



14 DAYS FOREST BIRDING SAFARI

Tour Itinerary KT0012

Length: 14 Days

Best time of year: Any time

Key Destinations: Budongo Forest, Murchison Falls National Park, Kibale National Park, Semuliki National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable Forests National Park and Entebbe.

Highlights: Activities to do include; Nature/Forest Walks, Gorilla Tracking (Optional), Chimpanzee Tracking (optional), Birding, Boat Ride and cultural trek- or village walk.

Bird species to look out for include; the Unique Shoebill, Great blue turaco, Eastern Rosella Parrot, African Green Broad bill, Archer's Robin Chat, Breasted Sunbird, Billed Dwarf Hornbills, Chestnut Breasted Negrofinch and Crowned Eagle, Dwarf Honey Guide, Green Breasted Pitta, Red Billed and Black Leaf Love and Purple Handsome Francolin.

Overview

This is a 14 days Uganda birding safari created basically for people with an interest in finding those rare skulking bird species. This birding safari takes us to Budongo Forest part of Murchison Falls Conservation area, Kibale Forest, Semuliki and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Parks. This tour is a combined bird watching and wildlife safari that visits Kibale Forest, famed for its primates, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home to more than half the world's surviving Mountain Gorillas, Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Park, boasting of huge herds of Elephant and Buffalo, Lions and Leopards etc.

Summary of Tour

- Day 1: Arrival - Entebbe
- Day 2: Birding to Masindi
- Day 3: Birding the Royal mile, Budongo and Busingiro
- Day 4: Birding to Kaniyo Pabidi
- Day 5: Birding to Kibaale N.P
- Day 6: Birding in Kibaale N.P
- Day 7: Birding to Semuliki N.P
- Day 8: Birding in Semuliki N.P
- Day 9: Birding to Maragambo Forest.
- Day 10: Birding in Maragambo Forest

Day 11: Birding to Bwindi
Day 12: Birding in Ruhijja
Day 13: Birding in Mubwindi Swamp
Day 14: Birding to Entebbe-departure

ITINERARY

DAY 1: PICK UP AND BE TRANSFERRED TO YOUR HOTEL

Upon Arrive at Entebbe International Airport, meet & greet by your driver/guide and proceed to where you will stay at your hotel. Early arrivals can have optional birding to the Botanical gardens or Zika Forest. **Dinner and overnight at Luxury Imperial Resort Beach Hotel or Lake Victoria Hotel/Mid-range Gately Inn or Lindsay Cottages/Budget Sophie's Motel or Neul Tourist Hotel (BB)**

DAY 2: BIRDING TO MASINDI

04:30hrs: Take early morning breakfast and depart for Masindi. We will bird on our way, getting there in time for lunch at Masindi Hotel. Today we shall have some savannah birding to as we transfer looking out for the Yellow Bellied Hyliota, the Crested Guinea-fowl sporting their punk "hairdos," White-crested Turacco, Chestnut-crowned Eremomela, Yellow and Gray Longbills, Olive-bellied Crombec, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Little Green Sunbird, and Red-headed Blue Bill among others. There are also many other special birds with a West African origin: White-thighed Hornbill, Green-breasted Pitta, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Blue-breasted, Dwarf & Chocolate-backed Kingfishers, Yellow-crested & Brown-eared Woodpeckers, Yellow Bill, Western Black-headed Oriole, Yellow-spotted, Hairy-breasted & Yellow-billed Barbets, Green Hylia, Buff-throated, Black-throated & Black-capped Apalises, Black-eared Ground-Thrush, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, the elusive Lemon-bellied Crombec, Crested & Red-headed Malimbe, White Headed Barbet, Lesser and Greater Blue Eared Starling, White Crested and Ross's Turaco, Nubian Woodpecker, Red Shouldered Cuckoo shrike and much more. **Dinner and overnight at the Masindi Hotel or Court View Hotel (FB)**

