I'ITINERARY

EAST AFRICA HIGHLIGHTS: KENYA & TANZANIA

February 27-March 19, 2027

One of the iconic places we'll visit is Ngorongoro Crater, one of the wonders of East Africa. The grasslands are justly famous, but we'll also spend time around the saline lake, where we'll see many waterbirds such as flamingos, storks, ibis and pelicans. Photograph by participant Katy Krigbaum.

We include here information for those interested in the 2027 Field Guides East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania *tour:*

- a general introduction to 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

East Africa 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 northern Tanzania, and more species have been actually seen in one day here (*330*) than anywhere else on Earth. This ambitious itinerary is a fast-paced (but not exhausting) survey of the richest parks and birding spots in central and western Kenya and northern Tanzania.

In eighteen days in the field, we can sample the very best of both countries, and see an impressive diversity of habitats, many of them comprising spectacular scenery. In Tanzania, we will travel by four-wheel-drive vehicle as we cross the Great Rift Valley and bird the forests of the Crater Highlands before climbing to the rim of Ngorongoro Crater itself, and spend a day within the crater - seeing Africa's famed big game at its best. From Ngorongoro, it's on to the

vastness of the Serengeti and its herds of buffalo, antelopes, zebra, and big cats. We'll return the same way heading to Tarangire National Park, another beautiful park for both birds, mammals, and giant baobab trees. In Kenya, our route will take us on a loop from Nairobi and Nairobi National Park north through the Central Highlands to alkaline Lake Nakuru, then west to the rich birding at Kakamega Forest, back through a most spectacular part of the Rift Valley to Lake Baringo, and then to the slopes of the Aberdare Mountains before we return to Nairobi.

It's a real treat to watch Schalow's Turacos foraging through the treetops near Karatu or drive across the floor of Ngorongoro Crater—one of the world's most spectacular reserves. Large herds of zebra, wildebeest, and gazelles graze all around, and hundreds of flamingos, storks, ibises, and waterfowl fringe the alkaline lake, while Lions watch over the scene, seemingly inured to the extraordinary activity all around them. And the Serengeti, that vast and apparently endless expanse of plains, defies description. The seasonal home of several million large mammals and uncounted birds (including three Tanzanian endemics—Gray-breasted Spurfowl, Fischer's Lovebird, and Rufous-tailed Weaver), the Serengeti is the essence of East Africa. We may find a Lion kill and watch the maneuverings of hyenas, jackals, vultures, and Marabous as they try to get a share of the spoils; perhaps we'll watch a solitary Cheetah stalking a Thomson's Gazelle; or we may simply enjoy observing silent Northern Giraffes walking across the plains. The Serengeti will fill us with a magnificent feeling of space that in itself is a remarkable wilderness experience. In Tarangire, we may watch large herds of African Savanna Elephant along the river, or perhaps a Leopard lounging high in the shade of a mighty baobab tree. Bird life is abundant, with endemic Ashy Starlings and Yellow-collared Lovebirds common right around our comfortable lodge.

In Kenya, it's fabulous to look out at dawn over Lake Nakuru, perhaps speckled with pink flamingos and surrounded by tall acacia woodland, or cross the Great Rift Valley, with its dramatic cliffs and sparkling lakes—it's the longest exposed rift valley on Earth, stretching from Lebanon to Mozambique and at its narrowest here in East Africa. We'll cross and re-cross it in both countries, enjoying the vistas while searching for such special birds as Bar-tailed Trogon, Hemprich's Hornbill, and Red-fronted Parrot. From tiny crombecs and eremomelas to giant Martial Eagles and Kori Bustards; wattle-eyes in the forests, barbets in the arid bush country; from woodhoopoes and helmetshrikes, to Secretarybirds, mousebirds, rollers, and insectivorous woodland kingfishers, East Africa offers a fantastic array of bird life very different from our own.

Although our primary focus is on birds, 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. During the course of this journey, we'll spend considerable time watching and photographing mammals in many of East Africa's finest parks.

As veterans know, the joys of traveling in East Africa are many. Besides all the fabulous birds and mammals, the people are friendly, the climate is delightful, and tourist facilities are excellent. In both countries we will travel in 4X4 Toyota Landcruisers,with a pop-top roof, refridgerator, and other special safari features. We will be staying in hotels and lodges that offer an amazing degree of comfort and convenience in some of the finest birding habitats in both Kenya and Tanzania.

