

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



12 DAYS - THE EXCLUSIVE FLYING EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Exclusive Flying Explorer takes you first to the Kidepo Valley National Park. The park is approximately 520 kilometers northeast of Kampala, Uganda's capital, so getting there requires a 10 to 12-hour drive by road. The park's altitude ranges from 914 to 2,750 meters above sea level, with the peak of Mount Morungole being the highest point. Kidepo Valley National Park is consistently rated one of the best in Africa due to its open or lightly wooded Serengeti-style savannah teeming with wildlife, interspersed with rocky ridges, and seasonal rivers lined with borassus palms. The park shares its name with the Kidepo River, which flows from the neighboring Kidepo Game Reserve in South Sudan through the Narus Valley, stretching across the border. It facilitates a fantastic diversity of wildlife that includes the greater and lesser kudu and the eland. Big cats roaming the park include lion, leopard, cheetah, spotted hyena, and black-backed jackals, and other species that you can observe are elephant, Rothschild's giraffe, Burchell's zebra, cape buffalo, and Jackson's hartebeest. At the center of the wildlife attractions in the park is one of the largest cohesive groups of buffalos, counting more than 2,000 animals.

The second part of your safari takes you to the Murchison Falls National Park. Situated along the River Nile and in part on the shores of Lake Albert, it covers more than 3,900 square kilometers of landscapes dominated by savannahs dotted with acacia trees in the north and sub-tropical lowland forests, interspersed with riverine woodlands in the south. The park is named after the famous falls on the Nile River and features a 43-meter fall of boiling white water, which is forced through a 7-meter wide gap in a rocky escarpment before crashing into the lightly wooded savannah below. Murchison Falls NP is home to an extraordinary variety of wildlife, including buffalos, lions, elephants, and Rothschild's giraffe, with chimpanzees in the Budongo forest reserve. Another adventure not to miss is daily scheduled boat cruises departing from various locations along the Nile. One goes upstream to visit the falls, and another goes down the

river into the Nile Delta, a papyrus swamp ecosystem that developed at the Nile and Lake Albert meeting point. Here, you can observe an abundance of hippos, elephants, and crocodiles. The delta is also home to various tropical birds, including Uganda's most famous and elusive bird, the shoebill stork.

The third part of your safari takes you to the Queen Elizabeth National Park. 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 the lion, leopards, side-striped jackal, and 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 another 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 next part of your safari takes you 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 last part of your safari takes you to the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which is situated in southwestern Uganda, bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and was gazetted as such in 1991. It is the smallest of the ten parks the country has established, covers just 33 square kilometers, and is part of the Virunga Conservation Area (VCA). The 434 square kilometers of the VCA also includes a string of eight volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and stretching across the borders of the three adjacent countries. The Mgahinga NP has an altitude range of 2,227 to 4,127 meters and was created primarily to protect the endangered mountain gorillas that inhabit the slopes of its dense bamboo forests, but it is also an important habitat for the rare golden monkeys. The park has just one habituated transboundary gorilla family, which is difficult to track as it constantly crosses borders into Rwanda and the DRC. The Mgahinga NP is often visited to see the equally endangered golden monkeys or to venture on an exhilarating climb of the forested slopes of three of the eight extinct volcanoes that make up the Virunga Volcanoes range.

Day 01 - Arrival in Entebbe.

Arrival and transfer to your accommodation.

Day 02 - Entebbe to Kidepo Valley National Park.

Scenic charter flight to the Kidepo Valley NP. *Game Drive*.

Day 03 - Kidepo Valley National Park.

Game Drive in the Kidepo Valley. *Explore Karamojong Manyatta*.

Activity Options *Explore Ik Mountain Tribe*.

Day 04 - Kidepo Valley NP to Entebbe.

Scheduled charter flight to Entebbe.

Day 05 - Entebbe to Murchison Falls National Park.

Scenic charter flight to the Murchison Falls NP. *Game Drive*.

Day 06 - Murchison Falls National Park.

Game Drive, Boat Cruise to the Bottom of the Falls and *Hiking to the Top of the Falls*.

Activity Options *Boat Cruise to the Nile Delta*.

Day 07 - Murchison Falls NP to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Scheduled charter flight to the Queen Elizabeth NP. *Game Drive*.

Day 08 - Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Game Drive and *Boat Cruise Kazinga Channel*.

Activity Options *Katwe Craters And Salt Works • Chimpanzee • Tracking Kyambura Gorge • Mongoose Tracking • Lion Tracking • Hippo Census*.

Day 09 - Queen Elizabeth NP to Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Scenic charter flight to the Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Day 10 - Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Gorilla Tracking in the Bwindi Forest. *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail*.

Activity Options *Gorilla Habituation Experience • Explore Bwindi Forest Trails*.

Day 11 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Mgahinga Gorilla NP.

Transfer to the Mgahinga Gorilla NP and *Golden Monkey Tracking*.

Activity Options *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail • Volcano Trekking*.

Day 12 - Mgahinga Gorilla NP to Departure from Entebbe.

Scheduled charter flight to Entebbe.

Airport transfer and departure from Entebbe.

Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Kidepo Valley NP - *Game Drives x 2*.

Kidepo Valley NP - *Explore Karamojong Manyatta*.

Murchison Falls NP - *Game Drives x 2*.

Murchison Falls NP - *Boat Cruise to the Bottom of the Falls*.

Murchison Falls NP - *Hiking to the Top of the Falls*.

Queen Elizabeth NP - *Game Drives x 2*.





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Queen Elizabeth NP - **Boat Cruise Kazinga Channel**.
Bwindi Impenetrable NP - **Gorilla Tracking Permit**.
Bwindi Impenetrable NP - **Explore Batwa Cultural Trail**.
Mgahinga Gorilla NP - **Golden Monkey Tracking Permit**.
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.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01	1 night @ Latitude 0 Hotel - FB.
Day 02 - 03	2 nights @ Apoka Lodge - FB.
Day 04	1 night @ Latitude 0 Hotel - FB.
Day 05 - 06	2 nights @ Paraa Safari Lodge - FB.
Day 07 - 08	2 nights @ Mweya Gorge Lodge - FB.
Day 09 - 10	2 nights @ Bwindi Lodge - FB.
Day 11	1 night @ Mount Gahinga Lodge - 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.
A **Tourist Visa** for Uganda can be obtained online here:
<https://visas.immigration.go.ug/#/help/visa>
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.



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SAFARI MAP OF UGANDA

- 01 Mount Elgon National Park
Area: 1,145 sqkm • Habitat: Montane
- 02 Kidepo Valley National Park
Area: 1,442 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah
- 03 Murchison Falls National Park
Area: 3,900 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah
- 04 Semuliki National Park
Area: 220 sqkm • Habitat: Forest
- 05 Rwenzori Mountains National Park
Area: 996 sqkm • Habitat: Montane
- 06 Kibale National Park
Area: 766 sqkm • Habitat: Forest
- 07 Queen Elizabeth National Park
Area: 1,978 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah
- 08 Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
Area: 310 sqkm • Habitat: Forest
- 09 Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
Area: 33 sqkm • Habitat: Montane
- 10 Lake Mburo National Park
Area: 256 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah



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.

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:

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 14,433
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 14,203
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 14,088

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

5 Star Lodge Options Entebbe

Lake Victoria Serena Hotel

Hotel No. 5

Day 02 - Entebbe to Kidepo Valley National Park.

Today, your appointed driver/guide will take you to the Entebbe International Airport for a scheduled charter flight to the Kidepo Valley National Park in the north of Uganda. After checking into your 5-star accommodation, you will go on your first extensive **Game Drive** in the Kidepo Valley National Park. The Kidepo Valley National Park was established in 1962 and covers an area of 1,442 square kilometers in the far northeast corner of Uganda, bordering Kenya and South Sudan. The park is approximately 520 kilometers northeast of Kampala, Uganda's capital, so getting there requires a 10 to 12-hour drive by road. The park's altitude ranges from 914 to 2,750 meters above sea level, with the peak of Mount Morungole being the highest point.

