leaved woodlands of Mikumi National Park, with chances of Green Tinkerbird en route.

Day 14: Mikumi National Park. We have a full day to explore this fabulous reserve. This park is home to numerous broad-leaved and miombo specialities, including Brown-necked Parrot, African Barred Owlet, Böhm’s Spinetail, Racket-tailed Roller, Pale-billed Hornbill, elusive Speckle-throated Woodpecker, Cinnamon-breasted Tit, Stierling’s Wren-Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Miombo Blue-eared Starling, Kurrichane Thrush, Bearded Scrub Robin, Arnot’s Chat, Pale Flycatcher, Hofmann’s Sunbird (recently split from Shelley’s) and Red-headed Weaver. Other species we may see in the park include Crested Barbet, Brown-backed Honeybird, Red-throated Wryneck, Golden-tailed and Green-backed Woodpeckers, Croaking Cisticola, Neddicky, Yellow-bellied Eremomela and Northern Pied Babbler. Mammals around our comfortable lodge may include Small-eared Galago, Porcupine, African Civet, Blotched Genet, Gambian Giant Pouched Rat and Honey Badger. The lovely Yellow-headed Dwarf Gecko is often seen around the restaurant.

Day 15: Mikumi National Park to Amani (East Usambaras). From Mikumi, we will head north towards the East Usambaras, which hold a number of special and unique species. En route we will have the opportunity to look for Bohm’s Bee-eater, and at a forest patch nearing Amani, we will have a chance of finding Kretschmer’s Longbill. The forest in the area of Amani has been severely reduced by vast tea estates and is now mostly restricted to the tops of the mountains. Fortunately, the remaining area has been declared a nature reserve and this is the area that we will focus our efforts on. Bird-life still abounds here, and we will
spend the following two days exploring this wonderful part of Tanzania.

**Days 16 & 17: Amani (East Usambaras).**

Our days will be spent birding the various forested habitats through the East Usambaras in search of some of the extremely localised species that lurk here. The highly endangered Long-billed Forest Warbler will be one of our biggest targets, as this is one of the last remaining areas where the bird can be found with some regularity. The Amani Sunbird, which is known and named from the area, is rather scarce here, especially when compared to its relative abundance in coastal Kenya.

There are a number of other localised and range-restricted birds that we will be on the lookout for, which include Kretschmer’s Longbill, Green-headed Oriole, Fischer’s Turaco, Uluguru Violet-backed and Banded Green Sunbirds, Sharpe’s Akalat and the rare and little-known Usambara Hyliota.

We will make a couple of night excursions in order to have a shot at locating the scarce Usambara Eagle-Owl. A large assortment of other great birds could easily add to the spectacle, and include Mottled Spinetail, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Green Barbet, Scaly-throated and Pallid Honeyguides, African Broadbill, Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Lowland Tiny Greenbul, Little Yellow Flycatcher, the distinctive *distans* race of Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Black-bellied Starling, Red-tailed Rufous Thrush, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Plain-backed Sunbird and Red-throated Twinspot. The scenery here is fantastic, and while enjoying the views of the surrounding landscape, we will watch out for a number of raptors that could include Black Sparrowhawk, Ayres’s Hawk-Eagle, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, African Goshawk and even the majestic Crowned Eagle could come cruising past.

**Day 18: Amani to Lushoto (West Usambaras).**

The West Usambaras rise a fair bit higher than the mountains in the east; and with this resultant altitudinal change, we can expect some different species. Our accommodation is comfortable and we will enjoy a two-night stay in this wonderful part of the Eastern Arc Mountains.

En route to Lushoto, we’ll have a final chance to search for some species we may not have seen, including the elusive Green Tinkerbird. Other species we will search for include Mottled Swift, Zanzibar...
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Day 19: Lushoto (West Usambara). The West Usambaras are also home to some similar species found on the East Usambaras; however, certain other specials are also present. We will spend the day birding in the lush forests above Lushoto. One of the best areas to search for the West Usambara specials is the famous Magamba Sawmill Road.

Topping the list of specialties is the rare Usambara Weaver, and the rather non-descript Usambara Akalat. The weaver tends to associate with mixed species flocks; while the akalat spends much of the time hiding in dark spots among the leaf litter.

We will put in a fair amount of effort in attempting to track these two rare birds down. While birding for the specials, we will be on a constant lookout for any signs of activity, and hope to locate other tricky forest species – that include Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Hartlaub’s Turaco, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Montane Tiny, Stripe-faced and Mountain Greenbuls (the latter sub-species usambareae), Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, endemic Red-capped Forest Warbler, shy Spot-throat, Kenrick’s Starling, Usambara Thrush (recently split from Olive Thrush), White-chested Alethe, Usambara Double-collared Sunbird and smart Oriole Finch.

