

## 14 days itinerary

### Day 1

Airport transfer to your Hotel at Lemon Creek Hotel at the coastal area of Bijilo just 10 kilometres about 25 minutes' drive from the Airport, on the way you will be introduced to local and common species and more so around your Hotel area too will provide you more wonderful species like Blue Breasted, Kingfisher, Piapiac, Starlings, Lizard Buzzards Hornbills and many more the list can go up 30 to 40 species just that short period depending on the time of your arrival we could have some few hours work around the Famous Kotu Area then back to the Hotel for dinner later in the Evening.



### Day 2

We will start early at 7 am in the morning after breakfast we will drive to Brufut woods 10 kilometres from your hotel for half day trip. It will take us under 25 minutes to the woodland a community forest where we will walk through the most interesting areas within the forest and its surroundings birding around the woods, later we will converge at a woodland bar area for cold drinks and coffees while attending some of the species coming to the drinking point created for the most exotic species, like Green and Violet Turacos, Grey Headed Bristle bills, Pygmy Kingfishers, yellow Throated Leafloves, Yellow White Eye. in the area the expected species are Long Tailed Nightjars, Klaas' Cuckoo Diederick Cuckoo, Shikra, Red Necked Falcon, Black Shouldered Kites, White Faced Scoops Owl and many more. At 12;30pm we will proceed further to Tanji Eco lodge at distance of 5 kilometres only 15 minutes' drive for lunch break by the drinking pool ideal for photographing birds like Sulphur Breasted Bushrike, African Silverbills, western Blue Bills, yellow crowned Gonolek and many more. After lunch we will then continue to lagoons by the sea via the exterior of the forest looking for Four Banded Sandgrouse, Swallow Tailed Bee Eater, Osprey, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Pied

Hornbill and some waders mainly migrants at the Beach side too till late evening we will return back to the Hotel for dinner.



### Day 3

Early Morning after Breakfast we depart at 7 am from the Hotel on a 25 minutes' drive on a 20 kilometre Journey to Abuko Nature Reserve is a reserve consist of gallery forest with canopies and semi wooded scrubby areas with some under growths forages with streams across some points ideal for species like Black Crake, Western Blue Bill, Common Wattled Eye, African Goshawk, Violet and Green Turacos Palmnutt Vulture, Giant Kingfisher, Oriole Warbler, Black Necked Weaver, little Greenbul, and many more. we will later go out of the reserve to Tambi wetland just the opposite site of the Nature Reserve to have couple of hours there within the rice fields and women vegetable gardens which harbour spectacular species like Dwarf and Little Bitterns, Black Crake, African Crake, Lizard Buzzard, Pearl Spotted Owlet, Squacco Heron and many more.



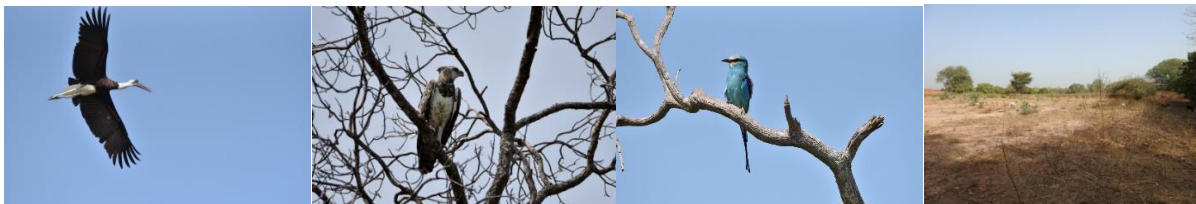
At 1 pm we will return to the coast for Lunch break at Kotu one of the best Restaurants along the Beach, after Lunch break we will still stay at Kotu area for the rest of the day starting at the famous Kotu Bridge, on the Nature Trail, Kotu ponds, Golf Course and the rice fields. Boat Trip is ideal here in the creek will give you the chance to get very close to the Kingfisher like Giant, Blue Breasted , malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Sacred Ibis, African Spoonbill, Yellow Billed and Black kites, yellow Billed Stork, greater Paint Snipe, Black Egret, Little Bee Eater, Blue Bellied Roller and Broad billed Roller

and off cause many more. We will return back to your Hotel later in the evening for dinner.



