

13 DAYS - EXPLORE UGANDA SAFARI



The Explore Uganda Safari takes you to one of the very few places to see endangered mountain gorillas, combines primate viewing with a classic savannah safari, gives you a good balance between vehicle, boat and walking activities and not leaving out the excellent birding experience and the scenic beauty.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discover the southern, central, and north-western regions of the Pearl of Africa.
- Unforgettable encounter with the Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and with the chimpanzees in Kibale National Park
- Beautiful hike “across” Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, accompanied by professional guide and armed ranger.
- Game drives and boat cruises in the main national parks of the country: Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls.
- Encounter with white rhinos at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary
- Meet, explore, and learn from the local communities.
- Support sustainable tourism initiatives.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	SCHEDULE /ROUTING	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL PLAN
Day 1	Arrival at Entebbe international airport, meet and greet transfer to the Guest House	Papyrus Guest House	B,B
Day 2	Morning at leisure, have lunch at the Guest House and in the late afternoon head out for Mabamba swamp excursion	Papyrus Guest House	B,L, D
Day 3	Drive to Murchison falls National Park with an enroute visit to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary	Twiga Safari Lodge	B,L,D
Day 4	Morning game drive and afternoon shared boat trip to the bottom of the falls	Twiga Safari Lodge	B,L,D
Day 5	Drive to Kibale Forest National, crater lakes visit/ top of the world hike	Turaco Treetops Lodge	B,L,D
Day 6	AM Chimpanzee tracking and afternoon Bigodi swamp/wetland visit	Turaco Treetops Lodge	B,L,D
Day 7	Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park, evening game drive	Marafiki Safari Lodge	B,L,D
Day 8	AM Game drive and afternoon shared boat trip on Kazinga channel	Marafiki Safari Lodge	B,L,D
Day 9	Drive to Bwindi impenetrable forest Via Ishasha and hike across Bwindi (Buhoma -Nkuringo)	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	B,L,D
Day 10	Gorilla tracking – Nkuringo/Rushaga	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	B,L,D
Day 11	Walk to Rubuguri, lake Mutanda	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla	B,L,D

Nkuringo Safaris, Plot 2, Uringi Crescent, Kiwafu, Entebbe, Uganda

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www.nkuringosafaris.com

	hike and canoe	Lodge	
Day 12	Drive to Lake Mburo National	Mihingo Lodge	B,L,D
Day 13	Morning nature walks and drive back to Entebbe, day room use and dinner at Papyrus Guest House	Day room use at Papyrus Guest House	B,L,D



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DAY 1: ARRIVAL AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT- EBB

Upon arrival as per your international flight details, Clear immigration, collect your luggage with assistance from our airport support who will lead you to arrivals to meet our representative and driver and transfer to the Guest House driving for approx.20mins upon exiting the airport.

- Overnight at Papyrus Guest House <https://papyrusguesthouse.com/>
- Room type – Garden Room
- Meal plan – Bed & Breakfast

DAY 2- DAY IN ENTEBBE – MABAMBA SWAMP EXCURSION.

Spend the morning at Leisure, have lunch at the Guest House and later head out for Mabamba swamp excursion. You depart by car and transfer to the docking point for about 10mins, settle in the speed boat crossing to the swamp(40mins) and then move to a canoe that will comfortably maneuver in the swamp as you search for the rare shoebill and other bird species.

NB, the activity duration ranges from 1-4hours but depends on the day's location of the Shoebill and client's interest in other bird species. (usually takes longer for clients specifically interested in birds)

Mabamba Swamp, one of the best places for spotting rare **shoebill storks** although due to their scarce population, sightings are not guaranteed.

Return to the boat and enjoy a relaxed cruise on Lake Victoria.

- Overnight at Papyrus Guest House
- Room type – Garden Room
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 3: ENTEBBE – ZIWA – MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK- 341KM

Drive to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary (approx.4hours), beautiful stop at local fruit markets, continue to the sanctuary for rhino tracking taking approx. 1-2hours depending on the day's location of the Rhinos. After trekking, have lunch in a local restaurant at the sanctuary and continue to Murchison falls National Park. (Approx.2.5hours)

Upon arrival, visit top of the falls, where clients can either view the falls or take a short hike towards the bottom of the falls for approx.45mins then continue to the lodge driving for approx. 40mins.

