

AFRICAN SKIMMER

A Bird Uganda Safaris Ltd Publication

January 2023



MESMERIZING
KENYA

EXPLORING
ETHIOPIA

BEST OF
TANZANIA

REPTILE
TOUR

UGANDA PRIMATE TOUR

BACHWEZI TRAIL

Ancient Ankole Culture

WILDEBEEST MIGRATION

Kenya and Tanzania

RWANDA BIRDING

IC4WB

6th to 8th
DECEMBER
2023

International Conference for Women Birders

UGANDA



The first international conference for women birders will be held in Uganda from 6th to 8th December 2023. This will provide an unprecedented opportunity to bring together contributors from around the globe to share their ideas, experience and knowledge in avitourism, conservation and research, with the purpose of realising the potential of women to significantly contribute to these fields whilst simultaneously increasing their employment and business development opportunities and living standards.

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+256 777 912 938



+256 755 111267

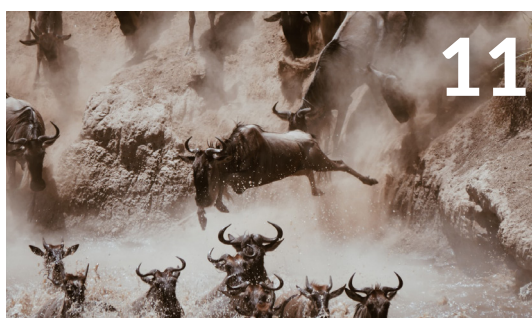


info@ic4wb.com

Editor-in-Chief Carolyn Mutesi
Writers: Gideon Atwiine
 Julius Musiimire
Graphic Design Musiime Muramura

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Our Partners



Bird Uganda Safaris Ltd

2nd Floor Room 27
 Capital Shoppers Nakawa
 P.O.Box 33164, Kampala, Uganda
 WhatsApp: +256 777 912 938
 Skype: ugandabirder
 Instagram: birdugandasafaris
 Facebook: Thebirdguides
 Email: info@birduganda.com
www.birduganda.com

HERBERT BYARUHANGA

DIRECTOR BIRD UGANDA SAFARIS

Herbert Byaruhanga is the Managing Director of Bird Uganda Safaris, LTD, and one of the most distinguished bird guides in East Africa. His company offers a variety of birding and wildlife tours of the most naturally resplendent regions of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi, among others.

He is affectionately known as “Papa” because of the great role he has played in mentoring young people, especially students, with a focus on women and youth.

With over 25 years of field guiding experience, he has dedicated himself to building professionalism in the tourism business of his home country, Uganda.

He is the leading trainer for tourist guides, especially bird guides, in East Africa. He is an accredited bird guide trainer by BirdLife International. He has also trained hundreds of tour managers, tour directors, and government officials around the region.

Herbert has continuously and purposefully shown his support for women in the tourism business. He started the Women Birders Club in 2013 and is the force behind the International Conference for Women Birders scheduled to take place in December 2023 in Uganda. Being the firstborn in a family of eight siblings, Herbert believes that when you educate and train a girl, you will have educated the nation.

His commitment to tourism development in the region has earned him a second chance to lead the apex body of the private sector tourism and hospitality associations in Uganda. He is also the chairman of the Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skills Council. He also serves as the secretary to the board of the Association of Uganda Tour Operators.

Herbert is the founder of the Uganda Safari Guides Association, Uganda Bird Guides Club, and Uganda Cultural Guides Club, and he leads the organising committee of the East African Tourist Guides Associations. He is actively involved in developing Uganda's youth through its Young Birders association. He is also the leading trainer of rangers and nature guides in the National Parks of Uganda.

Herbert holds a B.A. in tourism management from Makerere University, Kampala. He holds a high diploma in tourism and certificates in tourist guiding and advanced motoring.

He travels broadly as a guest speaker on the topics of birding in Uganda, avitourism development in Uganda, conservation and birding in Uganda, and bird guide training. He is often seen at international travel shows like the UK BirdFair, World Travel Market, Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival (SCBWF), Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, UP Bird Festival India, Colombia, Ecuador, Galapagos, Alaska, and many others.

Herbert has travelled extensively throughout the United States and has gathered over 400 species on his American Birding Association area list. He believes that every person has a unique ability to shape their own destiny through their own actions as well as their relationships with others; this belief drives him every day to help others achieve their goals while supporting them along their journey!



UGANDA'S MEMORABLE PRIMATE TOUR

Bird Uganda Safaris introduces you to this exciting adventure. This 12-day tour gives primate lovers the chance of a lifetime to track down some of the rarest apes in Africa. Uganda is indeed a primate lover's paradise, with a record of 20 species recorded within our borders. From the largest primates like the mountain gorillas to the smaller bush babies, surely primate lovers will be excited about seeing some of these diverse cousins of ours. Tracking gorillas and chimpanzees are surely the highlights of any trip to Uganda, and with this itinerary, you will not be disappointed by what Uganda has to offer.

DAY 1: ARRIVAL, OPTIONAL BIRDING BOTANICAL FOREST

Arrive at Entebbe airport, where you will be met by our team and transferred to your hotel. Check in and take a break. Freshen up from your flight. Relax at your hotel. In the evening, you will have an optional visit to the Botanical Gardens. The gardens were opened in 1898 and are a perfect introduction to Uganda's environment, wonderful primates, and birdlife. They are located on the shores of Lake Victoria and have a variety of species of trees, both indigenous and exotic. In the 1940s, the Tarzan movie was shot here. We will have a guided walk around the gardens, where you can get a chance to view the friendly

and playful vervet monkeys as they go about searching for food in their territories. Another species that can be easily seen is the Guereza colobus. This striking monkey, also known as the black-and-white colobus monkey, can be seen gliding from tree to tree in the canopy. Look out for birds like the Great Blue Turaco, Ross' Turaco, Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill, Eastern Plantain Eater, Grey Parrot, Pink-backed Pelican, Pied Kingfisher, Hammpecorp, Marabou Storks, Spur-winged Lapwing, etc. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight

DAY 2: MABIRA FOREST

After an early breakfast, we will head to the Mabira forest, located about 54 km east of Kampala town and 26 km west of Jinja town. This semi-deciduous forest is the largest remaining forest in Central Uganda, and its location between the two developed towns of Jinja and Kampala makes it an ideal attraction for natural history enthusiasts. The forest is also of immense ecological value as it is one of the few remaining forests where one can see some of the Congo biome species.

One of the unique primates to look for here is the Uganda Mangabey monkey. Originally thought to be the grey-cheeked mangabey, it was later discovered to be a different species of its own with a smaller size and different characteristics in the male and female individuals. They are vocal monkeys, and they can usually be seen up in the canopy, feeding in small numbers. Look out for other primates like vervet monkeys and red-tailed monkeys. The bird life in Mabira is quite impressive. This is one of the only two places in Uganda where you can see the Tit Hyla. Other birds you can look out for include the Nahan's Francolin, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Weyn's Weaver, Blue Swallow, forest wood-hoopoe, Yellow and Grey Longbills, and so much more. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight

DAY 3: KIBALE FOREST NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast, we will head west to Kibale Forest National Park. Gazetted in 1993, the 766 km² national park is a primate lovers' paradise. With 13 primate species recorded, the Kibale Forest Park is alluring for primate enthusiasts and bird lovers. At least 60 mammals have been recorded, including elephants, buffaloes, hippos, warthogs, giant forest hogs, bushpigs, and Sitatunga, among others. Over 335 bird species have been recorded, including 4 species found nowhere else in Uganda. These are the Cassin's spinetail, Blue-headed bee-eater, Nahan's francolin, and Masked Apalis. The green-breasted pitta is one of the rarities to look out for when you visit the park.

Check-in and spend the rest of the day at leisure. You can bird around the lodge and then have dinner.

DAY 4: CHIMPANZEE TRACKING

After an early breakfast, we will head to the forest for chimpanzee tracking activity. You will often hear them hooting through the forest before you see them. Chimpanzees are our closest living relatives. They are

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UGANDA

SHOEBILL, MOUNTAIN GORILLAS, AND ALBERTINE RIFT ENDEMIC.

Twenty-one days' tour to what is considered one of the most exciting countries in Africa. Straddling the equator, Uganda has an incredible variety of rich habitats, from papyrus swamps along the edge of Lake Victoria, where the bizarre Shoebill can still be found, to lush montane forests, home to the few surviving mountain gorillas, to expanses of rolling savannah covered with giraffes and antelope. We expect to see more than 450 species of birds, including members of all the typical "African" families. There are also chances of viewing more than 50 species of mammals, including elephants, giraffes, zebras, lions, and

possibly leopards! The big highlight of the tour will be the opportunity to spend an hour with both mountain gorillas and chimpanzees—an experience of a lifetime! We visit such incredible areas as Queen Elizabeth National Park, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, and stunning Murchison Falls along the headwaters of the Nile River. The photographic opportunities on this tour are amazing, and the cost is 30% less than other companies!

Group size is 2–12 participants.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day 1: Arrival

Day 2: Mabamba and Mburu National Park

Day 3: A whole day in the park

Day 4: Continue to Mghahinga through Echuya forest.

Day 5: A whole day birding the Albertine Rift Endemics

Day 6: Birding to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Day 7: Birding in the Mubwindi Swamp

Day 8: Gorilla tracking

Day 9: Birding through the "neck" forest section

Day 10: Birding the Main Trail

Day 11: Birding Queen Elizabeth National Park

Day 12: Whole day birding game drive

Day 13: Birding to Fort Portal

Day 14: Birding the Semliki Forest

Day 15: Birding to Kibale Chimps and Birding

Day 16: Birding to Masindi

Day 17: Birding Murchison Falls National Park

Day 18: A whole day birding the park

Day 19: Birding in Budongo Forest

Day 20: Whole day birding at the Royal Mile

Day 21: Birding to Entebbe International Airport for the evening departure



AFRICA'S DREAM VACATION

21 days of South Africa and Uganda.

