14-Day Uganda Birding Safari for Albertine Rift Endemics

Uganda



DURATION	COUNTRY	STARTING FROM
14 days, 13 nights	**Uganda**	**USD 4,900 per person**

TOUR SUMMARY

This 14-day birding safari targets the Albertine Rift endemics in the western national parks of Uganda, and includes gorilla trekking.

You start in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, the smallest national park in Uganda, with over 180 bird species including Albertine Rift endemics. You then spend four days around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in the Ruhija sector, The Neck and Buhoma, where 23 of the 24 Albertine Rift endemics found in Uganda have been recorded. After gorilla trekking you continue to Rwenzori Mountains National Park and Semuliki National Park.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival for the Uganda Birding Tour

On arrival at Entebbe international airport, you will be received by a representative of Namib Safaris and transferred to your hotel in Entebbe. Depending on time of arrival time you have an opportunity to bird the Entebbe botanical gardens as an introduction to Uganda birding for a variety of species.

Drive time: 20 minutes

Day 2

Birding to Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Today, after an early breakfast we will bird to the south western corner of Uganda for a beautiful birding experience in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. Mgahinga Gorilla NP is the country' most scenic and smallest Park.

We shall have several stopovers birding in specific swampy areas and agricultural lands for unique bird species. We arrive at our lodge/hotel later that evening looking to full bird day the next day in Mgahinga gorilla national park for the Albertine rift endemics.

Drive time: 9 hours OR Scheduled Flight – 1 hour 50 minutes

B, L & D

Day 3

Birding in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Mgahinga gorilla national park has about 180 recorded bird species, which include Albertine rift endemics. Today we traverse a variety of montane habitats along the Gorge trail seeking out the different bird species unique to this region.

The species to search for include; The Dusky Turtle Dove, Cape Robin-chat, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Bronze Sunbird, Black-headed Waxbill and Streaky Seedeater. At 2500m, we may encounter the Handsome Francolin, Kivu Ground Thrush and Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, White Starred Robin, Greater Double collard Sunbird, Rwenzori Turcaco, Rwenzori Batis, Shelly's Dusky Crimsonwing, Archer's Robin Chat, Olive Pigeon, and Black headed waxbill, Western Green Tinkerbird, Malachite Sunbird, Cape Robin. More species include; White-starred Robin, Brown Woodland Warbler, Striped breasted Tit, Malachite and Scarlet-tufted Sunbirds also found in this forested area.

B, L & D

Day 4

Transfer to Bwindi impenetrable forest – Ruhija Sector

Bwindi Impenetrable is the richest forest in East Africa in relation to its trees, butterflies and birds. It is home to over 360 Mountain Gorillas – half of the world's population. The bird list for the park currently totals 347 species. The forest has 10 of the 26 globally threatened species in Uganda, five of which are vulnerable and boasts of 24 of Uganda's 25 Albertine Rift endemics.

In Ruhija the birds we hope to sight include the; Rwenzori Batis, Collared Apalis, Montane Sooty Boubou, Banded Prinia, Mountain and Yellow-streaked Greenbul.Shelley's Crimsonwing, Mountain Illadopsis, Archer's Robin-chat, White-starred Robin, Strange Weaver, Blue headed, Purple-breasted and Regal Sunbirds, Northern Olive Thrush, Abyssinian Crimsonwing, Black headed Waxbill, Dusky Crimsonwing, Willcock's Honeyguide, Sharpe's Starling and many others.

We will have stopovers at Echuya forest for good birding opportunities and possible sightings of Albertine rift endemics.

Drive time: 4 hours

B, L & D

Day 5

Birding in Ruhija sector of Bwindi Forest

Today we bird towards Mubwindi Swamp where the trail drops steeply through the dense forest and then winds through swampy forest. Initially the birds on the trail are similar like those encountered before but more time spent will provide opportunities for the rare and localized African Green Broadbill now known as Grauers Broadbill. It prefers to nest near the Mubwindi Swamp and can be difficult to locate while on this trip but with excellent site guides there are high chances of locating it.

Other birds to lookout for in this area of Bwindi impenetrable national park are; Yellow-billed Barbet, Black-billed Turaco's, Bar-tailed Trogon, White-headed Hoopoe, Montane Oriole, Pink-footed Puffback, Lagden's Bush-Shrike, Waller's Starling, localized Grauer's Rush Warbler, Dwarf Honey-Guide, Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, Oriole Finch, Doherty's Bush-Shrike, Red-headed Malimbe, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Grey-headed Sparrow, Dusky Twinspot, Think-billed and Streaky Seedeaters, Rwenzori Nightjar etc.

B, L & D

Day 6

Birding "the Neck" of Bwindi forest

We leave Ruhija Section of Bwindi to Buhoma for Gorilla tracking and more birding opportunities. On our way, we bird "The Neck" – this is an important habitat and offers high chance to see the Cassin's Hawk Eagle, Toro-Olive Greenbul, Black Bee-eaters, Bronze-napped Pigeon, the rare Chapin's Flycatcher, Cassin's grey flycatcher, pink footed puffback, Mountain wagtail etc.

Drive time: 3 hours

B, L & D

Day 7

Birding at Buhoma Sector

Buhoma section of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park has tracks that run through the forest offering excellent bird viewing points.

