

Uganda-Kenya Combo: Fabulous Birds & Mammals with Naturalist Journeys



September 5 – 21, 2021

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866.900.1146

520.558.1146

travel@naturalistjourneys.com

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Tour Summary

17-Day / 16-Night Uganda-Kenya
Combo Safari with expert local guides
\$9550, from Entebbe, departing
Nairobi (NBO)
Arrival Airport is Entebbe
International (EBB) / Departure is
Jomo Kenyatta International (NBO)

It's a long journey to Africa and our combo tour with Uganda and Kenya lets you experience the highlights of each country, timed for the peak Wildebeest migration in Kenya—wow! Kenya's place as a top safari country is well known. Neighboring Uganda is fast gaining fame as a wonderful place to explore, hosting a rich geography of wetlands, savannas, and montane rainforests associated with the Albertine Rift, a high plateau where Africa's great rivers are born and 20+ endemic bird species can be found. From Lake Victoria to lush forests skirting the beautiful Virunga Volcanos, and on to the famed Masai Mara, there is simply no richer place to find birds and mammals in profusion. This is a classic African safari with game drives. We also spend time exploring some of the best forests remaining on the continent; Uganda's wild forest reserves are home to myriad beautiful birds, rare Mountain Gorilla, Chimpanzee, and other primates. The Gorilla trek on this trip is optional, but highly recommended!

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Explore the labyrinth of lagoons of Mabamba Swamp by canoe in search of Uganda's iconic Shoebill
- ✓ Enjoy a game drive in Lake Mburo NP for views of Zebra, Impala, Eland, Topi, African Buffalo, and more
- ✓ See some of Africa's most beautiful birds: turacos, barbets, bushshrikes, bee-eaters, and broadbills
- ✓ Enter Bwindi's Impenetrable Forest NP, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to approximately half the world's endangered population of Mountain Gorilla
- ✓ Discover Bwindi's productive montane forest birding along the mountain spine of Africa—lush forests support 23 of Uganda's 24 Albertine Rift endemic birds
- ✓ Visit Queen Elizabeth National Park on the Equator in search of Elephant, Spotted Hyena, Leopard, Lion, Ugandan Kob, Side-striped Jackal, Baboon, and other mammals, as well as abundant birds
- ✓ Take an exciting boat cruise on the Kazinga channel for excellent sightings and photo opportunities of wading birds and abundant Hippopotamus
- ✓ Take a short flight to Nairobi where fascinating birds await on the slopes of Mt. Kenya and in the lush Rift Valley
- ✓ Find tree-climbing Lions at Lake Nakuru
- ✓ Enjoy three full days in Kenya's famed Maasai Mara at the peak of Wildebeest migration

WHY GO NOW? Our colleagues are reporting just amazing wildlife viewing, after more than a year of few to no safaris; the parks are not yet crowded. There may never be as good a time for years ahead in that regard, as pent-up travelers emerge from last year. We are in wild places, not large cities, and we travel with trusted guides and operators. There are still good prices on airfare out there. We can help book the short hop between Uganda and Kenya and help you comply with COVID tests needed to pass between countries and to get home. From arrival to departure we know you are in great care and your visit now means a lot to local people and to conservation.

Itinerary



Sun., Sept. 5 Arrivals in Entebbe on the Shore of Lake Victoria

Several major airlines provide service to Entebbe, including United, Delta, Emirates, Ethiopian, KLM, and others. Typical stops en route include your gateway through Brussels, Amsterdam, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Doha, or Kigali. Note, you need to leave the day prior to arrival, departing the USA on September 4. If you wish to combine with another part of Africa, then Kenya or Ethiopia work well and in both we have partner companies that can provide guided custom excursions.

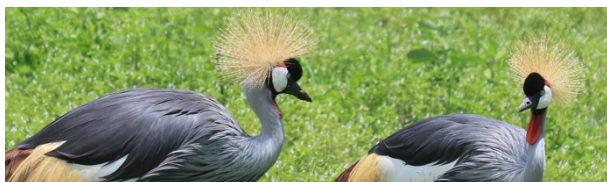
Today is planned as just a day of rest; for those arriving in time we gather for a welcome dinner at our hotel. For those that arrive early in the day, you can rest and enjoy birding on the grounds, or we may organize an optional excursion to the local botanic gardens as a group with a guide. The hotel is close to the airport, and provides dependable and convenient shuttle service.

