



UGANDA'S BEST BIRDING SAFARI

Tour Itinerary KT0013

Length: 28 Days

Best time of year: Nov - March, May – August

***Key Destinations:* Entebbe, Mabira Forest, L. Mbuoro National Park, Mgahinga National Park, Bwindi impenetrable Forest, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Semiliki Park, Kibale Forest, Budongo Forest, Murchison Falls National Park, Kidepo National Park and Jinja**

***Highlights:* The Unique Shoebill, The African Fish Eagle, Yellowbill Stork, Great blue turaco, Eastern Rosella Parrot, African Green Broad bill, Archer's Robin Chat, Breasted Sunbird, Billed Dwarf Hornbills, Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Chestnut Breasted Negrofinch and Crowned Eagle, Dwarf Honey Guide, Green Breasted Pitta, Red Billed and Black Leave Love and Purple Handsome Francolin, The Africa Dwarf Kingfisher and Red- faced Crimson-wing among others.**

Overview

From the White Nile on Lake Victoria to the snow-capped Ruwenzori Range, the montane forests of the Virunga volcanoes, harboring some of the last remaining Mountain Gorillas, to the extensive savannas around the awesome Murchison Falls and Kidepo National Park, Uganda is an equatorial country of surprising contrasts. No other area in Africa can match its amazing diversity of habitats, and this richness is reflected in its incredible bird list of over 1500 species. Amongst these are many highly sought-after birds, such as the unique Shoebill and the numerous spectacular endemics of the Albertine Rift Valley, currently impossible to find anywhere else. The huge bird list is all the more remarkable given the small size of the country (approximately equal to Great Britain), making it certainly the richest African birding destination. The safari begins and ends in Entebbe on the shores of Lake Victoria. The tour is very diverse and visits most of the important National Parks around the country. You are likely to see more than 500 species of birds, which will include Shoebill, and a large percentage of Albertine Rift endemics, as well as a wide variety of representatives of many of the classic African families such as hornbills, barbets, bee-eaters, wood hoopoes, fabulous raptors, incredible water birds, and so on!

We will cover a multitude of habitats from lush rainforest, to wild savannahs, to dry acacia forests, to wetlands and swamps, to the shores of the incredible Nile River.

After your arrival in the country, in the morning next day we will go out to find the most iconic bird of the tour Shoebill in the Mabamba Wetlands before heading west to Mabira Forest. We will bird for one day and then set off to Lake Mburo National Park for a two night stay. Thereafter continue, drive to the home of unique endemic primates through Kabale in the west and trek Mountain Gorillas as you look for unique bird and beautiful butterflies in the forest. Visiting the Ruhija and Buhoma sections, where we will have the chance for many of the Albertine. Although the Gorilla trek can be strenuous, staring at them, a few feet away is a “life-changing experience”. About half of the surviving Mountain Gorillas live within the boundaries of this national park. Continuing south and west we visit first Mgahinga National Park for two nights, arguably one of the more scenic parks, as well as an excellent place for birds. Continue to Queen Elizabeth National Park for two wonderful nights. Here we will have boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, which links Lakes George and Edward, and is one of the most productive of birding excursions! From here we proceed north to the Kibale National Park and perhaps the best area in Uganda for primates. Here we will have the opportunity for birding as well as Chimpanzees trekking. We will search for the rare Green-breasted Pitta. After, we’ll move to Budongo Forest, the most productive birding areas in East Africa, and spend couple of nights there. We will bird the “Royal Mile,” and Kaniyo Pabidi. Murchison Falls National Park is the largest in Uganda and is among the top best national parks of Africa. The other portions of the trip heads north and visits a series of fabulous national parks in the northwest and northeast of the country, see unique bird species, as well as some of the finest mammal watching in the country. We will proceed to Kidepo Valley National Park via Kitgum the best park in Uganda for large games, scenery and birds of the south Sudan biome and Western Kenya. We will return through east, Mbale then back to Entebbe where your trip ends.