## Day 4

We are going to have early departure from the Hotel at 7am for a long day heading up river all the way to Morgan Kunda Lodge for our overnight trips on the North. The journey will Take us the best part of the day till afternoon , we will drive 170 kilometres almost 7 hours with many stops on the way going through South Bank crossing to the Northern Bank. First stop at Mandinaba Woods for couple of hours then proceed to Farasutu forest, several other stops on my key birding areas, Kampanti rice fields, Bullock Woods, Kanlagi wetlands and woods, Kwinala Bateling Tracks, Nema Woods along the Soma stretch and Yelli Tenda Farafenyi Woods and wetlands. More stops will off course follow between Farafenyi and Illiassa to see more Northern species like Northern Ant Eater Chat, Seville's, White Bellied and Black Bellied Bustards, Speckle Fronted Weaver, Chesnutt Crowned Sparrow Weaver, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Rufus Scrub Robin, Sahel and exclamatory Paradise Whydah, Green and Red Winged Pytilias Spotted Thicknee, Long Crested, Brown Snake, Martial and Banded Snake Eagles, Brown Rumped Bunting, Bateleur Eagle and many more. We will continue to the Lodge to check -in on arrival. Later out and about within the premises and off course just at the immediate surroundings will give us more resident species like White Rumped See Eaters, Black Rumped Waxbills Lavender Waxbills Scarlet Chested, Beautiful, Splendid and Pygmy Sun Birds and many more. The Habitats and sites will visit on the way comprises of different landscapes consist of Rice fields, Savannah woodland, Gallery forest with fall Trees, creeks and Wetlands giving a considerable amount of species to spot during the day.



## Day 5

Still on the North Bank at Morgan Kunda Lodge for our second day, The day will start early as 7:30 am after breakfast we first head to Jimmansar Katchan Woods, the area is entirely a vast wood land area consist of savanna woodland, farm lands bordered with rice fields and Wetlands, also some hilly rocky areas with some big trees, the distance is 15 kilometre stretches 15 minutes' drive along the Baobolong Wetland reserve harbouring good a mount Migrants passing through from North East Senegal can be pick up around this area, Species like Common Nightingale, Speckled Fronted Weaver, Ruff, Willow Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Chesnutt Bellied Sand Grouse, Seville's, Black Bellied and White Bellied Bustards, White Fronted Black Chat, Temminck's Courser, Flapped Clark, Quell Finch. African Hawk Eagle, Bateleur, Bedouin's Snake Eagle, Brown - Rumped Bunting, Senegal Batis and many more. We will return back to the Lodge for lunch break then later switch towards the other side bordered with Senegal between Jajari and Tallia wood for the rest of the day similar species are expected to see there. We will later retire back to the Lodge for the second night.



## Day 6

Another early departure from the Lodge after Breakfast heading to the Border with Senegal at 7:00am to go through a quick visa process then drive for 140 kilometres into Senegal taking us about 3 hours' drive and birding along the way to Kaolac up to Kousemar before 10:30am we should be there to across a small stream in to the Island of the Swallow Tailed Kites roosting site their thousands. We will spend some time there then back to surroundings of the area looking for Sudan Golden Sparrow, Chesnutt Bellied Starlings, Bronze Winged Courser Lesser Kestrel and many more. We will be having picnic lunch during midday at some point under a big Tree. We will drive back towards border to the Gambia follow the same process passport stamps then head back to Morgan Kunda Lodge for third and final night. The

habitats consist of semi – desert area with vast grasslands, wetland with dry savannah woodlands along the stretch from the border to Kousemar.



## Day 7

Still on the Northern part of The Gambia we depart from the Lodge at 7:30 am after breakfast heading to Georgetown for another spectacular birding along the way stretching about 170kilometres journey driving 6 to 7 hours with birding stops on the way quiet frequently allowing us to have various stops at very important birding sites notably, Kaur Wetland, few more waterholes and Wassu sand Pitch, Kuntaur rice fields amongst other sites, we will be expecting species like Red Throated Bee Eaters at their breeding holes, Northern Carmine Bee Eaters, Black Coucal, Marabou Stork, Black Crowned Crane, Pin-tailed Whydah, Sahel and Exclamatory Whydah, Cut Throat Finch, Egyptian Plover, Ruppel's Griffon Vulture, White Backed Vulture, Lappet Faced Vulture and many more. Virtually Gambia is known for its similar habitats descriptions, we will experience more hilly sites with rocky areas along the way, savannah woodland and more wetland with fresh water ponds and rice fields along The Gambia river.

We will have lunch break on the way before crossing the Ferry to the Island of Georgetown to Sitabakoto Lodge just outside the town for an overnight stop there.



## Day 8

we will leave early after Breakfast heading again further beyond Gambia border via Basse to Wassadu Camp in Senegal South Eastern Part the distance covers up to 350 kilometres also driving the whole day almost 7 to 8

hours birding along the way. Another visa processing will take place for few minutes then we will cross in to Southern Senegal via Wellingera border point This will take us the whole day birding within this parameters having stops at vital points with our picnic lunch on the way until we reach at Wassadu later Evening for a couple of nights stay . The Camp has to be booked in advance due high demand due to its strategic location over the River Bank. We will driving along the main road having stops at various location consist on grassland, savanna woods, scrubs farmlands and gallery forests with some tall Trees hilly landscapes and rocky areas, species expected along the way like Little Green Bee Eater, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Bateleur White Headed Vultures, Little Button Quells, White Throated Francolin, White Shouldered Black Tits, Great Sparrow Hawk, Ovambo Sparrow Hawk and more.



