

# Uganda and Rwanda

## 2024 Tour Leaflet



*Green-breasted Pitta © Mayur Prag*

**1 - 7 June 2024 (Rwanda)**

**7 - 17 June 2024 (Uganda Highlights)**

**17 - 22 June 2024 (Murchison Extension)**

# Uganda and Rwanda 2024



## FOCUS ON TOP BIRDS

- three mornings for Green-breasted Pitta
- boat trip for Shoebill
- African Green Broadbill in Uganda and Red-collared Mountain Babbler in Rwanda
- chance for Chimpanzee and Mountain Gorilla

Green-breasted Pitta © Mayur Prag



## TOUR LEADER: MICHAEL MILLS



Michael's incredible focus, dedication and ability to locate and show Africa's toughest birds is probably unequalled on the continent. He has led dozens of tours across Africa and his experience in locating birds on just the softest of calls or briefest of views impresses those who travelled with him.

### DATES (2024)

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Rwanda              | 1 – 7 Jun   |
| Uganda Highlights   | 7 – 17 Jun  |
| Murchison Extension | 17 – 22 Jun |

### PROVISIONAL PRICES + SINGLE

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Rwanda            | \$3650 + \$390 |
| Uganda Highlights | \$5850 + \$580 |
| Murchison Ext     | \$2480 + \$480 |

### BOOK ONLINE

Visit [www.birdingafrica.com](http://www.birdingafrica.com)  
 Deposit (\$150) by credit card  
 Email [info@birdingafrica.com](mailto:info@birdingafrica.com)



African Green Broadbill © Mayur Prag

Our three back-to-back tours of Rwanda, Uganda (Uganda Highlights) and Northern Uganda (Murchison Extension) offer a comprehensive overview of the best birding to be had in these small, bird-rich countries. During the tour we focus on finding the most special birds of the region, namely Red-collared Mountain Babbler at Nyungwe Forest in Rwanda, and African Green Broadbill at Bwindi, Green-breasted Pitta at Kibale Forest and Shoebill at Mabamba Swamp and Murchison Falls in Uganda. Despite this focus we expect to see a great number of other species, totalling over 500, including a large number of Albertine Rift endemics. Sites to be visited are the Nyabarongo Wetlands, Nyungwe NP and Akagera NP in Rwanda, and Lake Bunyoni, Ruhiza and Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, Queen Elizabeth NP, Kibale NP, Bigodi Wetland, Mabamba Swamp and Entebbe Botanical Gardens on the Uganda Highlights Tour, and Budongo Forest including the Royal Mile, Butiaba Escarpment and Murchison Falls NP on the Murchison Extension.

## TOUR FOCUS

Uganda offers a great list of specials for world listers and a wide array of species and other wildlife for those with a more general interest, including opportunities to see Eastern Gorillas and Chimpanzee. This trip has a strong focus on watching birds, but there are good opportunities for photography and mammal watching (we normally see more than ten species of primates).

The tour is timed to coincide with peak breeding season of birds. We expect to encounter a small amount rain. Weather will mostly be warm, although is cooler in the highlands and it can be hot at Murchison Falls.

We will travel in specially converted safari 4x4 with six window seats. More details about what to expect, how to prepare and what to pack are provided in our Tour Instructions.



## ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

We stay in comfortable accommodation located as close as possible to the best birding areas. Although hot water and electricity supply can be intermittent in Central Africa, all rooms offer hot showers and private ablution facilities. Meals are generally Western-style. Please advise if you are vegetarian so that we can forewarn our caterers. Water is not safe to drink; we supply unlimited, free bottled water in the vehicle, also for use in your rooms.

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Please plan to arrive at Kigali in Rwanda by the night of 1 June 2024 for the start of the Rwanda Tour, at Kigali in Rwanda by the night of 7 June 2024 for the start of the Uganda Highlights Tour and at Entebbe in Uganda by the night of 17 June 2024 for the start of the Murchison Extension.

Departure is possible from Kigali in Rwanda from 9 pm on 7 June 2024 at the end of the Rwanda Tour, from Entebbe in Uganda from 7 pm on 17 June 2024 at the end of the Uganda Highlights Tour and from Entebbe in Uganda from 10 pm on 22 June 2024 at the end of the Murchison Extension.

