

UGANDA

GORILLAS, CHIMPANZEES, & SHOEBILLS

Main Tour: April 8 – 21, 2025

Murchinson Falls Extension: April 20 – 26, 2025



With over 1000 bird species in a country slightly smaller than the state of Oregon and the added attraction of Africa's big apes (Mountain Gorilla and Chimpanzee), Uganda is a country not to be missed. Uganda has by far the highest concentration of birds on the African continent and arguably the most accessible place to see the legendary Shoebill. As if that is not enough, there are over 20 of the Albertine Rift endemics possible on this trip. Even if you've traveled to other countries in Africa, you will see a plethora of life birds and life mammals on this one-of-a-kind tour.

OVERVIEW

The tour starts and ends in Entebbe on the shores of Lake Victoria. Upon arrival, you will be picked up at the Entebbe International Airport by your guide and transported to your overnight hotel. Some of the routes that we will travel are fairly long, but most of the roads are in good condition, having been newly re-constructed. There are, however, some bumpy and muddy roads that must be travelled to reach a few of the more remote destinations. We will pass through a patchwork of Uganda's most scenic areas, interspersed by villages and farmlands. The landscape will vary from woodlands to tropical forests, grasslands to papyrus swamps and hilly areas. The road networks inside the national parks are not tarred, but conditions are generally acceptable.

The attached schedule will be adhered to where possible, but last-minute changes might have to be made in exceptional circumstances.

Our itinerary includes some of Uganda's finest and most diverse birding destinations:

- Mabamba Wetland – The most reliable site for the mighty Shoebill
- Lake Mburo National Park – A small park boasting a multitude of habitats and species
- Bwindi Impenetrable National Park – Famous for the critically endangered Mountain Gorillas, as well as a high number of Albertine Rift endemics
- Queen Elizabeth National Park – Hosts the highest biodiversity of any reserve in Africa, as well as the world-famous tree-climbing Lions
- Kibale National Park – The highest concentration of primates in Africa, including Chimpanzees; also the only reliable site for the Green-breasted Pitta (seasonal)
- Budongo Forest Reserve – Home to the famous “Royal Mile” one of Uganda's premier birding hot-spots.

Extension

- Murchison Falls National Park – The largest National Park in Uganda, it hosts the Murchison Falls on the River Nile, which is the longest river in the world.
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary – Prime savannah birding within 2 hours from Kampala, arguably the best place in Uganda for White-crested Turaco.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival and transfer to hotel. For those who have arrived a day early, there are the options of just resting up after the long flight or an optional outing to the nearby Entebbe Botanical Gardens with its prolific birdlife. Even the gardens at our lodge are well worth birding with good photographic opportunities for birds such as **Red-chested Sunbird, Double-toothed Barbet and Black-headed Gonolek.**

Overnight Boma Lodge or similar, Entebbe (Dinner)

Day 2

After breakfast, we will proceed to the renowned Mabamba Wetland. There will be a wide variety of wetland species to be observed as we go by boat in search of the enigmatic Shoebill. Some species we might expect to see include **Gull-billed Tern; Common Moorhen; Swamp Flycatcher; African Snipe; Blue-headed Coucal; Lesser and African Jacanas; Malachite and Pied Kingfishers; Goliath and Purple Herons; Spur-winged and Pygmy Geese; Caruthers, Winding, and Red-faced Cisticolas; Saddle-billed and Open-billed Storks; Red-rumped and Mosque Swallows; Dideric, Klaas's and Red-chested Cuckoos; and a whole host of Weavers, including Northern Brown-throated, Orange, Golden-backed, Village, Black-headed, and Slender-billed.** Some common raptors found around this wetland include **African Marsh Harrier, African Harrier-Hawk, Western Banded Snake-Eagle, Lizard Buzzard** and we were even treated to superb daytime views of **African Grass Owl** in 2019. Back on land, we should also expect to find **Red-headed Lovebird, African Grey Parrot, Sooty Chat, Rufous-naped Lark, Eastern Grey Plantain-eater, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Grey-crowned Crane, Ruppell's Long-tailed Starling, and Spur-winged Lapwing, as well as Papyrus Gonolek, Grey-rumped Swallow, Red shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, and Red-chested, Scarlet-chested, Superb and Olive-bellied Sunbirds.**



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We will leave for Lake Mburo National Park around mid-morning, stopping for lunch at the Equator. We will arrive at the Park in the evening.

