TARTARUGA SAFARIS

Slow Down. See More.

8 Days Ruaha, Udzungwa and Mikumi Birdwatching Safari

From USD 2,718
2 adults sharing lodge accommodation.
Prices are subject to change depending on the number of travellers, accommodation selected, and season (low, high or peak).

OVERVIEW
Your private birdwatching journey
Explore southern Tanzania's riverine woodland, Eastern Arc forest and open savannah on an eight-day birdwatching safari. Start in Iringa for Ruaha, continue to Udzungwa and finish through Mikumi in Dar es Salaam. This is a road-based route with two substantial transfer days.
Route: Iringa - Ruaha - Udzungwa - Mikumi - Dar es Salaam
What makes this route different?
Travel at a patient pace with early starts, habitat stops and time to review your checklist. Larger wildlife remains part of the experience, but bird observation shapes the daily plan. We arrange the guiding level around your interests, including a specialist bird guide when requested and confirmed.
Accommodation and group size
Any group size is welcome, from one traveller to larger parties. We arrange additional vehicles when needed. The daily programme lists overnight areas; your quotation confirms property names, rooming and availability. Lodges, tented camps and upgraded options can be discussed before booking.
Plan your dates and budget
Ask for a tailored quotation based on your dates, party size, rooms and guiding needs. Park fees, activities and transfers are itemised before you book. Bird sightings are never guaranteed. Tell us about any target species so we can assess suitable habitats and timing rather than promise an encounter.
Birding season and practical preparation
Resident birds can be seen throughout the year. Migrants often add interest between November and April, while rains can affect access. Bring binoculars, a field guide, sun protection and a waterproof layer. Forest routes require sturdy shoes and walking comfort; contact us about access needs before committing.
Responsible observation
We follow authorised routes and wildlife rules. Keep away from nests, avoid playback and let your guide decide safe stopping points. Species identification benefits from patience, listening and repeated observation.
Explore our Tanzania safaris, safari FAQs and contact page. Official habitat information: Tanzania National Parks. Representative bird photograph reused from our credited website collection.
Where will you sleep?
Your overnight stays are part of the journey. Browse our accommodation styles and tell us which feels right for you.
High-End >Exceptional camps & exclusive lodgesLuxury >Comfort, character & personal serviceMidrange >Welcoming lodges & tented campsBudget >Simple stays & camping options
The day-by-day itinerary describes the proposed stays for this route. Alternative categories are available where suitable; upgrades change the quotation. Your final

accommodation and meal plan will be confirmed before booking.

DAY-BY-DAY PROGRAMME
Day 1 Your day-by-day birding journey Arrive in Iringa and transfer to Ruaha
Meet your guide at the agreed Iringa hotel or airport. The flight to Iringa is not included. Transfer to Ruaha, allowing several hours depending on the accommodation and road conditions. Enjoy introductory birding on the approach if timing and permits allow, then settle in before dark.
Meals: Lunch and dinner | Overnight: Ruaha lodge or tented camp

Day 2 Ruaha: riverine birds and woodland
Explore river corridors, woodland and open areas on permitted park roads. Look for kingfishers, bee-eaters, rollers, hornbills and raptors. Water levels and seasonal conditions shape the sightings. Use an early start and a sensible midday break, with time to discuss calls and identification with your guide.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | Overnight: Ruaha lodge or tented camp

Day 3 A second full day birding Ruaha
Choose a different accessible circuit and take an unhurried approach to woodland birds and river margins. Your guide balances bird observation with vehicle and wildlife safety. Walking is not automatically included; any ranger-led activity requires a separate confirmed arrangement. Spend the final evening reviewing your sightings at camp.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | Overnight: Ruaha lodge or tented camp

Day 4 Ruaha to Udzungwa via Iringa
Leave early for a long overland transfer through Iringa to the Mangula area. Road conditions and the starting camp influence the journey, so this is primarily a travel day. Stop for meals and comfort breaks at suitable places. Reach the forest-edge accommodation and agree the following morning's walk.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | Overnight: Mangula / Udzungwa area lodge

Day 5 Udzungwa: guided Eastern Arc forest birding
Explore an authorised forest trail with the required park guide or ranger. Move slowly, listening for mixed flocks and searching canopy gaps and undergrowth. Greenbuls and sunbirds are among the birds possible in these forests; endemics are never guaranteed. Agree a manageable route, carry rain protection and wear grippy walking shoes.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | Overnight: Mangula / Udzungwa area lodge

Day 6 Udzungwa forest edge to Mikumi
Enjoy a short guided forest-edge session if access and timing allow, then continue to Mikumi. The route changes from forested slopes to lower savannah and woodland. Settle into your lodge, with an afternoon birding drive where permit timings and daylight allow.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | Overnight: Mikumi area lodge or camp

Day 7 Mikumi floodplain and wetland birding
Start early on the Mkata floodplain, comparing open grassland, scattered woodland and accessible pools. Look for rollers, storks, kingfishers and raptors while observing the larger wildlife. Your guide uses authorised tracks and adjusts the route to water levels.

