

BIRD-WATCHING TOURS

Bushara Island Tour:

Although relatively small, Bushara Island has a diversity of habitats, including forest groves of eucalyptus and black wattle dense shrub-lands, gardens, papyrus swamp, and reedy shorelines. These habitats are home to an abundance of bird species which makes Bushara a perfect place for birdwatching. It is possible to see up to 40 bird species on our complimentary tour of the island. It is best to start early in the morning to spot as many birds as possible.

Duration: 1-2 hours; guided walk

Bushara Island Dugout Canoe Bird Tour:

Bird-watching from one of our canoes is an experience not to be missed. On a tour around Bushara Island, we will see many bird species which inhabit the forest and water's edge. Numerous nests of Slender-billed Weaver, Red-chested Sunbird, and Large Golden Weaver can be seen. You may also have a chance of seeing one of the resident Spot-necked Otters.

Duration: 1-2 hours; guided paddle

Cost: \$5/person

Nyombe Swamp Tour:

Transport: 45-minute motorboat ride

Description: Check out the beauty of the surrounding area by taking a scenic boat ride along a narrow arm of Lake Bunyonyi to Nyombe Swamp, one of the most southern points of Uganda. A chance to spot some of the 60 bird species that typically inhabit this wetland area and to enjoy the tranquillity of being on the lake. After touring the swamp edge by boat you have the option to take a one hour walk through cultivated fields and along the swamp edge. Many species of swallows and weavers, as well as marsh birds (African Spoonbill) may be seen on this tour.

Duration: 3-4 hours; boat, walk, and birdwatching

Cost: US\$50 – boat transport, guide, and up to four people (additional people \$5/person)

Muko Swamp and Forest Reserve

Transport: 1 hour by motorboat

Description: In 1940, Muko was a dense forest inhabited by monkeys, elephants, and wild pigs. Forestry officials recognized the strategic location of Muko the way to Kisoro and established the Muko Forest Reserve. The former jungle was cleared and a small-scale lumber operation using modern and traditional methods was established. The animals which once inhabited the area were pushed back into the forests of Mgahinga and Bwindi.

This tour offers a scenic boat ride across the lake with a chance to spot birds, and see local villages. Muko is also one of the sources of the Nile. You will have a chance to visit the forest reserve and learn about the reforestation program, walk through the swamp if it's not raining, and browse through the local Saturday Market.

Duration: 6 hours; motorboat ride, and walk

Days: Saturday

Cost: US\$50 – boat transport, guide, and up to four people (additional people \$5/person)

Mukoni Village

Transport: 15-minute canoe ride

Description: After paddling for 15-minutes across the lake we will arrive at the shores of a charming farm with cows, goats, chickens, and a banana plantation. We will wander through a traditional village and observe the locals going about their daily business. We will then take a leisurely hike along an elevated trail to a fantastic lookout which provides stunning 360 degree views of Lake Bunyonyi, surrounding farms, villages, schools, and churches nestled on the steep slopes. A combination of forest groves, cultivated areas, and gardens are home to a large diversity of bird species. Hawks can be seen soaring on the thermals above the ridge on most days.

Duration: 3 hours; canoe, hike, and village visit

Cost: US \$10/person