The accommodations are excellent, and our guide is among the best bird guide in Uganda and East African at large. The trip is a lifetime! The scenery is varied and arguably among the finest in all of Africa, and the experience would be great enough. With all these, you will have ***“the best of your adventures safaris”***.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL/ PICK-UP AND BE TRANSFERRED TO YOUR HOTEL

Depending on the time upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport, you will be met by one of our professional tour guide then be transferred to your hotel. Later you will be brief about your trip starting next day prior to your arrival. Thereafter, you may stay to relax at own leisure time. **Dinner and overnight Stay in Luxury Lake Victoria Hotel /Mid-range Lindsay Cottages, or Budget Sophie's Motel (FB)**

DAY 2: MABAMBA SWAMPS BIRDING TRIP

06:00 hrs: Have an early breakfast and proceed to Mabamba swamps an Important Bird Area (IBA) with a population of about 5 Shoebills. 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 IBA (Important Bird Area) and home to several pairs of Shoebills, Uganda's most famous avian resident. This charismatic species, the only representative in its family, 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: Pink-backed



Pelican, Long-tailed Cormorant, Goliath Heron, *African Fish-Eagle*, African Marsh-Harrier, Yellow-billed Duck, African Water Rail, Allen's Gallinule, Malachite Kingfisher along with slightly more local species such as the Purple Long-toed Plover, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Blue-headed Coucal, Papyrus Gonolek, Papyrus Canary, Swamp Flycatcher, White-winged & Papyrus

Yellow Warblers. Most of the birding here is done canoeing. Other species to be seen may include; Grey and Black Headed Herons, Squacco Heron, Pygmy Goose, Black Crake, White Faced Whistling Duck, Swamp Moorhen, Allen's Gallinule, African Jacana among many. Have a picnic lunch and continue birding to evening. Return to your lodge. **Dinner and overnight Stay in Luxury Lake Victoria Hotel /Mid-range Lindsay Cottages, or Budget Sophie's Motel (FB)**

DAY 3: TRANSFER TO MABIRA FOREST/ BIRD WATCHING

06:00 hrs: After Morning breakfast, depart for Mabira forest to do another birding. As you connect through Kampala, stop by another swamp which may reveal Yellow Crowned Bishop, Papyrus Gonolek, Weyns Weaver, White winged Warbler, and many more. You will have packed lunch and then continue to Mabira Forest Reserve. Bird species here include; *Yellow whiskered Greenbul, White spotted Fluff tail, Toro Greenbul, Forest Robin, Buff spotted Woodpecker, Grey spotted Woodpecker, Leaf love, Red headed Blue Bill, Yellow spotted Barbet, Grey throated Barbet, Yellow Rumped Tinker bird, Red headed Malimbe, Yellow Throated Tinker bird, Blue Breasted Kingfisher, African Pygmy, Shining blue, Woodland Kingfishers, Red tailed Ant Thrush Chestnut Wattle Eye,, Chin spot Batis, Banded Wattle Eye, Yellow mantled, Brown capped, Black Billed, Weyn's Weavers, Purple headed Starling, Violet backed Starling, Wattle-eye, Gray-green Bush-shrike, Papyrus Gonolek, Sooty Boubou, Western Black-headed Oriole, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Black-headed Paradise Flycatcher, Dusky-crested Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Buff-throated Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Olive-green Camaroptera, Gray Greenbul, Plain Greenbul, Honeyguide Greenbul, Leaf love, Toro Olive Greenbul, White-throated Greenbul, Common Bristlebill, Red-tailed Bulbul, Yellow-spotted Nicator, Yellow Longbill, and many others. Butterflies include among others Broad Green-banded, Mocker swallow-tails, Immaculate and Opaque Wood-whites, Blue tiger, African Emigrant, Lady's Maid and Cambridge vagrant. We will unpack bags and stay at own leisure time. **Dinner and overnight Stay in Mabira Forest Lodge or Griffins Camp (FB)***

DAY 4: BIRDING WATCHING IN MABIRA/TRANSFER TO LAKE MBURO N/PARK

06:30 hrs: Early breakfast, then go birding in the forest to search for the remaining lists that we haven't spotted such as the *Nahan's Francolin*, *Cassin's Hawk*, *White Spotted Flufftail*, *Afep Pigeon*, *Gray Parrot*, *Dusky Long Tailed Cuckoo*, *Black Shouldered Nightjar*, *Sabine's Spine Tail*, *Cassin's Spine tail*, *Blue Throated Roller*, *African Dwarf Kingfisher*, *White - bellied Kingfisher*, *Forest Wood hoopoe*, *Black and White Casqued Hornbill*, *Speckled Tinker bird*, *Yellow - throated Tinkerbird*, *Yellow-spotted Barbet*, *Hairy-breasted Barbet*, *Yellow-billed Barbet*, *Cassin's Honeyguide*, *Buff Spotted*



