

# Comprehensive Ghana

## 2025 Tour Leaflet



*Yellow-headed Picathartes* © Tasso Leventis

**14 – 31 January 2025**

# Comprehensive Ghana 2025



## WEST AFRICAN FORESTS

- Superb lowland forest birding
- Two mornings on the famous Kakum Canopy Walkway
- Two chances at Yellow-headed Picathartes
- Excellent savanna/woodland birding at Mole and Shai Hills
- Birding at the most pleasant time of the year

African Dwarf Kingfisher © Tertius Gous



## TOUR LEADER: MICHAEL MILLS



Michael's incredible focus, dedication and ability to locate and show Africa's toughest birds is probably unequalled on the continent. He has led dozens of tours across Africa and his experience in locating birds on just the softest of calls or briefest of views impresses those who travelled with him.

### DATES

2025	15 – 31 Jan
2029	10 – 26 Jan

### PROVISIONAL PRICES

Per person sharing	\$5450
Single supplement	\$595

\*Includes all ground costs

### BOOK ONLINE

Visit [www.birdingafrica.com](http://www.birdingafrica.com)  
 Deposit (\$150) by credit card  
 Email [info@birdingafrica.com](mailto:info@birdingafrica.com)



Nkulengu Rail © Michael Mills

Our comprehensive Ghana tour takes in the best birding this stable West African country has to offer, in 17 days. The trip has a strong emphasis on lowland forest birding, specifically endemics of the Upper Guinea region such as Buff-throated Sunbird, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Red-billed Helmetshrike and Red-cheeked Wattle-eye. We will visit Kakum National Park with its spectacular canopy walkway, Ankasa Reserve, Bankro, Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary and Atewa Hills. Right on top of the hit list is the incomparable Yellow-headed Picathartes, better seen in Ghana than anywhere else. Other tricky forest birds we hope to see include Nkulengu Rail, Brown Nightjar, Blue-moustached Bee-eater and Forest Wood Hoopoe. Two full days will be spent in the Guinea woodlands of Mole National Park, with the chance to see White-throated Francolin, Sun Lark, Dorst's Cisticola, Forbes's Plover and Standard-winged Nightjar, amongst many others. We will also make a special detour to look for Egyptian Plover.

## TOUR FOCUS

Ghana offers a good list of specials for world listers and a wide array of species and other wildlife for those with a more general interest. This trip has a strong focus on watching birds, but there are opportunities too for some mammal watching (especially primates) and bird photography.

Let us know if you have target species or want to know more about the species we might encounter. A species list will be handed out to you at the start of the tour and is available beforehand upon request.

The tour is timed to coincide with most pleasant time (drier and cooler) to travel in Ghana. We don't expect to encounter any rain. Weather will mostly be warm and humid.

We will travel in a spacious bus. More details about what to expect, how to prepare and what to pack are provided in our Tour Instructions.





Akun Eagle-Owl © Tertius Gous

## ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation and meals are generally fairly good by African standards, and vary from lodges and guest houses to rustic bush camps and small hotels. Rooms have private facilities and hot water.

Meals are Western-style. Please advise if you are vegetarian and what foods you enjoy, so that we can cater for you.

Water is not safe to drink so we supply complimentary bottled water in the vehicle.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum 9 participants.

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Please plan to fly in to Accra by the night of 15 January 2025. Departure from Accra is possible any time from 21h00 on the night of 31 January 2025.

Please email [callan@birdingafrica.com](mailto:callan@birdingafrica.com) a copy of your proposed flight details for approval before paying for your ticket.

## WALKING

This tour requires a moderate degree of fitness. Most walks will be done at a gentle pace, although there will be a couple of longer outings lasting the better part of a day (Atewa Hills in particular).

# INTRODUCTION

Ghana, straddling the forest and broad-leaved savanna zones of West Africa, offers the easiest and safest access to the region and its special birds. Several lowland forest reserves dot the south of the country, and it is here that many of the Upper Guinea forest specials can be found. Forest birding is mostly fairly hard work, but we'll inject our bird list with some productive savanna birding in the east and centre of the country.

