

Day by day itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Uganda, transfer to the accommodation / visiting Entebbe

Day 2: To Queen Elizabeth National Park/PM Game drive

Day 3: Chimpanzee tracking at Kyambura Gorge & Boat safari in the Afternoon.

Day 4: To Lake Mutanda

Day 5: Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi forest

Day 6: Drive to Lake Mburo/PM Game drive

Day 7: Walking Safari in the Morning/Visit the Equator sign

Day 1: Welcome in Uganda!

Your driver/guide will pick you up from Entebbe airport and transfers you to Karibu Guesthouse, a 10 minute drive. This is where your personal driver/guide will find you tomorrow morning for the start of your tour after a good breakfast. Depending on the time of your arrival, you might be able to explore the area. There are many options in Entebbe and most easily organized through the reception of Guesthouse. For example a visit to the Botanical gardens or the Ugandan Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC). Please note, all activities and transportation for today are at your own cost.

Journey time: 15 minutes

Accommodation: Karibu or Boma Guesthouse

Meal plan: No meals inclusive

Day 2: To Queen Elizabeth National Park

Scenic Queen Elizabeth National Park is located in south western Uganda and this park is more often than not included in visitors' itineraries. And with good reason! It is the second largest park in the country, located at the base of the majestic Rwenzori Mountain range next to Lake Edward and Lake George. These two lakes are joined by the beautiful Kazinga channel. Few reserves in the world have such a high

biodiversity with landscapes including savannah, bushland, wetlands and lush forests.

Marafiki Safari Lodge is set in a unique location and has been designed using local materials fitted by artisans from the local community. This lodge offers private safari tents on raised wooden floors with canvas walls which can be rolled up. You can sit comfortably when watching the savannah plains with breathtaking views across the park, the Rwenzori- and Virunga Mountains. You can experience an African sunrise while getting ready for the day or shower in the moonlight under the stars in your open air en-suite shower. Enjoy delicious meals made with fresh and local produce on the restaurant veranda or next to the campfire. The swimming pool really invites for a refreshing dip in between game drives taking in this perfect Africa safari setting.

Journey time: 8 hours

Accommodation: Marafiki Safari Lodge

Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner

Website: <http://www.marafikisafaris.com/>

Day 3: Queen Elizabeth National Park (Kazinga Channel)

After an early breakfast, you will visit a gem in the far eastern corner of Queen Elizabeth National Park. This gorge is also called the “Valley of Apes” and forms another world on its own. Once drained by River Kayambura it now contains a rich wildlife bio-diversity, including a family of 16 chimpanzees. The view from the top is very impressive as you look down a gorge filled with lush green tropical vegetation amidst an impressive valley. A hike through the gorge gives you the opportunity to see these chimpanzees as well as other types of primates, including red-tailed monkey, black-and-white colobus, baboons and vervet monkeys. This green-riverine forest also offers shelter to several species of forest birds. Although the chance of spotting chimpanzees is not as high as on an official trekking in Kibale or Budongo forest, this landscape is amongst one of the most impressive in Uganda and therefore absolute worth visiting regardless

After lunch you join a boat safari along the lively Kazinga Channel. You will see a lot of hippos (more than you can possibly imagine) as well as a variety of other animals which come to the waterhole to drink or bathe. You can expect to see buffalo, crocodile, bathing elephant, and a range of beautiful birds. This will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your tour. After the boat-safari you are on a short game drive back to the lodge. Then there is the perfect moment to have a sundowner and look through your pictures of the day before you are called for a well-deserved dinner.

Accommodation: Marafiki Safari Lodge

Meal plan: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4: To Lake Mutanda

Today you drive to Kisoro in the south-western part of Uganda; close to the borders with Rwanda and Congo. You cross a beautiful part of the country often referred to as 'the Switzerland of Africa'. You will see a great country-side, bamboo forest and have great views over the Virunga Mountains.

For lunch you will stop at a local restaurant on the road (lunch is not inclusive).

Mutanda Lake Resort is spectacularly located on a private peninsula stretching into Lake Mutanda. With small islands dotting the surrounding lake and a backdrop of misty volcanoes in nearby Rwanda and DR Congo this setting never fails to impress visitors. The main building where the restaurant is located resembles a Swiss chalet with an African touch, the perfect place to enjoy a sundowner watching otters visiting the shore, or to cuddle up next to the fire place. The cottages are built on a wooden platform, each with private veranda and en-suite bathroom.

From here you will departure tomorrow for the gorilla tracking!

Accommodation: Mutanda Lake Resort

Website: www.mutandalakeresort.com

Meal plan: Breakfast (Marafiki) and dinner (Mutanda Lake Resort)

Day 5: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest – Gorilla Trekking

Today is the big day! Are you ready for an encounter with Bwindi's rare gentle giants?