Wood pecker, *Brown-eared Woodpecker*, *Golden-crowned Woodpecker*, *Green-breasted Pitta*, *African Shrike Flycatcher*, *Chestnut Wattle-eye*, *Jameson's Wattle-eye*, *Gray-green Bush-shrike*, *Papyrus Gonolek*, *Sooty Boubou*, *Western Black-headed Oriole*, *Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher*, *Black-headed Paradise Flycatcher*, *Dusky-crested Flycatcher*, among many. Thereafter proceed to Lake Mbuoro national park. On arrival, unpack bags and rest at own leisure time. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mihingo Lodge, or Midrange Arcadia Cottages, or Montana tented Camp (FB)**

DAY 5: BIRDING LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

06:30 hrs: After early breakfast, go birding. Here birding is a delightful experience, with superb scenery and a markedly different fauna to other reserves. Have packed lunch. Common conspicuous birds include; Red faced Barbet, *Taboracisiticola*, Green backed wood pecker Crested Francolin, Emerald spotted wood Dove, Brown Parrot, Barefaced Go-away -bird. Blue-napped Mouse bird, Lilac-breasted Roller, and Green Wood-hoopoe, common scimitarbill, African Grey Hornbill, Spot-flanked Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Trilling Cisticola, Yellow-Breasted Apalis, Northern Black Tit, Chin-spot Batis, Greater Blue-eared starling and the Marico sunbird. This is also the best place in the country to see game animals such as Eland as well as Zebra, Topi, Impala, and acacia-associated birds. We'll be looking out for Augur Buzzard, White-backed Night Heron, Crested Francolin, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Spot-flanked Barbet, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Black-headed & Papyrus Gonoleks, White-winged

Warbler, Red-headed Lovebird, Ross's Turaco, TaboraCisticola, Lilac-breasted Roller, and Red-faced Barbet. Return to your place of rest and stay at own leisure time. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mihingo Lodge, or Midrange Arcadia Cottages, or Montana tented Camp (FB)**

DAY 6: TRANSFER TO MGAHINGA NATIONAL PARK

05:30 hrs: After early morning breakfast, pack bags and go for game drive then proceed out of the park towards Mgahinga National Park spending 2 nights in Kisoro town, thereby arriving late evening. The distance may take more than 5 hours with a few birding stops. **Dinner and overnight stay in Travellers' Rest Hotel, Kisoro (FB)**



DAY 7: BIRDING MGAHINGA NATIONAL PARK

07:30 hrs: After taking morning breakfast, depart for birding tour. The Park is Uganda's smallest and probably most scenic national park situated in the extreme south western corner of the country on the slopes of the Virunga Volcanoes which rise up to 4000m in elevation. To the south of the park is Rwanda, and to the west is the Democratic Republic of Congo. The park has a nice variety of Albertine rift endemics, and we shall explore the treasures of this park along the excellent Gorge trail, which loops half way up Mt. Sabinyo, traversing a variety of montane habitats. One trail winds up through former farmland where regenerating vegetation has a semi-natural heath character. Have packed lunch. Birds here may include; the *Dusky Turtle- Dove*, *Cape Robin-chat*, *Brown-Crowned Tchagra*, *Bronze Sunbird*, *Rwenzori Turaco*, *Shelly's Crimson-wing*, *Kivu Ground Thrush*, *Black-headed Waxbill*, and *Streaky Seedeater*, all of which favor the scrubby early successional habitat in this area. As we climb and enter the bamboo belt at about 2500m, we may encounter the *Handsome Francolin*, *Kivu Ground Thrush*, and *Cinnamon Bracken Warbler*. The flowering Red-hot Pokers attract *Malachite*, *Scarlet-tufted*, and *Ruwenzori Double-collared Sunbirds*, as well as *Lagden's Bush-Shrike*. Many of these are Albertine Rift endemics. The beautiful Golden Monkey, a localized form of the Blue Monkey, occurs in the bamboo zone and Mountain Gorillas are seasonally resident in the park (although we are unlikely to see one). **Dinner and overnight stay in Travellers' Rest Hotel, Kisoro (FB)**

