

This is an account of part of a longer trip that started in Kenya and travelling through Tanzania and Rwanda to Uganda. September 2017.

The reports of the other sectors appear under the relevant countries.

This tale covers the final part through Rwanda and on, after being robbed by the Ugandan Immigration Office, into Uganda and onwards to Emmy's lovely Broadbill Forest Camp in Bwindi.

With the assistance of our friendly schoolmaster driver we had arrived at the Tz/Rwandan border post at Rusumo Falls and having exited Tanzania and crossed into Rwanda we were made welcome by a very friendly Immigration Officer who promptly stamped our EAC Visas, obtained you may recall in Nairobi, and cordially welcomed us to his country. He asked where our transport was and we explained it had broken down, following which news he promptly ordered us a private car at an agreed price to take us the whole way to our pre-booked Eastern Country Hotel in Kayonza. It arrived and after a nice smooth ride got us to the Hotel which was very nice. Thank you booking.com . Nice rooms, nice staff and nice food. We had a pre-dinner drink of Rwanda Primus Beer, a very nice dinner of fish and went to bed after advising them that Emmy may call when they should wake us.

Next morning at Breakfast we received news that Emmy HAD called but they did not disturb us as we had gone to our rooms..!***! Etc. We returned the call to learn Emmy had located a part which was on its way from Kampala. I told you he was resourceful. He suggested we continue to Broadbill where he would eventually join us. So with the Hotel Management having failed in their promise of a private hire we enlisted the help of the barman/waiter who rang his friend who would take us to Kabale for a sum of \$\$..The car and driver arrived with the correct paperwork for cross border and we set off having assumed, wrongly, that the driver knew the way. When after a couple of hours he pointed to some mountains that he said were in Tanzania I realised too late he was heading for the wrong Ugandan border crossing. So we arrived at Mirama Hills Border post, where after leaving Rwanda we were shocked to be told that Uganda did not honour the EAC Visa "as we had been into Tanzania". This was nonsense of course as it remains valid as long as the holder does not leave the EAC. It clearly said so on the poster above the Immigration Officers head!! However despite strongly protesting it made no difference and so, in order to proceed, we had to fork out another \$50 for a new Visa.

And so we continued into Uganda some 90km further east than we needed to be. We eventually made Kabale at 4pm and set about finding a car to take us up to Bwindi for which we needed 4x4. From previous visits I knew Kabale well and knew where to ask and we had a car in minutes. So bidding farewell to Frank Mzungu (that was our Rwandan driver's name.) we climbed into 'Michaels' HiAce van for **Broadbill Forest Camp** up in Ruhija in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, where we arrived a little after 17.00 to a warm welcome. Our stay was for four nights and we quickly settled into our 'tents'. Emmy built this camp on the edge of Bwindi Forest and has done a marvellous job on the bare plot I inspected back in 2013. I have been back twice since then and each time I had found improvements continuing. Tents on stilts overlooking the forest canopy with the rare birds and mammals of Bwindi as your neighbours. Without the planned transport we just went birding in the forest and were rewarded by many sightings.

When we woke up on the third morning Emmy had arrived and introduced us to his wife Jovlett and small daughter Roseanne. We had of course seen and spoken to Jovlett during our stay but she had been too shy to say who she was. When eventually asked why not she politely said it was not the custom of her people and it was for the husband to be there to make the initial introduction.



Really sweet.



Of course the proud father did the honours well and then took time to play with baby who he had not seen for almost three weeks.

But he could not be restrained for long and promptly took us for more birding further afield in the forest where we found some very nice new birds for the trip such as the Endemic **Stripe-breasted Tit** and

Dusky Blue Flycatcher along with **Grey cuckoo-shrike** and the beautiful **Black BeeEater**.



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After too short a time in Bwindi our fourth day was spent travelling to Entebbe and an overnight stay at the Airport Guest house that I often use.

Of course Emmy was not content to let us just get on the plane next morning so we made an impromptu visit to Entebbe's Botanical Gardens where we picked up even more birds such as **Rosy Faced Lovebird** and **Great Blue Turaco** to end our trip with 420 species seen.

Then it really was time to catch the Emirates flight to Manchester via Dubai and bring to an end our East African Adventure. That we missed our connecting flight home from Manchester just added further zest to the whole trip.

More photos can be found via the following links or on the Gallery of this site..



<https://whiteknucklesgallery.shutterfly.com/pictures/2069> Birds

<https://whiteknucklesgallery.shutterfly.com/pictures/1909> Main.