Note: To save a huge amount of time traveling between Nairobi and Arusha (northern Tanzania), we will fly both legs of this journey—an extra expense, but we think (and we hope you will agree) well worth every cent! The limit for this tour is just six participants.

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.

We'll spend time in safari vehicles in Tanzania, where we will not be able to do much walking, but we'll get great views of the wildlife. Photograph by guide Terry Stevenson.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING**: Due to the presence of large mammals there is not much walking in Tanzania, the exception is on the outer slopes of Ngorongoro Crater where we will walk a trail with a forest guard for up to 2 miles. Elsewhere we will take 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, especially in Tanzania. 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 Tanzania, we are mainly in national parks, where, due to dangerous animals, we bird mostly from safari vehicles with pop-up tops. In Kenya, 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.

Other considerations: We can bird on foot near the lodges and in designated areas in some of the parks, but you should prepare yourself to accept the park and lodge rules designed to protect people from the many dangerous African animals that we are not used to thinking about.

Throughout Africa, there is a strange dichotomy between birding the game parks and birding the areas outside the parks. In the parks, one is largely confined to vehicles—and one aches to be out of them, birding normally. Once out of a park, it is great for a while to be birding on foot, but very shortly one starts missing all the mammals, large birds, and unspoiled habitats that are mostly gone outside the parks. It may be of some consolation to remember that each participant will always have a window and that one gets excellent viewing—and a fair amount of exercise—just by standing up through the pop-top roof.

If you are uncertain 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.

Von der Decken's Hornbill is a specialty of the East African savannas. This pair showed nicely in the Serengeti on our 2026 tour. Photograph by participant Katy Krigbaum.

Itinerary for East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania

Day 1, Sat, 27 Feb. Departure from the US. Participants joining the tour from the US will need to leave today in order to make a connection in Europe that will arrive in Nairobi on Sunday, February 28. .

Day 2, Sun, 28 Feb. 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 passing through immigration, collecting your baggage, and clearing customs, **look for the *A&K* sign and their representative** who will be waiting outside "Arrivals" to meet you. If for some unlikely 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 right around our hotel; Egyptian Goose, Laughing and Red-eyed doves, Hartlaub's Turaco, Little Swift, Marabou Stork, Hadada Ibis, Black Kite, Augur Buzzard, Speckled Mousebird, African Paradise-Flycatcher, Black-backed Puffback, Common Fiscal, Pied Crow, Red-throated Crag-Martin, Cabanis's Greenbul, Common Bulbul, Abyssinian Thrush, Rueppell's Robin-Chat, Bronze and Variable sunbirds, Baglafecht and Speke's weavers, African Pied Wagtail, Bronze Mannikin, and Streaky Seedeater. Night at The Residences at Karen Country Club, Nairobi.

Day 3, Mon, 1 Mar. Nairobi. Please enjoy breakfast whenever you like between 6:30-10:00 a.m. **Terry will meet you at reception at 11:00 a.m. for a short bird walk and lunch.**

Immediately after lunch we'll head for 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, Hartebeest, Impala, and gazelles are often visible from near the entrance, and one group found a lounging Leopard on our first afternoon! We'll work our way across the grasslands, perhaps stopping for Common Ostrich, Secretarybird, our first Gray Crowned-Cranes, or a close Northern 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, Yellow-breasted Apalis, White-bellied Tit, Chinspot Batis, and Scarlet-chested Sunbird. Elsewhere on the drive possibilities are Helmeted Guineafowl, White-backed Vulture, Crowned and Blacksmith lapwings, Striped, Gray-headed, and Malachite kingfishers, Pale White-eye, Superb Starling, Long-tailed Shrike, Red-billed Firefinch, and Purple Grenadier. We'll return to our Nairobi hotel in the late afternoon. Night at The Residences at Karen Country Club, Nairobi.

The Superb Starling is another species limited to East Africa. We'll watch for them in the open woodlands of Nairobi National Park and elsewhere. Photograph by participant Linda Rudolph.