Accommodations at the Boma Hotel or similar, Entebbe (D)

Mon., Sept. 6 Mabamba Wetlands | Lake Mburo National Park

After an early breakfast, we proceed to the Mabamba Swamp, a Wetland of International Importance, in search of water birds including Uganda's iconic Shoebill. In this narrow bay, lined by papyrus, other specialty birds include Hamerkop, Lesser Jacana, Blue Swallow, Papyrus Gonolek, White-winged Warbler, Blue-breasted and Madagascar Bee-eaters, Gray-rumped Swallow, Greater Swamp-Warbler, Slender-billed Weaver, African Pygmy-Kingfisher, and Plain-backed Pipit. Waterbirds include African Pygmy-Goose, Spur-winged Goose, Long-toed Lapwing, Gray-hooded Gull, and three species of terns: Gull-billed, White-winged Black, and Whiskered. We may be lucky and find the giant of all herons, the Goliath. Raptors include the interesting Lizard Buzzard, and perhaps the Palm-nut Vulture. Mammal fans want to be on the lookout for Spot-necked Otter, occasionally seen in the water here.

Mabamba Swamp is a labyrinth of channels and lagoons. Even getting there holds exciting birding! The road to Mabamba winds its way through areas of secondary forest and agricultural land, attracting Red-headed Lovebird, African Crowned-Hornbill, and a range of sunbirds including the Green-headed, Green, Red-chested, Collared, Marico, and Scarlet-chested. The road ultimately ends at a papyrus reed-bed adjoining Lake Victoria, whereby canoe we explore a maze of channels and mudflats for a reliable resident, the majestic Shoebill.



Then, in the afternoon we drive to Lake Mburo National Park. While small, this park has outstanding biodiversity, with numerous species of birds and an excellent array of large mammals including Burchell's Zebra, Impala, Elands, Topi, and Buffalo. Oribi can be found here, as well as Olive Baboon, and Waterbuck and Reedbuck that relish the lush habitat. Where grazing mammals occur, we find Yellow-billed Oxpecker as well.

The park contains an extensive area of wetland including lakes and marshes. Ancient Precambrian rock tells a fascinating geologic story. The bird population is rich, including Green-backed Woodpecker, African Finfoot, Brown-chested Plover, Southern Ground Hornbill, Spot-flanked, Red-faced and Black-collared Barbets, White-winged Warbler, Carruthers Cisticola, Papyrus Gonolek, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, and Northern Brown-throated Weaver. Gray-crowned Crane are often the photographers' favorite.

After a full and rewarding day, we enjoy dinner and our comfortable lodgings. And keep on the lookout for nightjars!

Accommodations at the Mantana Tented Camp or similar, Lake Mburo (B,L,D)

Tues., Sept. 7

Mburo National Park: Full Day Birding, Game Drive & Boat Cruise

We have the full day to explore the park today. With our expert guides, we look for birds and mammals. Search the skies for Tawny Eagle, Ruppel's Griffon Vulture, Grey Kestrel, and the differently patterned male and female Bateleur. Feeding in trees we look for Ruppel's Starling, Brown Parrot, Grey Hornbill, White-browed Coucal, Northern Brubru, and Black-headed Oriole; in and around their roots we may find Water Thick-knee seeking shade or Coqui Francolin busily feeding. Favorites for the day often include Shining Blue, Woodland, and Giant Kingfishers, Broad-billed Roller, and Little Bee-eater. With keen eyes we may spot a roosting Verreaux's Eagle Owl, a Greater Honeyguide, and associated with water, White-backed Night-Heron, Papyrus Gonolek, Lesser Masked Weaver, and Carruther's Cisticola.

