

ITINERARY  
**AMAZING ANGOLA**  
May 28 – June 18, 2023



*Angola boasts 15 endemic species, including its national bird, the lovely Red-crested Turaco. We'll watch for these beauties near N'dalantando and in the Kumbira Forest. Photograph by local guide Errol de Beer.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2023 Amazing Angola tour:

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

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

- 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

After a prolonged Civil war this vast (nearly twice the size of Texas) and beautiful country is now once again stable, peaceful, and open for tourism. With over 920 bird species, of which at least 15 are endemic (depending on the taxonomy used) and a further 28 near-endemic, this is a true birder's paradise and yet one of the least known but most rewarding countries to bird in all of Africa. We'll target most of the endemic and near-endemic birds, from the lush Guinea forests of the north to the spectacular Tundavala Escarpment in the south. We expect a bird list in excess of 500 species, with some only recently rediscovered and therefore known by relatively few birders to date.

Lurking within its wild borders lies the continent's second largest waterfall and we'll pay a deserved visit to this natural wonder – the spectacular Calandula Falls. Winding down the Tundavala Escarpment (pictured below) we will travel through Leba Pass, one of the most scenic passes in all of Africa, providing for some spectacular photographic

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



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

Although most people in Angola do not speak English, they are very friendly, the climate is temperate and facilities in the main centers are excellent. Transportation for our safari will be primarily in 4X4 Toyota Landcruisers especially adapted for wildlife viewing, with radio communication, air conditioning, roof hatches, and a fridge for carrying cold bottled drinking water. We will for the most part be staying in hotels and lodges that offer a good degree of comfort and convenience in some of the finest birding habitats. We'll generally be out birding for most of the day with packed lunches in the more remote areas and on most travel days.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The quality of your experience in Angola will be greatly enhanced by the fact that this safari is strictly limited to **just six participants per vehicle in two vehicles** traveling together with **Terry Stevenson** and **Errol de Beer** and their respective drivers. This allows each participant to have a window (no one sits in a middle seat) and both vehicles are air conditioned although this will hardly be needed at this time of year. There is no camping anywhere on this tour and we will stay in mostly comfortable lodges and hotels throughout our journey. We do have a night in Muxima at a rather basic lodge/hotel but there is a/c, hot water and flush toilets and this puts us right in the heart of prime birding territory. Food on the whole is really good, with a lot of Portuguese flavors and many overseas visitors say the meals exceeded their expectations.

**All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one).** Having a vaccinated group will greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated, including getting the booster.** Note too, that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may become a requirement for some travel destinations if they choose to declare that vaccinations do not last indefinitely. And having a booster means your risk is lowered and your travel plans and those of our group are less likely to be disrupted.

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

## Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS:** There are very few long hikes and most of the birding is done from roads where they pass through forest patches, making for easy birding in most areas. The exception is at Mt. Moco, where the initial climb to the first area of forest is usually suitable for people of all fitness levels, but the hike to the higher forest is strenuous and

only recommended for those with a higher level of fitness. It should be noted that most birds are usually found lower down, with often only Margaret's Batis requiring the longer hike. Most groups opt out of the longer hike.

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will be birding from specially converted 4X4 Toyota Landcruisers safari vehicles much of the time, some roads may be dusty. Some drives are long and some roads under construction, but this is improving all the time. You may want to consider dust protection for your camera equipment, etc.
- **PACE:** Days will start fairly early, and we will generally be out for most of the day, with mid-afternoon breaks in the hotter areas. We will have a number of box lunches in the field, often away from picnic tables. Some participants find it worthwhile to carry a lightweight-folding stool (with an identifying marker); the opportunity to sit in comfort at lunch, amid a fabulous setting, can reduce fatigue substantially.
- **ELEVATION:** Much of this itinerary is between 3000 to 8000 feet asl (approx. 900 to 2450 meters)
- **WEATHER:** Only about 5 nights will be spent at sea level where temperatures will be mild to warm, the rest of the time will be spent at elevations between 3000 to 8000 feet. Our tour takes place at the start of the Austral winter and temperatures will mostly be mild (70-80 F) but can drop below 50F at especially Mt. Moco and Tundavala, a windbreaker and a fleece are recommended.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions. All participants will always have a window seat.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** There are no indoor restrooms on most of our excursions, so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

