Join International Crane Foundation and ICF President & CEO Dr. Richard Beilfuss on this once in a lifetime visit to Rwanda and Uganda. Some of the extraordinary sites that we will be visiting include Nyungwe Forest National Park, Rugezi Marsh, Queen Elizabeth National Park and the Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management. Visit with local project partners and conservationists to learn about the efforts being made to protect not only the habitats for the crane population, but all of Africa’s wildlife. An adventure you will not soon forget!
Itinerary

Friday, April 29: Depart United States
Depart the United States for your overnight flight to Kigali, Rwanda.

Saturday, April 30: Arrive Kigali
Upon arrival at Kigali International Airport, you will be met by the local representative and then transferred to your hotel.

Overnight Lemigo Hotel [D]

Sunday, May 1: Kigali
We will start the day with a city tour of Kigali. The history of Rwanda dates back centuries and Kigali has been a part of it for 100 years. Founded in 1907 as a German settlement, Kigali did not become the capital until Rwanda’s independence in 1962 when it replaced the colonial seat of power in Butare.

Visit the Kandt museum, see old Kigali’s craft centers and then visit the genocide memorial site. Learn about Rwanda’s history from pre-colonial times to the 1994 genocide and how the country has dealt with that past. We will also see the new developments in Rwanda; the recovery has been incredible, a testament to humankind’s resilience.

Overnight Lemigo Hotel [B, L, D]

Monday, May 2: Kigali – Nyungwe Forest National Park
After breakfast, we will drive south to Nyanza, the historical seat of the Rwanda Kingdom. Visit the Royal Palace, which has been restored, entirely of traditional materials, to its 19th century grandeur. The dome shaped Royal museum is steeped in history and tradition running back over three centuries. At the adjacent Rvesero Art Museum, modern Rwandan artists express their view of the world and Rwanda in particular through aspects of culture and behaviors of the Rwandan people inspired by everyday life, especially following the 1994 genocide and its tragedies. Further south, at the University town of Butare, visit the National Museum which houses perhaps the greatest ethnographic collection in East and Central Africa. The exhibitions of turn-of-the-century photographs, as well as the very absorbing displays of traditional artifacts, provide invaluable insights into Rwanda’s pre-colonial history.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before proceeding to Nyungwe Forest National Park, a true nature lover’s paradise with a sense of expansiveness that is among its most striking features.
Our drive across Rwanda provides a vivid look at the beauty of a thousand hills and the heavy human use of land and soil. Just before entering Nyungwe National Park, we will briefly stop at the Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management. Partnering with us on our projects in Rwanda, Kitabi is an academic institution operating under the Rwanda Development Board. Its mandate is to develop capacity for conservation and environmental management in Rwanda and the wider Albertine Rift Region. With a magnificent vista over the tea plantations, Rift Valley and Nyungwe Forest, we will talk with our partners over a cup of tea.

Overnight Nyungwe Forest Lodge [B, L, D]

Tuesday, May 3: Nyungwe Forest National Park

Nyungwe forest offers a rare and important habitat for many species, especially primates and birds. And at over 1,000 km², Nyungwe is Africa’s largest protected mountain rainforest. With about 280 bird species, 25 of which are endemic, Nyungwe is one of the most important — and still undiscovered — bird watching destinations in Africa. Reaching to almost 3,000 meters above sea level with Mount Bigugu, the highest point in the park, Nyungwe’s forests extend to altitudes occupied by few other forests in Africa. Nyungwe is also home to one of Africa’s greatest concentrations of chimpanzees and a sometimes noisy, acrobatic combination of other primates such as Ruwenzori colobus and L’Hoest’s monkeys.

We will start early for a morning forest nature walk in the park tracking Chimpanzees in the Cyamudongo forest. This is the time to watch the forest's birdlife too. After the morning forest nature walk, we will return to the lodge for lunch and in the afternoon, depart for a canopy walk.