In more open savanna, dotted with acacias, we look for Senegal Lapwing and birds of the grasslands and scrub, including White-backed Scrub Robin, Plain-backed Pipit, Sooty Chat, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Red-faced Crombec, Chinspot Batis, Grassland Pipit, and Golden-breasted Bunting. Learn to sort out starlings today: Rupell's Long-tailed, Greater Blue-eared, and Bronze-tailed.

We return to our upmarket tented camp for an enjoyable evening. Chefs take pride in our meals, and include fresh local foods on the menu. Enjoy drinks from the bar, and as night falls, sounds of the African night.

Accommodations at the Mantana Tented Camp or similar, Lake Mburo (B,L,D)



Wed., Sept. 8 Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park

Today we start early after breakfast, with an exciting destination in mind—the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. This is mainly a travel day, our drive time is 6 – 7 hours or more, depending on the stops we make for scenery and birding (and lunch) along the way.

Bwindi National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to approximately half of the world's endangered population of Mountain Gorillas. This vast reserve offers arguably the most productive montane forest birding in Africa and supports 23 of Uganda's 24 Albertine Rift endemic bird species.

Once part of a much larger forest that included the Virunga Volcanoes in neighboring Rwanda, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is now an ecological island within a sea of human cultivation and therefore is of big conservation importance. We have several days here to enjoy the world-famous Mountain Gorillas (permit required, additional cost) and some spectacular birding.

Our lodge opened in 2014, with a mission to provide lodging for the park while supporting the local community. It is a small lodge, with wonderful hospitality.

Accommodations at Buhoma Community Haven Lodge or similar, Bwindi (B,L,D)

Thurs., Sept. 9 Gorilla Tracking in the Forest

For those that select the Gorilla tracking option, after an early breakfast, we report to the park headquarters for a briefing prior to the Gorilla tracking excursion. This activity may take anywhere from one hour to a full day, so a reasonable degree of fitness is required. The hike starts about 8:30 – 9:00 AM and we are back anytime of the day. It may be just an hour or several hours. It is a wonderful experience to stare into the eyes of these gentle giants; watch them in awe as they play and go about their daily activities. It is indeed a “once in a lifetime” experience. Each encounter is different and has its own rewards; we are likely to enjoy close view of adults feeding, grooming, and resting as the youngsters frolic and swing from vines in a delightfully playful display. Only a limited number of people are allowed in to see the family groups each day (we have two days and may split up



between them), so the earlier you sign on the better. We forward your permit payment on with registration. The forest habitat is fascinating, with lush greenery and of course, a host of birds.

We hope that our whole groups opts for the gorilla trek; our visit supports their conservation and rangers work hard to pace the hike for you to have success in finding them. If you are not able to do the hike, or perhaps have seen them at another location, birding is plentiful and an alternate activity on this day. Also possible are short nature walks or a cultural visit.

Accommodations at Buhoma Community Haven Lodge or similar, Bwindi (B,L,D)

Fri., Sept. 10 Birding Bwindi

Forest birding at Bwindi ranks as the best birdwatching in Uganda and Africa as well, having been voted the number one hot spot in Africa. It is home to over 23 highly-localized Albertine Rift endemics. Our birding today takes place at different elevations, much of it in mid-montane forest.

The list of special birds is long! Sunbirds appear like our hummingbirds, but are songbirds that sing. We look for Blue-headed Sunbird, Northern Double-collared Sunbird, and Grey-headed Sunbird, Green-throated Sunbird, and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird. Stunning and colorful are the Black-billed Turaco, Bar-tailed Trogon, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Lagden's Bush-shrike, Doherty's Bush-shrike, Montane Oriole, African Golden Oriole, and the smaller Oriole Finch. Flycatchers and other small birds of the forest include Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Banded Prinia, three species of Apalis: Black-throated and Mountain Masked, Red-throated Alethe, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Ashy Flycatcher, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Chapin's Flycatcher, Chin-spot Batis, Rwenzori Batis, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, White-bellied Crested-flycatcher, Mountain Illadopsis, and Dusky Tit.