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



*We'll travel through the spectacular Leba Pass on our journey through Angola. Photograph by guide Errol de Beer.*



*The Gabela Akalat is not flashy, but it is endemic to a very small area of Angola. We'll seek this small flycatcher in Kumbira Forest. Photograph by local guide Errol de Beer.*

## Itinerary for Amazing Angola

**Day 1, Sun, 28 May. Departure from home.** There are several flight options from the US to Angola, but we are hoping to have everyone on the same TAAG Angola flight, traveling via Lisbon, if at all possible. (Please see the **AIR ARRANGEMENTS** section below for more details.) NOTE: Flights are not covered in the tour fee, and currently the fare for the flight above is pricing at \$820, subject to change. *Please do not purchase flights* for the tour until you hear that the tour is an official “go” from your tour manager. At that time, your tour manager will be happy to look for the best schedules from your home city, just let her know.

**Day 2, Mon, 29 May. Connections, and on to Luanda.** After passing through immigration, collecting your baggage, and clearing customs, **look for the EcoTur Angola sign and their representative**, who will be waiting outside the “arrivals hall” to meet you. If for any reason you are not met, please take a taxi to our hotel where Terry or an EcoTur Angola representative will contact you.

After your long flights (and depending on the time of day) you may well wish to take it easy; however, our hotel is situated overlooking the Kwanza River, with the bar and dining area often giving great views of African Fish Eagle, Goliath Heron, Hamerkop, Whimbrel, Malachite Kingfisher and many more. Night at Kwanza River Lodge.

**Day 3, Tue, 30 May. Kwanza River.** We'll start birding around our lodge grounds, and then after breakfast have the remainder of the day to familiarize ourselves with a wide range of the more common lowland birds. Palmnut Vulture and Red-necked Buzzard are two of the many raptors we hope to see, as well as our first endemic – most likely Red-backed Mousebird. Other special birds here include Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush (often located by its beautiful song), Bubbling Cisticola (almost endemic) and Carmelite Sunbird. We'll also make a special effort for Mangrove Sunbird as we head upstream and explore several good stakeouts for this diminutive and rather unobtrusive species. Night at Kwanza River Lodge.

**Day 4, Wed, 31 May. To Uige.** We have a fairly long drive today as we head to the northern scarp forests at Quitexe. However, we will of course make birding stops along the way, perhaps finding Black Coucal, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Blue-throated Roller, Black-backed Barbet (of the distinct form *minor*, often split as Brown-faced Barbet), Meyer's Parrot, Salvadori's Eremomela, Pale Wren-Warbler, Moustached Grass Warbler, Whistling Cisticola, Little Rush-Warbler, Fan-tailed Grassbird, and Oustalet's Sunbird. We should arrive in Uige in the late-afternoon. Night at Grand Hotel do Uige (or similar).



*Red-necked Buzzard is common throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa. Photograph by local guide Errol de Beer.*

**Day 5, Thu, 1 Jun. Uige/Quitexe Forests.** We have a full day to explore the lush evergreen and semi-deciduous Guinea Forest that projects southward from the Congo into Angola. The undergrowth has mostly been cleared, but the large shade trees that dominate the coffee plantations have been left, making a great habitat which should provide some spectacular birding. Our prime target here will be the brightly-colored and rare endemic Braun's Bush-Shrike, so we shall be listening for the tell-tale croaks that should alert us to its presence. The list of birds in this area is long and spectacular, with several rare species and always with a few surprises. Just some of the species we may see include Hartlaub's Duck, Western Bronze-naped and Afep Pigeons, Dusky and Olive Long-tailed cuckoos, Mottled Spinetail, Buff-spotted Flufftail (more likely to be heard than seen), Congo Serpent Eagle, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Woodland, White-bellied and Shining-blue kingfishers, Black Bee-eater, Broad-billed and Blue-throated rollers, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Least Honeyguide, African Piculet, Western Black-headed Batis, Slender-billed, White-throated and Simple greenbuls, Splendid Glossy Starling, Crested Malimbe, Black-necked and Vieillot's weavers, Fraser's Sunbird, Grey-headed, Chestnut-breasted and White-breasted nigrilas, Red-headed Bluebill, and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Night at Grand Hotel do Uige (or similar).

