

# THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



**14 DAYS - THE PEARL OF AFRICA EXPLORER**



## SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

**The Pearl of Africa Explorer** takes you first 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 second part of your safari takes you to the Rwenzori Mountains National Park, which was gazetted as such by the government of Uganda in 1991 and has been listed as an important UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994. Covering almost 1,000 square kilometers over its entire length of 220 kilometers, the mythical Mountains of the Moon are higher than the Alps and feature the third highest mountain in Africa, Margherita Peak on Mount Stanley, with a height of 5,109 meters. Located in southwestern Uganda along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and with 70 percent of its area above an altitude of 2,500 meters, Africa's fourth and fifth-highest peaks (Mount Speke and Mount Baker) can also be found in the Rwenzori mountains. The flora of the moorland zone alone, fringed with swamps and rivers, is unique to equatorial alpine regions where some of the montane plant species, such as lobelia and groundsel, grow extraordinarily large, providing for surreal landscapes and 'out of this world' hiking experiences.

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 fifth part of your safari takes you to the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, 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 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 a climb of the forested slopes of three of the eight extinct volcanoes that make up the Virunga Volcanoes range.

The last part of your safari takes you to the Lake Mburo National Park. As the smallest of Uganda's savannah parks, Lake Mburo National Park was initially gazetted in 1933 as a controlled hunting area, upgraded to national park status in 1983, and occupies just 370 square kilometers about 240 km south of Kampala, Uganda's capital. Lake Mburo is considered the most 'family-friendly' park in the country due to the absence of elephants and big cats, which allows for cycling, horseback, and walking safaris through park landscapes. The park is mostly covered by golden savannahs interspersed with Acacia trees, rocky ridges, and riverine woodlands, which supports a healthy population of elands, zebras, impalas, topi, reedbuck, wart-hog, buffalos, hippos, and a small population of Rothschild's giraffe.

**Day 01 - Arrival in Entebbe.**

Arrival and transfer to your accommodation.

**Day 02 - Entebbe to Kibale National Park.**

Scenic drive to the Kibale National Park. *Crater Lakes Hike.*

**Day 03 - Kibale National Park.**

*Chimpanzee Tracking* in the Kibale Forest.

*Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary.*

Activity Options *Chimpanzee Habituation Experience.*

**Day 04 - Kibale NP to Rwenzori Mountains National Park.**

Scenic drive to the Rwenzori Mountains NP.

*Hiking Rwenzori Mountains.*

**Day 05 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.**

*Hiking Rwenzori Mountains.*

**Day 06 - Rwenzori Mountains NP to Queen E NP (Mweya Sector).**  
Transfer to the Queen Elizabeth NP. *Katwe Craters and Salt Works.*

**Day 07 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Mweya Sector)..**

*Game Drive* and *Boat Cruise Kazinga Channel.*

Activity Options *Chimpanzee Tracking Kyambura Gorge • Mon-goose Tracking • Lion Tracking • Hippo Census.*

**Day 08 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Ishasha Sector).**

Transfer to the Ishasha Sector. *Game Drive* in search of the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha.

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

Transfer 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.

*Golden Monkey Tracking.*

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

**Day 12 - Mgahinga Gorilla NP to Lake Mburo National Park.**

Transfer to the Lake Mburo NP. *Game Drive* and *Walking Safari.*

Activity Options *Cycling Safari.*

**Day 13 - Lake Mburo NP to Entebbe.**

*Boat Cruise Lake Mburo.* Return drive to Entebbe.

**Day 14 - Departure from Entebbe.**

*Visit Entebbe Botanical Gardens. Visit Entebbe Crafts Market.*

Airport transfer and departure from Entebbe.

Activity Options *Mabamba Bay Wetlands • Ngamba Island Chimp Sanctuary • Uganda Reptiles Village.*







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#### Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Kibale NP - **Crater Lakes Hike**.

Kibale NP - **Chimpanzee Tracking Permit**.

Kibale NP - **Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary**.

Rwenzori Mountains NP - **Hiking Rwenzori Mountains**.

Queen Elizabeth NP - **Game Drives x 2**.

Queen Elizabeth NP - **Katwe Craters and Salt Works**.

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**.

Lake Mburo NP - **Game Drive**.

Lake Mburo NP - **Walking Safari**.