DAY 8: TRANSFER TO BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FORESTS

05:30 hrs: After early morning breakfast, pack bags and proceed to Bwindi impenetrable Park while Birding to Ruhija through Echuya forest. Echuya is one of the forests good for birding in the Albertine rift Endemics. Stops on the roadside may create opportunities for these rare but exciting endemics. We enter Bwindi birding through the Bamboo zone. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Gorilla Forest Camp, or Midrange Nkuringo Safari Lodge, or Buhoma Homestead (FB)**



DAY 9: BIRDING THE MUBWINDI SWAMP, BWINDI IMPENETRABLE N/ PARK

07:30 hrs: After morning breakfast, go bird watching the Mubwindi Swamp area. The 4km trail to Mubwindi Swamp is the best place for some of the most difficult to find of all rift endemics including *Grauer's (African Green) Broadbill*, *the beautiful Regal Sunbird*, and *Archer's Robin-Chat*. *Dwarf Honeyguide*, *Stripe-breasted Tit*, *Ruwenzori Apalis*, *African Hill Babbler*, *Ruwenzori Hill Babbler*, *Grauer's Scrub-Warbler* and *Carruther's Cisticola*, *Black Goshawk*, *Augur Buzzard*, *Crowned Hawk-Eagle*, *Handsome Francolin*, *Olive (Rameron) Pigeon*, *Bronze-winged Pigeon*, *Black-billed*, 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*, *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 Grey-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, among many others. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Gorilla Forest Camp, or Midrange Nkuringo Safari Lodge, or Buhoma Homestead (FB)***

DAY 10: BIRDING BUHOMA THROUGH "THE NECK", BWINDI PARK

07:30 hrs: This day, after taking early breakfast, we bird to Buhoma through a section in the forest popularly known as 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 Crimson wing.* A few other species we may encounter as well include *Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Fine-banded and Cardinal Woodpeckers, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Shelley's 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.* **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Gorilla Forest Camp, or Midrange Nkuringo Safari Lodge, or Buhoma Homestead (FB)**

DAY 11: BIRDING THE MAIN TRAIL, BWINDI IMPENETRABLE N/PARK

07:00 hrs: Here we shall go birding in the trails leading out from the Lodge. Species we will search for include *Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo; Bar-tailed Trogon; Dusky Tit; Kivu Ground-Thrush; White-bellied Robin-Chat; Equatorial Akalat; White-tailed Ant-Thrush; Red-throated Alethe; White-bellied Crested- Flycatcher; White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher; Gray-green Bushshrike; Northern Double-collared Sunbird; Blackbilled Weaver and Magpie Mannikin.* High exposed perches in the open forest are favored by *African Goshawk; the dazzling Black Bee-eater; Blue-throated Roller; Sooty Flycatcher* and forest starlings including *Waller's, Stuhlmann's and Narrow-tailed, Neumann's Warbler, African Broadbill; Banded Prinia and the handsome Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, Elliot's and Tullberg's woodpeckers, Cabanis', Shelley's and Ansorge's Greenbuls, the strange Grauer's Warbler and White-browed Crombec.* Birding at Buhoma is a truly magical experience. Other wildlife that we may be fortunate enough to find here include the huge *Yellow-backed Duiker, Guereza Colobus; L'Hoest's; Blue and Red-tailed monkeys; Chimpanzee* and several species of squirrels including *Fire-footed Rope, Carruthers' Mountain, Ruwenzori Sun and Red-legged Sun Squirrel.* **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Gorilla Forest Camp, or Midrange Nkuringo Safari Lodge, or Buhoma Homestead (FB)**

DAY 12-15: TRANSFER AND BIRD IN QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

05:30 hrs: After early morning breakfast, pack bags and proceed driving to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Our route to the park will be determined by road conditions, either passing through the Ishasha sector, well-known for its climbing lions, or alternatively drive through the beautiful sceneries of Rukungiri district. The park is named after Queen Elizabeth's visit in 1954. It is the second largest national park in Uganda, and ranks highest with respect to overall diversity, with a species list exceeding 600. The park has wild savannah excellent for Lions, Leopards, Elephants, Hyenas, Ugandan Kobs, Side-striped Jackal, Baboons, Giant Hogs, just to name a few. While at the park we will do of Butterfly and birding as well as boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel, which is one of the best and thrilling in Africa. Birds here include; *African Skimmers, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Grey, Purple and Goliath Herons, Saddle-billed and Yellow-billed Storks, Sacred and Glossy Ibises, African Spoonbill, Egyptian Goose, Black Crake, African Jacana, Black-winged Stilt, Water Thick-knee, Spur-winged, African Wattled, Kittlitz's, and Three-banded Plovers, Collared Pratincole, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Brown-throated Sand Martin, Greater and Lesser Swamp Warblers, Carruthers's Cisticola, and Papyrus Gonolek.* On day 15 Early morning birding and proceed to Fort portal for evening stay. **Dinners and overnights stay in luxury Mweya safari lodge, or Midrange Jacana Lodge or Budget Mweya hostel (FB)**