**Day 6, Fri, 2 Jun. To Calandula Falls.** We'll have time this morning to look for some of the birds we might not have encountered yesterday, and then we'll make our way to the Calandula area. Leaving the scarp forest behind, we'll travel through some interesting 'miombo' woodland – a habitat that covers vast areas of Angola. During the journey we'll make a stop at the spectacular Calandula Falls, this is Africa's second largest falls by expanse, and it's well worth spending a bit of time here taking in the breathtaking scenery. We should arrive at our lodge in the late afternoon. Night at Pousada Calandula (or similar).

**Day 7, Sat, 3 Jun. Calandula Falls.** We'll make an early morning departure and drive to a gallery forest where our main target for today is the highly localized and beautiful White-headed Robin-Chat, – a bird seen by just a few world birders since its rediscovery a few years ago. Hopefully we'll have early success and can then bird at a more relaxed pace as we enjoy Ross's Turaco, White-spotted Flufftail, Broad-billed Roller, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Double-toothed Barbet, Black-throated Wattle-eye, White-chinned Prinia, Brown-headed Apalis, Yellow-throated Leaflove, Brown Illadopsis, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Bannerman's Sunbird and Forest Weaver. And later, in the nearby 'miombo' we'll search for the localized Anchieta's Barbet, the stunning Anchieta's Sunbird and Sharp-tailed Starling. Night at Pousada Calandula (or similar).



*While not an endemic, Anchieta's Barbet has a small distribution, and Angola is a wonderful place to see them.  
Photograph by local guide Errol de Beer.*

**Day 8, Sun, 4 Jun. To N'dalatando.** This morning we'll have more time to explore the area before we make our way to the mysterious rock formations at Pedras Negras. Along the way we'll look for fruiting trees, as this is the best place to find the gorgeous endemic Red-crested Turaco, and we'll stop at rivers and bridges which provide feeding and breeding sites for the near-endemic Red-throated Cliff-Swallow. After a visit to Pedras Negras we'll head on to N'dalatando for a two night stay at a very modern hotel. Night at Terminus Hotel, N'dalatando.

**Day 9, Mon, 5 Jun. N'dalatando area.** Today we'll bird the central scarp forests south of N'dalantando where an interesting selection of forest birds occur; we'll have the full day as we search for Blue Malkoha, Piping and African Pied Hornbills, Naked-faced Barbet, Green-backed, Golden-crowned and Brown-eared woodpeckers, Black-winged Oriole, African Shrike-flycatcher, Gray-green Bushshrike, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Honeyguide Greenbul, Chestnut-winged Starling, Sooty Flycatcher, Green-throated and Superb sunbirds, and Red-headed Malimbe. Night at Terminus Hotel, N'dalatando.

**Day 10, Tue, 6 Jun. To Muxima.** We'll do some morning birding in the forest south of N'dalatando, perhaps catching up on any species missed yesterday, and we'll also be looking for the rather elusive Tit-Hylia, and both Naked-faced and Bristle-nosed Barbets which nest in the dead trees here. Further down, at a river, we'll also look for White-bibbed Blue Swallow although this is rather rare in Angola. From N'dalatando we then have a fairly short but scenic drive to the town of Muxima. Here we stay (for one night) in a small, rather peculiar hotel, but it does allow us our best chance to find several endemics that occur here, including the stunning Golden-backed Bishop and Grey-striped Francolin which are sometimes found near the Kwanza River during the afternoon hours. Night at Ritz, Muxima.