Overnight Nyungwe Forest Lodge [B, L, D]

Wednesday, May 4: Nyungwe Forest National Park – Kibuye/Musanze

This morning we will drive to Musanze Kibuye on the shores of Lake Kivu, with a stop at the Home St. Jean, a Genocide Memorial. We will enjoy lunch at Comoran Lodge before proceeding to Musanze on the foothills of the Virunga volcanoes. Arrive at Mountain Gorilla View Lodge in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight accommodation.

“In the heart of Central Africa, so high up that you shiver more than you sweat,” wrote the eminent primatologist Dian Fossey, “are great, old volcanoes towering up almost 15,000 feet, and nearly covered with rich, green rainforest – the Virungas. The Virungas are home to the rare and critically endangered Mountain Gorilla.
Other mammals present include the Golden Monkeys, black-fronted duiker, buffalo, spotted hyena and bushbuck. There are over 170 species of birds recorded, including at least 13 species and 16 subspecies endemic to the Virungas and Rwenzori.

**Thursday, May 5: Musanze**

After breakfast at the lodge, we will spend the day around Rugezi Marsh. This site is recognized by the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance, and is one of the priority sites where ICF focuses its work in East Africa. Rugezi has a large population of Grey Crowned Cranes and also is the source of water for hydro power generation that provides more than 45% of the country’s electricity. We will visit key points across the marsh with our project partners, including the micro-hydro scheme at the base of the marsh, one of our community projects in the catchment, and take walk along one of the channels to get up close and personal with the marsh and its diversity. With a bit of luck, we’ll spot the elusive and endemic Grauer’s Swamp-warbler. The trip will take us through beautiful scenery and offer opportunities to observe some of the Rift Valley’s endemic birds.

**Overnight Mountain Gorilla View Lodge [B, L, D]**

**Friday, May 6: Musanze**

Rise and shine this morning for the gorilla trek. Registration is a simple process where the park staff determines which group of gorillas you will visit. The park staff discusses your fitness level and advises you of the trekking times and conditions to the various groups based upon their location in the park the previous evening.

Once the trekkers are put into groups, each group’s Lead Guide briefs the trekkers of the trekking procedures as well as the “do’s and don’ts” while in the presence of gorillas. After the briefing, trekkers return to their respective vehicles for the drive up the mountain to the starting point.

Trekking can take from two to six or more hours if the gorillas move before the park rangers locate them the next morning. The guides stop frequently to allow trekkers a chance to rest and take photos along the way. After the trek, rejoin your driver Guide for a transfer to your lodge for lunch.

**Overnight Mountain Gorilla View Lodge [B, L, D]**
Saturday, May 7: Rwanda - Uganda

Today we will venture across the border into Uganda. Our first stop will be the Kabale project site via Lake Bunyonyi.

Kabale is the unofficial capital of the Kigezi region and is a beautiful, mountainous area with steep-sided hills, neatly terraced cultivation and many small lakes. One of the most attractive is Lake Bunyonyi, which is situated on a ridge to the northwest of Kabale. Large and irregular shaped, Lake Bunyonyi features a number of islands and is surrounded by heavily cultivated hillsides. A Dutch built leper colony was formerly located on the largest island. It was relocated in 1969 when the buildings were taken over by a community of disabled people to produce crafts. Lake Bunyonyi is the deepest lake in Uganda and one of the very few safe swimming lakes.

While on our journeys, we will keep our eyes open for the Short-tailed Warbler, Red-tailed Bristlebill and Black-faced Rufous Warbler.

Overnight Bird’s Nest [B, L, D]

Sunday, May 8: Kabale

Jimmy Muheebwe, our project partner with Nature Uganda, will join us for the day and introduce us to his project and the area – another of ICF’s priority sites in East Africa for the conservation of Grey Crowned Cranes. You may expect great sightings of Grey Crowned Cranes living close with humans and foraging on the farmlands that have transformed this landscape. As Jimmy explains the challenges of the crane trade, he will show us community projects that focus on increasing the value that people place on wetlands, and that provide alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on wetlands.