This package introduces you to the best of both South Africa and East Africa. Birding in South Africa is an adventure you will not want to miss. With over 850 bird species recorded, the country has Africa's highest level of endemism, with 69 bird species. The variety of birdlife is quite impressive, with pelagic species like the endangered African penguins, migrants, and typical African birds. The wildlife is also breathtaking, and you can easily enjoy the Big 5.

Then you will fly into Uganda, where you will be introduced to two of man's closest cousins: the mountain gorilla and the chimpanzee. You will come face-to-face with the gentle mountain gorillas, deep in the misty rainforests they inhabit, and trek a few metres away from the highly vocal chimpanzees. Look out for the Albertine Rift endemics and other Uganda specialties.

Day 1: Arrive in Cape Town and transfer to suitable accommodation.

Day 2: A Cape Peninsula birding and wildlife tour taking in the Cape of Good Hope and Strandfontein wetland complex as well as the Boulder's African Penguin Coastal Reserve

Day 3: Travel north along the Atlantic coastline to the West Coast Park to overnight in a fishing village on the Paternoster Peninsula.

Day 4: Continue further north to the Berg River estuary and then inland to a game lodge situated in the heart of the semi-arid Tanqua Karoo, home to some of SA's most sought-after endemic birds.

Day 5: A day spent exploring the Tanqua Karoo in search of target species

Day 6: Head south over the scenic Matroosberg Mountains to Swellendam, situated in close proximity to the Bontebok National Park and the Grootvadersbosch Forest Reserve.

Day 7: Travel south across the Agulhas Coastal Plain to the De Hoop Nature Reserve for Cape Vulture and a suite of local endemics as well as mammals in this unique coastal area close to the southern tip of Africa.

Day 8: Return to Cape Town via the south coast with birding stops at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, Stony Point Penguin Reserve, and Rooi Els to search for Cape Rockjumper, "the jewel in the Cape birding crown."

Day 9: Fly directly to Skukuza, situated in the heart of the very best part of the Kruger National Park.



Day 10: Kruger is in search of mammals and birds within the Skukuza to Lower Sabie section of the park.

Day 11: Transfer to a private game lodge offering an authentic 4x4 safari car experience within the Greater Kruger Park to provide for the opportunity of "Big Five" sightings—elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino, and leopard—with the possibility of spotted hyena, cheetah, and African wild dog as sought-after extras.

Day 12: We will go on a game drive in the morning and fly to Johannesburg International Airport in the afternoon. We will spend the night at a comfortable lodge near the airport.

Day 13: Fly to Entebbe to link up with the Uganda part of the tour.

Day 14: Birding to Mabamba for the Shoebill. Drive to Lake Mburo National Park

Day 15: Whole day birding and game drive for more game viewing with a boat ride on Lake Mburo

Day 16: Birding in Bwindi National Park

Day 17: Gorilla tracking.

Day 18: Birding the whole day

Day 19: Drive to Kibale National Park.

Day 20: Chimpanzee tracking

Day 21: Drive to Entebbe for an evening departure



Ethiopia is a unique destination commonly known as “The Roof of Africa” or the “Cradle of Humanity.” It boasts of over 30 endemic birds with a total country list of about 850 species.

The country is fascinating, with a rich culture, amazing historical sites, and stunning landscapes. Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee, and the fact that it was never colonised ensures the rich cultural heritage is preserved and authentic, inherited from their ancestors.

This particular tour will focus on endemic birds and mammals in Ethiopia. The bird life is also quite impressive. It's home to an incredible six species of bustard. Other species to look out for are the endemics like the Abyssinian woodpecker, Ruspoli's Turaco, Stresemann's bushcrow, Blue-winged Goose, Black-fronted Francolin, Harwood's Francolin, Spot-breasted Plover, Yellow-fronted Parrot, White-tailed Swallow, Abyssinia Longclaw, and Abyssinian Catbird.

ETHIOPIA SAMPLE ITINERARY.

Day 1: Arrive and drive to Debre Libanos
Day 2: Debre Libanos, Jema, and Debre Birhane
Day 3: Melka Ghebdu and back to Debre Birhane
Day 4: Drive to Bilen via Dulecha
Day 5: Awash National Park
Day 6: Awash National Park
Day 7: Awash to Langano
Day 8: To the Bale Mountains via Dinsho
Day 9: Bale Mountains
Day 10: To Sof Omar (Optional, as we don't have to go to this area for the seedeater even though it is a generally interesting area for birding.)

Day 11: To Negele
Day 12: Negele
Day 13: Negele
Day 14: Drive to Yabello
Day 15: Yabello area
Day 16: Yabello area
Day 17: To Awassa
Day 18: To Langano (south-eastern parts; Bishangari area).
Day 19: Langano area
Day 20: Drive to Wolisso
Day 21: Drive back to Addis, clean up, and depart.

BIRDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Uganda is one country that is unbelievably incredible and has great opportunities for wildlife photography. Most travellers have been quoted as saying, "Uganda offers much more than just the great apes." Everything from exquisite bird-watching to great predator viewing, interspersed with large herds of buffalo and elephants, can easily be seen.

Photographing mountain gorillas tops an impressive list of primates, including chimpanzees, debraza monkeys, dents monkeys, blue monkeys, golden monkeys, guereza monkeys, and bush babies.

This tour of Uganda takes you to some of the excellent spots for photography.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

- Day 1:** Arrival
- Day 2:** Birding and photography at Mabamba, the home of the Shoebill Stork.
- Day 3:** Travel to Lake Mburo National Park
- Day 4:** A whole day in the park
- Day 5:** Travel to Bwindi
- Day 6:** We spent the whole day photographing and birding.
- Day 7:** Another chance of photographing the mountain gorillas
- Day 8:** Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Day 9:** A whole day of birding and photographing mammals in the park.
- Day 10:** Drive to Kibale National Park

Day 11: Spend your day birding and photographing the chimpanzee tracking.

Day 12: Travel to Masindi

Day 13: Enter the Murchison Falls National Park

Day 14: Have a whole day in the park with a boat cruise to the bottom of the falls.

Day 15: Drive back to Entebbe for an evening flight.



THE ROOTS OF AFRICAN SUPER NATURAL POWERS

BACHWEZI TRAIL

By Gideon Atwine

The history of the ancient monarchs of Africa does not stop in Egypt and Ethiopia; in East Africa, the history of the Chwezi Empire is quite significant.

Bird Uganda Safaris (BUS) has developed different packages, and among them is the epic Bachwezi trail, which is filled with rich knowledge from the historical-cultural beliefs, values, and norms of the natives along the trail. This fills the cultural gap within the tourism sector.

Our typical Bachwezi Trail is a five-day package that comprises a visit to the areas of Ntusi, Bigo bya Mugenyi, Kamihingo Agro-tourism Farm (all in Sembabule district), Amabare ga Mugore (Mugore Rocks) in Kazo district, and the Ankole Palace at Kamukuzi Hill in Mbarara district.

The Ntusi mounds are prehistoric mounds that were created by the Bachwezi, believed to be the first people in Uganda. They are archaeology deposits of bone, pottery, stones, and ash believed to have been deposited in the later Iron Age. There are two mounds, one male and one female. Bwogyero is a basin in the ground, located on the outskirts of Ntusi town. You will be able to hike between the sites and Mugore rocks and interact with the long-horned Ankole cattle and Banyankole culture. At the Kamihingo tourism site, you will enjoy more of the culture and the cuisine. You will then visit the revamped Ankole Palace. From the Bachwezi ditches and homes in Bigo bya Mugenyi to the Ekyiziba kya Mugasha (well of Mugasha) and Enkurungu ya Mugasha (a pounding stone of Mugasha) in

Amabare ga Mugore (Mugore rocks), Mugasha, Nakayima, and Nalongo are just a few of the Chwezi names one will get acquainted with on the trail.

The cultural cattle activities that one encounters and partakes in at Kamihingo Agro-Tourism Farm give a nod to the old. From the women's role of okwitira ebyanzi (smoking milk pots) to the men's role of okuhembera ente (setting a fireplace for cows) and all other rituals performed on long-horned Ankole cattle, at one's own will, one engages in such activities that later steer up one's experience.

The bond amongst the Bachwezi, Banyankore (cattle keepers), and the cattle (long-horned Ankole cattle) is remarkable and can only be encountered on the Bachwezi trail.

ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Travelling to Ntusi
- Day 2:** A tour around female and male Ntusi, Bwogyero, and then a foot trek in Bigo by a Mugenyi
- Day 3:** A trip to Kamihingo Agro-TTourism Farm
- Day 4:** Touring Mugore Rocks and Ankole Palace
- Day 5:** Traveling back to Kampala



A close-up photograph of three gorillas in a lush green forest. The gorilla in the center is looking directly at the camera, while the two on either side are looking slightly away. The text 'NEW UGANDA TOURS FOR 2023 - 2024' is overlaid in white on the bottom half of the image.

NEW UGANDA TOURS FOR 2023 – 2024

16 DAY CLASSIC AFRICAN SAFARI FOR GENERAL WILDLIFE

Uganda is home to an incredible array of wildlife, including gorillas, chimpanzees, lions, elephants, and more. Our classic African safari tour allows you to see the best of Uganda's wildlife in their natural habitat. Our experienced guides will take you on game drives, hikes, and boat trips to see the animals and learn about their behavior and ecology.