**Day 11, Wed, 7 Jun. Muxima area and Parque Nacional da Quicama.** This morning, after breakfast, we'll spend more time along the Kwanza River before moving into the nearby Quicama National Park (also known as Kissama NP). Kissama combines a mix of dry woodland and forest each with its own special birds. Our main endemic targets will be the enigmatic but reasonably common White-fronted Wattle-eye, the mythical Gabela Helmetshrike, and if missed yesterday, another chance for Grey-striped Francolin. Other birds we may see include Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo (here at probably its southern most reach), Narina Trogon, Yellow-bellied Greenbul and Monteiro's Bushshrike. We'll spend most of the day birding the park from east to west as we gradually work our way back to the coast where we'll overnight at a lovely lodge on the beach. Night at Carpe Diem Lodge.



*The little-known Gabela Helmetshrike is found only in a small region of Angola, including the Kumbira Forest Reserve.  
Photograph by local guide Errol de Beer.*

**Day 12, Thu, 8 Jun. To Kumbira Forest.** After an early breakfast we'll make our way towards Gabela and more importantly, Kumbira Forest, where several very localized endemics and a whole host of other special forest birds occur. Based at a lovely guest farm not too far from the forest, we will spend three nights here, giving us excellent chances to find many of the birds listed for days 13 and 14. Freckled Nightjar often appears at night hawking insects around the floodlights. Night at Rio Uiri Guest Farm.

**Days 13-14, Fri-Sat, 9-10 Jun. Kumbira Forest.** Kumbira Forest is situated in the southern scarp and although the forest is no longer pristine, thanks largely to selective logging before the civil war, it is absolutely teeming with birdlife. Gabela Bushshrike has become a rather tough bird to find during the last few years, but fortunately a recently discovered new site should give us a good chance to find this endangered and very localized endemic. We will also have to work hard for Gabela Akalat which, as with all its congeners, tends to be shy and elusive. The endemic Hartert's Camaroptera (split from Grey-backed) is common here, while Pullitzszer's Longbill is perhaps the least common of the endemics, hopefully though a calling male will help us track it down in the low dense undergrowth. Other sought-after species include Red-crested Turaco, distinctive races of Hairy-breasted and Naked-faced barbets, (perhaps future splits), Pallid Honeyguide, Brown-eared, Elliot's and Buff-spotted woodpeckers, African Broadbill, Petit's and Purple-throated Cuckooshrikes, Black-throated and Yellow-bellied wattle-eyes, Perrin's, Sulphur-breasted and Many-colored bushshrikes, Rufous-vented Paradise-flycatcher, Mackinnon's Shrike, Blue-headed Crested-flycatcher, Black-throated and Buff-throated apalises, Pale-Olive Greenbul, Brown Illadopsis, Ashy Flycatcher, Red-capped Robin-Chat, and Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird. Two species recently placed in new families are also found here and we'll be keeping a special lookout for Yellow-throated Nicator (*Nicatoridae*) and Southern Hyliota (*Hyliotidae*). Nights at Rio Uiri Guest Farm.

**Day 15, Sun, 11 Jun. To Mt. Moco.** Today is mostly a travel day as we drive south towards Mount Moco. Undoubtedly, we'll be making birding and bathroom stops along the way as we pass through some spectacular woodlands, with several stream and river crossings. Night at Chipipa Lodge.

**Day 16, Mon, 12 Jun. The Mount Moco area.** Today we'll have an early departure as it's a fair drive from our lodge to the mountain. Probably the most sought-after bird in this area is Swierstra's Francolin and finding one will require a good dose of luck, perseverance, and plain old-fashioned hard work! The mountain also supports a number of other specialties we'll hope to find as we traverse a variety of habitats, including an isolated patch of Afro-montane forest, miombo-scrub and grasslands. Finsch's Francolin and Angola Lark are grassland species, while the scrub holds the highly distinct Black-collared Bulbul, sole member of the genus *Neolestes*. In the stunted miombo, we'll look for Bocage's Sunbird and Dusky

Twinspot, and also remember to keep a look out overhead for Fernando Po Swift. Other more widespread species in the area include Black-bellied Bustard, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Small Buttonquail, African Goshawk, Augur Buzzard, Western Tinkerbird, White-tailed Blue-flycatcher, Rock-loving and Zitting cisticolas, a distinctive form of Red-faced Cisticola often split as Lepe Cisticola, Evergreen Forest-Warbler, African Hill Babbler, Spotted Creeper, Bronze Sunbird, Red-headed Weaver, Red-collared Widowbird, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, African Firefinch (of the race *landanae*, often considered a full species – the Pale-billed Firefinch), African, Long-billed and Striped pipits, Thick-billed Seed-eater, and Cabanis's Bunting. Night at Chipipa Lodge.

