



**BIRDING
AFRICA**
THE AFRICA SPECIALISTS

Comprehensive Angola

(plus Black-tailed Cisticola)

2025 Tour Leaflet



Angola Cave Chat © Michael Mills

1 – 22 August 2025

Comprehensive Angola 2025



ENDEMIC BIRDS IN COMFORT

- Targets all endemic birds and many specials
- First birding tour ever to target Black-tailed Cisticola
- Wide range of habitats: Namib Desert to Congo Basin Forests and miombo
- Led by Angola's top birder, with 20 years of experience

Gabela Helmetshrike © Michael Mills



TOUR LEADER: MICHAEL MILLS



Michael's incredible focus, dedication and ability to locate and show Africa's toughest birds is probably unequalled. He has led dozens of tours across the continent and his experience in locating birds on just the softest of calls or briefest of views impresses those who travelled with him. Michael has spent a total of more than four years in Angola, and knows the country's birds better than anyone.

DATES (2025)

Comprehensive 1 – 22 Aug

PRICES

Per person sharing	\$9250
Single supplement	\$740

Includes one internal flight.

BOOK ONLINE

Visit www.birdingafrica.com
Deposit (\$150) by credit card
Email info@birdingafrica.com



Swierstra's Francolin © Michael Mills

We have been pioneering birding tours to Angola since 2005. Our new 22-day itinerary is a first of its kind, and has been carefully crafted based on up-to-date knowledge of ever-changing road conditions, to comfortably and efficiently target all of Angola's endemic and special birds.

Our tour starts and ends in Luanda, with an internal flight taken at the end of the trip. During the 22 days we'll cover a large part of Angola, including some new sites never before visited on a birding tour, offering access to Black-tailed Cisticola, Grimwood's Longclaw and Congo Moor Chat in addition to all the typical species targeted on our previous Angola tours.

We will visit the northern escarpment forests for the striking Braun's Bushshrike. At Kalandula Falls we'll search for White-headed Robin-Chat and Anchietá's Barbet. The Muxima area holds Grey-striped Francolin, Gabela Helmetshrike, White-fronted Wattle-eye and Monteiro's Bushshrike. In the arid south-west targets include White-tailed Shrike, Hartlaub's Francolin, Benguela Long-billed Lark and Cinderella Waxbill. At Tundavala we may find Swierstra's Francolin, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, White-bellied Barbet and Angola Cave Chat. The Mount Moco area holds Brazza's Martin, Bocage's Sunbird, Bocage's Weaver and Black-chinned Weaver. Kumbira Forest is home to Gabela Akalat, Gabela Bushshrike and Pulitzer's Longbill. The Saurimo area holds Black-tailed Cisticola

and 'Bateke Plateau' Cisticola. And around the Menongue area we will target Grimwood's Longclaw, Congo Moor Chat, Benguela Seedeater, Bar-winged Weaver and, with some luck, White-winged Babbling Starling.

TOUR FOCUS

This Comprehensive Angola tour will give us a good chance to see all of Angola's endemic birds, including several BirdLife splits, and a large number of specials. We expect to record in excess of 550 species. The tour is heavily bird focused (there is little other wildlife), although the scenery is often spectacular and we will visit some of the country's top attractions, such as Kalandula Falls and Leba Pass.

A species list will be handed out to you as part of your tour booklet at the start of the tour and is available beforehand upon request.

The tour is timed to coincide with the breeding season of the endemic birds. Days will typically be warm to hot, but nights cooler in the highlands. We are likely to encounter a small amount of rain.

Travel conditions are generally reasonable, although service in hotels is often a bit slow. The route we follow makes use of the best roads and avoids the worst, but sections are still potholed and under construction, or a bit bumpy and dusty.



Grimwood's Longclaw © Michael Mills

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation and meals are generally of a reasonable standard. All rooms have private bathrooms and cold and hot running water is generally available. Although power supply can be unreliable, most hotels have backup generators.

Meals are a generally Portuguese-style, with a strong emphasis on starch and meat. Vegetarian options are limited. Some breakfasts and most lunches will be taken in the field.

Water is not safe to drink so we supply free bottled water in the vehicle that you can take to your rooms for drinking and brushing teeth.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum 9 participants in two 4x4s.

WALKING

This tour requires a moderate degree of fitness. Almost all walks will be fairly short and at a manageable pace, with the exception of one big hike planned at Mount Moco to search for Margaret's Batis. Alternative plans can be made for those not wanting to join this hike.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

The tour officially starts on the evening of Day 1, with dinner and accommodation in Luanda. The tour ends on arrival in Luanda on Day 22. Participants are advised to overnight in Luanda after the tour, in case of delays to internal flights. We can assist with hotel bookings for anyone wanting to spend nights before or after the tour in Luanda.

