



## CAMEROON: 26-DAY COMPLETE NORTH AND SOUTH

9 APRIL - 4 MAY 2020



**Standard-winged Nightjar** (photo Down Cowan) is one of our targets on this trip.

With towering peaks, rolling hills, dry Sahel habitat and primary forest Cameroon is awash with some of Africa's most sought-after regional endemics. The Cameroon Highlands is one of Africa's most endemic-rich areas, and we visit three of these amazing peaks, some still active volcanoes. **Grey-necked Rockfowl** (formerly Red-necked or Grey-headed Picathartes), a skulking forest species with only one other member in its family, is endemic to this area's lowland forest. This is one of the few places you can pick up all three species of African trogons. **Bannerman's Turaco**, one of the most range-restricted turacos in Africa, can be found in the Bamenda Highlands. With **Quail-plover**, **Egyptian Plover**, and **Golden Nightjar** all possible in the dry north, there are opportunities to see a wide range of some of Africa's most-desired birds. Cameroon is a third-world country, and top accommodations are not always available; some accommodations are fairly basic. There are also a few nights of camping in Korup National Park. There is some hiking in the mountains and through the forest to our camp in Korup, but the birds we'll see along the way are very rewarding.

### Itinerary (26 Days/25 nights):

#### Day 1. Arrival in Douala

Arrival at the Douala International Airport, reception and transfer to your hotel. We'll get dinner and brief you about the upcoming trip and then get rested up.

Overnight: Foyer du Marin, Douala

#### Days 2 - 4. Douala to the plateau of Adamawa

We'll fly from Douala to Garoua and drive to Ngaoundaba Ranch for three nights. We'll have a chance to do some birding around the lodge in the afternoon to look for the more common birds. The ranch is an old hunting lodge situated besides a dormant volcano overlooking a crater lake. We will bird in marsh land, open lake, woodland, and gallery forest. In all these habitats we hope to see **Marsh Tchagra**, **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**, **Dybowski's** and **Brown Twinspots**, **Schlegel's Francolin**, **Brown-chested Lapwing**, **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**, **Black-capped Babbler**, **Ross's Turaco**, **Grey-Winged Robin-Chat**, **Puvel's Illadopsis**, and many more.

Overnight: Auberge du Ranch of Ngaoundaba, Ngaoundere

#### Days 5 - 6. Birding in Bénoué National Park

We drive to Bénoué National Park while birding in the savanna woodland along the way. We hope to see **Lesser Blue-eared Starling**, **Senegal Parrot**, **Black-bellied Firefinch**, and many others. At Bénoué our accommodations are enclosed by a Miombo-like forest. Here we will expect to see **Adamawa Turtle Dove**, **White-Crested** and **Violet Turacos**, **Egyptian Plover**, **White-throated Francolin**, **Grasshopper Buzzard**, **Emin's Shrike**, and others.

Overnight: Campement de Buffle Noir, Bénoué National Park

#### Days 7 - 9. Birding in Waza National Park

After early morning birding we will have breakfast and continue up north to Waza National Park, where we will spend two nights. On the way we hope to see **Rock-loving Cisticola**, **White-crowned Cliff Chat**, **Red-tailed** and **Lavender Waxbills**, **Scissor-tailed Kite**, and others. While in Waza National Park the possibilities are **Chestnut-bellied** and **Four-banded**

**Sandgrouse, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Green Bee-eater, Black Scrub Robin, Vieillot's Barbet, Black Crowned Crane, River Prinia, Sahel Paradise Whydah,** and many more. A night drive may yield **Northern White-faced Owl** and **Long-tailed** and **Standard-winged Nightjars**, among others. In the afternoon of day 9 we will drive to Maroua for the night.

Overnight 2 nights: Campement de Waza, Waza National Park

Overnight 1 night: Maroua

### **Day 10. Travel Day**

We'll have an early breakfast and will depart from Maroua to Ngaoundere for an overnight train to Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital.

Overnight: Overnight train

### **Day 11. Travel Day**

We'll arrive in Yaoundé and continue to Bamenda.