Murchison Falls National Park is Located at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley, where the sweeping Bunyoro escarpment tumbles into the vast palm-dotted savannah, the park is bisected by

the **Victoria Nile**. The “mythical” river plunges here for 45m from the rift valley wall thus creating the dramatic Murchison Falls, centre piece of the park and final “event” in an 80km stretch of rapids. The mighty cascade drains the last energies from the river and transforms it into a broad placid stream flowing quietly across the rift valley floor into Lake Albert. This stretch of river provides one of Uganda's most remarkable wildlife spectacles.

- Overnight at Twiga Safari Lodge <https://twigasafarilodge.com/>
- Room type – Thatched cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 4: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

With breakfast in the morning, have an action-packed morning drive exploring the flora and fauna of the park, Watch out for the Albert endemic birds and Rothschild giraffes, buffalos, elephants and if you’re lucky lions and leopards, return to the lodge for lunch and in the afternoon head out for a **shared /scheduled boat trip** to the bottom of the falls scheduled at 14:00 for approx.2-3hours.

The riverbanks often host elephants in the afternoon, crocodiles are monstrous and the waterfalls themselves spectacular. The riverbank is also home to the Red-throated bee-eater, a local endemic to Murchison Falls National Park. Drive back to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

- Overnight at Twiga Safari Lodge-
- Room type – Thatched cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 5: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK – KIBALE FOREST NATIONAL PARK- 440KM- 7HOURS

Drive from Murchison falls National Park to Kibale National Park via the rift valley escarpment road offering spectacular views over lake Albert. Proceed via Hoima, Kyenjojo with an en-route stop over for lunch in fort portal, proceed for the hike to the ‘Top of the World’ to enjoy fantastic views of the Rwenzori Mountains, the crater lakes, the tea plantations, and local villages for approx.2-3hours. After the hike transfer to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

- Overnight at Turaco Treetops Lodge <https://www.turacotreetops.com/>
- Room type – Luxury cottage

- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 6: CHIMPANZEE TRACKING & BIGODI SWAMP EXCURSION -KIBALE FOREST NATIONAL PARK

This morning after breakfast, transfer to the visitor's Information centre (30mins from the camp) for a briefing on the conduct while in the park. After the short briefing and group allocation, start off the trek in search of the chimpanzees accompanied by rangers and guides from Uganda wildlife Authority. The duration of the trek depends on the day's location of the Chimps, but you are allowed 1hour of viewing.

The density and diversity of primates in **Kibale National Park** is the highest in the whole of Africa. The most well-known of its 13 species are the chimpanzees, our closest relative. Kibale's 1450 chimpanzee population of this threatened primate is Uganda's biggest. Additionally, Kibale is home to the uncommon I'Hoest's monkey as well as East Africa's biggest population of the endangered red colobus monkey. The black & white colobus, red tailed monkey, blue monkey, olive baboon, grey cheeked mangabey, bush baby and potto are among the other primates present in the region.

Afternoon excursion to the **Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary**, a great example of a community-based approach to natural resources management which can be of good economic benefit to the local residents living within the area and to the tourism industry. This sanctuary is a paradise for bird watchers - skilled birders can spot up to 50 new species on a bird list. At today 138 species of birds have been recognized within the sanctuary, among which the Great Blue Turaco. Bigodi is also regularly visited by a diverse number of primate species from the nearby national park.

- Overnight at Turaco Treetops Lodge
- Room type – Luxury cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 7: KIBALE FOREST NATIONAL PARK- QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK (QENP) -(3HOURS DRIVE/ 157KM)

Depart Kibale Forest to Queen Elizabeth National Park, lying 1978 sq. km west of Uganda. It harbors a diverse eco-system with a lovely savannah, fertile wetlands making it home for the big game, 10 primate species and many bird species. The drive takes approx. 2-3hours and upon arrival, check in for lunch at the lodge and later head out for a game drive giving an opportunity to look out for

QENP is one of Uganda's oldest parks, being formed officially in 1952. The park was initially known as 'Kazinga National Park' before it was renamed in 1954 to commemorate the visit by Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. QENP hosts 95 species of mammals, more than any other park in Uganda, and 619 bird species, the second highest of any park in Africa – the sixth highest of any park worldwide.

- Overnight at Marafiki Safari Lodge <https://marafikisafaris.com/>
- Room type – Thatched cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 8: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Full day dedicated to game drives in **Queen Elizabeth National Park** and to shared /scheduled boat trip on the **Kazinga Channel** - the 36 km waterway which connects Lake George and Lake Edward, which allows special viewings of game and birds on the riverbanks, as the boat passes through pods of hippos. Crocodiles have only recently been seen in the Channel; they had disappeared for 8,000 years after they were eliminated from Lake Edward by toxic ash from local volcanoes

The boat is scheduled at 14:00 or 16:00 and takes approx.2hours

- Overnight at Marafiki Safari Lodge
- Room type – Thatched cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 9: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK – BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST.