## Day 9

Still at Wassadu during our second day after breakfast boat trip will be conducted in the morning in the River Gambia for maximum three hours then lunch break later embark on the safari tour at the Niokolokoba Park for the rest of the day this park is the biggest and wildest park in the region consist of mix forest from Rain forest to thick and savanna wood lands Gallery forest with very tall trees over the river bank house the most exotic species of birds and wild animals, like Leopards, Lions, Warthogs Antelopes and many more, some rarities like White throated Francolins, Fairy Blue Flycatcher, Saddled Billed Stork, White Headed Plovers, Egyptian Plovers, Hadada Ibis, Colony of Red Throated Bee Eaters, African Finfoots, African Fish Eagles Pell's Fishing Owl, White Backed Night Herons and Shinning Blue Kingfishers and many more. We will then driver back to the Camp for our second night stay.



## Day 10

early start as usual from Wassadu heading back to Gambia after breakfast, we will drive back through the same route to the border at Wellingera passport stamp then back in The Gambia, we will be have our night stop at Bansang at Maggie's Lodge in the Town. We will be birding all the way from Wassadu entering in to Gambia making various stops at key birding sites with our picnic lunch under a big tree. species on the this way expected are Ahanta Francolin, Garber Goshawk, African Goshawk, Chesnutt Backed Sparrow Lark, African Hobby, Splendid Glossy Starling and more. We will be experiencing the same landscapes return to on our way back to The Gambia no differences.



## Day 11

The journey will begin still on the South of The Gambia from our Breakfast table we will head on to check out at the Bansang Quarry to the breeding holes of the Red Throated bee Eater's breeding colony briefly then head on towards the coast. The distance is 315 kilometres taking us another whole about 7hours journey. This stretch of landscape consist of vast woodlands at both side of the Road with big Trees, Farmlands water hole and valleys, hills and Wetlands plus rice fields along the way giving us the opportunity to see verities of species in their respective habitats. We will make a stop at Jahally Rice Fields in Sapu, Sambang Wetland, Dalaba Waterhole, Tonyataba Woods, Wurrokang/Bateling Tracks, and many other stops on the way all the way to the hotel at the coast, lunch break will be done under the big Tree at a convenient time during the day. Species expect on the way includes Black Crown crane, Spur Wing Goose, Martial Eagle, White Headed Vulture European Griffon Vulture, African Hawk Eagle, Yellow Crown Bishops, African Pygmy Goose, Red and Green Winged Pytilias, African Cuckoo, Brubru Shrike, Bearded Barbet, and many more. We will get back the Hotel late evening for an overnight stay at Marakissa River Camp where we will have our evening meal.



## Day 12

early breakfast at the Lodge then start our day at 7am in to the surrounding woods of the area going all the way to Darslame and Seffoe Wetland for Half a day which only 10 minutes' drive then later back to the Camp for lunch break while we will taking good advantage of water jars organised by the Lodge within the premises where different species of birds visits, from Violet Turacos, Yellow Throated Leafloves, Lesser, Spotted and Greater Honey Guides, Malachite, Blue Breasted and Giant Kingfishers, Palmnutt Vulture, African Harrier Hawk. Later we will head back in to the woods of Penyem 10 kilometres from the Camp for the rest of the day these habitats consist of semi- savanna wood lands with some big trees and Gallery forest with farmlands and rice fields and gardens. Species expected to see are White Breasted Cuckoo Shrike, Red Shouldered Cuckoo Shrike, African Scoops Owl, African Gold Oriole, Shinning Blue Kingfisher, Grey Headed Kingfisher, Lizard Buzzard, White Crested Helmet Shrike, White Throated Bee Eater and more. We will return back to the camp for another night stay.



## Day 13

After breakfast we will be heading to Farasutu Forest for a day trip lunch at Sitajoyeh Lodge in the Island, We will visit the community Forest this is about 30 kilometres drive, this area consist of wood land with Gallery forest and farm lands, also there are riverine stretches along the forest edges making it a favourite site for some migratory birds. Expected species to be African Wood Owl, Greyish Eagle Owl, Grey Headed Bristle Bill, Vieillot's Barbet, yellow - Bellied - Hyliota, Black Wood Hoopoe, Stripe Kingfisher, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Yellow Penduline Tit, Cardinal Wood Pecker, Brown Backed Wood Pecker, Fine-spotted Wood Pecker, Buff- Spotted Wood Pecker and many more. We will rap our day by sitting in a hide at one of the local photo hide in the area to close photos of wonderful species like Green headed Sun Bird, Purple Glossy Starling, Splendid Glossy Starling, Klaas' Cuckoo, Black Faced Fire Finch, Brown Naked Parrot and many more. We will go back to the camp for the last and final night.





## Day 14

After the usual morning breakfast we will have few hours at the outskirts of the camp before departure if the time is available or else we drive straight to the Airport which is only less than 20 minutes' drive for your departure back home with an indelible memory of the wonderful birding and a lot of good bird records of The Gambia which will always hunt you down to come back for more and more.

The conditions at some of the Lodges we will use are basic standard accommodation facilities due to the fact that they are the only suitable facilities around the areas where we will be visiting. The services there are excellent.