



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Djibouti

### Extension I

*8<sup>th</sup> January to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (5 days)*



**Arabian Golden Sparrow by David Hodinott**

*Simply put, Djibouti is one of Africa's least visited birding tours destinations. This trip is aimed at finding Djibouti's only endemic, Djibouti Spurrow, along with a number of other species that can be difficult to locate elsewhere. These include Somali Starling, beautiful Arabian Golden Sparrow, Sombre Rock Chat, White-eyed Gull, Crab-plover and Somali Sparrow. This tour takes us to places where very few birders have ever been; which, along with some superb birding, witnessing spectacular scenery and diverse and interesting cultures, makes this Djibouti extension a must for the intrepid birder.*

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**THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...****THE ITINERARY**

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Arrival in Djibouti</b>
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Djibouti to Foret du Day</b>
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Foret du Day to Dittilou</b>
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Dittilou to Djibouti</b>
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Djibouti and departure</b>

**TOUR ROUTE MAP...**

## THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

**Day 1: Arrival in Djibouti.** On arrival in Djibouti, you will be met and transferred to a comfortable hotel in the city. From our convenient base, we'll then explore the nearby Djibouti Bay, where we'll search for the Red Sea endemic White-eyed Gull as well as Sooty and Slender-billed Gulls, Gull-billed and Saunders's Terns, and Crab-plover. Other species we may see in the vicinity include Eurasian Spoonbill (of the resident race *archeri*), European Oystercatcher and Kentish Plover amongst a host of waders, and Clamorous Reed Warbler. The coastal scrub supports an interesting array of species and key birds we'll look for include the beautiful Arabian Golden Sparrow that is very



**Djibouti Spurfwowl by David Hoddinott**

localised in Africa, tricky Somali Sparrow, Graceful Prinia and Somali Bulbul. The area also hosts Nile Valley Sunbird and the beautifully marked Rosy-patched Bushshrike.

**Day 2: Djibouti to Foret du Day.** We depart this morning for Foret du Day, a very scenic drive since we will be crossing the Rift Valley with its huge, black lava flows. En route we may see Bonelli's and Verreaux's Eagles, Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark, White-crowned Wheatear, and we'll keep a careful watch for Arabian and Menetries's Warblers and the vagrant Cretzschmar's Bunting. Further along we will stop to take photo's of Lake Assal which is the lowest point in Africa, at 155 metres below sea-level. We then overnight at Campiment du Touristique, Foret du Day. At Foret du Day itself we'll make a concerted effort to find the endangered endemic, Djibouti Spurfwowl, as well as Somali Starling. Other species we may see in the vicinity are Gambaga Flycatcher, Abyssinian White-eye, Sombre Rock Chat and, if we are lucky, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl.



**Somali Starling (female)  
by Angela Pattison**

**Day 3: Foret du Day to Dittilou.** We have the entire morning to explore the area around Foret du Day. Our key target is the localised, afore-mentioned Djibouti Spurfwowl, which we will put in as much effort as necessary to hopefully track down and acquire decent views of. Thereafter we will drive to Dittilou, where we have chances for Green-winged Pytilia (a probable split called Yellow-tailed Pytilia), Yellow-rumped Seedeater and an almost mythical species called Toha Sunbird, which has only been seen by the discoverer. Other species we may see here include Bruce's Green Pigeon, Bonelli's Eagle, Shikra, Eastern Yellow-billed and Hemprich's Hornbill, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Grey-headed Batis, Glossy-backed Drongo, Red-tailed and Great Grey Shrike, Basra Reed and Menetries's Warbler, Abyssinian White-eye, Somali Starling, Black Redstart and Yellow-rumped Seedeater.

**Day 4: Dittilou to Djibouti.** After a final morning's birding around Dittilou we will return to Djibouti, where we will



overnight and celebrate our brief, yet rewarding journey over a good meal and no doubt a well-deserved couple of cold ones!

**Day 5: Djibouti and departure.**

Depending on our time of departure we may have the opportunity to do some further birding near our hotel, after which we will make our way to the airport to catch our international flights home.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

**Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.**



White-eyed Gull by David Hoddinott

This includes:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 5;
- Bottled drinking water;
- A soft drink/water at meals;
- All lodgings during the tour, including the three nights of the extension for those doing the extension;
- All ground transportation;
- All national park and other reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

This excludes:

- **ANY** flights, (see above);
- Visa fees;
- Alcoholic beverages; and
- Special gratuities, telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

**Single Supplement:** The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

**a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.**

**b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.**



c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

**Tippling:** As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leaders. Therefore, if you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

**Please Note:**

- The Djibouti itinerary will remain flexible so that if we have seen the target species in a particular area, we can then move camp to the next area, thereby making the most of our time.
- It can be hot in some areas, whilst the highlands can get cold especially at night. Rain may be experienced.
- There are some long drives on this Djibouti trip but we will take regular rest and birding stops to break the journeys. They are scenic and full of interesting waypoints!
- Accommodation is basic but comfortable.
- The food in Djibouti is generally fairly basic and consists of both western and local cuisine. We will also enjoy many “bush breakfasts and lunches” on the side of the road whilst in good birding areas.

**ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:**

The Djibouti Extension will depart from Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa on day 1 of the extension, and will conclude after breakfast on day 5 at Djibouti–Ambouli International Airport.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

**FLIGHTS**

Djibouti–Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti (IATA: JIB) is the main port of entry for international flights for the extension. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