After breakfast you will head for an enroute game With packed lunch proceed via the Ishasha sector to Buhoma with a chance of sighting tree climbing lions. The Ishasha sector is the only other place in the entire world where you will find tree climbing lions apart from Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania. (The drive takes about 4 hours/155 km)

In Buhoma, which is the northern side of the park, you will meet our Nkuringo Walking Safari guide who will walk with you 4/5 hours (13 km) through the forest to Nkuringo, on the southern side via the Ivy River trail,

which is the shortest route. Upon arrival at Nteko Ridge, you meet with the vehicle and drive 7 km to the lodge. Your safari guide will meanwhile drive around to the lodge and will meet you there, so we recommend you pack a little day pack as chances are high that you will arrive before him. A packed lunch will be provided. There is no road through Bwindi so vehicles driving between the two locations have an incredible 170 km bone-jarring journey, taking 5 to 6 hours.

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 is of immense conservation importance. The emphasis of this activity is for your walking guide to share his knowledge of the forest with you, it is not simply an A to B hike. The trail is also an important footpath for local people, particularly on market days, travelling from Nkuringo and Nteko to Buhoma, on the northern boundary of the park. There is no road through Bwindi so vehicles driving between the two locations have an incredible 170 km bone jarring journey taking 5 to 6 hours.

Your arrival in Nkuringo will see you at 2160m above sea level. From the vantage of Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge a 270-degree panorama will hopefully unfold to reveal views of the volcanoes of the Virunga, the western arm of the Great Rift Valley and a huge swathe of primary forest that constitutes the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park

- Overnight at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge <https://www.mountaingorillalodge.com/>
- Room type – Deluxe cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner – Includes all soft drinks, local beers and house wines

DAY 10: GORILLA TRACKING- BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST- NKURINGO/RUSHAGA SECTOR.

After breakfast, at around 7:30 am, with packed lunch and drinking water you will be transferred to the briefing point for the briefing on the dos and the don'ts while with the gorillas. You then continue to the forest for the start of the actual gorilla tracking in a group of 8 participants accompanied by escorts/ guides and rangers from Uganda wildlife Authority.

The duration of the trek is only determined by the location of the primates on the day of tracking, and the time taken to find the gorillas can take from an hour to a full day, after spotting them, spend 1 hour of viewing and hike back, meet the vehicle and drive back to the lodge.

The beauty of this rainforest is spectacular. The area offers a dramatic, steeply forested landscape and is incredibly dense, but crisscrossed by numerous animal trails, allowing access to tourists. The time taken and the terrain vary as per the movements of these great primates. The thrill of spending time observing these gentle and endangered giants is an awesome, exciting experience to be long savoured. Many find it to be a rare and moving opportunity. The tracking can take place at Nkuringo or at Rushaga (1hr drive from Nkuringo), as per the gorilla permits obtained.

Upon return, relax at the lodge and, for those who like, at 5.00 pm either stroll through the community center or drive up to the “Top of the World” - the name given to the football field, high up in Nkuringo which offers amazing views over the peaks and forests around Nkuringo. A great way to stretch your legs after the gorilla tracking and to enjoy a sundowner.

- Overnight at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge
- Room type – Deluxe cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner – Includes all soft drinks, local beers and house wines

DAY 11: LAKE MUTANDA CANOE EXCURSION.

This morning after an early breakfast, drive to Rubuguri Junction (10km) to start a nice **hike across beautiful landscapes and local communities** - a great opportunity to experience authentic village life (9km – 2/3 hours hike). Upon arrival at **Lake Mutanda**, you then “settle” in

a dugout canoe for 1.5-2 hours of gentle relaxed cruising across the lake, enjoying the beautiful panorama, enjoy a picnic lunch and drive back to the lodge.

Of course, you could also drive from the lodge directly to the lake (20k - 90 minutes), enjoy the canoe ride around the lake and drive all the way back to the lodge again. Guests decide!

- Overnight at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge
- Room type – Deluxe cottage
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner – Includes all soft drinks, local beers and house wines

DAY 12: BWINDI – LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK 325 KMS – 5-6 HOURS

After breakfast depart Bwindi through the mountainous hillside of Kigezi region, with glimpse of Lake Bunyonyi famous crater Lake onwards to Lake Mburo National Park with a stop at Igongo Culture Center for a lunch break, after lunch proceed to Lake Mburo National Park for an afternoon boat trip **1-2hour boat ride on Lake Mburo** to admire the beautiful landscapes and in search of close encounters with the local fauna, bushbucks, bush duikers, crocodiles, hippos, plenty of water birds, etc. return to the lodge with enroute game viewing.

