

## **UGANDA 16 DAYS OF BIRDING, WILDLIFE AND GORILLAS last two weeks June 2020. Exact date TBA**

### **Approximate itinerary**

**Day 1: Arrive in Uganda. Transfer to the hotel for a night.**

**Stay at Boma Hotel**

**Day 2: Birding Mabamba Wetlands then travel to Lake Mburo.**

Early breakfast, then out to nearby Mabamba Wetlands on the shores of Lake Victoria. This is one of the few remaining swamps in the country protected by the local communities – an extensive papyrus swamp with its labyrinth of channels and lagoons, classified as an Important Bird Area, and home to several pairs of Shoebills, Uganda's most famous avian resident. This charismatic monotypic species is certainly amongst the most sought-after birds in Africa, and we'll make special efforts today to find it by paddling through the channels by boat. There will of course be a good selection of classic East African water birds, including Long-tailed Cormorant, Goliath Heron, African Open-billed, Saddle-billed, and Marabou Storks, Hammerkop, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Yellow-billed Duck, African Fish-Eagle, African

Marsh-Harrier, African Water Rail, Purple Swamphen, Allen's Gallinule, African Jacana, Long-toed and Spur-winged Plovers. Apart from the numerous water birds, we are likely to see a nice variety of open country and water edge species, perhaps including Speckled Pigeon, African Green Pigeon, Eastern Plantain-eater, Malachite, Giant, and Pied Kingfishers, Blue-headed Coucal, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Crowned Hornbill, Angola and Rufous-chested Swallows, Winding Cisticola, Greater and Lesser Swamp-Warblers, Papyrus Yellow Warblers, Swamp Flycatcher, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Papyrus Gonolek, Slender-billed, Northern Brown-throated, and Golden-backed Weavers, and Papyrus Canary.

In the afternoon we'll travel to our first of many national parks, Lake Mburo. This park has varied habitats from open Acacia woodlands, to a number of papyrus-lined lakes and swamps.

We'll have the afternoon and the following day to cover several different habitats. Some of the many species we'll search for en route to the park, around the woodland in the immediate vicinity of Rwonyo (at lake Mburo) and within the park include Black headed, Squacco, and Rufous-bellied Herons, Hadada Ibis, Yellow-billed (Black) Kite, Spur-winged Goose, Comb Duck, Black-chested Snake-Eagle, Lizard Buzzard, Palm-nut and White-backed Vultures, Wahlberg's and Verreaux's Eagles, Crested Francolin, Crowned Crane, African Finfoot, Black-bellied Bustard, Temminck's and Bronze-winged Coursers, Senegal, Crowned, Wattled, and Brown-chested Lapwings, Emerald Spotted and Blue-spotted Wood Doves, Brown Parrot, Red-eyed Dove, Bare-faced Go-away Bird, White-browed Coucal, Speckled and Blue-naped Mousebirds, Little, White-rumped and African Palm Swifts, Woodland Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted and Broad-billed Rollers, Green Wood-



Shoebill



Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, African Grey, Spot-flanked Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Angola Swallow, African Pied Wagtail, African and Long-billed Pipits, Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike, Dark-capped Bulbul, African Thrush, Trilling Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Grey-capped Warbler, Red-faced Crombec, White-winged Black Tit, Chinspot Batis, Mariqua, Olive-bellied, and Red-chested Sunbirds, Pied Crow, Greater Blue-eared, Splendid, Rüppell's Long-tailed Starlings, Black-headed, Northern Brown-throated, Village, Vieillot's Black, and Slender-billed Weavers, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow, Bronze Mannikin, and Yellow-fronted Canary. If we are lucky, we will even see the nomadic Weyn's Weaver.

### **Stay at Rwakobo Rock Lodge**

### **Day 3: Whole day birding, game drive & a boat cruise in the park.**

There are chances of viewing mammals such as Zebra, Topi, Elephant, Eland, Impala, Buffalo, Water Buck, etc.