Noisy are the African Hill-Babbler, Sooty Boubou, Pink-footed Puffback, and White-naped Raven. Starlings, various finches, sparrows, and weavers abound, including Stuhlmann's Starling, Narrow-tailed Starling, Waller's Starling, Strange Weaver, Brown-capped Weaver, Black-billed Weaver, Dusky Crimsonwing, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Magpie Mannikin, Yellow-crowned Canary, Thick-billed Seed-eater, Streaky Seed-eater, and Shelly's Crimsonwing. Overhead, we look for two striking raptors, Mountain Buzzard, and Ayre's Hawk-eagle.



Sought after as we work a mix of elevations are African Wood-Owl, Scarce Swift, Black Bee-eater, Red-chested Owlet, Tullberg's and Elliot's Woodpeckers, African Broadbill, Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Cuckoo-shrike, Archer's Ground Robin, Toro Olive-Greenbul, Ansorge's Greenbul, Equatorial Akalat, White-bellied Robin-chat, Olive Thrush, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Short-tailed Warbler, and Red-faced Woodland-Warbler.

We could continue, but you can see from those species mentioned here that the area is rich! Extremely rare and likely tough to find, requiring more extensive hiking than we do, is the endemic African Green Broadbill.

We return to the hospitality of our lodge, to dine and enjoy the evening.

Buhoma Community Haven Lodge or similar, Bwindi (B,L,D)

Sat., Sept. 11 Birding to Queen Elizabeth National Park

Today we start early because it's a travel day, with a 5 – 6-hour drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park. We pass through the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park (known for its tree climbing lions), watching for mammals and birding along the way. We hope to find African Long Crested Eagle, Augur Buzzard, Mackinnon's Fiscal, Black-headed Waxbill, Black-and-white Mannikin, Senegal Coucal, Red-chested Cuckoo, Grey-capped Warbler, and other species.

The park is named after the Queen of England, who visited in 1954. It is the second largest national park in Uganda. In terms of diversity, this park ranks among the best birding destinations in Uganda with over 610 species recorded, and a one-day record of 296 species. Mammals include African Elephant, Spotted Hyena, Leopard, Lion, Ugandan Kobs, Side-striped Jackal, Baboon, Chimpanzee, Bush and Water Bucks, Warthog, and Giant Forest Hog to mention but a few. Specialty birds of this park include Harlequin Quail, Blue Quail, Small (Common) Buttonquail, African Crake, White-winged Warbler, Martial Eagle, African Skimmer, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Papyrus Gonolek, Amur Falcon, Ovampo Sparrowhawk, Lowland Akalat, Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Shoebill, Black Bee-eater, Caruthers's Cisticola, Terek Sandpiper, Secretary Bird, and Temminck's Courser.

Our lodge is at the gateway of the park, with fine views and good birding on the grounds. The main house has large windows in the dining area and a viewing deck, great for sundowners and dining.

Accommodations at Enganzi Game Lodge or similar, Queen Elizabeth National Park (B,L,D)

Sun., Sept. 12 Game Drive in the Park | Boat Cruise on the Kazinga Channel

After breakfast we set out for a nearly full day game drive and birdwatching drive in the park. We save the active



hours of late-afternoon for our exciting boat cruise on the Kazinga channel. The launch is one of the most exciting water activities in Uganda. The channel is a narrow neck of water that connects Lakes George and Edward, with excellent photo opportunities for waterside birds and abundant Hippopotamus. Amongst the birds we are likely to encounter African Skimmer, Striated Heron, African Spoonbill, Water Thick-knee, Three-banded Plover, Marsh, Green, Wood, and Common Sandpiper, Gray-headed Gull, Plain Martin, Lesser Swamp-Warbler, and following the mammals, Yellow-billed Oxpecker.

Accommodations at Enganzi Game Lodge or similar, Queen Elizabeth National Park (B,L,D)

Mon., Sept. 13 Return to Entebbe | Flights to Nairobi

After breakfast, we make our return to Entebbe. Today you take a short, one-hour flight from Entebbe to Nairobi, where we are met on arrival. Our lodging tonight is flexible and based on flight times out of Entebbe. If it's a later flight, we overnight in Nairobi, but our hope is to fly in earlier and transfer immediately to Mt. Kenya to allow for more time in the national park.