Our 17-day itinerary takes in the best that Ghana has to offer, and aims to find as many regional specialties as possible.

We start off in the savannas of the coastal plain near Accra, before spending the better part of three days in and around Kakum National Park, including two mornings on the canopy walkway, where we hope to see Long-tailed Hawk, Congo Serpent Eagle, Brown Nightjar and Sharpe's Apalis, among many other forest birds. Next we'll immerse ourselves in the lowland forests of Ankasa, where a long list of tricky species can be found, including Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Rufous-

winged Illadopsis, Nkulengu Rail, Akun Eagle-Owl and White-crested Tiger Heron. From here we'll return eastwards to Bankro, famed for its colony of Yellow-headed Picathartes. Next we'll visit the hills of the Atewa Range, where Blue-moustached Bee-eater and Nimba Flycatcher are the top targets and other specials include a range of Upper Guinea species. At Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary we'll hope to find Western Black Dwarf Hornbill and Forest Wood Hoopoe. Finally, we'll make the long journey north to Mole National Park, where two full days will allow us to search out many of the savanna specials of the area, possibly including White-throated Francolin, Standard-winged Nightjar, Sun Lark, Rufous Cisticola, Dorst's Cisticola, Senegal Eremomela, Blackcap Babbler, Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling and White-fronted Black Chat, and with a great deal of luck, Red-winged Pytilia, Black-faced Firefinch, West African Seedeater, Yellow Penduline Tit and Rufous-rumped Lark. We fly back to Accra from the north, searching for Egyptian Plover before we do so.