Birds you have chances of viewing include Black-headed Oriole, White-backed Scrub Robin, Bateleur, Ruppel's Long-tailed Starling, Common Bulbul, Brown Parrot, Ruppel's Griffon Vulture, Grey Hornbill, White-browed Coucal, Lesser Masked, Weaver, Water Thick-knee, Wood Hoopoe, Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Woodland Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Little Bee-eater, Chinspot, Tawny Eagle, Senegal Lapwing, Plain-backed Pipit, Greater Honeyguide, Sooty Chat, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Red-faced Crombec, Brown-tailed, Bronze-tailed Starlings, Northern Brubru, Grey Kestrel, Coqui Francolin, Broad-billed Roller, Grassland Pipit, and Golden-breasted Bunting White backed Night Heron, Shinning blue Kingfisher, Papyrus Gonolek, Carruther's cisticola, Giant Kingfisher etc.

### **Stay at Rwakobo Rock Lodge**

### **Day 4: Birding to Ruhija**

The road out of Lake Mburo National Park is good for birding. You will have chances of picking up a few species as you drive to Bwindi. African Cuckoo-hawk, Conqui Francolin, Scaly Francolin, Lilac Breasted Roller, are likely to be spotted along the road.

Bwindi National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to approximately half of the world endangered population of Mountain Gorillas. This vast reserve offers arguably the most productive montane forest birding in Africa and supports 23 of Uganda's 24 Albertine Rift endemic bird species.

Once part of a much larger forest that included the Virunga Volcanoes in neighboring Rwanda, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is now an ecological island within a sea of human cultivation and therefore of big conservation importance.

### **Stay at Gorilla Mist Camp.**

#### **Day 5: Birding Mubwindi Swamp**

Ruhija is likely to be one of the highlights of any bird watching safari to Uganda with excellent birding in spectacular surroundings. The Birds are many here and somehow easy to see; many bird species associating in mixed feeding flocks that are active throughout the day. An early start offers the best chance of finding the striking Dwarf Honeyguide, Stripe-breasted Tit, Ruwenzori Apalis, African Hill Babbler (sometimes treated as a separate species from Ruwenzori Hill Babbler), the rare and localized Grauer's Scrub-Warbler and Carruther's Cisticola. Some of the many species we have a chance of seeing here include Black Goshawk, Augur Buzzard, Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Handsome Francolin, Olive (Rameron) Pigeon, Bronze-winged Pigeon, Black-billed, Ruwenzori, and Ross's Turacco, African, Barred Long-tailed, and African Emerald Cuckoos, Red-chested Owlet, Narina and Bar-tailed Trogons, Black and Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, Blue-throated Roller, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Gray-throated, Double-toothed, and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Western and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Thick-billed and Dwarf Honeyguides, Rufous-necked Wryneck, Tullberg's, Speckle-breasted, Elliot's, and Olive Woodpeckers, African Broadbill, Rock Martin, Black Saw-wing, Gray and Petit's Cuckoo-Shrike, Ansorge's, Kakamega, Olive-chested, and Cabanis' Greenbuls, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Kivu Ground-Thrush, Olive and Mountain Thrushes, Red-throated Alethe, Chubb's Cisticola, Banded Prinia, Ruwenzori, Black-throated, and Black-faced Apalis, Olive-green Camaroptera, Grauer's and Cameroon Scrub- Warblers, Cinnamon and Black-faced Bracken-Warblers, Mountain Yellow Warbler, White-browed Crombec, Short-tailed Warbler, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, White-eyed Slaty- Flycatcher, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Sooty Flycatcher, Chapin's Flycatcher, White-starred Robin, White-bellied and Archer's Robin-Chats, Ruwenzori Batis, White-tailed, Slaty, and African Blue-Flycatchers, Puvell's, Pale-breasted, Mountain, and Gray-chested Illadopses, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Gray-headed, Western Violet-backed, Green, Green-headed, Blue-headed, Green-throated, Stuhlmann's, Northern Double-collared, and Regal Sunbirds, Mackinnon's Shrike, Ludher's, Gray-green, Many-colored, and Lagden's Bush-shrikes, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Slender-billed, Waller's, Narrow-tailed, Stuhlmann's, and Sharpe's Starlings, Black-billed, Strange, and Brown-capped Weavers, Jameson's and Woodhouse's Ant-peckers, and Red-faced and Dusky Crimson-wings.

