

## Uganda Birding Safari

### 12 Days Tailor-made safari | Departure; Any day

#### Highlights

- Shoebills in Mabamba Swamp.
- Game viewing in Lake Mburo National Park.
- Gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- Game viewing in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale Forest National Park

#### Overview

**Uganda Birding Safari:** Uganda's remarkable avian diversity (1,061 species, of which two are endemic and four are rare or accidental) can be attributed to its location between the East African savannah, West African rainforests, and semi-desert of the North. Uganda offers easy access to bird-rich habitats that are difficult to reach elsewhere. The country has only two endemics, but if you only consider East Africa, you could count 150 species found only in Uganda. Migrant birds are present from November to April.

The 12-Day Uganda Birding Safari takes you to the top Uganda Birding Destinations, including [Mabamba Swamp](#), [Lake Mburo National Park](#), Ruhiji in [Bwindi Impenetrable Forest](#), [Queen Elizabeth National Park](#), Nyamusingiri, and [Kibale Forest National Park](#).

#### Itinerary

##### DAY 01

##### **Arrival at the Entebbe International Airport.**

Our guide will warmly welcome and transfer you to your hotel for a briefing about your tour. If you arrive early, you will have the opportunity of birding in Mabamba Wetlands to look for the endangered Shoebill stork. Other birds such as the four globally threatened species and other species of regional significance, i.e., the Pallid Harrier, Papyrus Gonolek, White-winged Warbler, and the Blue Swallow, amongst others, can also be seen on this tour. Overnight at the hotel.

##### DAY 02

##### **To Mabamba; and Lake Mburo National Park.**

After breakfast, drive back to Mabamba for further opportunities to find Shoebill and other species of interest missed on the first day. There are seasonal migrants such as Gull-billed Terns, White-winged Black Terns, Whiskered Terns, and residents such as Grey-headed Gulls. Other interesting species in the marsh include a good number of Goliath Herons, Spur-winged and Pygmy Geese, Papyrus Yellow Warbler, Papyrus Gonolek, and several migratory waders. Later

we proceed to Lake Mburo National Park and have a stopover at the Equator. En route, we will have a stopover at Kaku Swamp to look out for more spectacular species like the Rufous-bellied Heron and Hottentot Teal, among other species such as Striped Kingfisher, Bateleur eagle, Levillant's Cuckoo, Augur Buzzard, Coqui Francolin, Lilac-breasted Roller, and many more. Overnight stays at Mantana Tented Camp or the Bandas.

**Driving time:** ± 4 hours

**Budget Accommodation:** *Rwonyo Camp or UWA bandas,*

**Luxury Accommodation:** *Mihingo Lodge, Skyblue Motel, or Mantana Luxury Tented camp*

### **DAY 03**

#### **Lake Mburo National Park – To Kabale**

After an early breakfast, we go birding in L. Mburo National Park, where we hope to spot many species. E.g., the Crested Francolin, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Spot-flanked Barbet, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, and Black-headed Gonolek. We may also take a boat to look for the African Finfoot on the lake. After lunch, we start the drive to Kabale, where we will have a good view of beautiful scenery blended with tea plantations. Look out for birds such as Lesser Masked Weaver and Common Scimitar-bill as we travel. Overnight at the hotel.

**Driving time:** ±4 hours

**Budget and Luxury.** Cephas Inn.

### **DAY 04**

#### **Kabale to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Ruhija)**

After an early breakfast with a picnic lunch, we start birding en route to Ruhija. We may be lucky to spot Black-fronted and Yellow-backed duikers along the road while birding. Keep eyes open for the Long-crested Eagle, Mountain Buzzard, Handsome Francolin, Grey Crowned Crane, and Olive Pigeon, amongst others.

Overnight at Gorilla Forest camp, Lake Kitandara, or Buhoma Homestead.