DAY 16: TRANSFER AND BIRD IN SEMLIKI NATIONAL PARK

05:30 hrs: After early morning breakfast, pack bags and proceed to Semliki forest. Semliki Forest represents the only example of Congo-Basin vegetation in Uganda. A large number of Guinea-Congo biome species reach their eastern limits here, which is one of the richest for forest birds in the country. Semliki forest marks the Eastern extension of the great Ituri Forest. It's among the best place in Uganda with high chances of encountering some of the West African species which cannot be easily accessed from other places. It is



ranked number two in Uganda Birding spots. Species here include; *Congo Serpent Eagle, Black-throated Coucal, Grey-throated Rail, Nkulengu Rail, Long-tailed Hawk, Spot-breasted Ibis, Capuchin Babbler, Yellow-throated Nicator, Northern Bearded Scrub Robin, Red-chested Owlet, Western Bronze-napped Pigeon, Black-collared Lovebird, White-bellied Kingfisher, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Lyre-tailed Honeyguide, Zenker's Honeyguide, White-throated Blue Swallow, Bate's Nightjar, Yellow-throated Cuckoo, Orange-tufted Sunbird, Black-winged Oriole, Red-billed*



Helmet Shrike, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Icterine Greenbul, Swamp Palm Bulbul, Crested Malimbe and Blue-billed Malimbe, Fiery-breasted Bush-shrike, Pale-fronted Negrofinch and Piping, Red-billed Dwarf, Black Dwarf, White crested, Black-casqued Wattled and White-thighed Hornbills.

Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Ndali Lodge, or mid range St. Catherine Guesthouse or in any budget hotel (FB)

DAY 17-18: BIRDING KIBALE FOREST.

04:30 hrs: Take morning Breakfast and proceed to Kibale Forest National Park. Birds include *the shy Green-breasted Pitta, Brown-backed Robin, Chestnut Wattle-eye, White-throated Greenbul, Red-chested Owlet, Blue-throated Sunbird, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Yellow-crested*

Woodpecker, Green-backed Twinspot, Narina's Trogon, Western Black-headed Oriole, Emerald Cuckoo, Red-tailed Bristlebill, White-throated Greenbul, Olive-bellied Sunbird, White-breasted Negro-finch, Cassin's Flycatcher, Brimstone Canary, Black-necked Weaver, Tambourine Dove, Red-winged, Blue-shouldered Robin-chats, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Red-winged Warbler, African Crake, Black and White Shrike Flycatcher, Yellowbill, Black-billed Turacco, Honeyguide Greenbul, Purple-headed Starling, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Green-throated Sunbird, Little Green Sunbird, White-tailed Ant-thrush, Mountain Wagtail, Narrow-tailed Starling, Superb Sunbird, Black and White Casqued Hornbill, African Grey Parrot, Black Weaver, Speckled Tinkerbird, Long-crested Eagle.

We will also bird Bigodi Wetland where there occur special birds like *Black Hooded, Grosbeak, Black-necked, Vieillot's, Hautlaub's Golden, Black Weavers, Speckled Mousebird, Masked Swallow, Blue Flycatcher, Black and White Mannikin, Red-eyed Dove, White-chinned Prinia, Little Grey, Joyful Greenbuls, Grey-winged Robin-chat, Lead-colored Flycatcher, Open-billed Stork, Olive-bellied Sunbird, White-throated Apalis, White-winged Warbler, White-spotted Flufftail, Alpine Swift, Collared Sunbird, Papyrus Sunbird, White-breasted Negro-finch, Superb Sunbird, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Hadada Ibis, Senegal Plover, Purple-headed Starling, Toro Olive Greenbul, Black-crowned Waxbill, Brown-backed, White-crowned Scrub-robins, Ayre's Hawk Eagle, Abdim's Stork, Red-headed Bluebill, Black-headed Heron, Senegal Coucal, Spectacled Weaver, Cameroon Sombre Greenbul, Red-faced Cisticola, Bocages (Grey Green) Bush Shrike, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Black and White Casqued Hornbill, Yellow White-eye, Tambourine Dove, Dark-capped Yellow, Grey-capped Warblers, Shining Blue Kingfisher, Black and White Shrike Flycatcher.* We will also do Chimpanzee trekking. **Dinners and overnights stay in luxury Ndali Lodge, or mid range Chimpanzee Guesthouse or in the budget Nature lodges of Kanyachu Ecological centre (FB)**

