



FACT SHEET

LOCATION

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is located on the Nteko Ridge overlooking Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Perched at an altitude of 2161 m a.s.l. it is totally mosquito free and it enjoys superb views of the forested hill locally known as 'Nkuringo', the Kashasha River Valley, the magnificent Virunga Volcanoes, the world-renowned Bwindi forest and the Great Albertine Rift Valley.

GPS Coordinates: S 01° 05' 05" E 29° 37' 52"

ACCESSIBILITY

By Road: Nkuringo is approximately 550km (8-9 hours) from Kampala, on a tarmac road - crossing the Equator; 35km (1 ½ hours by 4x4) from Kisoro, on an unpaved road; 170km (5-6 hours – including border crossing) from Kigali via Kisoro.

By Air: daily scheduled flights (Aerolink) from Entebbe Airport leave at 7:30am and arrive in Kisoro Airstrip at 9am; from Kisoro flights leave at 9am and land in Entebbe at 11:30am – Private charters can be arranged.

Closest International Airports: Entebbe (Uganda) and Kigali (Rwanda) - with many airlines combining Kigali and Entebbe, clients can also consider arrival in one airport and departure from the other (East African visa can be applied for online).

On foot with Nkuringo Walking Safaris, for those who like to experience nature and local culture: when coming from or going to Queen Elizabeth National Park, one can avoid the 6-7 hour drive around the forest and reach Nkuringo on foot crossing the magnificent Impenetrable Bwindi Forest (4-6 hours from Buhoma on clearly marked trails); when coming from or going to Kisoro, one can walk along some beautiful trails through local villages and by dug-out canoes across Lake Mutanda – always accompanied by a professional guide.

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge and Nkuringo Walking Safaris can provide assistance in organizing and tailor-making any travel arrangement in Uganda and East Africa.

We also have a sister hotel in Entebbe, our beautiful **Papyrus Guest House**, which is the ideal base before and after your safari.

WEATHER

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is open throughout the year.

Sitting almost on the Equator, the climate is wet yet mild, with consistent temperatures year-long (around 23-24°C during the day and 7-11°C at night). The altitude in Bwindi region varies from 1150 to 2600m therefore there can be wide climatic variations within the park. Rain can happen anytime as there is no real dry season, however in general the period of lesser rainfall is **June-July** and **December-February**. **April-May** (short rains) and **October-November** (long rains) is when the rainfall is highest. The total annual rainfall is 2390mm. June and July are the cooler months.

It is recommended to always pack waterproof clothing and good hiking shoes suitable for walking wet forest trails. **April, May and November are Low Season and visitors get discounted rates for gorilla and chimps permits.**

THE LODGE

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge, has organically grown over the years from a campsite in 2007 to a fully-fledged lodge, offering eco-friendly accommodation and operating as a Carbon Neutral Lodge.

Named Uganda's leading Safari Lodge at the World Travel Awards in 2016, Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is one of the best accommodations available near Bwindi National Park.

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge prides itself on its **green credentials**, being one of only two venues in the entire country operating with a carbon neutral footprint. We work through the Uganda Carbon Bureau to offset our carbon footprint. Electricity is provided almost entirely by solar panels and is supported by a generator only when necessary. Our rainwater harvesting system allows us to be fully independent during the rainy season and for part of the drier period.

One of the initiatives started by Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is the planting of indigenous trees in Nkuringo to support our eco-system, to promote conservation and reforestation in the area. Clients staying with us, can adopt a tree for USD 20 and they will receive regular updates about their adopted tree.

ROOMS

Guests at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge stay in individually hand-crafted rooms or cottages, each offering the tranquility of the rain forest, the atmosphere of a mountain chalet and the warm hospitality Ugandans are known for.

When you stay with us, you become family.

There are **6 Virunga Terrace Rooms, 4 Cottages** and **4 Villas made up of 2 interconnecting superior cottages** – each room is solar powered and can offer twin beds or a double bed.

Room Facilities: ensuite bathroom, private veranda, safe box, complimentary drinking water, shampoo and hair conditioner, hairdryer (provided on request), hot water bottle in the bed in the evening, fire-place (cottages and villa only), daily housekeeping service, extra bed and baby cots, tea and coffee brought to your room.

The Virunga Terrace Rooms are slightly smaller (23 sqm + veranda) than the cottages (27 sqm + veranda), host maximum 2 people and their back windows overlook the Virunga Volcanoes - great value for money.

Each cottage is individually designed, can become a triple, has a spacious wooden veranda and enjoys a more private location in the garden.

The Villas or 2-in-1 family cottages are secluded from the other rooms and the main area, they command great views of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and can be used for a family (there are interconnecting doors) or as two separate private cottages – each room is 36 sqm and can host up to 3 people.

Lodge facilities: a cozy restaurant serving home-made meals and freshly baked bread, a bar, a coffee-shop with an amazing view, outdoor and indoor lounges, free tea and coffee at the restaurant, in-house craft shop, massage parlour, complimentary Wi-Fi in the main area, 24-hour security, Excursion Desk, major credit cards accepted (Visa, MasterCard, Amex).

