



Avian Mecca: Birding in the Pearl

20 Days from \$ 18, 626 per person

Avian Tour

The Avian Paradise Journey offers a unique experience into the world of Birding in Africa's top bird haven. With expert local Birding guides leading the way; you can even customise the birding experience based on your interests.

Experience the richness and depth of Uganda's forest cover making up around 50% of Africa's bird species in an all out exclusive Birding experience. With more than 30 birding areas, get an all round colourful experience with more than 1,090 bird species including but not limited to mesozoic era-like looking and extremely rare shoebill stork.

Included with Every Avian Paradise Trip

- One-of-a-Kind Itinerary Designed for You
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Exclusive Insider-Access Opportunities and Inspiring Sightseeing
- Resident tour director and Arabic, English, Spanish, French, German and Italian-Speaking local guides
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily
- Entrance Fees, taxes and tips, excursions as stated
- 24/7 Tour Sokoni On-Call Support
- Signature made African linen shirts and locally made barkcloth summer bucket hats
- Basic Birding equipment (Pointers and call equipment)

Tour Sokoni Advantages

- Paddle along the shores of lake Victoria through one of the very few community-protected swamps around Uganda, spotting water birds, including the rare shoebill stork; long-tailed cormorant; white-faced whistling-duck; african water rail; and the yellow-billed duck buoy over the lake's nearshore.
- Open country birding experiences within an entire ecosystem with species like the african green pigeon; eastern plantain-eater; malachite; giant, and pied kingfishers; blue-headed coucal and blue-breasted bee-eater. Watch nature work in a serene coexistence.

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- Enjoy a mix of birding habitats including acacia woodlands, to a number of papyrus-lined lakes and swamps. You will encounter black-headed squacco; rufous-bellied herons; hadada ibis; yellow-billed (black) kite; spur-winged goose; knob-billed duck; and black-chested snake-eagle among others.

- Visit Uganda Nursing School Bwindi, an Tour Sokoni Philanthropy-supported project enhancing health care in this remote region

Itinerary

Avian Paradise Journeys depart on the dates that work for you and feature expert local guides throughout your journey. The itinerary below can be customised to your interests.

DAY 1 ARRIVE ENTEBBE, UGANDA

Upon arrival in Entebbe, you are met by a Tour Sokoni representative and transferred to your tranquil hotel fronting Africa's largest lake. Soak up the stunning greenery that envelops this nation.

Hotel No.5 | Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 BIRD MABAMBA AND ENTEBBE BOTANICAL

Following a luscious breakfast, plough the Mabamba Wetlands on the shores of Lake Victoria, an extensive papyrus swamp with its labyrinth of channels and lagoons classified as an important bird area. You will use a motorised boat to enjoy one of the few remaining swamps in the country protected by the local communities. Encounter the charismatic shoebill stork, one of Uganda's most famous avian residents. Proceed to the Entebbe Botanical Gardens and spot the colourful malachite kingfisher; blue-cheeked bee-eater; common, wood and green sandpipers; long-tailed cormorant; black crane; and several other open woodland species.

Hotel No.5 | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 BIRDING LAKE MBURO

Transfer to the diverse Lake Mburo birding area that comprises open acacia woodlands, papyrus-lined lakes and swamps. Here you will encounter the lonesome black-headed squacco; rufous-bellied herons; hadada ibis; yellow-billed (black) kite; spur-winged goose; comb duck; black-chested snake-eagle; lizard buzzard; palm-nut and white-backed vultures. You may even spot the nomadic weyn's weaver.

Mihingo Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 BIRDING LAKE BUNYONYI

This morning, explore the lake by wooden canoe, keeping your eyes peeled for grey crowned cranes, levaillant's cuckoo, white tailed monad, slender-billed baglafaecht, weavers, african harrier hawk and other beautiful feathery friends.

Arcadia Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 - 6 BIRDING THE RUHIJA

Rise before the sun and head out of Lake Mburo National Park, a copious sector for good birding experience. You could have a glimpse of bird species like the African goshawk; African pygmy kingfishers; short-tailed warblers; Shelley's crimson wings among others. You will also encounter a few species in an exquisite montane forest birding experience while in the Ruhija sector of Bwindi National Park. These may include African cuckoo-hawk, coqui francolin, scaly francolin, lilac breasted roller, crested and black-collard barbet.

Ruhija Gorilla Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY 7 - 8 BIRDING BUHOMA

For the next two days, discover the enormous richness of the Buhoma section canopy, a narrow stretch that offers excellent forest birding. Key species to look for include the handsome francolin; rwenzori nightjar; dwarf honeyguide; african green broadbill; archer's robin-chat; red-throated alethe; yellow-eyed black-flycatcher; red-faced woodland, short-tailed and grauer's warbler; mountain masked apalis and the stripe-breasted tit among others.

