

ULTIMATE UGANDA TOUR – 8 NIGHTS/9 DAYS



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Murchison Falls National Park is the largest protected area in Uganda covering 3,840 sq km. The Victoria Nile divides the park into two almost equal parts. The southern part is mostly covered by dense woodlands and the northern part is mostly covered by green grasslands with scattered acacia trees, borassus palms and riverine woodlands. There is a Ferry that takes visitors from one side to the other. The park derives its name from the Murchison Falls where the mighty River Nile explodes through a narrow gorge and flows down to become a placid river whose banks are thronged with hippos, crocodiles, waterbucks and buffaloes. Wildlife includes lions, Leopards, elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, hartebeests, oribis, Uganda kobs, chimpanzees and many bird species including the rare shoebill.

Kibale National Park (KNP) covers an area of 776 sq kms and is one of the most beautiful and stunning forests in Uganda and worth protecting as it is home to the largest number of Primates in East Africa. These include the endangered chimpanzee, as well as the red colobus monkey and the rare L'Hoest's monkey. The forest has one of the highest diversity and density of primates in Africa totalling 13 species including the black and white colobus, blue monkey and grey-cheeked

mangabey, red tailed monkey, bush babies and pottos. The park also hosts over 325 species of birds including the yellow spotted nicator, yellow rumped tinkerbird, little greenbul, green breasted pitta, African pitta, crowned eagle and the black bee-eater. There are a number of impressive mammals including forest elephants, buffaloes, bush pigs, duikers and bats. A keen observer may see some of the reptiles and amphibians as well as a colourful variety of butterflies.

Queen Elizabeth National Park, at 1,978 sq km Uganda's second largest park, boasts one of the highest biodiversity ratings of any game park or reserve in the world with over 100 mammal species including Lions, Elephants, Chimpanzees and an astounding 606 bird species in her diverse eco-systems from open savannah grasslands to rain forest, making it a world premier safari destination in Africa. The Kazinga Channel, a natural canal that joins Lake Edward and Lake George is one of the parks domineering features and a boat on a cruise on her calm waters brings you abundant birdlife as well the elephants, buffaloes and hundreds of hippos that graze and cool off on its shores. At the adjacent Kyambura Gorge, you can hike the forest valleys and ridges in search of the habituated chimpanzees, man's genetically closest wild animal relative, for an unforgettable encounter.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is situated in south western Uganda, on the edge of the Western Rift Valley (Albertine rift) and is shared by Kanungu, Kabale and Kisoro districts. It is 331 sq km in size and on an altitude range of 1,160 metres (Ishasha gorge) to 2,607 metres (Rwamanyonyi Peak). The annual average temperature range is 7°C to 20°C.

Species Diversity: Bwindi is home to 326 gorillas, almost a half of the world's population of mountain gorillas. There are also 346 species of birds and over 200 species of butterflies. This afro-montane forest has dense understorey of fern, vines and shrubs. About 324 tree species have been recorded here, 10 of which occur nowhere else in Uganda. Bird Watching: Bwindi is the bird watchers haven! It holds 346 species of birds and contains 90% of all Albertine rift endemics, difficult or impossible to see in any other part of East Africa and seven IUCN red data listed species. An experienced bird watcher can identify up to 100 species in a day!

PACKAGE ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN ENTEBBE – KAMPALA

Upon arrival at Entebbe airport, you will be picked up by a company representative and transferred to Kampala for your overnight stay. **Meals : Dinner**

DAY 2: KAMPALA TO ZZIWA RHINO SANCTUARY TO MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK (340KMS / 7HRS)



You will be picked up from place of overnight stay and thereafter proceed to Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary – The Rhino Fund Uganda was started in 1997 and out of this emerged the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, a 7000 hectare piece of suitable land covered by savannah and native woodlands. The Rhino fund aims at re-introducing black and white Rhinos into Uganda's protected areas as well as educating the local communities on endangered Rhinos, poaching and environmental conservation. The Rhino trek takes 1-2 hours and you will get an opportunity of viewing them at close quarters. Have a lunch at the sanctuary thereafter then proceed to your place of overnight stay.

Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast we start the day with a game drive on the northern bank of the Nile, with chances of seeing giraffes, elephants, lions, hartebeest and different species of birds. After Lunch at Paraa Safari Lodge the safari will be continued with a boat cruise on the river Nile for game viewing at close quarters. Upon reaching the bottom of the waterfalls we will depart the boat and climb your way up to the Top of the Falls where you will be rewarded with amazing views of the Nile. Your guide will pick you up from here and take you back to the lodge. The rest of the afternoon can be spent relaxing.



Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4: DRIVE TO KIBALE FOREST NATIONAL PARK (400KM/ 8HRS)

After breakfast you will be transferred to Kibale National park, with lunch in Fortportal town at a local restaurant before proceeding to the park arriving in the evening for relaxation and preparation for your chimp trekking session the next day.

Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5: MORNING CHIMP TRACKING - QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK (180KM / 3HRS)

After breakfast you will transfer to the tracking start point. Following the pre-tracking briefing at 7:30am you walk to the trailhead for the start of an unforgettable adventure –enjoy a guided nature walk in the tropical rainforest in search of the wild chimpanzee, red-tailed monkey, black-and-white colobus monkey and many others. The treks are generally 3-4 hours; expect good sightings of chimps in their natural environment. A maximum of 6 people per group will head out with a forest ranger guide and will be allowed to track chimpanzees. The tracking will include one hour with members of the wild community of chimpanzees that have been habituated. The walk may



also include viewing of other wildlife in the forest under the forest canopy. Spend an unforgettable hour with the chimpanzees watching them as they eat, groom, play, taking care of their young, and go through their daily routine in their natural habitat. After lunch, you will head back to the lodge for lunch thereafter checking out and proceeding to Queen Elizabeth National Park. **Meals : Breakfast & Lunch**

DAY 6: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Rise early at 6:00am and set out for an early morning game drive at the mating ground of the Uganda Kobs. You will search for lions, elephants, buffaloes and other wild animals in their natural habitat before returning for dinner. You will have your breakfast packed for you by your lodge and enjoy it in the amazing wilderness. After lunch at your Lodge, you will take on a scenic boat cruise at 14:00hrs along the Kazinga Channel, a natural and pre-historic canal that joins Lakes Edward and George. 33 kilometres long and 2 to 3 kms at its widest points, the Kazinga channel, formed by tectonic activity millions of years ago during the formation of the rift valleys.

On a scheduled 3 hrs boat ride over a 12 to 14 kms stretch of the channel, guests are almost always guaranteed excellent wildlife sightings including, multitudes of hippopotamus, Nile crocodiles, wallowing buffaloes on its reedy banks,

elephants, multitudes of birds including many endemics as well as hundreds of other plains game that come to it for water all day long. Thereafter head back to the lodge to relax. **Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

DAY 7: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK, ISHASHA SECTOR, DRIVE TO BWINDI (200KM /5HRS) B, L, D

Relaxed breakfast at 7:30am and then head to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park passing via the Ishasha Sector- famously known for the tree climbing lions. Have a picnic lunch before proceeding to Bwindi National Park arriving in the early evening for relaxation at the lodge.

Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



DAY 8: GORILLA TRACKING B, L, D

Arise early today at 6:30am for breakfast and prepare for the highlight of your safari, an unforgettable encounter with the gentle giants of Bwindi! You will be transferred to the national park offices and go through the formalities of track preparation and your guide will brief you on gorilla etiquette.



Tracking the gorillas through the thick undergrowth can be a strenuous task, albeit in the end, a rewarding one. There can be a lot of steep gradients to conquer therefore you need to be relatively fit. Led by a park ranger, the actual trek to the gorillas' resting place can be between 4 – 8 hours. Upon sighting the gorillas, you spend the allowed one hour with them as they go about their daily life; feeding, moving, playing, raising their young and sometimes wrestling by the juveniles – it is a totally unique and unforgettable experience! Please remember to bring your passport for registration, appropriate, water proof hiking boots and a light rain coat. To protect from

stinging nettles, we recommend long pants and long sleeved tops. A pair of old gardening gloves can help grabbing onto the vegetation while most hotels/lodges provide a walking stick that come in very handy especially when hiking downhill. A small waterproof backpack is an excellent idea to carry a light snack, bottled water as well as protection for your camera. Afterwards, you hike back to base from where you will be transferred back to the lodge for a well deserved shower, some time to relax and a great dinner.

Please note that if you need help up the hike there are guides/ porters during the briefing session that can be hired to assist make your tracking easier up hill at an extra USD 20. **Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Day 9: BWINDI NATIONAL PARK – ENTEBBE (570km/ 10hrs)

Breakfast and then transfer back to Kampala with a stopover at the Equator, watch the demonstration of the northern and southern hemisphere thereafter proceed for lunch at Igongo Cultural Museum Restaurant before proceeding to Entebbe. Depending on your flight time, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight back home.

Meals : Breakfast & Lunch

Recommended – if you have an early afternoon flight out of Entebbe – please note that there are flight through Aerolink Uganda departing from Kihikihi at 09:45hrs arriving at Entebbe Airport 11: 25hrs. Option for afternoon flight at 14:05hrs arriving in Entebbe at 15:55hrs.