*Sharpe's Apalis © Tertius Gous*

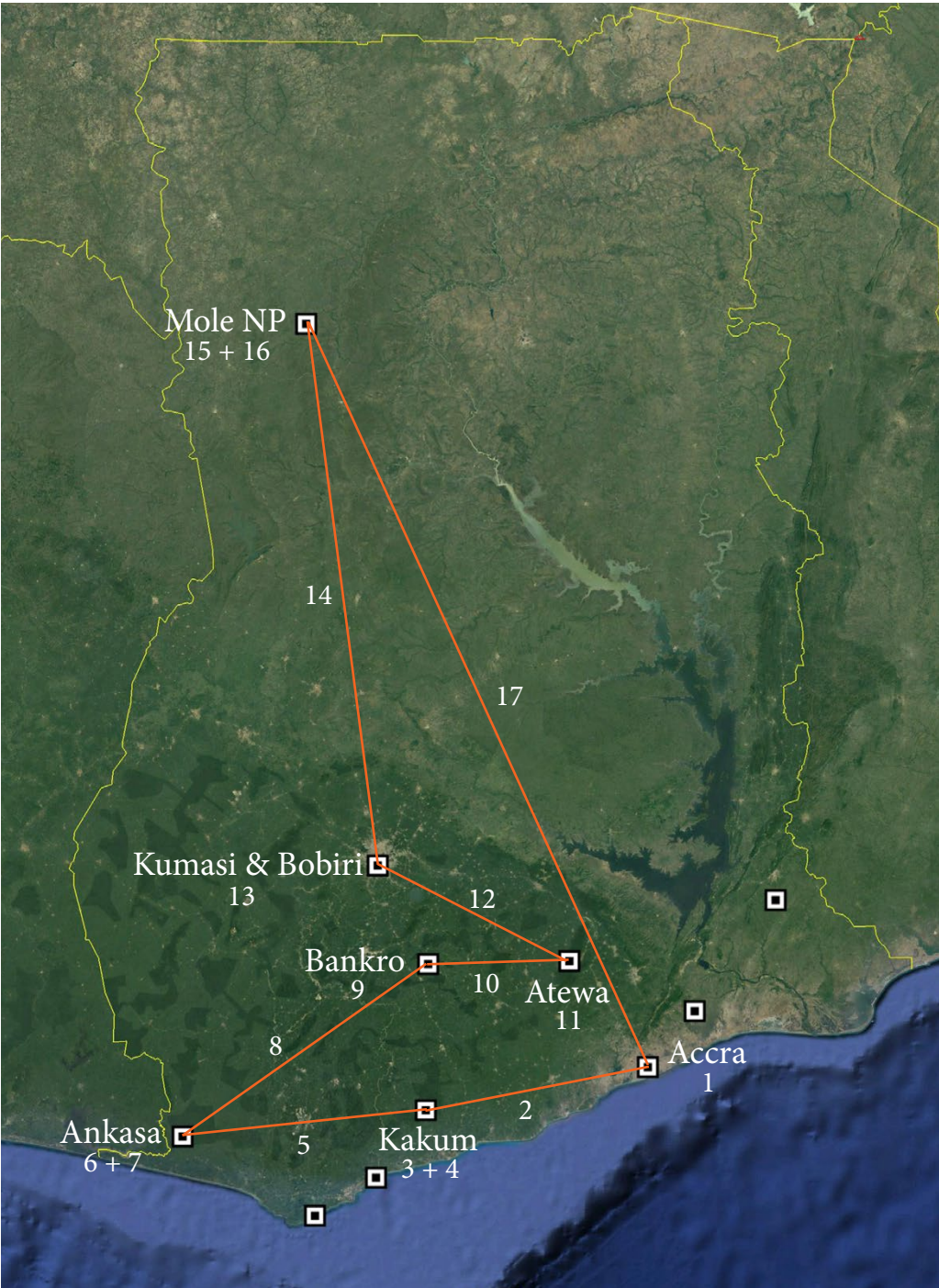




# ITINERARY AND MAP

Day 1	15 Jan 2025	Arrive. Overnight Accra.
Day 2	16 Jan 2025	Drive to Kakum National Park. Overnight near Kakum.
Day 3	17 Jan 2025	Kakum NP, including canopy walkway. Overnight near Kakum NP.
Day 4	18 Jan 2025	Full day in Kakum National Park. Overnight near Kakum NP.
Day 5	19 Jan 2025	Drive Kakum to Ankasa. Overnight at Ankasa.
Day 6	20 Jan 2025	Full day at Ankasa. Overnight at Ankasa.
Day 7	21 Jan 2025	Full day at Ankasa. Overnight at Ankasa.
Day 8	22 Jan 2025	Ankasa to Bankro. First visit to Picathartes colony. Overnight at Bankro.
Day 9	23 Jan 2025	Full day at Bankro. Second chance for picathartes. Overnight at Bankro.
Day 10	24 Jan 2025	Bankro to Atewa. Overnight near Atewa.
Day 11	25 Jan 2025	Full day at Atewa. Overnight near Atewa.
Day 12	26 Jan 2025	Atewa to Kumasi. Overnight at Kumasi.
Day 13	27 Jan 2025	Full day at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. Overnight at Kumasi.
Day 14	28 Jan 2025	Kumasi to Mole National Park. Overnight at Mole.
Day 15	29 Jan 2025	Full day at Mole NP. Overnight at Mole.
Day 16	30 Jan 2025	Full day at Mole NP. Overnight at Mole.
Day 17	31 Jan 2025	Drive to Tamale. Fly Tamale to Accra. Tour ends.

Western Forest Robin © Tertius Gous





# DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

## Day 1: Arrive Accra

Welcome to Ghana! From the airport you'll be transferred to our overnight hotel, not far from the airport.

## Day 2: Accra to Kakum

After an early breakfast, we'll escape Accra onto the nearby savannas of the coastal plain, to commence our birding. Species seen may include Senegal Coucal, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Black Coucal, Baumann's Olive Greenbul, Mosque Swallow, Short-winged Cisticola, Oriole Warbler, Green-headed Sunbird, Splendid Sunbird, Olive-naped Weaver and Yellow-mantled Widowbird. Lunch along the way will be followed by further savanna birding in the Afternoon. We plan to arrive at our hotel in the evening.

Overnight near Kakum.

## Days 3–4: Kakum National Park

We have two full days at Ghana's most famous birding reserve, Kakum National Park. On the first morning we'll ascend the world-famous canopy walkway in the dark, and wait for the forest to wake up around us. Not only does the canopy walkway produce incredible sightings of birds usually seen at a great distance, but also some rarely-seen species.