### **DAY 05**

#### **In Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**

After another early breakfast, we start birding Bwindi Impenetrable Forest looking for species such as African Crowned Eagle, Bat Hawk, African Harrier-hawk, African Goshawk, Wahlberg's eagle, Ayre's Hawk-eagle, Red-chested Flufftail, Temminck's Courser, Great Blue Turaco, Black-billed Turaco, Ross's Turaco, a variety of sunbirds and many more. Keep eyes open, especially for Albertine rift endemics such as the Dusky and Shelley's crimson wings, Regal sunbird, and Rwenzori batis, amongst others.

### **DAY 06**

### **In Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**

Another early rising and breakfast. Start the gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest for those who opted for tracking. Before the tracking, we head to the briefing point for a briefing on the dos and don'ts while in the jungle with the gentle giants. You are provided with walking sticks and advised to carry packed lunch & adequate drinking water with you. The treks to find the Mountain Gorillas can be pretty strenuous depending on the locations of the gorillas from the starting point. But with scouts, guides, and porters, if we are lucky, we shall be rewarded with views of one of the most extraordinary creatures in Africa.

Overnight at Gorilla Forest camp or lake Kitandara or Buhoma Homestead.

### **DAY 07**

#### **To Queen Elizabeth National Park.**

After breakfast, we embark on our journey to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Upon arrival, we engage in a game drive to look out for birds like the Goliath Heron, Palm-nut Vulture, Brown Snake Eagle, Martial Eagle, African Crake, Senegal & Water Thickness, and Kittlitz's Plover, amongst others. Overnight and dinner at Mweya Safari Lodge or Jacana Safari Camp.

### **DAY 08**

#### **In Queen Elizabeth National Park**

We start with an early game drive where we hope to spot the Lion, Spotted Hyena, the rare Giant Forest Hog, and the various birds in this great park with a list of over 600 bird species. More birding after breakfast and a return to the lodge for lunch overlooking the Kazinga channel where many species of animals, including elephants and Buffalo, come to drink. We can also expect to see Weavers and Robin-chats by the restaurant and sometimes Swamp flycatcher in the restaurant itself. In the afternoon, we shall have a launch cruise to explore the Kazinga Channel between Lakes Edward and George; we will see a variety of wildlife and many birds.

Overnight and dinner at Mweya Safari Lodge or Jacana Safari Camp.

### **DAY 09**

#### **Bird watching Nyamusingiri.**

To ensure an early start, we take a packed breakfast and proceed to bird in the Maramagambo forest area around Lake Nyamusingiri. We search for the Black Bee Eater, Shining Blue Kingfisher, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Red-collared Widowbird Honeyguide Greenbul, Snow-capped Robin-Chat together with Barbets, Tinkerbirds, Woodpeckers, and Apalises. After lunch, we go birding to Kibale National Park, where we shall see the Kibale Ground-thrush, found once and never found again, and it is the best place in Africa to see Chimpanzee. The forest holds 13 primate species, including Red Colobus and L'Hoest's Monkey.

Overnight at Ndali Lodge or Primate Lodge, or primate lodge.

### **DAY 10**

### **In Kibale Forest National Park**

Today we embark on birding in the Kibale Forest and Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary. We will be in search of the Black-billed Turaco, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Hair-breasted Barbet, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Papyrus Gonolek, White-collared Olive Back, and Superb Sunbird, Grey-headed Sunbird. Overnight at Ndali Lodge or Primate Lodge.

### **DAY 11**

### **In Kibale Forest National Park**

After breakfast, we visit Kibale Forest National Park, which is reputed to have the most incredible variety and the highest concentration of primates in East Africa. The Chimpanzee, our closest relative, is the most famous of its 13 species. Kibale is also home to the rare I'Hoest's monkey. Other primates include the black and white Colobus, Blue monkey, Grey-cheeked mangabey, Red tailed monkey, and Olive baboon, to mention but a few. So you will enjoy a guided nature walk in the tropical rainforest in search of the wild chimpanzees, red-tailed monkeys, black and white colobus monkeys, and many others. After lunch, we explore the Crater Lake region, which has many crater lakes. Dinner and overnight at either Primate Lodge or Ndali Lodge.

### **DAY 12**

**End of trip and departure back to Kampala.**