Overnight at Rwakobo Rock (BLD)

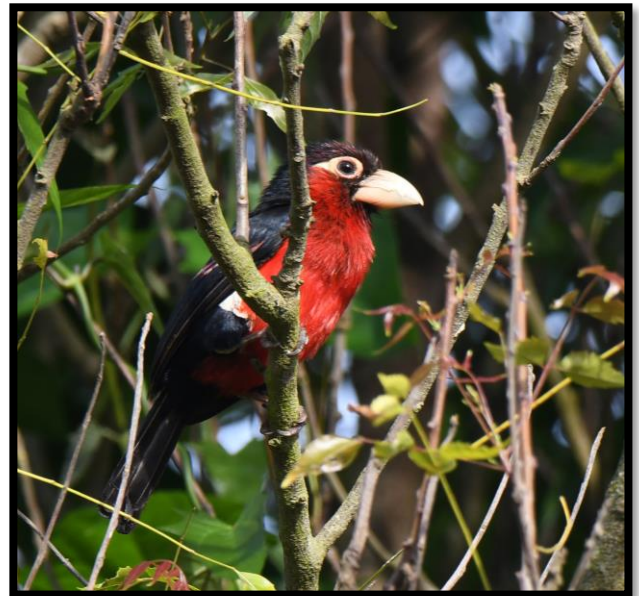
Day 3

Lake Mburo is one of the few places in Uganda to see typical savannah species. Top of the list goes to the rather localised **Red-faced Barbet**, this being our only chance of seeing it on the tour. Our lodge is also home to **Striped Pipit**, a bird virtually unknown from Uganda. Most of the park is dominated by tall grass dotted with Acacia and Euphorbia trees. Birds we might encounter in this habitat include **Long-tailed Cisticola**, **Crested and Coqui Francolins**; **Emerald-spotted Wood-dove**; **Brown Parrot**; **Blue-naped Mousebird**; **Bare-faced Go-away-bird**; **Lilac-breasted Roller**; **Green Woodhoopoe**; **Common Scimitarbill**; **African Grey Hornbill**; **Spot-flanked, White-headed and Double-toothed Barbets**; **Nubian and Cardinal Woodpeckers**; **Trilling Cisticola**; **Yellow-breasted Apalis**; **White-winged Black-Tit**; **Chin-spot Batis**; **Greater Blue-eared Starling**; **White-browed Scrub-Robin**; **Rufous-chested Swallow**; **Black-bellied Bustard**; **Wattled Lapwing**; **Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks**; **Yellow-throated Longclaw**; and **Southern Red Bishop**. **Brown-chested Plovers** can be seen from July to December. Weather permitting, we will do a night drive in search of **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**, **African Scops-Owl**, and **Black-shouldered, Swamp and Pennant-winged Nightjars**. Game viewing will include animals such as Cape Buffalo, Impala, Warthog, Zebra, Hippopotamus, Waterbuck, Side-striped Jackal, Bushbuck, Topi, Eland, and both Dwarf and Banded Mongoose. A boat ride on the lake should provide a good chance of seeing African Finfoot and White-backed Night-Heron.

Overnight at Rwakobo Rock (BLD)



Southern Red Bishop



Double-toothed Barbet

Day 4

We will leave for the Ruhija section of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park after breakfast. We will journey through Kabale and over mountains in excess of 2500 metres. While this is mostly a travel day, we will stop for key species along the way, including **Papyrus Gonolek**, **White-winged and Papyrus Warblers**, **Papyrus Canary**, and **Caruther's and Chubb's Cisticolas**. Commoner species such as **Augur Buzzard** and **African Stonechat** will invariably be encountered en-route.