Accommodations at Ole-Sereni Hotel, Nairobi or Castle Lodge, Mt. Kenya National Park (B,L,D)

Tues., Sept. 14 Mt. Kenya National Park

This morning we leave Nairobi, driving north towards Mt. Kenya and our accommodations at Castle Lodge. We arrive in time for lunch and to settle in and start watching birds come in to the lodge compound.

This is a small but amazing lodge, with memories and experiences. Its view of spectacular Mt. Kenya, its location in lovely forest with trails, and its ambiance are hard to equal. The lodge works hard at maintaining a light ecological footprint in its prime location within Mt. Kenya National Park. Big game are not the main draw here,



but we are regularly entertained by the Mt. Kenya Kolb's Monkeys and Mt. Kenya Guereza. Squirrel species may also be seen scattering into the bushes. The night anthem is led by the Southern Tree Hyraxes, a small mammal related to the African Elephant taxa.

In addition to mammals, we find some wonderful birds in the forest. Birdlife International lists 55 trigger species for the area, including Mountain Buzzard, beautiful Hartlaub's Turaco, Bar-tailed Trogon, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, six species of sunbirds, and others.

The lodge cabins are placed in an open glade a few meters from the old castle building. This castle, made of wood, is now the main building and the restaurant. The team here has maintained the structures as intact as possible, with very few renovations. At night the staff light a fireplace to keep your room warm and you can relax to the sounds of the night. Close to the lodge, a beautiful waterfall pushes water downhill, and this also forms the hydropower station for the lodge.

Accommodations at Castle Lodge, Mt. Kenya National Park (B,L,D)

Wed., Sept. 15 Mt. Kenya Area | Lake Nakuru National Park | Kenya's Rift Valley | Lake Nakuru Lodge

In the morning, we meet for coffee on the canopy viewing area, located at the front verandah of the lodge, watching sunrise on Mt. Kenya and a grand array of birds.

After breakfast, we embark on a walk in the forest nearby. Walk a comfortable trail under a lush canopy just teeming with birds, and sometimes mammals, particularly squirrels and monkeys. Our focus is on natural history here; at this location we are in a habitat totally different than any other we visit on the journey. Species seen here, particularly the birds, are not likely encountered again.

After lunch, we drive a back route from Mt. Kenya over to Lake Nakuru, stopping at historic Thompson's Falls along the way. We find great views as we descend into Kenya's Great Rift Valley. Our accommodations tonight are inside Lake Nakuru National Park. The food here is lovely and we are right in the midst of wildlife. Fabulous Yellow-fever Acacia trees line the roads here, making for beautiful photography. We drive through the park en route to our lodgings, arriving at sunset to a very restful place.

Accommodations at Lake Nakuru Lodge (B,L,D)



Thurs., Sept. 16 Nakuru National Park: Lions, Rhinos, Fabulous Birds & More

We find Nakuru to be a lovely realm of forests, vast wetlands, and open meadows where wildlife roams—it's just a delight to have time here. The Great Rift Valley is a stunning geologic feature and extensive agricultural area of Kenya.

Lake Nakuru is a large alkaline lake, surrounded by woodland and grassland. Lake Nakuru National Park is famous for Hippos and at times, astounding numbers of Lesser Flamingo. It is one of Kenya's earliest-established parks, and today is one of its Rhino Sanctuaries, with both Black and White Rhinos occurring. On a previous visit we were fortunate to have time with a White Rhino mother and calf, as well as have close views of a male Black Rhino on a separate drive. Rothschild's Giraffe, plentiful Waterbuck, and warthog are here, along with a great variety of wildlife in the upland areas.

