

ITINERARY
KENYA SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS TOUR
March 5 – 23, 2022



*The iconic Secretarybird is found in the more open habitats. We'll watch for them in Nairobi National Park.
Photograph by participant Jacqui Probst.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2022 Field Guides *Kenya Special Highlights* tour:

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

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- 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 reference list
- 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

Kenya is one of the wonders of the world. Not only are the diversity and abundance of large mammals legendary, but the birding is some of the world's richest. More than a thousand species of birds have been recorded in Kenya, and more species have been actually seen in one day (330), than anywhere else on Earth. This ambitious itinerary includes many of the major birding areas of Kenya, from Rift Valley lakes to the highland forests of the Aberdares and Mount Kenya, the arid bush country at Samburu and Baringo, the rainforest at Kakamega, and the fabulous rolling plains of Masai Mara.

During 16 days in the field, we can sample a very impressive diversity of habitats, many of them with spectacular classic African scenery. Our route will take us from Nairobi National Park, with an amazing wealth of birds and mammals right beside the city, to the Aberdare and Mt. Kenya region in the Central Highlands, and on to the bush country of

Samburuland. In the Great Rift Valley we'll stay near freshwater Lake Baringo, before looping west to Kakamega Forest and Lake Victoria, then to alkaline Lake Nakuru, and finally to the world renowned Masai Mara. It's a real treat to watch dazzling Tacazze Sunbirds feeding on flowering Bottlebrush while the sunlight dances on Mt. Kenya in the background...or to look out at dawn over Lake Nakuru, speckled with pink flamingos and surrounded by tall acacia woodland.

The Great Rift Valley, with its dramatic cliffs and sparkling lakes, is the longest exposed rift valley on Earth, stretching from Lebanon to Mozambique and at its narrowest here in Kenya. We'll walk at the base of the lofty cliffs above Lake Baringo to view such specialties as Hemprich's and Jackson's hornbills, Mocking Cliff-Chat, and the gregarious Bristle-crowned Starling. From tiny wattle-eyes and fanciful flufftails in the rainforest at Kakamega to White-crested Turacos and Black-headed Gonoleks in the Kerio Valley; from the Secretary-bird and bustards on the Mara plains to tiny crombecs at Samburu; from watering sandgrouse and duetting scimitarbill, to mousebirds, bee-eaters, wood-hoopoes and insectivorous woodland kingfishers, bush-shrikes, weavers, and gorgeous sunbirds, Kenya offers a fantastic array of bird life very different from our own.

But mammals will not be forgotten, for the mammalian spectacle in East Africa is unsurpassed. The many splendid views of large mammals will constitute a highlight of the tour, even for safari veterans, and we'll try to see as many species as possible. It takes repeated visits to actually observe such fascinating behavior as a Cheetah taking a Thomson's Gazelle, a pride of Lionesses stalking and killing a buffalo, or a secretive Leopard walking a forest trail, but we've seen all these on previous Kenya tours. This safari has a good chance of producing most of the spectacular big game, plus a variety of monkeys, and some of the lesser-known, nocturnal mammals like Marsh and White-tailed mongooses or Greater Galago. During the course of the tour we'll spend considerable time watching and photographing mammals in some of Kenya's finest reserves.

As veterans know, the joys of traveling in Kenya are many. The people are friendly, the climate is delightful, and tourist facilities are excellent.

