

ITINERARY

**ANGOLA: Endemics in a Little Known Land**

May 24 – June 15, 2024



*The lovely White-headed Robin-Chat is a forest-dweller that we'll look for at Kinjila Forest. This bird has a very small range, and is a near-endemic to Angola, and has been seen by relatively few birders. We were successful in finding it on our inaugural tour in 2023, and we'll hope for good luck again. Photograph by guide Errol DeBeer.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Angola: Endemics in a Little Known Land tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

After a prolonged Civil war this vast (nearly twice the size of Texas) country is now once again stable, peaceful, and open for tourism. With over 920 bird species, of which at least 15 are endemic (depending on the taxonomy used) and a further 28 near-endemic, this is a true birder's paradise and yet one of the least known countries to bird in all of Africa. We'll target most of the endemic and near-endemic birds, from the lush Guinea forests of the north to the spectacular Tundavala Escarpment in the south. We expect a bird list of around 400 species, with some only recently rediscovered and therefore known by relatively few birders to date.

Lurking within its wild borders lies the continent's second largest waterfall and we'll pay a deserved visit to this natural wonder – the spectacular Calandula Falls. Winding down the Tundavala Escarpment we will travel through Leba Pass,

one of the most scenic passes in all of Africa, providing for some spectacular photographic opportunities whilst looking for several of the endemic birds which occur there. Angola might be a diamond in the rough, but deep within lies a country of surprising beauty, hosting an array of endemic birds, which on its own should make it one of the “must visit” African destinations.



Angola covers an impressive diversity of habitats, from Congo Basin forests to the Namib Desert, and has an equally remarkable bird list including a host of rarely-seen endemics and specialties. Over the last 15 years great strides have been made to improve its infrastructure, to the point where it is now a destination suitable for most birders. Difficulties with obtaining visitor visas used to be the greatest obstacle, but this has also improved with the introduction of an eVisa system and we will provide the supporting documentation needed to all tour participants.

Although most people in Angola do not speak English, they are very friendly, the climate is mostly temperate and facilities in the main centers are becoming better all the time. Transportation for our safari will be primarily in specially adapted 4X4 Toyota Landcruisers, with radio communication, air conditioning, roof hatches, and a fridge for carrying cold bottled drinking water. We'll generally be out birding for most of the day with packed lunches in the more remote areas and on several travel days.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This is **not** a tour with accommodation like what you may be used to if you have already visited East or South Africa. It is **not** the usual Field Guides tour. It is designed to offer the opportunity to see some of Africa's most little known and range restricted birds. Due to the vast size of the country there are several long travel days to remote locations where we will then stay in simple hotels in towns (but all are clean and provide ample buffet-style food). Rest assured, these are the very best places available and the birding rewards should be great! The quality of your experience in Angola will be greatly enhanced by the fact that this safari is strictly limited to **just six participants per vehicle in two vehicles** traveling together with **Terry Stevenson, Errol de Beer**, and their respective drivers. This allows each participant to have a window (no one sits in a middle seat) and both vehicles are air conditioned. Camping is no longer necessary anywhere on this tour, and we will stay in mostly comfortable lodges and hotels. Food is plentiful (way too much in many places) and often with a Portuguese influence.

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.*

### Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS:** There are very few long hikes and most of the birding is done from roads or tracks where they pass through forest patches – making for easy birding in most areas. The exception is at Mt. Moco, where the climb to the first area of forest is on a fairly steep narrow trail for about 1 mile (each way). No problem if you wish to opt-out on this walk, as you will be able to bird (with our drivers) near the parked vehicles.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will be traveling in specially converted 4X4 Toyota Landcruisers (safari vehicles), some roads will be bumpy with variable degrees of dustiness or mud, but on our first tour (in 2023) nothing was extreme for the 4x4's we use. Some drives are long and some roads under construction, but this is improving all the time.