The lake and wetlands team with bird species including Pied Kingfisher, Hamerkop, African Fish Eagle, and rarer Goliath Heron. Over 450 bird species have been recorded here, and Birdlife International lists over 30 trigger species, including Little and Black-necked Grebes, African Spoonbill, Great White Pelican, Lesser Kestrel, Hemprich's Hornbill, Grey-crested Helmet-shrike, Bronze and Golden-winged Sunbirds, and Purple Grenadier. Mammal viewing is equally good at Lake Nakuru National Park. Our guide, Washington, so artfully places us at the right spot for wildlife action, light for our images, and truly memorable times.

At Nakuru, we have another chance to see White Rhino and to observe the extraordinary tree-climbing Lions found here. Leopards have delighted our group in previous years, too. Our lodge here is an intimate one. We have electricity, lovely furnishings and textiles, and wonderful food and service, all while being as close to nature as possible.

Accommodations at Lake Nakuru Lodge, Lake Nakuru National Park (B,L,D)

Fri., Sept. 17 Boat Ride on Lake Naivasha | Drive to Maasai Mara

We are up and out early this morning, and as we exit Lake Nakuru National Park we proceed to another nearby lake. We enjoy more birds at the beautiful Lake Naivasha, another lake inside the Rift Valley. This is the highest lake along this stretch of the Rift Valley, and is famed for being quite cool. The birds here are excellent and we can expect species such as Mosque Swallow, Lyne's Cisticola, Chestnut Sparrow, Abyssinian Wheatear, Nyanza Swift, Mottled Swift, White-fronted Bee-eater, Mocking Cliff Chat, Bearded Woodpecker, Plain-backed Pipit, Giant Kingfisher, Grey-backed Fiscal, Grey-crested Helmet-Shrike, Brimstone Canary, Cape Teal, Pied Avocet,

Black Heron, Goliath Heron, Lesser Flamingo, Maccoa Duck, Great White Pelican, Common Greenshank, Ruff, Green Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Hildebrandt's Francolin, Arrow-marked Babbler, Black-lored Babbler, African Fish Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Osprey, Hybrid Lovebird, Red-throated Wryneck, Golden-breasted Bunting, Buff-bellied Warbler, Grey Crowned Crane, Black Cuckoo, and African Hoopoe.

We then board our boat and keep watch for the graceful displays of the African Fish Eagle and all the other wonders this lake offers.

Once we arrive back on land, we start our journey towards Maasai Mara, the climax of our tour. We have lunch en route, aiming to arrive at the Mara later in the afternoon. We are on the lookout for long lines of Wildebeest, pouring into the region.

Our camp is located on the Northern end of the Maasai Mara National Reserve along the beautiful Talek River. The camp's swimming pool is a welcome relaxation station after a nice game drive in the reserve. The lovely rooms are designed with a feel of the local Maasai culture and create a nice ambience. The rooms are tented, but still contain all amenities of a conventional lodge room. The fresh air flowing into your room from the surrounding nature makes it a homey setting. The camp's lush grounds are often active with birds, such as the musical Common Drongo and the beautiful Grey-headed Bush-Shrike. The beautiful lounge area also offers a nice place to relax. The modern, yet safari-styled restaurant offers delicious meals.

Accommodations at Mara-Azure Mara Camp (B,L,D)

Sat., Sept. 18 – Mon., Sept. 20 Three Full Days in Kenya's Famed Maasai Mara

We spend the next three days exploring this amazing place. This is arguably the top conservation area in Africa, and its fame has been amplified by the numerous films done here. The annual Maasai Mara-Serengeti Wildebeest migration is a spectacle that has made this place more famous and is often regarded as the Eighth Wonder of the World. These massive herds march across the plains like an army headed to battle. Hot on their heels are many other animals, mainly Common Zebra and an array of carnivores that don't let the buffet pass by unnoticed. The Maasai Mara is managed as a national reserve and hosts some of the top mammal populations in Africa. Our photographers delight in marvelous views of many species. The Mara forms the northernmost limit of the diverse Serengeti Ecosystem.