### **Stay at Gorilla Mist Camp.**

#### **Day 6: Birding to Buhoma through "The Neck".**

We bird to Buhoma section through "The Neck". The Neck (where the forest narrows) offers excellent forest birding. Key species that we will look for there include many of the Albertine Rift Endemics that we may not have seen earlier. These include Handsome Francolin, Rwenzori Nightjar, Dwarf Honeyguide, African Green Broadbill, Archer's Robin-Chat, Red-throated Alethe, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Short-tailed Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Mountain Masked Apalis, Collared Apalis, Stripe-breasted Tit,

Rwenzori Batis, Blue-headed Sunbird, Regal Sunbird, Strange Weaver, Dusky Crimsonwing. A few other species we may encounter as well include Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Fine-banded and Cardinal Woodpeckers, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Kakamega Greenbul, Red-tailed Greenbul, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Mountain Wagtail, Cassin's Flycatcher, Equatorial Akalat, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Dusky Tit, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Red-headed Malimbe, Dusky Twinspot, Cape Wagtail, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Mackinnon's Fiscal, and Western Citril.

### **Stay at Ride for a woman Hotel**

#### **Day 7: Gorilla Tracking.**



On this day, we set off early, with packed lunch, to the park headquarters for a briefing prior to Gorilla Tracking. This is the most exciting lifetime experience of all time. The gorillas are gentle animals and it is an unforgettable experience to photograph them as they interact. It is a wonderful experience to stare in to the eyes of these gentle giants; watch them in awe as they play and go about their daily activities. It is indeed a "once in a lifetime" experience that you must never miss. Each encounter is different and has its own rewards; you are likely to enjoy the close view of adults feeding, grooming and resting as the youngsters frolic and swing from vines in a delightfully playful display. We will also look for other primates like the L' Hoest Monkey, Guerezza Colobus; Red tailed, and Blue monkeys. Mammals include the Rwenzori

Duiker, Yellow back duiker, Caruther's, Bohm's and Alexander Squirrels, and many other species.

### **Stay at Ride for a woman Hotel**

#### **Day 8: Birding to Queen Elizabeth national park.**

Today we shall start early and transfer to Queen Elizabeth National park through the Ishasha sector of queen Elizabeth National Park (popularly known for its tree climbing lions) while birding on the way. Birding on the way may produce species such as Grey capped Warbler, African Long Crested Eagle, Augur Buzzard, Mackinnon's Fiscal, Black headed waxbill, Black and white Manikin, Senegal Coucal, Red Chested Cuckoo, and others.

The Park which is named after the Queen of England who visited it in 1954 is the second largest national park in Uganda. In terms of diversity this park ranks among the best birding destinations in Uganda with over 610 species recorded, and a one day record of 296 species. Hard-core birders will be treated to special birds of this park that include Harlequin Quail, Blue Quail, Small (Common) Buttonquail, African Crake, White winged Warbler, Martial Eagle, African Skimmer, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Papyrus Gonolek, Amur Falcon, Ovampo Sparrowhawk, Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Shoebill, Black Bee-eater, Caruthers's Cisticola, Terek Sandpiper, Secretary Bird, and Temminck's Courser. Mammals include African Elephant, Spotted Hyena, Leopard, Lion, Ugandan Kobs, Side-striped Jackal, Baboons, Chimpanzees, Bush and Water Bucks, Warthogs, Giant Forest Hogs to mention but a few.

**Stay at Enganzi Lodge.**

**Day 9: Game Drive in the Park & afternoon Launch Cruise on Kazinga Channel**

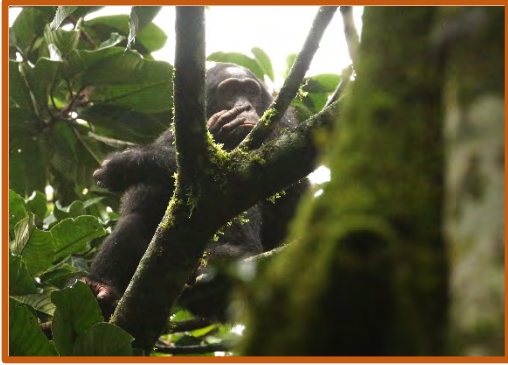
After breakfast we set out for a whole day game and birdwatching drive in the park. Later in the afternoon you have an exciting boat cruise on the Kazinga channel. The launch is one of the most exciting water activities in Uganda. The channel is a narrow neck of water that connects Lakes George and Edward, with excellent photographic opportunities for waterside birds and abundant Hippopotamus. Amongst the birds you are likely to encounter include 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 and Yellow-billed Oxpecker.