Overnight Bird’s Nest [B, L, D]

Monday, May 9: Kabale - Queen Elizabeth National Park

This morning we will continue on to Queen Elizabeth National Park via the Ishasha sector. In the afternoon enjoy the unique two-hour boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel and into Lake Edward. This trip passes through possibly the highest concentration of hippos, and many animals may be seen drinking at the water’s edge. This launch cruise offers an excellent platform for photography, bird watching and game viewing. The prolific bird life is colorful and stupendous, with well over 550 resident species.
Our accommodations for the next two evenings, the Mweya Safari Lodge is located on a peninsula within the heart of the Queen Elizabeth National Park and surrounded by the magical Rwenzori Mountains - the 'Mountains of the Moon'; Mweya Safari Lodge offers visitors a spectacular experience of luxury in the wilderness.

The Lodge offers a range of activities and attractions: take a game drive and discover a vast array of wild game; experience a launch trip on the Kazinga Channel using one of our luxury boats; or watch some of the 619 different species of birds present in the area. Nearby, chimpanzees can be found in the breathtaking Kyambura gorge - a natural rift formation in the earth. Here the ancient movement of tectonic plates has created a natural forest habitat for hippos, monkeys, chimpanzees, elephants, and buffaloes.

Each room at Mweya Safari Lodge has a breathtaking view of the Kazinga channel. You can watch the forest hogs grazing the grass outside, as well as the odd curious hippo! The cuisine is of the highest quality, presenting a range of exquisite Continental, Indian and International cuisine.

Overnight Mweya Safari Lodge [B, L, D]

**Tuesday, May 10: Queen Elizabeth National Park**

Today will be a memorable day as we experience the wildlife up close with a game drive. Queen Elizabeth National Park's diverse eco-system of grassy plains, tropical forest, rivers, swamps, lakes and volcanic craters is home to an incredible abundance of wildlife.

Game drives in this park, with the massive Rwenzoris as a backdrop provides excellent opportunities to see lion, leopard, giant forest hog, Cape buffalo, elephants, defassa waterbuck, Uganda Kob, Topi and bush buck. The game drives and the boat trip are a memorable method of discovering a vast array of Ugandan wildlife.

Overnight Mweya Safari Lodge [B, L, D]

**Wednesday, May 11: Queen Elizabeth National Park - Masaka**

After breakfast we will head towards Masaka, spending time at Kaku Kiyanje project site on the way. Jimmy Muheebwa will again accompany us and introduce the wetland and its surrounding hills. We will meet with members of the community who have been involved in our projects over the past several years, learning more about the education programs that Jimmy has developed, and the livelihood options that have taken hold as a result of our work. This rolling landscape should offer us good sightings of cranes as well.

Overnight Brovad Hotel [B, L, D]
Thursday, May 12: Masaka - Entebbe

Jimmy Muheebwa will again accompany us to the Kaku Kiyanja wetland and its surrounding hills. We will meet with members of the community who have been involved in our projects over the past several years. We will also learn more about the education programs that Jimmy has developed, and the livelihood options that have taken hold as a result of our work. This rolling landscape should offer us good sightings of cranes as well.

After that, we will drive back to Entebbe, stopping at the Mpigi Royal Drum Makers en route where you will be able to watch the ceremonial drums being crafted using methods passed down through generations. There will also be time to stop at the equator for photographs. We will arrive in Kampala in the evening for a farewell dinner, and share stories and experiences one last time before it is time for the journey to end.

Overnight Laico Lake Victoria Hotel [B, L, D]

Friday, May 13: Departure Entebbe

After breakfast, transfer to Entebbe international airport for your departure flight.