Overnight at Trekkers Tavern, Bwindi-Ruhija (BLD)

Day 5

After breakfast, we will head for the famous trail through the forest to Mubwindi Swamp. The hike to the swamp is optional and involves an approximately 10km return hike (4 km + each way) along a trail that is steep in places and sometimes slippery but has proven to be one of the best places in the world to see the rare **Grauer's Broadbill** and **Grauer's Swamp Warbler**. We'll take packed lunches so we can take our time on this trail, which is also one of the best places to find some of the Albertine Rift specials, such as the rare and localized **Grauer's Warbler**, **African Broadbill**, **Archer's Robin-Chat**, **Stripe-breasted Tit**, **Strange Weaver**, **Ruwenzori Batis**, **Bar-tailed** and **Narina Trogons**, **Purple-breasted** and **Blue-headed Sunbirds**, **Handsome Francolin**, **White-headed Woodhoopoe**, **Eastern Mountain** and **Yellow-whiskered Greenbuls**, **Stuhlmann's** and **Waller's Starlings**, **Tullberg's Woodpecker**, **Mountain Illadopsis**, **Streaky Seedeater**, **Yellow-crowned Canary**, **White-naped Raven**, **White-starred Robin**, **Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo**, **Dusky** and **Red-faced Crimsonwings**, **Mountain Buzzard**, **Crowned Eagle**, and **Red-throated Alethe**. Multiple species of **Apalis** are possible, including **Ruwenzori**, **Chestnut-throated** and **Mountain-masked**, and we should encounter some warbler species, including **Red-faced Woodland**, **Mountain Yellow** and **Evergreen Forest**. Animals include **Yellow-backed Duikers** and the beautiful **L'Hoest** and **Blue Monkeys**. Please note that there are other, easier trails with excellent birding should the group opt for that.

Overnight at Bwindi Community Homestay (BLD)



Day 6 & 7

Please note that the order of day 6 & 7 (A-B or B-A) depends on where we are able to obtain Gorilla permits, either in the Ruhija or Buhoma section of Bwindi National Park. Accordingly, we'll spend the evening of Day 6 in either Trekkers Tavern (Ruhija) or Bwindi Community Homestay (Buhoma)

A - Gorilla Tracking. This activity is catered for people of all ages and fitness. A "bush taxi", essentially a litter (chair on poles carried by 2-4 persons) can be arranged (at an additional fee) for those with walking difficulties who are desperate to see the Gorillas. For those that have opted to not search for this enigmatic animal, there is an option of forest birding around our Lodge, within walking distance of our camp. For a list of potential species, see day 7.

Overnight at Trekkers Tavern, Bwindi-Ruhija (BLD) or Bwindi Community Homestay, Bwindi-Buhoma (BLD)

B - After breakfast we will slowly drive out of Ruhija with birding stops as we go along, keeping an eye out for **Handsome Francolin** on the road edges. It's not a huge distance to the Buhoma section of Bwindi NP but we'll be out most of the day enjoying the superb birding this route offers. On the way, we will pass through what is known as "the neck" and we'll spend a fair amount of time at this renowned birding spot with chances of finding the likes of **Cassin's Honeybird, Tiny Sunbird, Brown-capped Weaver, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Mountain Wagtail**, and many more. The patchwork of farmland and degraded forest offer its own unique selection of birds and it's here that we stand a good chance of finding the likes of **Red-headed Bluebill, Ross's Turaco, Augur Buzzard, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** and **Brown-backed Scrub-Robin**.

Overnight at Bwindi Community Homestay, Bwindi-Buhoma (BLD)

