

WINGS OVER WILLCOX & WILDLIFE PHOTO TOUR

African Birding Safari: February 1 – 8, 2013



Come and enjoy an unforgettable eight-day Birding adventure in East Africa visiting renowned game reserves and national parks. Join international safari guide Tom Whetten for this spectacular Birding and Photography Safari to Tanzania. East Africa boasts a bird population of over 1,100 species that want to be seen by you. During past safaris, we observed hundreds of species including this spectacular Lilac Breasted Roller. Our African Birding Safari we take us to the **Usambara Mountains, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater, and the Serengeti.**

The **Usambara Mountains** is one of the most important sites for the conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa and is a treasure house of botanical, zoological and Ornithological diversity, with a large numbers of birds, endemic tree and plant species.

Lake Manyara has the look of a tropical rain forest even though its not. It boasts of its rich and diverse bird population including thousands of pink flamingos on the soda lake, weaver birds, kingfishers and Siver Cheeked hornbills like this one.

The floor of the **Ngorongoro Crater** is only 110 sq mi boasting a bird and wildlife population in the ten's of thousands. Birds include the Kori Bustard, Secretary birds, and vultures, with hundreds of additional species residing in the marshes.

The **Serengeti** covers an area of 5,700 sq mi and hosts the southern portion of the Great Migration of 1.5 million wildebeest. Additionally, the Serengeti is an internationally recognized bird area being home to over 500 species. Ostrich, secretary birds, Grey Crowned Cranes, Black-crested Snake, African Fish eagles, Marabou storks, with the Ruppell's Griffon and Egyptian vultures following the Great Migration, gorging themselves on carcasses left behind on the Serengeti Plains.

Leader: Tom Whetten

Cost of **African Birding Safari** includes all meals, accommodations, park fees, local travel including transfers, all bottled drinking water, ground & local air travel and temporary membership to the Intensive Care Air Ambulance. (Cost is per person with double occupancy, the single occupancy supplement is \$420).

*The cost also includes a donation to the Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival.....***\$3,589**

NOT included in the cost are international airfares, foreign airport taxes, excess baggage charges, passport or visa fees, beverages (except drinking water), gratuities for drivers guides, camp staff, and tips to international guides.

NOTE: African pricing tends to increase in July yearly, a deposit of \$750 prior to July 2012 will reserve your place **at this price**. Reservations after this date may be subject to a price increase.

Trip Itinerary:

- Day 1 *Arrival & KIA Lodge*—We will arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport in Arusha and obtain our Tanzania Visas then transfer to the KIA Lodge, a five-minute drive. Time permitting we will enjoy a pre-dinner birding walk on the grounds of the Lodge.
- Day 2&3 *Usambara Mountains*—The Usambara Mountains are a treasure house of botanical, zoological and Ornithological diversity, with a large numbers of birds, endemic tree and plant species. The East Usambara Mountains are one of the most important sites on the African mainland for the conservation of globally threatened birds.
- Day 4 *Lake Manyara NP*—Lake Manyara is situated at the base of the Great Rift Valley Escarpment, with fresh water filtering down through the ancient underground waterways of Ngorongoro. This National Park has a rich and diverse bird population including thousands of flamingos on the soda lake.
- Day 5 *Ngorongoro Conservation Area*—The floor of the crater is only 110 sq mi boasting a bird and wildlife population in the ten's of thousands. Included are Kori Bustard, Secretary birds, vultures and thousands of flamingos at the soda lake in the center of the crater, with hundreds of additional species residing in the swamps
- Day 6&7 *Serengeti NP*—The Serengeti covers an area of 14,763 sq km and lies between the shores of Lake Victoria in the west, Lake Eyasi in the south, the Great Rift Valley in the east and the Maasai Mara to the north. The pinnacle of the Serengeti immortality is the wildebeest migration. However, often overlooked is the abundance of bird-life in the Serengeti National Park is an internationally recognized important bird area and is home to over 500 species. Ostrich and secretary birds are seen wandering through the grass, while the Black-crested Snake eagle and African Fish eagle hunt from the air. Flocks of the bizarre looking large Marabou storks can be seen sitting in trees. Ruppell's Griffon and Egyptian vultures follow the Great Migration, gorging themselves on carcasses left behind on the Serengeti Plains.
- Day 8 *Fly to Arusha & Depart*—We will fly to Arusha, allowing us to view the areas we have just visited from the air.

***Please note:** This itinerary is predicated on current airline schedules and is subject to change with their schedules. This itinerary is meant as a guide. Birds, weather, or road conditions may cause a change of schedule.



General Information

E-mail: twetten@wildlifephototour.com

Visit www.wildlifephototour.com to view photos of prior safaris.

African Photography Safari Clothing: Space is limited in the vehicles and our luggage goes with us from lodge to lodge so please bring soft sided luggage one less than 30" long and one less than 20" long. I generally use one 30" bag for my clothing, which is sufficient. Remember, we want room for photo gear.