- **PACE:** As it is not light until about 6.15 a.m. we will not be having many very early starts. Typical days will begin with pre-breakfast birding, or breakfast at about 6:30 a.m. We will generally be out for most of the day, with mid-afternoon breaks in the hotter areas. We will have quite a few box lunches (and occasionally breakfasts) in the field, and often away from picnic tables. Some participants find it worthwhile to carry a lightweight-folding stool (with an identifying marker); the opportunity to sit in comfort at lunch, amid a fabulous setting, can reduce fatigue substantially.
- **ELEVATION:** Much of this itinerary is between 3000 to 8000 feet asl (approx. 900 to 2450 meters) although at Luanda, the Kwanza River estuary, and at Benguela, we are at sea-level. Most daily temperatures should be mild (70-80 F), but can drop below 50F at Mt. Moco and Tundavala where a windbreaker and a fleece are recommended. Although we do not expect much rain at this time of year (we had just one short heavy storm on a travel day in 2023) a lightweight rain jacket or umbrella may be useful.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions. All participants will always have a window seat.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** There are very few indoor restrooms on most of our excursions (except at occasional gas stations) so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.



*The Red-backed Mousebird is a common endemic that we should see throughout the tour.  
Photograph by participant Becky Hansen.*

## Itinerary for Angola: Endemics in a Little Known Land

**Day 1, Fri, 24 May. Departure from home.** There are several flight options from the US to Angola, but we are hoping to have everyone on the same TAAG Angola flight, traveling via Lisbon, if at all possible. (Please see the **AIR ARRANGEMENTS** section below for more details.). NOTE: Flights are not covered in the tour fee, and currently (January 2024) the fare for the flight above is pricing at \$920, subject to change. *Please do not purchase flights* for the tour until

you hear that the tour is an official “go” from your tour manager. At that time, your tour manager will be happy to look for the best schedules from your home city, just let her know.

**Day 2, Sat, 25 May. Connections, and on to Luanda.** After passing through immigration, collecting your baggage, and clearing customs, **look for the EcoTur Angola sign and their representative**, who will be waiting outside the “arrivals hall” to meet you. If for any reason you are not met, please take a taxi to our hotel where Terry or an EcoTur Angola representative will contact you.

Our accommodation tonight is at Ilha Mar Hotel, a city hotel near the beach in Luanda. If you arrive early and would like to arrange a city tour please contact our office for further details. If you prefer a more relaxed time, a short walk to the Neem trees in the car park should give views of your first endemic – Red-backed Mousebird! Night at Ilha Mar Hotel (or similar), Luanda.

**Day 3, Sun, 26 May. To Kwanza River Lodge.** After breakfast we’ll head south along the coast to the mouth of the Kwanza River. We’ll stop along the way at a lake on the Mussulo Peninsula where Greater and Lesser flamingos should be seen, as well as a variety of shorebirds including Pied Avocet, White-fronted Plover, Whimbrel, Curlew Sandpiper, and perhaps Grey Heron, African Sacred Ibis, or African Spoonbill. We’ll arrive at the Kwanza River Lodge by lunch time where commonly seen birds include Palmnut Vulture, and the almost endemic Bubbling Cisticola. Tides permitting, in the afternoon we’ll take a short walk to a tern roost, where Common and Caspian terns are the most numerous, and if lucky the recently split West African Crested Tern could also be present. In the evening Rosy-faced Lovebirds come to roost in the palm trees, and if perhaps a Bat Hawk may be out hunting. Night at Kwanza River Lodge.