DAY 3: FOREST BIRDING TO THE ROYAL MILE AND BUSINGIRO

06:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and set off with a packed lunch for our forest birding and we start from the Royal mile in morning one of the places to do forest birding due to its wide opening acting as an edge in the middle of the forest. While here we mainly look out for the Ituri Batis, White Browed Crombec, Olive Green cameroptera, White-thighed Hornbill, Chocolate-backed, Blue-breasted, Dwarf and Pygmy Kingfisher, Yellow Billed, Hairy Breasted, Yellow Spotted and Grey Throated Barbets, Yellow-crested and, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Grey and Yellow Longbill, Forest, Red-bellied Paradise, and Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Fire Crested Alethe, Red- tailed Ant Thrush, Western Black-headed Oriole, Spotted, Plain, and White Throated Greenbul, Purple headed Starling, among others. In the afternoon we transfer to

Busingiro a wonderful site for the Lemon Bellied Crombec, another good chance of seeing the Ituri Batis in case missed in the other section, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Forest Robin, Nahan's Francolin, Xavier's and Ictine Greenbul, Tit Hylia and many more. This day we expect to see primates like Blue Monkey, Red-tailed Monkey, Black and white Colobus Monkey, on lucky days chimps cross the trails we are birding on. Later we drive back to Masindi. **Dinner and overnight at the Masindi Hotel or Court View Hotel (FB)**

DAY 4: BIRDING TO KANIYO PABIDI

06:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and set off with a packed lunch to the southern sector of the Murchison Falls NP, and the only known site in East Africa for the Puvel's Illadopsis. We can expect to find this bird as well as a wide range of other forest species. We will have much of the day to try and find a good mix of widespread species and more local specialties such as Crested Guineafowl sporting their "punk hair-do's", White-crested Turaco, Chestnut-capped Eremomela, Yellow & Grey Longbills, Olive-bellied Sunbird, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Little Green Sunbird, Crested Malimbe and Red-headed Bluebill among others. Here are many other special birds with a West African origin: White-thighed Hornbill, Green-breasted Pitta, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Blue-breasted, Dwarf & Chocolate-backed Kingfishers, Yellow-crested & Brown-eared Woodpeckers, Yellowbill, Western Black-headed Oriole, Yellow-spotted, Hairy-breasted & Yellow-billed Barbets, Green Hylia, Buff-throated, Black-throated & Black-capped Apalises, Black-eared Ground-Thrush, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, the elusive Lemon-bellied Crombec, Crested & Red-headed Malimbés various forest starlings among others. We later proceed for our NIGHT at Masindi. **Dinner and overnight at the Masindi Hotel or Court View Hotel (FB)**

DAY 5: BIRDING TO KIBALE FOREST NATIONAL PARK

05:00hrs: Take early morning breakfast and depart for Kibale National Park. Our forest birding takes us southwards to the fabled mountains of the moon with various birding stopovers en-route. On our transit, expect to see the brown and Western banded Snake Eagle, Grey-Green Bush Shrike, Klaas's, Diederick and Red-chested Cuckoo, Great blue and Ross's Turaco, Lizard Buzzard, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Lesser Striped and Red-breasted Swallows, Olive Long Tailed Cuckoo, Yellow Spotted Barbet, Joyful Greenbul, Masked Apalis, Mountain Wagtail, Cassin's Grey Flycatcher, Whinchat, Stonechat, Green-headed Sunbird and other bird species. **Dinner and overnight at Luxury Primate Lodge Kibale/ Mid-range Nature Lodges or Rwenzori View Guest House/ Budget Kanyachu Ecological centre (FB)**

DAY 6: BIRD KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

06:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and start birding in the forest mainly looking out for the Green Breasted Pitta, Scaly and Brown Chested Illadopsis, lots of Forest Greenbuls and Sunbirds, Rufous, later in the afternoon we bird the Bigodi swamp or the vicinity of Kanyanchu and the road. Look out for birds like White spotted Flufftail, Yellow-billed and Yellow Spotted Barbet, African Emerald and Red Chested Cuckoo, Grey Parrot, Black-billed Turaco, Narina