12 DAY PHOTOGRAPHY SAFARIS

For the photography enthusiasts, this tour is a must-have. With vast savannahs and dense tropical forests, Uganda offers a rich array of subjects to photograph. Our photography safaris are tailored to help you get the best shots of the amazing wildlife, landscapes, and cultures of Uganda. The safari is led by professional photographer guides who will help you to understand the best time and places to take pictures as well as giving you tips and tricks to improve your photography skills.

15 DAY EASTERN UGANDA TOUR

Explore the undiscovered side of Uganda on our Eastern Uganda tour. This tour takes you off the beaten path to experience the unique cultures and landscapes of the region. You'll visit traditional villages, hike through beautiful mountains, and see unique wildlife of the region including Roan antelops, Mountain Reedbucks, Bat eared fox, Brights and Mongalla gazelle, White eared Kobs among others.

21 DAY CULTURAL ADVENTURE SAFARIS

Get a deeper understanding of Uganda's culture and people on our cultural adventure safaris. These tours take you to the heart of Uganda, where you'll meet local communities and learn about their customs, traditions, and way of life. You'll visit historic sites, attend cultural events, and try

traditional Ugandan cuisine. You will be guided by cultural experts on Ugandan culture who will provide insights and context to help you understand and appreciate the country's rich cultural heritage.

14 DAY REPTILE TOURS

Uganda is home to a wide variety of reptiles, including crocodiles, snakes, lizards, and more. On our reptile tours, you'll get a chance to see these fascinating animals up close and learn about their behavior and ecology. Our experienced guides will take you to the best places to see reptiles in the wild, and will provide information and insights to help you understand these often-misunderstood creatures.

21 DAY SPECIAL SAFARIS FOR STUDENTS

Uganda is an ideal destination for students looking to learn about wildlife, conservation, and culture. Our special safaris for students provide an immersive and educational experience, with opportunities to conduct research and learn from experts in the field. The tour is designed for students to gain a deeper understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of Uganda and also interact with local communities.

16 DAYSWOMEN ADVENTURE SAFARIS

Embark on an adventure of a lifetime with our women-only safaris. These tours are specially designed for women who want to explore Uganda's wilderness and culture in a supportive and empowering environment. Led by female guides, our safaris offer the perfect blend of adventure and relaxation, and provide opportunities to connect with other like-minded women while exploring the beautiful country of Uganda.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a landlocked nation located in central Africa. It has a land area of 26,338 square kilometres and borders Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Rwanda is a world-class site for mountain gorilla tracking in Volcanoes National Park. The park is home to around 175 bird species, including 13 species and 16 subspecies found solely in the Albertine rift, which includes the Rwenzori Mountains. Chimpanzee tracking is also possible in the Cyamudongo forest, a tiny pristine forest of roughly 6 square kilometres in size.

There are several museums and memorial places worth visiting around the nation. The Kigali Memorial Center, for example, was erected to remember the victims of the 1994 genocide. This centre includes a museum, a library, an exhibition hall, and a human rights research centre.

The nation also has a diverse culture, including handicrafts and traditional music. Wildlife may also be found at Volcanoes National Park, Akagera National Park, and Nyungwe Forest National Park.



7 DAY GORILLA TRACKING AND BIRDING

Day 1:

Arrival Early arrivals will have the chance to do a city tour and visit the Nyamata Memorial site. This church and all its contents are a reminder of the horrifying violence that took place at this site during Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

Day 2:

Transfer to Parc National des Volcans Parc National des Volcans protects the steep slopes of this magnificent mountain range another home of the rare mountain gorilla and the rich mosaic of montane ecosystems, which embrace evergreen and bamboo forests, open grassland, swamps, and heath. We shall follow one of the numerous trails in the park and bird for the rest of our day. Stay at Kinigi Guesthouse/Virunga Lodge

Day 3:

Gorilla tracking and birding in the forest Stay at Kinigi Guesthouse/Virunga Lodge

Day 4:

Golden Monkey Tracking, Community/Village Walk

Day 5:

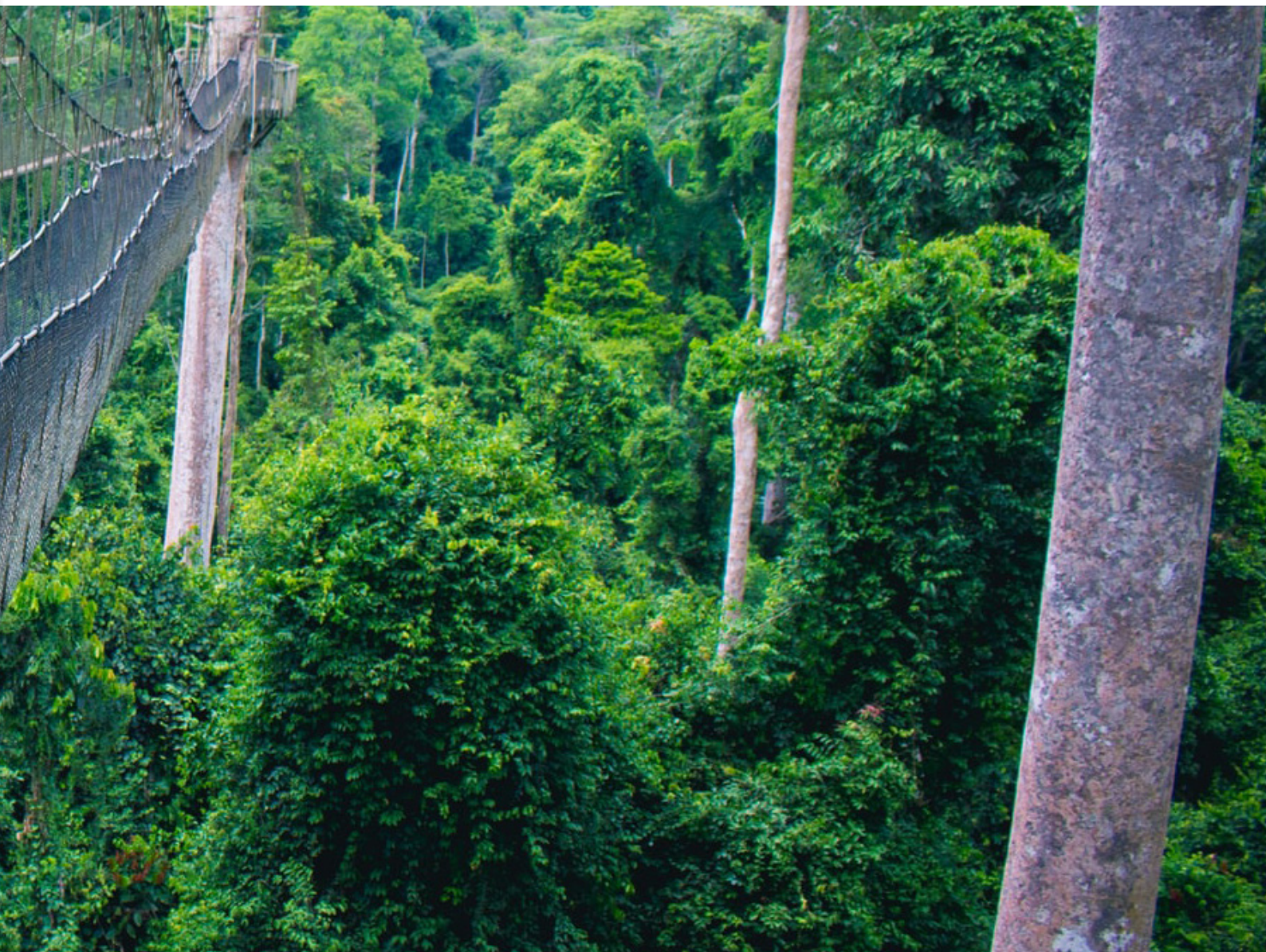
Transfer to Parc National Nyungwe and head straight for a nature walk in the forest. Bird species to look out for here include the Great Blue Turaco, Ruwenzori and Ross' Turaco, White-throated Robin, and other endemics. Stay at ORTPN Guesthouse/Gisakura Guesthouse

Day 6:

Chimpanzee tracking and birding After an early morning breakfast, we drive towards the Cyamudongo forest for chimpanzee tracking. Cyamudongo Forest is a small relic forest covering an area of 6 square kilometres. Historically, it was connected to the Nyungwe forest, but its vegetation is denser, with fewer clearings. Cyamudongo Forest harbours a good population of chimpanzees and L'Hoest's monkey. Stay at the ORTPN Guesthouse

Day 7:

Transfer to Kigali and departure



MESMERIZI

Straddling the Equator, with the Indian Ocean lapping at its shores Kenya has the mix of Savannah safari destinations and tropical island vibes we crave. From more adventurous activities like hiking Mount Kenya, the second highest mountain in Africa, and spending time with the Masai tribes herding their cattle alongside lions, leopards, and hyenas. Kenya is the ideal destination that combines an African safari with the world's most dramatic migration in the Masai Mara National Park.

Kenya is famous for its significant concentration of wildlife, which is protected in an excellent system of parks and reserves. The country has 24 national parks, 15 national reserves, 6 marine parks, and several private conservancies. Straddling the equator and the Indian Ocean lapping the eastern border, the weather is tropical and sunny all year round, supporting rich vegetation of forested hills, patchwork farms, and rolling savanna, making Kenya a richly rewarding place to visit.