Special Note: The quality of your experience in Kenya will be greatly enhanced by the fact that this safari is strictly limited to six participants. This allows each participant to have a window (no one sits in a middle seat) and there will only be one vehicle specially adapted for wildlife viewing – with four-wheel drive, a pop-top roof, and a fridge stocked with bottled water throughout the tour. In addition, we will fly from Nairobi to Masai Mara and back, as the poor condition of the road there has left many visitors uncomfortable, tired, and worst of all, desperately short of time in this fabulous area. By taking a fifty-minute flight, we increase our time in the reserve by at least a full day. We will also be staying in one of Masai Mara's most famous tented camps—the very comfortable Little Governor's Camp. These enhancements will, of course, increase the tour price; but we consider them to be money well spent and believe that they will set our tour apart from those offered by other companies.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of rather easy walking (up to 2 miles per day), mostly on roads, lakeshores and good trails. But note: at Kakamega (although we do not walk far) expect to be on your feet for 4-5 hours in the morning and perhaps 3 hours in the afternoon. At Baringo the ground is rather rocky and in dry thorn bush country so sturdy footwear is recommended.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We cover much ground on this tour, and on several days we must use dusty, bumpy roads. Participants should be able to step up 12 inches into and out of our safari vehicles and other transports.
- **PACE:** With only 12 hours of daylight this is a rather relaxed tour. Breakfasts are typically at 6:30 a.m. (although some days we may bird early and then return for a 9 a.m. breakfast). In hot areas, we will take an afternoon break. In national parks, due to dangerous animals, we bird mostly from safari vehicles with pop-up tops. In other areas, we will spend a good deal of time in forest and bush country where walking is allowed.
- **ELEVATION:** Most birding will take place at 5000–7500 feet, but down to 3000 ft. at Lake Baringo.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures will range from the low 60s at night to 90s F during the day in the lower elevations. Rain showers are a possibility, but humidity is generally low on this tour.
- **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.

- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** Whenever possible, we use modern, indoor restrooms, but on occasion, participants must be prepared to make a comfort stop 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.



*Lake Nakuru is well-known for the hordes of Lesser Flamingos that gather there in some years. We will see these, plus we will watch for Greater Flamingos, Great White Pelicans, and many other water birds.
Photograph by participant Paul Thomas.*

Itinerary for Kenya Highlights

Day 1, Sat, 5 Mar. Departure for Kenya. Flights from the US to Kenya are available from many different US cities with a connection in route. Your tour manager will be happy to look for the best schedules from your home city; just let her know. If you're departing from the US, you'll probably have an overnight flight to Europe before heading to Kenya. Talk to our office if you want to go early to break up the long, jetlag flight sequence.

Day 2, Sun, 6 Mar. Arrival in Nairobi. As most participants arrive in Nairobi on different flights and at very different times, please ask the tour manager to arrange for you to be met and transferred to our hotel. After clearing immigration and customs, **look for the yellow Abercrombie and Kent sign of our ground agent.** Note: the '&' symbol is very large and the name Abercrombie & Kent is small. If for any reason you are not met, please take a taxi to our hotel where Terry or an A&K representative will contact you.

After your long flights (and depending on the time of day) you may well wish to take it easy; however Nairobi is a birdy city and many of the following can be seen in the immediate vicinity of our hotel; Hadada and African Sacred ibis, Egyptian Goose, Marabou Stork, Black Kite, Augur Buzzard, Laughing and Red-eyed doves, Little Swift, Speckled Mousebird, Northern Fiscal, Pied Crow, Common Bulbul, Abyssinian Thrush, Bronze and Variable sunbirds, African Pied Wagtail, Rock Martin, Baglafaecht and Speke's weavers, Streaky Seedeater, and Bronze Mannikin. Shier forest species may include Hartlaub's Turaco, Dusky Turtle-Dove, Cabanis's (Placid) Greenbul, Rueppell's Robin-Chat, and White-starred Robin.

Terry will contact you early this evening to let you know about the following days arrangements, which will begin by meeting at the breakfast room at 7:00 a.m. followed by a day trip to the nearby Nairobi National Park. Night at The Residences, Karen, Nairobi.

Day 3, Mon, 7 Mar. Nairobi; Nairobi National Park. Taking a picnic lunch, we will spend most of today in Nairobi National Park, an incredible forty-four-square-mile reserve only thirty minutes from downtown. Nowhere else does such diversity of mammals and birds exist so close to a major city. Eland, Kongoni, Impala, and gazelles are often visible right from the entrance, and one group found a lounging Leopard on our first afternoon! We'll work our way across the grasslands, perhaps finding our first Common Ostrich, Secretarybird, Gray Crowned-Cranes, or a close Masai Giraffe. Watch for Lion and Black Rhino among the herds of Impala and gazelles. In areas of large Yellow-barked Acacia trees, the 'fever tree' of the early explorers, we may encounter our first mixed species flock, perhaps including Mountain Gray Woodpecker, Black Cuckooshrike, Chinspot Batis, African Paradise-Flycatcher, White-bellied Tit, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Northern Pied-Babbler, and Scarlet-chested Sunbird. Elsewhere on the drive possibilities are Helmeted Guineafowl, Yellow-necked Spurrow, White-backed Vulture, Crowned and Blacksmith lapwings, Hartlaub's Bustard, Striped, and Gray-headed kingfishers, Kenya (Abyssinian) White-eye, Superb Starling, Long-tailed Shrike, Speke's Weaver, Red-billed Firefinch, and Purple Grenadier. We'll return to our hotel in the late afternoon in time for more birding there. Night at The Residences, Karen, Nairobi.