Trogon, Blue-shouldered Robin-chat, Sabine's Spinetail, Chestnut Wattle eye, Red-tailed Ant Thrush, Narrow-tailed and Waller's Starling, white-collared Oliveback, Black Bellied Seed Cracker and Red Headed Blue Bill plus more. On the list of primates for this day here being the richest forest in Africa for primates we expect Chimps, L'Hoest's, Red Colobus, Blue Monkey, Black and white Colobus, Grey-cheeked Mangabey, Olive Baboon, Velvet Monkey, Red tailed Monkey. **Dinner and overnight at Luxury Primate Lodge Kibale/ Mid-range Nature Lodges or Rwenzori View Guest House/ Budget Kanyachu Ecological centre (FB)**

DAY 7: FOREST BIRDING TO SEMLIKI NATIONAL PARK

04:30hrs: Take early morning breakfast and depart with our picnic lunch birding to Semliki National Park. Our first stop will be at the Sempaya head quarters where we bird the trails around the hot springs looking out for birds like the piping, Red Billed Dwarf, White Crested, White Thighed, Black Dwarf and Black Wattled Casqued Hornbills, Chestnut Breasted Negrofinch plus the Pale Fronted. Olive and the Western Bronze Naped Pigeon, Leaf Love and Swamp Palm Bulbul. After this birding we drive to Bundibugyo township enroute, we look out for the Marsh Tchagra, Orange Cheeked Waxbill, Purple Headed Starling, Brown Backed scrub Robin and many other species that may come our way, we continue to where we spend our night at the Rain Bow Hotel or Vanilla Hotel. **Dinner and overnight stay at Luxury Semuliki safari lodge / Mid Range Vanilla Hotel or the Rain Bow Hotel (FB)**

DAY 8: WHOLE DAY BIRDING KIRUMIA TRAIL

06:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and start birding. We checkout in the morning and proceed for a whole day birding on the Kirumia trail in the park. We enter the forest and look out for different interesting Guinea-Congo Biome endemics like Hornbill where we get a chance in case we missed some as we entered the park - White thighed, Black-casqued wattled, Piping, White crested, Red-billed dwarf and Black dwarf Hornbill, Crested, Blue Billed, Red Bellied and Red Headed Malimbe, Swamp palm Bulbul, Yellow Throated Nicator, Rufaus Sided Broadbill, on a lucky day we keep fingers crossed for the African Piculet, Fiery Bush Shrike, Yellow Throated Cuckoo, Maxwell's Weaver among other bird species. **Dinner and Overnight at Rwenzori View Guest House/ Mid-range Mountains of the Moon Hotel in Fort Portal (FB)**

DAY 9: TRANSFER TO MARAMAGAMBO QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK

05:30hrs: After breakfast with our picnic lunch, leave Fort Portal and head to Queen Elizabeth National Park en route; look out for birds like Martial Eagle, Francolins, Barbets, Chats, Cuckooshrikes, Sunbirds, Fork tailed Drongo, Larks, Pipits, Weavers, Widowbirds, the Yellow-bellied and Jameson's Wattle-eyes, Black Bee-eater, White-tailed and Red-tailed Ant-Thrush, Brown and Grey-chested Illadopsis, Shinning Blue Kingfisher, Brown-eared Woodpeckers, Narina Trogon, Least Honey guide, Grey Greenbul, Brown-chested Alethe, and the African Fin

foot plus a host of butterfly species. The trail through the forest leads past an impressive bat cave; if we are lucky we may come across a Python that lives in the cave and feasts on the bats. On arrive, unpack bags to stay at own leisure timeamong other birds. You will look out for mammals. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mweya safari lodge, or Midrange Jacana Lodge or Budget Mweya hostel (FB)**

DAY 10: BIRDING MARAMAGAMBO THEN TRANSFER TO BWINDI

06:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and then bird Maramagambo Forest following the main trail. We shall visit the Blue Lake and Bat Cave where we expect to see African Rock Python that found refuge in the Cave, and feasts on the Bats for breakfast, lunch and supper! Special birds of this Forest include Narina Trogon, Rufous Flycatcher Thrush; White tailed Ant-thrush, Black Bee-eater, Grey-headed Kingfisher and White-breasted Negrofinch if we take the then later transfer to Bwindi. **Dinner and Overnight at Gorilla Resort or Lake Kitandara/ Budget Buhoma Homestead (FB)**

