



## **Remote River Expeditions**

### **ETHIOPIA**

#### **Birds of Ethiopia**

15 days/14 nights (by car)

Code EFS 216

Day 1: Arrive Addis Ababa. Overnight stay at Ghion Hotel

Day 2: Addis- Addis offers you a variety of birds ,White-backed black tit & Brown tit. warblers are expected to be seen at the hotel extensive gardens.After noon, drive to Gefersa wet land or Mt Entoto that overlooks the town which will give the opportunity for diverse bird life.Entoto is especially believed to be home for 200 bird species and can expect the Abyssinian wood pecker,Abyssinian catbird,wattled Ibis(endemic),Moorland Francolin,white-collared Pigeon,Black-winged Lovebird,White-cheeked Turaco,mountain Nightjar,banded Barbet,White-winged Cliff Chat,Abyssinian Ground Thrush,Brownparisoma,White-backed Black Tit,Abyssinian Black-headed Oriole and White-billed Starling.In addition the area gives great viewing for 5 species of vultures including Lammergayer as well as various eagles and hawks.Return to your hotel . O/N Ghion Hotel.

Day 3: Leave early morning to Debre libanos and NileGorge (about 110 km) from Addis-through the Sululta plain .En route we expect to see black -winged and spot-breasted plover,watled ibis,blue-winged goose,Rouget's rail ,Abyssinian long claw,Abyssinian catbird,Common crane and Wheat ear.This plain is the only known location in Ethiopia for the rare White-winged Fluftail. A small off road drives will take us to the dramatic and attractive 200mts Aleltu Falls,where one can see White-billed Starling,Ruppel's Chat,Bearded Vulture,Verreaux's eagle,Lanner and peregrine Falcon. On arrival at Debre libanos ,stop at Jemma river Gorge that flows to the blue Nile.The gorge that drops nearly 1km, gives the chance to see the Banded Barbet,black -headed Forest Oriole,White-billed Starling,Red-billed Starling,White-Winged Cliff chat,White-Backed Black Tit ,White-cheeked Turaco,Montane White-eye,Abyssinian longclaw,Abyssinian Catbird and Hemprich's Hornbill.One of Ethiopia's endemic mammals, the Gelada or bleeding heart baboon are also seen in the Gorge.A variety of Vultures-Lamergayer's,Ruppell's Lappet Faced Vultures are not uncommon in the Gorge.Drive back to Addis early evening. O/N Ghion htl

Day 4: Early morning drive to the rift heading south-.En route we will be birding ,stopping at Koka Dam and the Awash River and then at lake Ziway for lunch. On lake Ziway lake shore, huge numbers of water birds are congregated.African Pygmy Geese,Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks,Collared Pratincoles,Lesser and Greater Jacanas,African Jacanas,White Pelicans,Fish Eagles,Crowned and Common Cranes are seen in numbers.Leave to Bishangari for overnight. O/N Bishangari Lodge



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Day 5: Bishangari-which means 'Sweet water' in Oromo Dialect is situated adjacent to an ancient forest that remains intact due to inaccessibility and it is blessed with five ecological zones (Dry Pumice Rock, Lake & Beach, Wetlands, Forest and Accacia Shrub). More than 300 birds retreated for its conducive and undisturbed nature, we can expect in the area Cliff chat, Nightingale, Warblers, Flycatcher, Laughing Dove, Wood Owl, Abyssinian Nightjar, Glossy Ibis and Silver Bill. Exceptionally rare "Gologo", previously found in Zanzibar and Senegal has been discovered on early morning of October, 2001, bushy tailed Squirrels, Anubis Baboon, Vervet Monkey can be seen not far from the Lodge. O/N Bishangari Lodge

