

BIRDS AND PRIMATES TOUR: 16 day sample itinerary

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Overview

Uganda is a landlocked and falls at the confluence of a number of regional centres of endemism making it the best place in East Africa for Birdwaching.

Uganda has a wide range of habitats ranging from snowcapped mountain tops in the west to semi-arid areas in the north-east; rainforest in the centre and west to open waters of numerous lakes, The diversity of habitats explains the unique biological diversity and the bulk of the country lies in tropical Africa with the Equator crossing the southern half of the country. It is bounded by the Rift valley in the West through range highlands along the western boarder including the Ruwenzori Mountain and the Virungas in the south western corner.

DAY BY DAY ACTIVITIES

Day one: Arrive at Entebbe International Airport and transfer to Airport Link / Kasa green village

Day Two:

Birding in Mabamba Swamp

One Night Stay at Masindi Hotel

Early breakfast and head to Mabamba swamp on the shores of Lake Victoria west of Entebbe International Airport. This is one of the few remaining wetlands in the country protected by the local

Communities, an extensive papyrus swamp with channels and lagoons, classified as an IBA (Important Bird Area) and home to several pairs of Shoebills, Uganda's most famous avian resident. This charismatic species is the only representative in its family and one of the most sought after Birds in Africa. Today we will make a special effort to find it by paddling through the channels by boat. There will be of course a good selection of classic African water birds; Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Pink backed Pelican, Long-tailed Cormorant, Goliath, Purple, Squacco, and Black headed Herons, African Fish eagle and African Marsh Harrier, yellow billed Duck, African and Lesser Jacana, Long toed Lapwing, Blue –breasted bee-eaters, Swamp flycatcher, Hamerkop, African water Rail, Allen's Gallenule, Papyrus Gonolek, Papyrus Canary, Grey crowned Crane, African open bill Stork, Northern Brown Throated, Orange, Golden backed, Black headed and Village weavers, Red chested Sunbird, cape wagtail, Fan tailed widowbird, winding Cisticola, African Grey parrots can be seen flying overhead, Lizard Buzzard.

At the edge of Mabamba swamp in farmlands, we are likely to find Great Blue and Ross's Turacos, Western banded snake Eagle, Black and white casqued Hornbill, African pied Hornbill, Superb sunbird, Weyns's Weaver, Purple and splendid glossy Starlings, Later proceed Budongo.

Day Three:

Birding the Celebrated Royal Mile

Two Nights Stay at Pakuba Game Lodge

We shall have early morning breakfast carry our packed Lunch and drive tone of Uganda `s Birdwaching hot spot, The Royal Mile, Historically known as leisure spot for the traditional King of Bunyoro hence the Royal Mile. The forest comprises of very huge mahogany trees and the forest has been cut back a few meters along the sides of the mail trail providing excellent Viewing area.

Key species include African Dwarf and Chocolate backed Kingfishers, African Pigmy, Blue Breasted and Shinning Blue kingfishers, Yellow and grey Longbill, Forest Flycatcher, Rufous Crowned Elemomela, Yellow browed Camaraptera, Spotted Greenbull, Cassin`s and Sabine`s Spinetail, Nahan`s francolin, Chestnut Capped flycatcher, Yellow Mantled weavers, Cassin`s Hawk Eagle, Blue throated Roller, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Olive Bellied, Green Throated, Green headed, Grey Headed, Western Black headed Oriole, Yellow crested and Brown eared Woodpeckers, White thighed Hornbills, Ituri Batis, Chestnut wattle eye, White breasted Negrofinch, Pale breasted, Scally Breasted and Brown Illadopsis, Rufous flycatcher Thrush, Tambourine dove, Slender Billed, Toro olive, Cameroon Sombre, White throated, little Grey and little Green bulls other wildlife include Guezera Colobus and Red tailed monkeys and the Chimpanzees, Blue Monkey.

Day Four:

Birding in Murchison Falls, Game drive and top of the fall.

