

Eastern Zimbabwe & Central Mozambique by Andrew Hart

I have just returned home from a fantastic week's birding in eastern Zimbabwe and central Mozambique with Reach Africa Birding Safaris (Dec 09). I wasn't sure what to expect, venturing well off the beaten track, but I was in very capable hands. The trip was meticulously planned to maximise the time spent in a variety of birding hotspots, all with their specials, and we achieved a total of well over 300 species in a week, including several lifers such as the elusive African Pitta. Our guide, Graham Snow, a southern African birding expert, handled a 5-strong group with mixed birding abilities with well-practised professionalism and great enthusiasm, and I can highly recommend him. The accommodation and catering was far better than I expected from the area, and I spent every night in a comfortable bed! The transport (6 seater luxury Volkswagen 4x4 minibus and trailer) was ideal for the roads, which varied from dual carriageway to rutted tracks! A wonderfully memorable experience!

Andrew Hart, Farnham, Surrey, UK.

All the best for 2010.