Day 4, Tue, 8 Mar. To The Ark. After breakfast, we'll begin our journey north across the central highlands. The land is primarily cultivated by the Kikuyu people and we'll see their fields of maize, bananas, coffee and pineapples before we stop at an area of old fish ponds, perhaps seeing our first Long-tailed Cormorants, Black-headed Heron, White-faced Whistling-Duck, and Pied and Malachite kingfishers. African Green-Pigeons and a variety of barbets sometimes occur in fruiting trees, and flowering shrubs attract a variety of sunbirds.

Nearer to the The Ark a stop at the Aberdare National Park entrance gate could provide us with our first views of several montane pigeons, parrots, raptors, warblers, white-eyes, and tinkerbirds. Among the many possibilities are Scaly Francolin, Long-crested Eagle, Red-fronted Parrot, Silvery-cheeked and Crowned hornbills, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Black-tailed Oriole, Tropical Boubou, White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher, Dusky-brown Flycatcher, Cape Robin-Chat, Slender-billed Greenbul, Kikuyu White-eye, Hunter's Cisticola, Gray-capped Warbler, White-bellied Tit, Cape Wagtail, Spectacled Weaver, Eastern Double-collared and Golden-winged sunbirds, and Gray-headed Nigrita.

At the Ark itself African Buffalo, Bushbuck, and Defassa Waterbuck are attracted to the natural mineral lick and watering hole, watch too, for Sykes' Monkeys (along the forest edge) and for the striking Mantled Guereza, whose territorial vocalization is reminiscent of a nearby generator. However, the star mammal here is the massive Giant Forest Hog and we have extremely good chances of seeing at least one! Verreaux's Eagle-Owl sometimes emerge at dusk, and a night overlooking the salt lick offers the opportunity to observe our first African Elephants, perhaps a White-tailed or Marsh mongoose, and the cat-like Large-spotted Genet. Night at The Ark.

Day 5, Wed, 9 Mar. To Samburuland. After some early morning birding from the viewing platforms, we'll have breakfast and then bird our way east and north, crossing the equator, and climbing through rolling wheat fields and pasture as the road climbs to 8000 feet on Mt. Kenya's northern flank – and then, suddenly, thousands of feet below, and as far as the eye can see stretches the arid vastness of the Northern Frontier Province. We'll quickly leave the Central Highlands behind as the road descends to 3700 feet and reaches the plains at Isiolo. A short drive beyond (20 kms) lie the Buffalo Springs/Samburu Game Reserves, our destination for the next two nights. The combined reserves contain more than 100 square miles of rugged, arid terrain, dissected by a ten-mile stretch of intermittently flowing water - the Uaso Nyiro River. Dense vegetation fringes the river and shelters a terrific number of both birds and mammals that have been attracted to its life-giving water. Night at Ashnil Samburu Camp.

Day 6, Thu, 10 Mar. Samburu Game Reserve. The riverine oasis at Samburu is alive with birds. Riparian specialties include African Bare-eyed Thrush, Northern Brownbul, Northern Puffback, Black-bellied Sunbird, and Black-necked Weaver. Away from the river, near-desert conditions may prevail, and yet birds are surprisingly abundant. Typical aridland species that are conspicuous here include Somali Ostrich, Helmeted and Vulturine guineafowl, Crested Francolin, Buff-crested Bustard, Somali Courser, Pygmy Falcon, Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Blue-naped and White-headed mousebirds, Somali Bee-eater, Red-billed, Eastern Yellow-billed, and Von der Decken's hornbills, Mourning Collared-Dove, Ring-necked, and Namaqua doves, Nubian Woodpecker, Pink-breasted Lark, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Taita Fiscal, Rufous Chatterer, Northern Crombec, Hunter's and Kenya Violet-backed sunbirds, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, White-rumped Shrike, Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver, and Black-capped

Social-Weaver. Scarcer species we hope to find include Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse, Somali Tit, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Magpie, Fischer's, and Golden-breasted starlings, Shining Sunbird, and the beautiful Golden Pipit. Large raptors are diverse and conspicuous in the bush, including the graceful Bateleur and the massive Martial Eagle.