Day 4, Tue, 2 Mar. To Tanzania. Today is largely a travel day, but well over half of the distance we need to cover is now just a short flight away. We'll begin by flying from Nairobi to Arusha (gateway to the Serengeti) and then depending on our time of arrival, either have lunch in town or take a picnic and head towards Plantation Lodge .

Most of the landscape will be through semi-arid bush country, crossed here and there with dry river beds, and later, as we climb the western wall of the Great Rift Valley, a steep rocky escarpment. We hope to get to Plantation Lodge with time for some afternoon birding, but along the way we'll undoudtedly make stops as we perhaps encounter Eastern Chanting-Goshawk, White-bellied Go-away Bird, Rufous-crowned Roller, Red-fronted Barbet, Banded Parisoma, Red-faced Crombec, Spotted Morning-Thrush, Red-throated Tit, Slate-colored Boubou, White-bellied Canary, and Green-winged Pytilia. Night at Plantation Lodge, near Karatu.

Day 5, Wed, 3 Mar. Morning birding at Plantation Lodge ; afternoon drive to Ngorongoro Crater. The gardens around the lodge are often ablaze with flowers and we'll begin our morning birding here; singing White-browed Robin-Chats should be evident, as well as Tropical Boubou, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, and a variety of highland sunbirds. After breakfast we'll enjoy a longer walk on a trail within the forest above the lodge; here Schalow's Turaco hop along the mossy branches, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Narina Trogon, and Eastern Mountain-Greenbul inhabit the forest interior, Brown-headed Apalis and White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher feed in the canopy, and Gray-capped Warblers skulk in the undergrowth.

After another delicious meal (lunch), we'll continue through the farmlands around Karatu before reaching the thick montane forests that mark the boundary of Ngorongoro Conservation Area. From here it is less than an hour to our lodge on the crater rim—and one of the world's most spectacular views.

The remainder of the afternoon will be spent around the lodge, where we could see a variety of raptors, Rameron Pigeon, White-necked Raven, Bar-throated Apalis, Golden-winged and Tacazze sunbirds, and Red-cowled Widowbird. Night at Ngorongoro Serena Lodge.

We'll see many iconic African mammals on this tour, including Lions. Ngorogoro is a wonderful place to see these and other predators. Photograph by guide Terry Stevenson.

Day 6, Thu, 4 Mar. Ngorongoro Crater. After breakfast we'll descend in our four-wheel drive vehicle for a full day in the crater. There will be countless opportunities for those wishing to photograph the larger mammals, many of which are surprisingly tame. The backdrop is superb, and we will cover much of the floor of Ngorongoro Crater. Heading across the grasslands, we should see large herds of Plains, Zebra, Blue Wildebeest, and Grant's and Thomson's gazelles. We may then head for the alkaline lake, where an abundance of waterbirds are found. Thousands of Lesser and Greater flamingos could be present, and flocks of Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts may also occur. Other expected species include Spur-winged Goose, Blue-billed and Cape teals, Red-billed Duck, Glossy and African Sacred ibis, and African Spoonbill. Hundreds of Gray-hooded Gulls can fill the air along the shores, while beneath them Kittlitz's and Chestnut-banded plovers feed in the alkaline mud. In the midst of all this activity, Lions, those most powerful of African predators, lie nonchalantly still, often apparently downright bored with all this extraordinary activity.

We will picnic near a small group of acacia trees which are home to endemic Rufous-tailed Weavers and Superb Starlings; Black Rhinoceros are often seen on the plains beyond. And after lunch, we'll head for the freshwater swamps where more waterbirds—and, frequently, large bull African Savanna Elephants—are found. The lush growth of vegetation here holds different species of birds and offers good protection from the afternoon sun. In the late afternoon we return to our lodge on the crater rim. Night at Ngorongoro Serena Lodge.

Days 7-9, Fri-Sun, 5–7 Mar. The Serengeti. On the morning of Day 7 we'll leave Ngorongoro and head farther west, passing many Maasai manyattas and seeing these stately herdsmen tending their cattle, much as they have done for centuries. (The Conservation Area is, like our National Forests, a multi-use area and photography of people is usually a paying proposition that must be arranged). As we leave the crater highlands, the vegetation changes dramatically. First we'll pass through acacia woodland dissected by broad dry riverbeds, then drier acacia scrub, and finally open plain areas.

