

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



12 DAYS - THE BUCKET LIST UGANDA & KENYA EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Bucket List Uganda & Kenya Explorer takes you on a safari adventure to explore the ultimate bucket list wildlife experiences that Kenya and Uganda have to offer. Your safari adventure starts with a scenic drive from Kigali in Rwanda to the ancient Bwindi Forest, an important UNESCO World Heritage Site and Uganda's most famous national park due to the large population of endangered mountain gorillas living in the bamboo forests of its interior. The park is comparatively small, occupying about 330 square kilometers of montane and lowland forests that can be accessed only on hiking trails established at main park entry points linked to the four sectors of the forest, Rushaga, Buhoma, Nkuringo, and Ruhija. Of the close to 1,000 mountain gorillas in this region, about 470 reside in the ancient Bwindi Forest, dating back to the last ice age and providing the backdrop for the 'Bucket List' adventure of tracking mountain gorillas in their natural habitat of dense bamboo thickets with enchanting views of tropical rainforests.

The second part of your safari takes you to the Kibale National Park. Situated in southwest Uganda, near the Rwenzori Mountains, the Kibale National Park was first gazetted as a protected area in 1932 and formally upgraded to national park status in 1993. It covers just 766 square kilometers of tropical forests interspersed with grasslands and represents the second most important bucket list experience Uganda has to offer, next to visiting the 'Gorilla Kingdom' in the ancient Bwindi Forest. Known also as the 'Empire of the Chimps', the Kibale Forest allows you to visit habituated chimpanzee troops in their natural habitat while enjoying sensational views of evergreen tropical rainforests. Of the more than 5,000 chimpanzees living in various forest reserves around Uganda, 1,400 live in the Kibale Forest, representing the highest concentration of primates anywhere in the world.

The third part of your safari takes you on an exhilarating white water rafting safari to the city of Jinja, located in eastern Uganda on the shores of Lake Victoria at the 'Source of the Nile'. Jinja is also the

starting point of the river's 6,650 km journey to the Mediterranean Sea. Jinja is known as the 'Adventure Capital of Uganda' due to its tourism developments, and a variety of exciting activities awaits the international traveler, such as white water rafting with Adrift, a popular and respected adventure operator with over 30 years of worldwide rafting experience. Other activities to explore include bungee jumping over the Nile River, horse riding safaris, quad biking, and sport fishing. Walking tours along the Nile and extensive boat tours present further exciting opportunities to discover exotic tropical bird species, such as the Ross and blue turacos, hawks, and fish eagles, or observe giant otters, and monitor lizards in the waters of the river, and even meet face-to-face with the largest crocs in the world.

The next part of your safari takes you to the Mara National Reserve, Kenya. The Mara, better known as the Maasai Mara, is the equivalent of the Serengeti in Tanzania, straddling the same migration paths that millions of wildlife traverse yearly during 'The Great Migration'. This provides the backdrop for the world's largest seasonal animal migration with 1.5 million wildebeest, the largest population of big mammals still roaming the planet, 500,000 Thompson's gazelle, 250,000 zebra, followed by 20,000 eland trekking north across the Serengeti to the plains of the Mara at the beginning of the dry season. The Maasai Mara is not just a natural wonder but also a testament to the successful conservation efforts of the Maasai people and various organizations.

To reach their objective, the animals must cross two major rivers, the Grumeti River and the Mara River, on the border between Kenya and Tanzania, where more than 3,000 crocodiles are waiting for the herds to appear and their attempt to swim across the river. Add to that 3,000 lions, the largest concentration of big cats in the world, now living in the larger Serengeti ecosystem, which means that about 20% of the animals that make up 'The Great Migration' do not survive the journey one way or back six months later. The sight of the endless stream of animals crossing the rivers represents a well-established attraction for tourists and is a natural spectacle, unlike anything the international traveler can expect to experience in this world.



The last part of your safari takes you to the Ol Pejeta and Loisaba Wildlife Conservancies, near the Mount Kenya National Park. Mount Kenya NP was first listed as a Forest Reserve in 1949 and was gazetted as a national park in 1968 to protect its unique montane landscapes, wildlife, and surrounding environments. The British explorer Joseph Thompson is again credited with officially verifying the existence of the mountain in 1883 and climbed part of it in the process. Thompson was also the first to climb the Aberdare mountain range and Mount Elgon in neighboring Uganda during the same year of extensive explorations. Mount Kenya is an ancient extinct volcano that stands at 5,199 meters and is the second-highest mountain in Africa after Mt. Kilimanjaro. The park covers 715 square kilometers of montane landscapes and features a dozen glaciers, all receding rapidly, with four secondary peaks surrounding the glacial valleys.

Today, the area below the actual national park is known as the Laikipia Plateau and offers wildlife experiences that are truly unique to this particular region of Kenya. These experiences are especially notable in the rhino conservation efforts of various privately owned and managed wildlife farms. These conservancies, situated adjacent to the Mount Kenya National Park, offer a different perspective on wildlife conservation and should be considered for further exploration during your stay in this region.