During the rest of our time we'll bird the understorey and forest edge at various places in and around the reserve.

Targets include Congo Serpent Eagle, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Buff-throated Sunbird, Red-chested Goshawk, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Black-throated Coucal, Forest Francolin, Fraser's Eagle-Owl, Brown Nightjar, Black Spinetail, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater, Rosy Bee-eater, Forest Wood Hoopoe, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill,



Blue-headed Wood Dove © Tertius Gous

Brown-cheeked Hornbill, Western White-crested Hornbill, Black-casqued Hornbill, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Yellow-footed Honeyguide, Thick-billed Honeyguide, African Piculet, Little Green Woodpecker, Melancholy Woodpecker, Brown-necked Parrot, Black-collared Lovebird (rare), Rufous-sided Broadbill, West African Batis, West African Wattle-eye, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Sabine's Puffback, Lowland Sooty Boubou, Blue Cuckooshrike, Forest Penduline Tit, Western Nicator, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Western Bearded Greenbul, Red-tailed Greenbul, Fanti Saw-wing, Preuss's Cliff Swallow, Grey Longbill, Kemp's Longbill, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Tit Hylia, Sharpe's Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Olive-green Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Brown Illadopsis, Violet-backed Hylia, Copper-tailed Glossy

Starling, Forest Chestnut-winged Starling, Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush, White-tailed Alethe, Little Grey Flycatcher, Ussher's Flycatcher, Forest Robin, Tiny Sunbird, Johanna's Sunbird, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Maxwell's Black Weaver, Preuss's Weaver, Red-vented Malimbe, Blue-billed Malimbe and Western Bluebill.

Nights near Kakum.

## Day 5: Kakum to Ankasa

We spend a second morning on the Kakum canopy tower, before making our way to far western Ghana. As we approach Ankasa we will stop for some wetland birding, which may produce Mangrove Brown Sunbird, White-browed Forest Flycatcher and Hartlaub's Duck. Overnight at Ankasa.



Pale-breasted Illadopsis © Tertius Gous





*Latham's Forest Francolin © Tertius Gous*

#### Days 6–7: Ankasa

The remote forests of Ankasa, near the border with Ivory Coast, are the most exciting that we will visit and regularly come up with some great surprises. Besides general forest birding there are several forest pools which hold particular interest. During our visit we'll have chances to search for many of the species also found at Kakum, but here we specifically will be targeting Hartlaub's Duck, African Finfoot, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Red-chested Owlet, White-bellied Kingfisher, African Dwarf Kingfisher, Shining-blue Kingfisher, Yellow-casqued Hornbill, Shining Drongo, Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Blackcap Illadopsis and Red-fronted Antpecker. There are also remote chances for White-breasted Guineafowl, Sandy Scops Owl and Akun Eagle-Owl. At night we hope to find roosting Nkulengu Rail.

Nights at Ankasa.

#### Days 8: Ankasa to Bankro

After some final birding at Ankasa we'll return eastwards, to Bankro, the village now famous for its Yellow-headed Picathartes colony. In the afternoon we'll make the shortish walk to the colony for our first chance to see this spectacular species.

Overnight at Bankro.

#### Day 9: Bankro

The forests around Bankro offer a good range of forest birds, including species such as Tessmann's Flycatcher and Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo. We'll spend the morning birding these forests, before having a second chance to visit the Yellow-headed Picathartes colony in the afternoon.

Overnight at Bankro.

#### Day 10: Bankro to Atewa

After some final birding at Bankro we'll drier to Atewa, birding in the farm bush at the bottom of the hills in the afternoon.

Overnight near Atewa.

#### Day 11: Atewa

This morning we will push on through the farmland at the base of the hills to get into the proper forest as early as possible, watching out for Blue-moustached Bee-eater as we climb. A good selection of forest birds is on offer and may include Western Bearded Greenbul, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Naked-faced Barbet, Western Yellow-spotted Barbet, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Melancholy Woodpecker, Black-capped Apalis, Sharpe's Apalis, White-tailed Alethe, Forest Robin, Usher's Flycatcher, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Nimba Flycatcher, Yellow-chinned Green Sunbird, Yellow-throated Cuckoo, Long-tailed Hawk and Copper-tailed Starling.