Kidepo Valley National Park is consistently rated one of the best in Africa due to its open or lightly wooded Serengeti-style savannah teeming with wildlife, interspersed with rocky ridges, and seasonal rivers lined with borassus palms. The park shares its name with the Kidepo River, which flows from the neighboring Kidepo Game Reserve in South Sudan through the Narus Valley, stretching across the border. It facilitates a fantastic diversity of wildlife that includes the greater and lesser kudu and the eland. Big cats roaming the park include lion, leopard, cheetah, spotted hyena, and black-backed jackals, and other species that you can observe are elephant, Rothschild's giraffe, Burchell's zebra, cape buffalo, and Jackson's hartebeest. At the center of the wildlife attractions in the park is one of the largest cohesive groups of buffalos, counting more than 2,000 animals.

Kidepo Valley NP also features a spectacular collection of African birds, with more than 480 species identified to date, including ostriches in the northern part of the park and 56 birds of prey. On the cultural side, the park is in the heart of the Karamoja tribespeople,

LONG SAFARI PROGRAM

Day 01 - Arrival in Entebbe.

Arriving in Uganda, your appointed driver/guide will transfer you from Entebbe International Airport to your accommodation. Then, you will receive a briefing on your upcoming tour.

5 Star Lodge Options Kampala

Kampala Serena Hotel

Emin Pasha Hotel

Latitude 0 Hotel



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and visiting their villages is a must-see. There is the additional chance also to visit the Ik mountain tribe, which are hunter/gatherers and originally migrated to these lands from Ethiopia. Today, they live in their mountain villages on the higher elevations of the Morungole Mountains, on the border to Kenya, and only count about 10,000.

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 Kidepo Valley National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Explore Karamojong Manyatta - US \$ 120 Per Person

The Karamojong tribal clans of northern Uganda are a famous warrior tribe that lives in the border triangle between Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan. Visiting a Karamojong 'Manyatta', a collective village, is a must-do experience as it allows you to encounter their ancient cultures and traditions.

Activity Option - Explore Ik Mountain Tribe - US \$ 150 Per Person

Visiting the Ik tribe requires an early morning departure to explore their remote mountain villages. The Ik tribe is hunter-gatherers who originally migrated to this area from Ethiopia. Today, they live in their mountain villages on the higher elevations of the Morungole Mountains, on the border to Kenya, and there are only about 10,000 of them today. Visits to the Ik tribe offer the discerning visitor rare cultural encounters complemented by extraordinary mountain views. However, the steep climb to reach the Ik villages is not easy and may take all day. You must be physically fit since the main trail to the Ik village is 8 kilometers each way and can be a challenging climb.

5 Star Lodge Options
Apoka Lodge

Day 03 - Kidepo Valley National Park.

Day three of your safari adventure to the Kidepo Valley National Park offers you further opportunities for game drives, nature walks, and rare cultural explorations in one of the most spectacular national parks Uganda has to offer, famous for its wild charm and golden rolling savannahs, dotted with rocky ridges, and teeming with wildlife. Today, you will go on another extensive **Game Drive** in the Kidepo Valley NP and the exciting **Explore Karamajong Manyatta** tour of local cultures and traditions. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

5 Star Lodge Options
Apoka Lodge

Day 04 - Kidepo Valley NP to Entebbe.

Today, you will go on a scheduled charter flight to the Entebbe International Airport to connect to your next safari destination.

5 Star Lodge Options Kampala
Kampala Serena Hotel
Emin Pasha Hotel
Latitude 0 Hotel

5 Star Lodge Options Entebbe
Lake Victoria Serena Hotel
Hotel No. 5

Day 05 - Entebbe to Murchison Falls National Park.

Today you transfer to the Murchison Falls National Park, where you will go on an **Game Drive** at the park. Located in the northwest of Uganda, at about 300 kilometers or 4-hour drive from the capital, Kampala, Murchison Falls National Park is the most popular park in the country, with the highest annual number of visitors of any park. Locally known as Kabalega National Park, it was established by the British colonial administration in 1952 and is today the largest gazetted park in Uganda. Situated along the River Nile and in part on





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the shores of Lake Albert, it covers more than 3,900 square kilometers of landscapes dominated by savannahs dotted with acacia trees in the north and sub-tropical lowland forests, interspersed with riverine woodlands in the south.