Ol Pejeta Conservancy: Located on the Laikipia Plateau, this conservancy is not just one of the largest black rhino sanctuaries in East Africa. It's a beacon of hope, home to two of the world's last remaining northern white rhinos and the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees in a sanctuary established to rehabilitate animals rescued from the black market. But its mission goes beyond wildlife. It's about supporting the people living in its vicinity, ensuring that wildlife conservation translates to better education, healthcare, and infrastructure for the next generation of wildlife guardians.

Loisaba Wildlife Conservancy: Loisaba is a 58,000-acre wildlife conservancy and working ranch located on the Laikipia Plateau. Two

permanent rivers and abundant springs make Loisaba attractive to wildlife throughout the year. The conservancy is a haven for more than 260 species of tropical birds and 50 species of mammals, with three lion prides and numerous leopards and cheetahs. Alongside the more common wildlife, the conservancy provides habitat and a migration corridor for 800 elephants, large herds of buffalo, dozens of the endangered Grevy's zebra, towers of reticulated giraffes, and the greater kudu.

- ❑ **Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**
Arrival and scenic drive to the Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
Transfer Route *Rwanda to Uganda.*
- ❑ **Day 02 - Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**
Gorilla Tracking in the Bwindi Forest. *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail.*
Activity Options *Gorilla Habituation Experience • Explore Bwindi Forest Trails.*
- ❑ **Day 03 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Kibale National Park.**
Scenic drive to the Kibale National Park. *Crater Lakes Hike.*
- ❑ **Day 04 - Kibale National Park.**
Chimpanzee Tracking in the Kibale Forest.
Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary.
Activity Options *Chimpanzee Habituation Experience.*
- ❑ **Day 05 - Kibale NP to Jinja.**
Transfer to Jinja, the Source of the Nile.
- ❑ **Day 06 - Jinja.**
White Water Rafting and *Source of the Nile Cruise.*
Activity Options *Horseback Safari.*
- ❑ **Day 07 - Jinja to Mara National Reserve.**
Transfer to the Mara National Reserve.
Transfer Route *Uganda to Kenya.*





- ❑ **Day 08 - Mara National Reserve.**
Game Drive and *Nature Walk* in the Mara NR.
 Activity Options *Hot Air Balloon Safari*.
- ❑ **Day 09 - Mara National Reserve.**
Game Drive, *Bush Breakfast* and *Explore Maasai Boma*.
- ❑ **Day 10 - Mara NR to Mount Kenya National Park.**
 Scenic drive to the Mount Kenya NP. *Visit Lake Nakuru*.
- ❑ **Day 11 - Mount Kenya National Park.**
Game Drive in the Loisaba WC and *Ol Pejeta Rhino Explorer*.
- ❑ **Day 12 - Mount Kenya NP to Departure from Nairobi.**
 Return drive to Nairobi. Airport transfer and departure from Nairobi.
- ❑ **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price**
 Bwindi Impenetrable NP - *Gorilla Tracking Permit*.
 Bwindi Impenetrable NP - *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail*.
 Kibale NP - *Crater Lakes Hike*.
 Kibale NP - *Chimpanzee Tracking Permit*.
 Kibale NP - *Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary*.
 Jinja - *White Water Rafting*.
 Jinja - *Source of the Nile Cruise*.
 Mara NR - *Game Drives x 2*.
 Mara NR - *Nature Walk*.
 Mara NR - *Bush Breakfast*.
 Mara NR - *Explore Maasai Boma*.
 Lake Nakuru NP - *Visit Lake Nakuru*.
 Mount Kenya NP - *Game Drive*.
 Mount Kenya NP - *Ol Pejeta Rhino Explorer*.
 Scheduled charter flights listed in the itinerary.
 English-speaking driver and tour guide.
 Road transfers with 4 x 4 safari vehicles, including fuel.
 National park and conservation fees listed in this itinerary.
 Gorilla, chimp and other wildlife permits listed in this itinerary.

Meals as specified in this itinerary and mineral water.
 Meal plan index: BB-Bed & Breakfast, HB-Half Board, FB-Full Board.

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 - 02 2 nights @ Gorilla Valley Lodge - FB.
Day 03 - 04 2 nights @ Kibale Forest Camp - FB.
Day 05 - 06 2 nights @ Adrift River Club - FB.
Day 07 - 09 3 nights @ Sarova Mara Game Camp - FB.
Day 10 - 11 2 nights @ Sweetwaters Serena Camp - FB.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 - 02 2 nights @ Bwindi Lodge - FB.
Day 03 - 04 2 nights @ Kibale Lodge - FB.
Day 05 - 06 2 nights @ Wildwaters Lodge - FB.
Day 07 - 09 3 nights @ Elewana Sand River Mara Camp - FB.
Day 10 - 11 2 nights @ Elewana Loisaba Star Beds - FB.

❑ Safari Activities & Services Not Included In Safari Price

Cost of international/local flights not listed in this itinerary.
 Cost of mandatory visas and health certificates.
 A valid **Yellow Fever** certificate is mandatory for Uganda and Kenya.
 A **Tourist Visa** for Uganda can be obtained online here:
<https://visas.immigration.go.ug/#/help/visa>
 A **Tourist Visa** for Kenya can be obtained online here:
<https://evisa.go.ke/>
 Cost of medical, travel, and any other personal insurance.
 Cost of personal expenditures such as gratuities and tips.
 Cost of hotels and lodges listed as **Lodge Options** in this itinerary.
 Cost of activities listed as **Activity Options** in this itinerary.