**Day 4, Mon, 27 May. The Kwanza River.** We’ll start birding around our lodge grounds where the first bird will probably be a singing Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush. After breakfast, other birds around the lodge, could include a wide range of the more common lowland birds; Ring-necked Dove, Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, Gray Go-away-bird, African Palm-Swift, Palmnut Vulture, Red-faced Mousebird, Crowned Hornbill, Woodland Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted Roller, Lesser Striped-Swallow, Purple-banded and Orange-tufted sunbirds, Village Weaver, Red-headed Finch, Southern Cordonbleu, and Northern Gray-headed Sparrow. We’ll also make a special effort for Mouse-brown (Mangrove) Sunbird as we head upstream and explore several good stakeouts for this diminutive and rather unobtrusive species. In the afternoon we’ll bird the woodlands across the river and perhaps a nearby pool for White-faced Whistling-Duck, African Woolly-necked Stork, Black Heron, Hamerkop, and African Fish-Eagle. Night at Kwanza River Lodge.



*Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush is a flycatcher we’ll seek in palm groves around the Kwanza River.  
Photograph by participant Becky Hansen.*

**Day 5, Tue, 28 May. To Uige.** We have a long drive today as we head to the northern scarp forests at Quitexe. However, we will of course make birding stops along the way, perhaps finding Senegal Coucal, African Harrier-Hawk, the endemic White-fronted Wattle-eye, Angola Batis, Green Crombec, Yellow-necked (Falkenstein's) Greenbul, Gray Tit-Flycatcher, Bronze Mannikin, and Black-faced Canary. Less common species may include Black-backed Barbet (of the distinct form *minor*, often split as Brown-faced Barbet), Meyer's Parrot, and Salvadori's Eremomela. We should arrive in Uige in the late-afternoon. Night at Hotel Salala (or similar), Uige.

**Day 6, Wed, 29 May. Uige and Damengola Forests.** We have a full day to explore the evergreen and semi-deciduous Guinea Forest that projects southward from the Congo into Angola. The undergrowth has mostly been cleared, but the large shade trees that dominate the coffee plantations have been left, making a great habitat which should provide some spectacular birding. Our prime target here will be the brightly-colored and rare endemic Braun's Bush-Shrike, so we shall be listening for the tell-tale croaks that should alert us to its presence. The list of birds in this area is long and spectacular, with several rare species and always with a few surprises. Just some of the species we may see include Bronze-naped and Afep pigeons, Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Guinea Turaco, Gabon Coucal, African Emerald Cuckoo, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, African Pied and Piping hornbills, Black Bee-eater, Broad-billed and Blue-throated rollers, Naked-faced and Bristle-nosed barbets, Speckled Tinkerbird, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Black-winged Oriole, Pink-footed Puffback, Gray-green and Four-coloured (Perrin's) bushshrikes, Velvet-mantled Drongo, African Blue-Flycatcher, Yellow Longbill, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Slender-billed and Simple greenbuls, Narrow-tailed Starling, Dusky-Blue Flycatcher, Little Green, Green, Bannermann's and Olive-bellied sunbirds, Black-necked and Vieillot's weavers, White-collared Oliveback, and White-breasted and Gray-headed nigratas. Night at Hotel Salala (or similar), Uige.

**Day 7, Thu, 30 May. To Calandula Falls.** We'll have time this morning to look for some of the birds we might not have encountered yesterday, and then we'll make our way to the Calandula area. As we leave the scarp forest behind, we'll travel through some interesting 'miombo' woodland – it's largely a travel day, but during the journey we'll make a couple of random stops perhaps finding some of the miombo specials like Pale-billed Hornbill, Anchieta's Barbet, Anchieta's Sunbird, or Sharp-tailed Starling. Overgrown farmland along the way can also be good for the very localized Black-collared Greenbul – sole member of the genus *Neolestes*. We expect to arrive at our hotel in the late afternoon. Night at Lwenge Hotel (or similar), Calandula.



*Turacos are some of Africa's most colorful birds, and we'll have a chance to enjoy a number of species, including the widespread Ross's Turaco. Photograph by guide Tarry Butcher.*

**Day 8, Fri, 31 May. Kinjila Forest and Calandula Falls.** After early breakfast we'll drive about an hour to a gallery forest where our main target for today is the highly localized and beautiful White-headed Robin-Chat, – a bird seen by just a few world birders since its rediscovery a few years ago. Hopefully we'll have early success and can then bird at a more relaxed pace as we enjoy Red-crested and Ross's turacos, White-spotted Flufftail, Blue Malkoha, Broad-billed Roller, Meyer's Parrot, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Gabon Boubou, Sharpe's Drongo, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Yellow-throated and Cabanis's greenbuls, Splendid Starling, Ameythyst and Scarlet-chested sunbirds, and Forest Weaver.