Additionally, there are over 1,100 species of birds recorded, all in locations where they are easy to spot. Making a daily checklist of more than 100 species is simple. Extensive road systems, first-rate lodging, and incredible hotels with top-notch site guides and rangers. We offer a variety of safaris, ranging in length from a few days to several weeks, and we also offer incredible beach relaxation extensions. For your ideal Kenya safari, contact us.

CENTRAL KENYA SPECIALITIES

Day 1:

Arrive at the airport, where you will be transferred to your hotel. Spend the day at leisure recuperating from the long journey.

Day 2:

Tour Nairobi National Park. Conveniently located a few kilometres from the city center, this park is an amazing way to get introduced to Kenya's wildlife and birds. Look out for the endangered white and black rhinos. Ostriches and secretary birds are some of the large birds that can be seen here.

Day 3:

We will be transferred to the Masai Mara National Park. We will have a game drive. Look out for big game, like antelopes like wildebeest, zebra, Thompson gazelle, buffalo, giraffe, and savanna birds.

Day 4-6:

We will spend more time in Masai Mara. Look out for predators and their kills. Watch out for lions, leopards, hyenas, cheetahs, serval cats, caracal jackals, and foxes. Enjoy birding in Mara for the next 3 days.

Day 7:

We will transfer to Kakamega Forest while birding en route. Watch the landscapes change as we move from the savannas to the forested environment.

Day 8-9:



For these two days, we will bird around Kakamega Forest. The forest has characteristics more typical of Cameroon and Gabon specialties, with birds like the Crowned Eagle, Makinnoon's Shrike, and Double-toothed and Yellow-billed Barbets.

Day 10:

Transfer to Lake Baringo National Park. We will see birds along the way. At the Baringo Cliffs, look out for raptors like the Verraux's Eagle, Gray's Eagle-owl, and Northern White-faced Owl, among others.

Day 11:

Birding Lake Baringo. We will go on a boat ride to enjoy these water birds.

Day 12:

Transfer to Aberdare National Park. We will stop at the Equator monument before proceeding. We will bird around the country club in their well-manicured gardens.

Day 13:

Aberdare N.P. whole day birding. Look out for birds like the silver-cheeked hornbill, Hartlaub's turaco, cinnamon-breasted bee-eater, endemic Aberdare cisticola, Rupell's robin-chat, and much more.

Day 14:

Today we transfer to the Samburu National Reserve. Here, local nomadic herdsman graze their cattle right next to the wildlife, and it's amazing to see this harmony between man and nature.

Day 15-16:

Birding Samburu. Look out for buff-crested bustards, Nubian woodpeckers, Taita fiscal, slate-cloomed boubous, Northern crombecs, and Vulturine Guinea fowl.

Day 17:

Return to Nairobi and check in to your hotel. Enjoy relaxation after the long safari.

Day 18:

Departure for home. You will be transferred to the airport for your departure flights.

NG KENYA

MASAI MARA MIGRATION SAFARI

Day 1:

August (Nairobi-Masai Mara) Depending on the arrival time, pick up from Nairobi Wilson Airport and fly to Maasai Mara National Reserve. Upon arrival, you will be picked up by your driver guide and transferred to your camp or lodge.

Day 2, 3 & 4:

August (Masai Mara): daily morning and afternoon game drives at Maasai Mara plains to witness the great wildebeest migration from Tanzania's Serengeti national park to Kenya's Maasai Mara national reserve at Mara River. All meals and overnight stays are at the camp or lodge.

Day 5, 6, and 7:

August (Masai Mara) For a richer experience, we will relocate to an alternative lodge or camp on another site of the reserve to enjoy a broader perspective of the migration taking place with your tour guide.

Day 8:

August (Masai Mara-Nairobi) Depart for an early morning game drive and back to the lodge or camp for breakfast. After check-out, you will be transferred to a nearby airstrip for your flight to Nairobi Wilson Airport, where you will be met by your taxi driver for your transfer to a city restaurant for lunch. After lunch, you will be transferred to JKIA for your outbound flight.



TANZANIA

Tanzania is a country of many attractions and activities. From the rolling hills and plains of the Serengeti to the crystal clear waters of Zanzibar, Tanzania has something for everyone. Tanzania is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Africa, with more than 8 million tourists visiting the country each year. The country offers a wide range of activities and things to see, from beaches to national parks, historic sites, and ancient cities.

Tanzania is home to some of the world's last great wilderness areas. The Serengeti National Park is one of Tanzania's most famous attractions. The park is home to hundreds of animals, including lions, cheetahs, leopards, hyenas, and wild dogs. It also has one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in Africa, with over 2 million migrating annual visitors each year, making it one of the world's most action-packed migrations of large antelopes, mainly wildebeest and zebra. Predators will also be seen shadowing and hunting these herds as they migrate through their territories. The river crossings of the Great Migration are one of the must-see phenomena when you visit Africa.

Other popular places include Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa; Ngorongoro Crater, which offers spectacular views all around while being surrounded by beautiful scenery; and Mount Meru National Park, home to a few remaining black rhinos.

You can also hike through forests full of chimpanzees in Gombe and Mahale national parks, an unforgettable experience.

The white sandy beaches of Zanzibar have been a popular tourist destination since the island was colonized by Arab traders in the 9th century AD, who called it "Zanj" (the island). Today, tourism in Zanzibar is still on the rise, with more than 4 million tourists visiting annually thanks to its beautiful beaches, modern resorts, and laid-back lifestyle. Tanzania is a great place to visit, not only because of its natural beauty but also because of its rich culture and history.

The birdlife is quite impressive, with 1,100 species listed on the National Checklist. Bird lovers are usually stunned by the abundance and visibility of these unique birds. The country has a record of 34 endemic species that occur in no other country. This list is only second to South Africa! If you are looking for adventure and excitement, look no further than Tanzania.



NIA



TANZANIA MIGRATION SAFARI

Day 1:

February to March (Nairobi to Arusha) Pick up at Nairobi Wilson Airport and fly to Kilimanjaro Airport, where you will be met by your driver guide and transferred to a camp or lodge in Tarangire National Park.

Day 2, 3, and 4:

Tarangire National Park After breakfast, depart to a camp for Tarangire National Park, one of the most beautiful parks in Tanzania with regards to animal concentration and abundance. Big herds move down from Ngorongoro, Manyara, and surrounding game reserves to fetch water and food, as Tarangire is always full of vegetation. Dinner, lunch, breakfast, and an overnight stay at a lodge or camp

Day 5:

Tarangire-Lake Manyara National Park After an early morning game drive, return to the camp for breakfast, then check out and drive to Lake Manyara National Park, arriving in time for lunch. Spend the rest of the day leisurely birding around the lodge.

Day 6:

Lake Manyara National Park (full-day game drive) After breakfast, depart for Lake Manyara National Park for game drives with picnic lunch boxes, an amazing wildlife sanctuary famous for its tree climbing lions and dramatic views. It is located in a depressed valley where the red and brown cliffs of the western wall of the Great Rift Valley seem to rise up out of the lake itself. Springs rising from the base of the escarpment provide a welcome water supply. Manyara includes a variety of habitats, is home to a variety of big game, and has a rich assortment of birdlife. Dinner and overnight stay at the camp or lodge

Day 7:

Lake Manyara—Serengeti After breakfast, depart for Serengeti National Park via the beautiful high lying farmland of Karatu,



PAUL KIRUI - TOUR LEADER

arriving in time for lunch. After lunch, you will have an afternoon game viewing drive. Dinner and overnight at the camp or lodge

Day 8, 9, & 10:

Full days in the Serengeti Morning game viewing at Serengeti National Park, which is made up of several vegetation zones; breakfast, lunch, dinner, and overnight at camp or lodge

Day 11:

Serengeti-Ngorongoro Crater After an early morning game drive, return to camp or the lodge for breakfast, then check out and drive to Ngorongoro crater, arriving in time for lunch.

Day 12:

Ngorongoro crater. Full day game viewing with a chance to visit the crater Dinner and overnight at the camp or lodge

Day 13:

Ngorongoro camp—Kilimanjaro airport. After breakfast, drive to Arusha for your departure flight at 1 p.m. to Nairobi Wilson Airport. You will be picked up and transferred to a city restaurant for lunch by the taxi driver, then drive to JKIA for your flight home.



TANZANIA BIRDING

This itinerary introduces you to the greatest wildlife spectacle on Earth. The Serengeti, which means “extended place” in the Masai language, is the stage for this amazing spectacle. Millions of blue wildebeest, half a million Thompson gazelles, and a quarter of a million zebra gather here in February, following the rains south, migrating from the Masai Mara Park. But this time, they settle on the Serengeti plains for a longer time on their endless annual migration route.

Each February, the volcanic soils of the Serengeti, rich in minerals and nutrients, witness the biggest baby boom. In just three short weeks, over half a million calves are born here. The herds do this to protect their young by overwhelming the predators with an enormous amount of potential prey, giving their offspring a fighting chance to survive during the most vulnerable times of their lives. Predators eagerly anticipate the herds, and it is common to see tens of predators, including a pride of lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and leopards, hunting the abundant prey. The smaller predators, like jackals and vultures, can also be seen scavenging. Bird life is also amazing, as we shall witness various bishops, whydahs, and widowbirds eagerly displaying their breeding plumage.

We will also visit the amazingly breathtaking UNESCO Heritage site of Ngorongoro, the world’s largest intact volcanic caldera. It’s not only famous for its spectacular views but also for the overwhelming number of wildlife within this area. Watch out for some of the last remaining black rhinos. Other parks we will visit will be the Arusha National Park, Tarangire National Park, famous for its large herds of elephants, and Lake Manyara National Park, where we will enjoy birding around the soda-filled lakes, which draw lots of water birds like pelicans, flamingos, cormorants, ducks, and herons, among others.