SAFARI PRICE OPTIONS

Our tours include all major activities, park and conservation fees, permits required for viewing gorillas, chimpanzees, and other wild-life, and a full-board meal plan as specified. The group price options in the following tables are based on high-season hotel/lodge rates and may be subject to change without prior notice.





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Other hotel/lodge options are listed in the **Detailed Safari Program** below in this document. Please ask our reservations staff for additional lodge options and available activity rates by location and based on your specific requirements. All prices listed here are **Per Person Sharing in a Double / Twin Room**, and **Single Traveler Supplements** are available on request:

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Price Per Person Sharing (PPS) in a Double / Twin Room

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 8,859
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 8,127
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 7,761
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 7,542
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 7,395

4x4 Vehicle Included In Safari Price: 5/7 Seater Safari Land Cruiser

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Price Per Person Sharing (PPS) in a Double / Twin Room

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 19,318
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 18,588
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 18,223
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 18,004
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 17,858

4x4 Vehicle Included In Safari Price: 5/7 Seater Safari Land Cruiser

LONG SAFARI PROGRAM

Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Arriving in Rwanda, your appointed driver/guide will collect you from the Kigali International Airport for a briefing on your upcoming tour and a scenic drive to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda. The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is situated in southwestern Uganda, was first established as a Crown Forest Reserve in 1932, and gazetted as a national park in 1991. The ancient Bwindi Forest is an important UNESCO World Heritage Site and is Uganda's

most famous national park due to the large population of endangered mountain gorillas living in the bamboo forests of its interior. The park is comparatively small, occupying about 330 square kilometers of montane and lowland forests that can be accessed only on hiking trails established at main park entry points linked to the four sectors of the forest, Rushaga, Buhoma, Nkuringo, and Ruhija.

Of the close to 1,000 mountain gorillas in this region, about 470 reside in the ancient Bwindi Forest, dating back to the last ice age and providing the backdrop for the 'Bucket List' adventure of tracking mountain gorillas in their natural habitat of dense bamboo thickets with enchanting views of tropical rainforests. The remaining African mountain gorillas are in three other locations: the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, and the Virunga National Park in the DRC. These three national parks and a string of eight volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and stretching across the borders of the adjacent countries are today known as the Virunga Conservation Area (VCA).

In addition to the famous mountain gorillas, the park features an astonishing variety of flora and fauna, including 120 species of mammals, of which 10 are primates, 350 species of birds, 310 species of butterflies, 27 species of chameleons, geckos, and frogs. The forest is among the most ecologically diverse in East Africa, with more than 1,000 flowering plant species, 200 species of trees, and 104 species of ferns. You also have the opportunity to observe other primates, such as chimps, black and white Colobus monkeys, blue monkeys, and L'Hoest monkeys.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

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Activity Option - Gorilla Habituation Exp.- US \$ 1,500 Per Person

Two types of gorilla tracking permits are available in the ancient Bwindi Forest. The standard permit costs US \$ 800 per person, allowing a larger group of 8 to visit one of 18 habituated gorilla families for 1 to 2 hours. The longer and more exclusive gorilla habituation experience costs US \$ 1,500 per person and allows a smaller group of 4 to join researchers during their visit to one of the gorilla families habituated to human presence for 4 hours.

Activity Option - Explore Batwa Cultural Trail - US \$ 80 Per Person

The Batwa Forest People are an ethnic group with rich and ancient ancestral traditions and rely on the forest, hunting and harvesting wild yams and honey without adversely affecting the area's ecosystem. Exploring the 'Batwa Trail' allows you to join their guides and venture along extensive forest trails to learn about their cultures, traditions, and techniques of surviving in the forest. You will also visit their villages in the forest to observe musical performances and traditional hunting/gathering demonstrations.

Activity Option - Explore Bwindi Forest Trails - US \$ 40 Per Person

Guided hiking through the Bwindi Forest on the many established forest trails is organized by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and features fantastic views of pristine tropical rainforest and enchanting waterfalls. In addition to the famous mountain gorillas, the park features an astonishing variety of flora and fauna, including 120 species of mammals, of which 10 are primates, 350 species of birds, 310 species of butterflies, 27 species of chameleons, geckos, and frogs. The forest is among the most ecologically diverse in East Africa, with more than 1,000 flowering plant species, 200 species of trees, and 104 species of ferns. You also have the opportunity to observe other primates, such as chimps, black and white Colobus monkeys, blue monkeys, and L'Hoest monkeys.

4 Star Lodge Options

Buhoma Lodge

Silverback Lodge

Trackers Lodge

Gorilla Valley Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Bwindi Lodge

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp

□ Day 02 - Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Today, you will go on an exciting *Gorilla Tracking* adventure in the ancient Bwindi Forest, which will be the ultimate highlight of your safari. You will also venture to *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail*, an experience established by the Batwa Forest People of southwestern Uganda to highlight their ancient cultures and traditions. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Buhoma Lodge

Silverback Lodge

Trackers Lodge

Gorilla Valley Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Bwindi Lodge

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp

□ Day 03 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Kibale National Park.