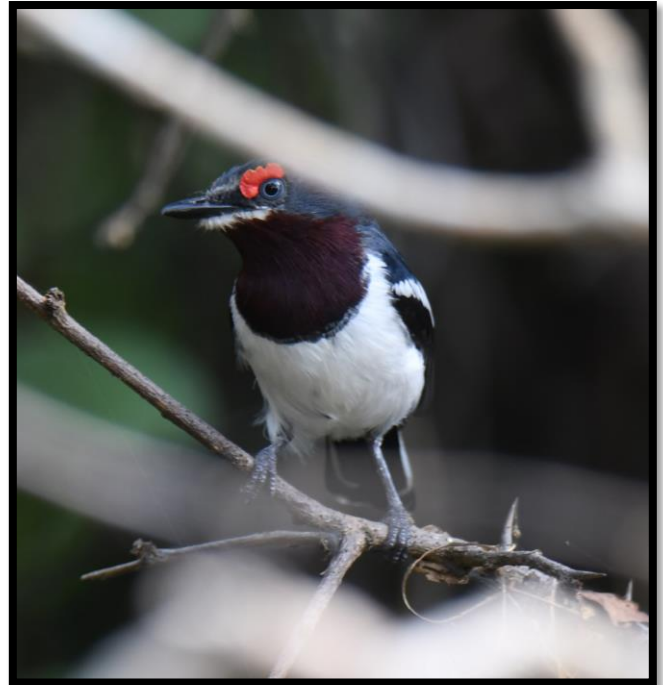
Day 8

After an early breakfast, we head out on foot along Buhoma Main Trail. Some of the species we hope to see here include **Neumann's Warbler, African Broadbill, Chapin's Flycatcher, Oriole Finch, Ansorge's Greenbul, Equatorial Akalat, White-bellied Robin-Chat, White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Mackinnon's Fiscal, Black-billed and Great Blue Turacos, Ayres Hawk-Eagle, Little Sparrowhawk, Elliot's Woodpecker, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, White-chinned Prinia, Bocage's Bushshrike, Brown-throated Wattle-Eye, and Blue-shouldered, Grey-winged and Red-capped Robin-Chat**. In addition, we have good chances to find a host of **Sunbirds**, Africa's counterpart for our Hummingbirds, including **Blue-throated Brown, Grey-headed, Scarlet-chested, Northern Double-collared, Olive, Bronzy, Green-headed and Green-throated Sunbirds**. Members of the genus *Illadopsis*, relatively small, plump thrush-like birds with shortish tails, rounded wings and long legs, are well-represented here, including **Scaly breasted, Pale-breasted and Mountain Illadopsis**. In brushy areas we will look for **Black-billed, Brown-capped and Thick-billed Seedeaters**.

Overnight at Bwindi Community Homestay (BLD)



Red-cheeked Cordonbleu



Brown-throated Wattle-eye

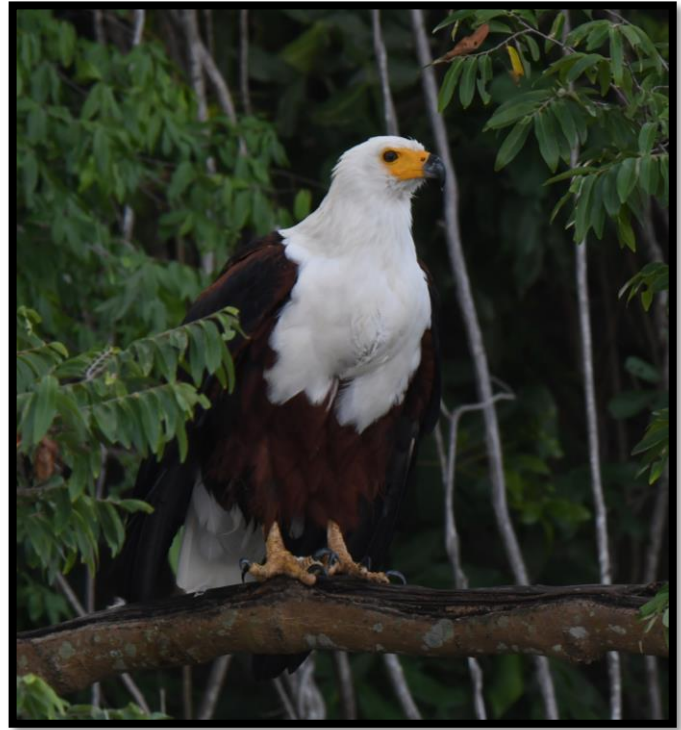
Day 9

After breakfast, we will head for Queen Elizabeth National Park. We will bird en-route as well as within the boundaries of the park as we enter via the Ishasha section, where, if fortunate, we might even encounter the famous tree-climbing lions of Ishasha. We will also try for the elusive **Scaly Francolin** along this section. The park has incredibly diverse habitat, from open savannah to Acacia woodlands and from tropical rainforests to dense Papyrus swamps and lakes, making for fantastic birding opportunities. Target birds include **Trilling, Red faced, Croaking, Stout and Zitting Cisticolas; Holub's Golden Weaver; White-headed and Double-toothed Barbets; Sooty Chat; Broad-tailed Warbler; White-winged Tit; Martial, Long-crested and Bateleur Eagles; Ovambo Sparrowhawk; White-headed, Lappet-faced, White-backed and Ruppell's Vultures; Arrow-marked and Black-lored Babblers; Nubian and Cardinal Woodpeckers; Brown-chested Lapwing; Grey-backed and Northern Fiscals; Woodland Kingfisher; White-browed Robin-Chat; Blue-spotted Wood-dove; Red-eyed Dove; Blue-throated Roller; Blue Malkoha; Red-Collared Widow; Red-capped Lark; and African and Plain-backed Pipits.**

