

Tour Specially chartered for Mr Sabu Kinattukara & Team

MEGA GHANA

Bird Photography Tour Nov18-to-Dec1 2017



LonelyTwitcher Tours

Mega Ghana

Birding / Photography

13 Nights and 14 Days

Beautiful Ghana offers best of West African rainforest and savannah birding with most guaranteed sighting and photography of many highly sought after species such as White-necked Rock-fowl , Egyptian Plover, Great Blue Turaco etc. With 12 of the 15 West African Upper Guinea endemic species occurring in Ghana, its safe, friendly and hassle free environment and has the most developed infrastructure of any West African country, Our 13 nights 14 days non stop bird photography exploration will cover the coastal lagoons, grassland savannah, scanning for canopy species from a fabulous walkway , further exploring upper guinea rainforest moving northwards through the broad leafed guinea woodland ,Ghana offers a thorough coverage of all the core west-African habitats.

Day1 (18 November 2017)

“**Akwaaba**” (welcome) to Ghana

On arrival in Accra , the capital city of Ghana , you will be transferred to the hotel for some rest and preparing for your 14 days long marathon bird photography tour .

Depending on your time of arrival, you can enjoy your early evening meal whilst acclimatising yourself to West Africa.

Accommodation- Alexis Hotel (Tema)



Day 2 (Nov 19) **Birding Shai Hills - Kalakpa forest**

Your birding in Ghana will kick start today morning with a visit to open grassland savannah of Shai Hills hoping to see and photograph Northern Crombec, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, African Pigmy Kingfisher, Cardinal Woodpecker, Vielliots and Double-toothed Barbets, White-crowned Cliff Chat, Rock Martin, Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike, Violet Turaco, Senegal Parrot, Senegal Batis, Blue-bellied Roller, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Oriole Warbler, Black-cap and Brown Babblers, Copper and Splendid Sunbirds, White-crested Helmet-shrike, Croaking and Short-winged Cisticolas, African Thrush, Red-necked and Lizzard Buzzards, Lanner Falcon, Green Wood-hoopoe and Stone Partridge to mention a few species on offer here. After a wonderful morning we head for more familiar birding at the Kalakpa forest where we will record Capuchin babbler, Red cheeked wattle eye, Thick billed cuckoo, African moustached warbler, Brown necked parrot, Green turaco, Violet turaco, Bauman`s greenbul, Striped kingfisher, White throated francolin, African cuckoo hawk, Grey woodpecker just to mention few.

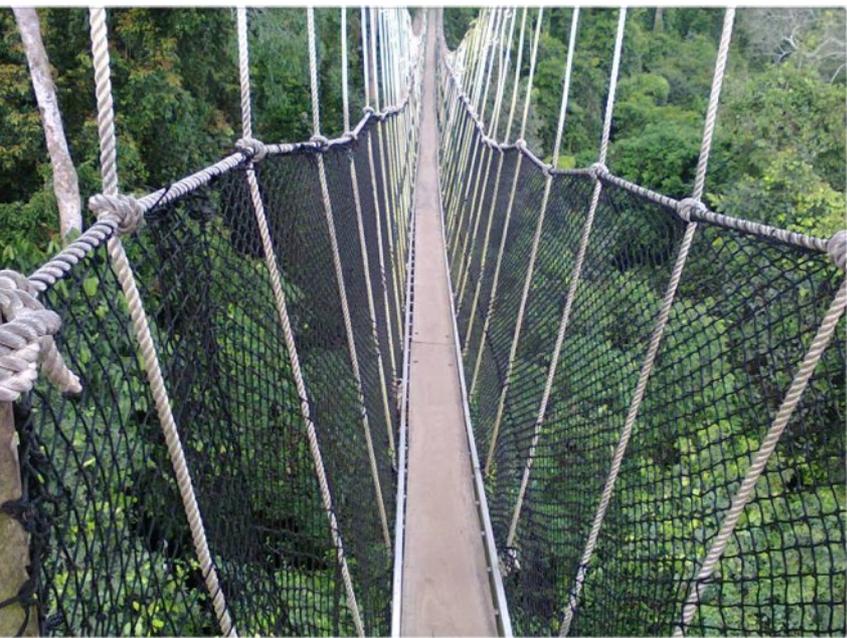
As we finish our afternoon session , We set off to Kakum National Park through the capital city Accra to a grassland reserve where, we hope to find singing and short-winged cisticolas, splendid and copper sunbirds, flappet lark, red-winged warbler, yellow-mantled widowbird, black- necked weaver, black-crowned tchagra, plain-backed pipit, black-shouldered and yellow-billed kites, western grey plantain-eater, grey kestrel, lizard buzzard, blue-spotted wood-dove and black-bellied bustard to mention just a few.