In the afternoon we'll visit the spectacular Calandula Falls, the second largest waterfall system in Africa, and it is well worth spending a bit of time here, taking in the breathtaking scenery. Night at Lwenze Hotel (or similar), Calandula.

**Day 9, Sat, 1 Jun. To Pedras Negras and N'dalatando.** This morning we'll make our way to the mysterious rock formations at Pedras Negras (Black Rocks) where we'll spend several hours birding and then enjoy our picnic lunch. Birds here include, a second chance for Red-crested Turaco, White-backed Vulture, Bateleur, Red-necked Buzzard, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Black Cuckooshrike, African Golden Oriole, Black-backed Puffback, Angola Swallow, Kurrichane Thrush, Black-winged and Black bishops, Angola Waxbill, Orange-winged Pytilia, African Firefinch, and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. In the afternoon we'll stop at a couple of rivers and bridges which provide feeding and breeding sites for the near-endemic Red-throated (Cliff) Swallow, while in the surrounding grasslands we should see White-winged and Yellow-mantled widowbirds, Night at Terminus Hotel, N'dalatando.

**Day 10, Sun, 2 Jun. Tombingo Forest and N'dalatando area.** Today we'll bird the central scarp forests south of N'dalatando where an interesting selection of forest birds occur; it will be another chance to see Guinea Turaco and perhaps Piping Hornbill if we missed them earlier, but we'll also keep a lookout for Trumpeter Hornbill, Yellow-billed, Naked-faced and Hairy-breasted barbets, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Cassin's Honeyguide, Green-backed and golden-crowned woodpeckers, Red-fronted Parrot, African Shrike-flycatcher, Rufous-vented Paradise-flycatcher, Yellow-throated Nicator, Buff-throated and Black-throated apalises, Honeyguide Greenbul, Chestnut-winged Starling, Ashy Flycatcher, Green-throated and Superb sunbirds, Red-headed Malimbe, and Yellow-mantled Weaver, Night at Terminus Hotel, N'dalatando.



*The tiny Pearl-spotted Owlet is common across much of Africa. We'll watch for these little predators near Muxima.  
Photograph by participant Amy Grose.*

**Day 11, Mon, 3 Jun. To Muxima.** After more birding in the forest south of N'dalatando, we'll drive further west for a one night stay in a small hotel near Muxima. This will be our best chance for the endemic Gray-striped Francolin, and also if

lucky another endemic the Golden-backed Bishop. Other birds seen here include Namaqua Dove, White-browed Coucal, Square-tailed Nightjar, Klaas Cuckoo, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Striped Kingfisher, Madagascar Bee-eater, Gray Kestrel, Violet-backed Starling, and Copper Sunbird. Night at Bon Amigos (or similar), near Muxima.

**Day 12, Tue, 4 Jun. Muxima area and Parque Nacional da Quicama.** This morning, after breakfast, we'll spend time along the Kwanza River and the nearby Quicama National Park (also known as Kissama NP). Although not resembling a national park at all, with people and villages within the mix of farms and dry woodland it holds several very special birds. Our main endemic targets will be the enigmatic but reasonably common White-fronted Wattle-eye, the mythical Angola (Gabela) Helmetshrike, the super skulking Monteiro's Bushshrike, and if missed yesterday, another chance for Grey-striped Francolin, and Golden-backed Bishop. We'll make several stops as we make our way west and then south, with other birds perhaps including Black-winged Kite, Lizard Buzzard, Black Scimitarbill, African Black-headed Oriole, White Helmetshrike, and Hartert's Camaroptera, We'll overnight at a lovely lodge on the beach. Night at Carpe Diem Lodge.