Overnight at Buffalo Safari Lodge (BLD)



Gray Kestrel



African Fish Eagle

Day 10

We will travel to the northern regions of the park after an early breakfast focussing on the Kasenyi track. Bird species on today's "wish list" include **Harlequin** and **Blue Quails**, **African Crake**, **Martial Eagle**, **Black-crowned** and **Marsh Tchagras**, **Red-necked Francolin**, **White-browed** and **Black Coucals**, **Grey-backed Shrike**, **Green-winged Pytilia** and **Crowned Lapwings**, as well as another chance to see **Brown-chested** and **Senegal Lapwing**. This area is particularly rich in raptors with the likes of **Bateleur**, **Grey Kestrel** and **Ruppel's Vulture** possible but also plays host to a wide variety of larks and in particular the scarce **White-tailed Lark**, which we hope to find In the afternoon, we will take a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, allowing for close up views of Elephant and Hippo. We will have a good chance of seeing **African Skimmer**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Grey Pratincole**, **Saddle-billed** and **Yellow-billed Storks**, **Goliath** and **Grey Herons**, **Pink-backed** and **Great White Pelicans** and **Black Crakes** along the way to name but a few.

Overnight at Buffalo Safari Lodge (BLD)

Day 11

After breakfast, we will do another morning in the park looking for species we might have missed. We will then leave for a relaxed drive to Kibale NP with ample time for some late afternoon birding in the park.

Overnight at Guereza Canopy Lodge (BLD)



Red-throated Bee-eaters

Day 12

We will have an early start to make the most of our day of birding in Kibale Forest National Park, heading firstly to the area where we will do our Chimpanzee trekking. We will be birding along the way while we search for the Chimps and our birding will continue for the rest of the morning after spending some time admiring the Chimpanzees (not guaranteed but rarely missed). Kibale is, of course, one of the best places to find the enigmatic **Green-breasted Pitta** (in season) and this will be one of our main targets here. That doesn't mean that we won't also be on the lookout for other species such as **White-spotted** and **Red-chested Flufftails**; **Jameson's Wattle-Eye**; **African Blue-**

Flycatcher; **Afep**, **White-naped** and **Bronze-naped Pigeons**; **Joyful** and **White-throated Greenbuls**; **Brown-backed Scrub-Robin**; **Purple-headed** and **Chestnut-winged Starlings**; **Red-chested Owlet**; **Shining-blue** and **Blue-breasted Kingfishers**; **Brown** and **Scaly-breasted Illadopsis**; **Western Black-headed Oriole**, **Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher**; **Crested Guinea-fowl**; **Yellow-spotted**, **Yellow-billed** and **Hairy-breasted Barbets**; **Grey-headed Oliveback**; **Black-bellied Seedeater**; **Fawn-breasted** and **Black-crowned Waxbills**; **Green-backed Twinspot**; **Black-and-White Mannikin**; **Pied Hornbill**; **White-headed Woodhoopoe**; **Black-capped** and **Masked Apalises**; **Petit's Cuckooshrike**; **Superb** and **Green-throated Sunbirds**; **Yellow-mantled Weaver**; **Dusky** and **Olive-tailed Cuckoos**; **Grey-throated** and **White-bellied Crested-Flycatchers**; **Scarce Swift**; **Thick-billed** and **Willcock's Honey Guides**; **African Grey Parrot**; **African Goshawk**; and **Crowned Eagle**. Mammals in the area include Chimpanzee, Olive Baboon, Guezera Colobus, Grey-cheeked Mangabey, and L'Hoest, Gentle, Vervet and Red tailed Monkeys. Of the four-legged variety, we could encounter Forest Elephant, Bush Pig, Buffalo, and Bushbuck, as well as Blue, Harvey's and Peter's Duikers. Carnivores that we might see are Common Genet and African Civet, although both are nocturnal and not easily seen.

Overnight at Guereza Canopy Lodge (BLD)

Day 13

For those not doing the extension, we will travel back to Entebbe. Time permitting, we will bird in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens in the afternoon. If you are booking a late evening flight home, you could leave this evening.