Day 6: After an early break fast, drive to Shalla and Abijata National Park. Shalla, 270 mts in depth, the deepest in Ethiopian rift, is an important birding site for birds on its four of the nine islands. We have to drive through the Ostrich Farms on the west of the main road and then proceed to Abijata lake, where thousands of both lesser and greater Flamingo's congregate along the shores. African Pochard, Avocet, Gull-billed Tern and Pintail, little Stint, Ruff and a variety of ducks are among other species to be seen. Drive to Wondo Genet (There is naturally heated open air pool) set among forested hills. In the gardens of the hotel and juniper Forests behind the hotel, we will see the silvery-cheeked Hornbill, White-cheeked Turaco, and Yellow-fronted Parrot, Black-headed Forest Oriole, golden-backed Woodpecker, Red wing Starling, Grosbeak Weaver, Mountain Wagtail and Black-roughing Swallow. We can also see Colobus monkey, Anubis baboon and Bushbuck. O/N Wondo Genet Lodge

Day 7: Leave to Awassa- which is a half hour drive from Wondo Genet. Lake Awassa is rich in bird life. Along the shores of the lake and in the adjoining forest we can expect Saddlebill and Marabou Storks, Malakite king Fisher, Spur-winged plover, pygmy goose, Brown snake eagle, grey Kestrel, Green-backed Honeyguide, Blue-headed Coucal, Spotted Creeper, African Firefinch, Bruce's Green pigeon, Red-breasted Wryneck, Bare-faced Go away bird and the endemic Yellow-fronted Parrot, Black-winged Lovebird and Black-headed Forest oriole. O/N Wabe Shebelle#1

Day 8: Before leaving Awassa to Bale National Park, we stop by the Fish Market beside the lake for Great photo opportunities. Bale national park is rich in diverse habitats and Endemism. So far 20 endemic Birds are registered in the Park where 14 are shared with Eritrea. It has the largest Afro-Alpine habitat in Africa. We stop at Dinsho, Head Quarter of the park where the main concentration of the Endemic Mountain Nyala is found. In addition we can also see the endemic Menelik's Bushbuck, Grey Duicker and Warthog. As elsewhere in the park we can see here the spot-breasted plover, Rouget's Rail, Thick-billed Raven, Blue-winged Lovebird. O/N Goba Wabe Shebelle



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Day 9: Leave your Hotel for full day excursion on Sanetti Plateau and the Hareenna Forest. The Plateau is a nice place to see the Endemic Semien Wolf and the huge rodent population, including the Endemic giant Mole rat. The rare wattled Crane is often seen, while there are a good number of Spot-breasted plover. Drive across the plateau and then descend the escarpment to the Hareenna Forest. The forest supports a woodland avi-fauna including the African cuckoo Hawk, Yellow-fronted parrot and Brown-backed Honeyguide. Wildlife includes klipspringer, Serval Cat, Bushpig, Giant Forest Hog, Grey Duiker, Colobus Monkey, Lion and Leopard, although visitors are less likely to see the latter two. Return back to your hotel. O/N Goba Wabe Shebelle

Day 10: Drive from Goba to Sof Omar, through Robe and Goro. Sof Omar caves a 16 km limestone caverns has been carved by the web river that starts its course from the bale highlands. Abyssinian Scimitar bill, Brown-tailed Rock-Chat, Northern Grey Tit, Salvadori's Seed eater can be found in the valley (or above) at Sof Omar. O/N Goba

Day 11: Drive to Sodere, a hot springs resort which stretches along the Banks of the River Awash. Though Sodere is frequented for its hot spa by addis week enders, the Awash River and the fringing riparian forest offers an excellent birding. O/N Sodere Wabe Shabelle

Day 12: Drive to Bilen Lodge, Passing Nazret, Beseka Lake (Supposed to have good water-birds) and Awash National Park. Outside the boundaries of Awash park, the area shares the same habitats with grassland, savannah and wetlands. Over 460 species of bird have been recorded in this area including: the Abyssinian Roller, Abyssinian Ground Horn bill, the endemic White-tailed Swallow, Buff Crested Bustard, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Pygmy Falcon, Honey Guide, Woodland Kingfisher, Kori and Arabian Butared, Black-Shouldered Kite, White and Crowned Rosy Patch Shrike, Caramine Bee Eater, Orange-billed Parrot, Lilac Breasted Roller, Lappet faced and ruppell's Vulture. we can also see a variety of different animals, including Greater and Lesser Kudu, wart hog, Dik Dik, Gerenuk, Menelik's Bushbuck, Soemmering gazelle, Hammaderyas Baboons. O/N Bilen Lodge