**Day 17, Tue, 13 Jun. To Lobito/Benguela.** Today is largely another travel day as we head down to the coast, gradually descending into what is essentially an extension of the Namibian Skeleton Coast, where a totally different suite of birds awaits us. New birds we may see along the way include White-rumped Swift, Bateleur, Black-crowned Tchagra, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Croaking and Short-winged Cisticolas, Pale Flycatcher, Miombo Scrub-Robin, African Stonechat, Sooty Chat, Holub's Golden Weaver, Yellow Bishop and Yellow-fronted Canary. Night at Restinga Hotel, Lobito (or similar).

**Day 18, Wed, 14 Jun. To Tundavala Escarpment.** Today we'll head yet further south as we look for dry country birds more typical of Namibia, perhaps finding Namaqua Sandgrouse, Ludwig's and Red-crested bustards, Damara Red-billed and Monteiro's hornbills, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (of a distinctive form which may yet again prove to be a future split), Rosy-faced Lovebird, Rüppell's Parrot, White-tailed Shrike, Pirit Batis, Carp's Tit, Gray's, Stark's, Benguela Long-billed and Sabota Larks, Black-fronted Bulbul, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Pale-winged and Meves's starlings, Chat Flycatcher, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush, Mountain Wheatear, Karoo and Tractrac chats, Dusky Sunbird, Cape Sparrow and Lark-like Bunting.

Leaving the desert plains behind we'll start ascending the escarpment towards Tundavala via the Leba Pass, with stops along the way perhaps for Grey Kestrel, Fülleborn's Longclaw, Rockrunner, and the delightful Cinderella Waxbill. We will arrive at our lodge in the late afternoon. Night at Casper Lodge, Lubango (or similar).

**Days 19-20, Thu-Fri, 15-16 Jun. Tundavala Escarpment.** The Tundavala escarpment offers some of the most dramatic scenery in Angola and some pretty awesome birding, too. We will have another chance for Swierstra's Francolin, while new endemics may include Angola Cave Chat and Angolan Slaty Flycatcher. The local form of Yellow-bellied Waxbill is also of interest here, as some authorities now consider this a separate species: Angola Waxbill. Other birds we may find include Bradfield's and Alpine Swifts, Black-collared Barbet, Lanner Falcon, Green-capped Eremomela, Wailing and Wing-snapping cisticolas, Greater Striped Swallow, Hartlaub's Babbler, Bocage's Akalat, Short-toed Rock-Thrush, Oustalet's Sunbird, Striped Pipit, and Jameson's Firefinch. Nights at Casper Lodge, Lubango (or similar).

**Day 21, Sat, 17 Jun. Fly Lubango to Luanda and/or Windhoek and onwards to International destinations.** Early morning birding will be dependent on the time of our flights out of Lubango. Time permitting, we'll hunt down any species we might have missed the previous day. Please contact our office for the latest information on flights.

**Day 22, Sun, 18 Jun. Onward flights home. Safe travels!!**

## About Your Guides

**Terry Stevenson;** originally from England, Terry has made Kenya his home since 1977. He is the senior author of the *Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi*—the only guide in the region to have a text and maps opposite plates format; it 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. He is a member of the East African Rarities Committee. On November 30, 1986, he set a new World Big Day record with 330 species *seen* in one day in Kenya; the record stands today. One of Africa's and India's foremost bird-tour guides, Terry has led numerous Field Guides tours across the African continent, in Madagascar, and in India. He is currently living in a mud-and-cow-dung mansion near Mt. Kenya.