**Stay at Enganzi Lodge.**

**Day 10: Birding to Kibale National Park.**

After breakfast, we will drive to Kibale forest. Kibale forest national park is the best safari destination for chimpanzee tracking in East Africa. It contains one of the loveliest and most varied tracts of all tropical forests in Uganda. It hosts 13 species of primates including the chimpanzee. It has 1450 chimpanzees and these represent Uganda's largest population of this endangered primate. It is also home to the rare L'hoest's monkey and East Africa's largest population of the threatened Red Colobus Monkey. Other primates that you may see include the Guerezza Colobus, Blue monkey, Grey cheeked Mangabey, Red tailed monkey, Olive Baboon, Bushbabies and Pottos. Kibale forest cover predominates in the northern and central parts of the park. Kibale is highest at the park's northern tip which stands at 1590m above sea level. The park also boasts 325 bird species, including 6 that are endemic to the Albertine rift region. If you are lucky you may also see the African pitta, Green breasted pitta, Black bee eater, Yellow rumped Tinkerbird, Little Greenbul, Black eared Ground-thrush, Brown chested Alethe, Blue breasted kingfisher, Abyssinian ground thrush, and the crowned eagle.





### **Stay at Chimpanze Guest House.**

#### **Day 11: Bird Kibale National Park (Kanyanchu)**

Today, we bird Kibale National Park! Kibale National Park is one of the rain forests in Uganda and more to that, is famous for its primates. It is home to 13 primate species making it the number one

protected area with the biggest primate numbers on the African continent. These primates include Chimpanzee, Red Colobus, Black and white Colobus, Red-tailed Monkey, Grey-cheeked Mangabey among others. Chimpanzee trekking being the major attraction of the park. It is a home to 325 species of birds like the Red-chested Owlet, Green-breasted Pitta, White-spotted Flufftail among others.

After a very early breakfast, we proceed to bird the vicinity of Kanyanchu, looking out for the spectacular GREEN-BREASTED PITTA and other species like Yellow-billed Barbet, African Emerald Cuckoo, Black-billed Turaco, Narina Trogon, Blue-shouldered Robin-chat, Sabine's Spinetail, Chestnut Wattle eye, Narrow-tailed Starling among others;

### **Stay at Chimpanzee Guest House.**

#### **Day 12: Birding to Budongo forest**

Today more time is spent on the road up North. This is one of the very dirt roads of Uganda. There shall be a few stops for birding along the way. Optional birding along the main road at Budongo Busingiro is possible.

### **Stay at Masindi Hotel.**

#### **Day 13: Whole day bird watching in the Royal Mile**

A short bird watching drive from the Hotel at dawn will take us to one of the best of Uganda's birdwatching spots, the Royal Mile. This is Uganda's historically known leisure spot for the traditional King, hence the name Royal Mile. Here the forest has been cut back a few meters along the sides of the main trail, which makes it a particularly good viewing area in this excellent forest.

Uganda Special Bird species here include White-thighed and Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills, Yellow-spotted and Yellow billed Barbets, Western Black-headed Oriole, along with Red-tailed and Blue Monkeys. Overhead, Sabine's and sometimes Cassin's Spinetails soar over the clearings. As we walk quietly along the trail, Red-tailed Ant-Thrushes skulk in the shadows, as do Red-tailed Bristlebill, Scaly-breasted, Pale-breasted and Brown Illadopsis. Greenbuls are always a challenge and include Cameroon Sombre, Slender-billed, Honey guide and Spotted Greenbul, whilst other regular species are Speckled Tinkerbird, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher Yellow-crested Woodpecker, Green Crombec, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Buff-throated Apalis, and both White-breasted and Grey-headed Negro

finches. Lower down we should see African Dwarf Kingfishers, White-spotted Flufftails and the elusive Nahan's Francolin, believed to be one of the most handsome of all Ugandan birds. Other possibilities here are Great Sparrowhawk, Cassin's Hawk-eagle, Crested Guinea fowl, Tambourine Dove, Grey Parrot, African Emerald and Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoos, Yellow bill, White-throated Bee-eater, Yellow-throated Tinker bird, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Yellow-crested Woodpecker, Dusky Tit, Western Nicator, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Forest Robin, Black-throated and Black-capped Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Brown-crowned Eremomela, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Sabine's and Cassin's Spinetails, Wilcock's Honey guide, Yellow and Grey Long bills, Jameson's Wattle-eye, Blue-throated Brown and Little Green Sunbirds, Rufous Flycatcher Thrush, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Red-headed Malimbe, the Uganda Woodland Warbler and the Ituri Batis.