Our accommodation tonight will be Serengeti Serena Lodge, several hours drive into the vast Serengeti plains; but en route we plan a short detour to Olduvai (also known as Oldupai) Gorge. The gorge was made famous by the Leakey family when they found the 1.75 million-year-old skull of hominid *Australopithecus boisei* in 1959. Since that amazing find,

many more discoveries have come to light, including fossil hominid tracks at Laetoli more than 3,500,000 years old. A new museum at the site displays and explains examples of many of the finds.

Leaving Olduvai, we could see flocks of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse flying up from beside the road, Double-banded Coursers inhabiting the dusty bare basins, and Lanner Falcon watching for the unwary Ring-necked Dove. We will stop at a wooded riverbed, perhaps calling in a Pearl-spotted Owlet and/or its harassing swarm that may include Buff-bellied Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Northern Crombec, Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird, Brubru, Red-headed Weaver, Blue-capped Cordonbleu and Black-cheeked Waxbill.

By mid-afternoon we'll be seeing fewer and fewer trees, until we finally find ourselves at the edge of that vast plain that is home to millions of animals, the Serengeti. With three days in the area and with the advice of our expert driver-guide, we should encounter many of the species for which the region is famous.

We may find a kill and see interactions between Lion, hyaena, jackal, and vulture. We may watch a solitary Cheetah stalking a Thomson's Gazelle, or silent giraffes striding across the plains. Indeed, on the Serengeti, there is always something different and spectacular to see.

Three endemics—Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, Fischer's Lovebird, and Gray-breasted Spurfowl—occur right around our lodge, while on the open plains the variety ranges from the enormous Common Ostrich, Secretarybird, and Kori Bustard, to nomadic Black-winged Lapwings, and the flighty larks, pipits, and longclaws. While water is scarce, some of the permanent creeks near our lodge are the favorite wallows of hippos and our route will cover all the habitats, maximizing our chances of seeing most species. We will have the remainder of Day 7 and the whole of Days 8 and 9 to watch the birds and mammals of this area, although to give a slightly different mix of species, we'll spend the night of Day 9 at nearby Ndutu Lodge. Nights at Serengeti Serena Lodge (2 nights) and Ndutu Lodge (1 night).

The Red-and-yellow Barbet is another species confined to East Africa. We'll find these colorful birds in Tarangire. Photograph by participant Joshua Horner.

Days 10-11, Mon-Tue, 8–9 Mar. Tarangire National Park. Today (Day 10) we'll retrace our route from the Serengeti past Olduvai and Ngorongoro Crater. While the day involves much travel, we will have time to take a last look at the Serengeti's mammals and birds before descending the western escarpment and veering southeast across the Rift, heading to one of Tanzania's little-visited parks, Tarangire.

Tarangire is a fascinating area of dry bush and huge baobabs with a permanent river; it is a varied and attractive place to finish the Tanzanian portion of our safari. Our quick visit (this afternoon and all of tomorrow) gives us a chance to see the scenery and several special birds, and it is a good launching place for the return to Kenya. Elephants are sometimes present in herds of 100 or more, Leopards are not uncommon, and Fringe-eared Oryx, a species of irregular distribution, is resident though scarce.

Yet another Tanzanian endemic, Ashy Starling, is common right around our lodge, and Yellow-collared Lovebird occurs throughout the park. Also possible here are Saddle-billed Stork, Brown Snake-Eagle, Pygmy Falcon, Coqui and Crested francolins, Namaqua Dove, Red-bellied Parrot, White-bellied and Bare-faced go-away-birds, African Scops-Owl, Blue-naped Mousebird, 'African' Hoopoe, Northern Red-billed and Von der Decken's hornbills, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Cardinal Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark (erratic), Fawn-colored (Foxy) Lark, Magpie Shrike, Crimson-rumped Waxbill and Cut-throat. Nights at Tarangire Sopa Lodge.

Day 12, Wed, 10 Mar. To Nairobi. After breakfast and some early birding around our lodge we'll take a picnic lunch and head north to Arusha for our late afternoon flight to Nairobi. Night at Tamarind Tree Hotel, Nairobi.

Lake Nakuru is home to many birds dependant on a watery environment. We'll see African Fish-Eagles there, as well as numbers of flamingos, pelicans, egrets and shorebirds. Photograph by participant Eric Dudley.

