

12 DAYS UGANDA TO RWANDA TOUR



HIGHLIGHTS

Destinations: *Murchison Falls, Kibale Forest, Queen Elizabeth, Ishasha, Bwindi, Volcanoes NP*

Activities: *Game drives, boat rides, chimpanzee tracking, Gorilla trekking, Bigodi swamp, crater visits, relaxing on Lake Kivu*

DAY 1: Arrival in Uganda

Upon arrival at Entebbe airport, you will be welcomed by your safari guide. Depending on your time of arrival, you may have an optional city tour of Entebbe town. Entebbe was the colonialists' administrative center and has many buildings that date over half a century ago. The name Entebbe means "the chair" in Luganda, which is the local language of the area. You may also choose to visit Entebbe botanical gardens or Uganda Wildlife Education centre (Entebbe Zoo).

Accommodation

Budget: Acacia Beach Hotel (<http://acaciabeachentebbe.com/>)

Mid range: Lake Heights Hotel (<http://lakeheightshotel.com/LakeHeights/Index.aspx>)

High End: Hotel No. 5 (<https://www.wildfrontiers.com/hotel-no-5/>)

Meal plan: B,

DAY 2: Drive to Murchison falls via Zziwa Rhinos sanctuary

This morning you will start your safari by driving to Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary, a four-hour drive from Entebbe, along the road on the way to Murchison Falls National Park. Zziwa Rhinos is home to the only remaining rhinos in the country after the animals were extinct in the wilderness. You track the rhinos and visit the information centre and craft shop. Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary offers peace and tranquillity in beautiful surroundings. After lunch you will resume your journey to the park made famous by the thunderous Murchison falls along the Great River Nile. Time allowing you will pass by the top of the falls before proceeding to your accommodation.

Accommodation

- Budget:** Heritage Safari Lodge (<http://heritagesafarilodge.com/>)
Mid Range: Kabalega Wilderness Lodge (<http://kabalegalodge.com/>)
High End: Bakers' Lodge (<http://ugandaexclusivecamps.com/bakers-lodge/>)
Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 3: Morning game drive and afternoon Boat ride

After an early breakfast, proceed for a game drive. Elephant, Cape buffalo, Rothschild's giraffe, Uganda kob, hartebeest and waterbuck are commonly seen. You may also spot oribi, bushbuck, Bohor reedbuck, bush duiker, warthog and bushpig. Large carnivores include lion, leopard and spotted hyena. After lunch, go for a boat safari upstream the calm Victoria Nile. En-route, marvel at the toothsome hippos, crocodiles and over this 17 km stretch you may see elephant, waterbuck and Uganda Kob.

This is also a zone of many bird species like Goliath heron, Egyptian goose, pelican bee-eater, kingfisher, hornbill, cormorant and the rare shoebill stork. The boat will stop just tens of metres from the sinister, frothing and bubbling base of the falls.

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Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 4: Drive to Kibale Forest National Park

All day drive south via Hoima to Fort Portal through verdant countryside and past traditional homesteads and farms. Fort-Portal rests in the shadow of the fabled Rwenzori mountains also called Mountains of the Moon. The region is dominated by vast tea plantations. You may stop at any of them to interact and take part in tea picking. You will arrive at your accommodation in late afternoon or evening.

Accommodation:

Budget: Kibale Forest Camp (<http://www.naturelodges.biz/kibale-forest-camp/>)

Mid Range: Kibale Guest Cottages (<https://www.kibaleguestcottages.co.ug/>)

High end: Papaya Lake Lodge (<https://papayalakelodge.com/>)

Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 5. Chimpanzee trekking and drive to Queen Elizabeth National park,

After breakfast you will embark on the search for chimpanzees in Kibale Forest national park. The park is also home for 10 other primate including l' hoests, red colobus, blues, red tailed and gray - cheeked mangabey. The guide will provide detailed explanations, not only on primates, but on all the forest fauna and flora and will ensure that your walk is both informative and enjoyable.

In the afternoon you will proceed to Queen Elizabeth National Park following the mystical Rwenzori Mountains for much of the journey. Along the way you will pass via the crater region and enjoy a photography moment. You will have an evening game drive en route which may be rewarded with views of lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, hyena and a variety of antelope species.

Accommodation

Budget: Buffalo safari Lodge (www.savannahlodges.com)

Mid Range: Marafiki Lodge (<http://www.marafikisafaris.com/accommodation.html>)

High End: Mweya Lodge (<https://mweyalodge.com/>)

Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 6: Morning game drive and afternoon boat ride

Early in the morning you will set out for a game drive. Queen Elizabeth National Park's diverse eco-system of grassy plains, tropical forest, rivers, swamps, lakes and volcanic craters is home to an incredible abundance of wildlife. Game drives in this park, with the massive Rwenzori Mountains as a backdrop provides excellent opportunities to see lion, leopard, giant forest hog, Cape buffalo, elephants, defassa waterbuck, Uganda Kob, Topi and bush buck. In the afternoon you will enjoy the unique two (2) hours boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel and into Lake Edward. This trip passes through possibly the highest concentration of hippos and many animals may be seen drinking at the water's edge. This launch cruise offers an excellent platform for photography, bird watching and game viewing.

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Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 7: Drive to Bwindi via Ishasha Sector Queen Elizabeth

After breakfast you will drive to Ishasha Area of Queen Elizabeth national park where you will have game drive in search of the famous tree-climbing lions and the large herds of game. The scenic beauty, the size of the euphorbias and combination of riverine forest, Savannah plain and equatorial forest makes this a memorable day, only found in Africa. Afterwards you will drive through the "Switzerland of Africa" area known as the Kigezi Highlands with its terraced hillside and winding roads to Bwindi. You will proceed to your accommodation located in the foreground of Bwindi impenetrable national park – The home of Mountain Gorillas in Uganda.