Accommodation : Hans Cottage Hotel

Day3-4 (Nov 20-21) Kakum National Park (canopy walkway) and Surroundings

After an early breakfast we will set off for the world famous canopy walkway at Kakum National Park . A wonderful World of amazing canopy species awaits you out there . We aim to get to Kakum for first light enabling us to spend the most critical bird viewing hours 40 meters above the forest floor on the canopy walkway trying to see and photograph many mouth watering species from “the above”



Our main target species while on the canopy walkway are Violet-backed Hylia, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, the upper guinea endemics Sharpes Apalis, Brown- cheeked Hornbill and copper-tailed Glossy Starling, Bioko Batis, Red cheeked wattle eye, Blue Cuckooshrike, Little Green Woodpecker and the White-crested Hornbill. Other species we hope to see include Blue-throated Brown, Green, Collard, Johanna’s and the beautiful Buff-throated Sunbirds, Red-headed and Crested Malimbos, Rosy Bee-eater, White-breasted and Grey- crowned

Negrofinch, Red-fronted and African Grey Parrots, Yellowbill, Western Black-headed and Black Winged Orioles, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Splendid Glossy and Forest Chestnut-winged Starlings, Preuss’s Golden-backed and Yellow-mantled Weavers, Green Hylia, Golden, Slender-billed and Little Grey Greenbuls, African Green Pigeon, Yellow-billed Turaco, Emerald Cuckoo, Blue-throated Roller, Yellow-throated, Red-rumped and Speckled Tinkerbirds, Hairy-breasted and Naked-faced Barbets, Usshers and Little Grey Flycatchers, Cassins Honeybird and African Pied Hornbill to mention a few. The raptors we have a chance to see include, Congo Serpent Eagle, African Harrier Hawk, Palm Nut Vulture, Cassins Hawk Eagle, European Honey and Red-necked Buzzards. Some of the more difficult but still possible species from the canopy include Long-tailed Hawk, Black Dwarf Hornbill, Yellow-footed Honeyguide and Black-collard Lovebird.

We re-visit the canopy walkway required when our main targets will be the Brown-cheeked, Black and Yellow-casqued Hornbills, Great Blue Turaco, Brown Nightjar and Fraser's eagle owl Akun's eagle owl amongst other specials.

Accommodation- Hans Cottage hotel



Day 5-6 (Nov 22-23) Birding [Nsuta Forest - Ankasa Reserve](#)

An excellent forest about an hour's drive from our guesthouse, this secondary semi deciduous forest protects a plethora of quality species that will enhance our list and overall experience.

Species we hope to see and photograph here

include Olive, Blue-throated Brown and Little Green Sunbirds, Yellow-spotted, Bristle-nosed, Hairy-breasted and Naked-faced Barbets, Blue-throated Roller, Western Black-headed and Black-winged Orioles, Buff-spotted and Little Green Woodpeckers, Usshers and the much sought after Tessmann's Flycatchers, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Grays and Crested Malimbés, Green Crombec, Green and Tit Hylia, African Piculet, Emerald and Yellow-throated Cuckoo's, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Black Dwarf Hornbill and Great-blue Turaco etc .



We will have two productive days of birding and photography in Nsuta Area and we will be covering a lot in this two days. We are sure that your life list will gain impressive additions during our stay in this beautiful reserve.