This is Uganda`s biggest National Park and famous for its big game., spectacular scenery and the falls for which the park was named. The birding experience here is greatly enhanced by the abundant wildlife and scenic landscape of wetlands; dry savannah and open habitats are more special Birds. The key species here will be ; Blue-naped and Speckled Mouse birds, Spotted morning Thrush, Siverbird, Buff-bellied Warble, Black Headed Batis, Black headed Gonolek, Chestnut-crowned and white browed Sparrow weaver, Viteline Masked weaver and Green-winged Pytilia, Denham`s and Black bellied Bustard, Crested and Heuglin`s Francolin, Red-throated, White Throated, Swallow-tailed and Little Bee-eaters, Black bellied and Bar breasted Firefinches, Bruce`s and African Green pigeons, Red-necked Falcon and Grey Kestrel, Senegal and Spotted Thicknee, Black Billed and Blue spotted Wood-Dove, Double toothed, Spot flanked and Black billed Barbets, White crested Turacos, Speckle-fronted Weavers, Slender billed and Compact Weavers, Red-winged grey and Red winged Warblers, Broad-Billed and Abyssinian Rollers, Piapiac, Yellow Mantled Widowbird and Northern Red Bishop, Whistling, Siffing, Singing, Zitting, Rattling, Croaking and Foxy Cisticolas, Sooty and White Fronted black Chat, Northern White Crested Helmet shrike, Yellow billed Shrike, Dark and Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Northern Camine Bee-eaters, Grey headed, Woodland, and Striped Kingfishers, Brown Babbler, Abyssinian Ground and Grey Hornbills, Northern Black Flycatcher, Beautiful Sunbird, Vinaceous Dove, Osprey, Grey

backed and Woodchat Shrike, Shelley's Rufous Sparrow, Murchison Falls NP still offers rewarding game viewing and here the game includes Elephants, Common Warthog, Giraffe, Buffalo, Bushbuck, and Oribi, Bohor Reedbuck, Uganda kob, waterbuck and the Kongoni. The abundance of Herbivores support a healthy Lion population; Patas monkeys and Tantalus Monkey inhabit the dry woodland north of the Nile.

Day Five:

Transfer to Semuliki National Park

Stay at Bumaga Campsite

Day Six

Priamtes & Birding in Semuliki valley National Park to the famous Kirumia Trail.

Semuliki national park lies in the Albertine Rift valley, north-west of the Ruwenzori Mountain. Semuliki forest represents an easterly extension of the great Ituri forest of the North-eastern DRC and its flora and fauna show strong affinities with the Congo basin forests, this therefore makes it the best place in Uganda with high chances of encountering most of the West African species that cannot easily be accessed from other places. We shall start at dawn after an early Breakfast and set off with our packed lunches and spend the whole day birding in the Kirumia trail or any other part of the forest, Key species include; Red-Billed Dwarf, Black Dwarf, Piping, African pied, Black and White Casqued, Crowned, White Crested, Black Casqued Wattled, and White Thighed Hornbills, Red rumped, yellow rumped and Yellow Throated Tinker birds, Yellow throated, Dusky Long tailed, Red Chested, and African Emerald Cuckoos, Rufous Sided Broadbills, Blue Billed, Crested and Red Headed Malimbe, Green-Tailed and Red tailed Bristle bill Fire Crested and Brown Chested Alethe, Lowland Akalat and Eastern Forest Robin, Leave-Love, Pale fronted and Chestnut fronted Negrofinches, African Piculet, Grey throated Rail, Nkulengu Rail, Swamp Palm Bulbul, Ituri Batis, African Dwarf Kingfisher, Maxwell's black Weaver, Yellow throated Nicator, Grey Headed Sunbird, Lemon Bellied and Green Crombec, Lowland Sooty Boubou, White napped and Olive Pigeon, Red tailed and White tailed Ant-Thrush, Rufous Flycatcher Thrush, Congo Serpent Eagle, Ayres's and Cassin's Hawk Eagle, African Crowned Eagle, Grants and Red billed Blue bill, Yellow Long bill, Narina Trogon, Yellow Crested, Brown eared and Gabon Woodpeckers, Icterine, Xavier's Simple Red tailed, and little Greenbuls. In this park 53 species have been recorded but many of which are shy, rare and Nocturnal. Conspicuous species include Uganda Crested Mangabey, Vervet, Red-tailed and Gentle monkeys, Olive Baboon and Guezera Colobus. De-Brazza's monkeys, Semuliki Red Colobus, Dents-Mona Monkey, and Chimpanzees are occasionally heard but seldom seen.

Day Seven

Transfer to Kibale National Park;

Stay at Guereza Canopy Lodge

Another walk in semuliki national Park for species that we might have missed the previous day and later transfer to Kibale National Park.

Kibale National Park is a tropical Rainforest famous for its highest concentration of Primates in Africa and reliable for Habituated Chimpanzees.

Day Eight

Chimpanzee trekking and Birding.