Please email the Birding Africa office with your proposed flight details before booking your flight.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum 9 participants. Most trails are quite broad.

## WALKING

Walking is generally easy; slow with regular stops, generally along rather broad forest trails and roads. Trekking to see gorillas in Uganda and hiking in Rwanda (Nyungwe) can be quite tough and tracking chimpanzees can be fast-paced. These do require one to be reasonably fit. The terrain where gorillas are is often steep, and sturdy walking boots are advised here and in Rwanda. Otherwise, comfy walking shoes are adequate. In Uganda the hike down to the African Green Broadbill is quite tough and does require one to be fit, although we do it

very slowly over the whole day, and there will be someone to walk back slowly with you if you feel it is too tough, or you want to make an early start back. Two of the half-day walks in Nyungwe are also on narrow trails and require a good level of fitness.

## GORILLAS AND CHIMPS (OPTIONAL)

Please confirm with us whether or not you would like to track chimpanzee or gorilla; permits are not included in the price of the tour. Tracking permits are strictly limited in number and sold on a first-come-first-served basis. Uganda Wildlife Service only issues permits that are paid for in full. If you think you might want to see gorillas but are unsure, then we can recommend it! Gorilla tracking permits currently costs \$625 (this is 600 + 25 local booking fee). In Rwanda, the permit has already risen to \$1500. Uganda is expected to follow but hopefully in later years). We recommend hiring a porter; they charge about US\$20 cash. We stand an excellent chance of seeing chimpanzees while birding in Kibale Forest (we have had a 100% success rate over the last four years). However, it is possible to do chimpanzee tracking with the parks staff for \$125 (this is 115 + 10 local booking fee). Tracking gorillas can be tough as the terrain may be steep. Tracking chimpanzees can be quite fast-paced as the chimpanzees are often on the move.

*White-winged Swamp Warbler © Mayur Prag*

## INTRODUCTION

Uganda and Rwanda, two tiny countries near the equator, are among the birding gems of the continent. With over 1000 bird species recorded here, the region has the highest concentration of bird species in Africa and is the most accessible place to see the legendary Shoebill, one of the world's most bizarre birds. The misty peaks and fern-laden forests of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Nyungwe National Park, Uganda and Rwanda's best birding hotspot, respectively, are an apt setting to search for a host of exciting Albertine Rift endemics. African Green Broadbill and Red-collared Mountain Babbler are among the birding highlights here. Furthermore, these mountains in Uganda offer one of the greatest wildlife experiences on earth: the opportunity to come face to face with one of our closest relatives, the Eastern Gorilla, in its natural habitat. We'll also search for Shoebill on small boats in a papyrus swamp, giving us an excellent chance of a close encounter with this extraordinary bird. And we allocate three full mornings to searching for Green-breasted Pitta and Kibale NP.

The tour is conveniently split into three, the main tour focussing on the Uganda Highlights, preceded by six days in Rwanda and followed by five days at Budongo and Murchison Falls in northern Uganda.

In Rwanda we'll spend most of our time in the bird rich forests of Nyungwe, where highlights will include Red-collared Mountain Babbler, Ruwenzori Turaco, Purple-breasted Sunbird and Dusky Crimsonwing. A short visit to Akagera will allow us to search for Red-faced Barbet, and at Nyabarongo Wetlands we hope to find Papyrus Canary and Papyrus Gonolek.

In Uganda we start off by looking for Papyrus Yellow Warbler at Lake Bunyoni, before visiting Ruhiza in Bwindi Impenetrable forest where African Green Broadbill and Lagden's Bushshrike would be popular finds. At Queen Elizabeth we'll enjoy some savanna birding before immersing ourselves in Kibale forest to search for Green-breasted Pitta and a host of mid-altitude forest species. Bigodi wetland provides some open-country birding nearby. We'll end off with a morning at Mabamba Swamp to search for the incomparable Shoebill, alongside Weyns's Weaver.

Finally, our Murchison Extension commences along the Royal Mile for some excellent lowland forest birding with Ituri Batis, Nahan's Francolin and Jameson's Wattle-eye as top targets, before visiting the bird-rich woodlands and savannas at Murchison Falls where a great variety of species is on offer, including another chance for Shoebill.