Special mammals of Buffalo Springs/Samburu are the endangered Grevy's Zebra, Beisa Oryx, Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk, Cheetah, and Leopard. But not all mammals are so large, and we'll also be watching for Unstriped Ground Squirrel, and parties of Dwarf Mongoose that foraging amongst the fallen logs and termite hills. Nights at Ashnil Samburu Camp.

Day 7, Fri, 11 Mar. To Naro Moru. We'll have a chance to look for any species that we may still need in Samburu, and then we'll retrace our steps to Mt. Kenya, eating a picnic lunch along the way. Our destination, the Naro Moru River Lodge, is set in attractive gardens and riverine forest along the Naro Moru River. We expect to arrive there by mid-afternoon, and we'll then walk the delightful grounds where flowering shrubs attract as many as nine species of sunbirds, White-browed Robin-Chats sing loudly from thickets, the beautiful African Paradise-Flycatcher is often present, as are Black-backed Puffback, and Red-headed Weaver. We'll sleep tonight to the sound of Tree Hyrax outside our rooms at Naro Moru River Lodge.

Day 8, Sat, 12 Mar. To the Baringo-Bogoria area. After breakfast we'll leave Naro Moru and head west crossing the dry grasslands of southern Laikipia district; here we may see White-bellied Bustard, Red-capped Lark, Pectoral-patch Cisticola, Plain-backed Pipit, and the magnificent Long-tailed Widowbird. Further along the way we have several "stake-out" spots, including an old quarry where we'll check for roosting Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle-Owl and a highland marsh for Tinkling (Levaillant's) Cisticola and Lesser Swamp-Warbler.

In the afternoon we'll descend into the Great Rift Valley by way of the Subukia Escarpment, and we'll then head north towards Lake Baringo, a sparkling freshwater oasis bordered by towering cliffs and acacia scrub. Night at Bogoria Spa Resort.

Day 9, Sun, 13 Mar. Lake Baringo area. The rugged cliffs along Lake Baringo are habitat for a number of specialty birds, including, Shikra, Dark Chanting-Goshawk, Hemprich's and Jackson's hornbills, Brown-tailed Chat, Mocking Cliff-Chat, Lesser Honeyguide, Bristle-crowned Starling, and White-bellied Canary. With luck we could find a roosting pair of Northern White-faced Owls, a fruiting fig tree with a terrific variety of starlings and other fruit-eaters, or a feeding flock of waxbills, including Blue-capped Cordon-bleus and the striking Green-winged Pytilia.

The taller trees surrounding the lake harbor a long list of dry woodland species, including White-browed Coucal, African Pygmy-Kingfisher, D'Arnaud's, Red-fronted, and Black-throated barbets, Nubian Woodpecker, Brubru, Red-faced Crombec, Beautiful Sunbird, Three-streaked Tchagra, Gray-headed and Sulphur-breasted bushshrikes, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, and many species of colorful weavers, including Northern Masked, Little, and Golden-backed, and the very local White-billed Buffalo-Weaver.

The lake itself is busy with waterbirds. Species vary with the water level, but an afternoon walk along the reedy margins could produce excellent looks at such species as Goliath and Purple herons, Little Bittern, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Pink-backed Pelican, African Jacana, Black Crake, Pied and Malachite kingfishers, and a variety of weavers. Shortly before sunset we'll make a special excursion to look for the partially nocturnal Three-banded Courser. Night at Bogoria Spa Resort.

Day 10, Mon, 14 Mar. Baringo to Kakamega. Today we'll climb from the bottom of Rift and head west through the Tugen Hills, stopping to check for montane species we may have missed earlier and perhaps adding Black-throated Wattle-eye, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Gray Cuckooshrike, White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher, Yellow White-eye, Brown Woodland-Warbler, or Black-billed Weaver. We'll then continue further west across the Kerio Valley looking for such localized species as White-crested Turaco, Green-backed Eremomela, and Black-headed Batis on the lower slopes.

