

MAGNIFICENT MOZAMBIQUE

Nov. 29 – Dec. 12, 2020

14 Days / 13 Nights

64,550 ZAR*

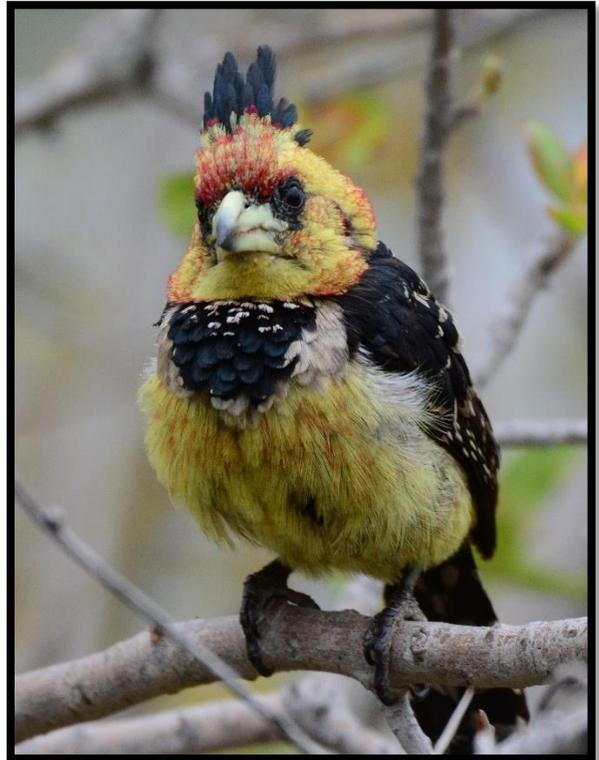
Single supplement 4550 ZAR

Dec. 2 - 15, 2021

14 Days / 13 Nights

67,700 ZAR*

Single supplement 5450 ZAR



***Small group surcharge will apply for groups smaller than 6**

Pre-trip Extension to Kruger National Park: Nov. 28 – Dec. 2, 2021

Pre-trip Extension to Swaziland: Nov. 28 – Dec. 2, 2021

Mozambique is a fabulous birding destination hosting many species not found elsewhere in Southern Africa. Ravaged by a messy civil war that lasted 15 years it is once again open for birding with infrastructure that has improved dramatically over the last few years. Central Mozambique, which we will be focusing on, has large tracts of lowland forest and miombo woodland that is constantly under threat from timber companies as well as illegal slash and burn. The area is nonetheless home to some very special birds with very restricted ranges: Olive-headed Weaver is now only found in the Panda area near Inhambanne, Green-headed Oriole is only found on Mt. Gorongozo, and Crab Plover is best searched for at Ponta da Barra. The picture is completed by pristine grassland, untouched dambos (wetlands) and unspoiled beaches. The mountains at Tsetserra and Gorongozo are breathtaking and beckon you to stay longer. Elusive species such as African Pitta are regularly recorded in the Zambezi Coutadas (hunting concessions) in summer, and big game is on the rebound in the once famous Gorongozo National Park, which is now being managed by the American Carr Foundation.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 00 – Day 0 – Nov 27 – 28, 2020 or Nov 30 – Dec 1, 2021

You will need to depart the US a day or two early in order to arrive in Johannesburg on November 28 (Dec 1, 2021) and then on to Maputo on November 29 (Dec 2, 2021). Alternatively, you can arrange to fly from the US to Maputo with arrival on Nov. 29 (Dec 2, 2021).

Day 1 – Nov 29, 2020 or Dec. 2, 2021

Arrive in Maputo from the US or Johannesburg. You will be met at the international airport by our guide. Once everyone has arrived, we'll waste no time in getting out of the city and heading north, where we should arrive at Honeypot Camp near the town of Xai-Xai in the afternoon. The grounds here support a whole host of the more common woodland species such as **African Goshawk**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis** and **Purple-banded Sunbird**.