The park is named after the famous falls on the Nile River and features a 43-meter fall of boiling white water, which is forced through a 7-meter wide gap in a rocky escarpment before crashing into the lightly wooded savannah below. Today, there is a hiking trail starting at 'Baker's Point' at the bottom of the falls, which marks the spot where the famous explorer, while standing on a giant rock, declared in 1864 that the falls be named after geologist Sir Roderick Murchison, who was the president of the British Royal Geographical Society at that time.

Murchison Falls NP is home to an extraordinary variety of wildlife, including buffalos, lions, elephants, and Rothschild's giraffe, with chimpanzees in the Budongo forest reserve. The park can also be considered a birder's paradise, with more than 450 bird species documented to date, including the rare shoebill stork, the great blue turaco, Ross turaco, dwarf kingfisher, Goliath heron, and white-thighed hornbill.

The larger Murchison Falls Conservation Area (MFCA) also includes the Budongo Forest Reserve in the southern sector of the national park. The forest reserve is one of the most ecologically diverse in East Africa, with 76 species of mammals and over 465 plant species recorded, including a dense area of giant mahogany trees, some over 60 meters tall. The forest is also home to a population of primates such as chimp troops, the blue and red-tailed, and the black-and-white colobus monkeys.

Another adventure not to miss is daily scheduled boat cruises departing from various locations along the Nile. One goes upstream to visit the falls, and another goes down the river into the Nile Delta, a papyrus swamp ecosystem that developed at the Nile and Lake Albert meeting point. Here, you can observe an abundance of

hippos, elephants, and crocodiles. The delta is also home to various tropical birds, including Uganda's most famous and elusive bird, the shoebill stork.

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 Murchison Falls National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Explore Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary - US \$ 50 Per Person

The Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary is situated outside of Murchison Falls National Park and features the only rhinos in Uganda. You can track rhinos on a walking safari or venture on a boat cruise to discover more than 200 tropical bird species, including Uganda's most famous bird, the rare and elusive shoebill stork.

Activity Option - Boat Cruise Bottom of the Falls - US \$ 45 Per Person

Join a boat cruise upstream to visit the Murchison Falls. Along the riverbanks, you will observe an abundance of wildlife, including hippos, elephants, and the famous Nile crocodiles, the largest in the world.

Activity Option - Boat Cruise to the Nile Delta - US \$ 35 Per Person

The Nile Delta Boat Cruise takes you to the papyrus swamp ecosystem that developed at the Nile and Lake Albert meeting point, where you can observe an abundance of hippos, elephants, and crocodiles. The delta is also home to a diverse range of tropical birds, including Uganda's most famous and elusive bird, the shoebill stork.

Activity Option - Hot Air Balloon Safaris - US \$ 380 Per Person

Starting early in the morning, you also have the option of joining a hot air balloon safari, with the balloon gliding silently over the savannah as you observe the wildlife below. This adventure features a bush breakfast after a successful landing.





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5 Star Lodge Options

Nile Safari Lodge

Paraa Safari Lodge

Chobe Safari Lodge

□ Day 06 - Murchison Falls National Park.

Today, you venture on a **Game Drive, Boat Cruise to the Bottom of the Falls**, and **Hiking to the Top of the Falls**. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

5 Star Lodge Options

Nile Safari Lodge

Paraa Safari Lodge

Chobe Safari Lodge

□ Day 07 - Murchison Falls NP to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Today, you transfer to the Queen Elizabeth National Park, where you will go on a **Game Drive** upon arrival. '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 species, and the Rothschild's giraffe. It features altogether more than 90 species of mammals and 20 species of carnivores, such as the lion, leopards, side-striped jackal, and 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.