**Day 13, Wed, 5 Jun. To Kumbira Forest.** Today is largely another travel day as we make our way south parallel to the coast, then east towards Gabela, and finally to our base for three nights at a working coffee farm with guest accommodation near Kumbira Forest. Along the way stops at the Longa and Keve Rivers, and later at Binga Falls, may produce Allen's Gallinule, African Jacana, African Openbill, African Darter, a variety of herons and egrets, and both Giant and Malachite kingfishers. Night at Fazenda Rio Uiri Guest Farm where Freckled Nighthjar and African Wood-Owl are often in the car park late evening.



*On our way to Kumbira Forest, we'll stop along some rivers where we'll watch for the African Darter and other water birds  
Photograph by participant Mike Meacham.*

**Days 14-15, Thu-Fri, 6-7 Jun. Kumbira Forest.** Kumbira Forest is situated in the southern scarp and although the forest is no longer pristine, thanks largely to selective logging before the civil war, it still holds some of Angola's most species forest birds. Gabela Bushshrike has become a rather tough bird to find during the last few years, but fortunately a recently discovered new site should give us a good chance to find this endangered and very localized endemic. We'll also have to work hard for Gabela Akalat which, as with all its congeners, tends to be shy and elusive. The endemic Hartert's Camaroptera (split from Grey-backed) is common here, while Pulitzer's Longbill is perhaps the least common of the endemics, hopefully though a calling male will help us track it down in the low dense undergrowth. Other sought-after species include Red-crested Turaco, African Goshawk, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, African Broadbill, Purple-throated Cuckooshrikes, Chestnut and Yellow-bellied wattle-eyes, another chance for Monteiro's Bushshrike, Mackinnon's Shrike, White-tailed Blue-flycatcher, Blue-headed Crested-flycatcher, Green Hylia,

Yellow-necked, Yellow-whiskered and Pale-Olive greenbuls, Northern Yellow White-eye, Brown Illadopsis, Red-headed Bluebill, and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Nights at Rio Uiri Guest Farm.

**Day 16, Sat, 8 Jun. To Huambo.** Today is mostly a travel day as we drive south towards Huambo and the Mount Moco area. Undoubtedly, we'll be making birding and bathroom stops along the way as we pass through a mix of farms, miombo woodland, and several stream and river crossings. Birds to look out for along the way include African Green-Pigeon, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Wahlberg's Honeyguide, Chinspot Batis, Fork-tailed Drongo, Greencap Eremomela, African Yellow Warbler, Black-and-rufous Swallow, African Stonechat, Western Violet-backed Sunbird, Zebra Waxbill, and Brown Firefinch. Night at Ritz Hotel (or similar), Huambo.

**Day 17, Sun, 9 Jun. The Mount Moco area.** Today we'll have an early departure (with a picnic breakfast and lunch) as it's a fair drive from our lodge to the mountain. The mountain supports a good number of specialties we won't find elsewhere, so we are planning a full day as we traverse a variety of habitats, including grasslands, miombo-scrub, and an isolated patch of Afro-montane forest. In the grassland we'll look for Finsch's Francolin, White-bellied Bustard, Wattled Lapwing, Angola and Red-capped larks, Rock-loving (Huambo), Stout (Angola) and Croaking cisticolas, Capped Wheatear, and Buffy and Long-legged pipits, the stunted miombo holds Groundscraper Thrush, Western Violet-backed, Variable and Bocage's Sunbird, and Woodland Pipit, and the montane forest Schalow's Turaco, Western Tinkerbird, Gray Apalis, Bocage's Akalat, Angola Waxbill, and Montane Double-collared (Ludwig's) Sunbird. Other more widespread species include, Horus Swift (including strange birds with dark, not white, rumps), Booted Eagle, Augur Buzzard, Rock Kestrel, Black-crowned Tchagra, Greater Striped and Gray-rumped swallows, Red-throated (Cliff) Swallow, Yellow Bishop, Broad-tailed Paradise-Whydah, Variable Indigobird, and Brimstone Canary. Night at Ritz Hotel (or similar), Huambo.