Inclusions:
- Touring as noted in itinerary
- Ground transportation in exclusive 4x4 safari land cruisers
- Services of an experienced English speaking driver / guide
- Gorilla/Chimpanzee permit
- Canopy walk
- Kigali City tour
- Park fees
- Meals as indicated
- Activities and accommodations as mentioned in the itinerary
- Visas for travelers
- Gratuities for included items
- ICF donation of $1,500 per traveler

Excluded:
- Airfare to and from Rwanda/Uganda
- Travel / Medical / Baggage insurance (Medical/Evacuation Insurance is required for travelers)
- Any activity, meal or accommodation NOT mentioned in the itinerary
- Telephone bills
- Souvenirs, items of a personal nature, etc.
Notes on Gorilla tracking:
- Gorilla trekking is a strenuous activity and one should be physically fit to enjoy this tour.
- Minimum gorilla tracking age is 15 years and Chimpanzee tracking is 12 years.
- Anyone with signs of communicable diseases will NOT be allowed to track.

Your Trip Host: Dr. Richard Beilfuss

Dr. Richard Beilfuss, Ph.D., is President and CEO of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Rich first joined ICF in 1988, conducting his graduate research on the restoration of important crane sites in Vietnam and Mozambique. From 1992-2005 he developed and directed the ICF Africa Program, spearheading long-term efforts to restore the water-stressed Zambezi River Basin for people and wildlife, and contributing to wetland conservation efforts and capacity building in more than a dozen African countries. From 2005-2009, Rich lived with his family in Mozambique, where he served as Director of Scientific Services for Gorongosa National Park. He speaks Portuguese and Nepali.

Rich is a leader in the emerging field of environmental flows, which focuses on managing water flows to sustain rivers, wetlands, and the human livelihoods and well-being that depend on these ecosystems. He serves as a Senior Advisor to the World Wildlife Fund and an Affiliate of the Natural Heritage Institute on water issues, and is an Adjunct Professor for the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering and for the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique, where he teaches courses and supervises students.

Land Only Tour price
(based on double/triple occupancy)

$18,889.00 per person (8 – 12 travelers)
$14,224.00 per person (13 – 16 travelers)
$850.00: Single room supplement

**If you make your payments by check/cash, you may subtract $600 from the tour price.**

Estimated Airfare from Chicago: $2100 per person (cannot be guaranteed until booking)

Please note: When booking airline tickets, some flights will arrive in Kigali one day after departure from the United States and some arrive two days after. Please make sure you are in Kigali by the evening of April 30 for a morning tour departure on May 1.

Medical/Evacuation Insurance is required for travelers. Burkhalter Travel can assist with this purchase.
REGISTRATION FORM

Rwanda and Uganda

April 30-May 13, 2016

Registrations are on a first-come basis and must be received by September 1. After September 1, space must be requested.

Traveler #1 Name:
Last: __________________  First: _____________  M: ________ Circle one (Mr. Mrs. Ms.)
Date of Birth: ________________________________
Passport: ________________________ Expiration Date: ______________________

Traveler #2 Name:
Last: __________________  First: _____________  M: ________ Circle one (Mr. Mrs. Ms.)
Date of Birth: ________________________________
Passport: ________________________ Expiration Date: ______________________

Address to mail documents and trip information:
Street Address: ___________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip: _______________
Home phone#: __________________ Cell phone#: __________________
E-mail address: ___________________________________________

I require special assistance while traveling: □ Yes □ No

Special Needs/Comments: ___________________________________

Room accommodation preferences:
□ Two Double Beds □ One King

Airport Transportation: Air transportation is not included in the tour cost and each guest is responsible for getting to Kigali, Rwanda on their own. If you would like Burkhalter Travel to assist with travel plans, please check the box and a travel coordinator will contact you.

I would like assistance with air transportation from my home city? □ Yes □ No
If you book your own flight, you need to arrive in Kigali by April 30 for the start of the tour the morning of May 1. Additional hotel nights and transfers are available should you arrive early. Please forward a copy of your flight schedule to Burkhalter Travel.