Lake Mburo NP - **Boat Cruise Lake Mburo**.

Entebbe - **Entebbe Botanical Gardens**.

Entebbe - **Entebbe Crafts Market**.

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 1 night @ Airport Guesthouse - FB.

Day 02 - 03 2 nights @ Kibale Forest Lodge - FB.

Day 04 - 05 2 nights @ Mountain Cabins - FB.

Day 06 - 07 2 nights @ Bush Lodge - FB.

Day 08 1 night @ Enjojo Lodge - FB.

Day 09 - 10 2 nights @ Gorilla Valley Lodge - FB.

Day 11 1 night @ Travellers Rest - FB.

Day 12 1 night @ Eagle's Nest - FB.

Day 13 1 night @ Airport Guesthouse - FB.

#### 5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 1 night @ Emin Pasha Hotel - FB.

Day 02 - 03 2 nights @ Kibale Lodge - FB.

Day 04 - 05 2 nights @ Mountain Cabins - FB.

Day 06 - 07 2 nights @ Kyambura Gorge Lodge - FB.

Day 08 1 night @ Ishasha Wilderness Camp - FB.

Day 09 - 10 2 nights @ Bwindi Lodge - FB.

Day 11 1 night @ Mount Gahinga Lodge - FB.

Day 12 1 night @ Mihingo Lodge - FB.

Day 13 1 night @ Emin Pasha 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 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.

## 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 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:



# 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*



#### 4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,350
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,951
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,751
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,631
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,552

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 \$ 18,473
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 17,812
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 17,482
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 17,284
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 17,152

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

#### 4 Star Lodge Options Entebbe

*The Boma Hotel*

*2 Friends Beach Hotel*

*Airport Guesthouse*

*Karibu Entebbe*

#### 5 Star Lodge Options Entebbe

*Lake Victoria Serena Hotel*

*Hotel No. 5*

#### □ Day 02 - Entebbe to Kibale National Park.

Your safari starts with a scenic drive 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 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

## 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.

#### 4 Star Lodge Options Kampala

*Sheraton Hotel Kampala*

*Protea Hotel Kampala*

*Hotel Le Petit Village*

#### 5 Star Lodge Options Kampala

*Kampala Serena Hotel*

*Emin Pasha Hotel*

*Latitude 0 Hotel*





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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 03 - 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. 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*







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#### **□ Day 04 - Kibale NP to Rwenzori Mountains National Park.**

Today, you transfer to the town of Kasese, situated below the Rwenzori Mountains National Park, where you will go on an exhilarating two-day **Hiking Rwenzori Mountains** adventure on the fabled Mountains of the Moon. The Rwenzori Mountains National Park was gazetted as such by the government of Uganda in 1991 and has been listed as an important UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994. Covering almost 1,000 square kilometers over its entire length of 220 kilometers, the mythical Mountains of the Moon are higher than the Alps and feature the third highest mountain in Africa, Margherita Peak on Mount Stanley, with a height of 5,109 meters. Located in southwestern Uganda along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and with 70 percent of its area above an altitude of 2,500 meters, Africa's fourth and fifth-highest peaks (Mount Speke and Mount Baker) can also be found in the Rwenzori mountains.

In principle, the mountain range facilitates five vegetation zones, from grasslands in the foothills, montane and bamboo forests, and a heather zone on the lower elevations, with a moorland zone just below the snowfields and glaciers of the higher elevations. The flora of the moorland zone alone, fringed with swamps and rivers, is unique to equatorial alpine regions where some of the montane plant species, such as lobelia and groundsel, grow extraordinarily large, providing for surreal landscapes and 'out of this world' hiking experiences. Encountering fauna in the park varies by elevation and includes wildlife typically found in the Albertine Rift Valley, such as 90 species of tropical birds, including the unique Rwenzori turaco, 18 species of butterflies, and a range of other wildlife, such as the forest elephant, chimpanzee, and the black and white colobus monkey.