O/N Honeypot Camp (LD)



African Goshawk

Day 2 – Nov 30, 2020 or Dec. 3, 2021

Some early morning birding in the grounds before breakfast should yield a few more birds including the likes of **Pale Flycatcher** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. An isolated population of **Red-throated Twinspot** occur here. We will spend some time scanning the extensive Limpopo Floodplains just before Xai-Xai for the likes of **Rosy-throated Longclaw** before heading further north. The drive to Inharrime (175 km) should leave us ample time to bird along the way. We might even venture off the beaten track a few times to find some good birds. Our overnight stop will be at Caju Afrique, a very comfortable lodge near Inharrime.

O/N Caju Afrique or similar (BLD)

Day 3 – Dec 1, 2020 or Dec. 4, 2021

First thing in the morning we will head straight for the town of Panda, the only place in southern Africa where the very localized **Olive-headed Weaver** occurs. We will bird some of the Miombo woodland here, which is under constant logging pressure. Miombo birding is all about finding mixed flocks, and birding can be frantic once we find such a “bird party”. Birds often seen here include **White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Southern Hyliota**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Pale Batis** and **Red-faced Crombec**. Some of the side roads near Panda can also be very rewarding with trips in the past producing birds such as **Racket-tailed Roller**, **African Broadbill**, **Bat Hawk**, **Neergaard’s Sunbird** and **Crested Guineafowl**.

O/N Caju Afrique or similar (BLD)



Neergaard's Sunbird



Crested Guineafowl

Day 4 – Dec 2, 2020 or Dec. 5, 2021

Today we have a short drive, allowing plenty of time for birding once we arrive at our destination, the town of Inhambane. Before we arrive, though, we'll stop to visit a local wetland where we often find **Eurasian Bittern** and **Rufous-bellied Heron**. We'll be staying at one of the lodges situated perfectly on the beach at Ponta de Barra. This is a good spot for **Crab Plover**, with flocks of up to 180 birds recorded, although numbers have dwindled recently. With some luck we might find some early migrant waders including the likes of **Greater** and **Lesser Sand Plovers**.

O/N Hotel Tofo Mar or similar (BLD)

Day 5 – Dec 3, 2020 or Dec. 6, 2021

Today we have an optional activity of going out by boat to look for Whale Shark and, for those brave enough, even a swim with these gentle giants (extra fee estimated \$50 USD, snorkeling gear will be provided). For those not keen on this aquatic adventure, we have a full day to explore the general area and one of our first stops will be the Mangroves opposite Barra Lodge, here we will look for **Mangrove Kingfisher**, **Lemon-breasted Canary** and **African Hobby** and we might also encounter **Black-throated Wattle-Eye**. There are numerous small pans in the area which are a haven for various species of waterfowl. Back at the lodge we will look for the resident **Square-tailed Nightjars** at dusk.

O/N Hotel Tofo Mar or similar (BLD)

Day 6 – Dec 4, 2020 or Dec. 7, 2021

Today we'll make a detour to find **Green Tinkerbird**, rediscovered in 2013, 55 years after the original and only southern African specimen was collected in 1958. Several other good birds occur in the area and we are likely to find **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Gorgeous Bush-Shrike**, **Scaly-throated Honeyguide** and **Plain-backed Sunbird**. Our next stop will be the town of Vilanculos, here we will look for **Madagascar Bee-Eaters** that are regularly recorded here. Further along the EN1 we'll reach a patch of Baobab trees where we will search for both **Bohm's-** and **Mottled Spinetails**. **Grey-headed Parrot's** and **Pied Mannikin** are also commonly seen here.

O/N Palmeira Lodge or similar, Inhassoro (BLD)

Day 7 – Dec 5, 2020 or Dec. 8, 2021

About 70 km of bad road lie ahead of us before reaching the Save River, with a quick stop at an excellent wetland about 12 km before the river. This idyllic spot often host **African Pygmy Goose**, **White-backed Duck** and **Lesser Jacana**. Once we cross the river, where we'll keep a lookout for **Mosque Swallows** overhead, we will be back on good tarmac. Depending on time we will make a quick detour into the Rio Save Game Reserve, birding here can be very rewarding with species such as **Arnott's Chat**, **Bennet's Woodpecker**, **Flappet Lark** and **Green-headed Eremomela**. From here we head for our camp just outside the famous Gorongosa National Park. We've chosen to stay outside the park as this makes it much easier for outings to Mt. Gorongosa.

