

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



17 DAYS - THE UGANDA VOYAGER SAFARI



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Uganda Voyager Safari 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 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 as well as Uganda's most famous and elusive bird, the shoebill stork.

The third part of your safari takes you to the Semuliki National Park, which is not just the newest addition to the national park collection of Uganda but also one of the smallest, covering just 220 square kilometers of primarily lowland tropical rainforest below the Rwenzori Mountains and on the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Where it is part of the larger geographical region that makes up the western part of the Albertine Rift Valley, yet at the same time, the park also qualifies as the eastern end of the extensive Ituri Forest, one of the largest triple-canopy rainforests in Africa, covering vast areas across the border in the DRC. Semuliki NP offers the discerning traveler an extraordinary selection of African flora and fauna, with 430 bird species and 320 butterfly species identified, in addition to over 50 species of mammals, including elephant, buffalo, hippo, lion, leopard, water chevrotain, olive baboon, chimpanzee, bush pig, and Sitatunga, a rare type of swamp antelope.

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

The fifth 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 sixth 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 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 Kidepo Valley National Park.**
Scenic drive to the Kidepo Valley National Park.
- **Day 03 - Kidepo Valley National Park.**
Game Drive in the Kidepo Valley National Park.
Activity Options *Ik Mountain Tribe*.
- **Day 04 - Kidepo Valley National Park.**
Game Drive and *Explore Karamojong Manyatta*.
- **Day 05 - Kidepo Valley NP to Murchison Falls National Park.**
Scenic drive to Murchison Falls National Park. *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 Semuliki National Park.**
Transfer to the Semuliki NP. *Game Drive* and *Sempaya Hot Springs*.
- **Day 08 - Semuliki NP to Kibale National Park.**
Scenic drive to the Kibale National Park. *Crater Lakes Hike*.
- **Day 09 - Kibale National Park.**
Chimpanzee Tracking in the Kibale Forest.
Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary.
Activity Options *Chimpanzee Habituation Experience*.



- Day 10 - Kibale NP to Queen Elizabeth NP (Mweya Sector).**
Transfer to the Queen Elizabeth NP. *Katwe Craters and Salt Works.*
- Day 11 - 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 12 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Ishasha Sector).**
Transfer to the Ishasha Sector. *Game Drive* in search of the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha.
- Day 13 - Queen Elizabeth NP to Bwindi Impenetrable NP.**
Transfer to the Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Day 14 - Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**
Gorilla Tracking in the Bwindi Forest. *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail.*
Activity Options *Gorilla Habituation Experience • Explore Bwindi Forest Trails.*
- Day 15 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Lake Mburo National Park.**
Transfer to the Lake Mburo NP. *Game Drive* and *Walking Safari.*
Activity Options *Cycling Safari.*
- Day 16 - Lake Mburo NP to Entebbe.**
Boat Cruise Lake Mburo. Return drive to Entebbe.
- Day 17 - Departure from Entebbe.**
Visit Entebbe Botanical Gardens. Visit Entebbe Crafts Market.
Airport transfer and departure from Entebbe.
- Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price**
Kidepo Valley NP - *Game Drives x 2.*
Kidepo Valley NP - *Explore Karamajong 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.*

Semuliki NP - *Game Drive.*
Semuliki NP - *Sempaya Hot Springs.*
Kibale NP - *Crater Lakes Hike.*
Kibale NP - *Chimpanzee Tracking Permit.*
Kibale NP - *Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary.*
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.*
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 @ 2 Friends Beach Hotel - FB.
Day 02 - 04	3 nights @ Kidepo Savannah Lodge - FB.
Day 05 - 06	2 nights @ Fort Murchison - FB.
Day 07	1 night @ Fort Motel - FB.
Day 08 - 09	2 nights @ Kibale Forest Lodge - FB.
Day 10 - 11	2 nights @ Bush Lodge - FB.
Day 12	1 night @ Enjojo Lodge - FB.
Day 13 - 14	2 nights @ Gorilla Valley Lodge - FB.
Day 15	1 night @ Eagle's Nest - FB.
Day 16	1 night @ 2 Friends Beach Hotel - FB.

Continued on next page.



5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01	1 night @ Emin Pasha Hotel - FB.
Day 02 - 04	3 nights @ Apoka Lodge - FB.
Day 05 - 06	2 nights @ Chobe Lodge - FB.
Day 07	1 night @ Semliki Safari Lodge - FB.
Day 08 - 09	2 nights @ Ndali Lodge - FB.
Day 10 - 11	2 nights @ Mweya Lodge - FB.
Day 12	1 night @ Ishasha Wilderness Camp - FB.
Day 13 - 14	2 nights @ Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge - FB.
Day 15	1 night @ Mihingo Lodge - FB.
Day 16	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:

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 6,297
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,742
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,465
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,299
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,188

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 \$ 15,955
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 15,062
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 14,615
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 14,347
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 14,169

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

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

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 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 Kidepo Valley National Park.

