

AFRICAN SKIMMER

A Bird Uganda Safaris Ltd Publication

July 2024



INDULGE IN ELEGANCE
Luxury Travel

**MESMERIZING
KENYA**

TANZANIA
Migration Safari

FOX'S WEAVER
Uganda's Hidden Gem

WILDEBEEST MIGRATION
Kenya and Tanzania

MEMORABLE PRIMATE TOUR

IC4WB

International Conference for Women Birders



Save the dates for the **2nd International Conference for Women Birders**, set to be held in **San José, Costa Rica**, from **September 24th to 26th, 2025**. This event will bring together delegates from around the world, facilitating the exchange of experiences, ideas, and expertise in avitourism, conservation, ecotourism, gender equality, research, and sustainable tourism. Join us for three days of enriching discussions and insights, which will contribute to the advancement of avian conservation and the promotion of women's role in nature tourism.

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SEPTEMBER
24th to 26th
2025

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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 was the force behind the International Conference for Women Birders which took place in December 2023 in Kampala Uganda.

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!



PREMIUM TAILORED SAFARI PACKAGES



THE MOST SELLING ITINERARIES

UGANDA.

10 Days: Gorillas and Shoebill

21 Days: Birding and Wildlife

14 Days: Primates and birds

15 Days: Mammal watching

18 Days: of Birding and Natural Habitats

TANZANIA.

15 Days: Wildlife and Migration

20 Days: Birding and migration in South and Northern Tanzania

26 Days: Tanzania birding Endemic and Wildlife

18 Days: Northern Tanzania and Zanzibar

KENYA .

14 Days: Birding Central Kenya .

18 Days: Birds and mammals in the Coastal and central regions

14 Days: Birding Samburu National Park, Mt. Kenya, Araboku Sokoke

16 Days: Wildlife, and Migration

RWANDA.

12 Days: Mammals and Apes

14 Days: Mammals and Endemic birds.

4 Days: Gorilla tracking

EAST AFRICA IN ONE TOUR.

40 Days: Birding, wildlife, Culture , and scenery in Uganda Kenya and Tanzania

8 Days: Tracking in the Virungas. Uganda, Rwanda, and DRC

18 Days: Primates of East Africa

18 Days: Birds and Mammals of Kenya and Tanzania.

36 Days: Endemic birds of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania

NOTES.

Over the years, we have built a strong network of service providers.

We therefore chose the best for our clients.

- Transport by road - 4x4 Safari jeeps, Mini Buses.
- Air transport - Chartered planes and scheduled flights
- Water - Speed boats, Ferries,



INDULGE IN ELEGANCE

Luxury Travel Choices That Maximize Your Value with Bird Uganda Safaris

At Bird Uganda Safaris, we specialize in curating exclusive, high-end travel experiences that blend unparalleled luxury with exceptional value. Our offerings are designed for discerning travelers who seek more than just a vacation – they seek an unforgettable journey steeped in elegance, comfort, and authenticity. Here's how we deliver on our promise of indulgent luxury that maximizes your value

EXQUISITE ACCOMMODATIONS



Luxury Lodges and Resorts: We partner with the finest lodges and resorts across East Africa, ensuring that each night of your stay is marked by opulence, comfort, and personalized service.

Unique Stays: From lavish tented camps in the heart of the savanna to exclusive boutique hotels overlooking pristine landscapes, we offer a range of unique accommodations that provide both luxury and an authentic sense of place.

CUSTOMIZED ITINERARIES

Tailored Experiences: Our expert travel planners work closely with you to design personalized itineraries that cater to your specific interests, preferences, and pace. Whether it's a private game drive, a bespoke bird-watching tour, or a cultural immersion experience, we ensure your journey is uniquely yours.

Exclusive Access: Enjoy private tours and exclusive access to some of the most sought-after destinations and wildlife experiences in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and Rwanda.



GOURMET DINING



Culinary Excellence: Savor gourmet meals prepared by top chefs, featuring local and international cuisine that tantalizes your taste buds. Dining experiences range from elegant dinners under the stars to intimate meals in luxury lodges.

Fine Wines and Spirits: Indulge in a selection of fine wines and premium spirits, perfectly paired with your meals to enhance your culinary journey.

Local Cuisine: Delight in the unique flavors of local cuisine, crafted with fresh, regional ingredients. Enjoy traditional dishes that reflect the rich culinary heritage of the area, providing an authentic taste of the local culture.



PREMIUM SERVICES

Personalized Attention: From the moment you arrive, our dedicated team is at your service to ensure every detail of your trip is flawlessly executed. Personalized attention and bespoke services are the hallmarks of our luxury offerings.

Expert Guides: Our professional guides are not only experts in wildlife and bird watching but also skilled in delivering enriching and informative experiences. Their deep knowledge, passion, and engaging storytelling elevate your journey, making each moment memorable. With their keen insights and personalized attention, you'll gain a profound understanding and appreciation of the diverse flora and fauna, enhancing your overall adventure.



COMFORTABLE AND SAFE TRAVEL



Luxury Transportation: Travel in style and comfort with our range of luxury vehicles, including private transfers, chartered flights, and well-equipped safari vehicles. Each mode of transport is selected to provide the utmost comfort and safety.

Seamless Logistics: We handle all logistics with precision and care, ensuring a seamless and stress-free travel experience from start to finish.