DAY 19-21: TRANSFER AND BIRD BUDONGO FOREST AND ROYAL MILE

05:00 hrs: Take early morning breakfast and drive to Budongo Forest. The drive is long, but we'll make numerous birding stops along the way. In Budongo forest, we will have access to birding the "Royal Mile", Busingiro and Kanio Pabide sections of the forest. The "Royal Mile" is one of the best of Uganda's Birdwatching spots. It is also a historically known spot for the traditional King, hence the name Royal Mile. Here the forest has been cut back a few metres along the sides of the main trail, thus potential place for birding and butterfly watching. The Birds include *Nahan's Francolin, Black-collared Lovebird, White-thighed and Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills, Yellow-spotted and Yellow-billed Barbets, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Ituri Batis, Western Black-headed Oriole, and Brown Twinspot, Blue-breasted, Chocolate-backed, and African Dwarf Kingfishers, Blue-throated Roller. Red-tailed Ant-Thrushes skulk in the shadows, as do Red-tailed Bristlebill, and Scaly-breasted, Pale-breasted, and Brown Illadopses. Greenbuls are always a challenge and this area has several, including Little Grey, Little,*

*Cameroon Sombre, Slender-billed, Honeyguide, and Spotted, Crested Guinea Fowl, White-spotted Fluff-tails, Great Sparrow-hawk, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Tambourine Dove, Grey Parrot, African Emerald, Klaas', and Dusky Long-tailed, Red-chested Cuckoos, Yellowbill, White-throated Bee-eater, White-thighed, and Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill, Speckled and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Streaky-throated Barbet (split from Hairy-breasted), Wilcock's Honeyguide, Yellow-crested and Buff-spotted Woodpeckers, White-headed Saw-wing, Western Nicator, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Red-tailed Ant-Thrush, Rufous Thrush, Eastern Forest Robin, Fire-crested Alethe, Buff-throated and Black-capped Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Olive-Green and Lemon-bellied Crombecs, Yellow and Grey Longbills, and Uganda Woodland Warblers, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, African Shrike-Flycatcher, Jameson's and Chestnut Wattle-eyes, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Brown and Scaly-breasted Illadopses, Dusky Tit, Grey-headed, Green, Collared, Western Olive, Blue-throated Brown and Little Green, and Olive-bellied Sunbirds, Red-headed and Crested Malimbés, Vieillot's Black and Yellow-mantled Weavers, and both White-breasted and Grey-headed Negro finches, Red-headed Bluebill, while a couple of the more interesting primates here are Red-tailed and Blue Monkeys. **Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Paraa Safrai Lodge or Budongo Eco Lodge /Mid range Sambiya River Lodge /Budget Red Chili Camp (FB)***



DAY 22: BIRDING MURCHISON FALLS NP THROUGH KANIO PABIDE FOREST SECTION OF BUDONGO.



06:30 hrs: After breakfast, we'll drive northwards towards Murchison Falls National Park. Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's largest national park (3893sq.km) and protects a large section of untamed savannah bisected by the mighty River Nile. It is named for the dramatic Murchison Falls where the world's longest river explodes violently through a narrow cleft in the Rift Valley escarpment to plunge in a frothing pool