O/N Envirotrade Camp (BLD)



Bennett's Woodpecker

Day 8 – Dec 6, 2020 or Dec. 9, 2021

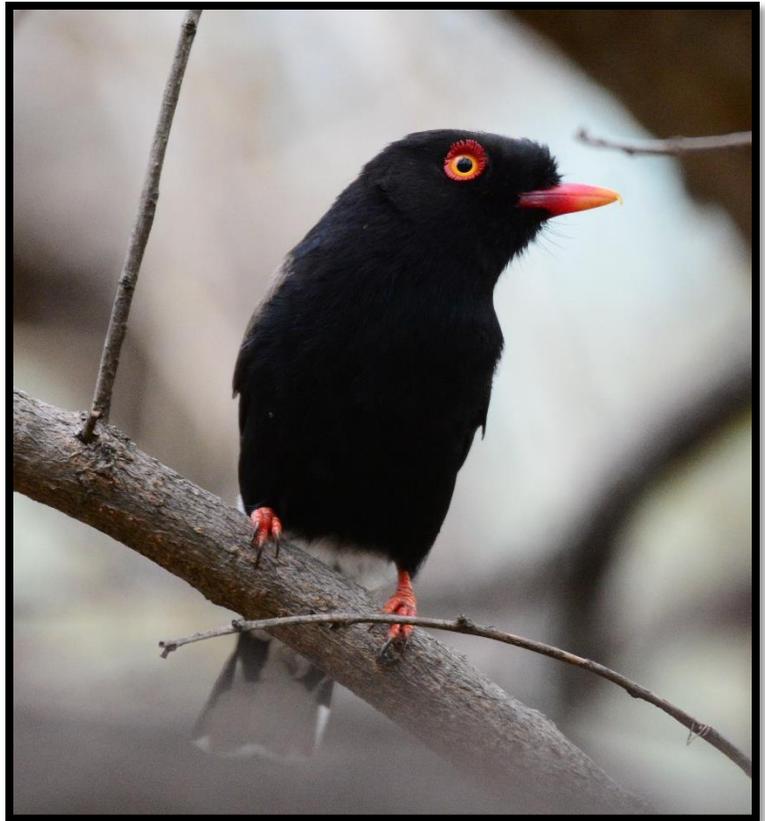
This will be the day of the **Green-headed Oriole**, this extremely rare and localized Oriole are recorded from only a few isolated localities in Africa. Our group will head up the mountain to search for this elusive target; in the process we could also find **Swynnerton's Robin**, **White-tailed Crested Flycatcher**, **Black-fronted Bush-Shrike**, **Blue-spotted Wood-Dove**, **Eastern Saw-Wing**, **Singing Cisticola** and **Livingstone's Turaco**. Closer to camp we'll make a concerted effort to find **Speckle-throated Woodpecker**, another specialty from this area.

O/N Envirotrade Camp (BLD)

Day 9 – Dec 7, 2020 or Dec. 10, 2021

After the previous day's hike up Mt. Gorongoza, we will take it easy and we will spend the day in Gorongoza National Park, hailed in its heyday as one of the top parks in all of Africa. The entrance road is usually very productive, and in the early morning we have in the past recorded **Grey Waxbill** and **Brimstone Canary** along this stretch. Once at Chitengo Camp, we will look for the resident **Black-and-White (Vanga) Flycatchers** as well as **Collared Palm Thrush**. After some birding in the camp we head into the park proper, where Lion and Elephant sightings have become more frequent as the animals have made a comeback after years of poaching and civil war. The large wetlands will be our main focus for today and we can expect birds such as **Pink-backed Pelican**, **Wooly-necked Stork**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Grey-Crowned Crane** and **Long-toed Lapwing**. The surrounding woodlands should produce **Bronze-winged Courser**, **Lemon-breasted Canary** and **Retz's Helmet-Shrike**.

O/N Chitengo Camp in the park (BLD)



Retz's Helmetshrike

Day 10 – Dec 8, 2020 or Dec. 11, 2021

Shortly after breakfast we depart for Catapu, birding along the way. This road can be particularly rewarding for raptors, and we'll hope for sightings of **Dickinson's Kestrel**, **Cuckoo Hawk** and numerous larger Eagles, which are regular here. We'll make a stop at the Zungue River Bridge where the rare **Basra Reed Warbler** is often recorded in late summer. We might be a bit early but there are usually several species of Weaver and even the likelihood of **Black Coucal** here. Mphingwe Camp is situated in beautiful woodland and birding around the camp always delivers something special.

