17-Day Uganda Birding and Wildlife Safari

Uganda



DURATION	COUNTRY	STARTING FROM
17 days, 16 nights	**Uganda**	**USD 5,600 per person**

TOUR SUMMARY

This 17-day, 16-night safari crosses central, southern and northern Uganda for birders and wildlife lovers.

You start with shoebill tracking at Mabamba Swamp, then visit Lake Mburo, trek gorillas in Bwindi and bird at Mubwindi Swamp, cruise the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park, bird in Kibale Forest and Bigodi Wetland, and finish in Murchison Falls National Park, Budongo Forest and Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary before returning to Entebbe.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival in Entebbe

Upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport, you will be met by your professional safari guide and transferred to your hotel.

Optional activities (depending on arrival time):

- Visit Entebbe Botanical Gardens
- Uganda Wildlife Education Centre
- Ngamba Island (optional, at extra cost)

Drive Time: ~15 minutes

Accommodation:

- Budget: Via Via Guesthouse
- Midrange: Admas Hotel
- Luxury: Protea Hotel by Marriott / Hotel No.5

Meal Plan: Bed & Breakfast

Day 2

Mabamba Swamp – Shoebill Tracking

After an early breakfast, proceed to Mabamba Wetlands on Lake Victoria—one of the best places to spot the rare Shoebill Stork.

Explore the swamp by canoe through narrow channels while spotting species such as: Goliath Heron, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Lesser Jacana, various weavers, and waterbirds.

Return to Entebbe in the evening.

Accommodation: Same as Day 1

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner

Day 3

Transfer to Lake Mburo National Park (Birding En Route)

Depart for Lake Mburo National Park with birding stops at the Equator and Kaku Swamp.

Expect sightings of: Grey Crowned Crane, Saddle-billed Stork, African Paradise Flycatcher, and various wetland species.

Drive Time: 5–6 hours

Accommodation:

- Budget: Rwakobo Rock
- Midrange: Kigarama Wilderness Lodge
- Luxury: Mihingo Lodge / Kigambira Safari Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 4

Birding and Boat Cruise – Lake Mburo

Enjoy a morning game drive and birding session in this Important Bird Area (IBA), home to over 350 species.

In the afternoon, take a boat cruise on Lake Mburo to spot:

African Finfoot, Papyrus Gonolek, African Darter, and various waterbirds.

Accommodation: Same as Day 3

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 5

Transfer to Bwindi (Northern Sector – Ruhija)

Drive through the scenic highlands of southwestern Uganda with en-route birding and photography opportunities.

Drive Time: 6–7 hours

Accommodation:

- Budget: Ruhija Rest Camp
- Midrange: Bakiga Lodge
- Luxury: Kiho Gorilla Safari Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 6

Gorilla Trekking & Transfer to Ruhija

After an early breakfast, proceed for a briefing before embarking on your gorilla trekking experience.

Tracking can take between 1–7 hours depending on the gorillas' location. You will spend one hour observing these incredible primates before returning.

Transfer to your lodge in Ruhija.

Accommodation: Same as Day 5

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 7

Birding in Mubwindi Swamp

Spend a full day birding in Mubwindi Swamp, one of the best sites for Albertine Rift endemics.

Key species include: Grauer's Broadbill, Regal Sunbird, Archer's Robin-Chat, and Rwenzori Apalis.

Accommodation: Same as Day 5

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner

Day 8

Birding to Buhoma via "The Neck"

Explore the forest corridor known as "The Neck," rich in endemic bird species.

Continue to Buhoma sector.

Accommodation:

- Budget: Buhoma Community Rest Camp / Ride 4 a Woman
- Midrange: Buhoma Haven Lodge
- Luxury: Buhoma Lodge / Mahogany Springs / Bwindi Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 9

Transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park

Enjoy scenic views en route before an afternoon game drive in Kasenyi Plains.

Wildlife includes: Elephants, buffaloes, antelopes, lions, and diverse birdlife.

Drive Time: 4–5 hours

Accommodation:

- Budget: Bush Lodge
- Midrange: Buffalo Safari Lodge
- Luxury: Elephant Plains / Kyambura Gorge Lodge / Honey Bear Camp

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 10

Birding & Boat Cruise – Kazinga Channel

Morning game drive and birding in Kasenyi Plains, followed by a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel.

Expect excellent birdlife and large concentrations of wildlife.

Accommodation: Same as Day 9

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 11

Transfer to Kibale (via Maramagambo Forest)

Enjoy birding in Maramagambo Forest before continuing to Kibale National Park.

Accommodation:

- Budget: Chimpanzee Forest Guesthouse
- Midrange: Turaco Treetops
- Luxury: Primate Lodge / Kibale Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 12

Kibale Forest Birding & Bigodi Wetland

Morning birding in Kibale Forest followed by an afternoon walk in Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary.

Key species include:

Green-breasted Pitta, Great Blue Turaco, and various forest specialists.

Accommodation: Same as Day 11

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 13

Transfer to Murchison Falls National Park

Drive north through scenic landscapes with en-route birding.

Drive Time: approximately 6 hours

Accommodation:

- Midrange: Pakuba Safari Lodge
- Luxury: Paraa Safari Lodge / Nile Safari Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 14

Game Drive & Birding – Nile Delta

Morning game drive and birding towards the Nile Delta.

Expect sightings of: Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Carmine Bee-eaters, and possibly the Shoebill.

Accommodation: Same as Day 13

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 15

Nile Boat Cruise & Murchison Falls

Enjoy a morning boat cruise towards the delta and an afternoon cruise to the base of Murchison Falls.

Expect both exceptional birdlife and large mammals including elephants, giraffes, lions, and hippos.

Accommodation: Same as Day 13

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 16

Budongo Forest Birding

Proceed to Budongo Forest for a guided nature walk at Kaniyo-Pabidi.

Look out for: Puvel’s Illadopsis, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, and African Crowned Eagle.

Accommodation: Same as Day 13

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 17

Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary & Return to Entebbe

Transfer back to Entebbe with a stop at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary for rhino tracking and birding.

Continue to Entebbe for your departure flight.

Drive Time: 5–6 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast

End of Safari

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Cost includes

- All activities
- Entrance fees
- All accommodation
- Permits where necessary
- A professional driver/guide
- All transportation
- All Taxes/VAT
- Round-trip airport transfer
- Meals
- Drinking water

Cost excludes

- International flights (From/to home)
- Additional accommodation before and at the end of the tour
- Tips (Tipping guideline US$10.00 pp per day)
- Personal items (Souvenirs, travel insurance, visa fees, etc.)
- Government imposed increase of taxes and/or 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/17-day-uganda-birding-and-wildlife-safari/**

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Email: **bookings@gorillatreking.com**

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.