ENRICHING EXPERIENCES

Cultural Immersion: Engage with local communities through thoughtfully arranged cultural experiences that offer a deeper understanding of the region's heritage and traditions. You'll have the opportunity to interact with locals, participate in traditional activities, and learn about their way of life.

Wildlife and Nature: Whether it's tracking gorillas in Bwindi, exploring the Serengeti, or bird watching in the wetlands, our tours are designed to provide intimate encounters with East Africa's extraordinary wildlife and natural beauty, ensuring unforgettable and immersive experiences.



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

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 highly intelligent species and share 98% of our DNA.

Chimpanzees are our closest living relatives. They are



Continued on Page 21

BEST OF UGANDA

Uganda Birding Safari and wildlife tour will take you from the Swamps of Mabamba to look for the Shoebill, to the devil's cauldron in Murchison falls National Park. From here, you will go West to the home of our closely related cousins, the Chimpanzee in Kibale National Park, then south to the home of the tree-climbing lions in Queen Elizabeth National Park. This shall be followed by penetrating the impenetrable forest of Bwindi that is home to the Mountain Gorilla and the Albertine rift endemics, which shall be climaxed by the low savannah plains of Lake Mburo National Park where special species like the Tabora Cisticola, and the Red-faced Barbet can be seen.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Shoebill
- Mountain Gorillas
- Chimpanzees
- Wildlife

This Uganda birding Safari tour will take you to Murchison Falls National Park from the Swamps of Mabamba, where you may search for shoebills. From here, you will go to

ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day 1: Arrival Transfer for the 18 days Uganda birding

Day 2: Birding Mabamba Swamp and travelling to Murchison Falls National Park

Day 3-4: Birding, game drives, and an afternoon launch trip

Day 5: Transfer to Masindi

Day 6: Birding along the Royal Mile and Busingiro Sections of the Budongo

Day 7: Transfer to Kibale National Park

Day 8: Chimpanzee Tracking

Day 9: Travel to Queen Elizabeth National Park

the west to Kibale National Park, the home of our distant relatives, the chimpanzee, and then south to Queen Elizabeth National Park, the habitat of the tree-climbing

“**SHOEBILL, MOUNTAIN GORILLAS, AND ALBERTINE RIFT ENDEMIC.**”

lions. The low savannah plains of Lake Mburo National Park, where rare species like the Tabora Cisticola and the Red-faced Barbet can be seen, will serve as the setting for the conclusion after entering the impenetrable forest of Bwindi, which is home to the Mountain Gorilla and the Albertine Rift Endemics.

Day 10: A game drive and an afternoon boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel

Day 12: Mountain Gorilla Trekking

Day 13: Buhoma Village Walk

Day 14: Travel to Ruhija

Day 15: Mubwindi Swamp birding area

Day 16: Travel to Lake Mburo National Park

Day 17: The whole day Birding and wildlife viewing in the park

Day 18: Transfer to Entebbe Airport for your flight home



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.

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.

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





NEW UGANDA TOURS FOR 2024 – 2026

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 DAYS WOMEN 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

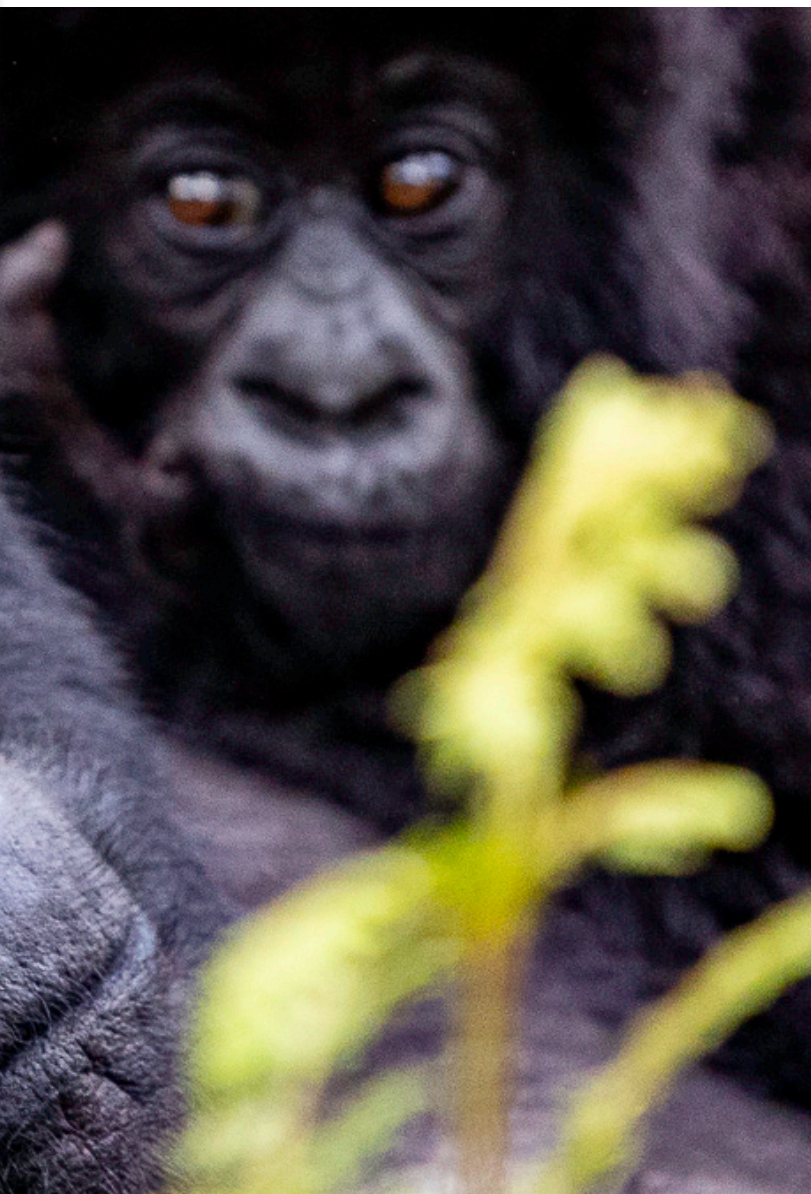
OPPORTUNITIES SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Join Bird Uganda Safaris as a Sales representative! Drive Tourism growth with us and explore Africa's Wildlife wonders. Apply Now.