After a picnic lunch we'll then climb the spectacular western escarpment and head on to Kakamega Forest, hopefully arriving in time for some late afternoon birding. Night at Rondo Retreat, Kakamega.

Days 11-12, Tue-Wed, 15-16 Mar. Kakamega Forest. Kakamega Forest is a true rainforest—unique in Kenya—of central African affinities. The avifauna shows little overlap with the species we will have seen; indeed, the birding is so rich here that there will doubtless be lifers even for those who have already spent several days birding Kakamega. Although forest mammals are inconspicuous, we'll keep an eye out for Giant Forest Squirrel, Mantled Guereza, and Blue and Black-cheeked White-nosed monkeys.

We'll have two full days to bird this beautiful forest, probably starting early in the more open areas and then, as the sun's angle increases, entering the forest along roads or on quiet trails, listening for specialty birds and watching for mixed-species flocks. As in Neotropical rainforests, the slightest motion in the forest canopy could betray the presence of a fruiting tree—with several species of barbets and greenbuls and perhaps a Western Black-headed Oriole; or a quiet vocalization in the understory could reveal a raiding party of safari ants, with its attendant antswarm followers. But the real showstopper at Kakamega is the fabulous Great Blue Turaco, which sometimes occurs in groups of ten to twelve birds and seems to be holding its own here in spite of continual reduction of the intact forest. Among the many other bird possibilities are Black Goshawk, White-spotted Flufftail (more easily heard than seen), Tambourine Dove, African Emerald and Klaas' cuckoos, Bar-tailed Trogon, African Broadbill, Blue-headed Bee-eater, the big and noisy Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill (we counted more than 100 leaving a roost one trip!), Yellow-spotted, Gray-throated, Hairy-breasted, and Yellow-billed barbets, Least Honeyguide, Buff-spotted, Brown-eared, and Golden-crowned woodpeckers, Dusky Tit, Square-tailed Drongo, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Brown-chested Alethe, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Equatorial Akalat, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, a number of species of Old World warblers, flycatchers, babblers, and greenbuls, Pink-footed Puffback, Gray-green Bushshrike, Green, Western Olive, Northern Double-collared, and Green-throated sunbirds, Grosbeak, Vieillot's Black, Black-necked, Black-billed, Dark-backed, and Brown-capped weavers, Red-headed Malimbe, Red-headed Bluebill, and Oriole Finch. We'll return to our beautiful base for lunches and perhaps a short break, before returning to the forest for more afternoon birding. Nights at Rondo Retreat, Kakamega.



*At Kakamega Forest, we'll find rainforest birds such as the brilliant African Emerald-Cuckoo.
Photograph by participant Randy Siebert.*

Day 13, Thu, 17 Mar. To Lake Victoria and Lake Nakuru. This morning we make a short drive south descending into the Lake Victoria basin where we'll stop to bird the papyrus-fringed shores of Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest fresh-water lake, at the head of the great Nile Basin. Bird possibilities at the lake and in the surrounding rice fields include African Openbill, African Marsh-Harrier, Long-toed Lapwing, Blue-headed Coucal, Black-billed Barbet, Swamp Flycatcher, Greater Swamp-Warbler, Carruthers' Cisticola, Red-chested Sunbird, Black-headed, Slender-billed, and Northern Brown-throated weavers, Fan-tailed Widowbird, and the scarce Papyrus Canary.

We'll then turn to the east and on to the best known of the Rift Valley lakes, Lake Nakuru! This was the first African national park established for the protection of bird life and depending on lake levels as many as one million flamingos (mostly Lesser, but a few Greaters as well) may occur here at any one time. The vista can be staggering. In addition to the flamingos, the lake supports great numbers of other waterbirds and shorebirds, including Little Grebe, Long-tailed and Great cormorants, Great White and Pink-backed pelicans, Little and Yellow-billed egrets, Yellow-billed Stork, Sacred Ibis, African Spoonbill, Cape and Hottentot teals, Southern Pochard, Red-billed and Yellow-billed ducks, Blacksmith, Spur-

winged, and Crowned lapwings, Three-banded and Kittlitz's plovers, Black-winged Stilt, and variable numbers of Palearctic shorebirds. Grasslands surrounding the lake support a few Bohor Reedbuck, herds of Defassa Waterbuck, African Buffalo (with their attendant oxpeckers) are common, as is the very local Rothchild's Giraffe.