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

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

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

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

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$11,125** from Luanda

**DEPOSIT: \$1,125** per person

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE: November 29, 2022**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$925** (*Note: Some of the lodges we use in Angola have a limited number of rooms, so depending on the make-up of our group, single rooms might not be available at all the lodges.*)

**LIMIT: 12**

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

In Luanda we stay at Kwanza River Lodge, a very comfortable lodge about 40km from the airport and away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Situated at the mouth of the Kwanza River with nice gardens, it is clean and comfortable and all rooms have a/c. In Uige we normally stay at the IU Hotel; it's the pinkest block building you've likely seen in a while, but the rooms are nice and much better than our past digs, which did not include a/c. Situated outside the city, they have a restaurant and a garden with quiet grounds, however we will be out birding throughout the day and only return to our hotel for dinner and to sleep. At Calandula, we stay at Pousada de Calandula, a wonderful lodge overlooking the falls with good birding all around. There is no a/c in the rooms but as night time temperatures are generally mild it is not considered necessary. The hotel has a strong reputation for its high-quality food. Hotel Terminus in N'dalatando is a very modern hotel, almost out of place in the small city of N'dalatando. It has nice rooms with all modern amenities, the restaurant has good food, but service can be slow. Even though we're in the city, we're never far from prime birding spots, including some excellent forest on the city outskirts. We are in route after leaving N'dalatando, and will rest for the night along the way in a hotel in Catete. Our lodging here will likely be the most basic accommodation on this tour, and we'll luckily only stay for one night. Following our basic night in Catete we're off to Carpe Diem Lodge, which is a wonderful seaside resort with good seafood and comfortable rooms with a/c. A stroll on the beautiful beach here is highly recommended.

Our next stop, Fazenda Rio Uiri, is on a working coffee farm and typical of colonial era Portuguese style farms. The food is good and plentiful, and the gardens and setting amongst granite inselbergs is simply spectacular. Birding is good all round and the famous Kumbira forest is not far away. Chipipa Lodge, our base for exploring Mt. Moco, is on the basic side of things, but the rooms are actually the best part of this lodge, spacious with a/c and hot water. The restaurant is far from rankings on the Michelin Guide and the service can be slow, but it will suffice for one night. Another night at a coastal hotel, will be at Hotel Duas Faces (or similar) in Benguela. Here there are a selection of similar quality hotels with a nice seaside setting and all the usual amenities, our local agent will make the final choice on which one we actually use.

Our last lodge, Casper Lodge in Lubango, is a really nice and comfortable hotel with a good restaurant. Rooms are well laid out with a/c, tv, and wifi. Best of all, we're within easy distance of the spectacular Tundavala Gorge.

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

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

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

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

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** *Please note that the tour begins in Luanda and ends Lubango.* Please plan your arrival into Luanda on or before Monday, May 29, Day 2. If you can arrive a day early, we recommend doing so in case of a missed connection or delayed luggage. At the tour's end, departures can be made from Lubango the evening of Saturday, June 17, Day 21. *Once the tour is operational (the tour manager will let you know by email),* we hope to have the whole group book flights on the following schedule to and from the tour, arriving a day early for the tour and leaving on time:

28MAY	DT651	Lisbon to Luanda	855A 425P
17JUN	DT462	Lubango to Luanda	305P 440P
17JUN	DT650	Luanda to Lisbon	1155P 610A 18JUN

Please keep in mind the flights to and from the tour are not included in the tour fee and are the client's responsibility.

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

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

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility. We ask that you limit your baggage to **one medium duffel and a carry-on**. Duffels are much easier to pack in the back of the safari vehicle than suitcases (including soft-sided suitcases) **so please bring a cloth duffel. On several recent tours some participants have brought far too much clothing and suitcases (not duffels).**

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee is \$11,125** for one person in double occupancy from Luanda. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 20, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 to lunch on Day 21, all ground transportation, entrance fees, bottled water and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters,

and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

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

The **single supplement** is **\$925**. Please note that single rooms may not be available at 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 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 \$1,125** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **November 29, 2022**. **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.**

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

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

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

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. 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 90 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 90 to 179 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

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