Gorilla Forest Camp | Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 BIRDING ISHASHA

Set out to the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park where you may encounter the white-browed coucal; white-browed robin-chat; common bulbul and greater honeyguide all sucking in the sun upto the dusky hours of the day. You may also catch a glimpse of the mythical flying bats and the yellow winged bats. Wind up the day in Ishasha as you witness the sunset trigger black shouldered nightjars; swamp nightjars and the african scops owl's distinct echoes.

Gorilla Forest Camp | Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 GAME DRIVE + BIRDING THE MARAMAGAMBO IN QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Today you will enjoy a game drive featuring some of Uganda's largest elephant herds; the indelible tree-climbing lions; hippos; buffalo and baboons. Along your path, keep your eyes peeled for some of the rarest of bird species including the rwenzori turaco, white-naped pigeons and other riveting species like grey-capped warbler; african long crested eagle; augur buzzard; mackinnon's fiscal; black-headed waxbill; black and white manikin; senegal coucal and red-chested cuckoo. In the late afternoon, you will continue your birding experience, catching a glimpse of the famous bat caves of Maramagambo forest and few other nocturnal birds like the bat hawk and nightjars.

Mweya Safari Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 11 FULL DAY QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK AND KAZINGA

Today, you ply the Kazinga channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park, trailing over 60 different bird species along your path. You may be fortunate to be bedazzled by the strength of the raptors, or be engulfed by the diderik cuckoo's persistent call. You may also come upon the african mourning dove; the squire-tailed; slender-tailed and swamp nightjars; lesser-masked, slender-billed and yellow-backed weavers; scarlet-chested and red-chested sunbirds among so many more birding delights.

Mweya Safari Lodge | Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12 - 13 TRANSFER TO KIBALE NATIONAL PARK AND BIRDING

Today, you will enjoy a pleasurable drive to Kibale national park. Besides enjoying one of the most lovely and most varied tracts of all tropical forests in Uganda, you will spend the rest of the day viewing some of the country's celebrated primate population. The following day may gloriously start with a sight of some the forest's recognised bird species including; the african pitta, green-breasted pitta, black bee-eater, yellow-rumped tinkerbird, little greenbul, black-eared ground-thrush, brown-chested alethe, blue-breasted kingfisher, abyssinian ground thrush, and the crowned eagle, some of which are native to the Albertine rift region.

Primate Lodge Kibale | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14 - 15 MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, you drive northwards to Murchison Falls National Park birding through the escarpment. special birds include cliff chat, yellow-fronted tinkerbird, grey-headed bush-shrike, singing cisticola, namaqua dove, green-winged pytilia, crested francolin, northern and black-winged red bishops, black-bellied firefinch, black-faced waxbill and march tchagra. On the next

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day, you will take a boat trip to immerse yourself in a water-associated bird experience. You may even catch sight of some migratory birds that are present from November through to April.

Nile Safari Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 16 BIRDING BUDONGO FOREST

Today more time is spent on the road up north with sporadic birding breaks. Be keen to see two species of birds found in Budongo Forest and not found anywhere else in East Africa: the yellow-footed flycatcher and Puvell's illadopsis. You will also explore 'The Royal Mile' at Busingiro, the best location for bird watching in the forest.

Nile Safari Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 17 BIRDING ZZIWA RHINO SANCTUARY

Today you experience all four bird trails within the sanctuary covering woodlands, swamp and savannah. This birding activity will include both gleeful walks and canoe paddles seeing species such as palm nut vultures; barbets, Ross's Turaco; Abdim's stork; African black crane; White-crested Turaco; speckled breasted woodpecker; blue-spotted dove; giant kingfisher; and the mediaeval looking shoebill stork, an absolute delight for any bird lovers!

Amuka Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 18 TRANSFER TO MABIRA

Today, you will take a flight from the west of the country to the administrative central region, meeting the largest of Uganda's forest cover and your repose location for the rest of the day.

Rainforest Lodge Mabira | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 19 BIRDING MABIRA

Early start of the day as we set out to one of Uganda's exceptionally well-established trails, spotting species like Cassin's hawk-eagle; white-spotted flufftail; Afep pigeon; grey parrot; dusky long-tailed cuckoo; black-shouldered nightjar; sabine's spinetail; cassin's spinetail; blue-throated roller; African dwarf-kingfisher; white-bellied kingfisher; forest woodhoopoe; African pied hornbill among many others. Get ready to indulge in the search for Nahan's Francolin, a species that's indexed on the IUCN Red list of endangered species.

Rainforest Lodge Mabira | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 20 TRANSFER TO ENTEBBE AND DEPARTURE

Drive to Entebbe airport where you take an International flight home.

Dates & Prices

Per person price throughout the year from \$18, 626

Prices are per person, double occupancy for the itinerary as published for 2022 travel, and subject to availability.

Pricing reflects Tour Sokoni's recommended months of travel of this itinerary. Supplements may apply over holiday periods, festivals and special events. International flights not included. Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).