Today we shall leave at dawn and continue birding in this rainforest and our key species here will be the Green-Breasted Pitta, Kibale is so far the best place in Africa to find this Pitta. Other species will be, White-spotted Flufftail, Jameson's Wattle Eye, African Blue Flycatcher, Purple-headed and Chestnut-winged Starling, Red-chested Owlet, Shinning Blue and Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Brown and Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, Western Black-headed Oriole, Grey-throated tit Flycatcher, Crested Guinea fowl, White-throated Greenbul, Yellow-spotted, Yellow-billed and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Grey-headed Olive-back, Black-bellied Seedcracker, Fawn-breasted and Black-crowned waxbills, Green-backed Twin-spot and Black and white Mannikin, Pied Hornbill, white-wooded Hoopoe, Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, Superb, Green-throated, Tiny, Orange-tufted and Green-headed sunbirds, Dark-backed, Black-necked and Yellow-mantled Weavers, Dusky and Olive longed-tailed Cuckoos, Grey-throated and white-bellied crested Flycatcher, Scarce swift, Thick-billed and Willcock's Honeyguides, Grey Parrots, African Goshawk and the majestic Crowned Eagle and other wildlife include Olive baboon, Guezera Colobus, Uganda Crested Mangabey, L'Hoest Ashy Red Colobus Vervet and Red-tailed Monkeys, Forest Elephants, Nocturnal species here include Eastern Potto, Demidoff's Galaogo, Thomas Galago

Day Nine

One Night Stay at Bush Lodge

On this day we shall leave early Morning for Queen Elizabeth National Park take a boat cruise in the afternoon, While on the boat Cruise we shall have our first chance to see the African Skimmers, Saddle-bill Stork, African Spoonbill, Kitlitz's plover, Yellow-billed Stork, Goliath and Grey Herons, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, African Fish Eagle, Black Crakes and many other migratory and resident shore birds.

Other wildlife includes Elephants, Cape Buffalo, Uganda Kob, Bushbuck, Giant Forest Hog, Red River Hog, Hippopotamus, Spotted Hyenas, Banded Mongoose, Waterbuck, Leopards and Lions.

Day Ten

Game drive Later proceed to Bwindi

Three Nights Stay at Ride4woman

Queen Elizabeth is yet another area with some of the highest biodiversity ratings than any other game park in the world. Its varied habitats of open savannah, Acacia woodlands, tropical rainforests, Dense papyrus Swamp and lakes makes it one of the richest parks in Africa. Here we shall look for species such as; Trilling, Red faced, Croaking, Stout and Zitting Cisticolas, Hollub's golden weavers, White headed and Double toothed Barbets, Sooty Chat, Broad Tailed and African Moustached warblers, White winged Tits, Martial Eagle, Bateleur Eagle, Ovambo Sparrow hawk, long crested Eagle, White headed, Lappet faced, African White backed and Ruppell's griffon Vultures, Arrow marked and Black lored Babbler and Later proceed to Bwindi.

Day Eleven

Gorilla trekking

Today we shall have early breakfast and carry our packed lunches ready for Gorilla trekking experience.

Trekking uphill to see the families of Gorillas (Gentle Giants) nestled in a casual flocking play is a fascinating life time experience. You will have an opportunity to enjoy close views of adults feeding and grooming resting as young stars swing from vines in a delightfully gentle display. In addition you have a chance to see other forest Antelopes like; Ruwenzori and yellow backed Duikers, Blue and L. Hoest Monkey, Guereza Colobus Monkey.

Day Twelve

Birding in Buhoma main Trail

Today we shall go birding in Buhoma trail, looking out for species such as, Newman's Warbler, African Broadbill, Black Faced Rufous Warbler, Red capped, grey winged and Blue shouldered Robin chats, Chapin's Flycatcher, Oriole Finch, Arsonge's Greenbul, Equatorial Akalat and White bellied Robin Chat Great blue and Black billed Turacos, Pink footed Puffback, Many Colored, Bocage's and Luder's Bush Shrike, Scally Breasted, Pale Breasted and Mountain Illadopsis, Thick Billed Seedeater, MacKinnon's Fiscal, Elliot's and Fine banded, Buff spotted and Cardinal Woodpecker, Brown throated wattle Eye, Baglafaect Weavers, Red faced woodland warblers, White bellied crested Flycatcher, Blue throated brown Sunbird, Ayres's Hawk Eagle, African Goshawk, Frazer's eagle Owl Vanga flycatcher, Petti's Cuckoo Shrike, Yellow Rumped Tinker bird, White chinned Prinnia, Grey Headed Negofinch, Red headed Bluebill, Olive green Camaroptera, Bronze, Scarlet chested, and Green headed sunbird, Cassin's honey Bird, Honey guide Geenbull, to mention but a few other wildlife include Peter and the striking yellow-backed Duiker.