Of these landscapes, four have become famous for offering unique experiences. First, there are the volcanic cones and crater lakes found around Katwe, Fort George, and Kasenyi on the west side of

the Kazinga Channel, which formed as a result of volcanic activity along the Albertine Rift Valley and are used today by local communities to extract salt. Next on the 'not to miss' list is the Kazinga channel itself, a 32 km long natural canal linking Lake Edward and Lake George, and known for its substantial population of hippos. Exploring the channel during a boat cruise allows you to say hello to the 'Hippo Nation' and observe many of the 600 tropical bird species recorded in this national park, including the rare and elusive 'Shoe-bill Stork'.

Another item on your 'must-see list' for 'Queen E' is the Kyambura Gorge, situated on the Mweya peninsula and known as the 'Valley of the Apes'. The gorge was formed thousands of years ago by the flow of the Kyambura River. It is about 1 km across and 100 meters deep and is also home to troops of our closest relatives, the chimps. A nature walk through the gorge is one of the highlights of your safari as it allows you to observe the chimp troops in their natural habitat of lowland riverine forest.

Tracking the tree-climbing lions of the Ishasha sector is another 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.

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 Queen Elizabeth National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Boat Cruise Kazinga Channel - US \$ 30 Per Person

Enjoy a boat cruise on the famous Kazinga channel, a 32 km long natural canal linking Lake Edward and Lake George, which is known for its substantial population of hippos. Exploring the channel





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during a boat cruise allows you to say hello to the 'Hippo Nation' and observe many of the 600 tropical bird species recorded in this national park, including the rare and elusive 'Shoebill Stork'.

Activity Option - Katwe Craters And Salt Works - US \$ 80 Per Person

Explore the volcanic cones and crater lakes of Katwe, Fort George, and Kasenyi on the west side of the Kazinga Channel. These lakes formed as a result of volcanic activity along the Albertine Rift Valley and are used today by local communities to extract salt. Here, you can meet and observe local villagers who spend their days under the equatorial sun, working the network of paths and milky salt pans that crisscross the plains of the Katwe peninsula.

Activity Option - Chimp Tracking Kyambura - US \$ 100 Per Person

Visit the Kyambura Gorge on the Mweya peninsula, also known as the 'Valley of the Apes'. The gorge was formed thousands of years ago by the flow of the Kyambura River. It is about 1 km across and 100 meters deep and is also home to troops of our closest relatives, the chimps. A nature walk through the gorge is one of the highlights of your safari as it allows you to observe the chimp troops in their natural habitat of lowland riverine forest.

Activity Option - Balloon Safari - US \$ 380 Per Person

Starting early in the morning, you also have the option of joining a hot air balloon safari, with the balloon gliding silently over the savannah as you observe the wildlife below. This adventure features a bush breakfast after a successful landing.

Activity Option - Mongoose Tracking - US \$ 30 Per Person

You can join researchers of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) in the Mweya sector of the park to check on wildlife populations and, in this case, observe the Mongoose and learn about their habits.

Activity Option - Lion Tracking - US \$ 200 Per Person

You can join park rangers and wildlife researchers of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) visiting the various sectors of the national park to count and tag the lion populations of Queen Elizabeth NP.

Activity Option - Hippo Census - US \$ 100 Per Person

You can join the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) park rangers and wildlife researchers on their quest to count and keep track of the 'Hippo Nation' in the reed swamps and on the banks of the Kazinga Channel, home to the largest hippo population in Africa.

5 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector

Kyambura Gorge Lodge

Mweya Safari Lodge

Katara Lodge

□ Day 08 - Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Today, you venture on a **Game Drive** and a **Boat Cruise Kazinga Channel**. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

5 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector

Kyambura Gorge Lodge

Mweya Safari Lodge

Katara Lodge

□ Day 09 - Queen Elizabeth NP to Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Today, you will go on a scenic charter flight to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, which 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 track-





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ing 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 eight volcanoes situated along the Albertine Rift Valley are 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.

5 Star Lodge Options

Bwindi Lodge

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp

Day 10 - 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.

5 Star Lodge Options

Bwindi Lodge

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp





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□ Day 11 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Mgahinga Gorilla NP.