Day 13: Leave early for Fantalle Crater Birding, around Awash Palm Springs. It takes nearly 3 hours to get to the crater rim which is possible only with 4x4 WD. Look for Rüppell's Vulture, Black-billed Barbet, Tawny Pipit, Sombre Rock-Chat, Boran Cisticola, Scarlet-chested & Shining Sunbird, Somali Chestnut-winged Starling, Yellow-throated Serin near crater, and Gillett's Lark at base. Drive back to Bilen. O/N Bilen Lodge



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Day 14: Return to Addis. If get to Awash early, spend day birding south of the main road. The riverine forest round at the campsite is a productive birding area, with plenty of Palearctic warblers including Olivaceous & Upcher's warblers, Speke's Weaver, Ethiopian Cliff Swallow, Star-spotted & Nubian Nightjars & Little Owl. Set off back to Addis Ababa, with a lunch stop in Debre Zeit. We can take in at least one of the Crater lakes for birding Maccoa Duck, Cape Teal, Red-billed Duck. Back to Addis and O/N Ghion Hotel

Day 15: City tour and free afternoon for shopping. In the evening, departure.

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### *Birding by Air / Car*

15 days/14 nights

Code: EFS 217

Day 1: Arrive to Addis. O/at Ghion hotel.

Day 2: Leave Addis Ababa early in the morning for Awash National Park. On the way we make a stop at Chalkalka wetland. Here we expect to see, the white backed Duck, Knob-billed Duck, Tufted Duck, Little stint, African spoon bill, Yellow billed stork, common and crowned cranes, White-winged Black Tern, Dark chanting Goshawk, Lesser spotted Eagle, Lesser Masked Weaver, Red throated pipit and some others are expected to be seen. Then we will again have a short stop at Lake Hora for more birding. Lunch will be at Nazereth. After lunch proceeding to Awash national park, one of the best birding sites in Ethiopian Rift valley. Overnight in Lodge at Awash

Day 3: Full day in Awash national park and here we are expecting to see the Arabian Bustard, Kori Bustard, White bellied Bustard, the Rosy-patched Shrike, Swallow-tailed Kite, Bristle crowned starling, Grey-headed and sulphur Breasted Bush shrike, Gabar Goshawk, Shikra, Crested Francoline, common and Harlequin Quail, Palm swife, Martial Eagle, different wood Doves, Yellow billed Horn bill, Singling bush Lark, Red-winged Bush Lark, Somali-Golden breasted Bunting, Grey-headed batis and some others are of the important birds .

Overnight stay in Awash.

Day 4: Driving to Wondo Genet, after lunch birding around Lake Ziway. The black-Heron, Lesser jacana, Lesser Moorhen, African pygmy Goose, Black-headed Gull, Great-Black headed Gull, Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Red-breasted Wryneck, Bearded Woodpecker, Beautiful sunbird, Woodland Kingfisher, Klaas's Cuckoo, Common snipe, little Ringed plover, Darter, Glossy Ibis, and Goliath Heron are one of the species are expecting to see around the lake. Then proceed to Wondo Genet. O/n Wondo Genet.



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Day 5: Full day in Wondo Genet, it is the site for some of the endemic birds like the Yellow-fronted parrot, Thick billed Raven, the Abyssinian Woodpecker and Banded Barbet. Moreover, We expect to see the Red - showdered and Black Cuckoo shrikes, Grey Cuckoo shrike, Narina's Trogon, Double-thoothed Barbet, Scally Honey Guide, Crowned Eagle, Arye's Hawk Eagle, Banded Wattle eye, Sharps starling, Broad billed Roller, Lemon Dove and Half-collard Kingfisher. O/n Goba.

Day 6: Full day birding in the Sanattie Plateau where we expect to see the Abyssinian Catbird, Abyssinian Woodpecker and the beautiful spot-breasted plover. The Wattled Crane, Moorland Francoline, Chestnut napped Francoline, cinnaman Bracken Warbler, Brown Woodland Warbler, Reddy shull Duck, African Snipe, Yellow bellied Waxbill, Olive pigeon, Mountain Buzzard, the Golden Eagle, different birds of prey, Slender billed and Somali Chestnut winged Starlings, Malachit sunbird, Thekla lark and many other mountain birds would be seen.