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 Rwenzori Mountains National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

#### **Activity Option - Climbing Rwenzori Mountains - US \$ 2,200 Per Person**

Our trusted partner for climbing adventures in the Rwenzori Mountains National Park is the Rwenzori Trekking Service (RTS), whose shortest tour is an 8-day climb of the main 'Kilembe Circuit' to conquer the tallest peak, Margherita (5,109 meters) on Mount Stanley. Margherita is Africa's third-highest peak, and the Kilembe route allows you to see the wildlife wonders of the park as you proceed on your climb. RTS will provide all the equipment necessary for the climb, like crampons, ropes, harnesses, and carabiners; you must bring good hiking boots, warm clothing, a warm sleeping bag, and rain gear. RTS will rent sleeping bags and crampons for those who require them. For the higher elevations of the mountain, RTS now recommends that climbers have technical knowledge of ropes, crampons, ascenders, and how to use an ice axe since many ice sections now feature 60% steepness due to rapid changes occurring as a direct result of global warming.

#### **Activity Option - Hiking Rwenzori Mountains - US \$ 400 Per Person**

Our trusted partner for climbing adventures in the Rwenzori Mountains National Park is the Rwenzori Trekking Service (RTS), which offers short hiking sessions in the lower elevations. The 2-day version of this hike takes you from the Trekkers Hostel Kyanjuki to the Sine Camp at 2,596 meters, with an altitude gain ranging from 1,450 to 2,596 meters and a distance of about 10 kilometers covered. Your trekking time for the day will be 7 to 8 hours. At Sine Camp, the Rwenzori Trekking Services (RTS) operates wooden huts set between tall forest trees on a narrow ridge. Enjoy the fantastic views while watching a long set of rapids and a waterfall crashing over the rocks below. On your return to the park entrance the next day, you will pass by Giant Heathers where you will hear the calls of the Rwenzori Turaco nesting in the trees.

#### **Mountain Accommodation Mountain Cabins**





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### ☐ Day 05 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Today, your two-day Hiking Rwenzori Mountains adventure continues on the fabled Mountains of the Moon. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

#### *Mountain Accommodation* *Mountain Cabins*

### ☐ Day 06 - Rwenzori Mountains NP to Queen E NP (Mweya Sector).

Today, you transfer to the Queen Elizabeth National Park, where you will visit the **Katwe Craters and Salt Works** 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 'Shoebill 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 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





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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 banded 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.

#### **4 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector**

**Ihamba Lakeside Safari Lodge**

**Buffalo Safari Lodge**

**Bush Lodge**

**Marafiki Safari Lodge**

#### **5 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector**

**Kyambura Gorge Lodge**

**Mweya Safari Lodge**

**Katara Lodge**

#### **□ Day 07 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Mweya Sector).**

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.

#### **4 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector**

**Ihamba Lakeside Safari Lodge**

**Buffalo Safari Lodge**

**Bush Lodge**

**Marafiki Safari Lodge**

#### **5 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector**

**Kyambura Gorge Lodge**

**Mweya Safari Lodge**

**Katara Lodge**

#### **□ Day 08 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Ishasha Sector).**

Today, you will go on a **Game Drive** in search of the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

#### **4 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector**

**Enjojo Lodge**

**Ishasha Jungle Lodge**

**Savannah Resort**







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## 5 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector Ishasha Wilderness Camp

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

Today, you transfer to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. 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 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.





THE  
RIFT VALLEY  
EXPLORER





#### 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 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.

#### 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 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 eight volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and stretching across the borders of the three adjacent countries. 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 **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.

**4 Star Lodge Options**

**Travellers Rest**

**5 Star Lodge Options**

**Mount Gahinga Lodge**

**Day 12 - Mgahinga Gorilla NP to Lake Mburo National Park.**

Today, you transfer to the Lake Mburo National Park, where you will enjoy a **Game Drive** and a **Walking Safari**. As the smallest of Uganda's savannah parks, Lake Mburo National Park was initially gazetted in 1933 as a controlled hunting area, upgraded to national park status in 1983, and occupies just 370 square kilometers about 240 km south of Kampala, Uganda's capital. Lake Mburo is considered the country's most 'family-friendly' park due to the absence of elephants and big cats. Along with 13 other lakes, Lake Mburo forms part of a 50 km wide wetland system linked by a swamp. With five lakes, associated wetlands, and swamps comprising 20% of the park, the remaining areas are covered by golden savannahs interspersed with Acacia trees, rocky ridges, and riverine woodlands, which supports a healthy population of elands, zebras, impalas, topi, reedbuck, warthog, buffalos, hippos, and, since 2015, a small population of Rothschild's giraffe. Predators may include hyenas, genets, civet cats, jackals, and serval, but no lions or leopards.