We enjoy game drives here scouting the vast savannah grassland and the riverine vegetation around the great plains. Though much of our Mara time focuses on mammals, which are numerous and spectacular, we also find many birds here, including the Southern Ground-Hornbill, Rufous-bellied Heron, Pennant-winged Nightjar, Square-tailed Nightjar, Dusky Nightjar, stunning Schalow's Turaco, Grey-crested Helmetshrike, Red-necked Spurfowl, Red-winged Francolin, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Rufous-chested Swallow, Lappet-faced Vulture, Brown Snake-Eagle, White-headed Vulture, Ruppell's Vulture, Secretarybird, Grey Kestrel, Temminck's Courser,



Rosy-breasted Longclaw, Green-capped Eremomela, Black Coucal, African Quailfinch, Kori Bustard, Bush Pipit, Melodious Lark, Flappet Lark, Athi Short-toed Lark, Rufous-tailed Weaver, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Karamoja Apalis, Black-backed Cisticola, Long-tailed Cisticola, Pale Wren-Warbler, Usambiro Barbet, Familiar Chat, Sooty Chat, African Wattled Plover, Woolly-necked Stork, Saddle-billed Stork, and Magpie Shrike. Wow!

Mammals are in great abundance and we can expect all members of the “African Big 5:” African Lion, Cape Buffalo, Black Rhino, Africa Elephant, and Leopard. Other mammals include Nile Hippo, Topi, Common Eland, Common Zebra, Maasai Giraffe, Blue Wildebeest, Thompson’s Gazelle, Cheetah, Spotted Hyena, Black-backed Jackal, and Grant’s Gazelle. We also scan the rivers for the massive and pre-historic Nile Crocodile. We take time to observe behavior, and to savor sightings in the wild.

Accommodations at the Mara-Azure Mara Camp (B,L,D)

Tues., Sept. 21 Flight from Maasai Mara to Nairobi | Evening Departures

On this final morning we take a short game drive to the local airstrip to catch our flight to Nairobi. On arrival we are transferred to a local restaurant for lunch and then spend some refreshing time at our hotel, where we have booked day rooms for you to shower and freshen up before your international flights home. We are transferred to the airport this evening, marking the end to our phenomenal tour. *(B,L)*

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Cost of the Journey

Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. Their website will show a grid of tour cost and your age category for you to make selections. As of January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

Travel Information

Please plan to arrive at your convenience at Entebbe International (EBB) on Sept. 5. Please note that flights will originate from the United States on Sept. 4. Please plan evening departures on Sept. 21 from Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International (NBO).

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the Journey is **\$9550 DBL / \$10,650 SGL**, based on double occupancy, per person. The tour price includes airport transfers, 16 nights' accommodations, all meals from dinner Day 1 through lunch Day 17, professional guide services, park and preserve entrance fees, and miscellaneous program expenses.

Cost of the journey does not include airfare from your home to Entebbe, Uganda and home from Nairobi, Kenya, or items of a personal nature, such as drinks from the bar, telephone, and local guide gratuities (at your discretion, we will give some guidelines). Since the Gorilla hike requires more stamina, we make that optional, and the permit needs to be paid in addition to the tour cost, at present \$700 (subject to change). Please pay this permit fee at registration to ensure you get a spot. Funds go to support Gorilla conservation.

Cost does not include your flight from Entebbe to Nairobi, but we will arrange that for you and add it to your bill.

Photo Credits

Mountain Gorilla, Herbert Byaruhanga (HB); Shoebill, HB; Hippo, Peg Abbott (PA); Elephants, PA; Madagascar Bee-eater, PA; Spotted Hyena, PA; Lion, PA; Leopard, PA; Zebras, PA; Hamerkop, PA; Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, PA; Black-collared Barbet, PA; Gray Hornbill, PA; Gray Crowned Cranes, PA; Mountain Gorillas x4, HB; Green Sunbird, PA; Butterfly, HB; Abyssian Hornbill, PA; Secretary Bird with Snake, PA; Martial Eagle, PA; Lionesses, PA; Water Buffalo, PA; African Spoonbill, PA; Giraffes, Greg Smith (GS); Saddle-billed Stork, GS; Birding Lake Nakuru, PA; Lions, PA; Zebras, PA; Bare-faced Go-away-birds, PA.