Accommodation

- Budget:** Gorilla valley Lodge (<http://www.naturelodges.biz/gorilla-valley-lodge/>)
Mid Range: Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge (<http://ichumbigorillalodge.com/>)
High end: Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge (<https://www.mountaingorillalodge.com/>)
Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 8: Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi

Begin your gorilla trek in the early morning, and set off into the tangled and mist-shrouded forests with guides and trackers who are very experienced at locating the gorillas by finding the nest the family had used the previous night. The search for these majestic animals goes through thick untamed rainforest, where you'll be scrambling over mossy rocks and through deep undergrowth and it can be arduous at times, but the encounter is worth the effort. Watching gorillas in their natural habitat is a memory that will last a lifetime. The experienced ranger guides will willingly share with you a lot of information about history and lifestyle of the Gorillas. After spending an hour with the gorillas we head back to the lodge and relax.

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Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 9: Drive to Musanze town

Today you will leave Bwindi impenetrable forest and drive across the border to Musanze town. Formerly known as Ruhengeri, Musanze town is the nearest to Volcanoes national park- the home of Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda. You will take a brief tour around the town before retiring to your accommodation.

Accommodation:

- Budget:** Hotel Lapalme (<https://lapalmehotel.net/>)
Mid Range: Mt. Gorilla view Hotel (<http://3bhotels.com/mountain-gorilla-view-lodge/>)
High End: Five Volcanoes Lodge (<http://www.fivevolcanoesrwanda.com/>)
Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 10: Optional activities in Volcanoes National park

Volcanoes national park offers an array of activities that clients can choose from. These include:

- Gorilla trekking in the park which is another unique experience to encounter the majestic apes.
- Golden Monkey trekking to learn about the exciting and highly sociable but endangered monkey species that inhabit the park.
- Dian Fossey walk to the tomb of the great Gorilla researcher and conservationist who murdered in the jungles of the park in her efforts to protect the Gorillas.
- Mount Bisoke hike; one of the most memorable activities in Rwanda. The top of this Volcano has a spectacular crater lake. It is simply a six (6) hours hike including the two (2) hours descending down to the starting point. Experienced hikers can get to the top of this mountain in a matter of three (3) hours or even less and return to the base in about an hour.

These activities can be booked on prior request and upon availability.

After the activities you shall drive to the border town of Gisenyi and relax at your accommodation on the shores of lake Kivu.

Accommodation:

Budget: Paradis Malahide (<https://www.paradisemalahide.com/>)

Mid range: Hakuna Matata (<http://www.hakunamatatalodge.rw/lodge.html>)

Luxury: Serena Lake Kivu
(<https://www.serenahotels.com/serenalakekivu/en/default.html>)

Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 11: Optional activities near Lake Kivu

This will be your day to relax. However, there are numerous exciting activities you can opt to do on and around Lake Kivu. These include: a 1-hour boat ride on the lake, kayaking, biking along the lake shores or a visit to the fishing village. You will inform our guides prior so that the above activities can be arranged.

Accommodation:

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Mid Range: Hakuna Matata (<http://www.hakunamatatalodge.rw/lodge.html>)

Luxury: Serena Lake Kivu
(<https://www.serenahotels.com/serenalakekivu/en/default.html>)

Meal plan: B, L, D

DAY 12: Return to Kigali, city tour and departure

After breakfast you will drive back to Kigali and take a city tour of Kigali. Visit the Gisozi Genocide memorial. Visit the genocide museum and enjoy a city tour of Kigali. You will also visit a local market in town. After lunch you will be transferred to Kigali airport for your international departure flight.

Meal plan: B, L,

****End Of Services****

Validity 01.01.2021 – 31.12.2021

Cost Includes:

- Accommodation in the mentioned lodges
- An experienced English speaking Safari Guide
- Transportation in 4*4 safari Vehicle.
- Transportation to and fro the areas indicated.
- Fuel and meals as indicated on respective days.
- Game drive fees and all activities indicated in the itinerary.
- All Entrance Fees and relevant government Tax.
- 1 Gorilla trekking permit per person in Bwindi impenetrable national park.
- Mineral Water on the entire Safari.
- Administration fees.

Cost Excludes

- Meals and beverages, other than specified.
- International, regional and local Airfares.
- Airport taxes.
- Passport and visa fees and service charges for obtaining visas.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Gratuities to driver/guides and other conveyance attendants.
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature such drinks, telephone calls ETC
- Personal and baggage insurance.
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above.

Notes on Gorilla tracking

- Gorilla trekking is a strenuous activity and one should be physically fit to enjoy this tour.
- Minimum gorilla tracking age is 15 years.
- Minimum chimpanzee tracking age is 12 years
- Anyone with signs of communicable diseases will NOT be allowed to track.
- While possession of a gorilla permit is a guarantee of trekking and sighting the gorillas, the quality of the gorilla trekking cannot be guaranteed.
- Maximum time allowed with the gorillas will NOT exceed ONE hour.

We strongly recommend the following:

- Rain poncho (lightweight)
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Waterproof trousers
- Sturdy hiking boots
- Leather gardening -type gloves
- Sunscreen.
- Insect repellent and any necessary medications must be brought by you either from your home town or Kampala.
- Still Cameras and Camcorders are allowed, but bring batteries and film from your home town or Kampala.

Bwindi area is located at 1160 - 2607 meters above sea level and is chilly early morning and evening. While trekking, it can rain unexpectedly, hence waterproof clothing is a good essential including zip lock bags for cameras and film. You will also need boots that can cope with some mud

Kindly note that to book Gorilla permits is subject to availability and payment. For cases of lack of availability in a requested Gorilla group, we shall suggest an alternative and communicate any changes in the program.