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 of the activities included in your safari:





### **Activity Option - Walking Safari - US \$ 30 Per Person**

Various lodges in the Lake Mburo NP offer walking safaris on the many nature trails in the park accompanied by a park ranger.

### **Activity Option - Cycling Safari - US \$ 30 Per Person**

Various lodges in the Lake Mburo NP also offer biking safaris on the many nature trails in the park accompanied by a park ranger.

### **Activity Option - Boat Cruise Lake Mburo - US \$ 30 Per Person**

Take a boat cruise on Lake Mburo for a close-up encounter with hippos, crocodiles, and many tropical bird species, including the rare and elusive shoebill stork.

### **4 Star Lodge Options**

*Rwakobo Rock*

*Eagle's Nest*

### **5 Star Lodge Options**

*Mihingo Lodge*

### **□ Day 13 - Lake Mburo NP to Entebbe.**

Today, you will go on a *Boat Cruise Lake Mburo*. Thereafter, it is time to say farewell to the lake and the golden savannahs of Lake Mburo National Park and enjoy a scenic drive back to Entebbe.

### **4 Star Lodge Options Kampala**

*Sheraton Hotel Kampala*

*Protea Hotel Kampala*

*Hotel Le Petit Village*

### **5 Star Lodge Options Kampala**

*Kampala Serena Hotel*

*Emin Pasha Hotel*

*Latitude 0 Hotel*

### **4 Star Lodge Options Entebbe**

*The Boma Hotel*

*2 Friends Beach Hotel*

### **Airport Guesthouse**

*Karibu Entebbe*

### **5 Star Lodge Options Entebbe**

*Lake Victoria Serena Hotel*

*Hotel No. 5*

### **□ Day 14 - Departure from Entebbe.**

Today, you will visit the *Entebbe Botanical Gardens* and the *Entebbe Crafts Market*. 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'.



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*

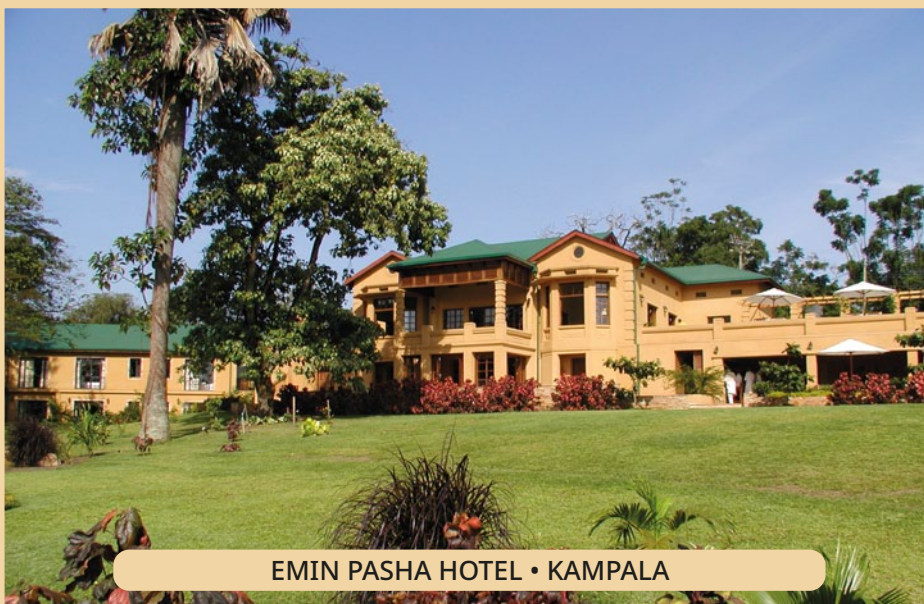




EMIN PASHA HOTEL • KAMPALA



KIBALE LODGE • KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



EMIN PASHA HOTEL • KAMPALA



KIBALE LODGE • KIBALE NATIONAL PARK





KYAMBURA GORGE LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI NP



KYAMBURA GORGE LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI NP





MOUNT GAHINGA LODGE • MGAHINGA GORILLA NP



MIHINGO LODGE • LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK



MOUNT GAHINGA LODGE • MGAHINGA GORILLA NP



MIHINGO LODGE • LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK