

Photo by Elias Tibax

TRIP REPORT SOUTH-WESTERN UGANDA

7JULY - 20 JULY 2026

MBURO NATIONAL PARK
BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST
KIBALE FOREST RESERVE
MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK
MABAMBA SWAMP
ENTEBBE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Detlef Tibax

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INTRODUCTION

It's been two years since I went on a 'big wildlife trip'. After a memorable journey to the grass- and wetlands of Brazil in 2024, I ended up purchasing my first home, and 2025 quickly became a year of renovations and a lot of life changes. Desperate to see the wildest areas in the world again, I longed for more. To my pleasant surprise, my parents proposed to join me and my brother on a family trip. This was a unique opportunity to experience some of the most incredible wildlife out there with loved ones. We 'landed' on an absolute dream destination that would satisfy both the most hardcore mammal- and birdwatcher: Uganda.

Uganda is biodiverse like no other country I've visited in Africa; it has lush primal rainforest, vast savanna grassland, and rich wetland ecosystems that are inhabited by some of the most spectacular mammals and birds you can see on the planet. We visited during an ongoing ebola outbreak in neighbouring country DRC that had a limited spillover into Uganda, but we definitely noticed the impact it had on tourist activity. After a few months, I'm here to share our experience so you can get informed and inspired to go there yourself.



ABOUT ME

I am a wildlife enthusiast from Belgium that loves fieldsketching and creating paintings in my art studio. I travel the world to take photoreference material for my artworks, and to visit conservation projects that I support under my own NGO Art 4 Conservation.

Special thanks

Special thanks go out to Paul Pugh and Anton Cnudde for providing travel and accommodation tips in the areas we visited, and to my brother Elias Tibax for the help with the detailed checklists and eBird logging.

For a detailed trip log on the birds we have seen:
See https://ebird.org/tripreport/547824.

Most of the stunning photos are taken by Elias Tibax, the lesser good ones are mine ;-). Camera gear used: Canon R5 MII, Canon R6 MII, Canon RF 100-500MM lenses, Canon EF 24-70 II USM lens, and the Canon EF 17-40MM f/4 L USM lens.

BRIEF SUMMARY

This trip lasted 2 weeks and we covered 5 different reserves in the Southwestern part of the country: Mburo National Park (only a brief stop), Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Kibale Forest Reserve, Murchison Falls National Park, and Mabamba Swamp. We also took some time to visit Entebbe's Botanical Gardens, which we can highly recommend if you're also interested in birds and plantlife.

We observed a total of **45 mammal species and 349 bird species** during our time there, many of which were not possible without the support of local guides we hired. We did the entire trip through selfdriving by renting a 4WD with Roadtrip Africa, and hired local guides where we felt it was useful. With some planning, this type of holiday is perfectly possible there. We recommend you download an app like maps.me as a backup for the vehicle's GPS, because you can download the maps and use them offline.

We included as many practical tips and wildlife recommendations as we could so you can enjoy this country in the same way we did. Enjoy reading the report and let us know what you think in the comment section, we appreciate any feedback! PS: full species checklists can be found at the end of this report. Observed mammals are listed in **bold red** throughout the report.



Female Eastern Mountain Gorilla, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Photo taken by Elias Tibax.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Author	Detlef Tibax
Travelers	Detlef Tibax, Elias Tibax, Kristien Menten, Peter Tibax
Area traveled	Southwestern Uganda
Dates	7 July - 20 July
Cost per person	Approx. 4500€ pp, including all flights, meals, accommodation, tips, guides, permits, entrance fees, and rental car (gorilla permits being a significant cost contributor).
Logistics	Flights with Swiss Air, all ground transport was self-driving using local car rental company Roadtrip Africa (Nissan Navara, high clearance, 4WD), full insurance package.
Itinerary	1 day Mburo NP 3,5 days Bwindi NP 3 days Kibale NP 4 days Murchison Falls NP 1 day Mabamba Swamp & Botanical Gardens
Total mammals seen	45 species
Total birds seen	349 species
Social media	https://www.instagram.com/art4conservation https://www.art4conservation/org

DETAILED ITINERARY



Shoebill, Mabamba Swamp. Photo by Detlef Tibax.

The main reason for choosing Uganda came down to a personal dream that I wanted to fulfill so badly that, admittedly, I forced this destination onto my parents. They originally wanted to travel to Sri Lanka for elephants and leopard, but I quickly convinced them by mocking up a PowerPoint showing all the variety in landscapes, birdlife, and the iconic mammals that are 'relatively' easy to spot in Uganda. I think what convinced them in the end was me and my brother's resolution that Uganda was going to be a family life-changing experience. And maybe also the number of bird species and primates … And the fact that my mom could finally see her all-time favourite animal: the African Elephant.

You can find a detailed outline of our trip in the table below. For our first time in Uganda, we chose to focus on the typical itinerary in the Southwestern part of the country. I would definitely like to return at some point to focus more on the Northeast and visit Kidepo National Park, Bokora, etc. As usual, I recommend booking everything months in advance to allow flexibility while creating your schedule.

Dates	Location	Activities
July 7	Brussels Zaventem Airport > Kigali (Rwanda) > Entebbe (Uganda).	Flight (Swiss Air) to destination with a 1 hour stop in Rwanda. Arrival in Entebbe same evening.
July 8	Entebbe > Mburo National Park.	Airport Guesthouse Entebbe check-out, day drive to Rwakobo Rock Lodge. Main activities: late afternoon game drive.
July 9 - 12	BwIndi Impenetrable Forest (Ruhija sector).	3 days total in Agandi Uganda Lodge. Main activities: Gorilla trekking, night drive, birdwatching tour for Grauer's Broadbill.
July 12	Bwindi > Kibale over Queen Elizabeth National Park.	Several stops for birds and mammals, early lunchbreak at Simba Cafe in Kihihi.
July 12 - 15	Kibale National Forest Reserve.	3 nights at Guereza Canopy Lodge. Main activities are Bigodi Swamp visit for birds, Chimpanzee trekking in the park, and a morning trek to find Green-breasted Pitta.
July 15	Kibale > Murchison Falls National Park.	Transfer day to Murchison via Masindi.
July 15 - 19	Murchison Falls National Park.	3 nights at Sambiya River Lodge, 1 night at Giraffe Camp. Main activities: game drives for mammals/birds, night drive, and waterfall visit.
July 19	Murchison > Entebbe.	Transfer day to Entebbe, car drop-off, overnight stay at Airport Guesthouse Entebbe.
July 20	Mabamba Swamp, Entebbe Botanical Gardens.	Early boat trip to Mabamba, afternoon visit Botanical Gardens, night flight home.

GETTING AROUND

Uganda generally has good roads, (with tarmac in decent condition) but there are parts that are much harder to drive. On our trip which made the loop Entebbe-Bwindi-Kibale-Murchison-Entebbe, the worst road conditions were around Bwindi and between Bwindi and Kibale, while the best roads were between Kibale and Murchison and between Murchison and Entebbe. A 4WD vehicle is definitely recommended, especially depending on the season you choose to come (many roads in and around the parks are dirt roads, unmaintained roads with potholes, dust, or mud. The steepness also greatly influences driving convenience).

We did a self-driving trip using Roadtrip Africa, an excellent organization from our experience. They are helpful and have great guidance on their website to help prepare your journey. Selfdriving saves a lot of costs compared to hiring a dedicated driver and guide, or compared to traveling with an all-in tour formula from an operator. We instead booked guides where we felt they could really increase the chances of seeing wildlife. Our vehicle of choice was a Nissan Navara (4WD) equipped with A/C and a fridge to keep our food and drinks cold (which turned out to be a massive advantage during hot, prolonged drives).

We had no issues with police patrols. We could always pass without being halted, so we can't really share any further experiences on this topic. It seems primarily vans were halted, while tourist vehicles could proceed without any issues. Policemen, guards in shopping malls or at ATMs were always friendly and helpful. The only moment where I think we were charged money unlawfully was in Nakiwogo when we took the ferry and tried getting on with our car.

We recommend stopping at Shell and Total gas stations for restroom breaks or picking up snacks and drinks, as they are often best equipped and have great amenities. There are many speed bumps on the roads, especially around villages and cities, that are not indicated clearly. Be careful, as they can damage your car if your speed is too high! Max speed in villages is between 30-50 kmph, and on big roads max 80 kmph. There are a lot of speeding cameras around villages. Expect to be overtaken a lot.

Be aware that Uganda is a left-driving country, and that driving in the dark is not recommended (unsafe) or even illegal in some locations, so plan carefully when you have to cover long distances between lodges.















A typical village road along the various routes to the national parks.

THE JOURNEY

Touchdown in Entebbe | 7 July 2026



After a smooth 10 hour flight (with a 1-hour stop in Kigale, Rwanda) we landed in Entebbe at 22.20 PM (just shy of 10 minutes later than scheduled).

We were greeted by airport staff that requested our health form to support the contact-tracing efforts during the Ebola outbreak in DRC, and proceeded to border control to get our tourist visa. This was quite a slow process but all officials were very friendly, and our shuttle to the guesthouse awaited our arrival patiently. We arrived at Airport Guesthouse Entebbe a few minutes later and were shown to our rooms. Time to sleep!

We woke up the next morning around 6AM to the sound of various birds from the guesthouse's garden, one being particularly loud: the Hadada Ibis (of course our first bird in Uganda). Some nameworthy species we spotted here as well were Eastern Plantaineater, Red-Chested Sunbird, and the iconic Hamerkop. There is something uniquely exciting about arriving at your destination after dark, unaware of the terrain and wildlife you're going to be greeted with the next morning! After a delicious breakfast (banana pancakes, grilled eggs and toast) we were greeted by a car agent from RoadTrip Africa to explain how we operated our 4WD (we had requested to drop it off in the early morning at our guesthouse). After that, it was time to hit the road.

Transfer to Mburo National Park | 8 July 2026

Reaching this park by car from Entebbe in one day is very doable, and you can even stop along the way a few times for a coffee or lunch. Expect overall little wildlife until you reach the park's vicinity, however, as we were waiting for our ferry in Nakiwogo to avoid getting stuck in traffic around Kampala, we spotted two **Spotted Necked Otters** next to the docks! And they were actually very close to the boat. What a start. Birdwise, it was swarming with Openbills, Little Egrets, Broad Billed Rollers, African Fish Eagles, Reed Cormorants, Pied Kingfishers, and even 4 Double-toothed Barbets! A small note about the ferry: make sure you are there early or time it properly, as there are not too many spots available on the boat, few departures, and potentially long waiting lines. Also expect to be bribed by (friendly) staff to secure your spot when the boat is 'filled'.

At around 4PM, after 7 hours of driving (including breaks), we arrived at our first lodge, Rwakobo Rock. It's a lodge situated just outside the park's perimeter, on a rocky hillside with stunning views across the Mburo valley.

We were there primarily to break our route to Bwindi (meaning that we didn't really enter the park itself), but had some satisfying observations of wildlife in the surrounding area and on the lodge grounds. Mammalwise we had **Southern Tree Hyrax** next to our room in a small bush, and observed large herds of **Plain's Zebra, Warthogs, Banded Mongoose**, and **Olive Baboons**.