Overnight: Mondial Hotel, Bamenda

### **Day 12. Birding Mankon Sacred Forest, travel to Mount Oku**

In the morning we'll visit Mankon Sacred Forest to explore this small patch of protected land. Here we have a chance for **Grey-headed Broadbill, Black-billed Weaver, Grey-headed Oliveback,** and **Copper** and **Green-throated Sunbirds,** as well as **Tropical Boubou, Brown-crowned Tchagra, White-throated Bee-eater, Lühder's Bushshrike,** and **Red-faced Cisticola.** From here we'll head north to the highlands, birding along the way near Lake Oku, where we have a chance for **Bannerman's Turaco, African Stonechat, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Grey Apalis, Little Grebe, Chubb's Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Boubou, White-headed Wood Hoopoe,** and **Mountain Robin-Chat.**

Overnight: Njotin

### **Day 13. Birding Mount Oku**

Today we will hike Mount Oku. The trail here is steep but through some great forest. We'll have another chance for the range-restricted **Bannerman's Weaver** and **Bannerman's Turaco** as well as for **Black-capped Woodland Warbler, Northern Double-collared Sunbird, Black-collared Apalis, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Dusky** and **Yellow-footed Flycatchers, Bangwa Forest Warbler, Western** and **Cameroon Olive Bulbuls,** plus many other highland birds.

Overnight: Njotin

### **Day 14. Birding Lake Awing, transfer to Mount Kupe**

Today we drive to Lake Awing, where we'll have a chance to bird for **Banded Wattle-eye, Bamenda Apalis,** both **Bannerman's Turaco** and **Bannerman's Weaver, Bates's Weaver, Oriole Finch, Bangwa Forest Warbler, Mountain Sooty Boubou, African Green Pigeon, Yellow Bishop, Pectoral-patch Cisticola, Thick-billed Seedeater,** and more. After lunch we'll drive to Nyasoso; we will arrive in the afternoon and, if possible, will be able to do some evening birding at the foot of Mount Kupe.

Overnight: Women's Centre, Nyasoso



**Days 15 - 16. Birding Mount Kupe and the Bakossi Mountains**

We'll have two days here to explore Mt. Kupe and the Bakossi Mountains. We are expecting to see **Naked-faced Barbet**, **Spotted Greenbul**, **Chestnut Wattle-eye**, **Brown-crowned Eremomela**, **White-spotted Flufftail**, **African Emerald Cuckoo**, **Black-throated Apalis**, **African Harrier-Hawk**, **Red-eyed Puffback**, **Red-necked Buzzard**, **Mount Kupe Bushshrike**, **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike**, **Grey Parrot**, **Mountain Sooty Boubou**, **Grey-headed Broadbill**, and many more.

Overnight: Bakossi

**Day 17. Transfer to Mundemba**

We start the drive to Korup National Park with some stops along the way in a number of forested areas, looking for **Red-tailed Greenbul**, **Black Cuckoo**, **Olive-green Camaroptera**, **Lesser Bristlebill**, **Elliot's Woodpecker**, and **Preuss's Cliff Swallow**. When we arrive in Mundemba at our accommodations we'll have some time to relax in the evening. **Bates's Swift** has been seen circling our inn, so we'll need to keep an eye out for this infrequent species.

Overnight: Boseme Inn, Mundemba

**Days 18 - 19. Birding Korup National Park**

We have to wake up early for breakfast, after which we start our hike to our camp in Korup National Park. We go birding at the Mana footbridge and continue hiking up to Rengo Camp through pristine lowland forest. We'll break for lunch at the camp, and later in the afternoon we'll visit the Picathartes Knoll, quietly searching for **Grey-necked Rockfowl**. Then we return to the camp for dinner and some night birding. We expect to see **Green Hylia**, **Icterine Greenbul**, **Brown Illadopsis**, **Great Blue Turaco**, **Blue Cuckooshrike**, **Fire-crested Alethe**, **Black-capped Illadopsis**, **White-browed Forest Flycatcher**, **Bare-cheeked Trogon**, **Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher**, **Western Oriole**, **Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye**, **Eastern Bearded Greenbul**, **Shining Drongo**, **Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill**, **Yellow-throated Tinkerbird**, **Fraser's Rufous Thrush**, and many more.