*The Rock Kestrel is a small falcon found over much of southern Africa. As the name suggests, it is often found in rocky places, and also in other open habitats. Photograph by guide Tarry Butcher.*

**Day 18, Mon, 10 Jun. To Benguela.** Today is largely another travel day as we return to the coast at Lobito and nearby Benguela. We are now essentially an extension of the Namibian Skeleton Coast, where a totally different suite of birds awaits early the following day. Night at Praia Morena Hotel (or similar) Benguela.

**Day 19, Tue, 11 Jun. To Lubango.** Today we'll head yet further south as we look for dry country birds more typical of Namibia. For first stop is just an hour away but we'll maximize our time here by taking another picnic breakfast and lunch. The most localized bird here is Hartlaub's Francolin, but we'll also be searching for Martial Eagle, Southern Yellow-billed,



Damara Red-billed and Monteiro's hornbills, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Pied Barbet, Rueppell's Parrot, Gray-headed Bushshrike, White-crowned Shrike, Carp's Tit, Barred Wren-Warbler, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Red-backed Scrub-Robin, White-breasted Sunbird, Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, chestnut Weaver, Violet-eared Waxbill, and Green-winged Pytilia,

Leaving this arid country behind we'll start ascending the escarpment towards Lubango where we'll spend three nights at the delightful Casper Resort. Night Casper Resort (or similar).

**Days 20-21, Wed-Thu 12-13 Jun. Tundavala, the Leba Pass, and desert beyond.** We'll have at least two full days here to explore this gorgeous area. With the Tundavala escarpment offering some of the most dramatic scenery in the whole of Angola, and some pretty awesome birding too! Without doubt this is our best chance for three endemics, Swierstra's Spurfowl, Angola Cave Chat, and Angolan Slaty Flycatcher. Other birds we may find in the high country include Alpine Swift, Verreaux's Eagle, Black-collared Barbet, Lanner Falcon, Rockrunner, Wailing and Wing-snapping cisticolas, and Short-toed Rock-Thrush

The arid country below Leba Pass supports Namaqua Sandgrouse, Red-crested Bustard, Bradfield's Swift, Black-chested Snake-Eagle, White-tailed Shrike, Pririt Batis, Crimson-breasted Gonolek, Benguela Long-billed and Sabota Larks, Black-chested Prinia, Black-fronted Bulbul, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Pale-winged and Meves's starlings, Chat Flycatcher, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Mountain Wheatear, Dusky Sunbird, Cape Sparrow, Lark-like Bunting, and the delightful Cinderella Waxbill. Nights Casper Resort (or similar), Lubango.

**Day 22, Fri, 14 Jun. Fly Lubango to Luanda and/or Windhoek and onwards to International destinations.** Early morning birding will be dependent on the time of our flights out of Lubango. Time permitting, we'll hunt down any species we might have missed the previous day. Please contact our office for the latest information on flights.

**Day 23, Sat, 15 Jun. Onward flights home. Safe travels!!**

## About Your Guides

**Terry Stevenson**; originally from England, Terry has made Kenya his home since 1977. He is the senior author of the *Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi*—the only guide in the region to have a text and maps opposite plates format; it is also released as an App, with the added advantage of making it possible to hear many of the calls. He is also co-author to *Birds of the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Socotra*. Published in 2009, this acclaimed guide is the only one to this region. His 3<sup>rd</sup> major publication will be *Birds of Greater Southern Africa* due for publication in 2024. He is a member of the East African Rarities Committee. On November 30, 1986, he set a new World Big Day record with 330 species *seen* in one day in Kenya; the record stands today. One of Africa's and India's foremost bird-tour guides, Terry has led numerous Field Guides tours across the African continent, in Madagascar, and in India. He is currently living in a mud-and-cow-dung mansion near Mt. Kenya.