VOLUNTEERS

Join Bird Uganda Safaris as a volunteer. Contribute to Community business growth, nature conservation and women empowerment.

Apply by email to
director@birduganda.com



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 National Park 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 fiscals, slate-cloomed boubous, Northern crombecs, and Vulturine Guineafowl.

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,

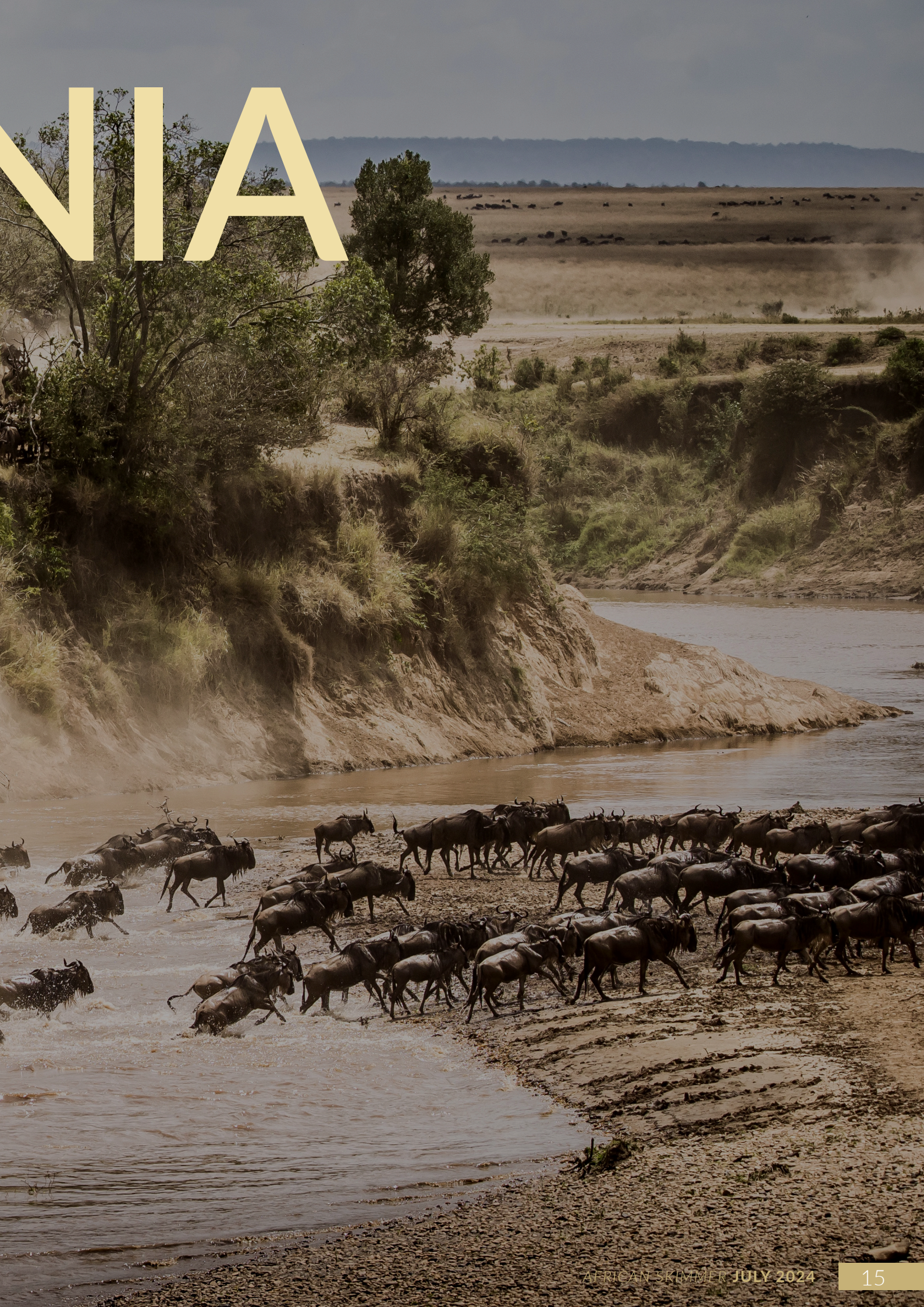
the highest mountain in Africa; Ngorongoro Crater, which offers spectacular views all around while being surrounded by beautiful scenery; and Mount Meru National Park, home to a few remaining black rhinos. You can also hike through forests full of chimpanzees in Gombe and Mahale national parks, an unforgettable 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, 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.



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.