Day 13, Thu, 11 Mar. To Lake Nakuru. We'll leave straight after breakfast for about a three-hour drive to Lake Nakuru, perhaps stopping on the way at Limuru Ponds or Lake Naivasha which seasonally can be excellent for ducks, terns, and shorebirds.

However our final destination today is Lake Nakuru where large numbers of both Greater and Lesser flamingos may occur, although numbers do vary greatly from year to year. In addition to flamingos, the lake supports great numbers of other waterbirds and shorebirds including Little Grebe, Yellow-billed Stork, Long-tailed and Great cormorants, Great White Pelican, Little and Yellow-billed egrets, Three-banded and Kittlitz's plovers, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, and a good selection of Palearctic shorebirds. Elegant African Fish-Eagles forage on the flats and nest in the big acacias, their wild yelping a wonderful sound ringing across the lake.

Grasslands surrounding the lake support herds of Plains Zebra, Waterbuck, and Thomson's and Grant's gazelles, plus numerous Cape Buffalo (with their attendant oxpeckers), and a small number of the very localized Rothschild's Giraffe (sometimes lumped with the more widespread Northern Giraffe). A few White Rhinoceros have been introduced and are now more common than the indigenous Black Rhinos, which we may also see, but they occur in the thicker bush and are rather shy.

We'll spend the afternoon slowly driving along the lakeshore, through the yellow-bark acacia woodlands and near the lava cliffs, enjoying the tremendous variety of birds and mammals that occur here. Night at Lake Nakuru Lodge.

Day 14, Fri, 12 Mar. Morning Lake Nakuru N.P.; and drive to Kakamega Forest. Dawn at Lake Nakuru brings the energetic chorusing of White-browed Robin-Chats from right outside our rooms, while the less common Mocking Cliffchat and Little Rock-Thrush are also occasionally present. Even as we have breakfast and the colors deepen on the glowing lake below, we'll be able to survey clusters of game feeding on the nearby grassy slopes. We will spend part of the morning birding the margins of the lake before taking a picnic lunch and heading northwest for a three night stay at the delightful Rondo Retreat—settled within the renowned Kakamega Forest. Night at Rondo Retreat.

Days 15-16, Sat-Sun, 13–14 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 so far, and about 45 species in Kenya are only found here. Although three species of monkeys are common—Guereza (Colobus Monkey), Blue, and Red-tailed —other forest mammals are inconspicuous; we may however find Red-legged Sun or Forest Giant squirrels.

We'll have two full days to bird this beautiful forest, starting early in the more open areas and then, as the sun's angle increases, we'll enter the interior 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 ant-swarm 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, Blue-headed Bee-eater, White-headed Woodhoopoe, 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, African Broadbill, Petit's Cuckooshrike, a number of species of Old World greenbuls, warblers, and flycatchers, Brown-chested Alethe, Dusky Tit, Equatorial Akalat, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Green, Olive, Northern Double-collared, and Green-throated sunbirds, Pink-footed Puffback, Gray-green Bushshrike, Sharpe's Drongo, Vieillot's Black, Black-necked, Black-billed, Dark-backed, and Brown-capped weavers, Red-headed Malimbe, and Red-headed Bluebill. 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.

We'll have a chance to do some forest birding at Kakamega, where we'll watch for the amazing Great Blue Turaco. Photograph by participant Jacqui Probst.

Day 17, Mon, 15 Mar. To the Lake Baringo area. We'll leave Kakamega after breakfast and head east descending in to the Rift Valley down the spectacular Elgeyo Escarpment. At the bottom, the riverine forest along the Kerio River can be good for White-crested Turaco, and we'll spend some time here as we search for this beautiful bird. We'll then climb the Tugen Hills before descending yet again to the Rift Valley bottom and our lodge about 50 kms south of Lake Baringo. Many localized species are found in this area, and we'll have a part of this afternoon and the whole of tomorrow to look for them. Night at Bogoria Spa Resort.