For most people seeing the Mountain Gorillas is an absolute highlight of their visit to Uganda. This is the day for you to have your very own 'Gorillas in the Mist' moment.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is a very important and famous park as this is where people can visit the home of the critically endangered gorillas. Uganda's oldest and most biologically diverse rainforests lies on the mist-covered hillsides in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Rift Valley. This magnificent forest dates back over 25,000 years, even surviving the last Ice Age (most forests disappeared). Bwindi forest has an incredible diversity of flora and fauna and is the only forest in Africa which can make claim to host both mountain gorillas and chimpanzees. In fact, half the worlds' population of gorillas live here, divided over nine habituated family groups. Also 5 other primate species, 120 species of mammal, over 220 butterflies and 360 birds species call Bwindi Impenetrable Forest their home.

The specific gorillas you will trek belong to one of nine family groups who can tolerate the presence of humans for a daily brief period of time. Your trek will be an exciting (and for some challenging) journey along forested (slippery) slopes, entwined vines, bushes and bamboo before you eventually reach the gentle giants. The time to complete the gorilla trekking can be as little as 2 hours to as much as 7 hours! En-route, your guide points out signs of previous gorilla activity in the form of dung, nest and chewed bamboo shoots. Once the gorilla family is located, you are allowed a maximum of one hour observing them. Always listen to the instructions of the rangers. Coming face-to-face with mountain gorillas is a truly humbling and emotional experience and you will definitely remember this activity the rest of your life

Accommodation: Mutanda Lake Resort

Meal plan: Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner

Day 6: Visit to the equator – Drive to Lake Mburo

Lake Mburo is a small national Park (on the route from Bwindi National Park back to Entebbe) but should certainly not be underestimated. This is the only place in southern Uganda to see zebras and the only park in the country with impalas, slender mongoose and giant bush rats. You can also look for hyenas, leopards, topis, elands and the beautiful Rothschild's giraffes, not to mention the lake itself which is teeming with hippos and crocodiles!. There are a lot of wonderful activities on offer, such as horse-riding, bush walks, boat safari on the lake and a mountain bike safari. It is exciting to approach the wildlife at such close range, especially combining the fresh air with the beautiful scenery of Lake Mburo National Park.

Journey time: 6 hours

Accommodation: Mpogo lodge

Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner

Day 7: Bush walk - Visit to the equator

Lake Mburo National Park is one of the two parks in Uganda where it is permitted to go for a walking safari with an experienced ranger. Early in the morning you go looking for footprints and animal droppings which tell you which animals have been here and how long ago. It is exciting to approach the wildlife at such close range and to breathe in that fresh bush air of the African savannah in the early golden hours.

After breakfast the time has come to head back to Entebbe. Of course you stop at the equator, the best place for your souvenir shopping. Once at our Guest House we will say goodbye to our driver. The lodge will take us in the morning with a shuttle to the airport.

Accommodation: Karibu or Boma Guest house

Meal plan: Breakfast

The cost of this trip will be as stated below;

5 guest +TL= USD 2,880 Per Person sharing

Single supplement fee = USD 230.

Included

- Transport in a 4wd mini bus with pop-up roof for excellent viewing.
- All fuel for the tour;
- English speaking Ugandan guide/driver;
- Accommodation and meals as listed in the program;
- Park-entrance fees according to the program;
- All activities described in the itinerary;
- 1 Gorilla permit per person (à USD 700).
- 1 Chimpanzee permit per person at Kyambura Gorge (USD 50)

Excluded

- International air fares;
- Entry visa Uganda
- Meals that are not part of your accommodation;
- A porter for during the gorilla tracking (someone who carries your daypack);
- Personal (medical/travel) insurance;
- Tips and gratuities to rangers, driver/guide, porter, hotel staff, etc;
- All expenses of personal nature (e.g. drinks, laundry, optional activities, souvenirs .

Accommodation

Accommodation is based on standard double/twin or single rooms in mid-range lodges. All lodges have nice self-contained rooms and are selected by their location and service standards.

We retain the right to substitute the accommodations shown above with suitable accommodations if there is no availability, and we retain the right to run aspects of the itinerary in a reverse direction if necessary.

Driver/Guide

Your guide will be a professional and experienced English speaking Ugandan.

Journey Times

All journey times are close approximations, as you can never quite guarantee what will happen on the African roads... We could be in for a bumpy ride on parts of the route (which adds to the excitement of being on safari!); we may encounter road-works and of course, there are the photo stops. Either way, you can be certain that although you may be seated for long periods at times during the trip, you will be passing some spectacular countryside and there will always be something of interest to see along the way!

Visa Uganda

You can apply for your Ugandan visa online, through the Ugandan E-visa System via the following link: www.visas.immigration.go.ug/

If your visa is approved, you will pay the visa fee of USD 50 for a single Uganda Entry visa (or USD 100 for an East Africa Visa) on arrival at your issued location.

Please always check with your embassy if any different rules apply for your country of residence.