



7 DAYS BIRDING SAFARI TO UGANDA

Tour Itinerary KT009

Length: 7 Days

Best time of year: Any time

***Key Destinations:* Entebbe, Mabamba, Lake Mburo N/Park and Queen Elizabeth N/Park**

Highlights: Attractions and activities include; Bird watching, Hiking, Game viewing, Swampy Walk, Canoe cruise and other 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 7 Days trip takes you birding through Uganda's hot spots for birding in Entebbe Environments, Mabamba Wetlands, Lake Mburo National Park and Queen Elizabeth 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; wetlands, savanna grasslands, rivers and lakes, forests finding hundreds of birds as you discover the birding paradise of Africa - Uganda.

Summary of the safari

- Day 1- Arrival
- Day 2- Birding Entebbe
- Day 3- Birding to Mabamba
- Day 4- Birding Lake Mburo
- Day 5- Birding to Queen Elizabeth N.P
- Day 6- Birding in Queen Elizabeth
- Day 7- Departure

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

Arrive for our simple birding safari at Entebbe International Airport and transfer to your respective hotel of Accommodation.). **Dinner and overnight Stay in Luxury Lake Victoria Hotel /Mid-range Lindsay Cottages, or Budget Sophie's Motel (BB)**

DAY 2: BOTANICAL GARDENS & UGANDA WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

07:30hrs: Whole day birding around Entebbe area, the Botanical Gardens and Uganda Wildlife Education Center, while here we look out for the orange weaver, a variety of sunbirds, Weavers some water birds if time allows bird Lutembe beach for Black Herons, and variety of terns, gulls, Swallowtails such as Green Banded Swallowtail, Narrow Green Banded Swallowtail, Emperor Swallowtail, Splendid Glossy Starling, Yellow-fronted Tinker bird, Yellow, Creamy White-eyes, Scarlet-chested, Olive, Green Sunbirds, Double-toothed Barbet, Black and White Casqued Hornbill, Woodland, Pygmy, Pied Kingfishers, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Vieillot's Black, Slender-billed, Golden-backed, Holub's Golden Weavers, Grey-headed Sparrow, Sunbird, Grey Woodpecker, Eastern Grey Plantain Eater, Alpine, Palm, White-rumped Swifts, Palmtree Vulture, African Green Pigeon, Hamerkop, Sacred Ibis, African Thrush, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Green Crombec, Long-tailed Cormorant and other water birds (depends on season). 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 3: BIRDING AT MABAMBA WETLAND ON LAKE VICTORIA

06:30hrs: After early morning breakfast, drive to Mabamba swamp for the Shoebill Stork and other water birds like the African and Lesser Jacana, Allen's and Purple Gallinule, Yellow Billed Duck, Purple and common Squacco Heron, Northern Brown Throated Weaver and Malachite Kingfisher among many more. 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 and Allen's Gallinule after which we head to Lake Mburo National Park, Lunch and birding en route there are special and interesting stop over points say the at Kaaku swamp which is very popular for the Rufous-bellied Heron, Lesser Jacana and Moorhen and a variety of water birds. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mihingo Lodge, or Midrange Arcadia Cottages, or Montana tented Camp (FB)**

DAY 4: GAME DRIVE AND BOAT RIDE

06:30hrs: After an early breakfast, go birding and game viewing, have a chance to see animals like buffalos, water and bush bucks, zebras, leopard, mongoose, Topi, crocodiles, hippos, warthogs and Impalas. We will also have a chance of seeing birds like the African Finfoot, a very shy bird, white-backed night heron, plus other water birds and grassland birds like the Brown-chested Plover (a migrant from Western Africa to Northern Tanzania and at times crosses to this place between June and December), Coqui and Crested Francolin, Red-faced Barbet, Red Headed Weaver here.

02:00hrs: In the afternoon we will do a boat-ride giving us a chance to more open grassland north of the camp, particularly along the Zebra Track, is worth exploring for species such as Coqui Francolin, Red-necked Spur fowl, Black-bellied Bustard, Temminck's Courser, African Wattled Plover, Rufous-Naped and lapped Larks, Rufous-chested Swallow, Yellow-throated Long claw and Southern Red Bishop. Small number of the migratory Brown-chested Plover is regularly observed. Check the grassland around the Mirllti Valley trail. Some of the nocturnal species include African Scops Owl; Verreaux's Eagle-Owl and Fiery-necked, Pennant-winged, Swamp, and Black shouldered Nightjars. Thereafter proceed to Mbarara for an overnight. **Dinner and overnight stay in Mbarara Hotel (FB)**

DAY 9: TRANSFER TO QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

05:30hrs: After taking early morning breakfast, pack bags and proceed to Queen Elizabeth NP, arriving for an afternoon boat ride on Kazinga channel where we get close to big schools of Hippos, Crocodiles, water birds like the African Spoonbill, African skimmer (seasonal) and many others. Do Birding along the way and have lunch in the Park. A few bird specialties at include 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. Return to the lodge and unpack bags to stay at own leisure time. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mweya safari lodge, or Midrange Kingfisher Kichwamba Lodge or Budget Mweya hostel (FB)**

DAY 6: MORNING GAME DRIVE AND BIRD

08:00hrs: After taking early morning breakfast, go for Morning game drive in Kasenyi track in search for Savanna birds like the Temminck's Courser, Martial Eagle,



Rupell's Griffon Vulture and many others afternoon bird the crater area. **Dinner and overnight stay in luxury Mweya safari lodge, or Midrange Kingfisher Kichwamba Lodge or Budget Mweya hostel (FB)**

DAY 7: RETURN TO ENTEBBE VIA KAMPALA

8:00hrs: After breakfast, depending on the time upon departure, transfer to Entebbe International Airport with one of our professional tour guides to take you for your outbound flight back home drive back to Entebbe for your Flight, end of our simple birding safari.

END OF TOUR

Cost of tour: US Dollar per person Sharing a 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: *Serena International Hotel/ Mihingo Lodge / Mweya Safari Lodge/ Laico Hotel*

Midrange: *Jacana Safari Lodge/Arcadia cottages or Montana tented Camp / Lindsay Cottages/ Mbarara Hotel/ Kingfisher Kichwamba Lodge or Jacana Safari Lodge*

Budget: *Mweya Hostel/ Sophie's Motel*

Price includes:

- 6 Nights accommodation with meal plan as stated
- Ground transportation (4WD) with pop-up roof for excellent game viewing.& fuel
- English speaking Guide/Driver's Fee & his associated expenses
- Park Entrance fees
- Forest Walk
- All activities as described in the itinerary
- City tour in the central business district of Kampala (if time allows)

But Excludes;

- All Expenses of personal nature like phone calls, bar bills, laundry bills etc
- Tipping of driver/Ranger or staff at the Camp/hotel or lodge
- A porter fees (if any required) someone who carries your day pack.
- Air tickets for both International and inbound flights
- Fees for extra and optional activities NOT included in the itinerary.
- Entry visa to Uganda
- Accommodation on the last day of the 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 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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