Day 18, Tue, 16 Mar. Lake Baringo area. After an early breakfast, we'll drive about one hour to the rugged cliffs just west of Lake Baringo; this is the habitat for a number of specialty birds, and we'll be joined by a local guide as we search out Dark Chanting-Goshawk, Black-headed Lapwing, Three-banded Courser, Hemprich's and Jackson's hornbills, Brown-tailed Chat, Lesser Honeyguide, Three-streaked Tchagra, and Bristle-crowned Starling. With luck we could also find a roosting pair of Spotted Thick-knees, Northern White-faced Owls, or Grayish Eagle-Owl, and perhaps a fruiting fig tree with a terrific variety of starlings and other fruit-eaters.

Later we'll visit the taller trees surrounding the lake which harbor a long list of species including White-browed Coucal, African Pygmy-Kingfisher, Black-throated and Red-and-yellow barbets, Nubian Woodpecker, Brubru, Red-faced Crombec, Beautiful Sunbird, Gray-headed and Sulphur-breasted bushshrikes, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, and many species of colorful weavers, including Little and Golden-backed and the very local White-billed Buffalo-Weaver. The lake itself can be busy with waterbirds. Species vary with the water level, but an afternoon walk along the shore could produce excellent looks at such species as Goliath and Purple herons, White-faced Whistling-Duck, African Jacana, Black Crake, Pied and Malachite kingfishers, and Northern Masked-Weaver (only found here in the whole of Kenya). Night at Bogoria Spa Resort.

We'll look for the beautiful Three-banded Courser near Lake Baringo. Photograph by guide Terry Stevenson.

Day 19, Wed, 17 Mar. To the Aberdare Mountains. Today we head south as we return to the central highlands, topped by the mountain blocks of Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares. Our destination is The Ark, a unique-style wooden lodge set on the Aberdare slopes and over-looking a mineral lick and waterhole which are floodlit at night. From the viewing platforms we could see Scaly Spurfowl, Long-crested Eagle, Silvery-cheeked and Crowned hornbills, Red-fronted Parrot, White-bellied Tit, Black-collared and Chestnut-throated apalises, Hunter's Cisticola, Slender-billed Greenbul, African Hill Babbler, Kikuyu White-eye, Eastern Double-collared Sunbird, Gray-headed Nigrita, Cape Wagtail, Thick-billed Seedeater, and Yellow-crowned Canary. While at the mineral lick, elephant, buffalo, Bushbuck and Waterbuck are all common, and watch too for the secretive Suni, or White-tailed Mongoose and Rusty-spotted Genet. However, the star mammal here is the massive Giant Forest Hog and we have extremely good chances of seeing at least one! Night at The Ark.

Day 20, Thu, 18 Mar. To Nairobi; evening flight home. We'll spend the early part of the morning birding in the Aberdare area, and then return to Nairobi in time for a late lunch, and use of day rooms which will be available at the Tamarind Tree Hotel. In the early evening we shall have dinner before transferring to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for our international departure. For those requiring an overnight stay, please arrange this with the tour manager.

Day 21, Fri, 19 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; it has recently been 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. 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 Stevenson** has wonderful attention to detail, deep knowledge of bird species and songs, plus all sorts of neat tales and side-information. He is also particularly gifted in explaining the significant differences between similar species." M.V., East Africa Highlights*

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

Financial Information

FEE: $18,125 from Nairobi
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): $2200 (Single rooms may not be available at some or all of the lodges.)
DEPOSIT: $**1800** per person, $1500 of which is non-refundable (due early deposit requirements set forth by the lodges where we will stay)
FINAL PAYMENT DUE: August 31, 2026
LIMIT: 6

Our Kenya and East Africa tours, led by the author of East Africa's best known field guide - Terry Stevenson, are limited to just 6 participants to optimize your birding and wildlife experience.

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!

ACCOMMODATIONS: Virtually all of this itinerary is between 5000 and 7500 feet where it is cool at night and A/C is not considered necessary. The exception is Bogoria Spa Resort which is at 3000 feet and does have air-conditioning. Throughout the tour, all rooms have private bathrooms. Most lodges we use have some sort of wifi, but it may be very slow and can often only be used for sending/receiving written emails, not large files and photographs. 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.

In Tanzania, we begin at Plantation Lodge not far from Ngorongoro and Lake Manyara**,** just outside the town of Karatu. At Ngorongoro Crater, we will stay at Ngorongoro Serena Lodge, one of the better quality large lodges on the crater rim with magnificent views. In the Serengeti, we stay at Serengeti Serena Lodge, and the smaller, more simple Ndutu Lodge. Though they are very different in character, they are equally popular with our groups and right in the heart of the best wildlife viewing areas. At Tarangire, we stay at Tarangire Sopa Lodge, set in the southern part of the reserve with fabulous bush country and giant baobab trees all around.