- Overnight at Mihingo Lodge <https://mihingolodge.com/>
- Room type – Luxury Safari tent
- Meal plan – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner - All Drinks excluded

DAY 13: LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK -ENTEBBE- 5HOURS

After breakfast, enjoy a guided nature walk in the park. The walk will take you to the salt lick area, where the chances are high that you will find many animals that are attracted to the salty rocks. The walk starts at 7:00 am and this walk takes approximately 2 hours of being taken up by nature, and in the two hours that are given to

this activity, you get an opportunity to see many wildlife species that are found inhabiting the premises of Lake Mburo National Park.

After the activity, return to Entebbe. The anticipated driving time is 5 hours on the road. En route, you will pass the equator, where a coffee break can be taken and possibly the picnic lunch provided by the lodge. Upon arrival, check in at Papyrus Guest House for a day room use, freshen up and later transfer to the airport to fly out.

RATES IN USD PER PERSON SHARING IN A TWIN /DOUBLE

VALIDITY 01.01.26 – 31.12.26.

NET RATES IN USD PER PERSON SHARING IN TWIN/ DOUBLE ROOM						
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	HIGH SEASON (January, February, June, July, August, September, December)			LOW SEASON (March, April, May, October, November)		
	SAFARI ARRANGEMENT	PERMITS & PARK FEES	TOTAL COST	SAFARI ARRANGEMENT	PERMITS & PARK FEES	TOTAL COST
2Px	\$6232	\$1310	\$7542	\$5668	\$1310	\$6978
4pax	\$5233	\$1310	\$6543	\$4665	\$1310	\$5975
6pax	\$4900	\$1310	\$6210	\$4330	\$1310	\$5640
Single Room supplement	\$923			\$815		

Supplement for a French Speaking guide - \$650 per vehicle per trip (maximum 6pax)

Inclusions

- Accommodation and meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Drinking water in the vehicle (1litre per person per day)
- All the excursions and activities indicated in the itinerary under the supervision of an experienced English -speaking guide
- Private 4x4 vehicle with experienced French-speaking driver-guide, from day 3 to day 13
- 1 Gorilla permit, 1 Chimpanzee permit Kibale and park fees per person.
- Laundry Services and drinks at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge.
- AMREF Evacuation Insurance cover
- Government taxes

Exclusions

- Uganda Entry Visa fee
- International air flights
- Any optional activity not indicated in above program.
- Laundry Services in all other lodges except Nkuringo
- Items of personal nature.
- Gratuities and Tips

TOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A 30% deposit of the total tour price will be required to secure a booking, the balance being due 45 days before the tour departure date.

Bookings not secured by the appropriate deposit will be released.

Cancellation between 90 and 45 days of tour departure will incur a 30% of tour price penalty charge. Confirmed bookings cancelled within 45 days of the tour departure date or no show will incur 100% of tour price penalty charge.

Availability of accommodation and activities is not guaranteed; reservations will be made after receiving confirmation of the final itinerary and the payment of the requested deposit. Should any of the quoted accommodations not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative suitable option, which might affect the final quoted price.

All clients who participate in this tour must be adequately covered by **medical insurance** as well as **travel insurance** to protect them in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Rates specified for this tour are subject to change without notice, however every effort will be made to maintain them. In the event of any change of Government taxes or operating conditions that affect the rates we reserve the right to pass on these charges

*** UGANDA GORILLA & CHIMP PERMIT CANCELLATION
POLICY**

(Different and separate from the tour cancellation policy)

Gorilla and Chimpanzee Permits will be guaranteed ONLY upon receipt of the deposit (**US\$1050** for both permits in 2025/2026) since we need to immediately pay Uganda Wildlife Authority Offices to secure the permits.

Cancellations received on full payment:

- More than 90 days before the tracking date, 25% cancellation fee
- 89 to 46 days before the tracking date, 50% cancellation fee
- 45 to 9 days before the tracking date, 75% cancellation fee
- 8 to 0 days before the tracking date, 100% cancellation fee

Important: the minimum age required for gorilla tracking is 15 years whereas for the chimps the minimum age required is 12 years; in case of flu or of any other Airborne disease the visitor will be not allowed to meet with the gorillas or the chimps.