Accommodation- D& A Lodge

Days 7 (Nov 24) Birding [Ankasa Reserve](#)

The key target for the day is Nkulengu Rail and we will be going all out to locate this rare species in the early morning hours. We will be searching for many upper guinea endemics such as Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Rufous-winged Illadopsis and Green-tailed Bristlebill in addition to Ansorge's, Icterine, Red-tailed and Western-bearded Greenbul's, Pale-breasted and Blackcap Illadopsis, Forest Robin, White-tailed Ant Thrush, White-tailed Alethe, Shinning Drongo, Cassin's Flycatcher, Yellow-spotted Barbet, White-throated Bee-eater, Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Western Bronzetailed Pigeon, Yellow-billed and Great Blue Turaco's, Black-capped Apalis, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Tiny Sunbird and Red-fronted Antpecker etc .

Our target birds for Ankasa include Hartlaubs Duck, Dwarf Bittern, African Finfoot, Shining Blue Kingfisher, White-bellied, Blue-breasted and Dwarf Kingfishers. Forest raptors are always welcome and we hope to see Long-tailed Hawk and Congo Serpent Eagle. We will scan the sky for Crown Eagle, Square-tailed and Fanti Saw-wings, Black and Yellow Casqued Hornbills in addition to Black Dwarf and Piping Hornbills. And if we have all the luck in the world we may see White-breasted Guineafowl, White-crested Tiger Heron, Grey-throated Rail, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Forest Scrub Robin, Red-chested Owlet and Akun Eagle Owl in this beautiful reserve.



Accommodation- Camping (Ankasa Reserve)

Day 8 (No 25) [Ankasa - Picathartes - Kumasi](#)

A final mornings birding at this wonderful location, we will be targeting species we may have missed or would like to get better quality images . After a full mornings birding we return to our camp to arrange our bags and enjoy our lunch before we head back towards Kumasi

And Today is that Day !! We will be visiting the Yellow-headed Picathartes nesting site, please make sure that you have enough memory cards. We check out of our hotel after an early breakfast and set off for Abrafo forest where we will be targeting few key target species . All of the known nesting

sites for the Yellow-headed Picathartes are in forest reserves and not in protected areas. It is hard to contain your excitement as these legendary prehistoric looking birds hop and jump on the rocks whilst preening themselves just meters from our eyes giving photographers amongst you , a busy time



Day 9 (Nov 26) **Opuro Forest** - (Egyptian Plover Site)

Today is dedicated for Opuro forest . It is again a very important site for us being a well known habitat for much sought after Egyptian plover , which is a family by itself. We will be scanning the forest for many species that we have missed out in other areas including Fierily breasted bush-shrike,Long tailed hawk,Black and white flycatcher,Latham`s forest francolin,Capuchin babbler,Superb sunbird,Green turaco,Bearded barbet,Lesser more-hen,Grey headed bristle bill and other incredible species .

Accommodation- Mole Hotel (Kumasi)



Day 10 -11 (Nov 27-28) **Mole National Park**

After an early breakfast we set off for an interesting forest in a transitional zone between the southern wetter forests and northern drier woodland habitats where we find some quality species. It will be one of the most difficult birding sorties you may take in this tour , but you will be happy with the walk when you get to see many regional specialities within close ranges . Species possible to see here include Bruce`s green Pigeons,Standard winged nightjahn, White Helmet-shrike, Sulphur breasted bush-shrike, Matial eagle,Long crested eagle,White fronted black chat,Denhams bustard,Northern carmine bee-eater,Tawny

eagle,African fish eagle, Forbes plover,Four banded sandgrouse,African Scops owl, Saddle billed stork,Exclamatory paradise whydah and our main target Abyssinian ground hornbill, however our time will be limited so luck will need to be on our side before we set off for Ghana`s premier game viewing park found in the Northern Region. It is approximately a 5 hours` drive from Offinso to Mole National Park and we will be stopping for lunch and several leg stretches en-

route. We can expect to see different species of birds as we head northwards as the habitat changes to the drier broad leaved guinea woodland and Savannah.

Mole is Ghana's largest National Park protecting an area of 4847 square kilometres of habitat, almost 100 species of mammal and 330+ species of birds. It is a very important birding area in Ghana and we will be covering the National park in detail.

The park offers breathtaking landscape views as well. So please make sure that you are carrying a wide-angle lens in camera bag . We will spend the evening looking for nightjars and Owls.

