



## 2 DAYS MABAMBA BIRDING EXCURSION

### *Tour Itinerary AFW0016*

*Length: 2 Days*

*Best time of year: Any time*

*Key Destinations:* Mabamba Swamp

*Highlights: Attractions and activities include;* Swampy Walk, Canoe cruise, Birding and Other wetland activities. Bird species may include; the Unique Shoebill, Great blue turaco, Eastern Rosella Parrot, African Green Broad bill, Archer's Robin Chat and Breasted Sunbird among many.

### **Overview**

Mabamba Swamp is home to Shoebill stork the most sought after birds in Uganda. It is located in Kanjansi a few kilometers from Entebbe Airport. Visitors are able to access the swamp in local fishing boats with a guide.

### **Summary of Tour**

Day 1; Birding in Entebbe's UWEC and the Botanical Gardens

Day 2: Birding in Mabamba Shoebill & Search for Shoebill Storks

### **ITINENARY**

#### **DAY 1: ARRIVE & BIRD IN ENTEBBE'S UWEC (ZOO)/THE BOTANICAL GARDENS**

On arrival you are welcomed by the Afriwild guide and after booking in your Hotel or lodge. You immediately embark on birding in Entebbe's wildlife centre and thereafter the Botanical gardens to view some of the most urban birds such as the Open-billed Stork, Grey-crowned Crane, Wahlberg's Eagle, Palm-nut Vulture, cuckoo Hawk, Bat hawk, White faced Scops Owl, African Grey and brown parrots, Red-faced lovebird, a White –winged black tern roost among others. We may have optional birding around Ziika Forest. Families of butterflies found here include; Swallowtails such as Green Banded Swallowtail, Narrow Green Banded Swallowtail, Emperor Swallowtail etc. Charaxes and Hairstreaks, etc. Birds include; Splendid Glossy Starling,

Yellow-fronted Tinker bird, Yellow, Creamy White-eyes, Scarlet-chested, Green Sunbirds, Double-toothed Barbet, Black and White Casqued Hornbill, Woodland, Pied Kingfishers, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Slender-billed, Golden-backed, Holub's Golden Weavers, Grey-headed Sparrow, Sunbird, Grey Woodpecker, Eastern Grey Plantain Eater, Alpine, Palm, White-rumped Swifts, Palmnut Vulture, African Green Pigeon, Hamerkop, Sacred Ibis, African Thrush, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Green Crombec, Long-tailed Cormorant, Egyptian Goose, Great Blue Turacco, Marabou Stork, Yellow-billed Duck, Pink-backed Pelican, White-chinned Prinia, Yellow-throated Greenbul, Snow-headed Robin-chat, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher. We may also visit the Nakiwogo Landing site (optional). Return for Lunch at the hotel and relax. In the evening visit the sewage lagoons and the Nakiwogo Landing site (optional). **Dinner and overnight Stay in Luxury Lake Victoria Hotel /Mid-range Lindsay Cottages, or Budget Sophie's Motel (BB)**

## **DAY 2: BIRDING IN MABAMBA & SEARCH FOR SHOEBILL STORKS**

**06:30hrs:** After early morning breakfast, then go out to Mabamba Wetlands on the shore 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 IBA (Important Bird Area) and home to several pairs of Shoebills, Uganda's most famous avian resident. Search for the Shoebill Stork and the 4 Papyrus endemics; Papyrus Gonolek, Papyrus Canary, White-winged warbler and Papyrus Yellow Warbler thereafter on ward travel.

## **END OF TOUR**

*Cost of tour: US Dollar per two persons sharing in Banda*

## **QUOTATION**

<b>No of Pax</b>	<b>2 Pax</b>	<b>4 Pax</b>	<b>8 Pax</b>	<b>12 Pax</b>	<b>15 Pax</b>	<b>Meal plans</b>
<b>High-end</b>	\$570pp	\$540pp	\$530pp	\$515pp	\$500pp	<b>FB</b>
<b>Midrange</b>	\$535pp	\$510pp	\$490pp	\$470pp	\$455pp	<b>FB</b>
<b>Budget</b>	\$480pp	\$450pp	\$420pp	\$390pp	\$370pp	<b>FB</b>

**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:** *Lake Victoria Hotel or Luxury Imperial Resort Beach Hotel*

**Midrange:** *Entebbe Travellers' Inn/ Lindsay Cottages or Gately Inn*

**Budget:** *Sophie's Motel or Neul Tourist Hotel*

### **Price includes:**

- 1 Night 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 Walk
- Birding
- 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 you're a few equipments for reliable tour. A small daypack for carrying your essentials in the vehicles on walks is Paramount. 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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