#### Day 12: Atewa to Kumasi

This morning we'll enjoy some final birding in the farmlands around the base of the Atewa Hills, before driving to Kumasi, where we'll bird Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary in the afternoon.

Overnight in Kumasi.

#### Day 13: Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary

This morning we'll bird the rich lowland forests to the east of Kumasi at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. A wide range of sought after species occur here, including Forest Wood Hoopoe, Lagden's Bushshrike (very rare), Black Spinetail, Narina Trogon, Least Honeyguide, Little Green Woodpecker, Red-fronted Parrot, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Sabine's Puffback, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Copper-tailed Glossy Starling, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Maxwell's Black Weaver and Red-vented Malimbe. Overnight at Kumasi.

*Fraser's Eagle-Owl © Tertius Gous*







Standard-winged Nightjar © Tertius Gous

**Day 14: Kumasi to Mole**

Today is essentially a travel day, as we make our way north into the Guinea woodlands of central Ghana at Mole National Park. We hope to arrive in time for some introductory woodland birding around our lodgings. Overnight at Mole National Park.

**Days 15–16: Mole National Park**

We have two full days at Mole National Park, where a wide range of woodland and savanna species can be found. A number of rarer or sought-after species can be seen here too, and we

hope to find at least some of Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard, White-throated Francolin, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Forbes's Plover, Standard-winged Nightjar, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Sun Lark, Rufous Cisticola, White-fronted Black Chat, Red-winged Pytilia, Black-faced Firefinch, Yellow Penduline Tit, Rufous-rumped Lark, Dorst's Cisticola, Wilson's Indigobird, Exclamatory Paradise Whydah and West African Seedeater, many of which will require a great deal of luck to encounter.

There is a large supporting cast of more widespread birds, including Stone Partridge, Woolly-necked Stork, Palm-nut Vulture, Black-billed Wood Dove,

Bruce's Green Pigeon, Violet Turaco, African Scops Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Long-tailed Nightjar, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Red-throated Bee-eater, Abyssinian Roller, Black Scimitarbill, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Rose-ringed Parakeet, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, African Golden Oriole, Square-tailed Drongo, White-shouldered Black Tit, Moustached Grass Warbler, Northern Crombec, Red-winged Warbler, Oriole Warbler, Blackcap Babbler, Brown Babbler, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Bronze-tailed Starling, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Northern Black

Flycatcher, Swamp Flycatcher, Senegal Eremomela, Purple Glossy Starling, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Western Violet-backed Sunbird, Pygmy Sunbird, Beautiful Sunbird, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Gosling's Bunting and Yellow-fronted Canary

Nights at Mole National Park.

**Day 17: Mole to Accra**

On our final day of the tour we'll drive to Tamale, via Daboya to look for the striking Egyptian Plover. From Tamale we fly back to Accra, where the tour ends on arrival.



## INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- Services of Birding Africa tour leader and local guides
- Entry fees and ground transport in Ghana
- Hotel accommodation throughout
- All meals from dinner on Day 1 and ending with lunch on Day 18
- Airport transfers
- Bottled water in the vehicle and one soft drink per sit-down meal
- General tips

## BOOKLET AND CHECKLIST

Birding Africa provides:

