

ITINERARY

**UGANDA: SHOEBILL, RIFT ENDEMIC & GORILLAS**

*June 13-July 4, 2020*



*A highlight of the tour will be the opportunity to visit with some habituated groups of endangered Mountain Gorillas at the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest. This is an optional activity (see the information below), and for those who do not wish to participate in the gorilla trek, we'll be able to see many amazing birds at Bwindi, and many other locations.*

*Photograph by participant Rachael Hopper.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2020 Field Guides Uganda tour:*

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:*

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

**U**ganda has star attractions: Shoebill along the Nile at Murchison Falls National Park, Chimpanzees at Kibale Forest, and Gorillas in the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest. There's also an incredible variety of fascinating forest birds, including the well-known Gray Parrot, secretive Dusky Long-tailed and Olive Long-tailed cuckoos, Black Bee-eater, Blue-throated Roller, Dwarf and Chocolate-backed kingfishers, African Broadbill (and a chance for the rare Grauer's [African Green] Broadbill), Ruwenzori Batis, Ruwenzori and Black-faced apalises, Archer's Robin-Chat, and Blue-headed and Regal sunbirds.

This tour visits a fascinating assortment of Uganda's accessible wild habitats and will include a good amount of time birding the famed Ugandan rainforests. Although always small in extent, East Africa's forests have been hard hit by

humans; however, these remnants are increasingly being protected in Uganda. We will visit the Mabira, Budongo, Kibale, and the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forests, ranging from mid-altitude central-African rainforest (at Budongo), to the hard-to-reach Afro-montane (at Ruhija in the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest). While slowly searching out many of the shy forest inhabitants, we'll be paying particular attention to the Albertine Rift endemics, perhaps finding Handsome Francolin, Red-throated Alethe, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Grauer's (very shy) and Neumann's (a super skulker) warblers, and Stripe-breasted Tit.

Our visit to Uganda will, however, have much more than forests. We will have two full days at Murchison Falls National Park where in addition to looking for the incredible Shoebill, a boat trip along the Nile should reveal Senegal Thick-knee, Red-throated Bee-eater, giant crocodiles, African Buffalo, Defassa Waterbuck, and Hippopotamus (in incredible numbers). A full day at Queen Elizabeth National Park will be another slice of classic East Africa, including African Elephant, Topi, (Uganda) Kob, and a big list of open-country birds such as Black-chested Snake-Eagle, and Bateleur, and Tawny and Wahlberg's eagles.

In the grasslands we'll look for such diverse species as Heuglin's Francolin, Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, and Piapiac. At lakes and marshes, perhaps African Finfoot, White-winged Scrub-Warbler, and the simply stunning Papyrus Gonolek. And, even in overgrown farmlands, what could be better than flocks of bishops and widowbirds—many in striking breeding plumage—migrating Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, or a feeding group of the astonishing Great Blue Turacos?

Our tourist impulses will also be satisfied, as we will reach some of the place names that bring back memories of the 19th-century European exploration of East Africa: Lake Albert, Murchison Falls, Lake Edward, and of course, Lake Victoria.

*Note: In the following we have highlighted in green any text that we consider requires your special attention.*

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** For many, Uganda brings to mind a troubled past, including Idi Amin. But “past” is the key word, and today Uganda is a country of ambition and progress. There are problems along the border with Sudan, but we do not visit that region. Otherwise, Uganda is one of Africa's models of progress. New lodges are being built, roads repaired, farms replanted, and the cell phone coverage is incredible. There is a new sense of growth and prosperity in the country that may once again become known as “The Pearl of Africa.”

Our purpose is to see a wonderful place. The special attractions are the birds endemic to the mountains of the Albertine Rift, the magnificent and unusual Shoebill along the Nile, and a chance to see both Chimpanzee and Gorilla. The bird list will probably be around 500 species and the mammal list around 30. These totals are lower than those from trips to nearby Kenya or Tanzania, but Uganda offers, in addition to the special birds and mammals, the opportunity for our group to be alone on forest trails and to watch elephants without another car in sight, far more of a thrill than being out with the crowds that are present in the more popular East African parks. Uganda might not be most people's choice for a first trip to Africa, but we have had participants make it their first, and they loved it.

