

Three weeks of Uganda fixed date Group bird watching and wildlife tour

Trip dates are fixed every year

18 th May to 10 th June
21 st Nov to 13 th Dec
5 th Dec to 28 th Dec

Overview

The trip is designed to cover 95% of Uganda's birding hotspots. Chance to hit a checklist of over 600 species of birds, rare species and a large array of Uganda mammals, learning a lot about African natural history and culture, tasting and experiencing the local food dishes while learning from one another.

This trip cannot be bought by a single traveler but a couple can join the troupe. The trip needs at least three (3) participants to run and a maximum of seven (7) to be able to travel as one in a single customized tourist van/ stretch land cruiser. Two groups we call for an extra car.

Trip costs are budget, and payments are per person acceptable only in United States dollars (USD).

- ✓ **Cost includes:** all park fees, all activities (unless labeled as optional), meals and accommodation (unless listed as upgrade), driver/guiding fees, car hire and fuel, site guiding fees, boat cruise fee, airport transfer, Taxes during trip, drinking water during day trip (at least 1.5Litres per person per day), one day rest room at the end of the trip.
- ✓ **Cost does not include:** tips, drinks, souvenirs, visa fees, flight costs, medication fees, money exchange/transfer costs

Number of participants	Costs are per person in the group (usd)	Accommodation in plan
1person	N/A	
2persons	\$5,500	1 room
3persons	\$4,400	1 room plus one single room supplement at \$400
4persons	\$3,901	2 rooms
5persons	\$3,195	2 rooms plus one single supplement at \$370
6persons	\$3,000	3 rooms

Day 1.Pickup and add Mabamba.

(stay at Nkima Lodge Inight, all meals included drinks excluded)

Birding Mabamba swamp situated west Entebbe. This morning, we have an early breakfast, and go birding to Mabamba. One of a few remaining productive wetland in Uganda protected by the local communities. extensive papyrus swamps with labyrinth's channels and lagoons, classified as an important bird area (IBA), it's a home of multiple Shoebills-Uganda's most famous avian resident and the only representative in its family, is the amongst most sought after birds in Africa! Its only traced by canoeing through the channels by the wooden boat. other likes of Mabamba include; **Papyrus Gonolek, Blue-Breasted Bee-Eater, Lesser Jacana, African**

Jacana, White-Winged Black Tern, Grey-Headed Gull, African Skimmers, Little Egret, Long-Toed Lapwing, Spur-Winged Lapwing etc

Day 2. Transfer to Mount Elgon lunchbreak at Mbale town

(Stay at Crow's nest camp/kapkwai cottages 2 nights, all meals included drinks excluded)

Day 3. Birding in Kapkwai forest.

Today go birding with packed lunch and sight guide in the Kapkwai forest. Look out for specialities like **Jacksons Francolin, tacazze sunbird, red-fronted parrot, elgon francolin, Hartlaubs turaco, golden-winged sunbird, grey-throated barbet, montane oriole, black collard apalis** among more other conspicuous of true forest, and other mammals like **black and white colobus, blue monkey**. Later visit the sipi falls.

Day 4. Morning birding in the outskirts of Elgon and later transfer to PianUpe national park.

(stay at UWA bandas or Kara tunga camp 2 nights, all meals included drinks not included)

Pian-upe with its predominant cover of mixed acacia savanna, is an extension of an eastern savanna belt of north Kenya, and same as for aboseli-tsavo. Pian-upe was named after two pastoralists tribe i.e the pian(a sub-group of the karamajong and Upe akalenjin-speaking people (pokot of Kenya). Those two groups have a common conflict tha is related to cattle rustling

Day 5. birding in the park.

Today with a sight guide we drive for short distance to the park entrance and do game walk while birding. Birds to lookout here **Fox's weaver** the only Ugandan endemic species, **Karamoja Apalis, dark chanting gosh-hawk, yellow-necked francolin, white-headed buffalo weaver, ostrich** Mammals like **buffalo, Eland, greater kudu, dik dik** are not to miss in this park

Day 6. Drive through Matheneko game reserve

(Rest at kotido town kotido resort or Kaabongo resort hotel Or Moroto Inght all meals included drinks not included)

With our picnic lunch, we drive at a slower pace through nakapiripirit and matheneko looking out for **straw-tailed whydah, steel-blue whydah, wattled starling, chestnut weavers, eastern violet-backed sunbird, mousetouchedpenduline tit, red-billed buffalo weaver** etc

Day 7. Transfer to Kidepo valley national park.