INTRODUCTION

Angola is one of the most biologically diverse countries in Africa. Following 30 years of civil war that ended in 2002, the country has been slow in opening up, which means that few birders have had the opportunity to sample its delights. With habitats ranging from Congo Basin forest to Namib desert, it is little surprise that the country has over 980 birds recorded. In addition, the escarpment and highlands of western Angola hold isolated patches of Afromontane and Congo Basin forests where numerous endemics have evolved in isolation. The combination of varied habitats, high species diversity and significant numbers of endemics and specials makes Angola one of the continent's top birding destinations.

The tour takes in all of Angola's key habitats and birding sites. In the northern escarpment forests numerous Congo Basin birds occur alongside the striking endemic Braun's Bushshrike. Broadleaved woodlands and gallery forests of the Kalandula area host forest specials such as White-headed Robin-Chat and Bannerman's Sunbird alongside miombo species such as Anchieta's Barbet, Sharp-tailed Starling and Anchieta's Sunbird. At Muxima, dry forests at the foot of the escarpment hold Gabela Helmetshrike, Monteiro's Bushshrike, White-fronted Wattle-eye, Grey-striped Francolin, Angola Batis, Yellow-throated Nicator, Pale-olive Greenbul, Hartert's Camaroptera and Golden-

backed Bishop. In the arid south-west we hope to find White-tailed Shrike, Hartlaub's Francolin, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Rüppell's Parrot, Pritit Batis, Cape Penduline Tit, Benguela Long-billed Lark, Rüppell's Korhaan, Cinderella Waxbill and Benguela Long-tailed Starling and Kalahari Scrub Robin. In the Lubango area, at Tundavala, we'll search for Angola Cave Chat, Swierstra's Francolin and White-bellied Barbet. In the varied Mount Moco region, with Afromontane forests, montane grasslands and miombo woodlands, our main targets include Finsch's Francolin, Fülleborn's Longclaw, Angola Swee Waxbill, Dusky Twinspot, Bocage's Weaver, Black-chinned Weaver, Oustalet's Sunbird, Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird, Bocage's Sunbird, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Bocage's Akalat, Huambo Cisticola, Black-and-rufous Swallow, Brazza's Martin, Black-collared Bulbul and Angola Lark. In the Namba mountains we hope to see Margaret's Batis and Laura's Woodland Warbler. At Kumbira Forest, on the central escarpment, we look for Gabela Bushshrike, Gabela Akalat, Pulitzer's Longbill, Red-crested Turaco, Yellow-necked Greenbul and Black-faced Canary. And two new areas included are Saurimo in the north-east, for Black-tailed Cisticola and 'Bateke Plateau' Cisticola, and Menongue in the south-east for Grimwood's Longclaw, Congo Moor Chat and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver.

