

TRIP REPORT FOR JEFF PRICE

My name is Rukundo Davis and I took a 19-day safari with Jeff and Racheal for a memorable experience in Uganda. I was joined by Atukwatse Abia as a trainee and this is what happened on our journey from the time they arrived to when then set off for home.

Thursday 31st May, 2018

Today we went to the airport to pick up Jeff and Racheal and take them to the Boma Hotel.

Friday 1st June, 2018

We set off early morning for Mabamba Swamp to look for the Shoebill stork. We found it at 10am and got very good close views. We then went birding around the community. We transferred to Kampala later in the afternoon and stayed at Kolping Hotel.

Saturday 2nd June, 2018

We set off to the east to go birding in Mabira forest whole day. We got some good species like Blue breasted Kingfisher, Natal Robin, white-spotted Flufftail amongst others. We were cut short by the rain and headed back to Kampala for the night.

Sunday 3rd June, 2018

We left Kampala at around 8am due to some car mechanical issues and headed west to Lake Mburo National Park. We had a small stopover at the equator where the clients tried out the water experiment. We continued on our way to the first park for the trip. We had a game drive before checking into Igongo later in the evening.

Monday 4th June, 2018

After an early breakfast, we set off for a game drive in Lake Mburo where we saw Eland, Giraffes, Zebra and Impala. We then went for a boat cruise on the lake to find the African Finfoot, Giant Kingfisher and White-backed Night-Heron. We arranged for packed lunch at Mantana and had another game drive hoping to find some nightjars. We managed to find the Verreaux' Eagle-Owl. We headed back to Igongo for the night.

Tuesday 5th June, 2018

Bwindi was our next destination on this day. We set off early while birding and stopped for lunch at White Horse Inn in Kabale. We arrived at Broadbill Camp in Ruhija where we would be staying and had an evening walk to see what species we would pick-up on around the lodge. Highlight for today was the Black Coucal seen after Ntugamo town.

Wednesday 6th June, 2018

We set off early morning with packed lunch to the registration office of UWA in Ruhija. The road was not good as it had rained that morning and was very slippery. We where we organized for our expedition to the Mubwindi Swamp in search of the rare and Albertine Endemic, the Green Broadbill. We arranged to have two porters with us and our guide Amos.

We walked all day but we succeeded in our mission and found two nesting broadbills at around noon. Other species we found were the Grauer's Rush warbler, yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Lagden's and Doherty's Bushshrikes, Black-billed Turaco amongst others. We arrived at the starting point later at around 5pm and drove back to the lodge.

Thursday 7th June, 2018

Luckily, the road was dry today so we moved with packed lunch onto Buhoma. First, we had a small walk along the school trail in Ruhija before heading to the neck of the forest. We had lunch and continued to Buhoma where we stayed at Ride for a Woman. We later had a walk in the evening around the secondary forest.

Friday 8th June, 2018

We set off with packed lunch for the Gorilla trekking experience. After, we had another evening walk around the forest edge.

Saturday 9th June, 2018

We decided to have the main trail walk in the morning before setting off for Queen Elizabeth National Park. This was at the client's request and their own cost. We did the waterfall trail and found the Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, Black Bee-eater, Elliot's Woodpecker, Luedher's Bushshrike amongst others. We then set off for Queen Elizabeth National Park through the Ishasha sector as we do some savannah birding. We arrived later in the evening, highlight of the day being a hyena chasing the car as we approached the Mbarara-Kasese highway. We slept at Enganzi Lodge.

Sunday 10th June, 2018

We set off for the morning game drive and stopped at the Kazinga channel bridge for the Papyrus Gonolek and swamp warblers. We then set off for the main drive and found two lifers for me, the African and the Black-faced Quail finch. We had an afternoon boat cruise on the Kazinga channel where we found the Lesser black-backed Gulls, Collared Pratincole and others. We had an evening game drive where we heard the black-shouldered nightjar.

Monday 11th June, 2018

We had an early morning game drive and set off for Kibale national park later in the afternoon. We arrived later in the evening at Mountains of the moon then went out to bird along the main road before returning for dinner.

Tuesday 12th June, 2018

We set off very early in the morning with packed lunch at around 5am because of the distance to be covered. Today was chimpanzee tracking day. We had a small birding session before heading out for Chimpanzee tracking. We got done by 11am and had lunch as we birded along the road. We went to the Bigodi swamp in the afternoon in search of the white-spotted Flufftail, shining-blue Kingfisher and others. We were successful with the Flufftail but the kingfisher was abit elusive. We drove back to the hotel for the evening.

Wednesday 13th June, 2018

We set off a bit earlier at 4am because of the time constraint with the Green-breasted Pitta. We picked up our guide Bosco and went into the forest at 6am to begin our search for the Pitta. We were very unsuccessful and unable to find the Pitta but stayed looking till around midday. We then had lunch and went back to the Bigodi swamp for the Shinning-blue Kingfisher and we were successful the second time around. We drove back to the hotel not in the best of moods but slightly happy for the Kingfisher.

Thursday 14th June, 2018

Masindi was our next destination but we were abit skeptical about the state of the road as it gets boggy during the rains and almost impassable. Luckily, it was dry and we went through alright. We had a lunch stop over at Hoima and then started birding along the way to Masindi. We were able to see the Purple Starling and the Compact Weaver.

Friday 15th June, 2018

Today we went to the Royal Mile, a historical site that the king used to escape capture and also good for birding. Our target was the Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and Dwarf Kingfisher. We were successful on both sightings and also added on my lifer's list the Cabanis' Bunting. We also found the Jameson's wattle-eye and Chestnut-crowned Eremomela. We left the forest late in the afternoon very successful and happy.

Saturday 16th June, 2018

We set off to Murchison Falls through Kanio-Pabidi forest on the client's request as they wanted more time in the park than out of it. We were only successful in hearing the Puvell's Illadopsis but it did not show. We went to the top of the falls to enjoy the breath-taking view of the Murchison falls and have lunch. We crossed the ferry at around 4pm and drove slowly to the lodge for check-in as we birded. We were staying at Pakuba safari Lodge.

Sunday 17th June, 2018

We set off early morning with packed lunch for a game drive and later had an afternoon boat cruise to the top of the falls. We enjoyed views of Giraffes, Buffaloes, Hyena, Elephants and birds like the Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, Silverbird, Water Thick-knee, Grey Kestrel. On the boat cruise, we saw the Giant Kingfisher, Goliath Heron, Great Egret, Cormorants, Rock Pratincole, Crocodiles and Hippopotamus. We drove back slowly but were unsuccessful with nightjars.

Monday 18th June, 2018

Today we had a boat cruise to the delta in the morning with our guide Bentique. We were unfortunately unsuccessful with any shoebill sightings. But we were able to see the Giant Kingfisher again and the beautiful delta at the end of the Victoria Nile. We came back and had lunch then after a game drive where we had sightings of the Dickinson's Kestrel, a new bird for the country's birdlist.

Tuesday 19th June, 2018

Today, sad as it might have been, we had to bid our clients farewell and wish them a safe journey back home. We checked out and drove for our last game drive in the park and crossed the Nile and drove to Entebbe. We had a small stopover on the way for lunch and arrived in Entebbe at around 5pm as they had a flight at 9.45pm. We dropped them off at the airport and bid them goodbye as this was the end of our journey together.