Defassa Waterbucks and **Impalas** were crossing the roads on multiple occassions. At the dining area of the lodge were had several **Vervet Monkeys**, a familiar monkey on our Africa trips. During the evening we went spotlighting on the campgrounds (by foot) and spotted 2 **Rusty-spotted Genet**. Birdwise we found Spot-flanked Barbet, Bateleur, Black-Winged Kite, Yellow-breasted Apalis, White-Browed Scrub Robin, Red-Headed Lovebird, Red-Chested Sunbird, Ross's Turaco, Rattling Cisticola, and Black-headed Gonolek.

















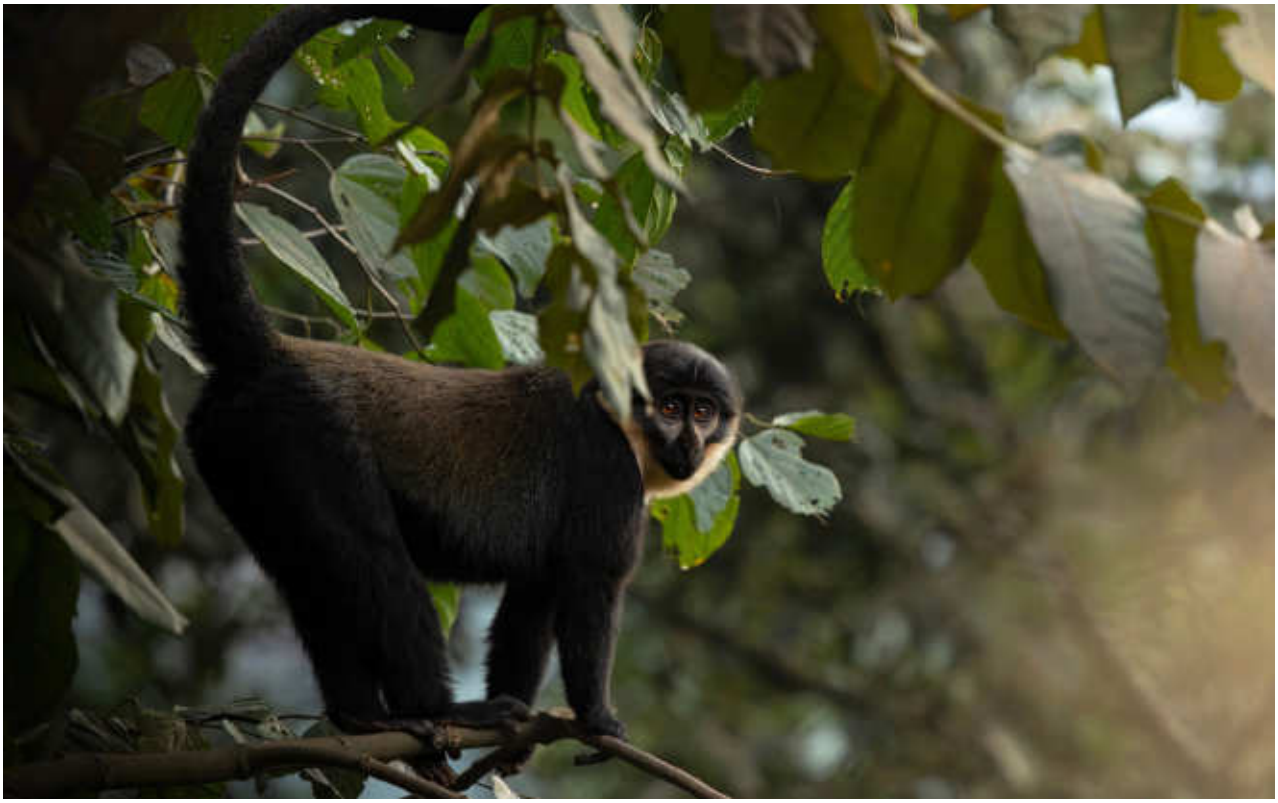




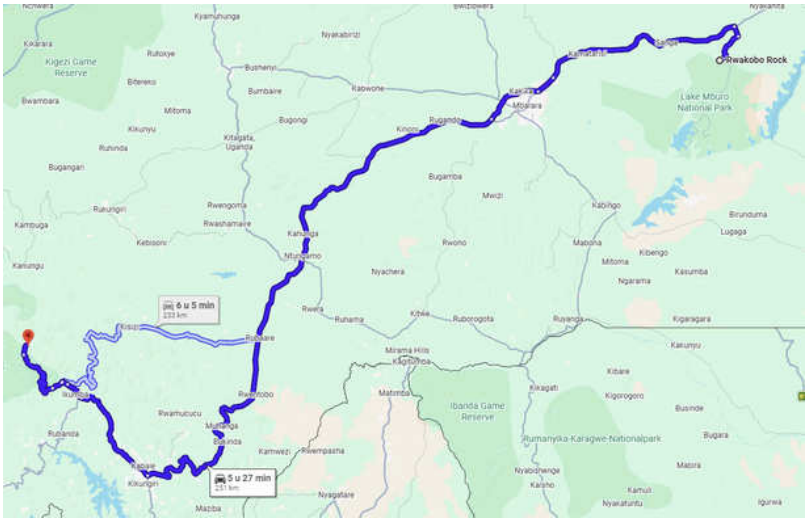
Transfer to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest | 9 July 2026

This route was good initially, but as we approached the park, the road started to become increasingly worse due to dust and potholes. The road became unpaved from the Kisoro-Kabale road split in the direction of Ikumba. Be wary of the Shell gas station in Kabale, they scam you with broken tire tricks and make you pay a lot of money to fix it! Read the google reviews for more information. I managed to 'control' the damage a bit by heavily reducing their price, but we were scammed nonetheless. After the split, the road became more challenging but should prove no issue for a 4WD. In the late afternoon we reached the park entrance, and the rolling hills with agriculture (tea plantations mostly) transitioned to steep hills of primal rainforest. Rangers were always very friendly, and we were stunned by the gigantic trees along the passage to Ruhija. This was unlike anything I had ever seen!

Upon our arrival at the lodge (Agandi Uganda) staff welcomed us and got settled into our rooms. After refreshing, we met up with our excellent guide Gordon Tukwasibwe who was going to accompany us for the next 3 days in Bwindi and until we reached Kibale. We did a short evening walk on the Ruhija school trail and were met with several **L'hoest's Monkeys** next to the road! Birdwise we had great observations of Great Blue Turaco, Black-Billed Turaco (sound), Rameron Pigeon, Chestnut-Throated Apalis, Black-Faced Apalis, and many more (for a full bird species breakdown, see our checklists at the end of the report). Satisfied, we returned for diner and went to bed, because we planned for an early start the next day.



L'Hoest's Monkey, next to the road near Luhiza, Bwindi.





Bwindi Impenetrable Forest | 10-11 July 2026

The entire day was spent hiking the Ruhija Broadbill walk. It took us 7.5 hours (back and forth). Our final destination in the forest was the Mubwindi Swamp, a vast wetland enclosed by rainforest. During our walk, we had great observations of 3 **Black-Fronted Duiker** (all close to the road), **Sitatunga** (at the swamp), **L'Hoest's Monkeys**, the trumpeting sounds of **Forest Elephants**, and fresh tracks of a Gorilla troop! It was amazing to think we were at some point sandwiched between the Bush elephants and the Gorillas, but sadly we didn't see them on this day. We also had (sometimes close) sightings of **Rwenzori Sun Squirrel, Boehms Bush Squirrel, Carruther Squirrel** and **Red-Legged Sun Squirrel**. Note that this is a trail in the park's borders, so encounters with Bush Elephants on these trails are realistic, though rare. The trumpeting that we heard was from an encounter (with a mother and calf) of a scientist group that was ahead of us on the trail and were fortunate to de-escalate the situation by scare-shooting in the air.

Notable bird species during our hike were Grauer's Broadbill on the nest (!), Narina Trogon, Black-billed Turaco, Great Blue Turaco, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Eastern Yellow-Billed Barbet, Rwenzori Batis, Albertine Boubou, Doherty's Bush Shrike, Grey Green Bush Shrike, Lagden's Bush Shrike, Mountain Buzzard, Banded Prinia, Chub's Cisticola, Carruther's Cisticola, Kikuyu Mountain Greenbul, Rwenzori Hill Babbler, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Archer's Robin Chat, Blue-Headed Sunbird, Strange Weaver, Oriole Finch, etc.

Throughout the entire day, we were accompanied by Gordon our main guide, a student guide named Kalule Aaron Gongo (or Aaron in short) and a tracker/ranger. Gordon and Aaron were excellent, friendly, and helpful during the entire day, and we highly recommend them. Aaron told me he was researching the Grauer's Broadbill and thinking of building a wooden hide to observe birds in the forest, so I guess we'll need to come back to test that one out when it's finished!

We were too tired for a night drive, so we decided to keep that for the next day. We recommend booking at least one night drive in this park, especially to see some of the more difficult small mammals.



















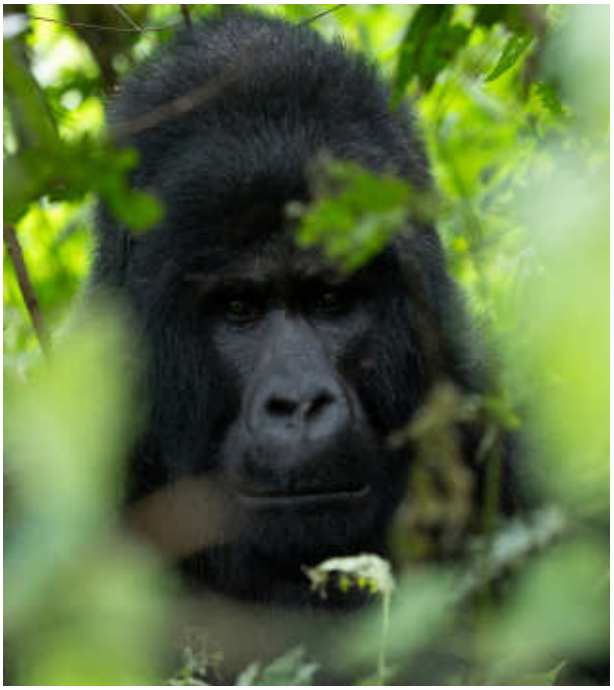



Narina Trogon
sketches



On the next day, the main focus was on mammals, more precisely: **Eastern Mountain Gorillas**. I had been dreaming of seeing these apes my entire life. Realizing that we were going to potentially experience a close encounter left me in anxious anticipation. After a proper briefing session, we were assigned to a trekking group and started an exhausting 2 hour hike that started a few kilometers from Broadbill Forest Camp in Ruhija sector. Initially, the gorilla troop we were trying to reach (the Bitukura Group, which is around 20 individuals strong, three of which are silverbacks) was eating leaves and fruits in a field on the side of a dense forest slope, but before we arrived they decided to hike up the mountain. We had no other option but to follow in their footsteps, and their tempo was not to be messed with! This ended up being one of the toughest hikes in my (and my familiy's) life. It was mostly climbing vertical rainforest hills without trails, wrestling through dense bushes and with a shortness of breath due to the elevation of the park and the steep slope. Finally the troop stopped climbing and sat down for 40 minutes eating fruits. As we were arriving, we saw gorillas sitting left and right of us. It was a feeling that is hard to describe. You are so exhausted but also extremely humbled and overwhelmed by the presence of these gentle giants. The Bitukura group is habituated to human presence, it would otherwise be near impossible to observe them or come close like this. Nevertheless, the experience felt very genuine. After 1 hour, you have to leave the troop to not disturb them too much with your presence. Strict policies that were handled very well in my opinion. I wish to thank our guides, porters, and trackers for all the hard work and the invaluable support throughout our trekking. Without them we would have needed to head back before reaching the summit.