Today you transfer to the Kibale National Park, where you will go on an afternoon *Crater Lakes Hike* upon arrival. Situated in southwest Uganda, near the Rwenzori Mountains, the Kibale National Park was first gazetted as a protected area in 1932 and formally upgraded to national park status in 1993. It covers just 766 square kilometers of tropical forests interspersed with grasslands and represents the second most important bucket list experience Uganda has to offer, next to visiting the 'Gorilla Kingdom' in the ancient Bwindi Forest. Known also as the 'Empire of the Chimps', the Kibale Forest allows you to visit habituated chimpanzee troops in their natural habitat with sensational views of tropical rainforests. Of the more than 5,000 chimpanzees living in various forest reserves around Uganda, 1,400





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live in the Kibale Forest, representing the highest concentration of primates anywhere in the world. Altogether, 13 species of primates have been identified in Kibale National Park. Other primate species you can observe during the daily guided tours to visit the habituated chimp troops include the red colobus monkey, olive baboons, blue monkey, black and white colobus monkey, grey-cheeked Uganda mangabey, and L'Hoest monkey.

Over 60 species of mammals have been identified within Kibale Forest, including the rare forest elephants and buffaloes - both distinctly smaller than their savannah relatives, red and blue duikers, bushbucks, sitatungas - a rare type of swamp antelope, bushpigs, and giant forest hogs. Carnivores in the park include leopards, golden cats, servals, different species of mongooses, and two species of swamp otters. And like the other tropical forests found in various parts of Uganda, Kibale Forest also qualifies as a birder's paradise with more than 325 species of birds classified to date, including the olive long-tailed cuckoo, western tinkerbird, two species of pittas, ground thrush, and the grey parrot.

There are two types of chimp tracking permits available in the Kibale Forest. The regular permit costs US \$ 250 per person, allowing a larger group to visit a habituated chimpanzee troop for 2 to 4 hours. The longer and more exclusive chimpanzee habituation experience costs US \$ 300 per person and allows a smaller group to join researchers during their visit to one of the chimpanzee groups habituated to human presence for 6 to 8 hours.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in Kibale National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Chimpanzee Habituation Exp. - US \$ 300 Per Person

There are two types of chimp tracking permits available in the Kibale Forest. The regular permit costs US \$ 250 per person, allowing a larger group to visit a habituated chimpanzee troop for 2 to 4 hours.

The longer and more exclusive chimpanzee habituation experience costs US \$ 300 per person and allows a smaller group to join researchers during their visit to one of the chimpanzee groups habituated to human presence for 6 to 8 hours.

Activity Option - Crater Lakes Hike - US \$ 30 Per Person

The Crater Lakes region is located between Fort Portal and the Kibale Forest National Park and features dozens of minor and major ancient meteorite impact craters. You will join your tour guide on a hike through the countryside, past crater lakes, and scenic villages where you can meet local people.

Activity Option - Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanct. - US \$ 30 Per Person

The Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary is a community-managed initiative known for its excellent biodiversity. It is also considered a birder's paradise, with over 140 bird species identified. Hiking on forest trails, you can also observe various monkey and primate species, such as red colobus monkeys, black and white colobus monkeys, Uganda mangabey and vervet monkeys, and chimps.

4 Star Lodge Options

Crater Safari Lodge

Chimpundu Lodge

Turaco Treetops

Chimpanzee Forest Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Kibale Lodge

Ndali Lodge

Kyaninga Lodge

Primate Lodge

Day 04 - Kibale National Park.

Today, you will go on an exhilarating **Chimpanzee Tracking** adventure in the Kibale Forest, which will be one of the highlights of your safari. You will also venture to **Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary**, a community-managed initiative known for its excellent biodiversity.





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Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Crater Safari Lodge

Chimpundu Lodge

Turaco Treetops

Chimpanzee Forest Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Kibale Lodge

Ndali Lodge

Kyaninga Lodge

Primate Lodge

☐ Day 05 - Kibale NP to Jinja.

Today, you will transfer to Jinja, which is located in eastern Uganda on the shores of Lake Victoria at the 'Source of the Nile' and is the starting point of the river's 6,650 km journey to the Mediterranean Sea. Jinja was founded in 1907 by the British colonial administration and was previously recognized as the country's industrial capital, which was partly stimulated by the construction of the Owen Falls Dam (Nalubaale Power Station) and its hydroelectric generators in 1947. Which also provided the incentive for further industrial developments and significant advancements in economic growth in the country at large.

Today, Jinja is known as the 'Adventure Capital of Uganda' due to its tourism developments, and a variety of exciting activities awaits the international traveler, such as white water rafting with Adrift, a popular and respected adventure operator with over 30 years of worldwide rafting experience. Other activities to explore include bungee jumping over the Nile River, horse riding safaris, quad biking, and sport fishing. Walking tours along the Nile and extensive boat tours present further exciting opportunities to discover exotic tropical bird species, such as the Ross and blue turacos, hawks, and fish eagles, or observe giant otters, and monitor lizards in the waters

of the river, and even meet face-to-face with the largest crocs in the world. Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in Jinja and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - White Water Rafting - US \$ 140 Per Person

You can choose between full or half-day whitewater rafting adventures. In 1996, the Adrift rafting operations made the first descent of the Nile and introduced whitewater rafting in Uganda as a viable tourism opportunity to a larger global audience.

