



**BIRDING
AFRICA**
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Ultimate Zambia Main and Pitta Tours

**Tour Leaflet
2024**



Zambian Barbet © Tertius Gous

**16 – 28 November 2024 (Main Tour)
28 November – 5 December (Pitta Tour)**

Ultimate Zambia 2024



Miombo and Africa Pitta

- Excellent miombo birding: Bar-winged Weaver, Souza's Shrike and Anchieta's Sunbird.
- North-west specials: Grimwood's Longclaw, Margaret's Batis, Laura's Woodland Warbler, Bamboo Warbler and Dambo Cisticola.
- Runs back-to-back with the **Zambian Pitta Tour** for African Pitta, Black-cheeked Lovebird and **Zambian Barbet**.

Bar-winged Weaver © 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 travel with him.

2024 DATES

Main Tour	16 – 28 Nov
Pitta Tour	28 Nov – 5 Dec

2024 PRICES + SRS

Main Tour	\$4950 + \$450
Pitta Tour	\$3550 + \$340

Includes all ground costs

BOOK ONLINE

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



Bamboo Warbler © John Clark

Our Ultimate Zambia tour is the most comprehensive birding tour offered to Zambia. It is convenient divided into two, each an excellent tour in its own right.

The **Zambia Main Tour** takes in the best sites in central Zambia in 13 days, with a strong focus on miombo woodland. After some introductory birding in the Lusaka area, with the endemic **Zambian Barbet** as the main target, we make our way north to the fabulous **Mutinondo Wilderness** with its mixture of miombo woodlands, dambo grasslands and gallery forests. Top birds should include Bar-winged Weaver, Laura's Woodland Warbler and Blue Quail. We then travel to the far north-west over three full days, with several special birds to look for en route, such as **Bamboo Warbler** and **Böhm's Bee-eater**. In the **Mwinilunga** area we target **Grimwood's Longclaw**, **Dambo Cisticola** and **Margaret's Batis**, before returning to **Solwezi** and flying back to **Lusaka**.

During the 8-day **Zambia Pitta Tour** (separate brochure) we visit the **Lower Zambezi Valley** in search of displaying African Pitta, Upper **Zambezi Valley** area for **Black-cheeked Lovebird**, and **Choma** area for the endemic **Zambian Barbet**.

Tour Focus

Zambia 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 and bird (and other) 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 the peak time for birding across Zambia as a whole. We expect to encounter a fair amount of rain, mostly as afternoon thunderstorms. Most days, especially in the **Zambezi Valley** will be hot, although rain will bring some relief from the high temperatures.

We will mostly make use of one or two four-wheel-drive vehicles, or a bus on the **Pitta Tour**. More details about what to expect, how to prepare and what to pack are provided in our **Tour Instructions**.



Böhms Flycatcher © Michael Mills

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation and meals are generally fairly good by African standards, and vary from private lodges and guest houses to rustic bush camps and small hotels. Rooms mostly have private facilities and hot water. We may need to share ablution facilities only on the odd occasion.

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.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Please plan to arrive in Lusaka by the night of 16 November 2024 for the start of the Zambia Main Tour and in Livingstone by the evening of 28 November 2024 for the start of the Zambia Pitta Tour.

Departure is possible from Lusaka from the afternoon of 28 November 2024 at the end of the Zambia Main Tour, and from Lusaka on the night of 5 December 2024 at the end of the Zambia Pitta Tour.

Please email callan@birdingafrica.com a copy of your proposed flight details for approval before paying for your ticket.

WALKING

This tour requires at least a moderate degree of fitness. Most walks will be done at a gentle pace, although there will be a couple of longer hikes lasting at least a day. Conditions underfoot can be muddy at times.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum 9 participants.

INTRODUCTION

Zambia, lying on the interface between Central and southern Africa, is largely blanketed in miombo woodlands and dotted with swamps and dambos. In moister areas tropical forests have developed and the drier south also holds mopane woodlands and acacia woodlands and gallery forests along the Zambezi Valley. Although the country only holds two endemics, Zambian Barbet and Black-cheeked Lovebird, a wide range of specials can be found and it is one of the best places to see the desirable African Pitta. Given the quality of the birds on offer Zambia must be regarded as one of Africa's most under-birded countries.

