



10 DAYS GRASSLANDS BIRDING SAFARI

Tour Itinerary KT0010

Length: 10 Days

Best time of year: Any time

Key Destinations: Entebbe, Murchison Falls N/Park, Budongo Forest, The Royal Mile, Lake Mburo N/Park and Queen Elizabeth N/Park

Highlights: Attractions and activities include; Bird watching, Primate watching, Nature Walks, Canoe cruise, Chimpanzee tracking (Optional) and other related activities. Bird species may include; the Unique Shoebill, Great blue turaco, Eastern Rosella Parrot, African Green Broad bill, Archer's Robin Chat, Breasted Sunbird and much more.

Overview

The 10 Days Birding Safari takes you birding through Uganda's hot Savannah spots for birding in Entebbe, Lake Mburo National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park and Murchison National Park. This safari is for all categories of birders that is to say twitchers, young, old, learners and the safari will be led by a birding instructor with varied experience and knowledge of other wildlife. You will bird through different bird habitats; savanna grasslands, rivers and lakes, forests finding hundreds of birds as you discover the birding Savannah paradise of East Africa as well as the Pearl of Africa.

Summary of Tour

Day 1: Arrival at Entebbe Airport

Day 2: Birding to Murchison N.P

Day 3: Birding northern Murchison Falls National Park

Day 4: Birding to Budongo forest

Day 5: Birding to royal mile

Day 6: Birding to Queen Elizabeth National Park

Day 7: Birding Queen Elizabeth National Park

Day 8: Bird to Lake Mburo National Park

Day 9: Another day of Birding Lake Mburo National Park

Day 10: Birding to Entebbe-Departure

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT

On your Arrival at Entebbe Air port, you will be waemly welcomed by our representative from Afri wild Safaris who will transfer you to your hotel. Also, depending on your time of arrival, you may go birding around Entebbe area. **Dinner and overnight Stay in Luxury Lake Victoria Hotel /Mid-range Lindsay Cottages, or Budget Sophie's Motel (BB)**

DAY 2: BIRDING TO MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

06:00 hrs: After Morning breakfast, depart for Murchison Falls National Park birding enroute with a lunch stop at Masindi Hotel. After lunch, bird as you continue to Paraa via the top of the falls. Have a short walk around the top of the falls from where you can walk down to the river's edge and see the waters narrow as they are forced through a rocky cleft and plunge down 35 meters in a majestic cascade. Look out for birds like the beautiful White-crested Turaco, Greater blue-eared Starling, Cuckoos, Weavers, Raptors, White- headed Barbet, African Paradise-flycatcher, Red-cheeked Cordon blue, Waxbills, Finches, Sunbirds among other birds. **Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Paraa Safari Lodge/ Mid-range Sambiya River Lodge or Nile Safari Camp/ Budget Red Chili Camp (FB)**

DAY 3: BIRDING NORTHERN MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

07:30 hrs: Take early breakfast then we shall bird whole day with a lunch break looking out for the Denham's Bustard, White Fronted Black Chat, Northern Carmine Bee-Eater, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, , Swallow tailed Bee-Eater, Spot Flanked and Black-billed Barbet, Spotted Morning Thrush, Northern Red and Black-Winged red Bishops, Speckle fronted Sparrow Weaver, Foxy, Singing and Whistling Cisticola, White-browed Sparrow Weaver among others. **Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Paraa Safari Lodge/ Mid-range Sambiya River Lodge or Nile Safari Camp/ Budget Red Chili Camp (FB)**

DAY 4: BIRDING TO BUDONGO FOREST

06:30 hrs: After taking early morning breakfast, drive to Budongo Forest via Kaniyo Pabidi Ecotourism site. Here we will view the Puvell's Illadopsis found nowhere else in East Africa and a variety of forest birds. **Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Budongo Eco Lodge or Camp (FB)**

