

# Wildlife And Primates At Murchison Falls & Ngamba Island

## 5 NIGHTS/6 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.

Budongo Forest covers 790 sq km and is one of East Africa's most extensive and ecologically diverse forests. There have been over 465 plant species recorded in this forest the most impressive perhaps being the dense concentration of the buttressed giant mahoganies which are up to 60m tall. Budongo is also home to the biggest chimpanzee population in Uganda harbouring over 800 of these fascinating primates. Other common primates include the red-tailed monkey, blue monkey, and black and white colobus. It has been a research destination for several decades. It is a great birding site with about 366 bird species recorded including 60 west or central African birds only known from less than 5 locations in East Africa and also offering what some have called the single best birding trails in Uganda.

Ngamba Island Chimpanzees Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT), was established in 1998 to care for the orphaned chimpanzees confiscated from poachers by the Uganda Wildlife Authority and other partners. The island is part of the Koome group of islands in Lake Victoria and is approximately 23 km southeast of Entebbe. It consists of approximately 100 acres, 98 of which are forested and separated from the visitor's area by an electric fence. On arrival at the sanctuary you will be welcomed at the visitors centre and given an introductory brief about the Island projects, its history and its residents. Then you will be directed to the raised platforms that run along the edge of the forest enclosures where you can view the chimpanzees from only metres away while they are being fed in 2 sessions, the 11:00am and 14:30pm daily

## 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: (-)**

### 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 7000hectare piece of suitable land covered by savannah and native woodlands. The Rhino fund aims at re introducing black and white Rhinos in to 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: Lunch & Dinner**

### DAY 3: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast at 6:30am and then head to the unexplored area of the national park, and with new game tracks having recently developed you will head out at 7:00am in search of game , look out for chances of seeing giraffes, elephants, lions, hartebeest and different species of birds. Return for relaxation and lunch at the lodge. At 13:00hrs head to the jetty for the boat cruise on the Victoria Nile to the bottom of Murchison Falls at 14:00hrs. This cruise is also a wildlife experience with sightings of wallowing buffaloes, schools of hippopotamus, really



large Nile crocodiles, elephants and plenty of water birds -fish eagles, various storks among others. Dinner and Overnight stay **Meals: Breakfast,Lunch & Dinner**

#### **DAY 4: DELTA CRUISE AND TOP OF FALLS (70KMS / 2HRS)**

After breakfast, embark on a 4-5 hour cruise into the Victoria Nile Delta, a 20 km cruise downstream from the park's headquarters at 7:00am. This is home to a wide variety of wetland and papyrus endemic bird species, including the elusive shoebill stork, this three to five hour cruise offers a unique opportunity to spot rarely found birds and animals such as hippo, elephants and large crocodiles.

Travelling through the center of Murchison Falls National Park, guests can experience the constantly changing scenery of the Nile River as it winds its way to Lake Albert. Have lunch and thereafter transfer to the Top of the falls where the calm Nile perfects its beauty – forcing its mighty self through a narrow 8 meter cleft to fall a distance of about 150 ft in a thunderous roar of white water – absolutely incredible scenery! Thereafter proceeding to the southern part of the park- Budongo Forest. **Meals: Breakfast,Lunch & Dinner**

#### **DAY 5: BUDONGO FOREST TO ENTEBBE (300KMS / 6HRS)**



Breakfast at 7:00am and thereafter attend the briefing session at 7:30am for the trekking. 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 and go out twice a day and 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 canopy of the oldest mahogany trees in East Africa. Thereafter, we head back to the lodge for check out and an early lunch. Post lunch we drive back to Entebbe. Dinner & overnight in Entebbe

**Meals: Breakfast,Lunch & Dinner**

#### **DAY 6 ENTEBBE – NGAMBA ISLAND – AIRPORT**

After your breakfast, you will depart to the jetty for the 45 minutes boat cruise at 9:00am to Ngamba Island arriving in time for the day excursion. Upon arrival at the sanctuary, you will be directed to our visitor's center where you will be given an introduction to the project, its history, our residents and their plight. You will receive an educational orientation by a chimpanzee caregiver and view a feeding of the chimpanzees from the visitors' raised platform area along the edge of the sanctuary fence at 11:00am before having lunch at the Island.

You will return to the main land arriving in time for drop off at the airport for your onward flight back home.

**Meals: Breakfast& Lunch**