Our 20-day itinerary takes in the best that the country has to offer, and aims to find as many regional specialties as possible.

The **Zambia Main Tour** will kick off with some introductory birding in the Lusaka area, where the Zambian Barbet will be the main target. From here we travel to the remote Mutinondo Wilderness, one of the finest miombo woodland birding sites worldwide. It is undoubtedly the best place to see Bar-winged Weaver, but other target species include Böhms Flycatcher, Anchieta's Sunbird, Reichard's Seedeater and rare Anchieta's Barbet. Along the dambos we'll watch out for Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird, Stout Cisticola, Blue Quail and Black-rumped

Buttonquail in the grasslands, and Laura's Woodland Warbler, Bocage's Akalat and Black-backed Barbet in the gallery forests. We will try for the incredibly difficult Long-toed Flufftail and there is an outside chance of seeing African Grass Owl.

From here we move on to the north-west of the country over four days, to visit the Mwinilunga district, looking for Black-necked Eremomela and Bamboo Warbler en route.

The Mwinilunga area holds a diverse array of habitats from extensive gallery forests to open grasslands and miombo woodland. The most sought-after bird here is the localised Grimwood's Longclaw. Other open-country birds could include Black-and-rufous Swallow (a bit unpredictable at this time of the year), Angola Lark and Dambo Cisticola. Forests hold Bannerman's Sunbird and Margaret's Batis. From Mwinilunga we'll return part of the way to Lusaka, and then fly the majority of the way.

During the **Zambia Pitta Tour** we visit the Zambezi Valley in search of Africa Pitta, Livingstone's Flycatcher and Red-throated Twinspot, the Upper Zambezi area for Black-cheeked Lovebird and (hopefully) Slaty Egret, and the Nkanga/Choma area for the endemic Chaplin's Barbet, along with a wide variety of Miombo species.