### **Stay at Masindi Hotel**

### **Day 14: Birding to Murchison Falls National Park.**

After breakfast, you drive northwards to Murchison Falls National Park birding through the Escarpment. Special birds include Cliff Chat, Yellow fronted Tinkerbird, Grey headed Bush Shrike, Singing Cisticola, Namaqua dove, Green Winged Pytilia, Crested Francolin, Northern and Black winged Red Bishops, Black bellied Firefinch, Black faced Waxbill and March Tchagra.



**Murchison Falls**

**Stay at Pakuba Safari Lodge.**

### **Day 15: Morning Game drive, afternoon boat cruise to the bottom of the falls**

After an early breakfast, we will have a morning game drive. In the lush Borassus grassland, you may be able to encounter elephant, buffalo, giraffe, and a variety of antelope. You may also see some lions if you are lucky. After enjoying a packed lunch, we will then have an afternoon boat trip to the bottom of the falls. Here, you might have the best chance of sighting the rare shoebills (if lucky). You will also be dazzled with a variety of water birds including species like the Secretary Bird, Abyssinian Roller and Ground Hornbill, Pied Kingfisher, Red-throated Bee-eater, Goliath Heron, Saddle-billed Stork, Sacred Ibis, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Senegal Thick-knee, Black-headed Lapwing, Long-toed Lapwing, Little Bittern, Osprey, Red-necked Falcon, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Vinaceous Dove and Grosbeak Weaver. Other specialties include Buff-bellied Warbler, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Bar-breasted Firefinch, Red-winged Grey Warbler, Spotted Morning-Thrush, Marabou Stork, Red-throated Bee-eater, Silverbird, Beautiful Sunbird, Black-headed Gonolek, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Golden-backed Weaver, White-rumped Seedeater, Pel's Fishing Owl, White Crested Turacco, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver, Carmine Bee-eater, Nightjars(Pennant-winged &Standard-winged), White-rumped Canary etc.

Mammals include; Hartebeest, Oribi, Uganda Kob, Elephants, Giraffe, Bushbuck, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard, Spotted Hyena, Jackal and Mongoose among others

**Stay at Pakuba Safari Lodge.**

**Day 16: Birding to Entebbe for late evening departure.**

### **Table showing cost for 16 day tour to Uganda 2020**

<b>No of Pax</b>	<b>Sharing (Double room) Per person</b>	<b>Single supplement</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
4pax	\$5,300 (£4336)	\$600	<b>In a 4x4 Van/Super custom</b>
6pax	\$4,950 (3995)	\$550	<b>In a Mini-Coaster</b>
8pax	\$4,400 (3575)	\$550	<b>In a Mini-Coaster</b>
10pax	\$4,100 (£3350)	\$550	<b>In a Mini-Coaster</b>

### **Plus international flight**

The gorilla permit at \$600 (456) is on top of that. (think of that as a contribution to their conservation not payment to see them. You will get that once you have seen them



## Inclusions

- Transport (4x4 comfortable van/super custom small bus)
- Driver
- Bird guide
- Accommodation (Mid range)
- Meals (Full board)
- Park entrance fees
- Birding and game drives
- Private Boat cruises (L. mburo, Kazinga channel, bottom of Murchison falls)
- Chimpanzee tracking (1permit per person)
- Enough bottled drinking water while in transit

## Exclusions

- Gorilla tracking. It is \$600 per permit.
- Tips
- Soft drinks and alcohol, laundry services

**Please check out these two reports for our last tour.**

[http://www.sandwichbirdtours.co.uk/trip\\_reports/20180626gorilla-article.pdf](http://www.sandwichbirdtours.co.uk/trip_reports/20180626gorilla-article.pdf)

[http://www.sandwichbirdtours.co.uk/trip\\_reports/Uganda-June2018trip-report.pdf](http://www.sandwichbirdtours.co.uk/trip_reports/Uganda-June2018trip-report.pdf)

John

[www.sandwichbirdtours.co.uk](http://www.sandwichbirdtours.co.uk)

March 2019