# ITINERARY AND MAP

## RWANDA ITINERARY

|        |            |  |
|--------|------------|--|
| Day R1 | 1 Jun 2024 | Arrive. Overnight in Kigali.                                     |
| Day R2 | 2 Jun 2024 | Kigali to Nyungwe via Nyabarongo wetlands. Overnight at Nyungwe. |
| Day R3 | 3 Jun 2024 | Full day at Nyungwe Forest. Overnight at Nyungwe.                |
| Day R4 | 4 Jun 2024 | Full day at Nyungwe Forest. Overnight at Nyungwe.                |
| Day R5 | 5 Jun 2024 | Full day at Nyungwe Forest. Overnight at Nyungwe.                |
| Day R6 | 6 Jun 2024 | Nyungwe to Akagera. Overnight in Akagera.                        |
| Day R7 | 7 Jun 2024 | Akagera to Kigali. Tour ends                                     |

## UGANDA HIGHLIGHTS ITINERARY

|        |             |  |
|--------|-------------|--|
| Day 1  | 7 Jun 2024  | Arrive. Overnight in Kigali.   |
| Day 2  | 8 Jun 2024  | Kigali to Bwindi Impenetrable NP. Overnight at Ruhiza.               |
| Day 3  | 9 Jun 2024  | Bwindi: Mabwindi Swamp Day Hike. Overnight at Ruhiza.                |
| Day 4  | 10 Jun 2024 | Bwindi: Ruhiza to Buhoma via The Neck. Overnight at Buhoma.          |
| Day 5  | 11 Jun 2024 | Bwindi: full day at Buhoma (optional Gorillas). Overnight at Buhoma. |
| Day 6  | 12 Jun 2024 | Buhoma to Queen Elizabeth NP. Overnight at Mweya.                    |
| Day 7  | 13 Jun 2024 | Queen Elizabeth NP to Kibale Forest. Overnight near Kibale NP.       |
| Day 8  | 14 Jun 2024 | Full day in Kibale National Park. Overnight near Kibale NP.          |
| Day 9  | 15 Jun 2024 | Full day in Kibale National Park. Overnight near Kibale NP.          |
| Day 10 | 16 Jun 2024 | Kibale to Entebbe. Overnight in Entebbe.                             |
| Day 11 | 17 Jun 2024 | Mabamba Swamp and Entebbe. Tour ends.                                |

## MURCHISON EXTENSION ITINERARY

|        |             |  |
|--------|-------------|--|
| Day M1 | 17 Jun 2024 | Arrive. Overnight in Entebbe.  |
| Day M2 | 18 Jun 2024 | Entebbe to Masindi. Overnight at Masindi.                                |
| Day M3 | 19 Jun 2024 | Full day in Budongo Forest. Overnight at Masindi.                        |
| Day M4 | 20 Jun 2024 | Masindi to Murchison Falls NP. Overnight in or near Murchison Falls NP.  |
| Day M5 | 21 Jun 2024 | Full day at Murchison Falls NP. Overnight in or near Murchison Falls NP. |
| Day M6 | 22 Jun 2024 | Murchison Falls to Entebbe. Tour ends.                                   |





# DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

## ----- RWANDA -----

### Day R1: Arrive Kigali

Welcome to Rwanda! You will be transferred from the airport to our hotel nearby, for dinner and an overnight stay. Night in Kigali.

### Day R2: Kigali to Nyungwe

The tour starts early this morning at 6 am, either with a hotel pickup or a pickup from the airport. We'll make our first birding stop just outside Kigali at the productive wetlands along the Nyabarongo River. Unfortunately papyrus habitat here is being

*Handsome Francolin © Kenneth Petersen*



cleared at a rapid pace, but we will hope to be able to find several papyrus specialties, including Papyrus Canary, White-winged Swamp Warbler, Papyrus Gonolek and Carruthers's Cisticola. More widespread species usually present include Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Greater Swamp Warbler, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Western Citril, Bronzy Sunbird, Red-chested Sunbird, Winding Cisticola, Swamp Flycatcher, Baglafecht Weaver, Black-crowned Waxbill, Cape Wagtail, Rock Martin, Slender-billed Weaver, Grey-capped Warbler, Southern Red Bishop and Fawn-breasted Waxbill. Continuing southwards we'll watch out for Ruaha Chat on roadside

buildings before pausing in some savanna habitat for a picnic lunch, where Ross's Turaco, Red-throated Wryneck, Spot-flanked Barbet and Buff-bellied Warbler occur. Afer lunch we'll turn west to start our climb into the mountains of Nyungwe National Park, crossing the reserve and descending into the lowlands west of the reserve. Night on the edge of the park.