Miombo Scrub Robin © Michael Mills



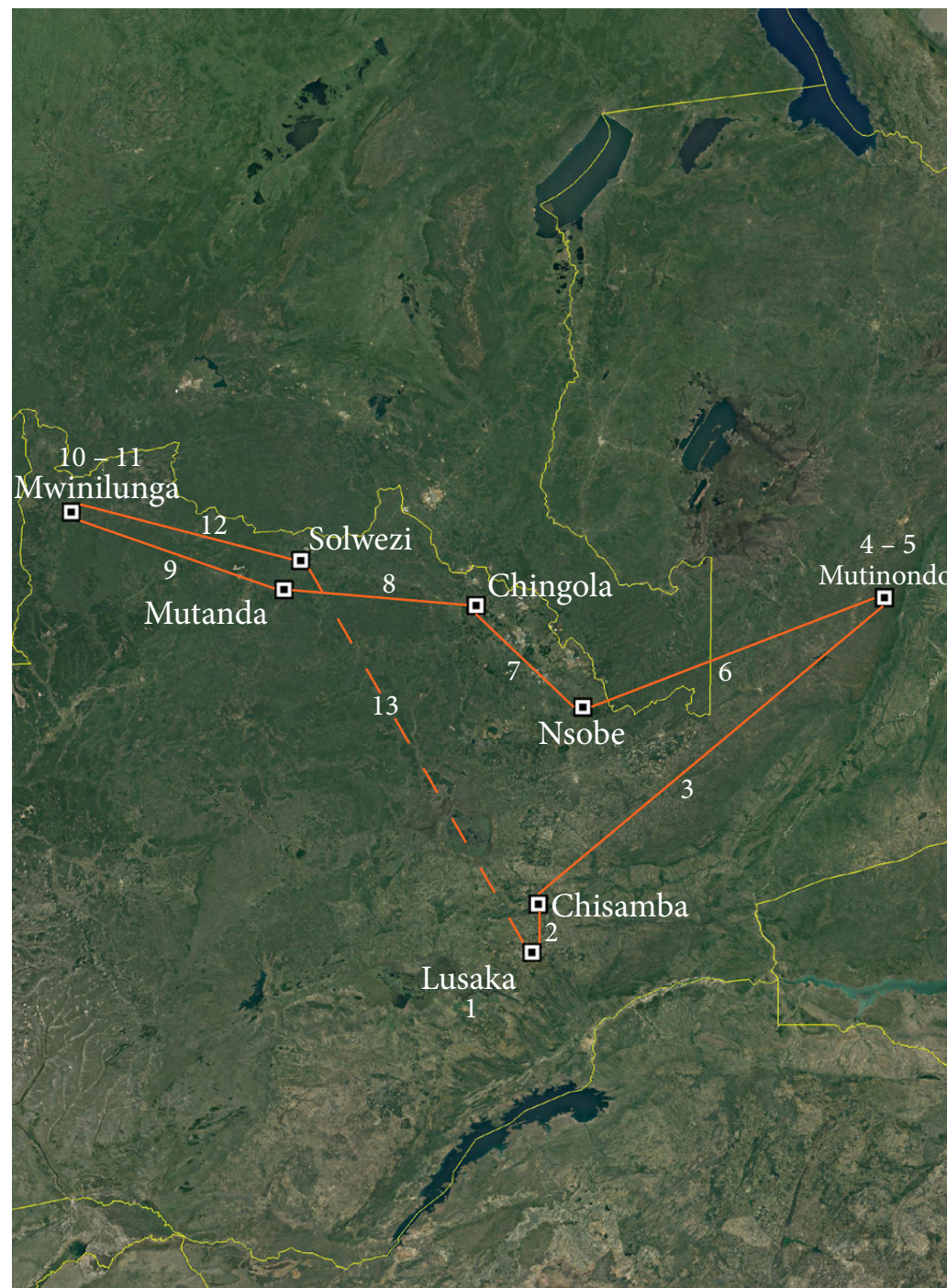
ITINERARY AND MAP

ZAMBIA MAIN TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 Arrive. Overnight in Lusaka.
- Day 2 Morning at Lusaka; afternoon to Chisamba. Overnight at Chisamba.
- Day 3 Chisamba to Mutinondo Wilderness. Overnight at Mutinondo.
- Day 4 Full day at Mutinondo Wilderness. Overnight at Mutinondo.
- Day 5 Full day at Mutinondo Wilderness. Overnight at Mutinondo.
- Day 6 Mutinondo Wilderness to Nsoke. Overnight at Nsoke Camp.
- Day 7 Nsoke to Chingola. Overnight at Chingola.
- Day 8 Chingola to Mutanda. Overnight at Mutanda Nature Lodge.
- Day 9 Mutanda to Mwinilunga. Overnight at Mwinilunga.
- Day 10 Full day in the Mwinilunga area. Overnight at Mwinilunga.
- Day 11 Full day in the Mwinilunga area. Overnight at Mwinilunga.
- Day 12 Mwinilunga to Solwezi. Overnight in Solwezi.
- Day 13 Morning flight from Solwezi to Lusaka. Tour ends. Those continuing with the Zambia Pitta Tour fly from Lusaka to Livingstone in the afternoon.

ZAMBIA PITTA TOUR ITINERARY (SEE SEPARATE LEAFLET)

Locust Finch © Tertius Gous



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

----- MAIN TOUR -----

Day 1: Arrive Lusaka

Welcome to Zambia! From the airport in Lusaka we transfer to our nearby hotel, set in some birdy grounds. Overnight in Lusaka.

Day 2: Lusaka to Chisamba

Miombo woodlands on the outskirts of Lusaka offer some of the best miombo birding in the country, and we start off spending the morning in the excellent woodlands of Lazy J Ranch. A long list of species is possible, including Miombo Tit, Rufous-bellied Tit, Spotted Creeper, Miombo

Pied Barbet, Southern Hyliota, Miombo Rock Thrush, Arnot's Chat, Souza's Shrike and Pale-billed Hornbill. In the afternoon we drive a short distance north of Lusaka to the farmlands of the Chisamba area, where our main target is the endemic Chaplin's Barbet around its favourite fig trees. Other birds we may see include Trumpeter Hornbill, Swainson's Spurfowl, Crowned Lapwing. Overnight in the Chisamba area.

Day 3: Chisamba to Mutinondo

After a bit of birding in the Chisamba area we set off on the long drive for Mutinondo Wilderness, breaking our trip at Forest Inn. Overnight at Mutinondo Wilderness Lodge.



