9-Day Uganda Birding Safari for Albertine Rift Endemics

Uganda



DURATION	COUNTRY	STARTING FROM
9 days, 8 nights	**Uganda**	**USD 3,400 per person**

TOUR SUMMARY

This 9-day Uganda birding safari targets the Albertine Rift endemics and includes gorilla trekking.

You start with a short visit to Mabamba wetland to search for the shoebill, then go to Lake Mburo National Park for an introduction to Ugandan birding. You bird in Mgahinga National Park, the smallest national park in Uganda, then in the Ruhija sector and The Neck of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. At Buhoma you combine gorilla trekking with birding before the drive to Kampala or Entebbe.

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 Mabamba Swamp and to Lake Mburo national park

After early breakfast, drive southwards to Mabamba Swamp Wetland located on the fringes of Lake Victoria. You will take a motorised canoe in search of the Shoebill. The incredible Shoebill is usually found patching in the floating vegetation or flying in the air on some occasions. There is a variety of water birds in this area which include, herons, egrets, ducks, plovers, gulls, Kingfishers, warbler, swallows. Mabamba Swamp is the best place to the shoe bill in Uganda.

After this, transfer to Lake Mburo national park to continue birding. You will have some evening birding before retiring for the day.

Drive time: 4 hours

B, L & D

Day 3

Birding to Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Today, after an early breakfast we will bird to the south western corner of Uganda in the beautiful Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. This park is Uganda's smallest national park but by far the most scenic. You will have several stopovers birding in specific swampy areas and agricultural lands for unique bird species. Eventually you will arrive at your lodge in the evening and prepare for the next day's birding of Mgahinga gorilla national park for the Albertine rift endemics.

Drive time: 5 hours

B, L & D

Day 4

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, 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 5

Birding to Ruhija sector in Bwindi impenetrable forest

Bwindi Impenetrable forest is the richest forest in East Africa in relation to its trees, butterflies and birds. 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 a number of Uganda's 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 stopover at Echuya forest for birding opportunities and possible sightings of Albertine rift endemics.

Drive time: 4 hours

B, L & D

Day 6

Birding in Ruhija Sector – 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 Grauer's Broadbill.

Other birds to lookout for 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, Dusky Twinspot, Think-billed and Streaky Seedeaters, Rwenzori Nightjar etc.

B, L & D

Day 7

Birding to Buhoma via 'The Neck' in Bwindi forest

After an early morning breakfast, 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 that 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. Depending on how busy the Neck is, you can have the packed lunch here and later proceed to Buhoma sector.

Drive time: 2 hours

B, L & D

Day 8

Gorilla trekking and Birding at Buhoma

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

You can choose to instead spend the day gorilla trekking to see these magnificent apes. You would have to make this decision at the point of booking so that gorilla permits are purchased in advance.

B, L & D

Day 9

Birding to Kampala/Entebbe

Today we start the journey to Entebbe after the many days seeking the Albertine rift endemics. We shall have birding stopovers at different points on our journey back to Entebbe.

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.

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

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/9-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.