DAY 11: BIRDING BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

07:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and start birding at the lower side of Bwindi in search for the Bar-tailed Trogon, Black Bee-Eater, White-headed Wood-hoopoe, African Broadbill, Fine Banded, Elliot's and Buff Spotted Woodpecker, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Equatorial Akalat, Red-throated Alethe, Chapin's Flycatcher, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Blue Headed, Blue Throated, Little Green and Blue Throated Brown Sunbird, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Short Tailed Warbler, Mountain Masked Apalis, Bocage's and Luhder's Bush-shrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Waller's, Stulman's and Narrow Tailed Starlings, Black-billed, Brown-capped and Black Necked weaver among other birds. **Dinner and Overnight at Gorilla Resort or Lake Kitandara/ Budget Buhoma Homestead (FB)**

DAY 12: BIRDING TO RUHIJJA

07:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and start the drive to Ruhija birding en-route looking out for birds like Dusky Tuttle Dove, Black Bee-eater, Red-throated Wryneck, Mountain Wagtail, White-starred Robin, Olive Thrush, Cassin's-grey Flycatcher, Ayre's Hawk Eagle, Mountain Buzzard, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Chubb's Cisticola, Banded Prinia, Mountain Masked, Chestnut-throated and Collared Apalis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Grey Cuckoo-shrike, Sharpe's Starling, Regal Sunbird, Purple-breasted Sunbird, Strange Weaver, Dusky Twinspot, Dusky Crimsonwing Yellow Bishop, Black-throated Seedeater among other birds. **Dinner and Overnight at the Trekker's Tervan (FB)**

DAY 13: BIRDING TO MUBWINDI SWAMP

07:30hrs: Take morning breakfast and, with a packed lunch bird the Mubwindi Swamp looking out for birds like Black-billed Turaco, Western Green Tinkerbird, Fine-banded Woodpecker, African Green-Broadbill, Mountain Greenbul, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, African Hill Babbler, Mountain Illadopsis, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Collared Apalis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Rwenzori Batis, Montane Sooty Boubou, Blue-headed Sunbird, Regal Sunbird among other birds. Certainly one of the highlights of any birding trips in Uganda, this walk is physically challenging but, taken slowly it is quite manageable. **Dinner and Overnight at the Trekker's Tervan (FB)**

DAY 14: BIRDING TO ENTEBBE

04:30hrs: Take early morning breakfast and pack bags then drive whole day to return on your journey back to Entebbe birding en-route arriving in the late afternoon making an end to the Forest birding safari. **Dinner and overnight at Luxury Imperial Resort Beach Hotel or Lake Victoria Hotel/Mid-range Gately Inn or Lindsay Cottages/Budget Sophie's Motel or Neul Tourist Hotel (BB).**

END OF TOUR

Cost of tour: US Dollar per two 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: *Primate Lodge Kibale /Semiliki safari Lodge /Mweya safari lodge /Gorilla Resort or Lake Kitandara / Lake Victoria Hotel or Luxury Imperial Resort Beach Hotel*

Midrange: *Masindi Hotel or Court View Hotel / Nature Lodges or Rwenzori View Guest House /Vanilla Hotel or the Rain Bow Hotel /Jacana Safari Lodge/ the Trekker's Tervan, Bwindi/ Arcadia Cottages/Entebbe Travellers' Inn/ Lindsay Cottages or Gately Inn*

Budget: *Kanyachu Ecological centre /Mweya Hostel/ Buhoma Homestead /Sophie's Motel or Neul Tourist Hotel*

Price includes:

- 13 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
- Entry fees
- Nature/Forest Walk
- Birding
- Gorilla and Chimp Permit (On arrangement)
- 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 tour.

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

Other 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.

Let's start adventure here, Kaluka Your Unique Tour and Travel Agency!