Day 7: Drive back to- Awassa and stay for two nights. Late afternoon birding around the hotel garden and along the Lakeshore. Overnight stay at Awassa

Day 8: Full day birding in and around Lake Awassa, the woodland near the lake is also so productive. The African pigmy kingfisher, Lesser moorhen, Grey Kestrel, Senegal Thicknee, Bruce's Green pigeon, Hadada Ibis, Grosbeak Weaver, Banded Snake Eagle, Giant Kingfisher, Lesser Swamp warbler, Black-headed Batis, Violet backed starling, the spotted Creeper, purple Gallenue, African Harrier Hawk, African Thrush, Little Weaver and Irania are among the birds found here. Overnight stay in Awassa.

Day 9: Driving to Addis Ababa, on the way birding at the Abijata-Shala Lakes National Park. This is one of the best birding sites in the lakes region. Overnight stay in Addis.

Day 10: In the morning drive to Geferssa reservoir. Here, we expect to see some of the endemic birds like the Wattled Ibis, Rouget's Rail, Black-headed Siskin, Abyssinian Long claw, the White collared pigeon and Blue-winged Goose. The African-black Duck, Ortolan Bunting, Red-breasted Wheater, the Three-banded Plover, African Marsh Harrier and African Fish Eagle are one of the species that we do see this afternoon. Overnight stay in Addis

Day 11: Fly to Bahir Dar, in the afternoon birding around Lake Tana and the Bezawit Palace. Lake Tana area is one of the best birding sites of the northwestern, part of the country. The open bill stork, Saddle bill stork, Crowned Crane, Eastern Grey Plantain eater, Giant Kingfisher, Osprey, Great Black-headed Gull, Little and Yellow billed Egret, Black-winged Love-bird, Red-eyed Dove, Glossy Ibis, and different birds of prey would expected here. Overnight stay in Bahir Dar Hotel.



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Day 12: Morning drive to the magnificent "Blue Nile Falls", The White throated Serine, Black-billed Wood Hoopoe, Red winged starling, Black-chaste Snake Eagle, Beautiful and Tacaze Sunbirds, Banded Barbet, Augur Buzzard, Tawny Eagle, Blue-eared Glossy starling, Ruppel's long-tailed starling, Wattle Ibis, Red-billed Oxpecker, White-backed Vulture, Rappel's Griffon Vulture, Carmine Bee-eater, Blue breasted Bee-eater and some others are one of the birds that we will see this morning. Then, drive back to Bahir Dar for Lunch.

Afternoon there will be a boat trip on Lake Tana. Overnight stay in a Hotel at Bahir Dar.

Day 13: Fly back to Addis Ababa. Overnight stay in Addis.

Day 14: Early start for Debre Libanose monastery, about 110 km north of Addis Ababa via Sululta plain. The Red-rumped Swallow, pectoral-patched cisticola and Black winged Lapwing are some of the birds that we are seeing along the road. Around the Monastery we will see the endemics like the Black-headed forest Oriole, White-billed starling, the Ruppell's chat and White-backed Black Tit. The Lammergier, Verreaux's Eagle, Egyptian and White-backed Vultures, Lanner Falcon, Little Rock Thrush and Plain-backed pipt are seen at the escarpment. Late afternoon drive back to Addis-Ababa. Overnight stay in Addis.

Day 15: Departure.

### **ENDEMIC BIRDS OF ETHIOPIA**

19 days/18 nights

Code EFS 218

1. Addis-Awash
2. Awash
3. Langano
4. Wondo Genet
5. Wondo Genet
6. Bale
7. Sof Omer
8. Bale - Sanattie Plateau
9. Goba - Negelle
10. Negelle
11. Yabello
12. Awassa
13. A.A
14. A.A - Geferssa.
15. Debre Libanos - Lemi
16. Lemi - Jima Valley - Alem Ketema
17. Alem Ketema - D/ Birhan
18. Ankober - Addis
19. Addis,in the evening departure