Your safari starts with a scenic drive to 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, 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 - 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 - 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 km each way and can be a challenging climb.

4 Star Lodge Options

Adere Safari Lodge

Kidepo Savannah Lodge





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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 wild-life. Today, you will go on an extensive *Game Drive* in the Kidepo Valley NP. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options *Adere Safari Lodge* *Kidepo Savannah Lodge*

5 Star Lodge Options *Apoka Lodge*

□ Day 04 - Kidepo Valley National Park.

Today, you will go on another *Game Drive* and thereafter you will *Explore Karamojong 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.

4 Star Lodge Options *Adere Safari Lodge* *Kidepo Savannah Lodge*

5 Star Lodge Options *Apoka Lodge*

□ Day 05 - Kidepo Valley NP to Murchison Falls National Park.

Today, you transfer to the Murchison Falls National Park where you will go on an extensive afternoon *Game Drive* upon arrival. 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 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.





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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.

4 Star Lodge Options

Fort Murchison

Murchison River Lodge

Sambiya River Lodge

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.

4 Star Lodge Options

Fort Murchison

Murchison River Lodge

Sambiya River Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Nile Safari Lodge

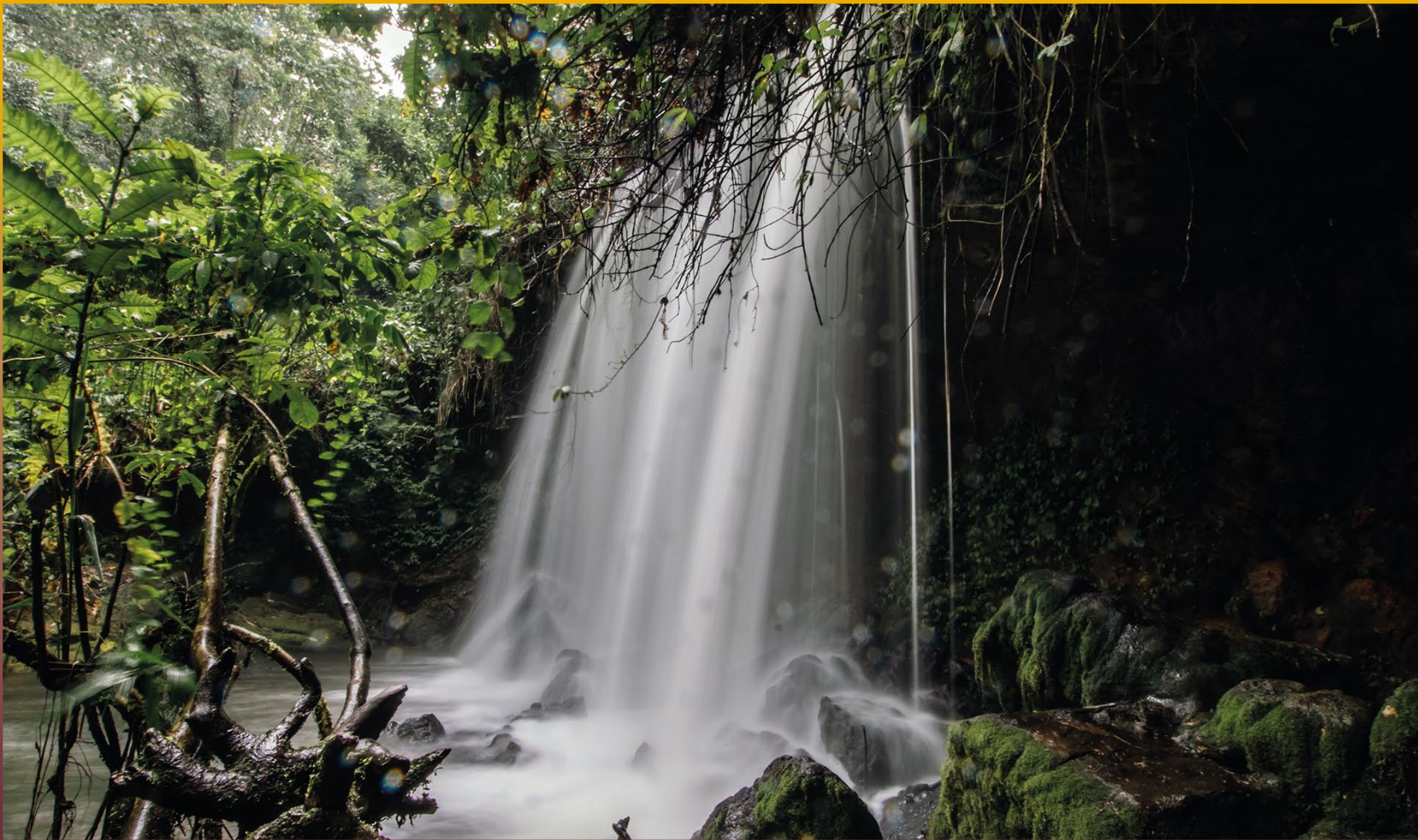
Paraa Safari Lodge

Chobe Safari Lodge

Day 07 - Murchison Falls NP to Semuliki National Park.

