

MAMMALWATCHING AND GENERAL WILDLIFE TOUR

3 week sample itinerary

Group size: 1- 4 people

Overview

Uganda is a landlocked and falls at the confluence of a number of regional centers of endemism making it the best place in East Africa for general wildlife viewing and famously known as a primate destination.

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 center 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. 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 1

Arrival in Entebbe International Airport and transfer to Boma Hotel / Airport Guest house

Depending on arrival time you can visit Uganda's national gardens, Entebbe botanical Gardens

Entebbe Botanical Gardens Established in 1898 is located at the shores of Lake Victoria famously known as one of the world's freshwater lakes in region is a very good introduction to wildlife and general birding in Uganda. The gardens support healthy troops of Guereza Colobus Monkey, Velvet Monkey and Red-tailed Monkeys. There is also a good chance to see the Spot necked otter down the gardens by lake.

Bird species to see are; Great Blue Turacos, Ross's Turacos, Eastern grey planting Eater, Black and white casqued Hornbill, African Pied Hornbill, African open bill Stock, Yellow-billed Stock, Pink backed Pelicans, African Grey Parrots and Bat Hawk.

Day 2 / stay at Mabira Forest Lodge

Early breakfast and head to Mabamba swamp on the shores of Lake Victoria, This is one of the many 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 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 Gallinule, 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 later proceed to Mabira Forest , Evening night walk in search of Eastern Potto, Demiddoff’s Galagos , Lord derby’s anomalure , and African wood Owl.

Day 3/ nature walk in Mabira and later transfer to Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve/ Stay at overland Camp.

Mabira forest reserve is the largest block of rainforest remaining in the central region of Uganda, Here we look out for species such as Nahan’s Francolin, Grey Long bill, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Capuchin’s Babbler, Forest Wood-hoopoe, Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike, Tit Hylia, Cassin’s Hawk Eagle, African Crowned Eagle, Red-headed blue bill, Shinning Blue Kingfisher, Eastern Forest Robin, Red-caped Robin Chat, Green-tailed Bristle bill to mention but a few.

Day 4/ Game drive in Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve.

Pian Upe wildlife reserve is a conservation area in the Karamoja sub region of northeastern Uganda. Mammals to see here are ; Roan Antelope, Klipspringer , Sitatunga, Bush pigs , Cheetah, Leopold, Bohor Reedbuck, Jackson’s Heartbeats Uganda kobs , Eland, Topi, Giraffes , Buffalos, Bat eared Fox, Serval Cat, White-tailed Mongoose

Piane Upe is also the only reliable place in Uganda to see Uganda’s only endemic bird; Fox’s Weaver! Other bird species here include; Karamoja Apalis ,Red-and Yellow Barbet, White-bellied Tit, White-headed Buffalo-Weaver, White-billed Buffalo Weaver, Common Ostrich, Red-fronted Barbet, Rufous Chatterer, Yellow-billed Shrike, Purple Grenadier, Black-bellied Fire finch, Stone Partridge, Clapperton’s Francolin, Red-winged lark, White-bellied Bustard, Lapped-faced Vulture, White-backed Vulture

Day 5

Travel to Moroto mountains / stay at karatunga

Birding in Pian Upe looking for species such as, white-bellied go away Bird, Jackson’s Hornbill, Hemprich’s Hornbill, Eastern Yellow billed Hornbill, Fawn Colored lark, African grey flycatcher, Silverbird, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird, Northern white-crowned Shrike, Bristle Crowned and Superb Starling , Straw-tailed Whydah, White-crested Turaco, Grey Wren warbler, Three-streaked Tchagra, Four banded Sand grouse, Black-headed Plover, Long-billed Pipit, Fan-tailed Raven, Jameson,s Firefinch, Pygmy Batis, Augur Buzzard

In marshy areas of we look out for Rufous bellied Heron, Goliath Heron, Lesser Jacana, and African Jacana.

Day 6/ Stay at Kidepo Savannah Lodge

Transfer to Kidepo Valley driving through savannah grasslands which will also allow us see some of the species that we might have missed in Pian Upe

Day 7/Game drive in Kidepo Valley National park

This is Uganda's most isolated and remote National Park found in the distant north-east corner close to Kenya and south Sudan

Wildlife to see here are, African Elephant, Spotted Hyena, Zebra, Buffalo, Leopard, Lion, Side striped Jackal, Defassa waterbuck, Giraffe, Warthogs and Dwarf Crocodiles, Topi, Bat eared Fox, Cheetah, White Eared Kob, Uganda Kob, Rock Hyrax, Orib.

Birds here we look out for species such as Secretary bird, Kori Bustard, Abyssinian Roller, Abyssinian ground hornbill, Black breasted Barbet Yellow-billed Shrike, Yellow rumped Seed eater, little Weaver, Rufous bush Chat, Red tailed chat, Bruce's green Pigeon, Foxy and red-pate Cisticola, Red-faced Crombec, Buff-bellied Warbler, Vinaceous Dove, Black-bellied Bustard, Black faced waxbill, White-crested Helmet-Shrike, Yellow spotted Petronia, Brown Parrot, Pearl spotted Owlet, Pygmy Falcon, Fox Kestrel, Vitelline masked Weaver, Beautiful Sunbird, Little green Bee-eater, Scaly Francolin, Mountain Buzzard, Dusky Turtle Dove, Red-winged Starling, Abyssinian Scimtarbil.

Day 8/ Transfer to Murchison Falls, Stay at Pakuba game Lodge

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, Silverbird, Buff-bellied Warble, Black Headed Batis, Black Headed Gonolek, Chestnut-crowned and white browed Sparrow weaver, Vitelline 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 Fire finches, 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, Siffling, 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, Bunyoro Rabbit, Lions, Leopold, Mash Mongoose, Slender Mongoose, Banded Mongoose, Pousargue's Mongoose, Patas Monkeys, Jackson's Heartbeast and many species of Bats.

The abundant of herbivores support a healthy Lion population, and this is the only reliable place to see Patas Monkeys inhabiting the dry woodland north of the Nile and Tantalus Monkeys and different species of Bats.

Day 9/Game drive in Murchison falls and boat cruise to the bottom of the falls.

Day 10 / Stay at Masindi Hotel

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

Wildlife includes Guezera Colobus and Red tailed monkeys Blue Monkey, Uganda Crested mangabey and Olive Baboons.

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, Rufous flycatcher Thrush, Tambourine dove, Slender Billed, Toro olive, Cameroon Sombre, White throated, little Grey and little Greenbulls other wildlife include Guezera Colobus and Red tailed monkeys, Tree Hyrax and sometimes see chimpanzees.

Day 11/ Transfer to Semuliki Valley National Park

Semuliki national park lies in the Albertine Rift valley, north-west of the Ruwenzori Mountain, Semuliki forest represents an eastern 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.

Mammal species include Uganda Crested Mangabey, Velvet, Red-tailed and L. Hoest Monkey, Olive Baboon and Guezera Colobus, De-Brazza's Monkeys and Dent's Monkey, Semuliki Red Colobus and many species of Bats.

Bird 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, Crested and Red headed Malimbe, Green-Tailed and Red tailed Bristle bill Fire Crested and Brown Chested Alethe, Leave-Love, African Piculet, Grey throated Rail, Nkulengu Rail, Swamp palm Bulbul, African Dwarf Kingfisher, Yellow throated Nicator, Grey Headed Sunbird, Lemon Bellied and Green Crombec, Lowland Sooty Boubou, 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, Yellow Long bill, Narina Trogon, Yellow Crested, Brown eared and Gabon Woodpeckers, Icterine, Xavier's Simple Red tailed, and little Greenbuls.

Day 12/birding in Semuliki and later transfer to Kibale, Stay at Guereza Canopy Lodge

Birding and Primate watching in Semuliki later transfer to Kibale National Park

Day 13/ Chimpanzee Tracking in Kibale National park.

Kibale National Park is a tropical Rainforest famous for its highest concentration of Primates in Africa and reliable for habituated Chimpanzees, It is known as a primate Capital of the world. And other wildlife include Olive baboon, Guezera Colobus, Ashy Red Colobus, Uganda Crested Mangabey, L.Hoest Monkey, Blue Monkey, Velvet and Red tailed Monkeys. Evening drive night drive searching for the African Golden Cat and other nocturnal animals.

Day 14/ Birding in kibale and Bigodi wetland sanctuary

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 Fluff tail, Jameson's Wattle Eye, African Blue Flycatcher Purple headed and Chestnut winged Starling, Red Chested Owlet, Shinning Blue and Blue Breasted Kingfisher, Western black headed Oriole, Grey throated tit Flycatcher, Crested Guinea fowl, White-throated Greenbul, Yellow Spotted, Yellow Billed and Hairy Breasted Barbets, Superb, Green-throated, 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, Grey Parrots, African Goshawk and the majestic Crowned Eagle.

Evening night walk in Bigodi wetland sanctuary, this is the only reliable place in Uganda to see Eastern Potto, Demidoff's Galogos and Thomas Galogos, African Palm Civet, Marsh Mongoose.

Day 15/ 1 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, 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, Hippopotamus, Spotted Hyenas, Banded Mongoose, Waterbuck, Leopards Serval Cat, and Lions. 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; Holub's golden Weavers, White headed and Double toothed Barbets, Sooty Chat, Broad Tailed and African Mustached 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 Babblers .

Day 16/Stay at Ride4 woman

On this day we shall have breakfast and take a game drive to Ishasha on the southern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park famous for the tree climbing lions, Other birds to see include the Banded Snake eagle, Long crested Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Martial Eagle, White-headed Vulture, White backed Vulture, Hooded Vulture, Grey Crowned Cranes, Hamerkop on their huge nests, Marsh Tchagra, Crimson Rumped waxbill, Red-colored Widowbird, yellow-throated Long claw, White-headed barbet, Sooty Chat, Green wood-hoopoe to mention but a few.

Day 17/Gorilla trekking

Today we shall have early breakfast and carry our packed lunches ready for a 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, Yellow backed Duikers, Blue and L. Hoest Monkey, Guereza Colobus Monkey.

Day 18/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 Luhder's Bush Shrike, scaly 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, Baglafect Weavers, Red faced woodland Warblers, White bellied crested Flycatcher, Blue throated brown Sunbird, Ayres's Hawk Eagle, African Goshawk , Vanga flycatcher, Petti's Cuckoo Shrike, Yellow

Rumped Tinker bird, White chinned Prinnia, Grey Headed Negofinch, Red headed Bluebill, Bronze , Scarlet chested , and Green headed sunbird, Cassin`s honey Bird, Honey guide Greenbull .

Day 19/ Transfer to Ruhija via the Neck, stay at Trekker`s Tarven

The Neck is a relatively narrow stretch that separates the two section 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 Greenbulls, Toro olive, Little grey, White throated, Slender Billed and Cameroon Sombre Greenbulls , 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 Apalis, Red headed Malimbe, Red tailed bristlebil,narrow tailed, Purple Headed, and Stuhlmann`s Starlings, Tambourine dove and Western bronze napped Pigeon, It is also the best place in Uganda to find the Black Bee-eater.

Day 20/ Birding in Ruhija /later transfer to Mgahinga, Stay at Mucha Lodge.

Birding in Ruhija, 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 Bushsrike, Mountain Illadopsis , Red throated Alethe, Black headed waxbill, the rare Shelly`s Crimsonwing , Dusky Crimsonwing can be occasionally seen, Dusky Twinspot ,Grauer`s Warbler, Dwarf Honey guide, White stared Robin, white tailed-Blue flycatcher, Mountain Thrush, Mountain Oriole, Yellow Billed and grey throated barbets, Waller`s Starlling, 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, Mountain and Yellow Streaked Greenbulls, 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.

Mammals to see here are, Black fronted Duiker, Yellow-backed Duiker, L`Hoest monkey, Silver monkey and Guereza Colobus Monkeys.

Nocturnal species that are likely to be seen include, Ruwenzori nightjar and African wood Owl, Spectacled Galagos, Demidoff`s Galagos, Eastern Potto, African Civet Cat, Rare African Golden Cat, Side-striped Jackal.

Day 21/ Stay at Mucha Lodge Rest

Golden Monkey tracking and birding

Mgahinga national park is Uganda's smallest park covering an area of 33.7 square Kilometers; It covers the Ugandan Slopes of three of the Virunga Volcanoes, Muhavura, Gahinga and Sabinjo. Mgahinga national park adjoins Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda and Virunga National park In Congo and these three parks form a trans boundary Virunga Conservation Area which protects half of the world's 780 mountain Gorillas, the Volcanoes are the last stronghold of the Golden Monkey which can be tracked through its bamboo habitat on the slopes of Mt Gahinga.

This will also be another place to get most of the Albertine Rift Endemics such as Rwenzori Turaco, Ruwenzori double-colored Sunbird, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Regal Sunbird, Dwarf honey guide, Blue headed Sunbird, Equatorial Akalat, Red-throated Alethe, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Colored Apalis, Mountain Masked Apalis, Doherty's Bush-shrike to mention but few.

Day 22 /Transfer to Lake Mburo National Park, Stay at Acadia Cottage.

On this day we shall drive to Lake Mburo stopping on several swamps for Papyrus yellow Warbler, Papyrus Canary, Papyrus Gonolek, White-winged Warbler, and Caruthers's Cisticola to mention but a few, we shall do an evening boat cruise looking for African Fin foot, White backed Night Heron, Shinning blue Kingfisher, Giant Kingfisher and many more water birds.

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.

This park will also give us a variety of game viewing such as Buffalos, Impala, warthogs, Zebra, Hippos Defassa Waterbuck, Dwarf and Banded mongoose, Side-striped Jackal, Leopold, Bushbucks, Bush pigs, Topi and Elands.

Most of the park is dominated by tall grass savannah dotted with Acacia and Euphorbia trees, birds in this habitat include; Crested Francolin, Emerald- sported 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.

Day 23/ drive to Entebbe and departure.