Overnight Boma Lodge or similar (BLD)

Day 14

Early morning birding in Entebbe Botanical Gardens for any species we might have missed. Flights can be booked for anytime today. Day rooms at Lake Victoria View Guest House can be arranged for those on late night flights out.

End of Main Tour

For those who have chosen the extension, the itinerary will be as follow:

Day 13

After a quick bit of birding in the morning, we will head for the Budongo area. The journey will take most of the day, with birding along the way.

Overnight at Masindi Hotel (BLD)

Day 14

After an early breakfast, we will head for the famous “Royal Mile” in the Budongo Forest Reserve. It was here that the traditional Kings of Bunyoro would come for a stroll. Birding along the forest trail is excellent and the wide trail makes for easy walking. Key species include **African Dwarf, Pygmy, Blue-breasted, Shining-blue and Chocolate-backed Kingfishers; Yellow and Grey Longbills; Olive-bellied Crombec; Brown-eared and Yellow-crested Woodpeckers; Forest and Chestnut-capped Flycatchers; Rufous-crowned Eremomela; Yellow-browed Camaroptera; Toto and Cameroon Olive-Greenbuls; Sombre, Slender-billed, Spotted, White-throated, Little, and Grey Greenbuls; Pale-breasted, Brown and Scaly-breasted Illadopsis; Cassin’s and Sabine’s Spinetails; Nahan’s Spurfowl; Crested Guinea-fowl; Western Black-headed Oriole; Yellow-mantled Weaver; Yellow-spotted and Yellow-billed Barbets; Eastern Forest Robin; Red-tailed and White-tailed Ant-Thrushes; Cassin’s Hawk-Eagle; Crowned Eagle; Jameson’s and Chestnut Wattle-Eyes; Ituri Batis; Uganda Woodland-Warbler; Grey Parrot; Fire-crested Alethe; Black and White-thighed Hornbills; Olive-bellied, Green-throated, Superb, Green, and Grey-headed Sunbirds; Tambourine Dove; Red-headed and Crested Malimbis; African Emerald, Red-chested, and Black Cuckoos; Buff-throated Apalis; and Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated, and Speckled Tinkerbirds.** En route we will bird some of the very productive stretches of farmland where we hope to find the rather **tricky Brown Twinspot and Grey-headed Oliveback, Compact Weaver and Red-headed Lovebird** are also quite common here.

Overnight at Masindi Hotel (BLD)

Day 15

After an early breakfast, we will head for Murchison Falls National Park via the Butiaba escarpment and Busingiro section of the Budongo Forest Reserve. At Busingiro we hope to find the likes of the lively **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** and **White-tailed Ant Thrush**, seemingly easier here than at the



Royal Mile. We'll also keep an eye out for Chimpanzee, which we've seen here on a couple of occasions. Soon we'll exit the forest and head into more open savannah and farmlands birding along the way. Our next stop at the Butiaba escarpment should produce several birds that are impossible or hard to find anywhere else on the trip. **Cut-throat Finch** is pretty much only known from this area and has only been added to the Uganda list as recently as 2016. Other essential birds include **Foxy Cisticola**, **White-fronted Black Chat**, **White-rumped Seed-eater** and **Mocking Cliff Chat**. From here we head down into the rift valley and will drive through some interesting birding habitat along the shores of Lake Albert. We'll reach our lodge on the edge of the park in the late afternoon.

Overnight at Kabalega Wilderness Camp or similar (BLD)

Day 16

Murchison is Uganda's National Conservation Area, and is famous for its big game, spectacular scenery, and obviously for the Murchison Falls themselves. We should see some of the area's large populations of game, including Hippopotamus, Crocodiles, Elephant, Buffalo, Uganda Kob, Waterbuck, Lion, Leopard and Patas Monkeys. Birds within the conservation area include **Denham's** and **Black-bellied Bustards**; **Heuglin's Francolin**; **Red-throated, White-throated, Swallow-tailed, Northern Carmine** and **Little Bee-eaters**; **Black-bellied** and **Bar-breasted Firefinches**; **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**; **Red-necked Falcon**; **Senegal** and **Spotted Thick-knees**; **Blue-spotted** and **Black-billed Wood-doves**; **Black-billed, Double-toothed** and **Spot-flanked Barbets**; **White-crested Turacos**; **Marsh Tchagra**; **Speckle-fronted, Slender-billed** and **Compact Weavers**; **Chestnut-crowned** and **White-browed Sparrow-Weavers**; **Red-winged Grey Warbler**; **Broad billed** and **Abyssinian Rollers**; **Piapiac**; **Yellow-mantled Widowbird**; **Whistling, Singing, Zitting, Rattling** and **Foxy Cisticolas**; **Sooty Chat**; **White-fronted Black-Chat**; **White-crested Helmetshrike**; **Yellow-billed Shrike**; **Dark** and **Eastern Chanting-Goshawks**; **White-rumped Seedeater**; **Grey-headed** and **Woodland Kingfishers**; **Brown Babbler**; **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill**; **Grey Hornbill**; **Speckled** and **Blue-**

