

# Embark on a Birding Adventure in





Namibia & Botswana with Grassland Bird Trust!













BLACK RHINO\*

## **MARCH 16 to MARCH 27, 2023** (12 days/11 nights)

#### Join Grassland Bird Trust (GBT) for an unforgettable AFRICAN BIRDWATCHING AND WILDLIFE VIEWING EXPERIENCE.

GBT trip leader Paloma Spina, Board Director, will take you on this uniquely crafted guided tour from Windhoek, Namibia's capital, north through Etosha National Park and east all the way to Botswana.

We will seek out over 620 species of birds and wildlife traveling by air-conditioned vehicle with a window seat for each guest, take short walks and a private Okavango River cruise. After unforgettable days, we'll enjoy breathtaking sunsets and delicious dinners at comfortable full-service lodges.

#### **IN-COUNTRY PARTNER:** Nature Travel Birding

Photos: †Dreamstime.com; \*Nature Travel Birding.

**SEE DETAILS** »



Photos by Drotsky Cabins, Botswana

Photo by Mahangu Safari Lodge, Namibia

#### Immerse yourself in the world of exotic birds, lions, giraffes, rhinos, antelope, buffalo, and more on this one-of-a-kind African birding and nature tour designed by NATURE TRAVEL BIRDING AND DESTINATION WILDLIFE exclusively for GRASSLAND BIRD TRUST!

We will explore private and public nature preserves in both Namibia and Botswana during this tour. According to the World Wildlife Fund, **Namibia was the first African country to include protection of the environment in its constitution.** It has the largest free-roaming population of black rhinos in Africa, desert-adapted lions and elephants. It also features a diverse landscape of grasslands, deserts, and floodplains. **Botswana is also dedicated to conservation.** More than 25% of its land area is set aside for parks and reserves to conserve the national heritage of the country.

#### Trip highlights include:

- Etosha National Park: During the first four days we will be at Etosha National Park, one of the greatest parks of Africa. There is a fascinating interaction between honey badgers and pale chanting goshawks, where the goshawk will follow the badgers hoping that when they dig out prey some will escape, thus offering them an easy meal. It is often seen in Etosha and we will hopefully be lucky on this trip. Notable bird species include: crimson-breasted shrike, acacia pied barbet, golden-tailed woodpecker, rufous-eared warbler, swallow-tailed bee-eater, ostrich, red-crested korhaan, and more!
- Mahango National Park and Buffalo Game Park: These parks offer exceptional game viewing and birding with our main mammal targets being sable and roan antelope, tsessebe, red lechwe, African buffalo and bushbuck. We will also explore the Buffalo Game Park,

which is known for their buffalo herds and hippo. We will search the riverine woodland and Acacia savannah for the greater and lesser honeyguide, Meyer's parrot, and chinspot batis and the floodplains for the wattled crane, squacco heron, African spoonbill (to name a few). If we come across a herd of buffalo or other big game we will look for red-billed and yellow-billed oxpeckers.

- Okavango Panhandle: We will bird the woodland between Rundu and Mahango National Park as well as the area in Botswana we will be exploring. The special attraction here is the highly sought-after Pel's fishing owl. This area might be one of the best spots in the world to find this beautiful bird. This area is also home to plenty of kingfisher species, including malachite, pied, brown-hooded, grey-headed, African pygmy kingfisher, and giant kingfishers.
- Okavango River is home to the Nile crocodile and lots of hippos. This area is also perhaps the best place in southern African to see the beautiful sitatunga antelope. We will also go on a dinner cruise on the river!

We will enjoy **comfortable accommodations** at first-class certified eco-lodges and exquisite **chef-prepared locally sourced meals** during our stay! Birdwatching and game viewing opportunities are also abundant from the lands around our lodges. At one of our accommodations, we will have the opportunity to look for the African elephant, black rhino, giraffe, and more at a flood-lit waterhole at the edge of camp!

### **IN-COUNTRY COSTS\*:**

**Per person double occupancy: \$5,235.** First 1/2 deposit (due by Nov 1, 2022): \$2,617.50. **Per person single occupancy: \$5,565.** First 1/2 deposit (due by Nov 1, 2022): \$2,782.50.

\* Package includes all lodging, meals, certified bird guides and in-country transportation. It does not include airfare to and from Windhoek, Namibia, trip insurance (mandatory but Roberta will coordinate this), tips, souvenirs, or laundry. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is mandatory. According to the US Embassy no regions in Namibia show evidence of high escalated COVID-19 risk.

Reserve your spot online at <u>https://bit.ly/GBTNamibiaBotswana</u> Deadline to register with 50% deposit: November 1, 2022

Destination: Wildlife

Contact Roberta Kravette at Destination: Wildliferkravette@signpostpublishing.com• 908-656-4016

#### Sources:

botswana.co.za »
worldwildlife.org »



Grassland Bird Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust conserving critical habitat for endangered, threatened, and rapidly declining grassland birds. Visit GrasslandBirdTrust.org to learn more.