Today, you transfer to the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park with the opportunity to venture into the dense bamboo forests for **Golden Monkey Tracking**, which are considered the smallest primate species and endangered.

The Mgahinga Gorilla National Park is situated in southwestern Uganda, bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and was gazetted as such in 1991. It is the smallest of the ten parks the country has established, covers just 33 square kilometers, and is part of the Virunga Conservation Area (VCA). This regional management association includes the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, and the Virunga National Park in the DRC. The 434 square kilometers of the VCA also includes a string of volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and Mgahinga NP features three of the eight volcanoes that make up the famous Virunga Volcanoes range, namely, Mt. Muhabura (4,127 m), Mt. Gahinga (3,474 m), and Mt. Sabinyo (3,645 m).

The Mgahinga NP has an altitude range of 2,227 to 4,127 meters and was created primarily to protect the endangered mountain gorillas that inhabit the slopes of its dense bamboo forests, but it is also an important habitat for the rare golden monkeys. The park has just one habituated transboundary gorilla family, which is difficult to track as it constantly crosses borders into Rwanda and the DRC. By comparison, the Bwindi Impenetrable NP features 18 habituated gorilla families, so completing your bucket list is practically guaranteed. The Mgahinga NP is often visited to see the equally endangered golden monkeys or to venture on an exhilarating climb of the forested slopes of three of the eight extinct volcanoes that make up the Virunga Volcanoes range.

Of the three volcanoes within the park boundaries, Mount Muhabura (4,127 m) is the second highest in the volcano range and is situated on the border between Rwanda and Uganda. Climbing its peak rewards you with fantastic views of at least five other volcanoes in

the border triangle. The climb is considered demanding and may take a whole day to achieve. Climbing Mount Sabinyo (3,645 m) can also be challenging, so it is advisable to be fit for a long climbing session. By comparison, Mount Gahinga (3,474 m) is the smallest of the three volcanoes and the easiest and fastest to climb.

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 Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Golden Monkey Tracking - US \$ 60 Per Person

Trekking the forest trails and slopes of Mgahinga Gorilla NP or any other part of the Virunga Conservation Area allows you to observe the rare golden monkeys, the smallest of the primates and an endangered species. The golden monkey is a subspecies of the blue monkey, with a golden patch on the upper flanks and back. It is at home in the same bamboo forests, which are preferred as the primary diet by the mountain gorillas.

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 - Volcano Trekking - US \$ 100 Per Person

Trekking volcanoes is the other primary reason to visit the park. You can venture to climb one of the three Virunga volcanoes situated in the park or straddle the border with Uganda. Climbing any of these volcanoes varies in degrees of difficulty or time to achieve.



Mount Muhabura: This volcano is 4,127 meters high and the second highest in the Virunga range. Climbing its peak rewards you with fantastic views of at least five of the other volcanoes in the border triangle. The climb itself is considered demanding and may take a full day to achieve.

Mount Sabinyo: This volcano is 3,645 meters high, and climbing its peak may take 8 hours to achieve and can be demanding; it is, therefore, advisable to be fit for a long climbing session.

Mount Gahinga: This volcano is 3,474 meters high, the smallest of the three, and the easiest and fastest to climb. It once had a crater lake at the center of its caldera, which degraded into a montane moorland.

5 Star Lodge Options Mount Gahinga Lodge

□ Day 12 - Mgahinga Gorilla NP to Departure from Entebbe.

It is time to say farewell to the 'Gorilla Kingdom' of the Virunga volcanoes and the ancient Bwindi Forest and enjoy a scenic charter flight back to Entebbe. Your driver/guide will then transfer you to the Entebbe International Airport for your scheduled departure from Uganda 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.

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

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Next Pages: Sample Photos 5 Star Lodges Uganda



MURCHISON FALLS





LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



APOKA LODGE • KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



APOKA LODGE • KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



MOUNT GAHINGA LODGE • MGAHINGA GORILLA NP



MOUNT GAHINGA LODGE • MGAHINGA GORILLA NP



MOUNT GAHINGA LODGE • MGAHINGA GORILLA NP