TANZANIA BIRDING

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 Lammergeyer, 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 6 – Uganda Primate Tour

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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FOX'S WEAVER

Uganda's Hidden Gem

The Fox's Weaver (*Ploceus spekeoides*), Uganda's only endemic bird, has captivated bird watchers and ornithologists worldwide. This elusive species, which was not recorded for over 30 years, has recently re-emerged, thanks to the keen eye of a nature photographer. The rediscovery of the Fox's Weaver is not only a monumental event for bird enthusiasts but also a testament to Uganda's rich and diverse avifauna.

The Fox's Weaver, a unique and elusive bird species endemic to Uganda, has an intriguing history of discovery that dates back over a century. This story begins with Harold Munro Fox, an English zoologist, who embarked on an expedition to Uganda in the early 1910s. During his visit, Fox collected several bird specimens, including what we now know as the Fox's Weaver.

These specimens were handed over to Stephenson

Robert Clarke, an avid naturalist, who then presented his own collection, along with Fox's, to the British Museum in 1923. For many years, these specimens remained largely unnoticed in the museum's extensive collection.

*The Fox's Weaver
the only bird
specie endemic to
Uganda*

It wasn't until 1947 that the Fox's Weaver was brought into the spotlight. Captain Claude Henry Baxter Grant, a distinguished British ornithologist and collector, along with Cyril Winthrop Mackworth-Praed, a noted British sport shooter and ornithologist, re-examined these specimens. Their keen observations and

extensive knowledge led them to recognize that the bird collected by Fox was, in fact, a new species.

This recognition was a significant moment in ornithology, highlighting the importance of meticulous research and the value of museum collections in



discovering new species. The identification of the Fox's Weaver added a new chapter to Uganda's rich biodiversity, making it the only bird species endemic to the country.

The Fox's Weaver is found exclusively in Eastern Uganda, specifically around Lake Bisina and the Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve. These regions, characterized by their unique wetlands and grasslands, provide the perfect habitat for this species. The lush vegetation and abundant insect life offer ideal conditions for the Weaver to thrive. Lake Bisina, a shallow freshwater lake, and the expansive Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve, one of Uganda's largest protected areas, are now recognized as critical sites for the conservation of this rare bird.

The recent sighting of the Fox's Weaver by a nature photographer has reignited interest in Uganda's birding scene. This discovery underscores the importance of persistent exploration and documentation. The vivid plumage and unique behaviors of the Fox's Weaver make it a highly sought-after subject for photographers and bird watchers alike. Its rediscovery has also sparked a renewed focus on conservation efforts in the region, highlighting the need to protect and preserve the delicate ecosystems that support such rare species.

The Fox's Weaver is now one of the most coveted birds for birding enthusiasts visiting Uganda and

East Africa. Tour operators have quickly recognized the bird's appeal, incorporating specific itineraries that increase the chances of spotting this elusive species. Bird Uganda Safaris, for example, offers meticulously planned tours that include visits to Lake Bisina and Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve, ensuring that bird watchers have the best possible opportunity to observe the Fox's Weaver in its natural habitat.

The rediscovery of the Fox's Weaver highlights the importance of conservation efforts in Uganda. Protecting its habitat around Lake Bisina and Pian Upe is crucial for the survival of this species. Conservationists are working closely with local communities and authorities to ensure that these areas remain protected and sustainable for future generations.

The Fox's Weaver's return is a beacon of hope and excitement in the birding world. It not only adds a significant chapter to Uganda's natural history but also attracts bird watchers and nature enthusiasts from around the globe. As we continue to explore and understand the rich biodiversity of regions like Eastern Uganda, the Fox's Weaver serves as a reminder of the hidden gems waiting to be discovered and the importance of preserving our natural world.



WHY BIRD UGANDA SAFARIS IS YOUR IDEAL TRAVEL PARTNER

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.



KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

Uganda's Premier Chimpanzee and Birding Destination

Kibale National Park, nestled in Uganda's lush landscape, is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts, covering 766 square kilometers of verdant terrain. Renowned for its rich biodiversity, Kibale is the premier spot in Uganda for tracking chimpanzees and birdwatching. This expansive park extends to the northeastern edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park, lying more than 50 kilometers south of the major Kampala—Fort Portal Road.

Kibale's history as a protected area dates back to 1932 when it was established as a forest reserve. It underwent a significant transformation in 1993, being upgraded to a national park. This change was crucial for conservation efforts, linking Kibale with Queen Elizabeth National Park to create a vast contiguous block of protected land. This upgrade not only enhanced the park's status but also ensured the preservation of its diverse ecosystems and numerous species.

The Kanyanchu Visitors' Centre, located 35 kilometers south of Fort Portal, serves as the park's main hub for tourist activities. This bustling center is the starting point for the park's most popular attraction: chimpanzee tracking. A newly paved road from Fort Portal to Kamwenge has significantly improved access, making it easier for visitors to explore the park's scenic beauty.

Beyond chimpanzees, Kanyanchu offers a treasure trove for birdwatchers and primate enthusiasts. The surrounding forests echo with the calls of numerous bird species, providing an unparalleled birdwatching experience. Additionally, just 5 kilometers from the park's edge lies the community-run Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary. This sanctuary offers nature lovers a chance to immerse themselves in a world of diverse flora and fauna, where they can observe a variety of animals and birds.