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 the international airport for your departure home – it is also adjoining the famous Carnivore Resturant. Both our Nairobi hotels are undoubtedly the best places on the whole tour to send or check your emails. Lake Nakuru Lodge is a large lodge overlooking the lake; they have recently built some new rooms and are upgrading all the others. It is comfortable, but in a rather plain and simple way. Rondo Retreat at Kakamega is a series of lovely cottages scattered around a beautiful

garden. Each room has very different in décor, but all are tastefully done, many with attractive floral fabrics, old fashioned writing desks, and comfortable wooded verandas. Rondo occasionally has poor wifi and cellphone connections, but is often without either. Bogoria Spa Resort consists of a series of new adjoining rooms and also a number of cottages, all have A/C, and wifi is available in the main bar and dining area. The Ark, in the Aberdare Mountains is a wooden structure with rather small bedrooms, but each has a private bathroom and the visitor viewing platforms overlooking the mineral lick and waterhole make for a great one night stay in this special highland area.

DOCUMENTS: Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

Passport: A current passport is required for international travel. It should be in good condition, valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date. The passports of all travelers entering Kenya and Tanzania must contain at least one clean (unstamped) visa page at each time entry is sought. Amendment and endorsement pages cannot be used in lieu of visa pages. We highly recommend having extra pages available in your passport in the event two pages are needed for the visa stamp.

Visa: You will need tourist visas to enter Kenya and Tanzania. Our office will supply the necessary flight information and visa application forms (and instructions), which you must complete and submit with your passport. Application for the visas should be made well in advance of the tour.

Vaccinations needed: You will need proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever to join this tour.

UK and EU authorizations: Travelers connecting via the United Kingdom or an EU country may need a separate authorization:

United Kingdom: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation.eta

Europe: https://travel-europe.europa.eu/index_en

As of October 12, 2025, U.S. citizens will need to go through the EU's new Entry and Exit System when traveling to, or through, 29 European countries. This applies to any visits lasting up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Your fingerprints, facial image, passport details, and entry and exit dates will be collected and stored digitally. The new system will be introduced gradually over 6 months.

Tanzania Travel Insurance: From October 1, 2026, all travelers entering Tanzania through land borders, seaports or airports are required to purchase travel insurance from the Government of Tanzania, regardless of having their own travel insurance already(which is highly recommended still). The mandatory travel insurance is available for purchase online before travel or on arrival, and valid for up to 92 days from arrival into Tanzania. Please read more here, https://inbound.nicinsurance.co.tz/.

Please check for requirements for the country you'll visit or transit through on your way to and from the tour. It is ultimately the client's responsibility to acquire the necessary documents required for travel, and your tour manager will try to assist where possible.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Kenya and Tanzania consulates 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.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: This tour begins and ends in Nairobi, Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO).

Arrival: Nairobi, Kenya (NBO) **on February 28**.

Departure: Nairobi, Kenya (NBO) o**n March 18.** Flights will be in the evening.

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. At that time, we'll be glad to assist with your flight arrangements at no service fee.

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 suitcases (not duffels), which then had to be left in storage in Nairobi for the duration of the tour.**

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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is $18,125 for one person in double occupancy from Nairobi. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 19, and day rooms in Nairobi on Day 20, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through dinner on Day 20, all ground transportation (including the transfer on arrival from the airport to our hotel on Day 2), entrance fees, unlimited bottled water in the safari vehicles, Kenya Flying Doctors membership, 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 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 for the tour is $2200 for those requesting a single room (single rooms may not be available at some or all of the lodges.) 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/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please send your deposit of $1800 per person ($1500 non-refundable); see our Payment Options at https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/. **Full payment of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure**, or **by August 31, 2026.** 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.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Due to the early and non-refundable deposits we must remit to our supplier, we must amend our usual cancellation policy as follows: Once you confirm your space on the tour, $1500 of the deposit amount is no longer refundable. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. 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

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 purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/.

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 6/20/25TS; 6/25peg
Rev 3/24/26TS; 6/26peg; updated 9/26peg