naped Mousebirds; Silverbird; Northern Black-Flycatcher; Spotted Morning-Thrush; Beautiful Sunbird; Vinaceous Dove; Osprey; Grey-backed Shrike; and Northern Fiscal.

Overnight at Kabalega Wilderness Camp or similar (BLD)

Day 17

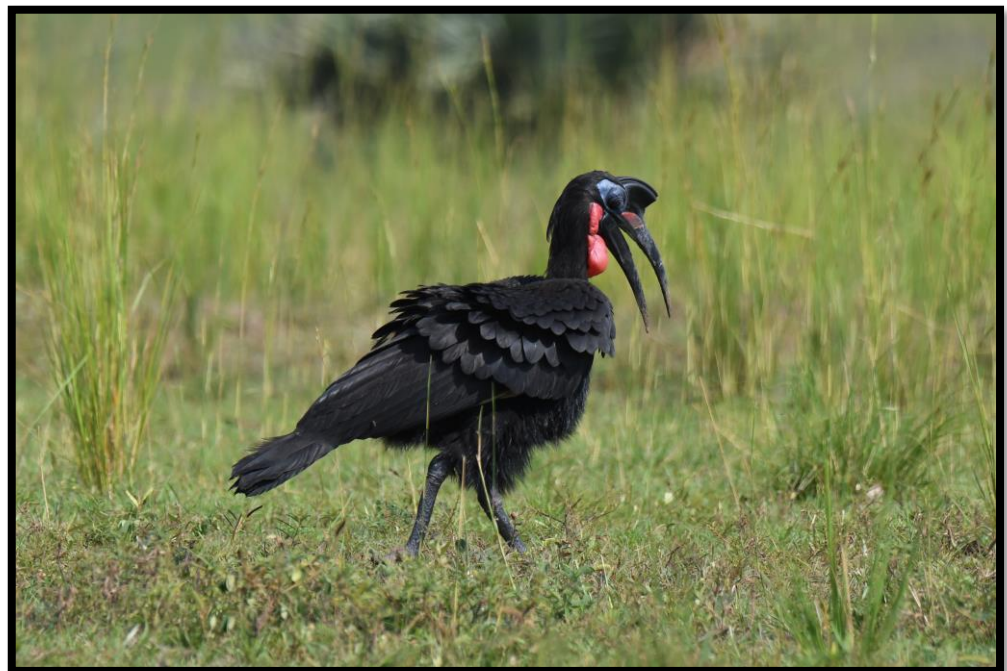
After breakfast and some early morning birding we head south toward Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary via the Kaniyo Pabidi section of the Budongo Forest Reserve, a quick stop along here might produce **Puvel's Illadopsis** and several other good birds. Ziwa was established in 2005 to protect White Rhinoceros in Uganda, however this 7,000-hectare sanctuary protects vast tracks of woodland and swamps home to many bird species and is arguably the best place to see **White-crested Turaco** in Uganda. Time permitting, we will do some afternoon birding in Ziwa on arrival.

Overnight at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary (BLD)

Day 18

A mere 2 hour's drive from Kampala, Ziwa supports over 300 bird species, many of which are difficult to see elsewhere in Uganda. The combination of woodland, swamp and thickets attract a wide variety of birds and with an abundance of wild fig trees we are likely to find **White-crested Turaco** and **Bruce's Green Pigeon** feasting on ripe figs along with other frugivorous species. Barbets and Starling are particularly well represented at Ziwa and provides a great opportunity to compare the "glossy" starling of Uganda side by side.

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Overnight at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary (BLD)

Day 19

After breakfast we will bird the grounds around the lodge again in search of species we might have missed the previous day before packing and heading to Entebbe International Airport for evening flights out.