Today, you transfer to the Semuliki National Park, where you will go on a **Game Drive** and visit **Sempaya Hot Springs** upon arrival. Established as a protected park in 1993, the Semuliki National Park is next to the original Semuliki Wildlife Reserve, first gazetted as a forest reserve by the British colonial administration in 1932. Semuliki NP is not just the newest addition to the national park collection of





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Uganda but also one of the smallest, covering just 220 square kilometers of primarily lowland tropical rainforest below the Rwenzori Mountains and on the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Where it is part of the larger geographical region that makes up the western part of the Albertine Rift Valley, yet at the same time, the park also qualifies as the eastern end of the extensive Ituri Forest, one of the largest triple-canopy rainforests in Africa, covering vast areas across the border in the DRC.

The Semuliki forest is home to unique flora and fauna and is recognized as one of Africa's most diverse natural habitats. It features tropical and riparian forests interspersed with grassland savannahs and riverine woodlands. Here, chimpanzee troops live next to rare forest elephants and buffaloes - both distinctly smaller than their savannah relatives - and other wildlife unique to this region of Uganda.

Semuliki NP offers the discerning traveler an extraordinary selection of African flora and fauna, with 430 bird species and 320 butterfly species identified, in addition to over 50 species of mammals, including elephant, buffalo, hippo, lion, leopard, water chevrotain, olive baboon, chimpanzee, bush pig, and Sitatunga, a rare type of swamp antelope that lives only in Uganda. Any visit to the Semuliki NP should start at the geothermal springs, which are located near the park entrance and attract many animals since they are a source of salt. There are two springs; one of them - Mumbuga spring - comes in the form of a geyser with a 1-meter-high fountain of bubbling water hot enough to boil eggs.

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 Semuliki National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Explore Bambuti Cultural Trail - US \$ 20 Per Person

This activity option takes you on a guided cultural tour of villages and forest hunting trails inhabited by the Bambuti Forest people

who live on the banks of the Semliki and Lamia rivers and are related to the Basu Pygmies of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Activity Option - Explore Semuliki Forest Trails - US \$ 30 Per Person

Take a park ranger and explore several hiking trails for close-up encounters with the famous forest elephants and buffaloes - both distinctly smaller than their savannah relatives - hippos, crocodiles, and other important wildlife of this tropical lowland forest. Nature hikes and trails may vary from a few hours to daylong excursions. The forest trails are also a birder's paradise, with over 430 bird species identified, representing almost 40% of all tropical birds recorded in Uganda.

Activity Option - Sempaya Hot Springs - US \$ 0 Per Person

Any visit to the Semuliki NP should start at the geothermal springs, which are located near the park entrance and attract many animals since they are a source of salt. There are two springs; one of them - Mumbuga spring - comes in the form of a geyser with a 1-meter-high fountain of bubbling water hot enough to boil eggs.

4 Star Lodge Options

Fort Motel

Dutchess Hotel

Aramaga Rift Valley Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Semliki Safari Lodge

Kyaninga Lodge

Day 08 - Semuliki NP to Kibale National Park.

Today, you transfer to the Kibale National Park, where you will go on an afternoon **Crater Lakes Hike** upon arrival. Situated in southwest Uganda, near the Rwenzori Mountains, the Kibale National Park was first gazetted as a protected area in 1932 and formally upgraded to national park status in 1993. It covers just 766 square kilometers of tropical forests interspersed with grasslands and represents the second most important bucket list experience Uganda has to offer,





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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 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





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□ Day 09 - 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

□ Day 10 - Kibale NP to Queen Elizabeth 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 land-

scapes, 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:





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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 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 11 - 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





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□ Day 12 - 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

5 Star Lodge Options - Mweya Sector

Ishasha Wilderness Camp

□ Day 13 - 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 parks and the 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.

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 14 - 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

Trackers Lodge

Gorilla Valley Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Bwindi Lodge

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp

□ Day 15 - Bwindi Impenetrable 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, wart-hog, buffalos, hippos, and small population of Rothschild's giraffe. Predators may include hyenas, genets, civet cats, jackals, and serval. 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 16 - 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 17 - 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.
- 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.

□ 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



MURCHISON FALLS





EMIN PASHA HOTEL • KAMPALA



APOKA LODGE • KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



EMIN PASHA HOTEL • KAMPALA



APOKA LODGE • KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



CHOBE SAFARI LODGE • MURCHISON FALLS NP



SEMLIKI SAFARI LODGE • SEMULIKI NATIONAL PARK



CHOBE SAFARI LODGE • MURCHISON FALLS NP



SEMLIKI SAFARI LODGE • SEMULIKI NATIONAL PARK



NDALI LODGE • KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



MWEYA SAFARI LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



NDALI LODGE • KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



MWEYA SAFARI LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP