

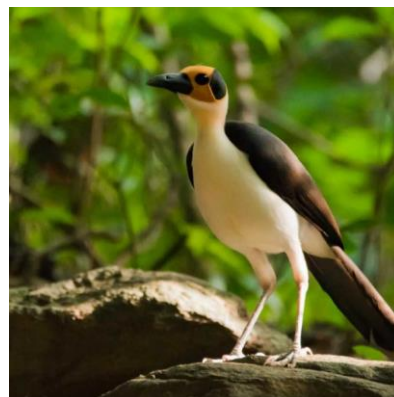
Ghana Anytime

Dates: Anytime

Guide: Local Guide

Sample Price: £2500

This sample Anytime tour takes in comprehensive coverage of varied West African habitats from coastal wetlands and lagoons, moving inland through the coastal savannah into the rich Upper Guinea Rainforests that protect so many West African speciality species



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Day 1: Arrive Accra – Shai Hills

After arrival in Accra in the morning, we take the approximately hour's drive to your hotel which is located close to Shai Hills Reserve. After checking you in your guide will brief you on the following days activities and answer any questions you may have. Depending on your arrival time, you can enjoy your early evening meal whilst acclimatising yourself to West Africa.

Day 2: Shai Hills - Kakum

Our first morning we explore the open grassland savannah of Shai Hills Reserve hoping to see a good selection of species that include, Northern Crombec, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Cardinal Woodpecker, Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets, Mocking (White-crowned) Cliff-Chat, Rock Martin, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Violet Turaco, Senegal Parrot, Senegal Batis, Blue-bellied Roller, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Oriole Warbler, Blackcap and Brown Babblers, Copper and Splendid Sunbirds, White Helmetshrike, Croaking and Short-winged Cisticolas, African Thrush, Red-necked and Lizard Buzzards, Lanner Falcon, Green Woodhoopoe and Stone Partridge.

Next we head for Sakamona Lagoon. Depending on the level of water, we hope to see Black-winged Stilt, Senegal Thick-knee, Common Ringed, Grey and Spur-winged Plovers, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Common Greenshank, Spotted Redshank, Wood and Common Sandpipers, Collard Pratincole, Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstone, Little Stint, Long-tailed Cormorant, Squacco, Grey, Purple, Striated and Black Herons, Little, Cattle, and Intermediate Egrets. We finally head for Kakum for the night.

Day 3: Kakum

We aim to get to Kakum Canopy Walkway to spend the most critical bird viewing hours 40m above the forest floor on the canopy walkway, where 7 platforms are large enough to support Telescopes. The 360 km² Kakum National Park protects secondary upper guinea semi deciduous tropical rainforest and it is a wonderful feeling being so close to the canopy of this beautiful forest.

Our main target species are Violet-backed Hylia, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, the Upper Guinea endemics Sharpe's Apalis, Brown-cheeked Hornbill and Copper-tailed Starling, West African Batis, Blue Cuckooshrike, Little Green Woodpecker and the White-crested Hornbill. Other species we hope to see include Blue-throated Brown, Green, Collard, Johanna's and the beautiful Buff-throated Sunbirds, Red-headed and Crested Malimbés, Rosy Bee-eater, White-breasted and Grey-crowned Negrofinch, Red-fronted and African Grey Parrots, Yellowbill, Western Black-headed and Black Winged Orioles, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Splendid Glossy and Forest Chestnut-winged Starlings, Preuss's and Yellow-mantled Weavers, Green Hylia, Golden, Slender-billed and Grey Greenbuls, African Green Pigeon, Yellow-billed Turaco, African Emerald Cuckoo, Blue-throated Roller, Yellow-throated, Red-rumped and Speckled Tinkerbirds, Hairy-breasted and Naked-faced Barbets, Ussher's and Little Flycatchers, Cassin's Honeyguide and African Pied Hornbill.

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Raptors we have a chance to see include, Congo Serpent-Eagle, African Harrier-Hawk, Palm-nut Vulture, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle and Red-necked Buzzards. Some of the more difficult species from the canopy include Long-tailed Hawk, Black Dwarf Hornbill, Yellow-footed Honeyguide and Black-collared Lovebird.

In the mid-afternoon heat, you will have the option of birding around our lodges, grounds, resting in your air-conditioned rooms, around the pool and bar or you could choose to go on a complimentary cultural excursion to Cape Coast castle. We re-visit the canopy walkway in the evening when our main targets will be the Brown-cheeked, Black and Yellow-casqued Hornbills, Great Blue Turaco, Brown Nightjar and Fraser's Eagle-Owl amongst other specials.

Day 4: Kakum - Ankasa

This morning we will be concentrating our time on the farmland scrub, forest edge and forest trails at a section of forest habitat near to the park. Here, we search for Pale Flycatcher, Black-and-White Mannikin, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Lowland Sooty Boubou, Puvel's Illadopsis, Olive-green Camaroptera, Red-faced and Whistling Cisticolas, Lesser Striped Swallow, Fanti Sawwing, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Naked-faced and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Fraser's and Little Green Sunbirds, Blue Malkoha, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Swamp Greenbul, Northern Fiscal, Spotted Greenbul, Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush, Yellow-whiskered and Red-tailed Greenbuls, White-crested Hornbill, African Harrier-hawk and the more sought-after difficult species include Long-tailed Hawk, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Congo Serpent-Eagle, Red-billed and Black Dwarf Hornbills.

We check out of our lodge after enjoying our lunch and set off westwards to Ankasa Reserve. This exceptional forest in a remote location protects many rare and sought-after bird and mammal species. As we arrive in the late afternoon we settle into our chosen accommodation before heading out for early evening birding where we hope to see Frasers and Akun Eagle Owls.

Days 5-6: Ankasa

Your guide will be up before first light listening for the unmistakable call of the Nkulengu Rail, if he locates this species, he will alert the group before breakfast. After breakfast we set off venturing deeper into this lush forest with our main targets being the Upper Guinea endemics; Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Rufous-winged Illadopsis and Green-tailed Bristlebill; in addition to Ansorge's, Icterine, Red-tailed and Western Bearded Greenbuls, Pale-breasted and Blackcap Illadopsis, Forest Robin, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, White-tailed Alethe, Shining Drongo, Cassin's Flycatcher, Yellow-spotted Barbet, White-throated Bee-eater, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, Blue-headed Wood-Dove, Bronze-naped Pigeon, Yellow-billed and Great Blue Turacos, Black-capped Apalis, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Tiny Sunbird and Red-fronted Antpecker. Luck can bring African Pitta.

As we approach the watering holes located deeper inside the forest, we hope to see Crested Guinea fowl on the road. Our target birds will include Hartlaub's Duck, Dwarf Bittern, African Finfoot, Shining Blue, White-bellied, Blue-breasted and African Dwarf Kingfishers. Forest raptors are always welcome, and we hope to see Long-tailed Hawk and Congo Serpent-Eagle. We will scan the sky for Crowned Eagle, Square-tailed and Fanti Sawwings, Black-casqued and Yellow-casqued Hornbills in addition to Black Dwarf and Piping Hornbills.

Day 7: Ankasa – Kwabena Sam Forest

A final early morning's birding at Ankasa, before we head back east to Kwabena Sam forest where our target species include, African (Fraser's) Forest-Flycatcher, Yellow-browed and Olive-green Camaroptera, Western Nicator, Puvel's Illadopsis, Tit-hyllia, Yellow-footed and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Green Crombec, Kemp's Longbill, Blackcap Apalis, Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher, West African Wattle-eye, Red-cheeked Wattle Eye, Black-throated Coucal and Bronze-naped Pigeon amongst others. Depending on which nocturnal species we still need we can also stay after dark looking for owls and nightjars.

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Day 8: Nyamebe Bepo Forest

Today is special and it is difficult to focus our minds on anything other than the afternoon visit to the White-necked Rockfowl nesting site.

Such a productive forest and species we could see include White-crested and Black Dwarf Hornbill, Grey-headed and Red-tailed Bristlebills, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-throated and Thick-billed Cuckoos, Forest Woodhoopoe, Blue Cuckooshrike, Sharpe's Apalis, Black-and-White Shrike-flycatcher, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Long-tailed Hawk, Congo Serpent-Eagle and this is also the forest we where it is possible to see the extremely rare and difficult to see Ghana Cuckooshrike.

Day 9: Bobori & Atewa

An early start as we set off towards Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. We hope to see Tit-hylia and Green Hylia, Magpie Mannakin, Narina Trogon, Red-billed Dwarf and Black Dwarf Hornbills, African Grey and Brown-necked Parrots, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Black-throated Coucal, Golden-backed Weaver, African Piculet, Red-chested Owlet, Dusky Tit, Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Barbet, Grey-headed and Red-tailed Bristlebills and the much sought-after Yellow-footed Honeyguide.

Our next destination is Atewa where we hope to see Black-necked, Maxwell's Black, Compact and Grosbeak Weavers, Whistling Cisticola, Black-crowned and Marsh Tchagras, African Emerald, Klaas's, Levaillant's and Yellow-throated Cuckoos, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher, Western Bluebill, Tessmann's Flycatcher and, if we are lucky, Baumann's Greenbul and Bat Hawk.

Day 10: Atewa – Accra Depart

Atewa is critically-endangered highland Upper Guinea rainforest. Target birds here will include Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Blue-moustached Bee-eater, West African Batis, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, African Hobby, Long-tailed Hawk, Congo Serpent-Eagle, Red-rumped, Yellow-rumped and Speckled Tinkerbirds, Little Green, Buff-throated, Blue-throated Brown, Olive-bellied and Collared Sunbirds, African Goshawk, Red-tailed and Green-tailed Bristlebills, Red-headed and Crested Malimbés, Forest Robin, Little, Grey, White-throated, Icterine, Red-tailed, Western Bearded and the Upper Guinea endemic Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Western Nicator, Brown Illadopsis and Bronze-naped Pigeon. Atewa protects some rare species of birds and we hope to get good views of Red-fronted Antpecker, Nimba Flycatcher, Crowned Eagle, Brown-chested Alethe, Forest Scrub Robin and Lowland Akalat.

We return to our hotel for lunch and to shower, freshen up and pack our bags before setting off for Accra and flights home.

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