(BL)



PRICING: MAIN TOUR
\$7,000* per person sharing
Single Supplement: \$650

PRICING: MURCHINSON FALLS
EXTENSION
\$2,700* per person sharing
Single Supplement: \$250

***Pricing based on a minimum group size of 6 participants, a small group surcharge will be applicable to smaller groups!**

Price includes:

- All meals as indicated.
- Bottled water throughout the trip
- All ground transportation
- All accommodation
- Tips for drivers and local guides
- Expert birding guide throughout tour
- Services of two ***Cheepers!*** Tour leaders (Jim and Cindy Beckman)
- Chimpanzee Trekking Permits valued at over USD \$200
- Post-trip electronic copy of final checklist
- Post-trip photo collection on flash drive
- Pre-trip gift package, including customized checklist and tour book

Price does NOT include:

- International flights
- Visa costs
- Optional Gorilla Trekking permit (currently USD 800)
- Drinks other than bottled water (this includes soft drinks and coffee)
- Tips for birding guides
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, etc.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- ~ Deposit of \$1100 for the main tour and \$400 for the extension is required with registration, along with \$800 for the gorilla trek if you are planning to participate in that activity.
- ~ Balance is due 4 months prior to the start date.
- ~ Payments can be done via wire transfer to *Cheepers! Africa*: bank details and invoice will be sent along with your registration forms.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancellation must be made in writing (email)
More than 6 months prior to departure – full refund of deposit
Between 4 and 6 months prior to departure – 50% refund of deposit
Less than 4 months prior to departure – No refund of deposit
If cancellation occurs after full payment is made, a refund will be given only if the vacant spot is filled.

Trip insurance is recommended.

You can compare prices offered by various trip insurance companies at these websites:

<http://www.insuremytrip.com>

http://www.quotewright.com/?sub_id=6056

Cheepers! Africa (Pty) Ltd. reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if the need should arise due to unforeseeable circumstances such as weather, landslides, and other natural phenomena, as well as suggestions by local guides in order to take advantage of an unusual birding opportunity. Lodging is subject to change based on availability.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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Important Notes:

- Parts of Uganda can be hot, especially in the savannah areas of Murchison NP, Queen Elizabeth NP and Lake Mburo NP.
- We are usually up early and sometimes out late so be prepared for lengthy days in search of wildlife and birds.
- We will spend a fair amount of time in both lowland and montane rainforest and, as the name implies, rain can come around unexpectedly at any time of day and at any time of year, so be prepared with protective gear for your camera equipment and yourself.
- Dust can be a problem in some areas; protect your equipment accordingly.
- There will be some lengthy drives with limited bathroom facilities which might require the occasional “bush stop”.
- The tour generally requires only a moderate level of fitness other than for the excursions mentioned below. Please take note, however, that even level forest trails can become slippery after rains. Please avoid flat-soled shoes without some sort of grip.
- **Mubwindi Swamp Trail (Optional)** on Day 5 involves a fair amount of walking on sometimes steep forest trails that may be slippery. It is roughly a 10km return walk with packed lunch. We maintain a slow pace, so expect to be out most of the day. Birding along this trail is incredibly rewarding with the only chance for Grauer’s Broadbill (one of only two known sites) and Grauer’s Swamp Warbler.
- **Gorilla Trekking (Optional)** may involve several hours of strenuous walking on steep trails and often off trail to reach the gorillas. Permits for the different gorilla family groups are normally allocated on the morning of the trek, usually with preference to elderly trekking groups being allocated to somewhat nearer gorilla families on easier terrain, but this cannot be guaranteed. We will do our best to keep our group together, but allocation is out of our hands and entirely up to UWA (Uganda Wildlife Association) staff. Therefore, although unlikely, there is a chance of our group being split.
- **Tippling** – As noted above, tips for drivers and local guides are included in your tour price. This does NOT include your birding guides or any other staff such as porters, hotel staff, etc. Of course, tipping remains entirely at your discretion, but we do encourage tipping if you feel you received exceptional service.



- It is recommended that you always keep your seatbelt fastened, even in game parks where we might make sudden stops for birds or wildlife with the possibility of you falling forward of your seat if not strapped in, especially if you've been taking a nap. In addition, we also recommend securing any cameras and other equipment for the same reason.