Cloths that are wash & wear, mix & match, casual cotton or poly blends work best. While most lodges have one-day laundry service, I generally do my wash in the tube or sink and hang it in the room to dry. I like to wear safari type cloths with lots of pockets preferring tans, browns, grays, and olives staying away from white or extremely light colors. I recommended you bring a hat, 2pair of light weight pants, 1pair of shorts, three light weight shirts (long sleeve or short sleeve), and three pair of socks, comfortable tennis shoes, sandals, a very light jacket or heavy shirt & underwear. Dinners tend to be a very nice affair so I recommend the ladies bring a light dress or skirt & blouse and the gentlemen bring slacks and a nice shirt, nothing formal just nice.

Recommended Packing List: (Note that quantities may change when packing). Don't forget to contact the credit card company and tell them you are traveling.

Shoes	Nausea suppositories	Air Plane Tickets	Flash & flash hotshoe
Sandals	Antibiotics	Passport	cable
Safari Hat	Pain meds	Drivers License	I-Pod & headphones
Windbreaker		Visa Credit Cards	
2 blue Jeans	Deodorant	Insurance Cards	Camera manuals
Safari Pants	Toothpaste		Lens cleaning stuff
5 Socks	Floss	Trip Insurance (also	Beanbag
5 underwear	Nail clippers	Medivac)	Spare batteries
3 Shirts	Razor	Spare Glasses	SDHC cards
5 Hankies	Travel Clock	Business Cards	battery charges
			inverter
MEDS:	2-Gallon Zip Lock	3 camera bodies	
Aleve-d	bags	1.4 & 2x converter	USB flash drives
Benadryl	2-4 Quart ziplock	17-40 mm	USB SDHC card
Imodium	bags	24-105 mm	reader with cable
Band-aids	Flashlight	70-200 mm	laptop with charger
Bug Repellant	Headlamp	300 mm	
Suntan lotion	Kleenex	Slick mini tripod	
Cutter Bite-MD	Handy wipes		

African Photography Safari Photo Gear: I carry on all of my photo gear so I have to pack it with care to get it all on. I use a backpack that meets international airline carry on restrictions and wrap each body or lens in small bubble wrap. I also carry a laptop bag that will hold the computer and a bunch of other stuff. I recommend taking at least two camera bodies and a variety of lenses including your 400mm to 600mm f/4 if you can get it on the plane. On my last safari I took three camera bodies: the Canon 1D Mark IV was my primary wildlife camera, the Canon 5D Mark II was used for scenic shots, and a Canon 1D Mark III as a back-up. My lenses were all Canon: a 600mm L f/4, 70-200mm L f2.8, 24-105mm L f/4, 17-40mm L f/4, a 1.4X and a 2X extender. Additionally, I took a Canon 580EX II Flash, and a variety of miscellaneous stuff. Tripods and monopods are not needed and get in the way. Buy a beanbag of some type that we fill there with rice or birdseed in Kenya as we stand and shoot out of the vehicle 99% of the time. We will empty the beanbags prior to flying home.

African Photography Safari Meals/Water: Food at both lodges and tented camps is very good. Most meals are very westernized. Breakfast generally has two or three kinds of eggs, bacon, ham, toast, French toast, potatoes, fruit and a variety of drinks including fruit juices, coffee, and tea. Lunches are hot meals with meats, potatoes, rice, raw and cooked vegetables, breads, deserts and drinks. Dinner will have chicken, pork, beef, maybe some game meat, two or three starch dishes, several different vegetable and fruit dishes, a couple of deserts and drinks including alcohol (drinks are always extra). Some lodges and camps serve their meals buffet style.

Don't drink the water, drink bottled water. To find out if ICE is safe to use and made from filtered water I always ask the manager. Most accommodations filter their water for ice as they use it for ice tea.

If you want snacks during the day, you have to take them with you as Circle K's and 7/11's haven't made it into the bush.

African Photography Safari Weather: The average daytime temperature in Kenya & Tanzania during January is about 77 degrees with a nighttime average of about 53 degrees. It is a dry time of year so we shouldn't have rain, the key word is shouldn't.

African Photography Safari Tour Vehicles: Touring is from 4x4 extended vehicles with lift top roofs. These vehicles will seat seven plus the driver, however when I lead a tour I have two seats removed and only put three clients in each vehicle. More than four it is just too crowded. With the roofs in the up position, even the tallest person can stand up to view wildlife and African scenery. Because wildlife is wild and dangerous, you are seldom allowed out of the vehicle while on a game drive, generally two to three hours.



African Photography Safari Tour Accommodations: On my tours we stay in two kinds of accommodations, Lodges and Tented Camps. Lodges compare to any medium-priced motels in the US. Most have twin or queen size beds, ceiling fans, no air conditioning, and westernized bathrooms. Because these accommodations are located great distances from civilization, they generate their own electricity. I've stayed in lodges and camps that are surrounded by electric fences to keep wildlife out and others that are patrolled by Maasai Warriors for the same reason.