(Stay at savanna logde 2 nights, all meals included drinks not included)

Kidepo lies in the far northeast of Uganda, isolated from the rest of the country by the sparsely populated, arid badlands of karamoja region. Kidepo is nevertheless one of the most alluring destinations in the country boosting a strong wilderness atmosphere, rugged mountain scenery and exceptional game viewing and bird watching The birds checklist about 460 spp, more than 60 spp have been recorded nowhere in other national parks in Uganda!. Mammals like **black-backed jackal, aardwolf, cheetah, bat-eared fox** are only recorded in this national park in Uganda.

Day 8. Birding in the park.

Today with our packed lunch go with a ranger guide to the park for game walk while birding. Birds to see include, **jacksons hornbill, red-billed hornbill, grey-headed batis, white-fronted black chat, stone patriage, African crane, rufous chatterer** etc

Day 9. Transfer to Murchison falls national park.

(Stay at mama washindi lodge Inight all meals included, drinks not included)

Quite long journey with several stops to stretch and look at some birds. Today we depart for Murchison falls national park, stopover at Gulu town for lunch. Murchison falls with its spectacular water falls, prolific game and clutch of outstanding lodges is universally regarded as one of East Africa's most compelling national parks. It lies at the core of the greater Murchison Falls Conservation Area, and famous of its world's powerful falls being transformed into an explosive froth of thunderous falls as it funnels through a narrow cleft (just 6m wide!) in the Rift Valley Escarpment-is easily the most impressive site of its type in Africa

Day 10. Birding in the park whole day and boat cruise at the Nile to bottom of the falls.

(stay at Masindi hotel, all meals included drinks not included)

Today with our lunch and baggage packed, we drive to the park for morning game drive and evening boat ride to the bottom of the falls. Birds here are **northern carmine bee-eater, red-throated bee-eater, rock pranticole, red-winged warbler, garden warbler, pigmy sunbird**, etc. 4 of the big 5 African big five can be seen here, giraffs not to be missed

Day 11. Birding in Budongo- the Royal mile.

Today we have a birding excursion to the above unique site within the Murchison Falls Conservation Area. We shall start early and head to the Royal Mile where many ceremonies of the Bunyoro kingdom took place before this was a conservation area. Enroute we shall have some birding stopovers (walk) to look out for bird species like the **Singing Cisticola, Cabanis's Bunting, Dark Capped Yellow Warbler, Grey Headed Olive Back, Brown Twinspot, Black Bellied Fire Finch** Birding here is excellent with an open interior and gives us unique bird species like the **Ituri Batis, Lemon Bellied Crombec, Firest Warbler, Dusky Longtailed Cuckoo, Dwarf, Blue Yellow Longbill, African Crowned-Eagle, Forest Flycatcher, Yellow-Browed Camaroptera, Grey-Backed Camaroptera** etc

Day 12. Transfer to Semuliki national park.

(stay at Bumaga UWA bandas Inights, all meals included drinks not included)

After breakfast, checkout and depart for Semuliki. This being quite a long journey, it will take big percentage of our time this day traveling, but we shall be having several strategic stops to stretch our legs and have a look at birds. Lunch break at Nguse River camp/fort portal town

Day 13. Birding in Semuliki national park

(stay at Kibale forest cottages 2nights, all meals included drinks not included)

Uganda's most exciting birding destination! Semliki is of particular interest to birdwatchers: **435 bird species** have been recorded, including a high proportion of forest birds and about **45 species** seen nowhere else in Uganda including rarity of the smallest **African piculet**. For amateur birders, Semliki is not only certain to

throw up a clutch of “lifers”- it also offers a faint but real possibility of a brand-new East African record like **Congo Serpent-Eagle, Grey-Throated Rail, and Black-Throated Coucal**. Only 53 mammal species occur and 11 species seen nowhere else in Uganda including **Pygmy Antelope, Two Types of Flying Squirrels and Six Types of Bats**. Other interesting birds here are; **Orange-Checked Waxbill, White-Crowned Hornbill, Western Bronze-Napped Pigeon, Swamp Bulbul, Willcock’s Honeyguide, Crested Malimbe, Blue-Breasted Kingfisher,**

Day 14. birding in kibale and optional chimpanzee tracking.

wake up early at 5:00am and prepare ourselves for the most sought bird the **Green-breasted Pitta!** Thereafter we continue normal birding getting out from the forest to our hotel for lunch break. Kibale is a home of 13 primates and about 375 bird species. Primates include; **L’Hoest’s Monkey, Red Colobus Monkey, Bush Baby, Olive Baboon, Red-Tailed Monkey, Grey-Cheeked Mangabey, Black And White Colobus, Blue Monkey, Chimpanzee etc.** and a long list of sought bird species like; **Afep Pigeon, Red-Winged Francolin, Narina Trogon, Bar-Tailed Trogon, Black-Billed Turaco, Black Bee-Eater, White-Headed Wood-Hoopoe.** Afternoon chimpanzee tracking experience.