### Days R3–R5: Nyungwe

Nyungwe Forest is the largest block of Afromontane forest on the continent and possesses an excellent network of trails which allow us to access the forest at various altitudes, which we will explore over three full days. Red-collared Mountain Babbler is the most sought-after special here and we will first turn our attention to finding this surprisingly quiet (for a babbler) species, which is most common in the higher altitude forests. Here too we may find Mountain Sooty Boubou, Mountain Buzzard, African Olive Pigeon, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Lagden's Bushshrike (rare), Grey Cuckooshrike, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Chestnut-throated Apalis and Mountain Illadopsis. Grauer's Swamp Warbler occurs in some roadside swamps. The lower altitude forests are particularly



*Red-collared Mountain Babbler © Kenneth Petersen*

good for Kungwe Apalis, Neumann's Short-tailed Warbler, Willard's Sooty Boubou, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Scarce Swift, Bar-tailed Trogon, Red-throated Alethe, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Equatorial Akalat, Elliot's Woodpecker, African Broadbill, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Kakamega Greenbul, Black-faced Prinia, Grey Apalis, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Kivu Ground Thrush (very secretive), Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher and Black-billed Weaver. After dark we'll search for Ruwenzori Nightjar. However, it is the mid-altitude forests, such as around the park headquarters at Uwinka, that hold the greatest number of Albertine Rift endemics and will demand most of our time. It is here that we are most likely to see Purple-breasted Sunbird, Ruwenzori Double-collared Sunbird, Blue-headed Sunbird, Regal Sunbird, Strange Weaver, Ruwenzori Apalis, Mountain Masked Apalis, Striped-breasted Tit, Grauer's Warbler, Archer's Robin-Chat, Ruwenzori Batis, Ruwenzori Turaco, Dusky Crimsonwing and Handsome Francolin, alongside non-endemics such as Red-chested Owlet, Doherty's Bushshrike, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Mountain Oriole, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, White-browed Crombec and Cinnamon Bracken Warbler. Nights just outside Nyungwe National Park.

### Day R6: Nyungwe to Akagera

Today we take the long drive from Nyungwe to Akagera at the opposite end of the country, arriving at our lodge inside Akagera in the evening. We'll leave early and make regularly stops to stretch legs. Night inside Akagera National Park.

### Day R7: Akagera; to Kigali

We have a better part of a day to explore the rich savannas of Akagera National Park, also doing some wetland birding if time allows. Our main focus will be to find the localised Red-faced Barbet, which can even be seen around our hotel gardens but is never easy to find. It is a good location for Ruaha Chat and Long-tailed Cisticola too, and we could also encounter Red-necked Spurfowl, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Red-headed Weaver, Southern Black Flycatcher, Rüppell's Starling, Green-capped Eremomela, Red-faced Crombec, Flappet Lark, Grey Penduline Tit, White-winged Black Tit, Black-headed Gonolek and Meyer's Parrot. In the late afternoon we drive back to Kigali, where the Rwanda Tour ends on arrival.



# ----- UGANDA HIGHLIGHTS -----

## Day 1: Arrive Kigali (Rwanda)

Welcome to Rwanda! From the airport we transfer to our nearby hotel for an overnight stay in Kigali.

## Day 2: Kigali to Ruhiza, Bwindi

Today we'll drive a short distance from Kigali to the border of Uganda, crossing near Kabale town. While we wait for our passports to be stamped we are likely to see Grey Crowned Crane passing overhead. After a short logistical pause in Kabale town we'll continue on to the dwindling papyrus swamps along the shores of Lake Bunyoni. Here we'll spend a few hours in an attempt to see the localised Papyrus Yellow Warbler, and other wetlands species may include White-winged Swamp Warbler, African Rail, Highland Rush Warbler and Western Citril. In the afternoon we'll continue on the Ruhiza in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, arriving in the late afternoon. Night

at Ruhiza.

