

## **Itinerary Per Klunderud group - KNoK, February / March 2019.**

### **D 1/ arrival Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of February Norway – Marrakech – Ait Benhaddou**

Meet and welcome at Marrakech airport - arrival flight time with Norwegian to Marrakech (15:15pm). About 1-2 hours for checking out luggage, passport etc. Meeting with Brahim and bus of 17 seaters at the airport. - A long drive, leaving Marrakech directly, direction to Ouarzazate via the high atlas mountains and the famous *Tizi-n-Tichka* pass (2260 meters) ending up in *Ait-Benhaddou*, for staying 2 nights.

2 nights: Dinner and accommodation in the North of village of Ait-Benhaddou  
Hotel Ksar Ljanoub <http://www.ksarljanoub.com/>

### **D 2/ Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. Full day around Ounilla valley and in the area**

After breakfast in our hotel, we will start the day in the area included making some walks, in the Ounilla valley. Possible to visit Telouet, Gorge Assaka and village Anemiter. We will see some birds of the area such as Moussier's Redstart, Black Wheatear, White-crowned Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Trumpeter Finch, House and Rock buntings, Common Bulbul, Black cap, Sardinian Warbler, Desert and Thekla Larks, Long-legged Buzzard and the mammal of Barbary Ground Squirrel. Then early in the evening, we drive back to the hotel.

### **D 3 / Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb: Ait Benhaddou -Ouarzazate - Skoura - Boumalne Dades**

After breakfast in our hotel, heading for *Boumalne Dades* via *Ouarzazate*, visit *Skoura* and *The Rose City*, *El-Kelaa* where we will have lunch with some stops in the road for birding and landscape. Late afternoon, we visit a rocky canyon in the south of our accommodation searching for Trumpeter Finch, Maghreb Wheatear, Desert Lark and "GAYUIN" Pharaoh eagle Owl where the people live in caves here with flocks of sheep and goats. (Merk: *Gayuin* er ørkenhubro – Pharaoh eagle Owl - på berbisk, og også navnet på firmaet til Brahim.)

2 nights: Dinner and accommodation in a private Riad outside of Boumalne Dades near Tagdilt Track, Riad Soleil Bleu <http://www.riadssoleilbleu.com/>

### **D / 4 Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of Feb. Full day Tagdilt – Jebel Saghro area**

Today we will start a bit early, to head to the *Tagdilt Track*. This is without doubt one of the top areas for birding in the Southern of Morocco. Excellent chances exist for seeing Red-rumped Wheatear, Thekla Lark, Trumpeter Finch, Hoopoe Lark, Temminck's Lark, Short-toed Lark, Trumpeter Finch, Cream-coloured Courser, Long legged Buzzard and the highly nomadic Thick-billed Lark. If the heat allows, we will dedicate most of our day to exploring this area, then we visit the area of *Jebel Saghro* for trekking.

### **D / 5 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Boumalne Dades – Todra gorge – Goulmima – Ziz valley - Erfoud - Merzouga**

First we visit *Todra gorge* for landscape, walking and birds such as Tristram's Warbler, Black Wheatear, Blue Rock-thrush, Rock Dove, Crag Martin and possible Bonelli's Eagle! Next we travel eastwards and stop at a scrubby wadi for walking and to seek out the Scrub Warbler, maybe also rewarded with Maghreb Lark (underart av topplerke, *Galerida cristata macrorhyncha*), Short-toed Lark, Bar tailed Lark, Trumpeter Finch. Finally, after another exciting stop at *Ziz valley* of thousand palm dates we arrive at our Desert Hotel for two nights.

Dinner and accommodation in a very nice Kasbah hotel in the edge of *Erg Chebbi* sand dunes, Kasbah/Auberge Dunes D'or <http://kasbahdunesdor.com/index.php/en/>

**D/ 6 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb. & D/ 7 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Desert areas, visit to Erg Chebbi**

One of the highlights of the trip will be the 2 full days spent into the Sahara deserts for birding, trekking and visit nomads (spend last night in the tents) to Erg Chebbi; the largest dune system in Morocco which makes for a spectacular backdrop for some high quality birding. Brown-necked Raven, Greater Hoopoe Lark, Desert Sparrow, African Desert Warbler, Fulvous Babbler, Bar-tailed Lark, Spotted Sandgrouse, Cream-coloured Courser, Lanner Falcon. Chances also exist for seen again "GAYUIN" Pharaoh Eagle Owl roosting at daytime. Dinner and accommodation in the tents (last night)

**D/ 8 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Erg Chebbi - Rissani – Alnif–Tazzarine – NeKob– Draa Valley – Anti Atlas Mountains - Ouarzazate**

Leaving our hotel / the desert, after breakfast. Taking the southern way direction to Ouarzazate, passing *Alnif*, *Tazzarine* area of the henna fields and lunch in *NeKob (N'Kob)* with a nice view for oasis. Then after lunch, we continue our way to Ouarzazate. Drive through the *Draa valley* and the Anti-Atlas Mountains, a series of rocky hills, cliffs and deep gorge of volcanic formations. Roadside birding could produce plenty of White-crowned Wheatear and Southern Grey Shrike.

Dinner and accommodation in a hotel in the center of *Ouarzazate*, Hôtel le Fint <http://www.finthotel.com/>

**D / 9 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Ouarzazate - High Atlas Mountains - Oukaimeden**

Leaving Ouarzazate, heading for Oukaimeden, passing over the famous Tizi-n-Tichka pass (2260 meters) with some birdwatching and landscape stops on the road, birds such as Barbary Partridge, Moussiers Redstart, Levaillant's Green Woodpecker, Moroccan Chaffinch and African blue Tit.

Staying overnight in the High atlas mountains near Oukaimeden.

Hotel Aurocher Oukaimeden <http://www.aurocher.com/>

**D / 10 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of March. High Atlas - visit Oukaimeden- Marrakech**

After breakfast, we drive up to Oukaimeden for the finch and other birds here include Rock Sparrow, Black Wheatear, Red billed Chough, Alpine Chough and Atlas Horned Lark. Late in the afternoon we drive back to Marrakech where we will spend the last night during this trip.

Dinner and accommodation in Marrakech

Palais al bahja hôtel & spa <https://www.palaisalbahja.com/>

**D / 11 Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Visit Marrakech – airport - Norway**

After breakfast, Brahim will arrange for us the transport and an English-speaking professional tour guide for the city. The guide will show you the most important historical and cultural sites of Marrakech, including the Koutoubia Mosque, the Saadian tombs, the Bahia Palace, the Jewish quarter, the famous square, the souks...etc! Then after lunch transfer you to the airport, where the trip will ends.