Children are welcome (babysitting services available at the lodge at no extra cost)

Total capacity: max 48 guests in 18 rooms

GENERAL

Check-in: after 12.30pm

Check-out: before 10.00am

Telephone & Wi-fi: the telephone signal is available and free Wi-Fi is provided in the main area

Voltage 220V – UK Outlet: recharging station in the main area

Water: water comes from rainwater collection or, in the dry season, is carried from the Kashasha River by lorries; bottled water is provided in the rooms and is available at the bar.

ACTIVITIES

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is the ideal starting point for gorilla tracking and many interesting guided activities :

- Gorilla Tracking – access to 7 habituated gorilla families (56 gorilla permits per day) and to a gorilla family under habituation (4 permits per day) – min age 15 years
- Community Walks, including local markets, coffee and tea plantation tours, schools etc
- Nature Walks
- Encounter with the Batwa people - hunter-gatherers originally living in Bwindi forest
- Birding in Bwindi Forest, Nombe and Buniga pocket forests
- Hiking in Bwindi National Park
- Excursions in dug-out canoes on Lake Mutanda
- Ascents of the Virunga volcanoes

Unique Attractions

- The lodge provides a prime access point to the world-renowned Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home to half of the remaining endangered **Mountain Gorillas** – the lodge basically sits on the south-west buffer zone of the park and the Uganda Wildlife Authority Office is within a 5-minute walk.
This section of the forest is home to the Nkuringo gorilla groups (2 habituated families) and the Rushaga gorilla groups (5 habituated families + 1 family under habituation); to Rushaga starting point it is a 45-minute drive.
- Bwindi is most certainly one of the best **birding** locations in East Africa: 350 species recorded, of which 23 endemics (90% are Albertine endemics). There is also the pocket forest of Nombe, 5km from the lodge.
- The Buniga pocket forest is interesting for its diverse bird life (over 100 species identified) and the presence of mammals like duikers, black & white colobus monkeys, chimps etc. The forest also provides the means for **the Batwa** people to re-enact and explain their hunter-gatherer life before they were forced out of Bwindi in 1991. They are one of the most ancient tribes who roamed Equatorial Africa and this activity helps them to preserve their heritage and to earn a much needed income from their culture. (70% of the fee paid goes to the foundation which operates local community conservation and development projects; the other 30% goes to the Kisoro Local Government, owner of the forest).

COMMUNITY SOCIAL RESPONSABILITY

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge works in partnership with the **Nkuringo Youth Initiative Foundation** to bring about sustainable development through the facilitation of local skills.

Realising that alternative *community local initiatives* can actually transform the future outlook for the young generations, the Nkuringo Youth Initiative Foundation was founded in November 2007 to champion the implementation of such *community local initiatives* to promote rural development and to use *eco-tourism* as a means to help the community members to bring about progress to the villages and themselves.

Nkuringo Youth Initiative Foundation is a fully registered Community Based Organization (CBO) - Registration No. DCGS/398/2010.

Vision: self-empowered and responsible youth, utilizing the resources around them to build their communities.

Goal: to promote, engage and inspire the youth; mostly the vulnerable and disadvantaged so that they may earn a minimal income and have access to basic services through the following programs: Environmental and Community Sensitization Programs, Primary Health Care and Family Planning, Agricultural Projects and Local Skills Development to enable them to live dignified lives. Under our Local Skills Development Programmes we are running the Bee Keeping project, the Oyster Mushrooms Project, Tailoring Classes and also Tea and Coffee Plantations Tours.

We believe the best reward in travel is 'giving back'. Responsible Travel is becoming a niche and if you wish to tap into this, we are keen to partner with you in promoting sustainable tourism. We have a wide range of activities that guests may take part in whilst on safari – please ask us for more details.

RESERVATIONS

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodges

Plot 2 Uringi Crescent, Upper Kiwafu - Entebbe – Uganda

Tel +256 787 778424, +256 702 805580, Mob. +256 774 805580

Email: bwindi@nkuringolodges.com

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Fact Sheet

LOCATION

Papyrus Guest House is located in Upper Kiwafu, a residential area of Entebbe, only a short drive from the international airport and Lake Victoria.

Set in a private garden in an uptown neighborhood, it is a peaceful and much welcomed sanctuary away from bustling Kampala city.

GPS Coordinates: N 00° 04' 10" E 32° 27' 38"

ACCESSIBILITY

By Road: Papyrus Guest House is approximately 5km (10 minutes) from Entebbe International Airport and 40km (1 hour) from Kampala, on a tarmac road.

International airlines flying to Entebbe International airport (situation at Feb 2017): Brussels Airlines (SN), Emirates (EK), Ethiopian Airlines (ET), Kenya Airways (KQ), KLM (KL), Precision Air, Qatar Airways (QR), Rwandair (WB), South African Airways (SA), Turkish Airline (TK).

Regional airlines flying to Entebbe: Precision Air (PW), Auric Air (UI), Rwandair (WB)

Complimentary airport pick-up and drop-offs and boarding-pass printing service are included for all our guests.