Accommodation- Mole Motel (Mole National Park)

Day 12 Mole - Bobiri (Nov 29)butterfly sanctuary

A final mornings birding at Mole where we aim to pick up species still needed and to also get better views of birds we only had glimpses of previously. Birds we could add before leaving Mole include Woodchat Shrike, Northern Red Bishop, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Senegal Parrot, Black-billed Wood and Vinaceous Doves, Woolly-necked, Saddle-billed and Black Storks, Yellow-throated Leaflove and Red-headed Lovebird to mention a few before we set off to Kumasi.

Accommodation- Excelsa lodge

Day 13 - (Nov 30) **Bobiri butterfly sanctuary - Atewa forest**



After early breakfast we set off to Bobiri for some significant forest species like Narina trogon,African grey parrot,Long tailed hawk,Narrow tailed starling,Tit hylia, Forest wood hoopoe,Black sparrow hawk,Peregrine falcon,Red billed helmet-shrike, Western nicator,Blue spotted wood dove,Dusky tit,African cuckoo hawk,Black throated cucal ,Little grey flycatcher,Velvet mantled drongo just to mention a few.

Accommodation - Royal Bluemich hotel



Day 14 (December 1) [Atewa Range - Accra - Sakumono lagoon](#)

An early start as we head back into the Upper Guinea Rainforest habitat where so many of Ghana's sought after special species are found. This morning we hope to see Tit and Green Hylias, Magpie Mannakin, Narina's Trogon, Red-billed Dwarf and Black Dwarf Hornbills, African Grey and Brown-necked Parrots, Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike, Black-throated Coucal, Golden-backed Weaver, African Piculet, Red-chested Owlet, Dusky Tit, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Barbet, Grey-headed and Red-tailed Bristlebills and the much sought after Yellow-footed Honeyguide amongst other species.

We set off after a productive morning heading further south towards Atewa stopping for lunch en-route. After noon we will search for Black-necked, Maxwells Black, Compact and Grosbeak Weavers, Whistling Cisticola, Black-crowned and Marsh Tchagras, Emerald, Klaas's, Levallants and Yellow-throated Cuckoos, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Western Bluebill, Tessmann's Flycatcher and if we are lucky Baumann's Greenbul before heading to Accra

Depending on the time of arrival in Accra we shall visit Sakumono lagoon to rap up our incredible serious birding days, At this site we will see Residential and Migratory shore birds like Collared pratincole, Kittlitz's plover, Black heron, Great, Intermediate, Grey, Purple, Little and Cattle Egret, Purple swamphen, Northern pintail, African wattled, Spur winged lapwing, Black crowned night heron, Senegal thick knee etc.

After a delicious dinner , we will head towards the International Airport to say good bye and catch your flight back home .

Departure (Night)



(Mammals you may see during the trip)

Common wathog, Western tree hyrax, Cusimanse, African dwarf crocodile, Bushbuck, Nile crocodile, Striped ground squirrel, Red legged sun squirrel, Slender tailed squirrel, Fire footed rope squirrel, Kintampo rope squirrel, African giant squirrel
Green bush squirrel, Potto, Demidoff's galago, Senegal galago, Green monkey, Patas monkey, Olive colobus, Olive baboon, Lewis (Mona) monkey, Lesser white nosed monkey, Callithrix (Vervet) monkey, Straw collared fruit bat
Yellow winged bat, African savannah (scrub) hare, African palm civet Panther (Blotched) Genet, Nile water monitor

SUMMARY

- Tour Dates : Start November 18 ,2017 Accra
: End December 1, 8.00 PM at Accra Airport
- Expected Climate : Hot and Humid
- Group Size : 6
- Tour Pace : Modest pace
- Accommodation : Basic to Modern
- Food : Non-Vegetarian (Combination of Continental and Local)
- Tour Price : USD 2200 (per person) Twin - share basis
- Single Supplement : USD 175

Included : Accommodation as listed | 3 full meals every day | Ground Transportation .
Guide fees

Excluded : Airfare | additional menu | beverages | porter services | Tips | insurance .

This Tour will be operated in association with Adventure Birding Tours and Mr Kwame Brown and associates

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