The giant Euphorbia and Yellowbark Acacia woodlands around the lake support such a rich avifauna that it is not uncommon to record 100 species in a day. We'll have the afternoon for sampling the lakeshore, woodlands, and cliffs. Among the many land bird possibilities are Coqui and Hildebrandt's francolins, African, Black, Levallant's, and Dideric cuckoos, African Swift, Arrow-marked Babbler, Brimstone Canary, and perhaps the scarce and local Gray-crested Helmetshrike. We should reach our hilltop destination in time to watch the soft late-afternoon sun fade on the pinkening lake. Night at Lake Nakuru Lodge.

Day 14, Fri, 18 Mar. Nakuru to Nairobi. We'll have the whole morning to further enjoy Lake Nakuru, and then after lunch drive to Nairobi for an overnight stay. Night at the Tamarind Tree Hotel

Day 15, Sat, 19 Mar. To Masai Mara. We'll take the morning scheduled flight across the Rift and into the 700-square-mile Masai Mara, Kenya's finest game reserve.

Ecologically a part of the Serengeti of Tanzania, the Mara is a land of immense vistas—of vast rolling plains and rounded hills, of scattered acacia woodlands and thornbush thickets, and of luxuriant riparian woodland along the Mara River. In every direction are herds of ungulates, especially Burchell's Zebra, Topi, and Thomson's and Grant's gazelles. Elephant, buffalo, and hyenas are common, and with luck during our stay we could encounter a family of Cheetahs, or a pride of hunting Lions. After arrival, we will transfer the short distance to our camp, and then, after lunch take our open-sided four-wheel drive for our first adventure across the plains. Night at Little Governor's Camp, Masai Mara.

Days 16-17, Sun-Mon, 20-21 Mar. The Masai Mara. Two full days in Masai Mara. We should awaken to a chorus of excitingly unfamiliar birdsong, including perhaps the persistent rasping of a Schalow's Turaco moving through the well forested camp grounds. Then, depending on the advice of our expert local guide, we'll make drives to find as many of the special birds and mammals as possible. In addition to the mammals mentioned yesterday, we should also find a good number of new birds, including Rufous-bellied Heron, Saddle-billed and Woolly-necked storks, Spur-winged Goose, White-headed and Lappet-faced vultures, Black-breasted and Brown snake-eagles, Gray Kestrel, Red-necked Francolin, Black-bellied Bustard, Temminck's Courser, Wattled Lapwing, Meyer's Parrot, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Flappet Lark, Sooty Chat, Rosy-breasted Longclaw, numerous pipits and larks, Yellow-billed and Red-billed oxpeckers, African Quailfinch, Purple Grenadier, and the bizarre Southern Ground-Hornbill—now placed by many authorities in a new family, *Bucorvidae*. Nights at Little Governor's Camp, Masai Mara.

Day 18, Tue, 22 Mar. Masai Mara to Nairobi. After a final early morning game drive in Masai Mara, we'll fly back to Nairobi where lunch, early dinner, and day rooms will be available at Tamarind Tree Hotel until our early evening transfer to the international airport. For those requiring an overnight stay, please arrange this with the tour manager.

Day 19, Wed, 23 Mar. Arrival home.

About Your Guide

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; this is also available as an app, with the added advantage of making it possible to hear many of the calls. Since the end of 2020 the book form has been fully revised as a 2nd Edition and includes an up to date text with the latest taxonomy, all additional species, and full colour range maps. Terry 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. 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, India and more recently in Hungary & Romania. He is currently living in a mud-and-cow-dung mansion near Mt. Kenya.

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$14,950 from Nairobi

AIRFARE: Please contact our office for the best available fare and schedule from your home airport.

DEPOSIT: \$1500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: November 5, 2021

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional*): \$1850 (Please note that single rooms may not be available at all of the lodges.)