Day 1 and 2: Arrival

Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport. You will be met and transferred to your lodge. These days will give time for everyone to arrive, factoring in delays. We will spend the days leisurely birding around the lodges. The area around the lodge is not only famous for monkeys like the Guereza monkey and blue monkey but also for unique birds like Peter’s Twinspot, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Brown-breasted and White-eared Barbets, and Mountain Wagtail, among others.

Day 3: Arusha National Park

Today we will go birding in Arusha National Park. Game drives are spectacular in this park, and it is possible to see quite a number of large mammals. The park is famous for its large population of elephants as well as some of the last naturally occurring black rhinoceroses. The bird

life in the park is prolific, with over 400 species recorded. The cliffs of the mountains are home to some of the cliff-residing raptors like the Verreaux eagle, Augur buzzard, and Lammaergeyer, among others. The Momella crater lakes are shallow alkaline lakes, each with different mineral content and hence all varying in different hues and shades of color. They attract so many water birds like herons, ducks, flamingos, pelicans, and different waders. Other birds to look out for include Hartlaub’s turaco, white-eared barbet, Narina trogon, brown-breasted barbet, African broadbill, black-throated wattle-eye, paradise flycatcher, black-breasted apalis, little greenbul, and so much more.

Day 4: Flight to Mwanza; drive to Speke Bay

You will take a flight to Mwanza, then drive to Speke Bay. The bay is part of the Speke Gulf, which was named after

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John Hanning Speke, who in 1856 “discovered” Lake Victoria as the source of the River Nile. Check-in at the lodge and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Birding in the afternoon will deliver an amazing diversity of water and garden birds.

Day 5: Speke Bay and Lake Victoria

Today we will spend the entire day birding around Speke Bay. Lake Victoria is Africa’s largest lake, covering three countries: Uganda, Kenya, and Uganda. This inland sea is a haven of wildlife. Among the hundreds of water birds, the lake is home to the Sitatunga antelope, clawless otter, and monitor lizard. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded in the vicinity of the lodge, some of which will be hard to find elsewhere. Enjoy species like

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the blue-winged coucal, pied, African Pygmy, malachite kingfisher, angola swallow, yellow-headed and golden-backed weavers, grey-capped warblers, and D’Anauld’s barbet.

Day 6: Transfer to Central Serengeti

After breakfast, we will get packed lunches and proceed slowly to Western Serengeti birding along the way. Serengeti is Tanzania’s largest and most famous National Park. The park is arguably Africa’s finest game viewing destination, known to have the highest density of Lions. We will enjoy some of the big game like Wildebeest, Zebra, Buffalo, Topi, Impala and other antelopes. We will go towards the Grumeti River where we shall enjoy huge crocodiles and hippos. Enjoy an introduction to the amazing Serengeti flora and fauna. Check in the lodge in the evening.

Day 7 and 8: Serengeti

We will spend two days birding in the Serengeti. The park covers an area of 14,763 km² and is part of a larger ecosystem that includes the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and other smaller parks. The mineral-rich volcanic soils attract great numbers of herds, following the rains south from Kenya. The vegetation is open grasslands, interrupted by large koppies, which are large granite rocks that stick out of the rather flat grasslands. These Koppies are homes of pride lions, with several feelings of pride seen around the Simba, Moru, and Gol. The Serengeti is known for its high density of predators, which range from about 2,500 to 3000 individuals, with lions being the most prominent. Other predators include cheetahs, leopards, spotted hyenas, golden jackals, bat-eared foxes, black-backed jackals, civets, African wild cats, serval cats, and genet. Some of the birds to look out for include the Yellow-billed and Red-billed ox-pecker, the Red-billed buffalo weaver, the Grayish flycatcher, the Swahili sparrow, the Lesser kestrel, the Brown-crowned Tchagara, the Wattled Starling, the Ground Hornbill, the Secretary Bird, and lots of cliff nesting raptors.



Day 9, 10 and 11: Eastern Serengeti, Ndutu Area

These 3 days will be spent viewing more of what the Eastern Serengeti has to offer. The vegetation is still open savanna, but there are more koppies in this area. Look out for lions around the Simba koppie and cheetah and lion at the Gol koppie. Other animals that reside on these rocky outcrops include the rock hyrax, leopard, rock agama lizard, klipspringer, and mockingbird. Lake Ndutu is the epicentre of the Great Migration, and this is the place where the big action between predator and prey often happens. Lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and the occasional leopard can be seen hunting often, while jackals, foxes, and vultures can be seen cleaning up the carrion. Look out for birds like the Mariqua and Beautiful Sunbird, the Nubian and Cardinal Woodpecker, the Green Woodhoopoe, the Black-lored Babbler, Fischer's Lovebird, the Grey-breasted Spurfowl, the Rufous-tailed Weaver, and so much more.

Day 12, 13 and 14: Ngorongoro Conservation Area

The UNESCO-recognized Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which extends 8,292 km², is an immensely beautiful area, and no one should miss spending time on the crater floor. The Ngorongoro crater itself is the place where you can reliably see huge concentrations of wildlife all year round. The big five are well presented: lion, elephant, buffalo, and rhino can easily be seen, while leopards, due to their stealthy nature, can be seen regularly. The crater's elephants are all male; the females and young move through the area. Some of the biggest tuskers can be seen here, and with the picturesque 600-meter-high walls of the crater, it provides wonderful photography opportunities. The area has the densest concentration of predators in Africa.

We will spend the next three days here viewing wildlife and birds. Look out for species like the Kori bustard, the world's heaviest flying bird; the ostrich; the Augur



buzzard; the long-crested eagle; the Egyptian vulture; the rosy-throated longclaw; and more. The pinkish Lake Magadi is home to hundreds of flamingos, while the Mandusi Swamp is home to waders, stocks, ducks, and herons.

Day 15: Lake Manyara National Park

Today we will visit Lake Manyara National Park. The park covers an area of 330km sq and is named after the shallow alkaline Lake Manyara. The park is famous for its large elephant numbers and it is one of the best places to see tree climbing lions of Tanzania. The park is also known for its large numbers of species like hippos, baboons, blue monkeys, giraffes, buffalo and a number of

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antelope species. The birdlife is quite prolific with 400 species recorded in the area; casual birders can easily spot over 100 species in one day. The park is a haven for several bee-eaters, rollers, kingfishers, Ground hornbill, White-backed pelican, flamingos, Yellow-billed stock and Pink-backed pelican. The park is home to an amazing 51 species of diurnal raptors of which 28 can be regularly seen. Look out for six species of owls recorded here, the Crowned eagle, African eagle-hawk, Fish eagle and Palmnut vulture.



Day 16 and 17: Tarangire National Park

We will then proceed to Tarangire National Park, where we will be based for the next two days. The park covers an area of 2,850 km² and is a highly rewarding wildlife destination. The park is renowned for the large number of elephants located here, with over 2,500 individuals recorded! It is one of the few areas in Africa where elephant numbers are steadily growing. A paradise for elephant lovers

The park's vegetation is slightly different from that of the Serengeti and is characterized by semi-acacia and mixed woodland. Also characteristic are the large baobab trees that line the slopes of the Tarangire River. Tarangire's wildlife is mostly seasonal, but during the rainy season between December and April, the park is a fantastic safari destination that should not be missed.

Day 18 and 19: Return to Arusha; fly home.

Today we will have a leisurely departure to Arusha. We will have a brief drive looking for species we may have missed as we drive to Arusha. You will then have a chance to freshen up and depart for your flights home.



Continued from Page 3 – Uganda Primate Tour

highly intelligent species and share 98% of our DNA.

Chimpanzees are our closest living relatives. They are highly endangered species, with only 150,000–300,000 species left in the world. We will spend an hour with them as they go through their day. Watching these amazing gentle giants just metres from you is an amazing activity you cannot afford to miss.

Return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development (KAFRED) at the Bigodi wetland for a swamp walk. The association was established in 1992, and its main goals are to provide a sustainable solution for the rural population and to help them get out of poverty. They do this by providing access to clean water and sanitation facilities, as well as improving agricultural practices.

They have created a lovely walk on the edge of the forest where primates like the blue monkey, guereza colobus, red-tailed monkey, grey-cheeked mangabey, vervet monkey, and more can be easily spotted. Walking through the swamp is a refreshing and exciting activity unique to Bigodi Wetland. Bigodi Swamp is known as the “Home of

the Great Blue Turaco,” and the birdlife is quite amazing. You can easily spot over 40 species, with most of these being forest-fringe or swamp specialists. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, we will transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Established in 1920 as Kazinga Channel National Park, the 1,978 km² park is the most popular and most accessible national park in Uganda. The park’s diversity is unparalleled, with two large lakes (Lake George and Edward), ten crater lakes, the Kazinga channel, two forests (Kyambura and Maramagambo), and extensive savanna grasslands. 95 species of mammals have been recorded, the most of any national park in Uganda. The birdlife is simply amazing, with a total of 610 species recorded, the most of any national park in Africa and possibly the world.

Arrive and check in at the lodge. You will then have lunch. In the afternoon, we will head to the Maramagambo forest. Located in the southeast of the park, this forest has more of the characteristics of the Central and Eastern rainforests. The forest also has beautiful crater lakes like Lake Nyamisigiri, Lake Kaguba, Lake Murabyo, and Lake Kyasanduka. Primates here include chimpanzees, vervet, blue, red-tailed, Guereza, and L’Hoest monkeys.

Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight

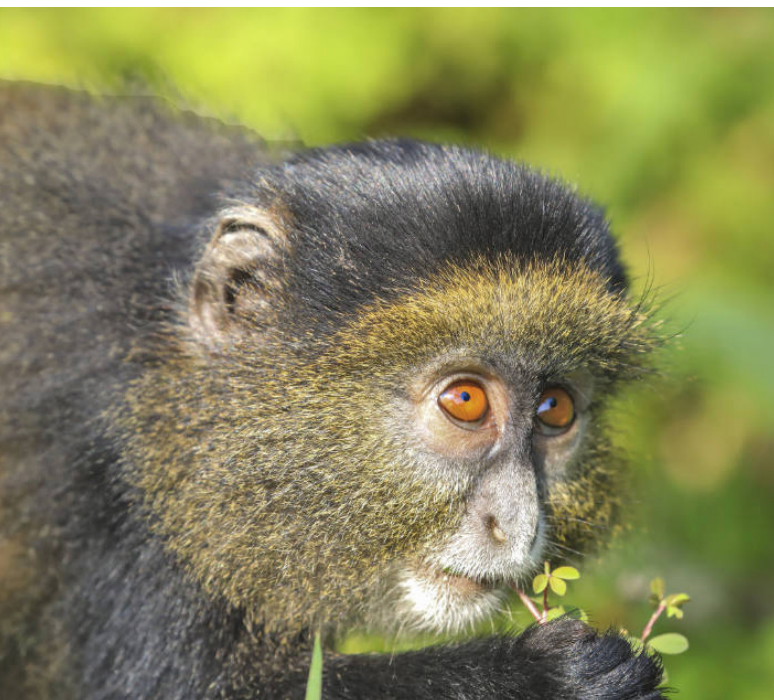
DAY 6: CHIMP TREKKING AND BOAT CRUISE

Today we will have an early breakfast and head for chimp tracking activity in Kyambura Gorge. The gorge was formed by the Kyambura River slowly eroding its banks to finally form the 16-kilometer gorge. The riparian forest is an oasis in the savanna and acts as a buffer zone during the dry season, when the animals come down the valleys to feed on the forest vegetation and drink from the gorge.

We will track chimps; the terrain is a little bit tough because of the gradient, but the experience of spending time with these creatures is still rewarding. Watch these intelligent creatures go about their usual activities of feeding, playing, grooming, and displaying. We will spend an hour with them while we look out for other primates and birds. Look out for baboons, black-and-white colobus monkeys, and red-tailed monkeys. Kyambura is one of the best places for black bee-eaters and blue-bellied kingfishers.

We will have lunch at the lodge.

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AFRICA'S MOST BEAUT

The lilac-breasted roller (*Coracias caudatus*) is indisputably Africa's most beautiful bird species, in my opinion. Because of their many blending colors on their pastel plumage, they won themselves the name "Rainbow Rollers." The crown to the mantle is olive, cheeks and ear coverts are purple rufous, there is a shiny brown back, royal blue, sky blue, the uppermost outermost of the tail is black, and a lilac neck and breast—in fact, rollers have about eight fascinating colors and amazing syndactyl feet in which the second and third digits are webbed, making it unique from other birds. The acrobatic flyer has a wingspan range of 50 to 58 cm and a mass of about 104 g, with males being larger compared to females. You actually don't need to be explained to; you need to see the striking creatures yourself.

The Lilac-breasted rollers are generally savanna birds easily spotted in the savanna woodlands.

They are prevalent in Africa's sub-Saharan national parks, which suggests booking a wildlife safari to Lake Mburo National Park in Uganda, the Turkana Basins in Kenya, Angola, Namibia (excluding the Namib Desert), and Western Somalia. The lilac-breasted rollers are generally savanna birds easily spotted in the savanna woodlands. Their attracting colors of plumage make them easily identified; in fact, seeing one of these beautiful birds fly warrants even as much attention and excitement as spotting lions or leopards. It is such an experience that will remain fresh in your mind for decades or even a lifetime.

Surprisingly, these birds are not sexually dimorphic and pair for life. During courtship, the male displays



IFUL BIRD

its wings, rolling them on all sides with a harsh chuckle to entertain the female. They do not always create cavities themselves. They take nesting spaces for kingfishers and woodpeckers, at times build their nests in dried up coconuts and terminal trees 5 meters off the ground, and also nest in the sides of termite molds. They lay 2 to 4 eggs, and both parents incubate the eggs for about 20 to 24 days. The eggs hatch, and the chicks are born altricial but become fully feathered after 19 days. The lilac-breasted rollers feed on insects, small birds, snails, lizards, and scorpions, and in most cases, they are found on roadside verges or near fire burnings to feed on insects and small birds running away from fire. They also fall on the food menus of the Bateleur eagles, Wahlberg's eagles, red-necked falcons, and peregrine falcons.

The other interesting story is that the lilac-breasted roller is Kenya's national bird because of its many colors, which represent the different tribes that make up Kenya's community, and because of the beautiful reference to the rich diversity that exists

within Kenya. It is also called "Kambu" in Swahili. This bird is non-migratory; thus, in African culture, it is considered a bird of peace. It was often sacrificed by kings to declare peace and harmony in their land. And in the Zulu tradition, before a couple is to be married, they must be tied together with the feathers of this roller; if the feathers come undone, they cannot marry; therefore, to "tie the knot," one would have to depend on the strength of the feathers and their own togetherness.

The lilac-breasted rollers, "Rainbow Rollers," Africa's most beautiful bird, is of least concern according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).



WHY TRAVEL WITH BIRD UGANDA SAFARIS

For over 25 years, Bird Uganda Safaris has been sharing our love for birding, nature adventures, and cultural interactions in Uganda and beyond. Locally owned and operated right here in Uganda, we specialize in small, private groups interested in African birding and adventure tours. Our tours range from one-day excursions to multi-day and multi-country holidays. We also run custom tours on request.

Our tours are specially designed to take you off the beaten track and up-close with beautiful birds, mesmerizing nature, landscapes, and hospitable and friendly locals who make destination Africa an unforgettable experience. Here are the reasons you should choose us for your next African adventure:

WORLD-CLASS GUIDES AND ADVENTURE PLANNERS

Our guides and adventure planners are the first reason you should travel with us. All our guides are personable, friendly, active birders, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and empathetic people who love sharing and showing off our beautiful destinations.

Our Director and Lead guide Herbert Byaruhanga is instrumental in founding Uganda Bird Guides' Association and pioneering birding as a mainstream product in Uganda. Having spent years observing, and photographing birds

and nature, he realized the great potential of Africa as one of the leading tourist destinations. He has hence spent years training youth, women, and other marginalized communities to realize their potential in the industry and enabled them to start earning a much-needed income in tourism.

All our guides have been extensively trained and are passionate about birds and nature. We use our amassed knowledge to entertain our visitors, ensuring every aspect of your trip is safe, enjoyable, enlightening, educative, and full of long-lasting memories of Africa.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw women disproportionately affected by the closure of the industry, even more efforts have been put in by our company to train and employ women guides to attain gender equality in the tourism industry.

INCREDIBLE VALUE

Few tour operators offer our combination of quality hotels, small group sizes, and educative cultural immersions in all our itineraries—at the amazing prices we charge. We are pioneers in designing and running ground-breaking bird-watching itineraries with constant upgrades of trails, destinations, and activities depending on the real feedback and research we get on our ongoing trips.

We pride ourselves on our 5-star ratings and the feedback we receive from our guests. We provide friendly and highly personalized services before, during, and after your safari when you arrive back home. We understand we need to always provide our clients with more value for their money, and your satisfaction is significant to our success. We use past insights from the trips we have run to enhance the quality of service on all our tours and your overall experience.

TOURING VARIETY AND INNOVATIVE ADVENTURES

At Bird Uganda Safaris, we are always looking to provide new and unique experiences to get you off the beaten track to special, underrated destinations. Our first-hand knowledge of birding, nature, and adventure travel is unmatched, and we continue to evolve each year with new innovative activities and programs. We also continue to perfect our classic tours so that even the most experienced travelers will be inspired by our range of diversity and interesting itineraries.

We are based on the ground, and we invest ample time and resources to learn about new sightings, new activities, and new destinations opening up around Africa for tourism. We have spent years building relationships around Africa and have built a team of partners who understand our missions and values. We run trips to these exciting places several times in the year, and with our clients' feedback, we understand and use their experiences to further perfect each itinerary. We enhance your journey with authentic experiences, genuine cultural experiences, and exploration of less travelled places.

INSPIRED HOTELS AND CUISINE

Accommodations are one of the factors that make or break a tour. After a great day of absorbing nature and breathtaking sightseeing, we all crave hot showers, delicious food, and warm, comfortable beds to prepare for the next day's adventures. We choose lodges with wonderful landscapes and reputations based on reviews and our experience with them over the years.

We base our itineraries on a full-board basis, and when we have to spend the days in the wild enjoying nature, we plan healthy packed lunches we can enjoy picnic-style.

We confirm all bookings months before you travel, and we cater to special requests in cases of accessibility and dietary requirements.

PEACE OF MIND

At Bird Uganda Safaris, creating personal connections is our mantra. We are passionate about travel, and we advocate for perfect experiences that will leave you with fond memories of Africa. Whether a planned itinerary or a custom-made request, we work with you to personalize the tour to your needs. We advise you on what would work perfectly for your tour group and travel partners. We always ensure you are kept up to date with all information about all activities, programs, and routines to be expected during your trip. We believe in briefing and debriefing clients before their excursions and every evening before they break off for the night so they are prepared for the next day's activities.