Travel will be by Safari Land Cruisers, and behind the wheel we will have an experienced and professional driver. With seating for six passengers in each land cruiser, there's enough space for each participant to have a window seat, which makes all the difference in the world when you're on safari. The vehicle quality is one factor that sets our tour apart from other companies, who may have a higher number of participants in the same extended wheel-base safari vehicle we use, or perhaps a smaller number of people traveling in Land Cruisers with a shorter wheel-base, or possibly the same number of participants in a cheaper van such as a microbus, which is not as comfortable and does not have the pop-top that is so iconic to the safari experience. The safari vehicles we hire are a major expense to our tour, but we feel the comfort of our clients during their “Trip of a Lifetime” is well worth the cost! You'll see the countryside and daily life of the local people as we pass through bustling towns and small villages on our journey to some of the best birding and wildlife viewing site in the country, and all from a window seat!!



*You don't want to miss the scenery and you will have room to move around and view the wildlife comfortably from the safari pop-top!*





Road conditions are improving from year to year, however you'll want to be aware if you are particularly sensitive to rough roads and at times bumpy rides (a history of back issues, for example), or dust. We can put you in touch with our guide if you have questions. We will generally be out birding all day, every day, but there will be several travel days with limited birding en route. While in the parks that have dangerous animals, we will be restricted to viewing from vehicles (AH! That window seat is nice!!) and boats, and we are not allowed in the parks after dark. Elsewhere, we will be walking on good forest trails with the exception of one strenuous trail (optional) at Ruhija.

While Uganda is making tremendous progress as a nation, some minor inconveniences should be expected, ranging from potholes to power outages to some cold showers. Accommodations at a couple of locations "have seen better days," but they are in the acceptable category for the experienced traveler. At

Ruhija (high in the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest) you may have heard that we stay in very basic accommodation, with eight people to a room in bunk beds, but please note all that has now changed and we stay at a very pleasant lodge with just two people to a room, private bathrooms, and a very pleasant bar and dining area. We will also stay at several very special facilities, including some lovely tented camps.

More than anything on this tour (besides the one or two longer hikes), you will need stamina. Long days are typical—birding from dawn to dusk, or long travel days on bumpy, dusty roads mixed with birding stops.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.

**About Gorillas:** With the demise of Gorilla-watching opportunities in Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), Uganda has become a prime gorilla-viewing destination, which is reflected in the price and the availability. It can be an extraordinary experience and is usually a very memorable event, but it is strenuous: the trails are steep and you must often go off the trails. The search typically involves up to 3 to 4 hours slow walking, with porters to help. You must be in good physical shape to do it, but using the Buhoma area porters is a great boost to the local economy and a tremendous help to us, as they are very helpful and experienced in getting people safely up and down the mountain trails. Gorillas are not the only reason to visit this forest, as many hard to find central African birds occur, and we have at least one day for birding as a group.

The price for a Gorilla permit is \$700, without markup by either The Far Horizon (our local ground operator) or Field Guides. **There are no refunds.** The success rate of seeing Gorillas is very high, but there are no guarantees for obvious reasons, such as unusually bad weather, and for less obvious reasons. For instance, at one point a few years ago one of the two habituated troops "experienced a change in leadership" (a euphemism for a new male coming in and beating the daylights out of the group's silverback). The new leader was not habituated, and Gorilla-watching opportunities were reduced for a while. This is a difficult situation for everyone: we want you to be very motivated and excited about the possibility and yet be realistic about the situation. We will do the best we can, and we work with a great local operator.

***You must contact our office to reserve and purchase your permit(s) at the time of your deposit. Availability of permits is not guaranteed until payment is made.***

## Itinerary for Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas

**Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 13-14 Jun. Departure from the US; arrival in Entebbe.** If you're traveling from the US, you will need to leave on Saturday, June 13, in order to arrive in Entebbe by Sunday, June 14. As people will be arriving on different flights at different times, the most convenient way to transfer to our hotel is with the hotel shuttle bus; please make your transfer arrangements through our office. Night of Day 2 at a Papyrus Guesthouse in Entebbe, near the Entebbe airport.