Activity Option - Nile Bungee Jump - US \$ 110 Per Person

Feel the adrenaline rush as you jump off the Adrift bungee tower overlooking the Kalagala Falls on the mighty River Nile. There is no view and experience quite like this one.

Activity Option - Source of the Nile Cruise - US \$ 40 Per Person

Take a boat cruise upriver with the opportunity to visit the 'Source of the Nile' now at the bottom of the 'Owen Falls Dam' (Nalubaale Power Station).

Activity Option - Horseback Safaris - US \$ 45 Per Person

Our Horseback Safaris along the Nile, which visit local communities along the riverbanks, can accommodate riding groups with mixed experience levels.

Activity Option - Quad Biking - River Nile Safari - US \$ 105 Per Person

Take a quad biking safari along the Nile starting from the Bujagali Falls near Jinja, and go off the beaten track to explore local fishing villages and wildlife along the river's shores.

4 Star Lodge Options

The Kipling Lodge

Adrift River Club

The Haven

Kalagala Tented Camp





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5 Star Lodge Options *Wildwaters Lodge*

□ Day 06 - Jinja.

Today, you will go on a *White Water Rafting* adventure and enjoy a *Source of the Nile Cruise*. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options *The Kipling Lodge* *Adrift River Club* *The Haven* *Kalagala Tented Camp*

5 Star Lodge Options *Wildwaters Lodge*

□ Day 07 - Jinja to Mara National Reserve.

Today, you transfer to the Mara National Reserve. The Mara National Reserve, as its official title goes, was established in 1974; it is located along the border to Tanzania and is commonly known as the Maasai Mara in honor of the ancestral people who inhabit the golden rolling savannahs of these lands. The Maasai people make up tribal communities that span northern, central, and southern Kenya, as well as most of northern Tanzania. The Mara is also the equivalent of the Serengeti in Tanzania, straddling the same migration paths that millions of wildlife traverse yearly during 'The Great Migration'. This provides the backdrop for the world's largest seasonal animal migration with 1,5 million wildebeest, the largest population of big mammals still roaming the planet, 500,000 Thompson's gazelle, 250,000 zebra, followed by 20,000 eland trekking north across the Serengeti to the plains of the Mara at the beginning of the dry season. The Maasai Mara is not just a natural wonder but also a testament to the successful conservation efforts of the Maasai people and various organizations.

To reach their objective, the animals must cross two major rivers, the Grumeti River and the Mara River, on the border between Kenya and Tanzania, where more than 3,000 crocodiles are waiting for the herds to appear and their attempt to swim across the river. Add to that 3,000 lions, the largest concentration of big cats in the world, now living in the larger Serengeti ecosystem, which means that about 20% of the animals that make up 'The Great Migration' do not survive the journey one way or back six months later. The sight of the endless stream of animals crossing the rivers represents a well-established attraction for tourists and is a natural spectacle, unlike anything the international traveler can expect to experience in this world.

The total area that comprises the 'Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem' covers more than 1,500 square kilometers of primarily open grasslands with seasonal rivers established by a semi-arid climate and fringed by the escarpment of the Great Rift Valley. All members of the wildlife 'Big Five', rhinos, elephants, lions, leopards, and buffalos, are present in the park and can be observed all year round in addition to large numbers of hippos and crocs found in the Mara and Talek rivers. The park also features the unique Maasai giraffe. Of the carnivores, the lions are the most dominant and exist in larger numbers here and in the Serengeti than elsewhere in Africa. Spotted hyenas are also common and often compete with the lions for food. Leopards are found wherever there are trees to occupy, with cheetahs roaming the open rolling savannahs, hunting gazelle and wildebeest. In addition, more than 500 species of birds have been recorded in the park, with almost 60 species being raptors. This rich biodiversity is a testament to the reserve's importance in maintaining the region's ecological balance.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in the Mara National Reserve and their cost factor are as follows:





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Activity Option - Nature Walk- US \$ 60 Per Person

You have the additional opportunity to join a guided walking safari, which will provide you with the amazing opportunity to experience the wildlife and landscapes of the Mara National Reserve and its extensive ecosystem up close.

Activity Option - Explore Maasai Boma - US \$ 100 Per Person

You can visit an authentic Maasai village and gain insights into their unique cultures and traditions. A village chief will lead a tour of the Boma and explain how Maasai traditions and lifestyles have remained unchanged for centuries. You also have the opportunity to watch or take part in traditional Maasai dance ceremonies.

4 Star Lodge Options

Sarova Mara Game Camp

Mara Leisure Camp

Mara Sopa Lodge

Naibor Camp

Enkewa Camp

Ilkeliani Camp

Saruni Basecamp Leopard Hill

Lalashe Maasai Mara

Mara Siligi Camp

Ishara Mara

Ashnil Mara Camp

Sekenani Camp Maasai Mara

5 Star Lodge Options

&Beyond Bateleur Camp

&Beyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp

Elewana Elephant Pepper Camp

Elewana Sand River Mara Camp

Angama Mara

Angama Safari Camp

Asilia Rekero Camp

Asilia Naboisho Camp

Asilia Encounter Mara

Sanctuary Olonana Camp

Little Governors Camp

Governors Camp

Olare Mara Kempinski Masai Mara

Fairmont Mara Safari Club

Mara Serena Safari Lodge

JW Marriott Maasai Mara Lodge

Day 08 - Mara National Reserve.