43m below. It is one of Uganda's oldest conservation areas, formed in the early 1900's. The park is Uganda's premier game park, with no fewer than 76 mammal species, including Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Hippopotamus, Rothschild Giraffe, Cape buffalo, Hartebeest, Oribi, Warthog, and the Uganda Kob. It hosts 360 bird species including *the rare Shoebill, African Darter, Goliath Heron, Saddle-billed Stork, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Egyptian Goose, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Bat Hawk, Black-chested, Brown, and Banded Snake-Eagles, Bateleur, Dark-chanting Goshawk, Red-necked Falcon, Crested and Heuglin's Francolins, African Finfoot, Stanley and Black-bellied Bustards, Senegal and Spotted Thick-knees, Rock Pratincole, Black-headed and Wattled Lapwings, Vinaceous Dove, Black-billed Wood-dove, Bruce's Green-Pigeon, Redheaded Lovebird, White-crested Turacco, Levaillant's and Black Cuckoos, Blue-headed, Senegal, and White-browed Coucals, Spotted and Gray Eagle-Owls, Rwenzori, Long-tailed, Square-tailed, and Pennant-winged Nightjars, Blue-naped Mousebird, Gray-headed and Pied Kingfishers, Red-throated, Blue-breasted, Swallow-tailed, and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Broad-billed Roller, African Gray and Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills, Spot-flanked and Black-billed Barbets, Nubian and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Wire-tailed Swallow, African Pipit, Singing, Rattling, Croaking, Siffling, and Zitting Cisticolas, Red-and-gray Warbler, White-winged Scrub-Warbler, Green-backed Eremomela, Uganda Wood-Warbler, Silverbird, Pale Flycatcher, Lead-colored Flycatcher, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, Spotted Morning-Thrush, White-fronted Black-Chat, Blue-throated Wattle-eye, Black-headed Batis, White-shouldered Black-tit, Green-backed, Beautiful, and Copper Sunbirds, Gray-backed Fiscal, Yellow-billed Shrike, Brubru, Northern Puffback, Sulphur-breasted and Gray-headed Bushshrikes, White Helmet-shrike, and Red-throated Bee-eater.* **Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Paraa Safrai Lodge or Budongo Eco Lodge /Mid range Sambiya River Lodge /Budget Red Chili Camp (FB)**

DAY 23: WHOLE DAY BIRDING IN MURCHISON FALLS PARK



06:30 hrs: After breakfast, we will have a game drive (*Optional*) to the rolling plains where you will have chances of viewing lots of mammals and really get a feel of the wildlife of Africa. We'll have a chance for magnificent beasts such as Hartebeest, Lions, Buffalo, Primates, Giraffe, and Elephants. After lunch, we may either go for a *launch trip* to the bottom of the Nile. This is one of the exciting sites where the Mighty Nile narrows from 300meters wide to a 7 meters gap. Birds here include *the rare Shoebill, the Bat hawk, night jars and owls, Secretary Bird, Goliath Heron, Saddle - billed Stork, Sacred Ibis, Red-necked Falcon, Senegal Thick-knee, Water Thick-knee, Black-headed Lapwing, Long-toed Lapwing, Little Bittern, Abyssinian Roller, and Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Pied Kingfishers, Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Paraa Safari Lodge or Budongo Eco Lodge /Mid range Sambiya River Lodge/Budget Red Chili Camp (FB)*

DAY 24: BIRDING MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK TO KITGUM

05:30 hrs: On this day, we will take early morning breakfast and bird in the Park for more bird species then drive to proceed to Kitgum through Gulu. We are likely to see *Red-throated and Blue-breasted Bee-eaters, Yellow-backed Weaver, Laughing Dove, Vinaceous Dove, Ring-necked Dove, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Little Weaver, Black-headed Gonolek, Spotted Morning Thrush, Grey Kestrel, Grey-headed Sparrow, African Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Chinspot, White-browed Coucal, Fork-tailed Drongo, Green Pigeons, Black-winged Bishop, Plain Nightjar, Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Pennant-winged Nightjar, Plain Nightjar, Swamp Nightjar, Red-throated Bee-eater, Spot-flanked Barbet, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Red-faced Crombec, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Crested Francolin, Spotted Morning Thrush, Silver Bird, and Northern Red Bishop. Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Boma Hotel /Mid range Kitgum Hotel (FB)*