While Kanyanchu is the main draw, Kibale also has a lesser-known entrance in the Sebitoli Sector. Situated 15 kilometers east of Fort Portal along the Kampala Road, Sebitoli offers a different perspective on the park's natural wonders. Although there are no chimpanzee tracking opportunities in Sebitoli, it is ideal for tranquil forest walks and observing the park's diverse plant and animal life.

Kibale National Park encompasses a mosaic of habitats, from lush rainforests to sprawling grasslands and swamps, at altitudes between 1,100 and 1,590 meters. This variety supports a rich tapestry of flora and fauna, blending eastern Afromontane and western lowland forest ecosystems.

The park is home to over 200 tree species, reflecting its transitional nature between different forest types. Unlike the Budongo Forest to the north, Kibale remained largely untouched by commercial logging until the 1950s when it became a timber source for the Kilembe Copper Mine. The cessation of logging during Uganda's civil war preserved large areas of mature forest, characterized by towering mahoganies, fruiting figs, and other hardwoods reaching up to 60 meters. The canopy is interwoven with lianas and adorned with epiphytes, while the forest floor is dense with undergrowth, including wild Robusta coffee.

Kibale is renowned for its exceptional diversity of primates, boasting 13 species, the highest concentration in any Ugandan national park. This includes the Ugandan red colobus, vervet, red-tailed, L'Hoest's, and blue monkeys, Uganda mangabey, black-and-white colobus, olive baboon, and, of course, the iconic chimpanzee. Nocturnal primates like the potto also inhabit the park. While other large mammals such as lions, leopards, elephants, and buffalo are present, sightings are rare due to the dense vegetation.

For bird enthusiasts, Kibale is a paradise, home to approximately 335 bird species. Notably, the park hosts four species not found in other Ugandan national parks: Nahan's francolin, Cassin's spinetail, blue-headed bee-eater, and masked apalis. The bird diversity here rivals that of Semliki National Park, with notable exceptions and additions, such as the

green-breasted pitta. Birding hotspots include the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary and the vicinity of the Kanyanchu Tourist Centre, where visitors can observe both forest and wetland birds.

CHIMPANZEE TRACKING

Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale National Park is a must-do for nature lovers. These fascinating excursions, held twice daily at 8:00 and 14:00, take visitors on thrilling treks through the forest to observe chimpanzee groups in their natural habitat. The high level of habituation among the chimpanzees near Kanyanchu significantly increases the likelihood of sightings, with success rates over 90%, though not guaranteed.

During these treks, visitors can watch chimpanzees feeding, grooming, and interacting. When chimpanzees are active or feeding in the upper canopy, it might be challenging to get a clear view. These treks can last up to three hours, with one hour dedicated to close encounters. To ensure participation in these popular activities, securing chimpanzee permits in advance is highly recommended.

For those seeking a more in-depth experience, the Chimpanzee Habituation Experience (CHEX) offers a unique opportunity to spend up to four hours with researchers as they habituate a chimpanzee group to human presence. Unlike typical tracking expeditions, CHEX provides a comprehensive look into chimpanzee behaviors, social dynamics, and ecological interactions.

Limited to 72 daily permits (split between morning and afternoon sessions), participation in CHEX requires advance planning. Early booking is essential to secure a spot in this rare and enlightening experience.

BIRD WATCHING AND NATURE WALKS

Kibale National Park is a paradise for bird watchers and nature enthusiasts, offering numerous opportunities for birding and nature walks through its diverse habitats. The park prioritizes quality over quantity, with about 40 bird species typically seen on an average walk. Many resident birds are West African species near the easternmost edge of their range, adding to the park's appeal.

One of the most magnificent birds in the park is the great blue turaco, frequently seen by visitors. The enigmatic papyrus gonolek is another highlight, often spotted along the wooden boardwalk in the middle of the swamp. However, the green-breasted pitta remains the most sought-after bird for keen birders in Kibale.

Other notable avian residents include various weavers, sunbirds, rollers, parrots, and barbets. Visitors might encounter speckled and yellow-throated tinker-barbets, brown-eared woodpeckers, blue-throated rollers, black-crowned waxbills, and yellow-billed and double-toothed barbets.



Near the Kanyanchu Visitors' Centre, bird enthusiasts should listen for the distinct call of the red-chested paradise flycatcher. Guided daylight forest excursions often reveal numerous monkey species, including the rare Uganda mangabey.

A forest-lined stretch of the Fort Portal Road north of Kanyanchu offers an easy and rewarding birdwatching spot for first-time visitors. In this area, butterflies, monkeys, and rare birds like Sabine's spinetail, blue-breasted kingfisher, and Afep pigeon are frequently seen.

Just outside Kanyanchu, the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary provides an enthralling swamp trek with prime viewing opportunities for both primates and rare birds. Managed by the Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development (KAFRED), this award-winning program supports local education and community projects in the Bigodi trade center, showcasing the beneficial link between conservation and tourism.

Adjacent to Kibale National Park, the Kihingami Wetlands are home to over 230 bird species. Notable sightings include the white-spotted flufftail, papyrus gonolek, masked apalis, and Holub's golden weaver. This community-managed sanctuary supports conservation efforts and biodiversity, offering a refuge for both avian and other wildlife.

Looking For A Bird With A Clog For A Bill

Back in 2008, we sought a much-wanted bird in Zambia. Now, in Uganda, we had another chance to find it. Here's the account of our 2008 search...