The bird species to look out on these trails include; Brown, Blue-headed, Northern Double-collared and Grey headed Sunbirds, Black Bee-Eater, Kivu Ground Thrush, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Common Stonechat, Black throated Robin chat, Barred Long tailed Cuckoo, Black throated Apalis, Mountain Masked Apalis, Chin spot Batis, Rwenzori Batis, African broadbill, Montane Oriole, African Golden Oriole, Thick-billed Seedeater, Streaky Seedeater, Handsome Francolin and White-bellied Robin-chat, Cape wagtail, White-chinned Prinia, Olive Green and Grey-backed Camropteras etc.

B, L & D

Day 8

Gorilla trekking

Gorilla trekking in Bwindi impenetrable national park is a rewarding experience which takes you through the thick impenetrable forest in search of gorillas. The experience hiking through the forest is rewarding even before you sight the gorillas.

Today morning after an early breakfast together with packed lunch, your driver guide will transfer you to the starting point where you will receive a briefing from the park ranger guide on how to prepare for the gorilla trek. Your ranger guide will lead the way in the forest first on well cleared paths but soon you get off to the bushes and thickets where he will help to clear them with a cycle he carries with him. Soon you will be in sight of these enormous creatures.

B, L & D

Day 9

Birding to Mount Rwenzori National Park

This day, we start early after breakfast, carry packed lunch and bird toward Rwenzori Mountains National Park. We drive through Queen Elizabeth national park therefore having many opportunities for birding stops even before reaching our destination for the night. Look out for the tree climbing lions in Ishasha, there is a possibility of sighting these while driving through Ishasha towards Rwenzori mountains national park.

Drive time: 5 hours

B, L & D

Day 10

Birding in Rwenzori Mountains National Park

We start early and search for the special Rwenzori birds which include; Bamboo warbler, Rwenzori Turaco, Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird, Rwenzori Hill-Babbler, Rwenzori Nightjar, the Abyssinian, Red-faced, Dusky and Shelley's Crimsonwing, Rwenzori Batis,Grey Apalis, Woodhouse Antipecker, Cassin's Hawk-eagle, Grauer's Cuckoo-shrike, Banded Prinia, Willcock's Honeyguide, Kivu Ground Thrush, Cassin's Grey Flycatcher, Sooty Flycatcher and many more.

B, L & D

Day 11

Birding tour to Semuliki National Park

Today morning, we bird our way to Semuliki national park for a range of central African bird species found only here in East Africa. We will have birding stopovers en route to our accommodation for the night where we arrive later that evening ready to explore this park.

Drive time: 3 hours

B, L & D

Day 12 & 13: Birding in Semuliki National Park

Birding in Semuliki national park, we look out for a number of predominantly Central African species which cannot be found anywhere else in East Africa such as; Long-tailed Hawk, Congo Serpent Eagle, Lyre-tailed Honeyguide, the Black-Casqued Wattled, Piping, Red-billed Dwarf and White-crested Hornbills, We also look out forBlue Swallow, White-throated Blue Swallow, Swamp Palm Bulbul, Spotted Greenbul,White-starred Robin, Lowland Akalat, Red-throated Alethe, Fire-crested Alethe, Snowy-headed Robin-Chat, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Red-eyed Puffback, White-tailed Robin-Chat, Northern Bearded Scrub-Robin, Capped Wheatear, Common Stonechat, Abyssinian Ground-Thrush, Oberlaender's Ground-Thrush, Grey Ground-Thrush, Little Grey Greenbul, Toro Olive Greenbul, Mountain Greenbul, Yellow-throated Nicator, Western Nicator etc.

B, L & D

Day 14

End of Birding Uganda Safari

This marks the end of your Uganda safari for Albertine Rift endemics. We hope you had an amazing time watching the birds of Uganda and enjoying the scenery and people of this country including the fresh organic fruits and foods. We hope to visit again to explore other areas of the country you were not able to visit on this trip. Bon Voyage!

Drive time: 8 hours OR Scheduled Flight – 1 hour 35 minutes

B & L

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Cost includes

- Gorilla permit
- All activities mentioned in the itinerary
- All accommodation
- Professional driver/guide
- All transportation
- All meals
- Drinking water

Cost excludes

- International flights
- Additional accommodation before and after the tour
- Tips
- Personal items
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees
- Government-imposed increases in taxes and park fees

GOOD TO KNOW

- Packing for Safari? Keep it simple!
- Bring comfortable, lightweight clothes in natural colors like khaki, olive, sand, and earth tones. Pack layers too: mornings can be surprisingly chilly, while the middle of the day gets hot. You don't need a fresh outfit for every day, since most lodges and camps can arrange laundry service.
- Don't forget your sun protection: a good hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Comfortable shoes are enough for most safaris. Heavy hiking boots are only needed if you're doing a walking safari, primate tracking, or mountain climbing.
- A good pair of binoculars is a must. A camera is great, but binoculars will transform the way you experience wildlife, especially birds and animals that are far away.
- For luggage, we recommend a soft-sided bag over a hard suitcase. It fits much more easily into safari vehicles and small aircraft, where space is tight and weight is often limited to 15 kg.
- Most importantly, don't overpack. Travel light and enjoy the adventure!

Ready to book this safari?

Request a quote and we will tailor it to your dates and group: **gorillatreking.com/safari/14-day-uganda-birding-safari-for-albertine-rift-endemics/**

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Starting prices are per person and depend on season, group size and availability; request a quote for exact pricing. Itineraries can be adjusted to suit your plans.