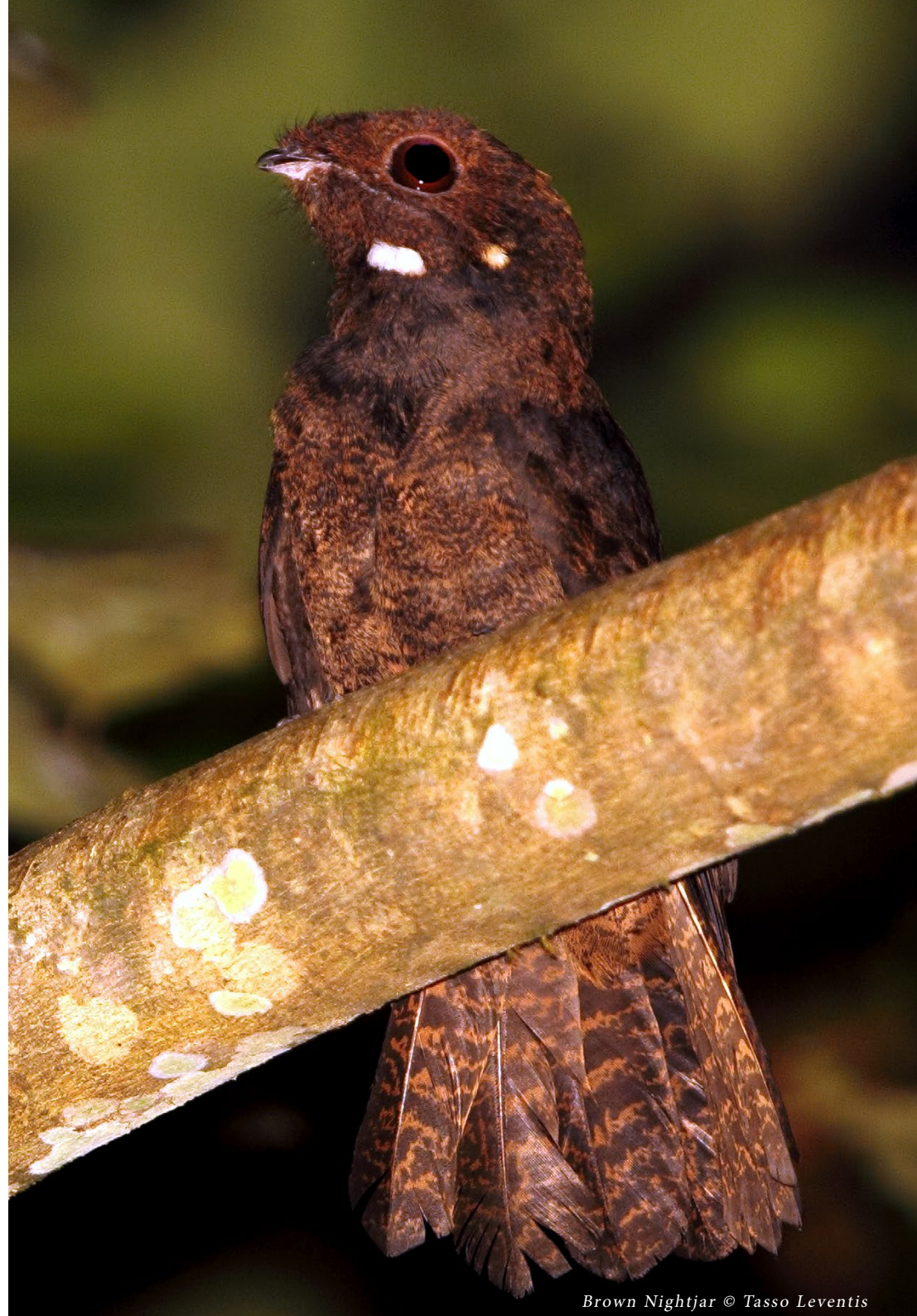
1. Tour Details leaflet with detailed itinerary.
2. Tour Information Pack, emailed to you.
3. Tour Booklet with checklists, provided in hard copy at the start of the tour.

## QUESTIONS?

Please email the office, [info@birdingafrica.com](mailto:info@birdingafrica.com), to reserve a place or ask questions (you can also cc [michael@birdingafrica.com](mailto:michael@birdingafrica.com) and [callan@birdingafrica.com](mailto:callan@birdingafrica.com) who are both involved in the planning of this tour).

## HOW TO BOOK

- Complete our easy online booking form.
- Secure your booking deposit by credit card on our 3D secure online payment site (\$150)
- Settle the balance by bank transfer 150 days before the tour. We will email you a reminder and the banking details.



Brown Nightjar © Tasso Leventis