DAY 5: BIRDING TO ROYAL MILE

06:30 hrs: Take early morning break fast, drive to the royal mile for the Cassin's Hawk Eagle, Dwarf kingfishers, Brown-backed Scrub robins and an afternoon to Busingiro Ecotourism site. **Dinner and Overnight at Nyabyaya collage or Camp (FB)**

DAY 6: BIRDING TO QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

06:00 hrs: After breakfast, we drive to Uganda's 2nd largest National Park following the foothills of the fabled mountains of the moon via Kasese, and crossing the Equator. A game drive en-route to where we stay might be rewarding. Look out for birds like Grey-headed Kingfisher, Lesser Striped Swallows, Zitting Cisticola, Black Lored and Arrow Marked Babbler, Grey-backed Shrike, White Winged and Yellow Mantled Widowbird and many more.

Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mweya safari lodge, or Midrange Jacana Lodge or Queen Elizabeth Bush Lodge/Budget Mweya hostel (FB)

DAY 7: BIRDING QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

07:00 hrs: Take Early Breakfast then have a whole day of birding with a lunch break looking out for the Broad Tailed, African Moustached and Grey Capped Warbler, Brown Snake-Eagle; Peregrine Falcon; Gray Kestrel;FB Red-necked Spurfowl, Harlequin Quail; African Crake; Pied Avocet; Temminck's Courser; Senegal and Crowned lapwings; the marsh dwelling Black Coucal; Blue-breasted Bee-eater; Greater Honeyguide; Flappet, Rufous-naped, Red-capped and the scarce White-tailed larks; Plain-backed Pipit; Caspian Plover Croaking, Red-faced, and Stout cisticolas; Whinchat; Marsh Tchagra; Black-lored Babbler; Southern Red Bishop among other species that we shall see for the day.

Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mweya safari lodge, or Midrange Jacana Lodge or Queen Elizabeth Bush Lodge/Budget Mweya hostel (FB)

DAY 8: BIRD TO LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

05:30 hrs: Take early break fast then drive to Lake Mbuoro National Park we shall have our lunch en route at a suitable place of our choice. After lunch continue with the drive to Lake Mbuoro National Park birding en-route. Much as lake Mbuoro has had lots of conflicts with the surrounding communities, Birding is a pleasant. The results for birding here are the Red Faced Barbet, Coqui and Crested Francolin, Emeraled Spotted Wood Dove, Spot flanked Barbet, Bare-faced Go-away-bird among other birds.

Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mihingo Lodge, or Midrange Arcadia Cottages, or Rwonyo Rest Camp (FB)

DAY 9: ANOTHER DAY OF BIRDING LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

08:00 hrs: Whole day birding Lake Mbuoro National Park with a lunch break looking out for the Coqui, Red nicked and Crested Francolin, Black-bellied Bustard, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Brown Parrot, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Blue-napped Mousebird, African Grey Hornbill, Spot-flanked and Red-faced Barbet, Tabora Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis and more. In the afternoon, take a boat cruise to look for the African Finfoot, White Backed and Black Crowned Night Herons, Giant Kingfisher on the lucky days and many more. Before or after dinner try the African Scops Owl, Swamp Nightjar, Fiery-necked Nightjar, Black-shouldered Nightjar and other birds. Look out for animals like the gorgeous Eland, Zebra, Impala, Buffalo, Reedbuck, Topi, Water buck Bushbuck, Hippos, Oribi, Grey-duiker and others. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mihingo Lodge, or Midrange Arcadia Cottages, or Rwonyo Rest Camp (FB)**

DAY 10: BIRDING TO ENTEBBE

05:30 hrs: Take early breakfast then we depart to Lake Mbuoro birding enroute to Entebbe with a stop over at the Equator. Look out for birds like Bateleur, Crested and Coqui Francolin, Lilac-breasted Roller, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Brown Parrot, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Blue-napped Mousebird, African Grey Hornbill, Red Faced and Spot-flanked Barbet, Striped Kingfisher, Golden-backed and Red Headed Weaver among others, thereby arriving in time to catch your outbound flight back home.