Day 20: Lushoto to Same. Today we leave the forests behind and drive into the drier lowlands of Tanzania. Birding stops on our drive off the Usambaras can be interesting, and we could find Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Black-throated Barbet, Pygmy Batis, Pringle’s Puffback, Pink-breasted Lark, Dodson’s Bulbul, Mosque Swallow, Tiny Cisticola, Red-fronted Apalis, Grey Wren-Warbler, elusive Scaly Chatterer, Golden-breasted and Fischer’s Starlings, Bare-eyed Thrush, Eastern Violet-backed, Hunter’s and Tsavo Sunbirds, Yellow-spotted Petronia,

Our lunch stop near the Pangani River may produce African Pygmy Kingfisher, Northern Brownbul, rare Black-bellied Sunbird and sought-after Taveta Weaver.

Before reaching Same, we will make a detour in order to track down the local endemic South Pare White-eye – which is only found on these mountains. The road to reach the habitat can be rather difficult going, but once in the area, we should find our target amongst some other interesting species, including Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, White-bellied Tit, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Bar-throated Apalis, Abyssinian White-eye, White-starred Robin, African Firefinch, Reichenow’s Seedeater and Southern Grosbeak Canary.

**Day 21: Same to Arusha.** The morning will be spent birding the extremely productive bush country around Same. Many of the species in this habitat are very conspicuous and confiding, especially when compared to the tough forest birding that we have become accustomed to. Purple Roller, Von der Decken’s Hornbill, and Red-bellied Parrot are often seen perched on prominent, exposed branches. A number of real specials are also found in this habitat, and we hope to encounter White-headed Mousebird, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit and Acacia Tit.

An excursion to a nearby reservoir may produce numerous waterbird species, along with surrounding dry country species. Interesting species seen in the area include Black-faced Sandgrouse, Northern Crombec, Parrot-billed Sparrow and Black-faced Waxbill. Thereafter, we will travel to Arusha and make our way to Kilimanjaro International Airport, where the tour will conclude.
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:
Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 21;
- Bottled drinking water throughout;
- All lodgings during the tour including tents for camping;
- All ground transportation during the tour in 4x4 safari-style landcruisers;
- All national park and other reserve entrance fees; and
- Gratuities for hotel & camp staff, drivers and porters;
- Local Tanzanian driver/guide/s and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

This excludes:
- ANY Airfares (see above);
- Visa fees;
- Beverages or other drinks;
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement:
The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.
b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.
c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and/or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, etc) are included on this tour. However, this does not include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.
Please note:

- Our Mega tours are fast-paced birding adventures designed for the dedicated lister and serious birder. The focus of the tour is to see as many of the endemics and area specials as possible in the time given and this requires a demanding schedule!
- Expect long days, some with long drives, with early starts and late finishes.
- Frequently we may be walking on narrow and/or steep trails that can get even more strenuous if it should rain. There are 5 days when the walking will be demanding and this requires good fitness.
- Only birders in good health should attempt this tour. We will be birding in some remote parts of this beautiful land far away from medical facilities. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions, please communicate with the office regarding the suitability of you doing the tour.
- There are a number of nights camping on this tour. Accommodation is on ground-level mattresses in dome tents and will be prepared and set up by experienced camp staff. When camping, ablutions include sitting toilets and hot bucket showers are provided everywhere except in the Udekwa area.
- Dining while camping is in a mess tent with tables and stools. Very good, wholesome and filling meals will be prepared by a chef that is part of the touring party.
- To ensure your comfort and that of your companions, please limit yourself to one medium-sized suitcase or duffel bag (20 kg) and one carry-on bag, as space in the vehicles are limited and on the flight to Pemba Island the cost of excess baggage will be expensive.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:
Day 1 is assigned as an arrival day in Dar es Salaam and you are free to arrive at any time on this day. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel in Dar es Salaam for an overnight stay. The tour will conclude by mid-afternoon in Arusha on day 21, unless you opt to join the Mega extension.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:
Julius Nyerere International Airport, Dar es Salaam (IATA: DAR) is the main port of entry for this tour, while Kilimanjaro International Airport, Arusha (IATA: JRO) is the main port of departure. KLM offers the most reliable and regular routes via Amsterdam, for North America and European travellers, to this airport. Kenya Airways also offer regular flights from London, via Nairobi to JRO and return. Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.