*“Terry has the most amazing ability to identify birds at great distances or by the slightest vocalization. He is warm and friendly, highly entertaining and takes great care of his group.”*  
D. R.; Kenya

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Terry's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

One of our Africa specialists, **Errol de Beer** has birding in his blood. Brought up on a farm in the North West Province of South Africa, his fascination with birds and nature started at a young age and there was no stopping him once he received his first decent pair of binoculars at age 14. Errol has been birding for over 35 years and has guided trips through most of Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands for the last decade and a half. He has recently started guiding in India and Nepal and is already in demand as a tour leader to the Indian sub-continent.

Always up for a challenge and ever eager to find rare and elusive birds, Errol has guided several top listers on private tours to some of the most remote parts of Africa, but he is equally at home leading standard and more relaxed trips. His meticulous planning and research to maximize the success on his tours has made him a popular tour leader and guide with an unparalleled record of clients returning to book him again year after year. His ability to adapt his pace and birding style to best suit that of his group and easy mannerism makes him a unique asset on any tour.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$11875** from Luanda

**DEPOSIT: \$1175**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: November 26, 2023**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1025 (Note: Some of the lodges we use in Angola have a limited number of rooms, so depending on the make-up of our group, single rooms might not be available at all the lodges.)**

**LIMIT: 12**

**All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one).** Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Sharon Mackie. Sharon will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**A NOTE ON ACCOMMODATION AND ALTITUDE:** Much of this itinerary is between 3000 to 8000 feet als (approx. 900 to 2450 meters); resulting in cooler night time temperatures in many areas, although most (but not all) of our lodges have a/c. Throughout the tour, all rooms have private bathrooms and hot water. Although we will make every effort to obtain single rooms for those who request them, it should be noted that they may not be available at all lodges, and especially at Bon Amigos near Muxima.

In Luanda we stay at the Ilha Mar Hotel, a four-storey modern-style hotel at the edge of the city near to the beach. It is not birdy, although unless you've been to Angola before Red-backed Mousebirds in the garden will probably be your first lifer. For those who come early and wish to see something of the city please contact the Field Guides office in advance.

Kwanza River Lodge is about 80 kms from Luanda at the mouth of the Kwanza River. It is a comfortable lodge with a variety of wooden cottages (of various sizes) scattered throughout the gardens. There is a large main dining room, bar, and veranda area. It is clean and comfortable and all rooms have a/c. In Uige we stay in town at the Hotel Salala; it doesn't look very appealing from the outside, but the rooms are fine and certainly much better than any accommodation used by birding groups previous years. At Calandula, we stay at the Lwenze Hotel where we have requested new rooms for everyone. Should these not be available there are a series of very nice new rondavels within the grounds and we will use those. Again all are clean, comfortable, have private bathrooms, and a/c. Hotel Terminus in N'dalatando is a popular modern city-type hotel which could be a bit noisy at weekends. It has nice rooms with all modern amenities, and the restaurant has good food. In the Catete area our hotel is Bon Amigos, it has a few rooms in the main building and the remainder are small wooden cottages a few hundred meters away. The dining rooms and bar is large and overlooks a nice area of acacia trees and horse paddocks. Please note they are only 10 rooms available at Bon Amigos and in addition to the group we must also accommodate the two guides and our two drivers. Singles for our one night here may not be available.