LIMIT: 6

Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Some of our tours may incur higher costs due to increases in currency exchange rate fluctuations or COVID-19 related fees imposed by countries and/or suppliers. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes or other unforeseen causes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

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 ACCOMMODATIONS/ALTITUDE: In Nairobi, we will stay at both The Residences and the Tamarind Tree Hotel. The Residences is set in the historic area of Karen (a suburb of Nairobi named after Karen Blixen of Out of Africa fame). It is set between forest and a golf course with good birding right on the grounds. The Tamarind Tree is a more modern style hotel located not far from Wilson Airport (for our flight to Masai Mara) and the international airport for your departure home – it is also adjoining the famous Carnivore Restaurant. Both our Nairobi hotels are undoubtedly the best places on the whole tour to send or check your emails. The Ark, at the Aberdare Mountains, is a wooden structure with rather small bedrooms, but each has a private bathroom and the visitor viewing platforms overlooking a mineral lick and waterhole make for a great one night stay in this special highland area. Naro Moru River Lodge (near Mt. Kenya) is an old lodge within beautiful gardens - the simply decorated rooms are in small groups made of local wood and stone.

Ashnil Samburu Camp is a modern safari-style camps with large comfortable tents, full size beds, private bathrooms, and a surprising touch of luxury – for such remote area. At Bogoria Spa Resort (probably the only hot place on the tour) the simple rooms have air-conditioning. At Kakamega Forest the delightful Rondo Retreat is a series of lovely cottages which are scattered around a beautiful garden, with most being attractively decorated with floral fabrics, old fashioned writing desks, and comfortable verandas. Lake Nakuru Lodge is a large lodge set on a hill overlooking the lake; over the past few years they have upgraded all the rooms, which are comfortable but in a rather plain and simple way. Little Governor's Camp in Masai Mara is one of the most well known camps in this wonderful wildlife area. Again, the tents are built on wooden platforms, each with large beds, a writing desk, attached private bathroom, and a small veranda.

Much of this itinerary is between 5000 and 7000 feet; it is cool at night and air-conditioning is not considered necessary. The two areas below this altitude are Samburu, at approximately 4000 feet, where fans are provided, and at Bogoria, nearer to 3000 feet, where there is air-conditioning. The maximum altitude we will reach is 8000 feet as we drive around the north side of Mt. Kenya; the lowest is just below 3000 feet at Lake Baringo..

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid for six months beyond the date of your return and a tourist visa are necessary for US citizens to enter Kenya. The passports of all travelers entering Kenya must contain at least two clean (unstamped) visa pages at each time entry is sought. Amendment and endorsement pages cannot be used in lieu of visa pages. Application for the visa should be made well in advance. We will provide you with the necessary visa application forms. Evidence of yellow fever immunization may be requested. We recommend you have proof of the vaccination upon arrival in case you are asked to show it.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Kenyan 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.

Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: 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. Additionally, we ask that you limit your baggage to **one medium duffel and a carry-on**. Duffels are much easier to pack in the back of the safari van than suitcases (including soft-sided suitcases) **so please bring a duffel. On several recent tours some participants have brought far too much clothing and too many suitcases (not duffels), which then had to be left in storage in Nairobi for the duration of the tour.**

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$14,950 for one person in double occupancy* from Nairobi. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 17 and day rooms in Nairobi on Day 18, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through dinner on Day 18, the flights within Kenya, all ground transportation, entrance fees, 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.

Medical Evacuation Service is also included. This provides, insofar as is possible, medical care in Kenya by qualified personnel including air transportation to medical care facilities if necessary.

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

The **single supplement** is \$1850. 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).

*If you have a trusted friend, relative, or significant other with whom you wish to share a room on tour, please let us know and your tour manager will make that assignment. However, due to recommendations from the CDC, Field Guides is not currently pairing roommates who do not know each other, and the single supplement will apply if you do not have a roommate. As of this writing (January 24, 2022), we are reviewing these CDC recommendations carefully and often and will let you know if that changes.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please [contact our office](#). 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 \$1500** per person, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by November 5, 2021. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

Please note that if you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will require **proof of travel insurance**. 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: FOR 2022 TOURS: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable. **FOR 2023 TOURS & BEYOND:** Note that beginning in 2023, the 50% refund period will become 179 to 90 days before departure, with no refund thereafter.

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. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. 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 within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (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 reverse side of 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

Aug/15TS

Revised Jan 20, 2022TS