## Day 3: Ruhiza

We have a full day at Ruhiza in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, during which we make the long return hike to Mabwindi Swamp with the main aim of finding the rare African Green Broadbill. If anyone had not joined us at Nyungwe in Rwanda they will have to be highly focussed to catch up on as many Albertine Rift endemics as possible, which should include Ruwenzori Batis, Red-throated Alethe, Strange Weaver, Regal Sunbird, Archer's Robin-Chat, Blue-headed Sunbird, Striped-breasted Tit, Grauer's Warbler, Mountain Masked Apalis, Ruwenzori Apalis, Red-throated Alethe and Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher. Other birds which we hope to encounter include Oriole Finch, Grey-chested Babbler, Evergreen Forest Warbler, White-starred Robin, Sharpe's Starling, Lagden's Bushshrike, Red-chested Owllet, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Oriole Finch and Dwarf Honeyguide (rare). There are also further chances to see Handsome Francolin. Night at Ruhiza.

*Ruwenzori Turaco © Kenneth Petersen*



*Doherty's Bushshrike © Kenneth Petersen*

## Day 4: Ruhiza-Buhoma

After some final birding in the Ruhiza area (looking for Dusky Twinspot) we'll make our way to the lower altitude forests of Buhoma, pausing en route at The Neck, a narrow part of Bwindi Impenetrable NP. We have had good success in the past at locating the rare Chapin's Flycatcher, and it's a good site also for Ansorge's Greenbul and Grey-headed Sunbird. A long list of other species is on offer, including African Black Duck, Black Bee-eater, Bocage's Bushshrike, Lühder's Bushshrike, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Toro Olive Greenbul, Red-tailed Greenbul, Tawny-faced Camaroptera, Brown Illadopsis, Cassin's Flycatcher, Dusky-blue Flycatcher and Mountain Wagtail. In the afternoon we'll continue to Buhoma, enjoying some introductory birding near our accommodation if time allows. Night at Buhoma.

## Day 5: Buhoma

Those wishing to see gorillas will spend the day trekking to see these amazing mammals. The rest of the group will go birding, hoping to encounter

a wide range of forest birds, possibly including Jameson's Antpecker and Oberländer's Ground Thrush. Night at Buhoma.

## Day 6: to Queen Elizabeth

We'll make an early start from Buhoma to get to Mweya in Queen Elizabeth National Park for an afternoon boat ride on the Kazinga Channel. En route we'll watch out for Grey-backed Fiscal, Black-colored Babbler, White-headed Barbet, Harlequin Quail, Stout Cisticola, Red-necked Spurfowl and Sooty Chat. We'll arrive at Mweya, headquarters of the national park, in the early afternoon and take a boat trip on the Kazinga Channel with its abundance of hippos, crocodiles and waterbird. New birds on the boat trip may include African Skimmer, Great White Pelican, Pink-backed Pelican, African Spoonbill, Yellow-billed Stork, Squacco Heron, Striated Heron, White-breasted Cormorant, Water Thick-knee, African Wattled Lapwing, Kittlitz's Plover, Gull-billed Tern, African Mourning Dove, Olive Bee-eater and Black-headed Gonolek. Night at Mweya in Queen Elizabeth NP.





*African Skimmer © Kenneth Petersen*

#### Day 7: Queen Elizabeth to Kibale

This morning we'll bird the short-grass plains of Queen Elizabeth National Park, stopping in some taller grasslands en route where we hope to find Black Coucal, Compact Weaver, African Crake, Moustached Grass Warbler and Fawn-breasted Waxbill. Once on the short-grass plains we'll be watching out for larks, which may include Rufous-naped Lark, Red-capped Lark and the scarce White-tailed Lark. Lapwings are common and we'll watch carefully for Senegal Lapwing, which may be joined by Temminck's Courser. Black-bellied Bustard hides in taller grass and we may spot Quail-finch and Common Buttonquail as we go. Other new birds could include Western Black-headed Batis, White-winged Widowbird, Plain-backed Pipit, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Croaking Cisticola and Blue-naped Mousebird. In the afternoon we'll make our way to Kibale National Park. Overnight near Kibale NP.

#### Days 8–9: Kibale NP

We have two full days in and around Kibale National Park, and our main reason for visiting is to search for the rare Green-breasted Pitta, which we give ourselves three mornings to find. As the pittas tend to display most reliably at sunrise, we'll be out well before first light to position ourselves in a known and active territory. As the forest wakes up around us we'll strain our ears to hear the distinctive thud of a displaying pitta, a deep mechanical sound made by wings as the bird jumps on its perch and flashes its wings open. If we don't find them at sunrise we'll remain in the forest all morning, searching for them feeding on their territories. While we do this we may encounter a host of other birds, including Brown-chested Alethe, Afep Pigeon, Narina Trogon, Yellow-crested Woodpecker, Brown-eared Woodpecker, African Shrike-Flycatcher, Chestnut Wattle-eye, White-throated Greenbul, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Western Nicator,

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, Red-tailed Bristlebill, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Buff-throated Apalis, Fraser's Rufous Thrush and Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher. Hopefully we'll maintain our 100% record of seeing the pitta. On previous tours it has taken between one and three mornings to find the birds. Finding the pitta quickly will allow us extra time for other birding, but either way we'll spend the afternoons either birding the forest edge or visiting Bigodi Wetland where a good selection of new birds is on offer, including White-spotted Flufftail, Joyful Greenbul, Red-headed Bluebill, Speckle-breasted Woodpecker (rare), Black Bishop, Shining-blue Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Barbet, Orange-tufted Sunbird (rare) and Black-crowned Waxbill. Other birds at Kibale could include Cassin's Flycatcher, Red-headed Malimbe and Sabine's Spinetail. Nights near Kibale National Park.

#### Day 10: Kibale to Entebbe

After some final birding in the Kibale area we'll drive to Entebbe for an overnight stay.

*Shoebill © Mayur Prag*

#### Day 11: Mabamba Swamp for Shoebill

Mabamba Swamp on the shores of Lake Victoria is one of the most visited birding sites in Uganda. Its star attraction, the unique Shoebill, draws not only birders, but also general tourists. We'll make an early start from Entebbe to get there before many other visitors arrive, and hope to see at least one Shoebill at close range. While out on the water we'll watch out for Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Long-toed Lapwing, African Marsh Harrier, Grey Parrot, Papyrus Gonolek, Swamp Flycatcher and Weyns's Weaver and make a special effort to see Lesser Jacana. On land we'll watch out for Blue Swallow, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, White-chinned Prinia and Red-chested Sunbird. After lunch we'll return to Entebbe for some birding around the Entebbe Botanical Gardens, where highlights may include Orange Weaver and Olive Bee-eater. The Uganda Highlights Tour ends in the evening, with departure possible from 7 pm.





# --- MURCHISON EXTENSION ---

## Day M1: Arrive Entebbe

Welcome to Uganda! From the airport you will be transferred to your hotel, where you will meet up with the rest of the group during dinner. Overnight in Entebbe.

## Day M2: Entebbe to Masindi

At the start of our Murchison Extension we first drive to Masindi, gateway to Budongo Forest. Our first planned stop will be in some swamplands near Luwero where we hope to find Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird and Yellow-mantled Widowbird of the distinctive form that is called Yellow-shouldered Widowbird. Other new birds may include Golden-backed Weaver and Fan-tailed Widowbird. A second stop in some woodlands will hopefully turn up White-crested Turaco and White-headed Barbet. We'll pause for lunch in Masindi before continuing to the farmlands near The Royal Mile, where we'll search for species such as Black-bellied Firefinch, Heuglin's Francolin, Cardinal Quelea, Red-headed Quelea, Whistling Cisticola, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Black Bishop, Brown Twinspot, Moustached Grass Warbler, Red-headed Lovebird, White-thighed Hornbill, Cabanis's Bunting, Red-collared Widowbird and Grey Parrot. Overnight in Masindi.

## Day M3: Budongo

The first and only proper lowland forests that we'll bird in Uganda are at Budongo Forest, and as such it hosts a long list of new species, including several localised specials. We'll spend the day on famous The Royal Mile where a broad road leads through spectacular forest and a network of narrow trails leads off into the surrounding undergrowth. Of the special birds, Ituri Batis is the most significant, as Budongo is the only locality worldwide where it can safely be seen (all other sites are in DR Congo). The threatened Nahan's Francolin is another major target, and other specials include Jameson's Wattle-eye, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, African Dwarf Kingfisher, . Other possible species include Crested Guineafowl, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Cassin's Spinetail, Sabine's Spinetail, Blue-throated Roller, African Pied Hornbill, Brown-eared Woodpecker, , Little Grey Greenbul, Spotted Greenbul, Yellow Longbill, Grey Longbill, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Purple-headed Glossy Starling, Red-tailed Ant Thrush, Fire-crested Alethe, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher and Forest Robin. Overnight in Masindi.

Nahan's Francolin © Mayur Prag



Silverbird © Tertius Gous

## Day M4: Masindi to Murchison

After some final birding on our way through Budongo we pause at the Butiaba Escarpment. Open savanna with scattered bushes are good for Foxy Cisticola and Green-backed Eremomela, and we may find Black-billed Barbet, Red-winged Warbler, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Yellow-mantled Widowbird, Flappet Lark and Cardinal Quelea here too. We then drop down into the hot lowland, watching for Dark Chanting Goshawk and Northern Red Bishop on our way to Paraa in Murchison Falls. An afternoon boat trip sees us going upstream to the bottom of the falls, enjoying spectacular views before returning to Paraa. Rock Pratincole, Goliath Heron, Red-throated Bee-eater and Horus Swift are likely new species, and there is an outside chance of Pel's Fishing Owl and African Finfoot. From Paraa we make our way to our lodge. Overnight in or near Murchison Falls NP.

## Day M5: Murchison

Today we make a pre-dawn start to arrive at Paraa and catch the first ferry across the Nile River to the north bank, watching for Pennant-winged Nightjar and Greyish Eagle-Owl on the way. Once across the river we'll head out into the open grasslands, full of large mammals adorned with Piapiac. Large birds are the order of the day and we'll watch

for Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Black-bellied Bustard, Denham's Bustard, Heuglin's Francolin and a variety of raptors as it warms up. Whistling thorn thickets are home to Shelley's Sparrow, Speckle-fronted Weaver and Rattling Cisticola, and other birds in wooded areas may include Black-billed Wood Dove, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Nubian Woodpecker and Black Scimitarbill. Along the Nile, short grass lawns hold Black-headed Lapwing, Senegal Thick-knee and Spotted Thick-knee, and if we are lucky we may find Brown-chested Lapwing. Denser areas of habitat hold the secretive Dusky Babbler and Red-winged Grey Warbler, and swampy areas may turn up Shoebill. In the evening we'll cross back to the south of the Nile. Overnight in/near Murchison Falls NP.

## Day M6: Murchison to Entebbe

Our last day of the tour sees us starting off birding in the broad-leaved woodlands near our lodge, trying our best to avoid tsetse flies. If we are very fortunate we will be able to find the rarely-seen Ring-necked Francolin, although are only likely to hear it. Other woodland birds may include Red-winged Warbler, Brown-rumped Bunting, Red-winged Pytilia, Brown-backed Woodpecker and Yellow-billed Shrike. Over the rest of the day we make our way back to Entebbe, where the tour ends. Flights can be taken from 10 pm onwards.



## INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR

- Services of Birding Africa tour leader and local guides
- Entry fees and activities as per itinerary, including boat trips
- Accommodation and all meals
- Airport transfers
- Bottled water in the vehicle and one soft drink at each sit-down meal
- General tips

## BOOKLET AND CHECKLIST

Birding Africa provides:

1. this tour leaflet with detailed itinerary.
2. the tour information pack, emailed to you.
3. the tour booklet with checklists, on the tour.

## QUESTIONS?

Please email the office, [info@birdingafrica.com](mailto:info@birdingafrica.com), to reserve a place or ask questions (you can also cc [michael@birdingafrica.com](mailto:michael@birdingafrica.com) and [callan@birdingafrica.com](mailto:callan@birdingafrica.com) who are both involved in the planning of this tour.

## HOW TO BOOK

1. Complete our easy online booking form.
2. Secure your booking deposit by credit card on our 3D secure online payment site (\$150)
3. Settle the balance by bank transfer 150 days before the tour. We will email you a reminder and the banking details.



*Shoebill © Mayur Prag*