We then return to the coast and spend one night at Carpe Diem Lodge, a very nice seaside resort with (yet again) accommodation in a series of wooden cottages. A stroll on the beautiful beach here is highly recommended. Our next stop, Fazenda Rio Uiri, is a working coffee farm and typical of colonial era Portuguese style farms. The guest accommodations are set to one side in a newer long building. Although the rooms are small, the food is good and extremely plentiful. Birding is also good all round, and the famous Kumbira Forest is not far away. For our visit to the Mt. Moco area we presently plan to stay at the Ritz Hotel in Huambo. This is another city-type hotel, it looks good at first sighting but sadly with a little attention it could be much better and simple things like lightbulbs not working, only one towel per room, and loose bathrooms fittings, were all quickly attended to during our visit in 2023. Returning to the coast at Benguela we plan to stay at the Praia Morena Resort (or similar). The city is popular with local holiday visitors, and there are many hotels to choose from. As the quality and availability can vary from year to year our local agent will make the final choice nearer to the time of our visit.

Our last lodge is Casper Resort in Lubango. It is very nice and comfortable with the best restaurant of the whole tour. Some rooms are a little small, but all are well laid out with a/c, tv, and wifi. Best of all, we're within easy distance of the spectacular Tundavala Gorge.

The nights at Kwanza River Lodge, Carpe Diem and Praia Morena are at sea level, but due to the effects of the cold Benguela current temperatures are surprisingly mild and tolerable in terms of humidity.

**DOCUMENTS:** A **current passport** valid for one year beyond the date of your return and a **tourist visa** are necessary for US citizens to enter Angola; **application for the visa should be made well in advance of the tour. We will provide you with the necessary information.** An International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is also required.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Angolan consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you.

The passports of all travelers entering Angola must contain **at least four clean (unstamped) visa pages** at each time entry is sought. South Africa requires two pages on each entry (or transit), so plan accordingly! Amendment and endorsement pages cannot be used in lieu of visa pages. Most countries require one blank visa page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have at least one blank page per country you will visit or transit, in addition to the four pages needed for the Angolan visa, and two additional pages if transiting through South Africa. One could potentially need 10 or more visa pages for this tour, so please check your passport carefully. A new passport could take weeks to process.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** *Please note that the tour begins in Luanda and ends Lubango.* Please plan your arrival into Luanda on or before **Day 2, May 25, 2024**. If you can arrive a day early, we recommend doing so in case of a missed connection or delayed luggage. At the tour's end, departures can be made from Lubango the evening of **June 14, 2024**. [Once the tour is operational \(the tour manager will let you know by email\)](#), we hope to have the whole group book flights from Lisbon on the following schedule to and from the tour, arriving a day early for the tour (on May 24, 2024) and leaving on time:

<b>23MAY24</b>	<b>DT651</b>	<b>Lisbon to Luanda</b>	<b>940A 510P</b>
<b>14JUN24</b>	<b>DT464</b>	<b>Lubango to Luanda</b>	<b>620P 730P</b>
<b>14JUN24</b>	<b>DT650</b>	<b>Luanda to Lisbon</b>	<b>1150P 610A 15JUN</b>

The current flight fare for the itinerary above is \$890 per person; fares and schedules are subject to change until ticketed. Please also keep in mind the flights to and from the tour are not included in the tour fee and are the client's responsibility.

Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. **Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility. We ask that you limit your baggage to **one medium duffel (wheeled duffels are allowed) and a carry-on**. Duffels are much easier to pack in the back of the safari vehicle than suitcases (including soft-sided suitcases) **so please bring a cloth duffel or your luggage will have to be left in Luanda. If you prefer, you could bring a suitcase with a duffel inside and then transfer everything inside to the duffel and leave the empty suitcase in storage until you return to Luanda.**

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee is \$11,875** for one person in double occupancy from Luanda. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 21, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 to lunch on Day 22, all ground transportation, entrance fees, bottled water and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if

you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to Luanda and from Lubango, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any beverages other than bottled water, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** is \$1025. Please note that single rooms may not be available at all of the lodges, and especially at Bon Amigos. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](https://fieldguides.com/contact-us/). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$1175** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **November 26, 2023**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for

the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

**Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii.** We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

**THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.**

NCP 7/2020

Revised from copy by EdB  
Totally revised by TS 07/05/2023  
Peg 1/24