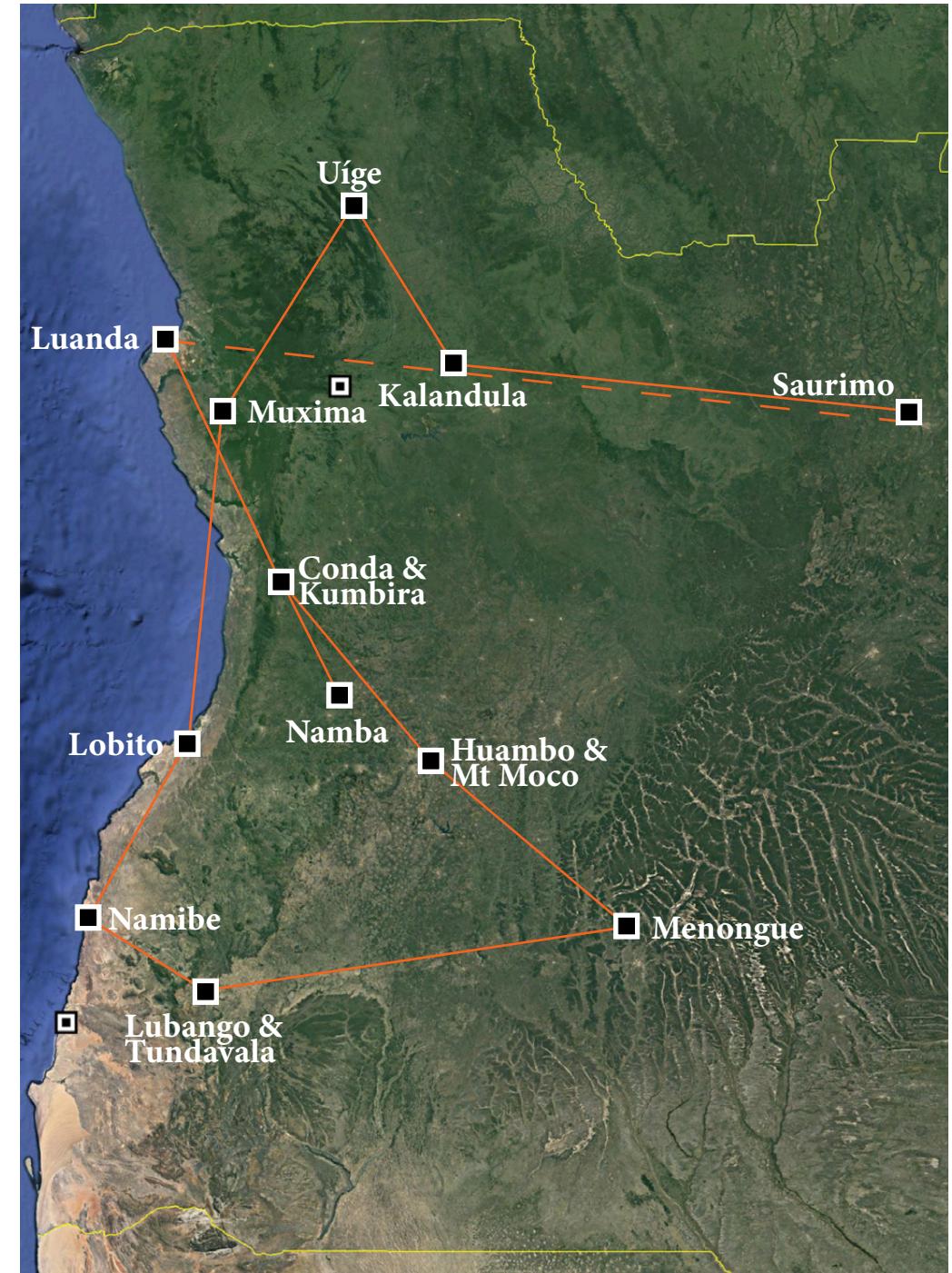
White-fronted Wattle-eye © Tasso Leventis



ITINERARY AND MAP

- Day 1 Arrive. Overnight in Luanda.
- Day 2 Luanda to Conda via Mussulo. Overnight near Conda.
- Day 3 Full day at Kumbira Forest. Overnight near Conda.
- Day 4 Day Trip to the Namba Mountains. Overnight near Conda.
- Day 5 Conda to Mount Moco. Overnight at Mount Moco.
- Day 6 Full day at Mount Moco. Overnight at Mount Moco.
- Day 7 Mount Moco to Huambo. Overnight in Huambo City.
- Day 8 Huambo to Menongue. Overnight near Menongue.
- Day 9 Full Day in Menongue area. Overnight near Menongue.
- Day 10 Menongue to Lubango. Overnight in Lubango.
- Day 11 Tundavala. Overnight in Lubango.
- Day 12 Lubango to Namibe. Overnight along Namibe Province coast.
- Day 13 Namibe to Lobito. Overnight in Lobito.
- Day 14 Lobito to Muxima. Overnight near Cabala.
- Day 15 Full day in the Muxima area. Overnight near Cabala.
- Day 16 Muxima to Uíge. Overnight in Uíge.
- Day 17 Full day in Uíge area. Overnight in Uíge.
- Day 18 Uíge to Kalandula. Overnight in Kalandula village.
- Day 19 Full day in Kalandula area. Overnight in Kalandula village.
- Day 20 Kalandula to Saurimo. Overnight in Saurimo.
- Day 21 Full day in Saurimo area. Overnight in Saurimo.
- Day 22 Fly Saurimo to Luanda. Tour ends.

Brazza's Martin © Michael Mills



BIRDING SITES COVERED

CAXITO AREA

Dry forests between Luanda and Uíge, in the Caxito area, hold a good diversity of endemics. We usually pause here for 2–3 hours of birding. Red-backed Mousebird and Bubbling Cisticola are usually present and Gabela Helmetshrike and Monteiro's Bushshrike are both possible. Angola Batis, Grey Waxbill, Pale-olive Greenbul, Olive Bee-eater, Golden-backed Bishop and White-fronted Wattle-eye also occur.