Take a midday break before an afternoon outing where practical.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | Overnight: Mikumi area lodge or camp

Day 8 Return to Dar es Salaam
After breakfast, begin the road journey to Dar es Salaam. Plan a full transfer day with meal and comfort stops rather than relying on a fixed arrival time. The itinerary ends at your agreed hotel or airport only if the flight timing has been approved in advance. A final city overnight is recommended.
Meals: Breakfast and lunch | Overnight: No overnight included; ends in Dar es Salaam

INCLUDED
- 7 nights in the accommodation arrangement confirmed in your quotation
- Private safari vehicle and driver-guide for the stated programme
- Park entry and scheduled birding drives for the stated route
- Required park guide or ranger for listed and confirmed forest walks
- Meals shown day by day and drinking water during safari transfers
- Pickup and drop-off at the agreed start and end points

EXCLUDED
- International and domestic flights unless specifically added
- Visas, travel insurance and personal medical expenses
- Binoculars, telescope hire and a dedicated specialist bird guide unless itemised
- Tips, alcoholic drinks and personal purchases
- Hotel nights and meals outside the stated programme
- Optional activities and services not listed in the written quotation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Is this a private safari, and how many travellers can join?
Yes. We arrange a private vehicle and guide for your party, from one traveller to larger groups. Larger parties use additional vehicles and guides. Tell us the number of guests, ages, dates and interests so we can confirm suitable arrangements.

Do I need birdwatching experience?
No. Beginners are welcome, and experienced birders can share target habitats and a checklist. Tell us if you require a dedicated specialist bird guide; we confirm their availability and any additional cost before booking.

Are particular birds or species totals guaranteed?
No. Birds move freely, and sightings depend on weather, season, water levels and patience. The route explores suitable habitats but does not promise a species, endemic, photographic result or minimum total.

When is the best time for this birdwatching safari?
Birding is possible through the year. Migrants can add interest in the greener months, often November to April. Rain affects roads and forest trails, while drier months can make access easier. We recommend dates around your target habitats and current conditions.

How much walking is involved?

Park birding is mainly vehicle-based unless a guided walk is listed and confirmed. Udzungwa birding is on foot on forest trails that can be steep or muddy. Tell us about mobility needs so we can choose a realistic route; universal accessibility is not assumed.

Which accommodation and meals are included?
The itinerary shows each overnight area and meal plan. We name the exact lodges, camps, room types and dietary arrangements in your written quotation. Properties and room availability must be confirmed for your dates.

Are binoculars, a telescope and a specialist guide included?
Bring your own binoculars and camera. Loan equipment, a telescope or a dedicated specialist bird guide must be requested and itemised in your quotation. Your standard driver-guide supports bird identification, with specialist expertise arranged according to your needs.

How is the safari priced?
From USD 2,718. Prices are subject to change depending on the number of travellers, accommodation selected, and season (low, high or peak). Contact our team to plan this itinerary.

Are flights and extra hotel nights included?
International and domestic flights are excluded unless expressly added to your quotation. Prior or final city hotel nights outside the daily programme are also separate. We check flight times before agreeing airport drop-offs after long road transfers.

Can I combine this with Zanzibar or another safari?
Yes. Ask us to add a beach stay, additional birding days or a wildlife extension. We will explain the extra travel time and provide a revised quotation before booking.

How do we bird responsibly?
Keep to authorised routes, follow your guide, keep a respectful distance and never disturb nests. Avoid playback, feeding or pursuing a bird for a photograph. Your guide may stop an activity if it risks disturbing wildlife.

How do I enquire?
Use the Enquiry tab or contact info@tartarugasafaris.com / WhatsApp +255 667 767 553. Share your dates, group size, target habitats, walking comfort and equipment needs. We confirm availability and send a written proposal.

Plan your journey:
https://tartarugasafaris.com/tour/8-days-ruaha-udzungwa-mikumi-birdwatching-safari/