O/N Mphingwe Camp (BLD)

Day 11 – Dec 9, 2020 or Dec. 12, 2021

We depart early and drive to Inhamatinga from where we will access Coutada 12. We should find amazing birds such as **Livingstone's Flycatcher**, **Speckle-throated Woodpecker**, **White-chested Alethe**, **East Coast Akalat**, and many more. Further along the road we will come across some areas of spectacular woodland, a good place to search for **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill**.

O/N Mphingwe Camp (BLD)

Day 12 – Dec 10, 2020 or Dec. 13, 2021

Today we will drive north to the town of Caia and then further along the mighty Zambezi River to the village of Sena where an isolated population of **Bohm's Bee-eater** was recently discovered, the first confirmed population of this species in southern Africa. Numerous wetlands along the way attract large numbers of waterfowl and birds such as **Lesser Moorhen**, **Black-winged Bishop**, **Rufous-winged Cisticola** and **Lesser Jacana** are very real possibilities. After leaving Caia we head back to Mphingwe camp for more woodland birding.

O/N Mphingwe Camp (BLD)

Day 13 – Dec 11, 2020 or Dec. 14, 2021

A bit of birding before breakfast sees us on our way to Beira, the second largest city in Mozambique. The Inhamatinga-Dondo road usually produces some spectacular birding and today should be no exception. Time permitting, we will stop at Chinizua for lunch and bird the surrounding woodlands where we might find the rather elusive **Black-headed Apalis** as well as **Chestnut-fronted Helmet-Shrike**. Just before entering the main city center of Beira we will branch away and head to the Rio Savanne floodplain for a quick bit of birding. The floodplains is a good place for **Locust Finch**, **Blue Quail** and **Great Snipe**. Pockets of tall woodland are also productive and we might find **Red-throated Twinspot** here.

O/N Rio Savane Resort or similar (BLD)

Day 14 – Dec 12, 2020 or Dec. 15, 2021

Early morning birding where **Grey Sunbird** is resident but hard to find, **Mangrove Kingfisher** puts in the occasional appearance and **Green-backed Woodpecker** has also been seen. After breakfast we will again bird the floodplains on the way to the airport where you will catch an afternoon flight back to Johannesburg to connect with your international flights home.

(BL)

Price Includes:

- ~ Lodging
- ~ All meals as indicated
- ~ All land transportation within Mozambique
- ~ Airport transfers
- ~ Park fees
- ~ Bottled water throughout tour
- ~ Expert bilingual birding guide(s) at a ratio of no greater than 6:1
- ~ All activities not listed as optional
- ~ Services of two *Cheepers!* tour leaders (Jim & Cindy Beckman) on the 2021 tour
- ~ Pre-trip gift package, including customized checklist
- ~ Post-trip electronic version of final checklist (on the 2021 tour only)
- ~ Post-trip photo collection on flash drive (on the 2021 tour only)

Price does NOT Include:

- ~ International airfare to Maputo and from Beira
- ~ Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, extra drinks and snacks, souvenirs, etc.
- ~ Tips
- ~ Optional activity snorkeling/swimming with whale sharks
- ~ Services of *Cheepers!* tour leaders on the 2020 tour. The expert birding guide will serve as both guide and tour leader for this tour.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Deposit of \$750 with registration. Balance is due 4 months prior to start date of the tour.

Cancellation policy:

Cancellation should be made in writing (email or snail mail)
More than 6 months prior to departure – full refund of deposit
Between 4 and 6 months prior to departure – 50% refund of deposit
Less than 4 months prior to departure – No refund of deposit

Trip insurance is recommended.

You can compare prices offered by various trip insurance companies at these websites:

<http://www.insuremytrip.com>

http://www.quotewright.com/?sub_id=6056

Cheepers! Birding on a Budget LLC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if the need should arise due to unforeseeable circumstances such as weather, landslides, and other natural phenomena, as well as suggestions by local guides in order to take advantage of an unusual birding opportunity. Lodging is subject to change based on availability.

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