*We'll have two chances to locate the incredible Shoebill, at Mabamba Swamp, and Murchison Falls. We've had amazing views of these surprisingly charismatic birds on previous tours. Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.*

**Day 3, Mon, 15 Jun. Mabamba Swamp to Mabira.** We'll begin with a visit to the nearby Mabamba Swamp, a recently discovered site for the incredible Shoebill. Traditionally, Murchison Falls has been the best site for this bird, but with a good chance of success at Mabamba, we'll visit this area today to look for this extraordinary bird. Mabamba Swamp is a large area and the birding potential is high. Other species we may encounter along the way include Long-tailed Cormorant, Hamerkop, African Openbill, Marabou Stork, Hadada Ibis, Black (Yellow-billed) Kite, African Fish-Eagle, Palm-nut Vulture, Shikra, African Hobby, White-browed Coucal, African Palm-Swift, Woodland, Striped, and Pied kingfishers, African Pied Hornbill, Little Bee-eater, Angola Swallow, African Pied Wagtail, Common Bulbul, Yellow-throated Greenbul, African Thrush, Winding and Red-faced cisticolas, Gray-capped Warbler, Greater Swamp-Warbler, Black-headed Gonolek, Rueppell's Glossy-Starling, Slender-billed, Village, Vieillot's, and Golden-backed weavers, the very localized Orange Weaver, Red-billed Firefinch, and Bronze Mannikin. Birding will be limited in the afternoon, but by late afternoon we should be making our way towards Mabira Forest, a mid-altitude forest not unlike Kenya's famed Kakamega. On a good day it can be teeming with birds. Night at The Rainforest Lodge.

**Day 4, Tue, 16 Jun. Mabira Forest.** We'll spend this morning in the Mabira Forest, where we'll be particularly on the lookout for Forest Woodhoopoe, Black-bellied Seedcracker, and Weyns's Weaver. All are uncommon and difficult to see, but Mabira will be our best chance for these elusive species. We have a full day in the forest here. Night at The Rainforest Lodge.

**Day 5, Wed, 17 Jun. To Masindi.** Early this morning, we'll leave Mabira to make the long drive to Masindi in northwestern Uganda. As we head through the numerous small farms, birding is limited, but we will arrive in good woodland by lunch time and have hope for a great afternoon's birding as we look for Banded Snake-Eagle, Vinaceous Dove, Meyer's Parrot, White-crested Turaco, Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike, Siffling Cisticola, Yellow-bellied Hyliota (hylotas are now in their own family), Brown-backed Scrub-Robin, Black-headed Batis, Brown Babbler, and Copper Sunbird. Night at Masindi Hotel (which has seen better days, but is clean and adequate, and improving each visit).

**Days 6-7, Thu-Fri, 18-19 Jun. Murchison Falls National Park.** We'll drive this morning to Murchison Falls, checking for Puvel's Illadopsis en route at its only East African site, with a chance of other forest species here, too. We'll then have two full days in the park, where we'll have a second chance to see Shoebill if we failed to find it at Mabamba Swamp. By taking a boat trip on the Victoria Nile, we should also have good close-up views of African Darter, Gray, Purple, and Squacco herons, Yellow-billed and Great egrets, Sacred Ibis, Saddle-billed Stork, African Jacana, Spur-winged and Long-toed lapwings, Senegal Thick-knee, Pied Kingfisher, and Red-throated Bee-eater. Downstream, enormous crocodiles breed on the sand banks and, as we make the return journey, elephants may well have come down for a midday drink.



African Buffalo also come out onto the shores at this time, as do Waterbuck, Warthog, and occasionally Rothschild's Giraffe. Hippopotamuses, which are all along the river in incredible numbers, may also be out basking on the open sand banks in the full heat of the sun.

We'll spend our afternoons on game drives across the savanna grasslands, in thicker areas of mature woodland, and at the amazing Falls themselves, where Rock Pratincoles leave their perches to make hunting sallies through the swirling spray. Watch for White-headed Vulture, Brown Snake-Eagle, Bateleur, Martial Eagle, Gray Kestrel, Heuglin's and Crested francolins, Helmeted Guineafowl, Small Buttonquail, Black-bellied and perhaps Dernham's (Stanley) bustards, Speckled and Blue-naped mousebirds, Crowned and African Gray hornbills, Northern (Abyssinian) Ground-Hornbill, Nubian and Gray woodpeckers, Flappet Lark, Northern Crombec, Red-winged Gray Warbler, Spotted Morning-Thrush, Sooty Chat, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Beautiful Sunbird, Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Yellow-mantled and Red-collared widowbirds, and maybe the very local White-rumped Seedeater. Nights at Kabalega Wilderness Lodge in Murchison Falls NP.