If you are interested in a gorilla trekking in Ruhija sector (we chose this sector because a friend of ours recommended it as it's the same location where you can find Grauer's Broadbill), our recommendation is to get your permits booked through Harrier Tours, they are reliable and friendly (their director and lead guide Harriet Kemigisha is wonderful). They will arrange your permits with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and send you copies shortly before your trekking. We also recommend bringing gaiters and long sleeved clothing and light trekking shoes (like Palladiums for example). Please note that Gorilla whereabouts are very volatile, and you can never really know if your trek is going to be an endurance trial or a 'walk in the park' until the very last moment.







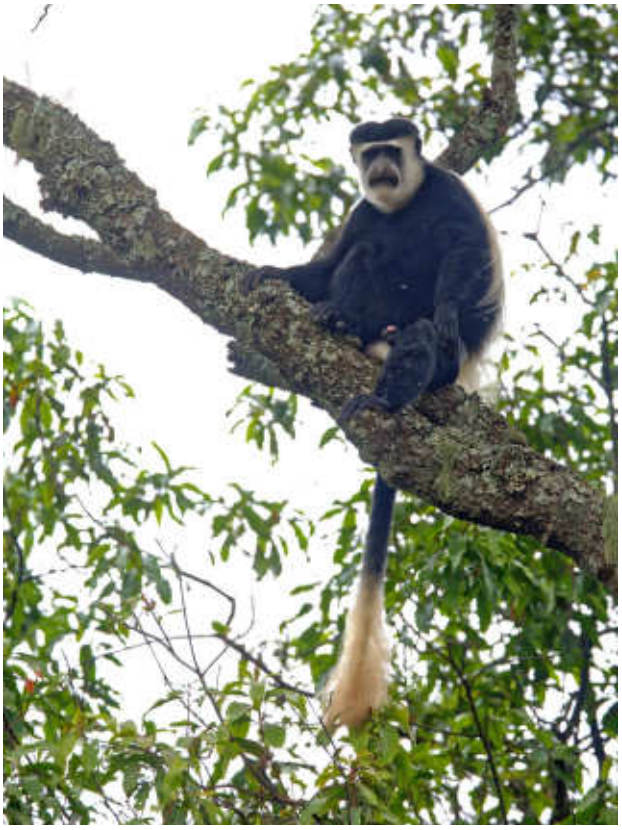


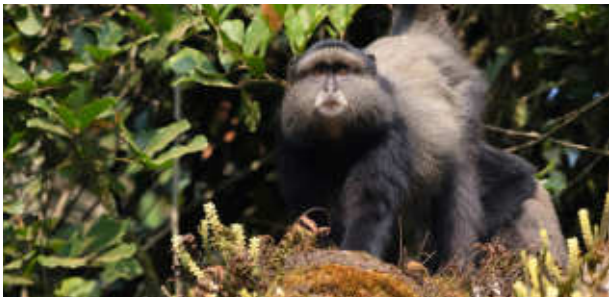


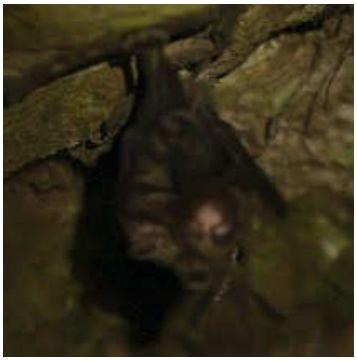


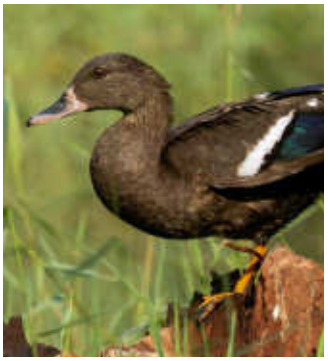
Birdwise we had wonderful observations that day of 12 Rameron Pigeons, Great Blue and Black-Billed Turaco, Blue-Headed Sunbird, Northern Double-Collared Sunbird, Yellow-Whiskered Greenbul, and more (see checklist at the end).

Strangely, we did not see any other mammals during the gorilla trekking. However, we did a night drive with our guide Gordon on the roads near Ruhija village that evening, and with our spotlight we succesfully found and observed **Mantled Guereza**, **Blue Monkey** (they were running across the power lines along the road), **Spectacled Lesser Galago, Rusty-spotted Genet, African Civet, and Side-Striped Jackal**! Gordon showed us a small cave next to the road where we found **Ruwenzori Horseshoe Bat**! An incredible and endangered bat species we would never have seen without our guide.









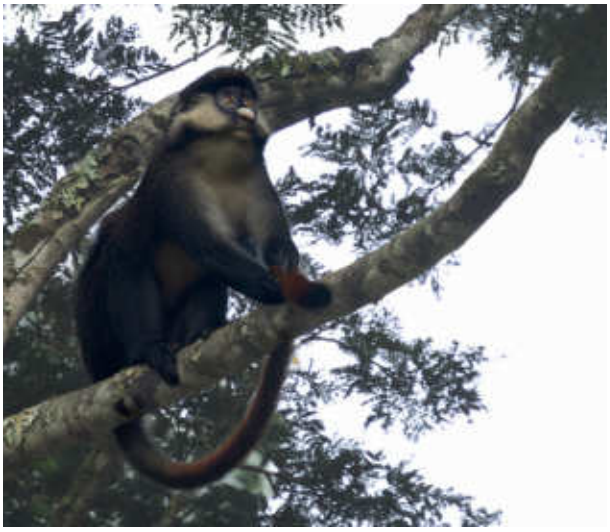


Transfer day Bwindi to Kibale | 12 July 2026

After an early morning breakfast and saying our goodbyes to everyone at Agandi Uganda Lodge, it was time to leave Bwindi and drive to our next destination; Kibale National Park. Both destinations are well known for their high number of primate species, so I was putting all my bets on our next few days to see all the primates we had missed in Bwindi. To my joy, new primates already started appearing before we even left Bwindi! As we were passing through a passage called 'The Neck', we stopped because we noticed 6 African Black Ducks sitting in a forest swamp next to the road. As we stopped, we heard monkeys jumping in the canopy: **L'Hoest's Monkeys, Mantled Guereza, Blue Monkeys**, and a new one, **Red-Tailed Monkey**!! Again stunning to see them interact with other monkeys and effortlessly move around the forest like acrobats.

Birdwise, we also had an incredible encounter here with both a male and female Bar-Tailed Trogon! A personal hightlight for me. We had additional observations here of Alpine Swift, Arnot's Chat, Speckled Tinkerbird, Green White-Eye, Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Little Sparrowhawk, and Little Green Sunbird. Again here having our Guide Gordon with us was very important, as he perfectly knew where to stop and look for birds and primates. We even stumbled upon a group of people who was starting their gorilla trekking there, making us aware of the fact that the gorillas could literally be everywhere here.

This was probably our longest and most intense day on the road. We took the toll-free road through Queen Elizabeth National Park for a couple reasons: for one, because we wanted to experience the park and get a glimpse of its stunning wildlife. The main road crosses throughout the entire length of the reserve and there's a good chance you'll see some animals and birdlife. The second reason is because we needed to drop off a few presents in the Simba Café of the Uganda Community Center in Kihihi, because our parents support an orphan supported by the Sahaya-Sawes project. The cafe and community center were an amazing break for lunch, coffee (locally sourced), buy souvenirs and meet locals. On the parking in front of the café, we spotted a Wahlberg's Eagle flying and a few Red-Headed Lovebirds.



The road conditions were not so good throughout this trajectory, and we arrived at Guereza Canopy Lodge (in Kibale) just before dark, after leaving at 7.30AM that morning. There was a lot of road construction before Queen Elizabeth's main crossroad, so we were forced into a steep, bumpy detour. The main road in QE itself was also full of potholes so we could not drive faster than 30-50 kmph, but driving fast is not recommended anyway because you see wildlife all the time.











In fact, during our passage in QE NP, we spotted the world famous climbing Lions in a tree not far from the road! Our guide Gordon said we were extremely lucky to see them on this road, since they occur mostly only deeper in the park (where you have to pay entrance fees). These were our first and unfortunately only lions of the trip. Not much later, we saw entire herds of Elephants, some of which were crossing the road! My parents and brother had never seen them in the wild, so this was an amazing highlight for them. We saw many Warthogs and our first Hippos here as well, in a water hole next to the main road. Some birds observed in and around that place were African Jacana, African Black Crake, Collared Pratincole, Black-Headed Heron, Woodland Kingfisher, Hamerkop, Black-Headed Gonolek, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Crowned Hornbill and Brown Snake Eagle.

A bit further down the road we spotted herds of **Topi, Waterbuck, Giraffe,** and **Olive Baboon**. The last kilometers of the road we again spotted **Elephants**.

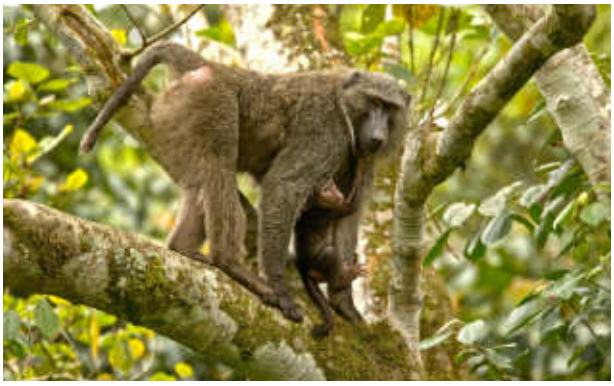


I highly recommend to do this road if you want to get an initial taste of grassland wildlife before you visit Murchison Falls National Park. That's at least how we did it, we decided to skip QE NP for this trip due to time constraints and preferring to see Murchison Falls and spend some time in Kibale.

Right after the park's main road, we said goodbye to our amazing guide Gordon, who in the last minutes of being together, managed to show us a Papyrus Gonolek in the Papyrus near the bridge of Katunguru! We also had Slender-billed Weaver, Dwarf Bittern, Winding Cisticola, Marabou Stork, Malachite Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, and African Fish Eagle here. Randomly, an **Elephant** emerged from the Papyrus fields here too.

After this, it was another few hours of passing tea plantations, small villages, and driving roads in mixed conditions before we finally arrived at the phenomenal Kibale Forest.







I was absolutely blown away while entering this park at dusk. The rainforest of this park is different than the one from Bwindi. The trees have enormous, high trunks below their canopy. They tower out tens of meters above the other forest plants and it's wild to imagine that Chimpanzee communities can climb and live in these trees. In fact, Kibale Forest is home to 12 distinct Chimpanzee communities, the biggest one counting over 120 individuals. In the park, you can spot 13 different primate species (including nocturnal species) if you're lucky, making it the spot with the highest concentration of primates in Africa. All my focus was set on getting as many in my lens as possible! If I was secretly hoping to see one species in particular, it was the mysterious Uganda Mangabey. They are characterized by an ivory black body and head, with bright brown eyes and greyish brown manes.





Kibale National Forest Reserve | 12-15 July 2026



After an hour of driving through the forest, we arrived at Guereza Canopy Lodge, probably my most favorite spot of the entire trip. We had spatious rooms, and the staff, amenities and garden with the private bird trail were all excellent. On top of that, meals are served on a balcony that overlooks the jungle, and there's a nice bar and lounging area below it looking out on the garden. I took great photos of the misty jungle from that spot.

After an early bedtime evening, we got up early at 6AM to visit Bigodi Swamp with our guide Davis. Davis had been working with Harriet for awhile (Harriet Kemigisha, the director of Guereza Canopy Lodge and Harrier Tours) and is an absolute bird expert. Definitely recommend hiring him for either or both Bigodi and for the Green Breasted Pitta quest in the forest (which we did, with staggering success). His presence is calming, but you can clearly hear his excitement increase when he's found you something special.



The morning tour around the swamp (situated just 15 min from the lodge), follows a 2 hour trail loop that is densely surrounded by Papyrus vegetation and farmland, and rendered an incredible amount of birds, some of which I'll list here: Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Shining-blue Kingfisher, Double-toothed Barbet, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Lizzard Buzzard, Dideric Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher, African Blue Flycatcher, Western Nicator, Buff-throated Apalis, Superb Sunbird, Red-headed Bluebill, and many others. We heard but unfortunately did not see the White-spotted Flufftail. This is however not the spot to see mammals (we only saw a few **l'Hoest's Monkeys**); for that you have to stay in and around the forest. An important note to make is that the swamp charges an entrance fee (for us it was at the end of the tour), and they only accept cash. We didn't have cash on us because there was a miscommunication, but both Davis and the guards were happy to find a workaround and we were able to pay at the lodge.

For our afternoon, we decided to take it easy and mainly stay around the lodge grounds and explore the wildlife trail and garden for any wildlife. Apart from an explosive number of butterflies (in all sizes and colours) we also had many different sunbirds in the garden: Collared Sunbird, Green-headed Sunbird, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Northern Double-collared Sunbird, and Copper Sunbird. We also had Sabine's Spinetails and Grey Parrot flying over.

When we hit the later afternoon hours, we drove the main road in the forest to finish some admin work at the UWA Kanyanchu Visitor Centre for tomorrow's activities and did some birdwatching, particularly in search of the Black Bee-eater.







To our big surprise, we spotted a Blue-throated Roller on the side of the main road perched closeby the visitor center. As we had no luck with the Bee-eater, we tried a different spot near Bigodi Swamp, on the road to Kibale Forest Camp. We were greeted by a large group of **Mantled Guerezas**, and parked the car strategically so vehicles from the camp could still pass us (the road is very narrow and it is difficult to turn around). My brother and father exited the car and almost immediately spotted a Black Bee-eater sitting high up in a tree! This was an incredible highlight of our trip, we were all shouting of excitement.

We decided to drive back to our lodge to spend some time in the garden before dinner was served. While I was getting a cold beer on the terrace, my brother and father were still going strong and were observing again multiple great birds: Sabine's Spinetail, Dideric Cuckoo, many Great Blue Turaco and Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Gray Parrot, African Blue Flycatcher, Lesser Striped Swallow, Collared Sunbird, Green-headed Sunbird, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Northern Double-collared Sunbird, Copper Sunbird, Black-necked Weaver, White-headed Sawwing, and more.



After my beer, I decided to quickly walk the bird trail which starts at the end of the garden, as there was still half an hour left before dinner. I was so happy I did. At the first junction, I turned right and, while I was trying to photograph some Great Blue Turacos hopping across the trees, I noticed a dark monkey species. There were three individuals, and I first thought they were probably l'Hoest's Monkeys, however, it quickly dawned on me that these had longer hairs. My concentration levels went through the roof and I could now clearly see one individual staring directly at me; **Uganda Mangabey**! I was so happy to casually find this incredible primate in the lodge garden. This definitely made my day, and I returned to dinner with a big smile on my face. What an amazing place!

After another great diner, we went to bed as there was another early start waiting for us.

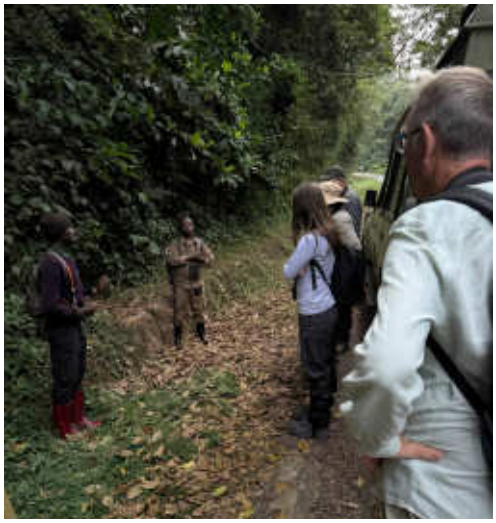
There is something surreal about waking up in the rainforest. Early mornings at Guereza Canopy Lodge are extraordinary; we woke to the sounds of Chimpanzees, Hornbills, and Emerald Cuckoos. It was a particularly early morning for us (5.30AM breakfast), because we had booked a trekking to find the mythical Green-breasted Pitta. July should be one of the best months to attempt observing them, as the males vocalize at their lek. But they are impossibly hard to find if you don't know where those leks are. Harriet Kemigisha has been around this area for decades, has amassed knowledge, and has trained her guides to find trails and spots to observe these birds. We hired Davis again, one of her guides, and a tracker. We were joined by a friendly British family of three, who were clearly into birds as well. We drove a few miles along the main park road and arrived just before dawn at the inconspicuous Njojo Trail entrance that led us directly into the dense rainforest. This trail is a notable bird hotspot.

As always, we needed an armed tracker because there are Forest Elephants in these areas. During our hike, we found many footprints of them, and found a large elephant feeding spot around a boko tree (Balanites wilsoniana). The elephants eat and get drunk from the boko fruits, after which they rest in the nearby area. Boko fruits are also appreciated by Bush Pigs (who are present in this forest), but we were unlucky and didn't see any.

We walked and listened in these forest for hours, but the Pittas did not show (yet). Davis told us their presence can be derived from their iconic wingdrum sounds, as the males jump in the air and flick their wings to lure females. Since we couldn't find the Pitta, our guides (Davis and the female guide from the British family) decided to focus on other birds for a bit and try different lek spots later.









We were personally getting nervous because it was getting late (past 10.30AM), and most trip reports said they typically show before dawn and don't vocalize anymore after a certain time. Our guides however, seemed very confident that we would find one still. So, we regained hope. After a great bird spotting session near an open spot in the rainforest, which rendered species like Red-chested Cuckoo, African Black-headed Oriole, Purple-headed Starling, Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush, Little Green Sunbird, Gray-chinned Sunbird, Red-headed Malimbe, White-breasted Nigrita, Gray-headed Nigrita, Tambourine Dove, Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet, and a few others, we proceeded to the next Pitta lek location in the forest. As we were advancing and fighting with branches, we suddenly noticed our tracker freeze. He heard the drumbeat of a Pitta! We could barely hear it to be honest, so were very greatful that we had such experts with us. In fact, it is mandatory to be accompanied by guides and trackers in the park's perimeters.















We started a fast paced trot deeper into the rainforest and went into different directions a couple of times. Our guides and trackers were spread out to maximize the chances of locating the Pitta, and eventually we could hear the drumbeat ourselves. We were so close! Our excitement was raised to an absolutely shattering maximum when our tracker pointed out a greenish ball sitting 20 meters in front of us on a branch. The Green-breasted Pitta!! We couldn't believe our eyes. The long search had definitely paid off, and in fact, finding this individual later in the day gave us the advantage of taking much better photos, as the scene was filled with natural light.

We were able to stay with it for about 45 minutes, and all that time it moved only once to another branch. It didn't seem bothered by our presence at all. We repositioned ourselves to get an even better look at it. The experience was outerworldly. The rare bird was sitting, displaying courtship behavior less than 20 meters away from us. I included some photos of our exceptional encounter in this report. We walked back fully satisfied and speechless. And this was just the first half of the day. In the afternoon we would return to the visitor center to start our Chimpanzee trekking!

After a delicious lunch at the lodge, and spotting a few birds in the garden like African Emerald Cuckoo, Dideric Cuckoo, Wahlberg's Eagle, Black-and-white Mannakin, African Thrush, and Northern Gray-headed Sparrow, we left for the visitor center. At the center, we had a briefing session and were assigned a tracker, porter, guide, and Chimpanzee community. If I remember correctly, we were going to track the Kanyantale Chimpanzee group (Kanyantale means 'Lion' in the local language). This group has been habituated to humans for more than 25 years. Most of the 12 distinct chimp communities in Kibale are still truly wild; only 3 groups are habituated to tourists and scientists. Kanyantale counts over 120 individuals, a significant portion of the +1400 Chimpanzees in Kibale National Park. I had no idea the groups could get so big, though our tracker mentioned they are not always together as one group, and tend to spread out a little across the forest.



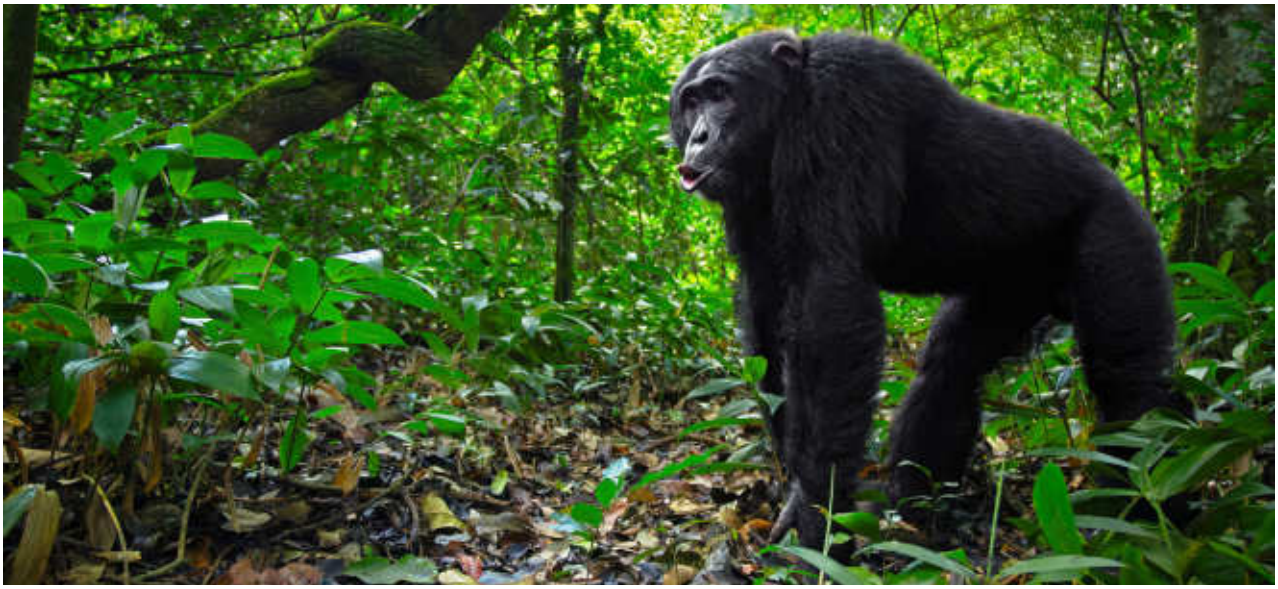
When doing the tracking, there are strict codes of conduct in place: tracking groups can count no more than 6 participants, and there is a perimeter around the Chimpanzees that needs to be respected at all times. You also need to listen carefully to what the trackers and guide are instructing, for both your and the chimps' safety. Once you reach the group, you may stay for one hour to observe their natural behavior, and then slowly walk back to where you started.

Our personal experience was beyond thrilling and much also depends on how your tracker/guide reacts to situations on the spot. We started our trek in a grass field along the road that leads to Guereza Canopy Lodge. Locals were busy digging a huge ditch on the edge of the forest. We were told it was needed to avoid human-wildlife conflict with Forest Elephants, to protect their farmland and villages. The ditch was very wide, deep, and long! We walked alongside it for some time before entering the forest.



It didn't take long for us to reach open spots again, and passed a bird banding station from BirdLife International. After that, the trackers told us the chimps were seen in a conservationist's 'garden', where they conducted research. Indeed, after 15 minutes walking, we ended up in some kind of vegetable garden with a pond, where some **Chimpanzees** were eating fruits from the trees! One of them, a female, was even on the ground literally meters away from us. The unfortunate thing was that within minutes, heaps of tracking groups were flooding the garden, and it became a bit of a circus. It also didn't feel genuine that we would see chimps outside the forest, surrounded by tourists. However, things quickly turned around when the chimps decided to leave and enter the forest again. Our tracker and guide in particular were very proactive and mindful of our experience.







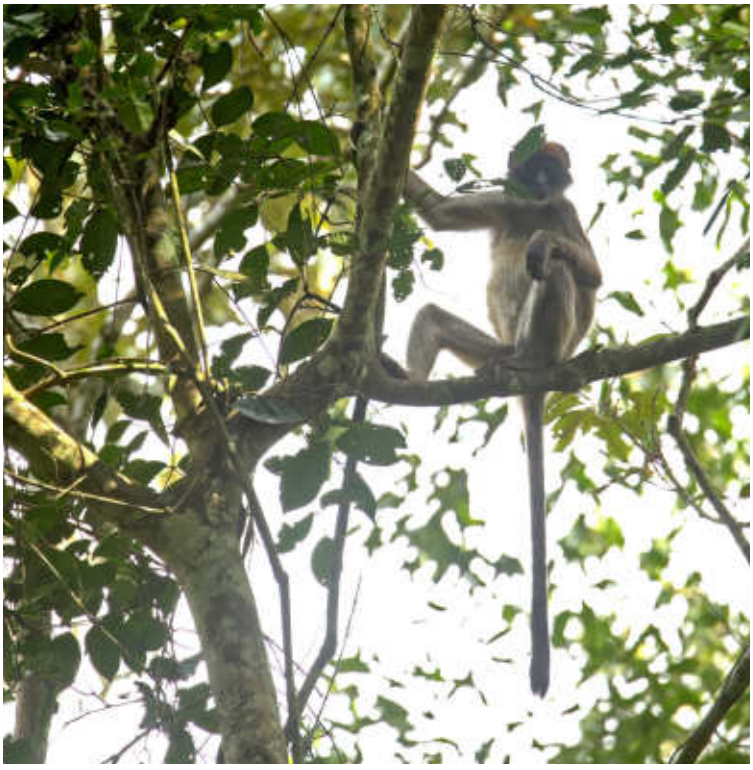


For some reason, they started avoiding the direction all the tracking groups were going in, and instructed us to follow them quickly into another trail. We didn't see chimps for about 15 minutes. We could see multiple tracking groups cramped behind each other a bit further away, but we continued walking deeper into the forest. I think they wanted to spread out the groups across the chimp community more. Eventually, we reached a spot where some chimps were sitting down, but we kept walking past them, we weren't allowed to stop. Then, after a few minutes, we started seeing Chimps walking with us, on both sides. We were walking all in the same direction. This was a truly extraordinary experience, it felt so incredibly intimate to enter their community and see them walk alongside us.

Finally, we reached another Chimp sitting down next to a large tree, and we were allowed to observe them. I calmly took out my sketchbook while my brother was taking photos, using my shoulder as a stabilizer. This felt truly special, because we barely noticed any other participants. We had a 'front row' experience, and could observe multiple chimps vocalize and slam trees to communicate with each other. The blasting calls of these animals went through my entire soul, they were so loud and deep, and echoed throughout the entire forest. Those calls were answered by other chimps from all directions, and it became clear that the forest was full of them, and that they owned this place. After about an hour of sketching, photographing, and sketching, we started heading back slowly. There was a Canadian couple with us from Montreal, who were absolutely lovely. Together with them and the guide, we were also able to spot another new primate species, the **Ugandan Red Colobus**! What luck we had seeing two species on this trekking. We highly recommend this activity as wildlife lovers, and found it maybe even more exclusive/special than the gorilla trekking, but that is likely because the circumstances under which we saw them were most practical (for the gorillas we needed to literally stand on a vertical slope in the rainforest).



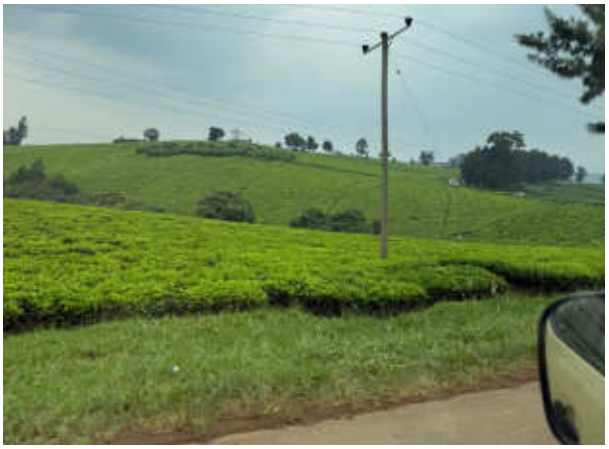




Transfer day Kibale to Murchison Falls National Park | 15 July 2026

The transfer route from Kibale to Murchison (we took the route from Fort Portal to Masindi and then went straight up toward the southern entrance) was very smooth. Road conditions are good (aside from the terribly annoying speed bumps everywhere), and we were surprised by the spectacular amount of green tea plantations along the route.

Picking tea leaves is still a labour intensive process in this region, as farmers are plucking them by hand and are storing them in huge baskets on their backs. We passed many small villages and eventually reached Masindi, where we picked up cash from an ATM before driving up to Murchison Falls NP. ATMs in the villages are usually guarded and people are friendly. Picking up cash and having a coffee break therefore feels safe and relaxing enough. But watch out where you park, there are usually guards or policemen nearby that may fine you or are trying to sell expensive parking tickets.





Murchison Falls National Park | 15-19 July 2026





I will talk about our stay in this amazing park in an aggregated form, since each day followed a similar pattern; basically focusing on game drives each day in the same areas.

Bordering Albert Lake, Murchison Falls National Park (3840 km2) houses almost 150 species of mammals and 556 species of birds. The mighty Victoria Nile river flows through it and separates the reserve between a northern and a southern section, each dominanted by different vegetation. In the southern part you find vast woodland and forest, while the area north of the river offers open savanna filled with Borassus palm and acacia woodland. Thus, depending on where you enter this park (there's a few entrances), your perception of the park's vibe is quite different.

As said, we approached the park from the South (through the Kichumbanyobo Gate) coming from Hoima and Masindi, and after a short administrative break, a coffee, and the obligatory family photo at the gate, we drove through dense forest for more than an hour before the landscape started to shift somewhat. We did not expect to find similar vegetation to Kibale here, but apparently Murchison also houses Chimpanzees. It was quite spectacular, and we had to stop multiple times for crossing **Olive Baboons**, Northern Ground Hornbills, a Martial Eagle, and we even spotted two White-thighed Hornbills.

Between this entrance gate and our lodge (Sambiya River Lodge) we had further spectacular bird observations of Red-throated Bee-eater and Pin-tailed Whydah. We were mesmerised by the endless forest views as we got closer to the lodge, even thinking this park was just forest, not grassland or savanna! There was a point where we reached a higher ground in the road, which offered a stunning view with forest reaching beyond the horizon.

We took some time reaching the lodge because me and my brother were hanging out the vehicle's rooftop window and yelling at our parents to halt for birds every few minutes or so. Eventually we reached the road sign that led us onto the lodge's grounds, where we were immediately greeted by groups of **Warthogs, Olive Baboons** and, astoundingly, multiple **African Buffaloes**. The staff told us they like to hang out near the kitchen area and the grass fields connecting the camp's cottages, and that they were to be left alone. We jumped out of the vehicle and, from a safe distance, took some photos. Incredible to see buffaloes in a forest environment! Upon arrival, we were greeted by the kind staff, shown around the lodge grounds (which was stunning and luxurious), and led to our rooms. It's a very nice location to stay if you want to be surrounded by forest and are not bothered by a 40 min drive before you reach the Victoria Nile river where the savannah and delta. The food was great too, buffet three times a day.











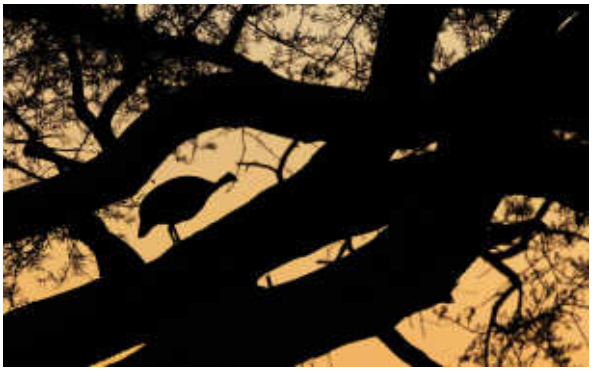






If you want to do hardcore safari drives in this park, without 'wasting' time driving too far, we do recommend staying around the Paraa bridge (e.g., you could stay at Red Chilli Rest Camp or the Paraa Safari Lodge, who also have a gas pump!). Anything close to the bridge will give you quick access to the trails that go towards the delta and to the open savanna, which has a high density of mammal species, including hundreds of thousands of **Kobs, Oribi, Bohor Reedbuck, Buffalo, and Jackson's Hartebeest**. From the bridge's vicinity, you can also conveniently drive to Murchison Falls, a must-see attraction in the park. The sheer power of nature becomes crystal-clear when you're meters away from an enormous waterfall like this one. We went there to enjoy the spectacular sights and to observe the Rock Pratincoles that live on the rocks in the middle of the falls. It's about ten dollars per person if you are not walking the full trail. It was one of the most memorable places I visited in years. Highly recommend!

During our stay in the park, we spent two days self-driving the savanna and the delta area to find mammals and birds, and hired a ranger to accompany us on a night safari drive around the delta area (that drive was offered to us by the Sambiya lodge (who have friendly staff), but we were not really satisfied with the experience; the ranger didn't know his species, and overcharged us from what was agreed upon at the reception. We recommend booking drives with an organization like Harrier Tours instead). The main target was to see Lions and the Pennant-winged Nightjar during the night drive. In general, during our drives, we clearly noticed that the area west of the Paraa bridge, towards the delta, contained the highest density of wildlife. We did drive the trails on the eastern side of the park, towards Wangkwar, but the wildlife was more difficult to spot (due to the higher density of Palm trees and thickets) and more scattered.

















During the morning drives you can expect large herds of **African Buffalo** (accompanied by the iconic Piapiac birds), **Giraffes, Elephants,** and the already named antelope species. We missed Lion and Leopard in this park, but had a fantastic experience nonetheless. Noteworthy mammal observations are 4 **Spotted Hyenas** during our night drives (with cubs), 3 **Rusty-spotted Genet**, and a group of **Patas Monkeys**. We had a quick observation of **African Savanna Hare and a Gerbil (indet.)**. Birdwise we had countless spectacular observations of the Pennant-winged Nightjar, one of the craziest birds I've ever seen fly in front of my spotlight, as well as the Long-tailed Nightjar, Square-tailed Nightjar, and Grayish Eagle-Owl.



If you drive the roads towards the delta area after dusk, they will sit on the sandy roads and fly off just before your vehicle reaches them. During the day drives around the delta, we had close encounters of multiple grazing **Hippos**, drinking **Elephants** near the Paraa Bridge, wandering **Defassa Waterbuck**, **Warthogs**, **Giraffes, Patas Monkey**, **Oribi**, Nile crocodiles near the ferry Parra crossing, and some lovely **Yellow-winged Bats** sleeping in a thicket on the side of the road. Some great bird observations during our drives were Saddle-billed Stork (at the Paraa bridge), Goliath Heron (multiple around the delta), Rüppell's Griffin and White-backed Vultu re (sitting in multiple trees), Black-billed Barbet (at the main road near the Paraa bridge), African Cuckoo-hawk, multiple wandering Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Blue-naped Mousebird, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Silverbird, White-crested Turaco (near Paraa Safari Lodge, next to the road), Red-headed Lovebird, African Golden Oriole, and Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike. Again, please see our checklists at the end of this report to get a detailed understanding of our sightings.









There is also great affordability if you want to have a glamping experience just outside the park's borders and by the Nile River: Giraffe Camp, for example. We stayed there on our last night before driving back to Entebbe. The camp is quite hidden, on a small side street of an already small village road along the Nile. Initially we thought we missed a turn, but then noticed the signs directing us to the campsite. The staff were super friendly, and made us feel at home right away by offering fresh fruit juice. We arrived there in the late afternoon, almost at dusk, after a long day of game driving in the northern part of the park.

There was nobody else staying there on the night we stayed, predominantly because all reservations were cancelled due to the ongoing Ebola crisis in the DRC, said the manager. It was heartbreaking, because there was never a real risk in Uganda. It felt more luxurious for us, because we were treated as kings.



Dinner was delicious, and they made a campfire for us to enjoy our drinks while watching the sun disappear behind the horizon.

The only thing to note is that there is no WiFi in the tents, but there is at the lobby lounge. There was also an issue with hot water during our stay, but that's not usually an issue. We had an otherwise flawless experience here. My brother took stunning night sky photos in front of our tent.



Mabamba Swamp, Entebbe Botanical Gardens | 19-20 July 2026

We spent half a day driving back to the Airport Guesthouse in Entebbe. It was again an overall smooth drive; the roads here are well-maintained due to the large amount of traffic from the capital city. It's basically a 5-hour straight line from Murchison to Kampala. Once you approach the capital, things start to become very hectic (from Kawempe onwards until the roundabout at Hotel La Grande). Once you reach the main roundabout, you can drive onto the highway towards Entebbe and it's a very smooth 'high way trip' until you reach the airport. The sightings were fascinating; we passed multiple slums, landfills, and unfinished construction projects that quickly transitioned into wealthy districts, with hundreds of Marabou Storks circling above us.

We reached the airport in the early afternoon and went back to Airport Guesthouse Entebbe for our last night in Uganda. Our flight wasn't leaving until midnight the next day, so we booked two final activities in this area; a boat trip at Mabamba Swamp in search of the legendary Shoebill, the Lesser Jacana, many other wetland bird species, and an afternoon stroll in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens in search of the Bat Hawk, the Congo Pied Hornbill, and a couple of Weaver bird species. If you have a late flight, it's perfectly doable to do this in on the day of your flight.



We booked a great guide with Harrier Tours. They seem to have good contacts all of Uganda, so we highly recommend reaching out to them for most bird and mammal activities. They arranged an early pickup near the ferry in Nakiwogo. We could park our car in an open parking lot near lake victoria, and hopped in a private boat that brought us deep into the swamp (it's about an hour boat trip to the swamp). The skipper (Julius in our case) was very considerate and lowered the boat's speed whenever we wanted to photograph birds during the transfer to Mabamba.













As we reached the swamp, we were amazed by the lushness and the density of birds (cormorants, ergrets, jacanas, and kingfishers flying everywhere). This was an extraordinary experience already. When we arrived we hopped on another boat, and nervously anticipated finding a Shoebill. After already 15 minutes, we won the main price… The boat handlers are in touch with eachother over whatsapp and work together to localize Shoebills. There are not many here (less than 20 I think they said), so there's a real chance that you miss them. We, however, managed to get a close encounter in the very first minutes of the trip. Absolutely mindblowing experience, as you can see from our trip report photos. The guide (who also turned out to be the general manager of Mabamba) had so much knowledge to share and has been guiding and facilitation research here since the 80s, and we felt well taken care of. We learned that Shoebill eat lungfish that they swallow whole and digest high up in the air. Their low population density made us feel fortunate that we were able to spot one at all.

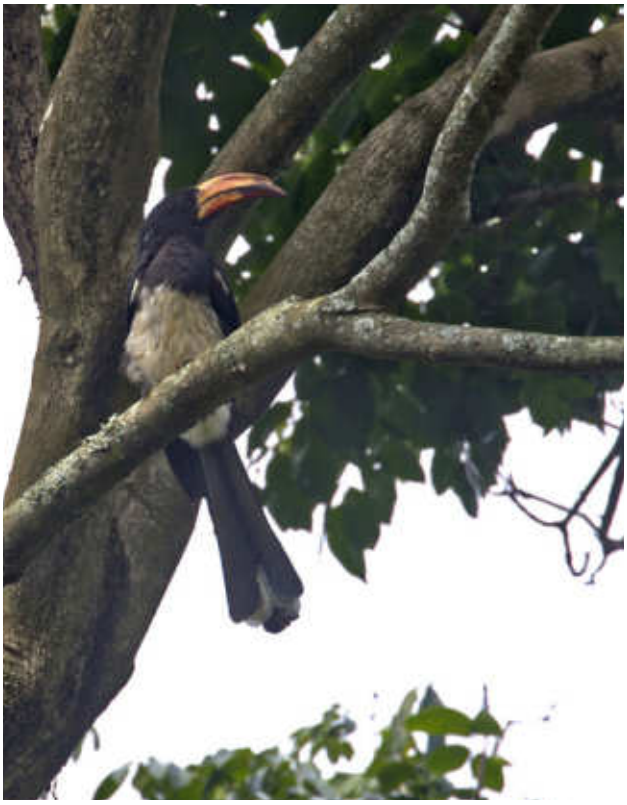
After leaving that first Shoebill, we went deeper into the swamp in search of the Lesser Jacana. To our surprise, we casually found a second Shoebill (!) hanging out near a more open part of the swamp, but this one was much closer still than the first one. This individual had clearly not been localized yet by the guides, because when we found it, they started communicating via phone immediately to each other, and within minutes there were several boats coming in. We left as they arrived, still mindblown by the dinosaur-like appearance of this rare bird. Mabamba is really the best (and most accessible) place on earth where you can still see them in their natural habitat.

Miraculously, our guide was able to locate a Lesser Jacana as well, in between the many African Jacana, African Swamphen, Black Crakes, Long-toed Lapwings, Purple Herons, African Marsh Harriers, and Squacco Herons. We saw it through the binos for a few seconds before it disappeared in the reeds. Incredible! Satisfied, we tipped everyone, and were brought back to our car. What an amazing morning session!

We had lunch at our guesthouse and noticed many new travelers were arriving. They were probably going to take the same flight as us. After taking some rest in the garden, we drove to Entebbe's botanical gardens. We recommend parking in the parking lot in front of the shopping mall next to the gardens. It's free of charge and is guarded (by friendly guards), in contrast to the garden's parking area where you pay a fee. In the mall, there is a Carrefour supermarket to get some snacks and refreshments. From the parking lot, it's a 3 minute walk to the gardens. As we walked up there we coincidentally stumbled upon Harriet and her family (director from Harrier Tours). What are the chances?! We had a quick conversation with her and then proceeded to the garden entrance. You pay an entrance fee, but beware of the guides who try to accompany you in the garden, as they will ask from extra fees. It's nice that they offer this for visitors, but they are not transparent about it. I told the person who engaged with us that we preferred to visit the gardens alone as a family to enjoy some private time, and after some discussion we were left to ourselves. The person remained friendly and respectful.

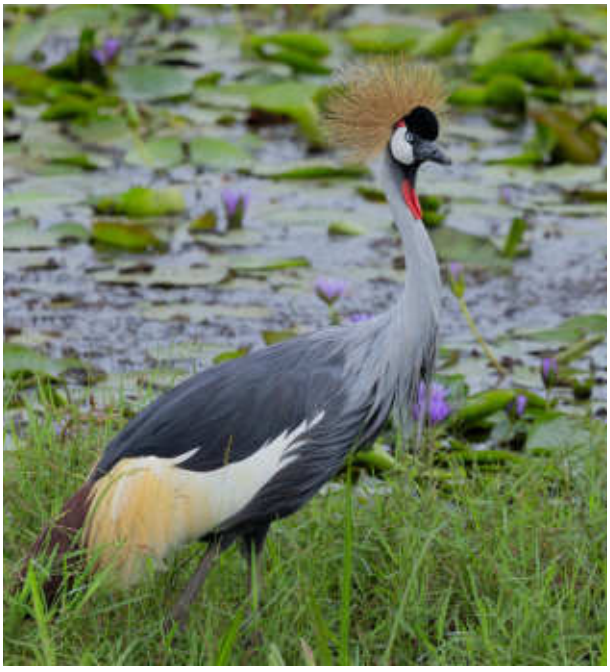
The botanical gardens themselves were incredibly beautiful and large. The trees are huge and ancient, and we feel it is very much worth a visit. There are several trails that bring you across the grounds and towards Lake Victoria. We had great bird observations of Water Thick-knee, Pink-backed Pelican, Bat Hawk, Congo Pied Hornbill, Red-chester Sunbird, Orange Weaver, Golden-backed Weaver, and Superb Sunbird.

After a few hours, we returned to the guesthouse, packed our bags, drove to the airport, and went home. It was a fantastic trip, an incredibly diverse country with great people, and we highly recommend going there if you want to see some of the most iconic mammals and birds in the world.









SPECIES CHECKLIST - BIRDS (349 individual species)

Bird species	Observations	Scientific name
Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill	27	*Bucorvus abyssinicus*
Abyssinian Thrush	4	*Turdus abyssinicus*
Afep Pigeon	2	*Columba unicincta*
African Black Duck	6	*Anas sparsa*
African Black-headed Oriole	1	*Oriolus larvatus*
African Blue Flycatcher	7	*Elminia longicauda*
African Cuckoo-Hawk	2	*Aviceda cuculoides*
African Darter	9	*Anhinga rufa*
African Dusky Flycatcher	5	*Muscicapa adusta*
African Emerald Cuckoo	2	*Chrysococcyx cupreus*
African Firefinch	7	*Lagonosticta rubricata*
African Fish-Eagle	11	*Icthyophaga vocifer*
African Golden Oriole	1	*Oriolus auratus*
African Gray Hornbill	13	*Lophoceros nasutus*
African Green-Pigeon	9	*Treron calvus*
African Harrier-Hawk	7	*Polyboroides typus*
African Hobby	1	*Falco cuvierii*
African Jacana	44	*Actophilornis africanus*
African Marsh Harrier	4	*Circus ranivorus*

African Openbill	54	*Anastomus lamelligerus*
African Palm Swift	339	*Cypsiurus parvus*
African Paradise-Flycatcher	3	*Terpsiphone viridis*
African Pied Wagtail	16	*Motacilla aguimp*
African Pipit	1	*Anthus cinnamomeus*
African Pygmy Kingfisher	5	*Ispidina picta*
African Sacred Ibis	2	*Threskiornis aethiopicus*
African Stonechat	3	*Saxicola torquatus*
African Swamphen	5	*Porphyrio madagascariensis*
African Swift	8	*Apus barbatus*
African Thrush	12	*Turdus pelios*
African Wood-Owl	2	*Strix woodfordii*
African Woolly-necked Stork	7	*Ciconia microscelis*
Albertine Sooty Boubou	2	*Laniarius holomelas*
Alpine Swift	1	*Tachymarptis melba*
Angola Swallow	132	*Hirundo angolensis*
Archer's Robin-Chat	2	*Cossypha archeri*
Arnot's Chat	1	*Myrmecocichla arnotti*
Arrow-marked Babbler	3	*Turdoides jardineii*
Augur Buzzard	6	*Buteo augur*
Baglafecht Weaver	2	*Ploceus baglafecht*

Banded Martin	2	*Neophedina cincta*
Banded Prinia	5	*Prinia bairdii*
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	9	*Corythaixoides personatus*
Bar-tailed Trogon	2	*Apaloderma vittatum*
Bat Hawk	1	*Macheiramphus alcinus*
Bateleur	12	*Terathopius ecaudatus*
Beautiful Sunbird	2	*Cinnyris pulchellus*
Black Bee-eater	1	*Merops gularis*
Black Bishop	2	*Euplectes gierowii*
Black Crake	9	*Zapornia flavirostra*
Black Goshawk	1	*Accipiter melanoleucus*
Black Kite	58	*Milvus migrans*
Black Saw-wing	14	*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
Black-and-white Mannikin	23	*Spermestes bicolor*
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	11	*Bias musicus*
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill	43	*Bycanistes subcylindricus*
Black-bellied Bustard	1	*Lissotis melanogaster*
Black-billed Barbet	4	*Lybius guifsobalito*
Black-billed Turaco	5	*Tauraco schuettii*
Black-billed Wood-Dove	4	*Turtur abyssinicus*
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	2	*Circaetus pectoralis*

Black-crowned Tchagra	3	*Tchagra senegalus*
Black-crowned Waxbill	2	*Estrilda nonnula*
Black-faced Apalis	1	*Apalis personata*
Black-faced Rufous-Warbler	1	*Bathmocercus rufus*
Black-headed Gonolek	16	*Laniarius erythrogaster*
Black-headed Heron	18	*Ardea melanocephala*
Black-headed Lapwing	9	*Vanellus tectus*
Black-headed Weaver	20	*Ploceus melanocephalus*
Black-necked Weaver	14	*Ploceus nigricollis*
Black-rumped Waxbill	9	*Estrilda troglodytes*
Black-throated Apalis	6	*Apalis jacksoni*
Black-winged Bishop	1	*Euplectes hordeaceus*
Black-winged Kite	4	*Elanus caeruleus*
Blue-headed Coucal	2	*Centropus monachus*
Blue-headed Sunbird	3	*Cyanomitra alinae*
Blue-naped Mousebird	11	*Urocolius macrourus*
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	2	*Turtur afer*
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	12	*Cyanomitra cyanolaema*
Blue-throated Roller	1	*Eurystomus gularis*
Broad-billed Roller	13	*Eurystomus glaucurus*
Bronze Mannikin	205	*Spermestes cucullata*

Brown Illadopsis	2	*Illadopsis fulvescens*
Brown Snake-Eagle	4	*Circaetus cinereus*
Brown-capped Weaver	14	*Ploceus insignis*
Brown-crowned Tchagra	2	*Tchagra australis*
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	13	*Platysteira cyanea*
Buff-bellied Warbler	2	*Phyllolais pulchella*
Buff-throated Apalis	2	*Apalis rufogularis*
Cardinal Quelea	10	*Quelea cardinalis*
Cardinal Woodpecker	2	*Dendropicos fuscescens*
Carruthers's Cisticola	3	*Cisticola carruthersi*
Cassin's Flycatcher	2	*Muscicapa cassini*
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	6	*Plocepasser superciliosus*
Chestnut-throated Apalis	1	*Apalis porphyrolaema*
Chinspot Batis	2	*Batis molitor*
Chubb's Cisticola	13	*Cisticola chubbi*
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	4	*Merops oreobates*
Collared Pratincole	1	*Glareola pratincola*
Collared Sunbird	12	*Hedydipna collaris*
Common Bulbul	129	*Pycnonotus barbatus*
Common Sandpiper	4	*Actitis hypoleucos*
Common Scimitarbill	1	*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Congo Pied Hornbill	4	*Lophoceros fasciatus*
Copper Sunbird	5	*Cinnyris cupreus*
Crested Francolin	6	*Ortygornis sephaena*
Croaking Cisticola	3	*Cisticola natalensis*
Crowned Hornbill	4	*Lophoceros alboterminatus*
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	7	*Melierax metabates*
Diederik Cuckoo	6	*Chrysococcyx caprius*
Doherty's Bushshrike	1	*Telophorus dohertyi*
Double-toothed Barbet	10	*Lybius bidentatus*
Dusky Crimsonwing	2	*Cryptospiza jacksoni*
Dusky Tit	2	*Melaniparus funereus*
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	2	*Muscicapa comitata*
Dwarf Bittern	1	*Ixobrychus sturmii*
Eastern Plantain-eater	22	*Crinifer zonurus*
Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet	3	*Trachyphonus purpuratus*
Egyptian Goose	92	*Alopochen aegyptiaca*
Eurasian Kestrel	1	*Falco tinnunculus*
Eurasian Oystercatcher	1	*Haematopus ostralegus*
Fan-tailed Widowbird	1	*Euplectes axillaris*
Flappet Lark	4	*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*
Fork-tailed Drongo	4	*Dicrurus adsimilis*

Gabar Goshawk	1	*Micronisus gabar*
Golden-backed Weaver	1	*Ploceus jacksoni*
Golden-breasted Bunting	1	*Emberiza flaviventris*
Golden-crowned Woodpecker	2	*Chloropicus xantholophus*
Goliath Heron	7	*Ardea goliath*
Grauer's Broadbill	1	*Pseudocalyptomena graueri*
Gray Crowned-Crane	24	*Balearica regulorum*
Gray Cuckooshrike	1	*Coracina caesia*
Gray Greenbul	1	*Eurillas gracilis*
Gray Heron	8	*Ardea cinerea*
Gray Kestrel	15	*Falco ardosiaceus*
Gray Parrot	3	*Psittacus erithacus*
Gray Tit-Flycatcher	1	*Fraseria plumbea*
Gray-backed Fiscal	12	*Lanius excubitoroides*
Gray-capped Warbler	2	*Eminia lepida*
Gray-chinned Sunbird	4	*Anthreptes tephrolaemus*
Gray-green Bushshrike	1	*Telophorus bocagei*
Gray-headed Kingfisher	10	*Halcyon leucocephala*
Gray-headed Nigrita	4	*Nigrita canicapillus*
Gray-hooded Gull	11	*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
Grayish Eagle-Owl	3	*Bubo cinerascens*

Great Blue Turaco	33	*Corythaeola cristata*
Great Cormorant	21	*Phalacrocorax carbo*
Great Egret	10	*Ardea alba*
Great White Pelican	20	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Green Hylia	1	*Hylia prasina*
Green White-eye	8	*Zosterops stuhlmanni*
Green-backed Camaroptera	32	*Camaroptera brachyura*
Green-breasted Pitta	1	*Pitta reichenowi*
Green-headed Sunbird	5	*Cyanomitra verticalis*
Green-throated Sunbird	2	*Chalcomitra rubescens*
Grosbeak Weaver	4	*Amblyospiza albifrons*
Gull-billed Tern	52	*Gelochelidon nilotica*
Hadada Ibis	89	*Bostrychia hagedash*
Hamerkop	9	*Scopus umbretta*
Handsome Spurfowl	1	*Pternistis nobilis*
Helmeted Guineafowl	35	*Numida meleagris*
Heuglin's Spurfowl	4	*Pternistis icterorhynchus*
Hooded Vulture	2	*Necrosyrtes monachus*
House Sparrow	15	*Passer domesticus*
Kikuyu Mountain Greenbul	5	*Arizelocichla kikuyuensis*
Knob-billed Duck	5	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Lagden's Bushshrike	1	*Malaconotus lagdeni*
Lappet-faced Vulture	2	*Torgos tracheliotos*
Laughing Dove	22	*Spilopelia senegalensis*
Lesser Jacana	1	*Microparra capensis*
Lesser Striped Swallow	25	*Cecropis abyssinica*
Lilac-breasted Roller	3	*Coracias caudatus*
Little Bee-eater	24	*Merops pusillus*
Little Egret	211	*Egretta garzetta*
Little Grebe	5	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Little Green Sunbird	3	*Anthreptes seimundi*
Little Greenbul	7	*Eurillas virens*
Little Heron	1	*Butorides atricapilla*
Little Sparrowhawk	1	*Accipiter minullus*
Little Swift	68	*Apus affinis*
Little Weaver	7	*Ploceus luteolus*
Lizard Buzzard	3	*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
Long-crested Eagle	10	*Lophaetus occipitalis*
Long-tailed Nightjar	5	*Caprimulgus climacurus*
Long-toed Lapwing	15	*Vanellus crassirostris*
Mackinnon's Shrike	1	*Lanius mackinnoni*
Magpie Mannikin	4	*Spermestes fringilloides*

Malachite Kingfisher	10	*Corythornis cristatus*
Marabou Stork	106	*Leptoptilos crumenifer*
Martial Eagle	2	*Polemaetus bellicosus*
Masked Apalis	1	*Apalis binotata*
Meyer's Parrot	2	*Poicephalus meyeri*
Mosque Swallow	9	*Cecropis senegalensis*
Mountain Buzzard	1	*Buteo oreophilus*
Mountain Illadopsis	1	*Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*
Mountain Oriole	3	*Oriolus percivali*
Mourning Collared-Dove	16	*Streptopelia decipiens*
Narina Trogon	1	*Apaloderma narina*
Northern Black-Flycatcher	5	*Melaenornis edolioides*
Northern Brown-throated Weaver	2	*Ploceus castanops*
Northern Double-collared Sunbird	8	*Cinnyris reichenowi*
Northern Fiscal	4	*Lanius humeralis*
Northern Gray-headed Sparrow	30	*Passer griseus*
Northern Puffback	7	*Dryoscopus gambensis*
Northern Red Bishop	57	*Euplectes franciscanus*
Nubian Woodpecker	1	*Campethera nubica*
Olive Sunbird	4	*Cyanomitra olivacea*
Olive-bellied Sunbird	5	*Cinnyris chloropygius*

Orange Weaver	6	*Ploceus aurantius*
Oriole Finch	1	*Linurgus olivaceus*
Pale Flycatcher	1	*Agricola pallidus*
Palm-nut Vulture	9	*Gypohierax angolensis*
Papyrus Gonolek	2	*Laniarius mufumbiri*
Pennant-winged Nightjar	8	*Caprimulgus vexillarius*
Piapiac	382	*Ptilostomus afer*
Pied Crow	77	*Corvus albus*
Pied Cuckoo	1	*Clamator jacobinus*
Pied Kingfisher	120	*Ceryle rudis*
Pink-backed Pelican	24	*Pelecanus rufescens*
Pin-tailed Whydah	11	*Vidua macroura*
Plain-backed Pipit	1	*Anthus leucophrys*
Purple Heron	13	*Ardea purpurea*
Purple Starling	5	*Lamprotornis purpureus*
Purple-headed Starling	5	*Hylopsar purpureiceps*
Rameron Pigeon	48	*Columba arquatrix*
Rattling Cisticola	4	*Cisticola chiniana*
Red-bellied Paradise-Flycatcher	1	*Terpsiphone rufiventer*
Red-billed Firefinch	6	*Lagonosticta senegala*
Red-billed Quelea	6	*Quelea quelea*

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	50	*Uraeginthus bengalus*
Red-chested Cuckoo	6	*Cuculus solitarius*
Red-chested Sunbird	5	*Cinnyris erythrocercus*
Red-eyed Dove	5	*Streptopelia semitorquata*
Red-faced Cisticola	1	*Cisticola erythrops*
Red-faced Crombec	1	*Sylvietta whytii*
Red-faced Woodland-Warbler	2	*Phylloscopus laetus*
Red-headed Bluebill	1	*Spermophaga ruficapilla*
Red-headed Lovebird	17	*Agapornis pullarius*
Red-headed Malimbe	1	*Malimbus rubricollis*
Red-necked Falcon	1	*Falco chicquera*
Red-necked Spurfowl	4	*Pternistis afer*
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	2	*Campephaga phoenicea*
Red-throated Bee-eater	34	*Merops bulocki*
Red-throated Crag-Martin	1	*Ptyonoprogne rufigula*
Red-winged Gray Warbler	1	*Drymocichla incana*
Reed Cormorant	177	*Microcarbo africanus*
Ring-necked Dove	5	*Streptopelia capicola*
Rock Pigeon	2	*Columba livia*
Rock Pratincole	7	*Glareola nuchalis*
Ross's Turaco	3	*Musophaga rossae*

Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush	1	*Neocossyphus fraseri*
Rufous-bellied Heron	1	*Ardeola rufiventris*
Rufous-chested Swallow	1	*Cecropis semirufa*
Rufous-naped Lark	2	*Mirafra africana*
Rüppell's Griffon	9	*Gyps rueppelli*
Rüppell's Starling	99	*Lamprotornis purpuroptera*
Rwenzori Batis	2	*Batis diops*
Rwenzori Hill Babbler	3	*Sylvia atriceps*
Sabine's Spinetail	8	*Rhaphidura sabini*
Saddle-billed Stork	1	*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*
Scaly Spurfowl	1	*Pternistis squamatus*
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	1	*Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Senegal Thick-knee	5	*Burhinus senegalensis*
Shikra	5	*Accipiter badius*
Shining-blue Kingfisher	1	*Alcedo quadribrachys*
Shoebill	2	*Balaeniceps rex*
Silverbird	12	*Empidornis semipartitus*
Slender-billed Greenbul	4	*Stelgidillas gracilirostris*
Slender-billed Weaver	2	*Ploceus pelzelni*
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	6	*Cossypha niveicapilla*
Sooty Chat	8	*Myrmecocichla nigra*

Sooty Flycatcher	2	*Muscicapa infuscata*
Southern Red Bishop	3	*Euplectes orix*
Southern White-faced Owl	1	*Ptilopsis granti*
Speckled Mousebird	57	*Colius striatus*
Speckled Pigeon	2	*Columba guinea*
Speckled Tinkerbird	2	*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*
Speckle-fronted Weaver	15	*Sporopipes frontalis*
Spot-flanked Barbet	7	*Tricholaema lacrymosa*
Spotted Palm-Thrush	3	*Cichladusa guttata*
Spur-winged Goose	2	*Plectropterus gambensis*
Spur-winged Lapwing	49	*Vanellus spinosus*
Squacco Heron	11	*Ardeola ralloides*
Square-tailed Nightjar	2	*Caprimulgus fossii*
Strange Weaver	6	*Ploceus alienus*
Streaky Seedeater	2	*Crithagra striolata*
Striped Kingfisher	4	*Halcyon chelicuti*
Stuhlmann's Starling	2	*Poeoptera stuhlmanni*
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	1	*Telophorus sulfureopectus*
Superb Sunbird	4	*Cinnyris superbus*
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	2	*Merops hirundineus*
Swamp Flycatcher	9	*Muscicapa aquatica*

Tambourine Dove	4	*Turtur tympanistria*
Tawny Eagle	2	*Aquila rapax*
Tawny-flanked Prinia	1	*Prinia subflava*
Thick-billed Seedeater	3	*Crithagra burtoni*
Toro Olive-Greenbul	1	*Phyllastrephus hypochloris*
Variable Sunbird	1	*Cinnyris venustus*
Vieillot's Black Weaver	26	*Ploceus nigerrimus*
Village Weaver	32	*Ploceus cucullatus*
Violet-backed Starling	4	*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
Wahlberg's Eagle	4	*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
Water Thick-knee	2	*Burhinus vermiculatus*
Wattled Lapwing	35	*Vanellus senegallus*
Western Banded Snake-Eagle	1	*Circaetus cinerascens*
Western Barn Owl	1	*Tyto alba*
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon	1	*Columba iriditorques*
Western Cattle-Egret	276	*Ardea ibis*
Western Nicator	1	*Nicator chloris*
White-backed Vulture	58	*Gyps africanus*
White-bellied Crested Flycatcher	1	*Elminia albiventris*
White-breasted Nigrita	6	*Nigrita fusconotus*
White-browed Coucal	8	*Centropus superciliosus*

White-browed Robin-Chat	1	*Cossypha heuglini*
White-browed Scrub-Robin	2	*Cercotrichas leucophrys*
White-chinned Prinia	12	*Schistolais leucopogon*
White-crested Turaco	1	*Tauraco leucolophus*
White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	1	*Melaenornis fischeri*
White-faced Whistling-Duck	63	*Dendrocygna viduata*
White-headed Saw-wing	21	*Psalidoprocne albiceps*
White-headed Vulture	1	*Trigonoceps occipitalis*
White-headed Woodhoopoe	6	*Phoeniculus bollei*
White-necked Raven	1	*Corvus albicollis*
White-rumped Swift	45	*Apus caffer*
White-tailed Ant-Thrush	1	*Neocossyphus poensis*
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher	5	*Elminia albicauda*
White-thighed Hornbill	2	*Bycanistes albotibialis*
White-winged Tern	65	*Chlidonias leucopterus*
Winding Cisticola	3	*Cisticola galactotes*
Wire-tailed Swallow	3	*Hirundo smithii*
Wood Sandpiper	4	*Tringa glareola*
Woodland Kingfisher	9	*Halcyon senegalensis*
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	8	*Coccopygia quartinia*
Yellow-billed Duck	36	*Anas undulata*

Yellow-billed Egret	6	*Ardea brachyrhyncha*
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	39	*Buphagus africanus*
Yellow-billed Stork	6	*Mycteria ibis*
Yellow-breasted Apalis	1	*Apalis flavida*
Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher	4	*Melaenornis ardesiacus*
Yellow-fronted Canary	10	*Crithagra mozambica*
Yellow-mantled Weaver	1	*Ploceus tricolor*
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	1	*Euplectes macroura*
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	2	*Pogoniulus bilineatus*
Yellow-spotted Barbet	1	*Buccanodon duchaillui*
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	1	*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*
Yellow-throated Longclaw	7	** Macronyx croceus**
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird	6	*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	5	*Eurillas latirostris*
Zitting Cisticola	12	*Cisticola juncidis*

SPECIES CHECKLIST - MAMMALS (45 individual species)

ComName	Scientific name	Location
African Buffalo	*Syncerus caffer*	Murchison Falls NP
African Civet	*Civettictis civetta*	Bwindi
African Forest Elephant	*Loxodonta cyclotis*	Bwindi (sounds)
African Savanna Elephant	*Loxodonta africana*	Murchison Falls NP
African Savanna Hare	*Lepus microtis*	Murchison Falls NP
Banded Mongoose	*Mungos mungo*	Mburo
Black-fronted Duiker	*Cephalophus kivuensis*	Bwindi
Blue Monkey	*Cercopithecus mitis*	Bwindi
Boehm’s Bush Squirrel	*Paraxerus boehmi*	Bwindi
Bohor Reedbuck	*Redunca bohor*	Murchison Falls NP
Carruther’s Mountain Squirrel	*Funisciurus carruthersi*	Bwindi
Chimpanzee	*Pan troglodytes*	Kibale
Common Hippopotamus	*Hippopotamus amphibius*	Murchison Falls NP
Common Patas Monkey	*Erythrocebus patas*	Murchison Falls NP
Common Warthog	*Phacochoerus africanus*	Multiple
Eastern (Mountain) Gorilla	*Gorilla beringei*	Bwindi
Giraffe	*Giraffa camelopardalis*	Murchison Falls NP
Gray-cheeked Mangabey	*Lophocebus albigena*	Kibale
Impala	*Aepyceros melampus*	Mburo
Jackson’s Hartebeest	*Alcelaphus buselaphus*	Murchison Falls NP

L'Hoest's Monkey	*Allochrocebus lhoesti*	Multiple
Lion	*Panthera leo*	Queen Elizabeth National Park
Olive Baboon	*Papio anubis*	Multiple
Oribi	*Ourebia ourebi*	Murchison Falls NP
Plains Zebra	*Equus quagga boehmi*	Mburo
Red-tailed Monkey	*Cercopithecus ascanius*	Multiple
Red-Legged Sun Squirrel	*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*	Bwindi
Rusty-spotted Genet	*Genetta maculata*	Mburo
Ruwenzori Horseshoe Bat	*Rhinolophus ruwenzorii*	Bwindi
Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel	*Heliosciurus ruwenzorii*	Bwindi
Side-striped Jackal	*Lupulella adustus*	Bwindi
Sitatunga	*Tragelaphus spekii*	Bwindi
Southern Tree Hyrax	*Dendrohyrax arboreus*	Mburo
Spectacled Lesser Galago	*Galago matschiei*	Bwindi
Spotted Hyena	*Crocuta crocuta*	Murchison Falls NP
Spotted-necked Otter	*Hydrictis maculicollis*	Nakiwogo
Thomas’s Rope Squirrel	*Funisciurus anerythrus*	Bwindi
Uganda Topi	*Damaliscus ugandae*	Queen Elizabeth National Park
Uganda Grey-cheeked Mangabey	*Lophocebus ugandae*	Kibale
Uganda Kob	*Kobus kob*	Murchison Falls NP
Ugandan Red Colobus	*Piliocolobus tephrosceles*	Kibale

Vervet Monkey	*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*	Multiple
Waterbuck (Defassa)	*Kobus defassa*	Multiple
West African Ground Squirrel	*Xerus erythropus*	Murchison Falls NP
Yellow-winged Bat	*Lavia frons*	Murchison Falls NP