NORTHERN ESCARPMENT

Braun's Bushshrike is the main target in these forests, but a long list of other species is possible, including Banded Prinia, Lowland Masked Apalis, Black-throated Apalis, Buff-throated Apalis, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Orange-

tufted Sunbird, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Forest Chestnut-winged Starling, Black-winged Oriole, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Brown Twinspot, Naked-faced Barbet, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet, White-breasted Nigrita, Black Bee-eater, Green-throated Sunbird, Little Green Sunbird, Congo Pied Hornbill, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Sooty Flycatcher, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Piping Hornbill, Yellow-crested Woodpecker, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Red-fronted Parrot and Cassin's Honeybird. Unfortunately most of the accessible forests have been heavily logged, making it very hard to find the localised Angola White-throated Greenbul. White-collared Oliveback, discovered on a Birding Africa tour in 2011, is also possible but rather rare.

Braun's Bushshrike © Tertius Gous



Anchieta's Barbet © Michael Mills

KALANDULA FALLS REGION

Our main reason for visiting the Kalandula region is to search for the striking and localised White-headed Robin-Chat in the gallery forests some 40 km north of the falls. Sharing the same habitat are species such as Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Bannerman's Sunbird, Brown-headed Apalis, African Broadbill, Narina Trogan, Cabanis's Greenbul and Red-crested Turaco.

We'll also bird the surrounding woodlands, which are the most reliable site for Anchieta's Barbet and Sharp-tailed Starling. Other species of interest may include Pale-billed Hornbill, Anchieta's Sunbird, Western Violet-backed Sunbird, Red-throated Cliff Swallow, Meyer's Parrot, Retz's Helmetshrike, and Miombo Scrub Robin.

MUXIMA

Dry forests in the vicinity of Muxima make for some of the country's most endemic-rich birding. In the early morning we'll watch for Grey-striped Francolin on the sides of the road. A whole host of dry forest birds is on offer, with Gabela Helmetshrike, Monteiro's Bushshrike and White-fronted Wattle-eye top of the list. Other species we hope to find may include African Barred Owl, Red-backed Mousebird, Olive Bee-eater, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Pale-olive Greenbul, Swamp Boubou, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, Bubbling Cisticola, Forest Scrub Robin, Green Crombec, Purple-banded Sunbird, Yellow-throated Nicator and Angola Batis.



Rüppell's Korhaan © Michael Mills

ARID SOUTH-EAST

The northern parts of the Namibe desert and Namibian escarpment lies in south-east Angola and provide a boost to our lists, with several localised arid country birds on offer. Top of our target list will include Cinderella Waxbill, Benguela Long-tailed Starling, Hartlaub's Francolin, Benguela Long-billed Lark and Rüppell's Korhaan. Other species of interest will include Bennett's Woodpecker, Dusky Sunbird, Karoo Chat, Chat Flycatcher, Cape Sparrow, Southern Fiscal, Ludwig's Bustard, Double-banded Courser, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Greater Kestrel, Pale-winged Starling, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Stark's Lark, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Rüppell's Parrot, White-

Tailed Shrike, Cape Penduline Tit, Carp's Tit, Pririt Batis and Monteiro's Hornbill.

TUNDAVALA

Views down the spectacular southern escarpment are best had from Tundavala near Lubango. The rocky areas hold a variety of grassland, escarpment and forest birds. Top of the list is the localised Angola Cave Chat, found alongside Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Swierstra's Francolin (rare), Short-toed Rock Thrush, Angolan Swee Waxbill, Freckled Nightjar, Bradfield's Swift, Rockrunner, Tinkling Cisticola, Wailing Cisticola, Buffy Pipit, Striped Pipit and Oustalet's Sunbird. We'll also search for the rarely seen White-bellied Barbet.

NAMBA MOUNTAINS

The little-visited Namba mountains hold the largest remaining area of Afromontane forest in Angola. In this area we may find Margaret's Batis and Laura's Woodland Warbler, and there is also a healthy population of Swierstra's Francolin. The area is less accessible than Mount Moco.

GREATER MOUNT MOCO REGION

The greater Mount Moco region is one of the most diverse in the country, with Afromontane forests, montane grasslands, miombo woodlands and dambo grasslands.