Papyrus Guest House and Nkuringo Walking Safaris can provide assistance in organising and tailor-making any travel arrangement in Uganda and East Africa.

We also have a sister hotel in **Bwindi**, our beloved **Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge**, the ideal base for gorilla tracking and for exploring this exceptional area of the country and of East Africa.

WEATHER

Papyrus Guest House is open throughout the year.

Sitting almost on the Equator, the climate is very pleasant and consistent throughout the year, with temperature and humidity greatly mitigated by the altitude of 1180 m a.s.l. - 25-27°C during the day and 16-18°C at night; standard humidity 75-80%.

On average the warmest month is January while the coolest is August. Rain can happen any time, however most rainfall is in April-May and November-December; the wettest month being April and the driest being July. It is recommended to always pack waterproof clothing.

April, May and November are Low Season and visitors get discounted rates for gorilla and chimps permits.

THE GUEST HOUSE

Papyrus Guest House opened its doors in September 2014 out of the desire to meet the growing demands from clients staying in our sister lodge in Bwindi who also necessitated accommodation in Entebbe. We felt the need to guarantee a personalised service from arrival to departure!

Offering all the amenities of a small and charming guest house, Papyrus has quickly acquired the reputation of a home away from home. When staying with us, guests find the comforts of a modern home in a traditional setting, always accompanied by the dedication and warm hospitality Ugandans are known for.

Whether it is for a few days stay or just for a few hours, the staff will cater for all your needs so as to help you enjoy a relaxing break or a very active holiday.

ROOMS

Guests at Papyrus Guest House stay in **15 individually hand-crafted rooms**: 6 are located in the main house while 9 are located in the garden and are a bit more secluded. Double rooms can offer twin beds or a double bed, some rooms can become triples while three rooms are just for single occupancy – we try to satisfy all individual needs.

The Room names may sound complicated upon arrival in Uganda but they are no longer so upon departure, they are in fact derived from the popular gorilla families in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, in honour of this incredible and rare experience available in our country.

Room Facilities: ensuite bathroom with shower (24h hot water), fan, mosquito nets, spacious beds and high quality mattresses, safe box, 1 complimentary bottle of water per day, shampoo, hair conditioner and body cream, hairdryer (provided on request), daily housekeeping service, private veranda (garden rooms only), extra bed and baby cots, tea and coffee brought to your room. Room size vary as per the room typology.

Lodge facilities: a cosy restaurant serving home-made meals and freshly baked bread, a bar, outdoor and indoor lounges, TV with 50x DSTV channels in the lounge, complimentary tea and coffee, in-house craft shop, complimentary wi-fi in the main area, laundry service, 24-hour security, Excursion Desk, major credit cards accepted (Visa, MasterCard, Amex). Children are welcome.

Total capacity: max 30 guests in 15 rooms

GENERAL

Check-in: after 12.30pm

Check-out: before 10.00am

Telephone & Wi-Fi: the telephone signal is available and Wi-Fi is provided free of charge in the main area

Voltage 220V – UK Outlet

ACTIVITIES

Papyrus Guest House is the ideal stop-over upon arrival in Uganda or at the end of a safari. When staying with us even the “forced” stay due to flight connections actually becomes an unexpected highlight of your holiday. The central location of the Guest House allows for some very interesting guided activities, all reached within reasonable time:

- **Mabamba Swamps** in Lake Victoria, one of the best places in Uganda to spot the highly sought-after and rare **shoebill** in its natural habitat and to enjoy **excellent birdwatching** (more than 260 identified species) – by car to the harbor then by boat and dug-out canoe, duration 3-4 hrs
- **Sunset cruise on Lake Victoria** - by car to the harbor then by boat or dug-out canoe, duration 2 hrs
- **Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary** in Lake Victoria: home to 49 rescued orphaned chimps, it provides exceptional opportunity to closely observe these fascinating apes in a unique setting. Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWTC), the NGO responsible for all aspects of the sanctuary, is deeply committed to the education of local communities and works in close cooperation with the government and the wildlife authorities in their rescue operations of orphaned and confiscated chimps. While it can't compare to the experience of seeing chimps in the wild, it still makes for a unique excursion and, by participating, you also support the works of the trust. On the island there are also big monitor lizards and abundant birdlife - by speedboat (50 min) or traditional motorized canoe (90 min) from Entebbe docks or by plane from Entebbe airport or Kajansi airstrip (20 min), duration 4-5 hrs
- **Entebbe Botanical Gardens** - laid out on the northern shores of the lake in 1898, they cover an area of 35 hectares and are perfect for a leisurely stroll and for some excellent birdwatching (115 species registered) - watch out for black and white colobus monkeys and for tree squirrels too! At one time there was a collection of 2,500 species of plants of tropical, sub-tropical and warm temperate zones - 10 minutes by car or 30 minutes on foot, duration 2 hrs
- **Bicycle tour** of Entebbe or to Mabamba Swamps
- **Snake park**

Whatever your plans are – just let us know and we can provide almost everything, from a short taxi lift or transfer to a full day excursion led by your personal professional guide.

RESERVATIONS

Papyrus Guest House

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