Tented Camps are just that, camps that are set up with large walled tents with a thatched roof canopy over the tent to keep the sun off. Each tent has hot and cold running water, showers and toilets. The beds are just that, beds with bedding not cots with sleeping bags. They also generate electricity for the camp and guests.



Mara Simba Lodge in Masai Mara

Proof of Citizenship: A current passport is required.

Single Occupancy Supplement: Single rooms may be available at a supplemental charge equivalent to the difference between double and single rooms. **The single supplement for this trip is \$420.** You will be charged a single supplement if I am unable to place you with a roommate.

About Tom Whetten: Being a native of Arizona makes me a rare and maybe endangered species. I grew up in the shadow of the Superstition Mountains with its legend of The Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine. My not-so-productive youth was spent chasing lizards, snakes, and other critters all over the state. Additionally, I spent a great deal of time traveling the back country of the western US learning where and when to photograph nature and photograph wildlife.

I served in Law Enforcement for 32 years, retiring from the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 2007. Working for the Arizona Game & Fish Department www.azgfd.gov gave me the opportunity to travel much of the back country in Arizona especially southeastern Arizona where I was stationed. Additionally I gained great knowledge of nature and wildlife including their habits and how to approach wildlife without them becoming alarmed.

I have been an avid nature photographer and wildlife photographer since 1985. I present photography workshops and lead photography tours for three nature and birding festivals in Arizona. Wings Over Willcox www.wingsoverwillcox.com is a winter birding festival featuring migratory birds such as eagles and Sandhill cranes; Southwest Wings www.swwings.org is a summer birding festival highlighting neo-tropical migratory birds such as Elegant Trogons and Hummingbirds; and the Verde Valley Birding Festival "Birdy Verdy" www.birdyverde.org is a spring festival highlighting neo-tropical migratory and local birds.

I am a member of several professional organizations including, North American Nature Photography Association "NANPA"; Outdoor Writers of America Association "OWAA"; Photographic Society of America "PSA"; Arizona Game Ranger Association "AGRA"; and the Fraternal Order of Police "FOP".

Further Information: Please contact:

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**List of Birds Observed
Kenya and Tanzania
August 14-22, 2011**

Nairobi National Park,
Kenya, 8-14-11

**Streaky Seedeater
Olive Thrush
Cape Rook
Blue-naped Mousebird
Black Kite
Long-crested Eagle
Lesser Grey Shrike
Yellow-throated Longclaw
Pied Crow
Amethyst Sunbird
**Common Fiscal
**Grey Crowned Crane
**Common Ostrich

Arusha National Park,
Tanzania, 8-15-11

**Capped Wheatear
**Black-winged Stilt
Red-knobbed Coot
**Great White Pelican
Little Grebe
**Black-headed Heron
**Sacred Ibis
**Greater Flamingo
**Egyptian Goose
**Blacksmith Lapwing
Cape Teal
**Superb Starling
Vitelline Masked Weaver
Crowned Lapwing
Blue-naped Mousebird
Common Bulbul
Black-crowned Tchagra
Rufous-tailed Weaver
**Black-crowned Night Heron

Ngorongoro Crater
Conservation Area,
Tanzania, 8-16-11

Cattle Egret
Red-billed Quelea
Grey Heron
Little Bee-eater
Black-faced Waxbill

Serengeti National Park,
Tanzania, 8-17-11

**White-browed Coucal
Common Stonechat
Baglfetch Weaver
Spectacled Pigeon
Tawny Eagle
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Hildebrandt's Starling
**Goliath Heron
Yellow-billed Oxpecker
Wattled Starling
White-billed Buffalo Weaver
Hildebrandt's Francolin
**Kori Bustard
African Jacana
**Augur Buzzard

Serengeti National Park,
Tanzania, 8-18-11

Ruppell's Griffon Vulture
Lappet-faced Vulture
**African Grey Hornbill
**Secretary Bird
African Hoopoe
**Marabou Stork
**Lilac-breasted Roller
African Fish Eagle
Striped Kingfisher
**Yellow-billed Stork
Black Crake

Serengeti National Park,
Tanzania, 8-19-11

Bare-faced Go-Away-Bird
Ovambo Sparrowhawk
Temminck's Stint
Masai Mara, Kenya, 8-20-11
Village Indigobird
Broad-billed Roller
Rufous Sparrow
Pallid Harrier

Masai Mari, Kenya, 8-21-11

Holub's Golden Weaver
Green Wood-hoopoe
White-bellied Bustard
Grey-capped Social-Weaver
**Crested Francolin
White-winged Widowbird

Masai Mari, Kenya, 8-22-11

**African Wattled Lapwing
Steppe Eagle
**Black-bellied Starling
**Hamerkop
**Intermediate Egret
Abyssinian Scimitarbill
Ring-necked Dove
Red-headed Weaver
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
Red-headed Quelea
Spot-flanked Barbet
Crested Guineafowl
**Ruppell's Robin-Chat
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher
Common Buzzard
**Red-necked Spurfowl

*species may have been recorded at more than one location

**species for which I have publishable photos

Total: 92 species