At Mount Moco itself the forests support diminishing populations of Swierstra's Francolin, Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird, Bocage's Akalat, Schalow's Turaco, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Thick-billed Seedeater, Grey Apalis, African Hill Babbler, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Olive Woodpecker, Western Green Tinkerbird and Western Black-backed Barbet. Forest edge supports Huambo Cisticola, Yellow-throated Leaflove, Dusky Twinspot, Angolan Swee Waxbill,

Black-throated Wattle-eye, Oustalet's Sunbird, Bronzy Sunbird, African Spotted Creeper, Red-throated Wryneck and Black-chinned Weaver. The surrounding grasslands and rocky areas hold an endemic race of Mountain Wheatear, Horus Swift, Striped Pipit, Capped Wheatear, Black-collared Bulbul, Angola Lark, Broad-tailed Warbler, Wing-snapping Cisticola, and the very difficult Finsch's Francolin.

Miombo woodlands and dambo grasslands in the surrounds of Mount Moco hold an equally impressive variety of birds. Black-necked Eremomela, the curious local race of Brubru, Green-capped Eremomela, Miombo Scrub Robin, Miombo Wren-Warbler, Red-capped Crombec, Woodland Pipit, Salvadori's Eremomela, Pale-billed Hornbill, Yellow-bellied Hylota and White-breasted Cuckooshrike occur.

However, the dambo grasslands hold the greatest interest, and here we will be hoping to find: Braza's Martin, Black-and-rufous Swallow, Fülleborn's Longclaw, Chirping Cisticola, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Brown Firefinch, Bocage's Sunbird and Bocage's Weaver.

Bocage's Weaver © Michael Mills





Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver © Michael Mills

KUMBIRA

Kumbira Forest is home to three Endangered central-scarp endemics, namely Pulitzer's Longbill, Gabela Bushshrike and Gabela Akalat. Unfortunately slash-and-burn farming has caused major population declines in all three species, although the akalat is still common and the longbill is normally not too hard to find. The bushshrike has become rather rare and hard to find now, having been fairly common only 15 years ago.

so we may have to search for it at some backup sites. Other birds we may find at Kumbira include Red-crested Turaco, Southern Hyliota, Dusky Tit, Yellow-throated Nicator, Yellow-necked Greenbul, Pale-olive Greenbul, Brown Illadopsis, Hartert's Camaroptera, Eastern Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Superb Sunbird, Forest Scrub Robin, Gorgeous Bushshrike, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Black-faced Canary, Pink-footed Puffback, Angolan Naked-faced Barbet, Trumpeter Hornbill and Grey Waxbill.

MENONGUE AREA

The Menongue area, never before visited on a birding tour, offers some excellent miombo woodland and dambo grassland birding.

Moister dambos are home to Grimwood's Longclaw, Locust-finches, Red-winged Francolin (hard to see) and Pale-crowned Cisticola, whereas drier areas host Congo Moor Chat, Rosy-throated Longclaw, Malbrandt's Rufous-naped Lark, Cloud Cisticola, Fawn-coloured Lark, Denham's Bustard and Quail-finches.

The miombo woodlands in south-east Angola are among the richest on the continent. Birds found during our reconnaissance to the area include

Benguela Seedeater, Böhm's Flycatcher, Dickinson's Kestrel, Miombo Rock Thrush, Miombo Pied Barbet, Sousa's Shrike, Arnot's Chat, Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver, Bar-winged Weaver and White-winged Babbling Starling.

SAURIMO AREA

Our main reason for visiting the remote Saurimo area is to search for Black-tailed Cisticola, a localised and distinctive species never previously seen on a birding tour. Other birds we may encounter include "Bateke Plateau" Cisticola, Black-chinned Weaver, Bannerman's Sunbird, Bates's Sunbird, Salvadori's Eremomela, Grimwood's Longclaw and Anchietas Barbet.

Congo Moor Chat © Michael Mills





Bannerman's Sunbird (above) and Anchietta's Sunbird (below) © Michael Mills



White-bellied Barbet © Tertius Gous



Pale-crowned Cisticola (above, left) and Bocage's Sunbird (above, right) © Michael Mills.
Pulitzer's Longbill (below) © Tasso Leventis



INCLUDED

- Birding Africa tour leader
- Entry fees and activities as per itinerary
- Hotel accommodation throughout
- Airport pickup on Day 1 and airport drop off on Day 22
- Bottled water in the vehicle
- One soft drink at each sit-down meal
- General tips

QUESTIONS?

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

BOOKLET AND CHECKLIST

Birding Africa provides:

1. This Tour Leaflet with detailed itinerary
2. Our Tour Information Pack, emailed to you
3. The tour booklet with checklists, on the tour

HOW TO BOOK

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

