

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



5 DAYS - THE RWANDA TO UGANDA GORILLA & LION EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Rwanda to Uganda Gorilla & Lion Explorer takes you first from Kigali in Rwanda to the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda, the second most popular national park in Uganda, next to Murchison Falls NP. It was initially gazetted as the Kazinga NP in 1952 but renamed Queen Elizabeth National Park just two years later to commemorate a visit by England's Queen. The park is home to an amazing variety of wildlife, such as elephants, buffalos, hippos, chimps, many antelope species, and the Rothschild's giraffe. It features altogether more than 90 species of mammals and 20 species of carnivores, such as lions, leopards, spotted hyena, and is also considered a birder's paradise with 600 tropical bird species identified to date. The parkland covers 1,978 square kilometers of vistas ranging from Lake Edward and Lake George near the crater-dotted Katwe region and below the Rwenzori Mountains in the north to the rolling golden savannahs of the Ishasha sector and its tree-climbing lions in the south. Tracking the tree-climbing lions of the Ishasha sector is the primary objective you should achieve during your visit to this national park. Tree-climbing lions exist in substantial numbers only in a few places on the continent. Driving across the rolling savannah of Ishasha, you can observe lions climbing into Acacia trees to find the best branch to sleep on in the daytime. This means you may find a dozen lions clambering up the same tree, sometimes fighting each other for the biggest branch to sleep on.

The second part of your safari takes you to the ancient Bwindi Forest in southwestern Uganda, 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.

- ❑ **Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Queen Elizabeth NP.**
Arrival and scenic drive to the Queen Elizabeth National Park.
Transfer Route *Rwanda to Uganda.*
- ❑ **Day 02 - Queen Elizabeth NP to Bwindi Impenetrable NP.**
Game Drive in search of the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha.
Transfer to the Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- ❑ **Day 03 - Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**
Gorilla Tracking in the Bwindi NP. **Explore Batwa Cultural Trail.**
Activity Options *Gorilla Habituation Experience • Explore Bwindi Forest Trails.*
- ❑ **Day 04 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Kigali.**
Return drive to Kigali.
- ❑ **Day 05 - Departure from Kigali.**
Kigali City Tour with optional visit **Genocide Memorial Centre.**
Airport transfer and departure from Kigali.
- ❑ **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price**
Queen Elizabeth NP - **Game Drive.**
Bwindi Impenetrable NP - **Gorilla Tracking Permit.**
Bwindi Impenetrable NP - **Explore Batwa Cultural Trail.**
Kigali - **Kigali City Tour.**
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.

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

Day 01 1 night @ Enjojo Lodge - FB.
Day 02 - 03 2 nights @ Trackers Lodge - FB.
Day 04 1 night @ Flame Tree Village - FB.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 1 night @ Ishasha Wilderness Camp - FB.
Day 02 - 03 2 nights @ Bwindi Lodge - FB.
Day 04 1 night @ Kigali Serena Hotel - 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 **Yellow Fever** certificate is mandatory for Rwanda and Uganda.
A **Tourist Visa** for Rwanda can be obtained online here:
https://irembo.gov.rw/home/citizen/all_services
Under the title **Immigration & Emigration** click on **Visa Application**.
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.

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,597
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,391
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,288
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,226
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,185

4x4 Vehicle Included In Safari Price: 7 Seater Safari Minibus

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 6,192
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,862
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,698
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,599
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,533

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

SAFARI PRICE OPTIONS

Our tours include all major activities, park and conservation fees, permits required for viewing gorillas, chimpanzees, and other wildlife, 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.

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

LONG SAFARI PROGRAM

❑ Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Queen Elizabeth NP.

Arriving in Rwanda, your appointed driver/guide will collect you from the Kigali International Airport for a scenic drive to the Queen Elizabeth National Park. 'Queen E', as it is commonly called, is the second most popular national park in Uganda, next to Murchison Falls NP. It was initially gazetted as the Kazinga NP in 1952 but renamed Queen Elizabeth National Park just two years later to commemorate a visit by England's Queen. The park is home to an amazing variety of wildlife, such as elephants, buffalos, hippos, chimps, many antelope



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Tracking the tree-climbing lions of the Ishasha sector is the primary objective you should achieve during your visit to this national park. Tree-climbing lions exist in substantial numbers only in a few places on the continent. Driving across the rolling savannah of Ishasha, you can observe lions climbing into Acacia trees to find the best branch to sleep on in the daytime. This means you may find a dozen lions clambering up the same tree, sometimes fighting each other for the biggest branch to sleep on.

4 Star Lodge Options - Ishasha Sector

Enjojo Lodge

Ishasha Jungle Lodge

Savannah Resort

5 Star Lodge Options - Ishasha Sector

Ishasha Wilderness Camp

□ Day 02 - Queen Elizabeth NP to Bwindi Impenetrable NP

Today, you will go on an exciting **Game Drive** in search of the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha. Thereafter, you transfer to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The ancient Bwindi Forest 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



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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 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, 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:

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 a habituated gorilla family 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





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Day 03 - 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 04 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Kigali.

It is time to say farewell to the mountain gorillas of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and enjoy a scenic drive back to Kigali.

4 Star Lodge Options

Flame Tree Village

Park Inn by Radisson

Amata n'Ubuki Boutique Hotel

5 Star Lodge Options

Kigali Serena Hotel

Kempinsky Hotel Des Mille Collines

Day 05 - Departure from Kigali.

Today, you will go on a **Kigali City Tour** before your driver/guide will transfer you to the Kigali International Airport for your scheduled departure from Rwanda 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', which is the heart of East Africa.

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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 Rwanda & Uganda





BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI NP



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CLOUDS MOUNTAIN GORILLA LODGE • BWINDI NP



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