END OF TOUR

Cost of tour: US Dollar per persons sharing in Banda

Read Codes Below:

Pp: Per person

\$: US Dollar

Pax: Persons

FB: Full Board Meal Plan with **B**=Breakfast, **L**=Lunch & **D**=Dinner

BB: *Bed and Breakfast Meal Plan*

HB: *Breakfast with Lunch or With Dinner*

Accommodation Quote

Luxury: *Budongo Eco Lodge / Mweya safari lodge /Mihingo Lodge /Serena Hotel/ Lake Victoria Hotel,*

Midrange: *Jacana Safari Lodge/ Arcadia Cottages / Entebbe Travellers' Inn/ Lindsay Cottages*

Budget: *Red Chili Camp/ Mweya hostel/ Montana tented Camp / Sophie's Motel*

Price includes:

- 9 Nights accommodation with meal plan as stated
- Fuel Ground transportation (4WD) & with pop-up roof for excellent game viewing
- English Speaking Guide/Driver's Fee & his associated expenses
- Park Entrance fees
- Nature/Forest Walk
- Chimpanzee Permits (on request)
- Birding
- Brief City tour (if time allows)
- All other activities described in the itinerary

But Excludes;

- All expenses of Personal Nature like phone calls, bar bills, laundry bills etc
- Tipping of driver or staff at the Camp or even Porters (someone who carries your day pack)
- International/Inbound Air tickets
- Fees for extra and optional activities **NOT** included in the itinerary.
- Personal medical/travel insurance
- Entry visa Uganda
- Meals that are not part of your accommodation
- Accommodation on the last night of your trip.

Note: All itineraries subject to change, depending on weather, availability and location of chosen lodging

Short Notes

Climate

The mean minimum and maximum annual temperature ranges from 8C - 35C respectively. Much of the country receives between 1,000 and 1,500 mm of rainfall per annum. The south of the country has two rainfall peaks in April - May and October - November. This pattern however becomes less marked towards the North. Of recent there have been changes in rainfall patterns raining in July, making November dry.

Clothing

Depending on the weather, heat and your resistance to the sun, you could bring a mix of T-shirts and long-sleeved as well as lightweight shirts. Similarly, it is OK to wear shorts in most situations, but light-weight, washable trousers (especially those that convert into shorts by unzipping legs) are recommended. We will be at high altitudes for much of the tour, so evenings and early mornings could be chilly especially in Mountains. A light sweater/sweatshirt for cooler evenings and a light, easily packable rain shell are advised. Neutral colours (grays, tans, and khakis) are most appropriate for forest birding. Easily washable, quick-drying clothes are useful. There will be walking in the fish villages so some ankle-supporting walking shoes with a good grip are advised. Bring hats and sunglasses. Casual clothes are adequate throughout.

Visas

Visa is required for USA citizens. It is supposedly possible to obtain them on arrival, but you can choose to get it before you go. Bills with years reading 2006 and above are widely acceptable.

Equipment

You can carry your Hiking/Mountaineering equipments for reliable climbing. A small daypack for carrying your essentials in the vehicles on walks is essential. You should bring all the camera equipment and spare batteries and film you need (especially if still using slide film), as these can at times be difficult and costly to purchase. There should be good photographic opportunities. Bring a small flashlight as some lodges don't use electricity or may run on generators that may be switched off in the middle of the night.

Health

Bottled and purified water is available throughout. It is supplied during the day's activities and is available for purchase with evening meals. You will need sunscreen and a small amount of insect repellent. For hygiene and quality, you may want to bring whatever remedy you prefer or are prescribed for upset stomach. Moist towelettes can be a pleasant way of keeping refreshed and clean en route. Lodges do have emergency medical kits and some lodge shops stock basic, well-known drugstore remedies for headaches, painkillers etc. However, bring your own supply of any medical/pharmaceutical items they need or have prescribed, as these may not be available.

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