DAY 25-26: BIRDING TO KIDEPO NATIONAL PARK

05:30 hrs: After Breakfast, we drive to Kidepo National Park. It has registered over 80 species including 28 that are peculiar to only and only kidepo in Uganda. African animals include; Bat-eared Fox, Carcal, Cheetah and Klipspringer, Striped Hyena, Lesser Kudu, Grant's Gazelle and Beisa Oryx, Elephant, Common Zebra, Buffalo, and Kongoni. Spotted Hyena, Leopard and Lion. Oribis, DikDik. Senegal Galago, Side striped Jackal and White-tailed Mongoose. The park has got a very rich and diverse reptile fauna. Here there is plenty of bird species like, *Eastern Pale Chanting Goshawk, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Kori, Ethiopian Swallow, Pied, Isabelline and Heuglin's Wheaters, White-bellied and Hartlaub's Bustards, Pygmy Falcon, Fox Kestrel, Stone Partridge, Clapperton's and Heuglin's Francolins, Violet-tipped Courser, Black-headed Plover, Four-banded Sand Grouse, Ostrich, African Swallow-tailed Kite, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Rose-ringed Parakeet, White-faced Scoops Owl, Slate-coloured Boubou, Fan-tailed Raven, Long-*

*tailed and Standard-winged Nightjars, Little Green Bee-eater, Abyssinian and Rufous-crowned Rollers, Abyssinian Ground, Eastern Yellow and Jackson's Hornbills, Red-fronted and Black-breasted Barbets, Karamoja Apalis, White-bellied Tit, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Singing Bush lark, Red-winged Lark, African Grey Flycatcher, Foxy and Red pate Cisticolas, , Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Northern White-crowned and Yellow-billed Shrikes, Superb Starling, Red billed Oxpecker, Eastern Violet backed, Pygmy and Beautiful Sunbirds, Rufous and Chestnut Sparrow, Yellow-spotted Petronia, White-headed and White-billed Buffalo Weavers, White-browed and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weavers, Grey-capped Social and Speckle-fronted Weavers, Green-winged, Orange-winged and Red-winged Pytilias, Black-bellied and Black-faded Waxbill, Steel-blue and Strawtailed Whydahs, Brown-rumped Bunting. **Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Apoka Safrai Lodge /Budget Park Bandas (FB)***

DAY 27: DRIVE TO JINJA

05:00 hrs: Take early morning breakfast and drive back through Mbale to Jinja. We will Rest on arrival. **Dinner and overnight stay in Luxury Jinja Nile Resort / Mid range Triangle Hotel/Budget Safari Inn (FB)**

DAY 28: TRANSFER TO ENTEBBE FOR EVENING DEPARTURE

Depending on the time upon departure, after early morning breakfast, transfer to Entebbe International Airport with one of our professional tour guides drive to Entebbe as we bird along the way from Kampala to Entebbe. We may make a stopover visit to the reptile village as well as we take you for 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*

Accommodation Quote

Luxury: *Mabira Forest Lodge /Budongo Eco Lodge /Semiliki safari Lodge /Ndali Lodge /Mweya safari lodge /Gorilla Forest Camp/Mihingo Lodge /Serena Hotel/ Lake Victoria Hotel/Paraa Safari Lodge/ Boma Hotel and Apoka Safari Lodge*

Midrange: *Masindi Hotel /Vanilla Hotel /Chimpanzee Guesthouse /Jacana Safari Lodge Nkuringo Safari Lodge /Arcadia Cottages /Hotel Triangle /Entebbe Travellers' Inn/ Lindsay Cottages/ Travellers' Rest Hotel, Kisoro St. Catherine Guesthouse/ Sambiya River Lodge/ Kitgum Hotel*

Budget: *Griffins Camp /Red Chili Camp/ Kanyachu Ecological centre /Mweya hostel/ Buhoma Homestead/ Montana tented Camp /Namirembe Guesthouse /Sophie's Motel/ Kidepo Park Bandas*

Price includes:

- 27 Nights accommodation with meal plan as stated
- Ground transportation (4WD) & fuel
- 1 Game drive & other related activities
- 1 Launch cruise/Boat trip
- Guide/Driver's Fee & his associated expenses
- Entry fees
- Birding and Butterfly fees
- Gorilla tracking (optional)
- Visit to reptile village
- Stopover at the green Equator
- City tour in the central business district

But Excludes;

- Personal Expenses like phone calls, bar bills, laundry bills etc
- Tipping of driver or staff at the Camp
- Air tickets
- Fees for extra and optional activities NOT included in the itinerary.

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 at Ruhijja. 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 on forest trails so some ankle-supporting walking shoes with a good grip are advised. Bring a sunhat 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 Telescope for easy spotting of birds. A small daypack for carrying your essentials in the vehicles on game drives and 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. Though food hygiene and quality is generally good, 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!