The next day we go birding for the whole day in the park and visit the knoll again in the evening. **Vermiculated Fishing Owl** is often heard around the camp during the night, along with **Chestnut-backed Owlet**, **Sandy Scops Owl**, and **African Wood Owl**. **Nkulengu Rail** can be heard in the early morning, if we are lucky.

Overnight: Campsite at Rengo Camp, Korup National Park

**Day 20. Birding Korup National Park, transfer to Mundemba**

We'll bird our way out of Korup National Park back to the footbridge, where we'll arrive in the early afternoon. From here our vehicle will take us back to Mundemba.

Overnight: Boseme Inn, Mundemba

**Day 21. Transfer to Mount Cameroon**

After some early birding around the inn we drive to Buea on the eastern slope of Mount Cameroon.

Overnight: Eta Palace Hotel, Buea

**Day 22. Birding on Mount Cameroon**

We will be birding on Mount Cameroon for the whole day. The trail is steep, but the birds are well worth the hike. We'll have a chance to see **Yellow-billed Turaco, Shelley's Oliveback, Mount Cameroon Speirops, Yellow-breasted Boubou, Mountain Sooty Boubou, Mountain Robin-Chat, Mountain Saw-wing, Grey-crowned Nigrita, Long-legged Pipit, Speckled Mousebird, Bar-tailed Trogon, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, African Hill Babbler, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Green Longtail**, and others.

Overnight: Eta Palace Hotel, Buea

**Day 23. Mount Cameroon to Douala via Lake Barombi Mbo**

Today we'll drive back to Douala, stopping along the way at Lake Barombi Mbo. We'll have a chance to bird around the lake for **Red-tailed Greenbul, Cassin's Flycatcher, White-throated Apalis, Olive Sunbird, Green Hylia, Yellow-billed Barbet, Black-necked Weaver**, and others. We'll arrive late in the afternoon in Douala.

Overnight: Foyer du Marin, Douala

**Day 24. Douala to Campo Ma'an National Park via the Osa Wildlife Preserve**

This morning we begin the drive down to Campo Ma'an. We'll stop along the way near the Osa Wildlife Preserve to bird along the river for **Yellow-billed Kite, African Skimmer, Grey Heron, Village Weaver, Red-tailed Greenbul, Little Greenbul, Lesser Bristlebill, Rufous-bellied Flycatcher, Chattering Cisticola**, and more. We'll continue down to Campo Ma'an for the night, arriving in time to check for **Grey-necked Rockfowl** at one of its usual haunts.

Overnight: Elosir Guest House, Campo Ma'an

**Day 25. Birding at Campo Ma'an National Park, transfer to Limbe**

We'll start this morning birding along one of the roads that runs through the park. Here is a great place to check for **Black-casqued Wattled, African Pied, and Piping Hornbills**. Also hoped for here are **Spotted, Little, and Red-tailed Greenbuls, Blue-headed Wood and Tambourine Doves, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Grey-backed Camaroptera**, and others. After lunch we'll begin the drive back to Limbe for the night.

Overnight: Atlantic Beach Hotel

**Day 26. Birding the Limbe Botanic Garden, transfer to Douala, flight home**

We'll visit the Limbe Botanic Garden this morning in hopes of seeing **Western Bluebill, Giant Kingfisher, Long-tailed Cormorant, Carmelite Sunbird, Reichenbach's Sunbird, African Palm Swift, Yellow-fronted Canary**, and others, before we drive to Douala to catch our evening flights home.

*Please note that the itinerary above cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.*

**Duration:** 26 Days

**Limit:** 4 – 6

**Date:** April 9 – May 4, 2020  
**Start:** Douala  
**End:** Douala

**Price:** US\$11,054 per person sharing if 6 participants  
US\$12,509 per person sharing if 4 or 5 participants  
**Single supplement:** US\$2,105

**Price includes:**

All accommodation  
All meals  
Guiding fees  
Entry fees

**Price excludes:**

International flights  
Personal insurance  
Alcoholic beverages  
Gratuities  
Laundry service  
Personal expenses such as gifts