Day 15. morning birding in bigodi swamp later in the morning transfer to Queen Elizabeth National park. *(stay at pumba safari lodge/engiri safari lodge 2nights, all meals included drinks not included)*

Day 16. Whole day birding in queen Elizabeth national park, afternoon launch cruise at kazinga channel.

Queen Elizabeth national park is the second largest after Murchison falls national park with 95 mammal species the highest for any Ugandan national park! and about 610 bird species a truly remarkable figure for a reserve that is relatively smaller by continental standards. The likes in this park include; **Broad Tailed Warbler, Martial Eagle, African Skimmer, Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl, Amur Falcon, African Skimmer, Striated Heron, African Spoonbill, Water Thick-Knee, Three-banded Plover, Marsh, Green, Wood and Common Sandpiper, Gray-headed Gull, Plain Martin, Lesser Swamp-Warbler, White-Winged Warbler, Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl, Ovambo Sparrowhawk,** etc. mammals include; **Cape Buffalo, Lions, Elephants, Uganda Kobs, Waterbacks, African giant hog, Olive Baboon, Velvet Monkey, Tantalus Monkey,** in the kyambura gorge we find the **Chimps, Blue and Red Tailed Monkey** etc.

Day 17. transfer to Bwindi gorilla national park-Buhoma sector. *(stay at buhoma community camp/ ride for a woman 2nights all meals included, drinks not included)*

Day 18. Birding in buhoma, optional gorilla tracking.

Forest birding in Bwindi ranks the best in Uganda with the best sight guides who use their mouth whistles to call birds. At the main trail we bird all the way to Mubwindi swamp and the specials to look at are; **Chapin’s Flycatcher, Blue-Headed Sunbird, Regal Sunbird, Rockefeller’s Sunbird, Purple-Breasted Sunbird, Strange Weaver, Dusky Crimson-Wing, Red-Collard Mountain Babbler, Chapin’s Mountain Babbler, Grauer’s Warbler, Neumann’s’ Warbler, Prigogine’s Greenbul, Black-Faced Apalis, Collard Apalis, Stripe-Breasted Tit, Grauer’s Cuckooshrike, Yellow-Crested Helmetshrike, Ruwenzori Batis, African Green Broadbill, Dwarf Honeyguide** etc.

Day 19. Transfer to Ruhijja Sector of Bwindi/Kisoro through the neck. *(stay at Broadbill forest camp, 2nights or kisololo all meals included, drinks not included)*

Transfer while birding to Ruhija through the “NECK” a stopover at the NECK is rich to see; **the African black duck, black bee-eater, white-eyed slaty flycatcher** etc.

Day 20. Whole birding in Ruhija or Mugahinga.

The likes of greys broadbill, Rwenzori batis, white-stared robin etc

Day 21. Transfer to lake Mburu national park.

(Stay at eagle's nest camp 2 nights, all meals included. Drinks not included)

After breakfast we depart for lake Mburu national park, long route our drive takes more hours of our day having strategic stops to stretch our legs and look at birds.

Day 22. Whole birding Lake Mburu national park.

While in the park we shall look out for birds like; **African-Grey Hornbill, Black-Loard Babbler, Red-Headed Weaver, Greater Blue-Eared Starling, Trilling Cisticola, Green-Wood Hoopoe, Brown-Chested Lapwing, Scaly-Throated Honeyguide, Lesser-Masked Weaver, White-Backed Vulture, Tabora Cisticola, Crested-Spurfowl, Red-Faced Barbet, Little Bee-Eater** Etc. And Mammals Like **the Zebra, Eland, Topi, Impala, Cape Buffalo, Warthog** etc. today we target the boat ride along lake Mburu where we hardly miss **African Finfoot, White Backed and Black Crowned Night Heron, Giant Kingfisher**. A night drive always produces good views of **Black Shouldered, Northern Tanzania Fiery Necked Nightjar, Nocturnal Mammals and Bush Babies**.

Day 23. Transfer to Entebbe airport for flight back home END!

Please Note;

The trip is being revised and customized time to time, making any necessary changes due to changes in nature or finance market to keep it updated and avoiding any inconveniences during your booking and travelling processes.