Payment Method: A $3000 deposit per person is due upon registration
Final Payment is due January 20, 2016.
□ Cash/Check payable to Burkhalter Travel
□ Credit Card # ____________________________
  Security Code: __________________________ Exp. Date: _______________
  Authorized Signature: _____________________

Please return registration form to Wendy Bartnick at: wbartnick@burkhaltertravel.com
P: 1-800-556-9286 ext. 251  F: 608-833-8527
Burkhalter Travel, 6501 Mineral Point Road, Madison WI 53705
TOUR CONDITIONS:

Deposits and Payments: Please make checks payable to Burkhalter Travel. A non-refundable deposit of $ per person is due upon registration. Final payment is due by January 20, 2016.

Cancellations, Refunds: All cancellations must be made in writing and are subject to a $50 Burkhalter service fee. In addition to the service fee, cancellation penalties are:
- Now through January 20, 2016: $1000 of deposit is non-refundable.
- After January 20, 2016: Tour is non-refundable.

Citizenship: Travelers must possess a passport that is valid for six month beyond the tour date. Visas are also required for both Rwanda and Uganda. Burkhalter Travel will assist with this process.

Travel Insurance: Cancellation/travel insurance is highly recommended and should be purchased at the time of deposit. An insurance policy that includes coverage in the event of medical emergency cancellation, medical accident, baggage, and trip delay or interruption is available through Burkhalter-ask your agent.

Changes: A handling fee of $50 per transaction, in addition to any fees from the vendors, will be assessed for any revision made. Name changes may be subject to further penalties.

Tour Conditions: Prices for this tour are based on a minimum of 8 passengers. Prices are subject to change if the number of passengers drops below 8. All arrangements are based upon tariffs in effect on June 18, 2015 and are subject to change. If cost factors dictate the need for fare increases, Burkhalter Travel may increase fares at any time prior to departure.

Passenger Consent Agreement: Department of Transportation regulations require that we inform you that your purchase is subject to supplemental price increases beyond our control that may be imposed after the date of purchase. Such increases may come about due to increased fees, fuel surcharges, government tax increases, fluctuations in foreign exchange markets or any combination of these events. Post-purchase price increases may be applied to your invoice due to these unforeseen cost increases from suppliers. While a post-purchase price increase is rare and not anticipated, Burkhalter Travel will inform you of any increases as soon as possible. By signing the tour application and making your deposit, you are acknowledging that you have been made aware and accept the fact that such increases may occur, and that you agree to pay Burkhalter Travel accordingly.

Responsibility: Burkhalter Travel Agency, their sales agents, the tour hosts and any IATAN and connecting ARC carriers act only in capacity of agent for the passenger in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours and any means of transportation and, as such, hold themselves free of responsibility for any damage from any cause whatsoever, including any loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of defect in any vehicle or for the conduct of such other parties. Burkhalter Travel will not be responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by late transportation arrivals or departures, or by any change of schedule or other conditions; nor will they be responsible for the loss of, or damage to, baggage or any article belonging to the passenger. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited to acts of war, terrorism, disease or acts of God, to withdraw the tour or to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations will be made without notice. Additional expenses, if any, will be borne by the passengers; conversely, refunds will be made to the passengers if any savings is affected thereby. Although no changes or substitutions are anticipated at the time of brochure production, participants must accept whatever changes are required. Burkhalter Travel is not responsible for financial or physical harm to any passenger resulting from acts of war, terrorism, disease or acts of God. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. Public carrier companies, including airlines, involved in or used in connection with this tour are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or any event during the time the passengers are not on board their conveyance or aircraft. Tickets of airlines or other public carriers issued in connection with this tour shall be the sole contract between the carrier and the passenger. Payment of deposit on the cost of the travel arrangements described in this brochure signifies the acceptance on the part of the purchaser and/or passenger of the limitations of Burkhalter Travel responsibility and to the terms and conditions set forth in the passage contract (air ticket) issued by any IATAN or ARC carrier and/or their agents in connection with the land and/or surface arrangements described herein.