Bar-winged Weaver © Tertius Gous

Days 4–5: Mutinondo Wilderness

The spectacular wilderness of Mutinondo is one of the top miombo birding localities worldwide, and we have two full days to sample its delights. In the miombo woodlands the top bird is Bar-winged Weaver, but there is a strong supporting cast with Anchieta's Barbet, Anchieta's Sunbird, Eastern Miombo Sunbird, Western Miombo Sunbird, Reichard's Seedeater, Red-capped Crombec, Whyte's Francolin, Böhm's Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Pale-billed Hornbill, Miombo Tit and Miombo Scrub Robin all possible. We will also dedicate a significant amount of time birding the dambos (depressions) with their moist, open grasslands and forests. In the grasslands we aim to find Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Locust Finch, Fülleborn's Longclaw, Pale-crowned Cisticola, Stout Cisticola, Blue Quail, Black-rumped Buttonquail and, with some luck, African Grass Owl and Long-toed Flufftail. Gallery forest birds include Schalow's Turaco, Ross's Turaco, Black-backed Barbet, Laura's Woodland Warbler and Bocage's

Akalat. Nights at Mutinondo Wilderness Lodge.

Day 6: Mutinondo to Nsoke Camp

We'll leave Mutinondo early as we journey westwards, stopping in the Forest Inn area to look for Black-necked Eremomela before continuing on to our overnight accommodation at Nsoke Camp.

Day 7: Nsoke to Chingola

The star bird at Nsoke is the unobtrusive Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver, which we'll look for in the tall miombo woodland. A good variety of other birds can be seen around the wetlands and thickets of Nsoke, and other possible species include Half-collared Kingfisher, Red-throated Twinspot, Fülleborn's Longclaw, Red-backed Mannikin, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Little Rush Warbler, Northern Blue-mantled Flycatcher and Chirping Cisticola. In the afternoon we'll continue to the industrial Copperbelt. Overnight in Chingola.



Souza's Shrike © Tertius Gous



Margaret's Batis © Tertius Gous

Day 8: Chingola to Mutanda

The focus of our morning will be the moist miombo woodlands to the east of Chingola, where specials could include Black-backed Barbet, Sharp-tailed Starling and, with some luck, the scarce Whyte's Barbet. In the afternoon we'll continue to Mutanda and bird around Mutanda Nature Lodge, where Bocage's Akalat, African Thrush and Grey-olive Greenbul are all possible.

Day 9: Mutanda to Mwinilunga

We'll start the day with some birding near our accommodation searching for Bamboo Warbler. The rest of the day will be spent driving to far north-western Zambia, with Red-throated Cliff Swallow the most likely addition along the way, but with additional chances for Bamboo Warbler. Overnight in Mwinilunga.

Days 10–11: Mwinilunga area

The north-western corner of Zambia, wedged between DR Congo and Angola, is one of the wildest and most exciting regions of the country. We have two full days to sample its delights. Floodplain grasslands are home to the localised Grimwood's Longclaw, our top target in the area. Other grassland birds include Short-tailed Pipit, Rosy-throated Longclaw, Dambo Cisticola, Fülleborn's Longclaw, Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird and Sooty Chat. Black-and-rufous Swallow and Bocage's Weaver are seasonal and unlikely to be present during our visit. The forests hold a host of other species, and Bates's Sunbird, Bannerman's Sunbird and Grey-winged Robin-Chat. We'll also make a special trip to the Mayau area to search for the localised Margaret's Batis, which occurs alongside Gorgeous Bushshrike and a variety of other dense woodland species.

Day 12: Mwinilunga to Solwezi

After some final birding around Mwinilunga we'll return east to the Solwezi area. Overnight in or near Solwezi.

Day 13: Fly Solwezi to Lusaka.

This morning we return by air to Lusaka, where the tour ends on arrival.

----- PITTA TOUR -----

The Zambia Pitta Tour starts in Livingstone on the evening of Day 13. Those who joined the Zambian Main Tour will fly from Lusaka to Livingstone first. Please see our separate Zambia Pitta Tour leaflet for full details.

Black-necked Eremomela © Tertius Gous



INCLUDED

- Guiding services of the Birding Africa tour leader
- Entry fees and activities as per itinerary
- Hotel accommodation throughout
- Airport transfers
- 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. the 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.