We thanked Frank and his staff, heading off to the much-anticipated Shoebill Lodge. The long, hot, and dusty drive took six hours, mostly on dirt roads with occasional tarmac. We arrived at the edge of a vast, flat plain. During the wet season, this would be a shallow lake, but now it was a dusty, short-grassed expanse as far as the eye could see—Bangwuelu Marsh. Somewhere out there lay Shoebill Island Camp. As we set off across the flat land, kicking up a mushroom cloud of dust, we encountered herds of black lechwe, pretty antelope endemic to this part of Zambia. A flock of waders lifted from the plain ahead of us but luckily soon came down again—Caspian Plovers!

We saw a raised area with a gateway, beyond which lay derelict buildings, and feared another abandoned camp. But the track continued, and so did we. Then another raised area with a few trees came into view, revealing the tents and shacks of Shoebill Island Camp. We were shown to our tired-looking tents, where the bedding seemed unchanged for a long time. Dumping our gear, we scanned the adjacent wetlands, heaving with birds and mosquitoes. A Painted Snipe fed at the edge of the water—a cool bird. Fishermen were everywhere, dragging nets through the shallows, paddling canoes, repairing nets, and squabbling with their families. We had expected a wilderness, not a fish market!

During dinner in a nearby shack, the boss man brought exciting news. Though we knew Shoebills moved deeper into the swamps when the waters receded, a fisherman had found a Shoebill nest and would take us there in the morning! We wouldn't sleep with excitement! The Shoebill, a heron-type bird with a Dutch clog for a bill, uses its massive, ugly, hooked bill to smash electric eels to death deep in Central Africa's swamps. Rare and elusive, it's a must-see bird for birdwatchers, but few ever get the chance. Were we about to join the lucky few?

At dawn, three of us, two guides from the lodge, and the nest-finding fisherman met at the wetlands' edge. We climbed into a large canoe, and the guides expertly punted us down a maze of tiny channels through the swamp. The atmosphere was electric; we had a great chance of seeing a Shoebill—a once-in-a-lifetime dream bird. It was an idyllic setting: carpets of purple water-lily floated on the surface; herds of black lechwe were everywhere; Malachite Kingfishers were abundant; Marsh Widowbirds displayed all around; Greater Swamp Warblers sang from papyrus beds. It was calm, sunny, and warm—perfect.

The canoe became too shallow, so we splashed through wet grassland on foot towards another huge block of papyrus where the fisherman had found the nest. One guide and the fisherman continued into the papyrus to scout the route while we waited on the edge, unhappy about the arrangement. What if they flushed the Shoebill, and it flew without us seeing it? But they insisted on checking the ground first—an African risk assessment.

A wader called, and we spun around to see three Long-toed Lapwings dropping onto the wet grass not far away. These were sumptuous waders, thrilling us with another new bird.



Time ticked away. Where were the two health and safety inspectors? Had they sunk without trace, or had the Shoebill attacked? Finally, two muddy, wet figures struggled out of the reeds. Their faces told the story before they spoke. We weren't going to see a Shoebill. The fisherman couldn't show the guide any nest, let alone a Shoebill's. The guide was convinced the man had lied for easy cash. We felt like punching him. The trip back to the lodge was somber, barely a word spoken as we gave the man murderous looks.

We ended the day on 3,176 species for 2008, less than five hundred away from the world record we were chasing. Our last morning at Shoebill Island Camp was spent gliding silently through the myriad channels, watching thousands of birds. It was a wonderful way to see wildlife. We passed within meters of a feeding Lesser Sandplover, allowing great photos. A Lesser Moorhen stalked along the reed bed's edge as flocks of Garganey and Comb Ducks swirled around us.

Fast forward to 2016, and here we were in Uganda at the Mabamba Wetlands to try again to see a Shoebill. We headed into the vast wetland in wooden canoes, hoping for better luck. The birds, wildlife, and flowers were lovely, but no clog bills! We had overrun our allotted time, still with no sign of our most wanted bird, and there were mutterings about heading back. Our hearts sank. Then Crammy's mobile rang, followed by chatter in the local language. The boat turned and took another channel—a sighting! Now all we had to do was find the spot in this vast wetland where visibility was limited by the papyrus. We pushed through very narrow cuttings, and Crammy made more calls to locate the other boat. Finally, we saw two other boats with their occupants standing and all looking the same way. Hearts raced, but we still couldn't see a bird! As we got closer, at last, a grey shape in the cut reeds...

Abridged Story, By Allan Davis

<http://www.birdwatchingtrips.co.uk>

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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

Exploring East Africa is a fantastic adventure, combining sightseeing with nature at its purest. A single trip across East Africa reveals an incredible diversity of cultures and activities. You can go white water rafting on some of Africa's longest rivers or hike through forests teeming with exotic animals.

East Africa's wildlife is a sight to behold, from gorillas and chimpanzees to huge herds of elephants, buffaloes, lions, zebras, waterbucks, and wildebeest. Game drives offer close encounters with Africa's Big Five, providing raw safari action just meters away. The variety of wildlife ensures a thrilling safari experience.

Birdwatching in East Africa is equally impressive, with thousands of bird species, including regional endemics. You can spot egrets nesting above rivers, vultures circling for prey, pelicans diving with wings spread wide, and flamingos standing at lakesides. Even novice birdwatchers will delight in the vibrant birdlife.

After days of wildlife adventures, a beach vacation in East Africa offers beauty, relaxation, and excitement. The islands boast white sand beaches and stunning ocean views, with activities for everyone. You can explore Swahili towns for history, cuisine, and shopping or enjoy water sports like diving and swimming with dolphins. Couples can find romantic spots with amazing views, quality accommodations, and exclusive activities, creating unforgettable memories of Africa.

UGANDA



Despite its relatively small size, Uganda is a treasure trove of biodiversity, showcasing an impressive array of flora and fauna. Known as the “Pearl of Africa,” this nation is a haven for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike. Uganda is renowned for its primate population, including more than half of the world's 1,000 mountain gorillas and 20 other primate species, such as chimpanzees. This makes it an unparalleled destination for primate tracking experiences.

Uganda is also a birdwatcher's paradise, boasting 1,070 different bird species, including some of the most sought-after in Africa. Birding enthusiasts can spot a variety of unique and rare species across the country's diverse habitats, from lush forests to expansive wetlands.

Our carefully crafted itineraries for Uganda aim to provide a comprehensive wildlife experience. Primate tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Kibale National Park offers close encounters with gorillas and chimpanzees. Game drives in Uganda's National Parks, such as Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls, reveal the rich diversity of African wildlife, including elephants, lions, and buffaloes.

Boat trips on the mighty Nile River and the Kazinga Channel offer a unique perspective on Uganda's aquatic ecosystems, where visitors can observe hippos, crocodiles, and a plethora of bird species in their natural habitats.

KENYA



Kenya's wilderness parks are globally renowned for their diverse ecosystems and abundant wildlife. Visitors flock to this East African nation to experience the mythical “Big Five”—elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard, and rhino—as well as a plethora of other fascinating creatures. Zebras, wildebeests, cheetahs, giraffes, hippos, crocodiles, monkeys, gazelles, impalas, and numerous bird species all contribute to Kenya's rich biodiversity.

Kenya's birdlife is particularly impressive, with over 1,130 different bird species inhabiting the country. These birds thrive in various environments, including semi-arid areas, dry savannas, rainforests, montane regions, and coastal zones. This variety makes Kenya a top destination for birdwatchers from around the world.

One of the most spectacular natural events in Kenya is the Great Migration, which takes place in the Masai Mara Reserve. This annual phenomenon sees millions of wildebeests, zebras, and other herbivores traverse the plains in search of greener pastures, closely followed by predators. Safaris timed to coincide with the Migration offer visitors a front-row seat to one of nature's greatest shows.

In addition to the Migration, Kenya offers year-round opportunities for big game safaris and birdwatching expeditions. Parks such as Amboseli, Tsavo, and Lake Nakuru provide stunning backdrops for wildlife viewing, each with its unique landscape and animal residents.

TANZANIA



Tanzania is an exciting and diverse destination, offering a plethora of experiences that make it a premier choice for travelers. This beautiful East African country boasts a stunning array of landscapes and activities, providing something for every type of adventurer. One of the most remarkable features of Tanzania is its preservation of some of the last truly wild places on Earth.

One of the crown jewels of Tanzania's natural wonders is the Serengeti National Park. This iconic park is renowned worldwide for its breathtaking annual migration, where millions of wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles traverse the plains in search of fresh grazing grounds. The Serengeti is also home to a high density of large predators, including lions, leopards,

cheetahs, hyenas, and African wild dogs, offering unparalleled opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography.

In addition to its rich wildlife, Tanzania is home to Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the African continent. This majestic mountain attracts climbers from around the globe, eager to conquer its snow-capped summit. The climb to the top is challenging yet rewarding, offering stunning views and a sense of achievement that is hard to match.

Another must-visit destination in Tanzania is the Ngorongoro Crater. Often referred to as Africa's Garden of Eden, this vast caldera is teeming with wildlife, including the Big Five: lions, elephants, buffalo, leopards, and rhinos. The crater's lush landscapes and diverse ecosystems provide a perfect setting for observing Africa's wildlife in their natural habitat.

After an exhilarating safari, many travelers head to the idyllic island of Zanzibar to unwind. Zanzibar's pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and rich cultural heritage offer a perfect blend of relaxation and exploration. Visitors can indulge in water sports, explore historic Stone Town, or simply relax on the beautiful sands of this tropical paradise.

RWANDA



Rwanda, often referred to as “the land of a thousand hills,” is a stunning and captivating country known for its scenic landscapes and warm, hospitable people. This East African gem offers an array of unique activities that make it a premium destination for tourists seeking extraordinary experiences.

One of the most sought-after adventures in Rwanda is gorilla tracking. This once-in-a-lifetime experience at Volcanoes National Park is unparalleled, offering visitors the chance to observe mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. The park, situated in the Virunga Mountains, is home to several habituated gorilla families. The trek through dense

forest and rugged terrain, culminating in an awe-inspiring encounter with these majestic creatures, is both thrilling and profoundly moving.

In addition to gorilla tracking, Rwanda offers exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities. The country's national parks, including Akagera National Park, provide a sanctuary for a diverse range of animals. Visitors can embark on safaris to see the Big Five—lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard, and rhinoceros—along with numerous other species in their natural environments. The reintroduction of lions and rhinos has revitalized Akagera, making it a must-visit destination for wildlife enthusiasts.

Rwanda's rich avian diversity is another highlight, particularly for birdwatchers. The country boasts 25 bird species out of the 35 strictly endemic to the Albertine Rift. The Nyungwe Forest National Park, a vast and ancient rainforest, is a haven for bird species, primates, and other wildlife. One of the unique experiences here is the canopy walk, a suspended bridge that offers a bird's-eye view of the lush forest and its inhabitants. This exhilarating walk above the treetops provides an unparalleled perspective of the rainforest ecosystem.

Cultural excursions in Rwanda offer insight into the country's vibrant traditions and history. Visitors can explore Kigali's museums, including the Kigali Genocide Memorial, which honors the victims of the 1994 genocide and serves as a poignant reminder of Rwanda's resilience and recovery. Traditional dance performances, craft markets, and community visits provide a deeper understanding of Rwandan culture and hospitality.

OUR PARTNERS

Religious Expeditions



Religious Expeditions offers specialized tours in East Africa, immersing travelers in the region's rich tapestry of faith and culture. Participants explore revered sacred sites, such as ancient mosques in Zanzibar and heritage of Buganda, Ankole and Bunyoro in Uganda. The tours include vibrant ceremonies and festivals, providing opportunities to engage with local communities and experience their religious traditions.

Travelers can connect with spiritual leaders through insightful encounters, fostering a deeper understanding of various faith practices. The harmony between nature and spirituality is highlighted through safaris, nature walks, and treks across East Africa's stunning landscapes.

Religious Expeditions provides tailored itineraries, ensuring personalized experiences that resonate with individual spiritual aspirations.

www.religiousexpeditions.com

World Women Adventures



After working in nature guiding and conservation for a few years, we identified a gap between the male and female guides in Uganda. The Women Adventures Africa started with a principle objective of offering the trained female guides employment in nature guiding, a male-dominated profession.

Nature Guiding in Uganda has for long been dominated with men and yet eco-tourism currently ranks as one of the biggest revenue earners for the country and continues to grow immensely over the years. There are generally very few women that work as nature guides in Uganda and Africa.

Giving African women a chance to earn a livelihood and provide for their families will benefit their families as well as contributing to the revenues of the country.

www.worldwomenadventures.com

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www.africatourismtraining.com

WINGS OF CHANGE:

Empowering Women Through Birding in Uganda



In 2013, Herbert Byaruhanga, founder of Bird Uganda Safaris, launched an initiative to empower women through birding, reshaping conservation and tourism in Uganda and beyond.

Herbert was inspired by a 2007 birding expedition in Chicago, guided by a 60-year-old female birding guide. This experience highlighted women's potential in birding. Upon returning to Uganda, Herbert saw a significant gender gap in tourism and conservation. Determined to bridge this gap, he launched a project to empower Ugandan women to become professional bird guides.

The Uganda Women Birders (UWB) project began with nine female guides. Herbert's vision was to train these women in birding skills and create leaders and entrepreneurs who could inspire others. Judith Mirembe, an exemplary leader, was appointed Chairperson. Under her leadership, the initiative flourished, rapidly expanding its membership and influence.

Comprehensive training programs are a cornerstone of the UWB initiative. These programs equip women with the skills needed to excel as bird guides. Training sessions across various regions, including the biodiversity-rich Karamoja area, cover bird identification, guiding techniques, customer service, and sustainable tourism practices.

The success of UWB inspired similar movements in Kenya and Rwanda, creating a regional network of empowered women bird guides. This network fosters cross-border collaborations and promotes birding tourism in East Africa. Support from organizations like United Nations Development Program, Kowa Optics, Uganda Wildlife Authority and individuals like Peg Abbott and Jamie Cunningham has been crucial, providing invaluable financial and mentorship assistance.

Over the years, the Uganda Women Birders initiative has achieved significant milestones. From its humble beginnings with nine members, the network has grown to over 150 women bird guides across Uganda, reflecting the increasing interest and participation of women in tourism and conservation.

A notable achievement was the inaugural International Conference for Women Birders (IC4WB) in Kampala in 2023, fostering global networking and collaboration. This success

set the stage for the next IC4WB in 2025 in Costa Rica. The UWB initiative also significantly contributes to bird species conservation by involving local communities, especially women. The increased participation of women in birding has also enhanced Uganda's tourism experience. Female bird guides bring a unique perspective, enriching the overall experience for tourists. This diversity has attracted more female tourists, creating a positive cycle of empowerment and economic growth.

Herbert Byaruhanga envisions women leading tourism and conservation across Africa, addressing gender gaps in these fields. The Uganda Women Birders initiative showcases inspiring transformations, with women becoming accomplished guides and conservationists. Their stories highlight the power of education, mentorship, and community support in driving positive change.

One such story is that of Sarah Nansubuga, who joined UWB in 2014. Initially shy and unsure of her abilities, Sarah underwent training and mentorship through the program. Today, she is one of Uganda's most sought-after bird guides, known for her expertise and passion for bird conservation. Sarah's journey from a novice to a leader in her field exemplifies the impact of the UWB initiative.

Despite challenges such as cultural norms, gender stereotypes, and financial constraints, the resilience and determination of the women involved, coupled with support from various stakeholders, have enabled the initiative to overcome these obstacles.

As the Uganda Women Birders initiative grows, the focus will be on sustaining momentum and expanding its impact. Plans include establishing more training centers across Uganda and integrating technology into birding.

The Uganda Women Birders initiative, starting with nine women, now boasts over 150 members, promoting gender equality, conservation, and sustainable tourism. Inspired by a female bird guide in Chicago, Herbert Byaruhanga's vision has transformed lives across East Africa. With ongoing support, the initiative continues to inspire women in birding and conservation.



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