*The Lesser Striped Swallow is a common bird in much of sub-Saharan Africa, and we should see many of them on the tour.  
Photograph by participant Rachael Hopper.*

**Day 8, Sat, 20 Jun. To Lake Albert.** This morning, we'll head south towards Lake Albert and the Butiaba Escarpment, perhaps stopping for Black-billed Wood-Dove, Northern Carmine and Swallow-tailed bee-eaters, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked, Black-billed, and Double-toothed barbets, Red-faced, Zitting, and Foxy cisticolas, Moustached Grass-Warbler, Red-backed Scrub-Robin, Mocking Cliffchat, White-shouldered Black-Tit, Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Black-bellied Firefinch, Red-winged Pytilia, and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. In the *Borassus* palms, Piapiac are numerous and tame, and various bishops and widowbirds are likely. Night at Masindi Hotel.

**Day 9, Sun, 21 Jun. Budongo Forest.** After an early breakfast, we will depart for Budongo Forest, about an hour's drive away. We'll have a full day in this area where a new system of trails is currently being cleared. Additionally, a broad road through one of the richest areas of forest (known as the Royal Mile) gives good access to many of the forest specialties found here. We hope to see many of the following: Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Nahan's Francolin, Crested Guineafowl, White-spotted Flufftail, African Emerald Cuckoo, Sabine's and Cassin's spinetails, Dwarf, Chocolate-backed, and Blue-breasted kingfishers, Blue-throated Roller, White-thighed and Black-and-white-casqued hornbills, Speckled and Yellow-throated tinkerbirds, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted barbets, Golden-crowned Woodpecker, Gray, Plain, White-throated, and Red-tailed greenbul, Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush, Black-capped and Buff-throated apalises, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Yellow Longbill, Green Hylia, Yellow-footed, African Forest, and Gray-throated flycatchers, Forest Robin, the rare Ituri Batis, Jameson's and Chestnut wattle-eyes, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Gray-headed, Green, Little Green, and Olive-bellied sunbirds, Western Black-headed Oriole, Purple-headed Glossy-Starling, Yellow-mantled Weaver, and Red-headed Malimbe. It will undoubtedly be a day with many new species. Night at Masindi Hotel.

**Day 10, Mon, 22 Jun. To Kibale Forest.** Today is primarily a travel day, but it will not be without several worthwhile stops as we search for any open country and farmland birds that we may have missed over the previous few days. In the afternoon we'll arrive at Kibale Forest and a two-night stay in very pleasant surroundings at Isunga Lodge.

**Day 11, Tue, 23 Jun. Kibale Forest.** We'll have a full day at Kibale Forest, where nine species of primates can be found. We'll start by joining the excellent local guides on a Chimpanzee trek, where we may also encounter Blue, Copper-tailed, and I'Hoest's monkeys, Black-and-white Colobus (also known as Mantled Guereza), and Gray-cheeked Mangabey.

Birdlife is prolific, but as in many tropical forests, birds can be shy and difficult to observe. We hope for Gray Parrot, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Narina Trogon, Gray-throated Barbet, Least Honeyguide, Honeyguide Greenbul, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Fire-crested Alethe, African Shrike-Flycatcher, Narrow-tailed Starling, and White-breasted Negrofinch. Night at Isunga Lodge.

**Day 12, Wed, 24 Jun. To Queen Elizabeth National Park.** This morning, activities will depend on our schedule, but most likely we'll have an early lunch before driving south to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Our newly renovated lodge is situated on a hill overlooking Lake Edward and the Kazinga Channel, and behind it lies an extensive area of rolling grass-covered hills, wooded valleys, and a series of extinct volcanic craters. During our stay we will visit each of these areas and take an afternoon trip on a launch along the famous Kazinga Channel that links lakes Edward and George, with great photo ops. Night at Mweya Safari Lodge.

**Day 13, Thu, 25 Jun. Queen Elizabeth National Park.** The varied habitats within QENP should provide us with an extensive bird list and a few new mammals, too. Lions are possible here, and we should see Elephant, Buffalo, Warthog, Topi, and large herds of (Uganda) Kob. We should also find many of the following birds, and undoubtedly some others not mentioned: Little Grebe, Great White and Pink-backed pelicans, Goliath Heron, Little Bittern, Black-shouldered Kite, African White-backed Vulture, Black-chested Snake-Eagle, Bateleur, Tawny and Wahlberg's eagles, Red-necked Francolin, Black Crake, Water Thick-knee, Senegal Lapwing, Kittlitz's and White-fronted plovers, Whiskered and White-winged terns, African Skimmer, Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Levallant's and Dideric cuckoos, Black Coucal, White-rumped Swift, Little Bee-eater, Common Scimitar-bill, Rufous-naped, and Red-capped larks, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Trilling, Stout, and Croaking cisticolas, Red-faced Crombec, Northern Black-Flycatcher, Black-lored Babbler, Black-crowned Tchagra, Tropical Boubou, Little Weaver, Red Bishop, White-winged Widowbird, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Yellow-fronted Canary, and Golden-breasted Bunting. Night at Mweya Safari Lodge.

**Day 14, Fri, 26 Jun. To the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest.** We'll continue further south, this time to the Gorilla Forest Camp in the lower reaches of what is now called the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest. Depending on what species we may need to see in QENP, we may spend part of the morning in that area. Otherwise, we will head on and spend the afternoon birding near our very comfortable, top-end, highly rated, classic safari tent camp, where you'll have all the comforts of a fine hotel in truly amazing setting. Night at Gorilla Forest Camp.



*Gorilla Forest Camp will be a comfortable base for our expeditions in the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest.*

**Days 15-16, Sat-Sun, 27-28 Jun. The Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest.** The Gorilla Forest Camp is a small, permanent tented camp inside the beautiful Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest. We'll have two full days here walking the forest trails, and for those who wish, trekking for Mountain Gorillas. Three groups of habituated Gorillas are accessible to visitors and by prior arrangement, we will have an opportunity to visit these magnificent creatures. However, please note that only a limited number of visitors are allowed to see them on any one day, so visits must be booked well in advance (see **About Gorillas** for more information). Also NOTE: Depending on group size, we may be split up with our group going to two



different gorilla families. Some families may be closer than others, but you **MUST** expect to be out all day hiking, walking, scrambling, etc. to see your gorilla family; typically leaving at 8:30 a.m. and not back until 3 or 4 p.m.

Each morning members of our group will be able to take part in a Gorilla trek, while the remainder of the group will go birding in the nearby forest. We will, of course, try and catch up on any bird species missed by anyone taking the Gorilla excursions, but there will be tradeoffs.

The forest area immediately around our camp is classed as medium elevation, and we will be particularly looking for the large variety of birds that occur there: Buff-spotted Flufftail, Black-billed Turaco, Yellowbill, Blue-headed Coucal, Bar-tailed Trogon, Black Bee-eater, Elliot's Woodpecker, African Broadbill, Shelley's (Kakamega) Greenbul, Common Bristlebill, Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, Red-throated Alethe, Chubb's Cisticola, Black-throated and Gray apalises, Olive-green Camaroptera, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, White-browed Crombec, Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler (a highly localized endemic), Green Hylia, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Chapin's Flycatcher (rare), Dusky Blue Flycatcher, Equatorial Akalat, Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher, White-bellied and Dusky crested-flycatchers, Gray-chested and Mountain illadopsis, Blue-throated Brown and perhaps Tiny sunbirds, Mackinnon's Shrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Luehder's, Many-colored, and Gray-green bushshrikes, Stuhlmann's and Narrow-tailed starlings, Red-headed Bluebill, and Kandt's Waxbill. Nights at Gorilla Forest Camp.



*These stunning Great Blue Turacos were seen at Ruhija on our 2018 tour. Photograph by guide Jesse Fagan.*

**Days 17-18, Mon-Tue, 29-30 Jun. Ruhija, high in the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest.** On the morning of Day 16, we will make the short but slow and rough drive to the higher parts of the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest. As we arrive on the uppermost slopes, we'll immediately realize why for so long this was known as "Impenetrable," for in bygone days the dense undergrowth and steep terrain must have made entry very difficult indeed.

Many different species are found at these higher altitudes, including quite a few of the Albertine Rift endemics. Undoubtedly one of the most sought-after birds here is the rare and hard-to-find Grauer's (African Green) Broadbill, and it will take tremendous luck to see this species. During the past six visits, some of our more intrepid travelers have seen this legendary bird by doing the strenuous 9 km trek down into the Mubwindi Swamp.

Far easier to see are most of the following, and we'll have a full day-and-a-half to work this area: Handsome Francolin, Brown-necked Parrot, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Montane Nightjar, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Yellow-rumped and Western tinkerbirds, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Gray Cuckoo-shrike, Slender-billed and Yellow-streaked greenbuls, Banded Prinia, Collared, Black-faced, and Chestnut-throated apalises, Cameroon Scrub-Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, Archer's Robin-Chat, Ruwenzori Batis, White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher, Mountain Illadopsis, African (Ruwenzori) Hill Babbler, Stripe-breasted Tit, Blue-headed, Regal, and Purple-breasted sunbirds, Black-tailed Oriole, Mountain Sooty Boubou, the stunning Doherty's Bushshrike, White-necked Raven, Slender-billed and Waller's starlings, Strange Weaver, Dusky Crimsonwing, Dusky Twinspot, and perhaps Oriole Finch.

The “strenuous” trail to the Mubwindi Swamp will be optional; for those not wishing to take this walk, we will make arrangements for them to be accompanied by a local guide and they can bird right in fabulous forest near our lodge where numerous birds are found—including some real smart ones like Regal Sunbird. Nights at Ruhija Gorilla Lodge.

**Day 19, Wed, 1 Jul. To Lake Mburo National Park.** Today is largely a travel day as we leave the high forests and drive through terraced farmland, the Ankole cattle country, and on to Lake Mburo, where we expect to arrive in the late afternoon. With luck we may see Pennant-winged Nightjars hawking over our tents at dusk. Night at Mantana Tented Camp in Lake Mburo NP.

**Day 20, Thu, 2 Jul. Lake Mburo National Park.** This delightful small park contains rolling scrub-covered hills, open dry areas, pockets of woodland, papyrus beds, marshy lake fringes, and open water. It is the only place we can see Burchell’s Zebra and Impala, and we should also find good numbers of Oribi, Olive Baboon, and Vervet Monkey.

Many new and interesting birds occur within this park, and we hope for White-backed Night-Heron and African Finfoot (during a short boat trip), Lizard Buzzard, African Goshawk, Coqui Francolin, Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, Red-headed Lovebird, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Lilac-breasted Roller, Green Woodhoopoe, Greater Honeyguide, Green-backed Woodpecker, the restricted-range Red-faced Barbet (at its only Ugandan site), Mosque and Rufous-chested swallows, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Gray Tit-Flycatcher, Chin-spot Batis, White-winged Black-Tit, African Penduline-Tit, Violet-backed Starling, Fan-tailed Widowbird, and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu. Night at Mantana Tented Camp in Lake Mburo NP.

**Day 21, Fri, 3 Jul. To Entebbe.** After breakfast we’ll work our way out of the park, stopping, of course, for any new birds that we see. We’ll then continue east through a mosaic of small farms and scattered clumps of degraded secondary growth. We will most likely need to fight Kampala and Entebbe traffic before arriving in Entebbe at the guesthouse mid-afternoon, where day rooms will be available before our evening international departure.

**Day 22, Sat, 4 Jul. Arrival home.**

## About Your Guide

**Jesse Fagan** (a.k.a. the Motmot or just "Mot") has been passionate about birds since his teens, when he had an encounter with a flying Pileated Woodpecker. He has birded extensively throughout North America and in 2016 published the [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America](#) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) with co-author Oliver Komar and illustrators Robert Dean and Peter Burke. In addition, Mot has experience in many other areas of Central and South America, Europe, and Africa. He likes to think he can bird anywhere at any time and still show you the birds, but most importantly, a good time.

Jesse holds a B.S. and an M.S. in mathematics from Texas Tech University. He is currently living in Lima, Peru with his wife, Rocio.