Today, you will go on a **Game Drive** and **Nature Walk** in the Mara NR. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Sarova Mara Game Camp

Mara Leisure Camp

Mara Sopa Lodge

Naibor Camp

Enkewa Camp

Ilkeliani Camp

Saruni Basecamp Leopard Hill

Lalashe Maasai Mara

Mara Siligi Camp

Ishara Mara

Ashnil Mara Camp

Sekenani Camp Maasai Mara

5 Star Lodge Options

&Beyond Bateleur Camp

&Beyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp

Elewana Elephant Pepper Camp

Elewana Sand River Mara Camp

Angama Mara

Angama Safari Camp

Asilia Rekero Camp

Asilia Naboisho Camp

Asilia Encounter Mara





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Sanctuary Olonana Camp
Little Governors Camp
Governors Camp
Olare Mara Kempinski Masai Mara
Fairmont Mara Safari Club
Mara Serena Safari Lodge
JW Marriott Maasai Mara Lodge

□ Day 09 - Mara National Reserve.

Today, you venture on a **Game Drive** in the Mara NR followed by a **Bush Breakfast** and a visit to a **Maasai Boma**. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Sarova Mara Game Camp
Mara Leisure Camp
Mara Sopa Lodge
Naibor Camp
Enkewa Camp
Ilkeliani Camp
Saruni Basecamp Leopard Hill
Lalashe Maasai Mara
Mara Siligi Camp
Ishara Mara
Ashnil Mara Camp
Sekenani Camp Maasai Mara

5 Star Lodge Options

&Beyond Bateleur Camp
&Beyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp
Elewana Elephant Pepper Camp
Elewana Sand River Mara Camp
Angama Mara
Angama Safari Camp
Asilia Rekeru Camp
Asilia Naboisho Camp

Asilia Encounter Mara
Sanctuary Olonana Camp
Little Governors Camp
Governors Camp
Olare Mara Kempinski Masai Mara
Fairmont Mara Safari Club
Mara Serena Safari Lodge
JW Marriott Maasai Mara Lodge

□ Day 10 - Mara NR to Mount Kenya National Park.

Today, you transfer to Mount Kenya National Park, with a stop over at **Lake Nakuru**. This shallow, alkaline soda lake is a natural marvel renowned for the hundreds of thousands of flamingos that grace its shores. Mount Kenya National Park was first listed as a Forest Reserve in 1949 and was gazetted as a national park in 1968 to protect its unique montane landscapes, wildlife, and surrounding environments. The British explorer Joseph Thompson is again credited with officially verifying the existence of the mountain in 1883 and climbed part of it in the process. Thompson was also the first to climb the Aberdare mountain range and Mount Elgon in neighboring Uganda during the same year of extensive explorations. Mount Kenya is an ancient extinct volcano that stands at 5,199 meters and is the second-highest mountain in Africa after Mt. Kilimanjaro. The park covers 715 square kilometers of montane landscapes and features a dozen glaciers, all receding rapidly, with four secondary peaks surrounding the glacial valleys.

The park is a treasure trove of diverse landscapes, from montane forests to highland rivers and moorlands, all surrounded by glaciers, rock, and ice that glisten around the twin peaks of Batian and Nelion. Its afro-alpine flora, including Giant Groundsel and Lobelia and fauna, provide a breathtaking example of ecological and biological evolution in this region. The park's lower elevations are home to a rich variety of wildlife, including rare forest elephants, rhinos, leopards, giant forest hogs, black and white colobus monkeys, buffaloes, forest bongo, elands, and bushbucks. Mount Kenya's recognition as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1978 and the declaration of the com-





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bined national park and surrounding forest reserve as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997 is a testament to its natural beauty and importance.

Today, the area below the actual national park is known as the Laikipia Plateau and offers wildlife experiences that are truly unique to this particular region of Kenya. These experiences are especially notable in the rhino conservation efforts of various privately owned and managed wildlife farms, such as the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, the Borana Wildlife Conservancy, and the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Visiting these locations can be done as part of a full-day game drive:

Ol Pejeta Conservancy: Located on the Laikipia Plateau, this conservancy is not just one of the largest black rhino sanctuaries in East Africa. It's a beacon of hope, home to two of the world's last remaining northern white rhinos and the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees in a sanctuary established to rehabilitate animals rescued from the black market. But its mission goes beyond wildlife. It's about supporting the people living in its vicinity, ensuring that wildlife conservation translates to better education, healthcare, and infrastructure for the next generation of wildlife guardians.

Loisaba Wildlife Conservancy: Loisaba is a 58,000-acre wildlife conservancy and working ranch located on the Laikipia Plateau. Two permanent rivers and abundant springs make Loisaba attractive to wildlife throughout the year. The conservancy is a haven for more than 260 species of tropical birds and 50 species of mammals, with three lion prides and numerous leopards and cheetahs. Alongside the more common wildlife, the conservancy provides habitat and a migration corridor for 800 elephants, large herds of buffalo, dozens of the endangered Grevy's zebra, towers of reticulated giraffes, and the greater kudu.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in Laikipia Plateau and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Ol Pejeta Rhino Explorer - US \$ 80 Per Person

Located on the Laikipia Plateau, this conservancy is not just one of the largest black rhino sanctuaries in East Africa. It's a beacon of hope, home to two of the world's last remaining northern white rhinos and the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees in a sanctuary established to rehabilitate animals rescued from the black market. But its mission goes beyond wildlife. It's about supporting the people living in its vicinity, ensuring that wildlife conservation translates to better education, healthcare, and infrastructure for the next generation of wildlife guardians.

Activity Option - Nature Walk- US \$ 70 Per Person

You have the additional opportunity to join a guided walking safari, which will provide you with the amazing opportunity to experience the wildlife and landscapes of the Mount Kenya National Park and its extensive ecosystem up close.

Activity Option - Explore Maasai Boma - US \$ 100 Per Person

You can visit an authentic Maasai village and gain insights into their unique cultures and traditions. A village chief will lead a tour of the Boma and explain how Maasai traditions and lifestyles have remained unchanged for centuries. You also have the opportunity to watch or take part in traditional Maasai dance ceremonies.

4 Star Lodge Options Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Sweetwaters Serena Camp (near Ol Pejeta)

Ol Pejeta Holiday Villas (near Ol Pejeta)

Sarova Maiyan Hotel (near Ol Pejeta)

5 Star Lodge Options Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Ol Pejeta House

Sanctuary Tambarare

Porini Rhino Camp

Solio Lodge (near Ol Pejeta)

5 Star Lodge Options Loisaba Wildlife Conservancy

Elewana Loisaba Tented Camp

Elewana Loisaba Star Beds





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*Elewana Loisaba Lodo Springs
& Beyond Suyian Lodge (near Loisaba)
Ol Malo Lodge (near Loisaba)
Governor's Mugie Camp (near Loisaba)*

Day 11 - Mount Kenya National Park.

Today, you venture on a **Game Drive** in the Loisaba WC or the **Ol Pejeta Rhino Explorer** in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options Ol Pejeta Conservancy

*Sweetwaters Serena Camp (near Ol Pejeta)
Ol Pejeta Holiday Villas (near Ol Pejeta)
Sarova Maiyan Hotel (near Ol Pejeta)*

5 Star Lodge Options Ol Pejeta Conservancy

*Ol Pejeta House
Sanctuary Tambarare
Porini Rhino Camp
Solio Lodge (near Ol Pejeta)*

5 Star Lodge Options Loisaba Wildlife Conservancy

*Elewana Loisaba Tented Camp
Elewana Loisaba Star Beds
Elewana Loisaba Lodo Springs
& Beyond Suyian Lodge (near Loisaba)
Ol Malo Lodge (near Loisaba)
Governor's Mugie Camp (near Loisaba)*

Day 12 - Mount Kenya NP to Departure from Nairobi.

It is time to say farewell to the mighty Mount Kenya and the rhinos of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy and enjoy a scenic drive back to Nairobi before your driver/guide will transfer you to the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your scheduled departure from Kenya later that day.



With our love for Africa, our knowledgeable team of expert safari consultants is ready to personalize your safari adventure to your travel needs. Curated and delivered with attention to detail, quality, and innovation, promoting sustainable tourism, supporting local communities, and respecting wildlife conservation and the preservation of the environment.

Our comprehensive approach to customized cross-border tour developments means you can enjoy the very best 'Bucket List' experiences East Africa has to offer, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rwenzori mountains to the golden savannahs of the Serengeti and on to the sandy white beaches of Zanzibar and Mombasa. We can provide you with a unique and responsible exploration of the breathtaking vistas along the 'Great Rift Valley'.

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER

Bucket List Adventures Into The Heart Of Africa

BOOKING TERMS

General Terms & Conditions

- The prices stated in this document are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Suitable alternatives will be provided if accommodation and/or activities listed in this document are not available at the time of booking.



- The costs of gorilla permits for Foreign Non-Residents, US \$ 800 per permit and per person, or US \$1,500 per permit and per person for the gorilla habituation experience, and US \$ 250 per chimpanzee permit per person, or US \$ 300 per permit per person for the chimpanzee habituation experience, must be paid together with the 40% tour deposit within 7 days of the tour confirmation.
- According to Uganda Wildlife Authority regulations, the cost for these permits is nonrefundable.
- The single traveler supplement applies to single travelers in groups with a minimum of 3 pax.
- Language-specific tour guides are available on request and against a surcharge.
- A baggage restriction of 15 kg in soft-sided bags applies to chartered flights within East Africa.
- Meal plan index: BB-Bed & Breakfast, HB-Half Board, FB-Full Board.
- Room index: SDR-Standard Double Room, SC-Self Contained, NSC-Non Self Contained.

Payment Terms & Conditions

Tour deposit: 40% of the tour price within 7 days of written tour confirmation.

Gorilla and chimp permits: 100% of the permit fees are required with the 40% tour deposit.

Full balance: 70 days (10 weeks) before the tour start date.

Reservations within 70 days before the tour start date require immediate full prepayment.

Cancellation fees are applicable within the following day ranges:

30 to 15 days before the safari date: 45% cancellation fee

14 to 05 days before the safari date: 75% cancellation fee

04 to 00 days before the safari date: 100% cancellation fee

Changes Without Notice

This document's prices and permit fees are valid for 2024/25 but may be subject to change without prior notice. This applies explicitly to price changes in hotel/lodge rates, vehicle rental fees, gorilla/chimpanzee permit fees, park/conservation fees, government taxes, fuel price/exchange rate fluctuations, and other cost factors beyond our control.

Booking Contact

The Rift Valley Explorer

reservations@theriftvalleyexplorer.com

www.theriftvalleyexplorer.com

Next Pages: Sample Photos 5 Star Lodges Uganda & Kenya





BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



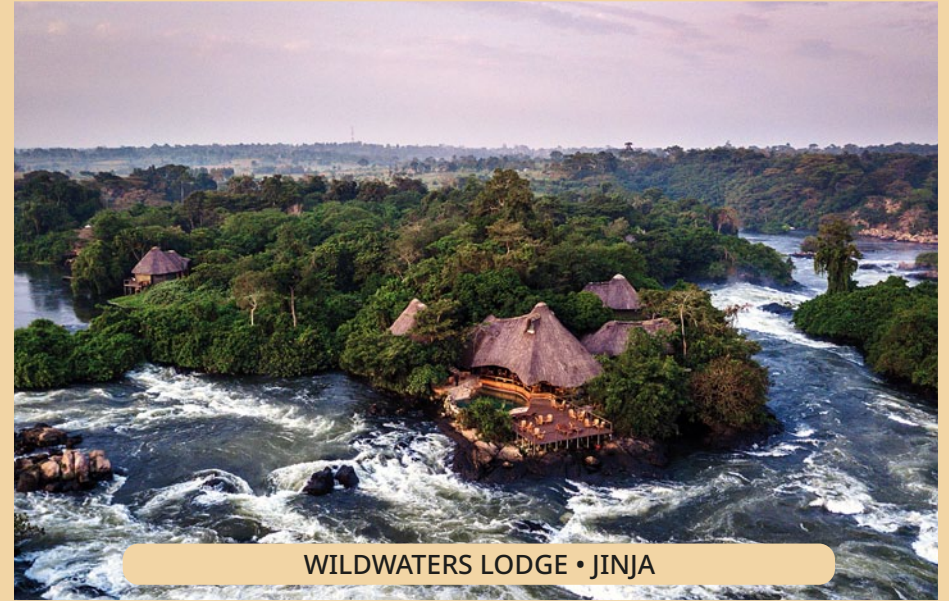
BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



KIBALE LODGE • KIBALE NP



WILDWATERS LODGE • JINJA



KIBALE LODGE • KIBALE NP



WILDWATERS LODGE • JINJA



ELEWANA SAND RIVER MARA CAMP • MARA NR



ELEWANA SAND RIVER MARA CAMP • MARA NR



ELEWANA SAND RIVER MARA CAMP • MARA NR



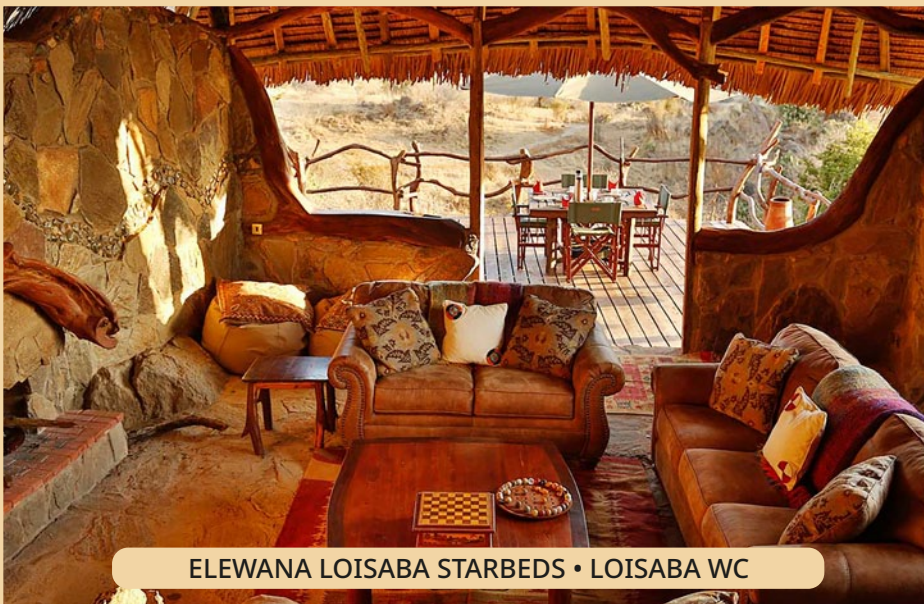
ELEWANA SAND RIVER MARA CAMP • MARA NR



ELEWANA LOISABA STARBEDS • LOISABA WC



ELEWANA LOISABA STARBEDS • LOISABA WC



ELEWANA LOISABA STARBEDS • LOISABA WC



ELEWANA LOISABA STARBEDS • LOISABA WC