In case of any emergencies, we are always there to make things right so that your tour goes on perfectly as it was planned. When you book with Bird Uganda Safaris, you have a team for you ready to help no matter where you are.

WE GIVE BACK

With our itineraries, we often interact with the local communities. We share their knowledge, delight in their stories, are entertained by their dances, and indulge in the delicious local cuisines. When you travel with Bird Uganda Safaris, a portion of what you pay remains within these communities. We aim to minimize all negative effects of tourism while promoting the positive impact of our safaris. With our inclusion of culture in our itineraries, we create jobs, preserve the amazing African culture and traditions, interpret the norms, and preserve wildlife while restoring the wonderful landscapes. The inclusion of cultural tours is what makes our itineraries special and unique.

Bird Uganda Safaris has been promoting gender equality by supporting women in tourism for over 20 years. We have initiated and successfully run initiatives like the Uganda Women Birders Club, which has been spread to grow similar initiatives with training to create Kenya Women Birders and Rwanda Women Birders. The most recent project we have run is the Karamoja Women Birders, where ladies from the marginalized region of Karamoja have been trained and skilled to run and manage birding in the rich area. They are now able to sustain their lives and those of their families.

TRAIN A WOMAN, BUILD A NATION

For over 20 years, Uganda has developed policies that appreciate women and bring them into the mainstream of business. Traditionally, the tourism business in Uganda has been male dominated. It was until recently, when Mr. Herbert Byaruhanga and Ms. Judith Mirembe initiated the Women Birders' Project, that a growing number of young women got involved in skills development activities. These young ladies are successfully getting employed within the tourism

sector and conservation organizations.

We attach great importance to the roles women play in the development of our countries. These tours are specially designed to involve locally trained women guides. They will share with you their rich knowledge as a typical African woman, grown and raised in Africa. They are excellent birders, and they have vast knowledge of nature and wildlife.





UGANDA WOMEN BIRDERS CLUB.

The Uganda Women Birders' Club started in May 2013 as an initiative to increase the number of women participating in tourism activities such as nature guiding and conservation. The club seeks to build the capacity of women to sustain themselves through birding, nature guiding, and being trusted tourism ambassadors. Having started with a pioneer membership of only 10 ladies, the club's membership has grown to include 50 ladies. Over 40 women have been trained, and most of them have been employed within the tourism industry as guides and tour managers. We believe that when you educate a woman, you educate the nation. The club is sponsored by Bird Uganda Safaris and supported by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the Uganda Safari Guides Association (USAGA), and the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB).

ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUB

- Guided nature walks
- Guided birding and wildlife tours
- Avian Research
- education of communities and schools about birds and nature conservation.
- Grooming young birders
- Nature Guides' Training

We now offer customized tour packages guided by our well-trained women throughout Uganda and Rwanda. The proceeds from the tours are purposely used to support the

For more details, contact us at

Email: womentours@birduganda.com

Web: www.ugandawomenbirders.org

THE YOUNG BIRDERS PROJECT

The success of nature conservation and tourism businesses lies in the hands of young people. The Uganda Young Birders project started with four children and has now grown to 25 members. The pioneers are now in their youthful age, and two of them have finished university and are already working with nature conservation organizations and tourism companies.

We organize field trips for these young people on weekends and during their school holidays.

KARAMOJA WOMEN BIRDERS



Karamoja is a region located in the northeast of Uganda, covering the districts of Nakapiripit, Napak, Moroto, Kotido, Kaabong, and Abim and their surrounding neighbors. According to the Uganda National Housing Survey (UNHS), the region is the least socially and economically developed, with 61% of the total population of 1.2 million living in poverty. (UNHS 2016/2017).

The region has quite a young population, with an average age of 15 years; of these, more than half are female. They also have the highest fertility rate in Uganda, with the reproductive age of the women being between 15 and 49 years.

The region has faced a number of challenges, including conflict from civil war, private ownership of guns, cattle rustling and raiding, poor infrastructure, severe environmental degradation, and limited access to health and educational services.

One of the toughest challenges the region is continuously facing is food insecurity brought by climate unpredictability and change which puts a lot of pressure on the already scarce resources. The region is plagued by recurring droughts, prolonged dry spells, and flash floods.

THE KARAMOJA WOMEN BIRDERS INITIATIVE

In 2020, private companies like Bird Uganda Safaris and Kara-Tunga Adventures came up with an idea to empower women in Karamoja, especially in the tourism industry. With support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under the Youth4Business program.

Based on the 5th Sustainable Development Goal of “achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls,” the team committed to programs that will enhance the positive tourism development in women's lives.

The Karamoja region is aesthetically unspoiled, untamed with a beautiful wilderness atmosphere, exceptional game viewing with birds and animals unique to this semi-arid region, and wonderful rugged mountain scenery to hike and explore. Amazing game parks and reserves like Kidepo National Park, Bokora, and Matheniko Game

Reserves are home to unique species you cannot find anywhere else in Uganda. The region is the only place where you can find predators like cheetah, caracal, aardwolf, bat-eared fox, black-backed jackal, and wild dogs in Uganda. Unique antelope species you can find in this region include Guenther's dik-dik, Mountain Reedbuck, Greater Kudu, and Lesser Kudu.

The bird life is quite impressive. With semi-arid conditions, we get species that we cannot find elsewhere in Uganda. Species like the Ostrich, Abyssinian Roller, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Karamoja Apalis, Rufous Chatterer, White-bellied Go-Away Bird, Fox Kestrel, White-eyed Kestrel, d'Arnaud's Barbet, Black-breasted Barbet, White-headed and Red-billed Buffalo Weavers, to mention a few. Raptors are especially well represented, with around 56 species recorded in the region.

The people of Karamoja have a strong love for their culture and have for decades resisted the common trappings of modern civilization. They maintain their strong beliefs and have continued to maintain their ancestral cultural heritage and ways of life.

The Karamoja Women Birders initiative sets out to use tourism to protect this unique environment by preserving the rich biodiversity, enhancing the local traditions and cultures, reducing poverty, promoting international understanding, and slowly erasing the wounds of conflict and neglect that the people have endured for decades.

With more women in tourism, there are more opportunities for women to earn a much-needed income, which they can use to support their families and provide education and health care for society. They give back to their communities through different businesses they set up and generally give them a chance to reduce the levels of poverty in the region. They get a chance to rise up the ranks of leadership and eventually inspire the youth to embrace tourism as a livelihood for future generations.

With such sustainable tourism practices, we hope to bring more benefits to the women of Karamoja and reduce all negative impacts on the environment, economy, and communities in the Karamoja region.

Continued from 21

In the afternoon, we will go on a boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel. The channel is one of the main attractions of the park, drawing in hundreds of birds and thirsty animals to come take a drink under the hot Savannah sun. The Kazinga channel is 32 km long and links the two main lakes of the park, Lake Edward and Lake George. The channel is excellent for game viewing, with herds of elephants, buffaloes, and antelopes. This is the place with the highest concentration of hippos in Uganda and one of the places where you can see big, mighty crocodiles basking in the sun. The bird life is exceptional. Look out for species like the yellow-billed stork, pink-backed pelican, water thick-knee, black-headed gonolek, African skimmers, papyrus gonolek, and lots of plovers, kingfishers, and gulls.

Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight

DAY 7: TRANSFER TO BWINDI

After breakfast, we will transfer to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. The park is believed to be one of the oldest forests in East Africa, estimated to be over 25,000 years old. This also makes it known as a "true forest," and it's unique because it lies between 1,160 and 2,607 metres above sea level. Bwindi is home to half of the last remaining mountain gorillas, with over 500 individuals recorded. The rest are found in the Virunga region, which lies between Uganda, Rwanda, and the DR Congo. Bwindi also has the second-highest number of mammals recorded. Apart from the mountain gorillas, 11 species of primates can be found, like chimpanzees, blue monkeys, guereza colobus monkeys, le hoary monkeys, and olive baboons, among others.

Bwindi lies in the Albertine Rift Valley and has a variety of species that are endemic to this area. The birdlife is absolutely exceptional, with over 350 species recorded. 23 of these birds are endemic, with 14 not recorded anywhere else in Uganda. Some of these include the most sought-after birds like the African green broadbill, brown-necked parrot, Frazer's eagle owl, white-bellied robin chat, and so much more.

Check in and spend the rest of the day at leisure, enjoying the sights and sounds of the jungle.

DAY 8: GORILLA TREKKING

Today, we will have an early breakfast and head to the forest for a gorilla tracking experience. The mountain gorilla was on the brink of extinction in the 1990s, with less than 250 individuals recorded. The highest threat is habitat loss, as they can only exist in these high-altitude rainforests. But with community awareness and conservation efforts from governments and non-governmental organizations, the numbers have been steadily growing, with new births being recorded frequently.

Trekking through the rainforests Looking for these gentle giants may be a bit strenuous due to the hiking through the wet floors of the forests, but the reward of coming face to face with them makes it worthwhile. We share over 96% of our genes with them; looking into the eyes of a gorilla, you can surely recognise a kinship between them and us. Their behaviour and mannerisms are reflected in our own. And it is an amazing experience that will leave you with fond

memories. A packed lunch will be provided as this activity can take from a couple of hours to the whole day.

Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9: TRANSFER TO MGAHINGA NATIONAL PARK

Today, after a leisurely breakfast, we will transfer to Mgahinga National Park. The park is the smallest in Uganda, covering only 34 km². However, it forms a part of the Virunga, a chain of free-standing volcanoes found in Uganda, Rwanda, and the DR. Congo, covering an area of 480 km². The park protects 76 mammal species. The unique species of primates we can find here is the Golden Monkey, an endangered sub-species of the Blue Monkey. Mountain gorillas are also found here, the other half of the last remaining gorillas in the world. However, here, unlike in Bwindi, they roam freely between the 3 countries. Bird life is also sensational, with about 12 Albertine Rift Endemics found here. Check into the lodge, then have lunch.

After lunch, we will take a nature walk to see more of the park. We will go on a trail that will lead us through the bamboo forest, where we have the highest chances of viewing the golden monkey. Birding here is also productive, and we shall look out for Albertine Rift Endemics like the Handsome Francolin, Kivu ground-thrush, Rwenzori turaco, Olive Woodpecker, and so much more. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10: GOLDEN MONKEY TRACKING

After an early breakfast, we will head into the forest to track the golden monkey. These beautiful primates are listed on the IUCN Red List as critically endangered because of the gradual destruction of their habitat for agriculture and the wars that plagued this region. The Golden Monkey is a cousin to the Blue Monkey but is distinguished by the golden-orange colour on its flanks and back. Not much is known about the behaviour of these rare creatures. However, they can be seen ranging from groups of 3 to about 60 or more. They mainly feed on bamboo, fruits, and insects. We will spend time in the jungle tracking these creatures while looking out for other primates. Sometimes we may even have a chance of bumping into mountain gorillas!

Look out for more forest birds and other Albertine endemics like the Rwenzori batis, Montane sooty-boubou, Ladgen's bush-shrike, Western green tinkerbird, African hill-babbler, Strange weaver, and many more. We will have a packed lunch in the forest. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight

DAY 11: RETURN TO KAMPALA

After a leisurely breakfast, we will return to Kampala. We will stop at places of interest like the Equator and also have lunch en route. You will be dropped off at your designated hotels for dinner and overnight.

DAY 12: DEPARTURE

Day of departure. After breakfast, you will be dropped off at the airport for your return flights.

OUR DESTINATIONS

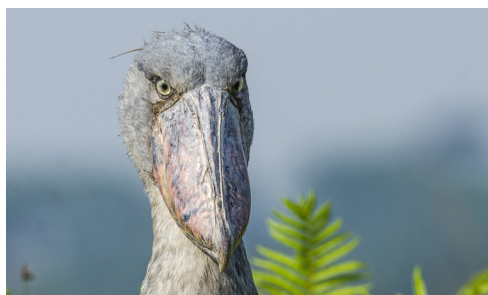
It's a good idea to go on an adventure in East Africa. The nicest thing is that you can combine sightseeing with an up-close encounter with nature in its purest state. Likewise, seeing the whole of East Africa in one trip highlights the incredible diversity of cultures and activities present there. It's possible to go white water rafting down some of Africa's longest and mightiest rivers or go on a nature hike through forests teeming with exotic animals.

The wildlife in East Africa is truly a sight to behold. From the gorillas and chimpanzees to the huge herds of elephants, buffaloes, and lions, as well as zebras, waterbucks, and wildebeest Game drives will take you right up close to Africa's Big 5 for the raw action of a true safari, just meters from you! There's plenty of variety to keep you entertained on your safari trip!

There are thousands of birds found in Africa that can be seen during your time on safari, including East African endemics. You will see some of these birds or even see them fly past: egrets nesting high above rivers; vultures circling for prey; pelicans diving into watery depths with their wings spread wide open; flamingos standing stock still on lakeside edges and taking photos with tourists around them. The birdlife is a delight for even novice birdwatchers.

After spending days with the wildlife in the interior of the region, you can enjoy a beach vacation in East Africa that's as beautiful, relaxing, and adventurous as you are. The islands are all beautiful, with white sand beaches and gorgeous views of the ocean, and there are lots of activities to suit everyone. From visiting cultural Swahili towns for history, cuisine, and shopping to active water sports like diving, swimming with dolphins, fishing, and other water sports that will keep a young family active for days. For couples, East Africa offers some of the best romantic spots with amazing views, quality accommodations, and exclusive activities that will leave you with unforgettable memories of Africa.

UGANDA



Despite its tiny size, Uganda boasts a wide range of biodiversity, as seen in the flora and wildlife. In addition to chimpanzees and more than half of the 1,000 mountain gorillas, it is home to 20 other primate species. The nation is home to 1070 different bird species, including some of the most sought-after African birds. Our itineraries for Uganda include primate tracking, bird viewing, game drives in the National Parks, boat trips on the mighty Nile, and the Kazinga Channel, among many other activities, with the goal of covering all of this wildlife.

KENYA



Kenya's wilderness parks are renowned across the globe for preserving and presenting a diverse variety of ecosystems and wildlife. The mythical "Big Five"—elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard, and rhino—as well as other animals including zebras, wildebeests, cheetahs, giraffes, hippopotamuses, crocodiles, monkeys, gazelle, impalas, and other birds are just a few of the many creatures you may view.

Over 1130 different bird species may be found in Kenya, which includes semi-arid, dry savanna, rain forests, montane, and maritime environments.

Safaris for big game and birdwatching are often scheduled in Kenya at the same time as the renowned "Migration in the Masai Mara Reserve."

SOUTH SUDAN



The Nile River and the White Nile Falls are only two of the country's numerous natural attractions. Additionally, there are other historical monuments worth seeing, like the remains of Old Dongola and the ancient city of Mero. There are several diverse ethnic groups in South Sudan, each of which has its own distinct customs and traditions. South Sudan's tourism sector is still growing, but there is a lot of room for expansion in the coming years.

TANZANIA



Tanzania is an exciting and diverse destination. Tanzania is a beautiful country with a wide variety of landscapes and activities. In this nation, you may find some of the remaining really wild places on Earth. One of Tanzania's most well-known attractions is the Serengeti National Park. Many large predators, including lions, tigers, leopards, hyenas, and wild dogs, live in the park. Mount Kilimanjaro, the continent's tallest peak, and Ngorongoro Crater, known for its breathtaking panoramas of Africa's diverse wildlife, are both very well-visited. Zanzibar's beautiful sands have long attracted visitors looking to unwind after an action-packed African safari.

ETHIOPIA



With 242 different mammal species known to exist, Ethiopia is home to a remarkable variety of wildlife. A total of 28 of these are considered endemic. Efforts are being made by national parks to save local fauna.

The unpredictability of the weather and tribal strife make life tough for these species.

The Gelada baboon, Walia ibex, Menelik's bushbuck, Mountain Nyala, Swayne's hartebeest, and the unique Simien Fox (*Canis simiensis*) are among the country's best-known endemic animals.

SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa is a haven for avian enthusiasts.

One of the finest destinations in the world to watch birds while on vacation is South Africa, which is home to more than 850 different kinds of birds. Additionally, it boasts a large population of more common but no less magnificent African birds and fauna, as well as a diverse population of seabirds. It's not hard to see why South Africa is our most popular birding destination when you consider the country's rich botanical heritage, excellent cuisine and wine, hospitable people, intriguing history, and breathtaking grandeur.

RWANDA



Rwanda, sometimes known as "the land of a thousand hills," is a beautiful country with kind people. Gorilla tracking, animal watching, cultural excursions, and a special canopy walk above the Nyungwe Forest are just a few of the unusual activities it provides.

Rwanda is fortunate to have 25 bird species out of the 35 strictly Albertine rift endemics due to the majority of the nation being on top of the western rift valley. A once-in-a-lifetime adventure, gorilla tracking at Volcanoes National Park is unmatched.

ACCOMMODATION

Uganda



Protea Hotel By Marriott

Four-star luxury is matched with five-star service in the heart of Uganda's capital city.



Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp

You are minutes away from the beginning of your gorilla trekking trip, given your location inside the National Park. The camp mixes in harmoniously with the stunning mountainous terrain of Africa.



Mweya Safari Lodge

The Lodge, situated on a peninsula in the centre of Queen Elizabeth National Park, is encircled by the mystical "Mountains of the Moon," the Rwenzori Mountains.

Rwanda



Virunga Lodge

A renowned luxury gorilla resort and one of the nicest in Africa. It is positioned on a hill overlooking the Virunga Volcanoes and offers breathtaking views.



Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge

Located adjacent to the Parc National des Volcans Park headquarters in the foothills of the Virunga ranges, it gives a great perspective of the Volcanoes' rolling slopes and the surrounding countryside.



Kigali Serena Hotel

Located in one of the finest boulevards of Kigali, the hotel shows off the very best of Rwandese cultural art.

Kenya



Topi Mara Bush House

Remote farmhouse that borders the Masai Mara National Reserve and is close to the annual route of the Wildebeest Migration.



Saruni Mara

Tucked away in a cedar and olive tree-lined valley. Settle into your opulent cottage, which has Persian rugs, antiques, and broad cedarwood beds.



Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp

A popular Kenyan safari resort. Exceptional service, knowledgeable tour guides, and front-row views of the Wildebeest Migration make this place a great home away from home.



AFRICAN BIRDING EXPO

5th AFRICAN BIRDING EXPO

African birding expo is set to open doors for birding in Africa. The annual event will be attended by international birding watching and conservation community.

There will be retailers of Birding merchandise including equipment and Books from reknown international Brands. International Destination Management organisations and Tour opertators will be in attendance for business to business meetings.

Farmilialisation trips to various toursim destinations in Uganda will be available before and after the Expo.

SAVE THE DATE

8th - 10th

December 2023

Entebbe, Uganda

Registrater on

www.africanbirdingexpo.com/registration



For more information Call: +256 755 111 267, +256 777912 938
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