Day Thirteen

Transfer to Ruhija via the Neck

Two Nights Stay at Trekkers Tarven

The Neck is a relatively narrow stretch that separates the two sections of Bwindi impenetrable National Park, which is; Ruhija and Buhoma. This section is characterized by Riverine forest vegetation and some of the species likely to be seen here are; African black duck, Cassin's grey Flycatcher, Mountain wagtail, kakamega and Red tailed Greenbills, Toro olive, Little grey, White throated, Slender Billed and Cameroon Sombre Greenbills, Yellow spotted, Hairy breasted, yellow billed and Grey throated barbets, olive long tailed, Dusky Long tailed, and African Emerald cuckoos, Black Billed and Brown capped Weavers, Dusky Tit, Grey headed and Northern double colored, Olive, and Green Sunbird, Dusky blue and African dusky Flycatchers, African shrike Flycatcher, Gray and Buff throated and Black throated Apalises, Red headed Malimbe, Red tailed bristlebill, narrow tailed, Purple Headed, and Stuhlmann's Starlings, Tambourine dove and Western bronze naped Pigeon, It is also the best place in Uganda to find the Black Bee-eater.

Day Fourteen:

Birding in Ruhija to the famous Mubwindi Swamp, Here we shall look out for species such as Handsome Francolin, Mountain Masked Apalis, Red faced woodland Warbler, Ruwenzori Apalis, Chestnut throated Apalis, White browed Crombec, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Scally throated Honey guide, Mountain Sooty Boubou, Doherty's Bushrike, Mountain Illadopsis, Red throated Alethe, Black headed waxbill, Shelly's Crimsoning, Dusky Crimsoning, Dusky twin spot, Grauer's Warbler, Dwarf Honey guide, White stered Robin, white tailed-Blue flycatcher, Mountain Thrush, Mountain Oriole, Great Blue and black billed Turaco, Yellow billed and grey throated barbets, Waller's Starling, Narina Trogon, White headed Wood hoopoe, African green Broadbill, Ruwenzori Batis, Archer's Robin, evergreen Forest Warbler, Stripe breasted Tit, Chubb's Cisticola, Banded Prinia, Oriole Finch, Mountain and Yellow Streaked Greenbills, Barred long tailed Cuckoo, streaky seed eaters, Brown Necked Parrot, Slender Billed Starling, Olive Pigeons, Mountain Buzzard, white Naped Raven, African Crowned Eagle, Regal sunbird, Purple Breasted Sunbird, Blue Headed Sunbird, Northern Double colored and Variable sunbird, Grey Cuckoo shrike, Western green Tinker bird, Strange weaver and Black Billed weaver, Mountain Yellow Warbler, yellow whiskered Greenbul. White eyed Slaty flycatcher, Nocturnal species that are likely to be seen include, Ruwenzori nightjar and African wood Owl and other wildlife include L'host and Blue monkeys, Black fronted Duiker, Boehm's squirrel and the Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel and Caruthers's Sun Squirrel.

Day Fifteen

One Night stay at Rwakobo Rock

Transfer to Lake Mburo National Park. This is the best and the only place in Uganda to see these typically southern savannah species of particular interest we look for, Red faced Barbet, Tabora Cisticola, African Finfoot, and White-backed night Heron.

Most of the park is dominated by tall grass savannah dotted with Acacia and Euphorbia trees, Common bird in this habitat include; Crested Francolin, Emerald-spotted wood Dove, Brown Parrot, Bare-faced

Go away bird, Blue napped Mousebird , Lilac-breasted Roller, Green wood hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill ,African Grey Hornbill, Sport Flanked , White Headed and double toothed Barbets, Nubian and cardinal Woodpeckers, Trilling Cisticola ,Yellow breasted Apalis, Northern blackTit, Chin-spot Batis, Greater Blue Eared Starling , Marico Sunbird, Black headed Gonolek, Brown backed and white browed scrub Robin, Rufous Chested Swallow, Black Bellied Bustard, African Wattled Plover,Rufous Napped and Flapped Lark, Coqui francolin, Yellow-throated Long claw and southern Red Bishop, migratory brown Chested Plovers can be seen from the second week of July to December. At night if the weather is good we look out for nocturnal species such as Black shouldered Nightjar , Swamp and Pennant winged Nightjars, Verreaux`s Eagle owl, African Scopes Owl. This park will also give us a variety of game viewing such as Buffalos, Impala, warthogs, Zebra, Hippos, waterbuck, Dwarf and Banded mangoes, Side-striped Jackal, Serval Cat, Bushbucks, Topi and Elands.

Day Sixteen:

Driving to Entebbe and Departure.