*“This tour was very rewarding in the number and variety of quite special bird species and animals of which we were able to get very good looks. I very much appreciated Jesse Fagan’s stellar expertise, and doing everything possible to make this a productive and rewarding experience for each one of the participants.”*  
W. J.; Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Jesse’s complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

A **local guide** will be joining Jesse on tour.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$12375 from Entebbe**

**GORILLA PERMIT (Optional): \$700 per day** (nonrefundable)

**DEPOSIT: \$1240 per person** (plus optional Gorilla Permits)

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** February 14, 2020

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1750** (Singles may not be available at the Kabalega Wilderness Lodge, the Gorilla Forest Camp, or the Mantana Tented Camp. Depending on the number of single travelers, we may need to double up.)

**LIMIT: 8**



## Other Things You Need to Know

**NOTE REGARDING TRIP INSURANCE:** Medical insurance is compulsory for guests visiting the lodges in Uganda, and each guest will need to provide their insurance details in advance. This is due to the remoteness of the camps we use.

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Sharon Mackie. Sharon will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** In Entebbe, we stay at Papyrus Guesthouse, a restored colonial homestead just a few minutes from the International airport. The guesthouse offers free airport shuttle service, and each room is equipped with its own bathroom. The Botanical Gardens are close by, but we do not recommend you go there unless in a group and with one of the hotel staff or local guide.

The Masindi Hotel has “seen better days” but it has improved tremendously over the past few years. The simple rooms have now all been revamped with new bedding, towels, etc., and everyone has enjoyed the buffet dinners. Kabalega Lodge is a clean and modern lodge overlooking the Nile. Isunga Lodge is a very nice property set on a hillside at the edge of the Kibale Forest; all cottages are spaced well apart and each cottage has an outside seating area with a lovely view of Kibale. Mweya Safari Lodge is a large, classic lodge in the style similar to the well-known lodges of Kenya or Tanzania. Forest Gorilla Camp is a top-rated, luxurious tented camp with extremely spacious and well-appointed tents and bathrooms (ensuite). Its location close to the park headquarters makes the lodge ideal for gorilla trekking. Ruhija Gorilla Lodge is a new lodge (2010) high in the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest. Each double room is spacious and has its own bathroom, while a limited number of single rooms have shared bathrooms. The Rainforest Lodge has fabulous rooms, great food, excellent service, and best of all, it's located right at Mabira Forest. All the above-mentioned accommodations have private bathrooms (except for singles at Ruhija). Please note: Single rooms are often not available at Kabalega Wilderness Lodge, Gorilla Forest Camp, and Mantana Tented Camp; if our group consists of mostly single travelers, we may need folks to double up.

**DOCUMENTS:** A **current passport** valid for six months beyond the date of your return and a **tourist visa** are necessary for US citizens to enter Uganda; ***application for the visa should be made well in advance of the tour***. **We will provide you with the necessary visa application forms.** An International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is also required.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Ugandan consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility. Also **NOTE that luggage space is limited in our vehicle**. We must carry bottled water (which takes up space), and excess baggage must be packed inside on the floor—which gets in the way when having to get out quickly for your lifer Handsome Francolin! We ask that you limit your baggage to **one medium duffel and a carry-on**. (Duffels are much easier to pack than suitcases.)

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The **tour fee** is **\$12375** for one person in double occupancy from Entebbe. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 19 and day rooms in Entebbe on Day 20, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through dinner on Day 20, boat trips, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Uganda, optional gorilla permit, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$1750. (Singles are often not available at the Kabalega Wilderness Lodge, Gorilla Forest Camp, and Mantana Tented Camp. In the event that doubling up is required, a refund of a portion of the single supplement will be provided.) If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR LIMITS:** Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, one seat in the van or bus will be taken by the guide in training. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$1240** per person (plus optional Gorilla Permits Fee of \$700 per person). If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by February 14, 2020. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** Our tour operator requires that all participants be covered by a current medical insurance policy applicable for overseas travel for the duration of the tour. Field Guides **strongly** recommends you consider purchasing trip cancellation (in addition to medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.



When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. **Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii.** We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance with InsureMyTrip ([www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. Please let us know if you have any questions about this. If you purchase the insurance within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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