

Heart of Africa & Nest Hub

Tip Sheet

Let's Have a Great Time
in Paradise!



Pre-visit



Watch this video to plan your learning journey to Rwanda Nyungwe Forest Heart of Africa aviary, Feathers Discovery Hub, and Nests Discovery Hub.



You might also wish to download this itinerary to supplement your visit:

[🔗 Educators' Guide to Bird Paradise](#)

Introduce Heart of Africa and some of the African animals to your children before your visit:

[🔗 Heart of Africa zone](#)

[🔗 Introducing Heart of Africa](#)

Getting to Heart of Africa and Feathers Discovery Hub



- 1 From the entrance, follow the sheltered walkway.
- 2 Take the escalator or lift to the second floor.
- 3 Follow the sheltered walkway until you see the sign for Rwanda Nyungwe Forest Heart of Africa.
- 4 Enter the air-conditioned room to explore the Feathers Discovery Hub.



Download the Mandai App to view the map on mobile

During Visit



Explore various types of feathers and identify their purposes.

Additional things to note:

See if you can...

- Discover the different types of feathers found on a cockatoo (head to the cockatoo interactive as shown).
- Describe the differently shaped feathers and wonder what their purposes might be



Observe and describe birds with different beaks and investigate how the beaks are used.

Additional prompting questions:

1. “**See** how the bird uses its beak to build nest. Describe its beak shape.”
2. “How do you **think** the bird uses its beak to build nests?”
3. “I **wonder** if it could build the same nest with a differently shaped beak.”



Learn all about nests and role play as parent weavers taking care of their eggs.

Additional activity:

Do the action of...

- Birds weaving or building a nest using their beaks and feet.
- Role play laying eggs in the nest and/or of eggs hatching.
- Imagine a chick hatching. What might it do first?

Word Bank

Here are some words that might be new to your class.

Hub

A hub is like a special centre where things come together. It's like the middle of a wheel where all the spokes connect. A hub can be a place where different parts, pieces, or people join to work together as one.

Pattern

Patterns can be all around us, like the stripes on a zebra or the buttons on your shirt. They are a sequence of colours, shapes, or things that happen again and again.



Aviary

An aviary is a giant birdhouse where birds live and play. It is a large area with plenty of space for birds to fly around.

Camouflage

Camouflage helps animals to blend in with their surroundings. It is Nature's way to hide the animals so that it is difficult for predators to spot them. For animals that hunt, camouflage helps them to get close to prey without being noticed.

Beak

A beak is a bird's mouth. Different birds have differently shaped beaks depending on how they look for food and what they eat. Some beaks are long and pointy for poking in the ground to find worms. Other beaks might be short and strong for cracking open hard nuts or seeds.



I Spy

Birds can be found in different parts of a forest.
Can you spot these birds in Heart of Africa?



Grey parrot



Von der Decken's
hornbill



Chestnut-and-black
weaver



Hammerkop



Saddlebill
stork



Lesser flamingo



Helmeted guineafowl



Shoebill

Post-visit

Extend learning in your classroom

Bird-themed Exploration Stations:



Have children match cut-out photos of birds to their beaks.



Bird nest making with recycled materials and nature's loose parts.



Create beaks, feet, feathers, and nests out of air clay.



Group collaboration to paint a bird mural on a giant piece of paper posted on the wall.

Nature Walk

Head out to a nature area near you and have children try and spot birds in the wild. Have them describe the colours, beak shapes, calls, and their behaviours. Can they hear birds calling or singing? How many types of calls or songs can they hear?

Additional resources

Find out more about Heart of Africa and its surrounding hubs:

[Educators' Guide to Bird Paradise](#)

- Feathers Discovery Hub (p7)
- Heart of Africa (p8-9)
- Nests Discovery Hub (p10)

Watch how weaver birds build nests:

[Taveta golden weaver nest building](#)