

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



4 DAYS - THE QUEEN ELIZABETH EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The **Queen Elizabeth Explorer** takes you on an exhilarating tour of 'Queen E', 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.

Here, you can visit the volcanic cones and crater lakes 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'.

- **Day 01 - Kampala to Queen Elizabeth National Park.**
Scenic drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park. *Game Drive*.
- **Day 02 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Mweya Sector).**
Game Drive and *Boat Cruise Kazinga Channel*.
Activity Options *Katwe Craters And Salt Works • Mongoose Tracking • Lion Tracking • Hippo Census*.

- **Day 03 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Ishasha Sector).**
Chimpanzee Tracking Kyambura Gorge.
Transfer to the Ishasha sector.
Game Drive in search of the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha.

- **Day 04 - Queen Elizabeth NP to Kampala.**
Return drive to Kampala.

□ Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Queen Elizabeth NP - *Game Drives x 3*.
Queen Elizabeth NP - *Boat Cruise Kazinga Channel*.
Queen Elizabeth NP - *Chimpanzee Tracking Kyambura Gorge*.
English-speaking driver and tour guide.
Road transfers with 4 x 4 safari vehicles, including fuel.
National park and conservation fees listed in this itinerary.
Gorilla, chimp and other wildlife permits listed in this itinerary.
Meals as specified in this itinerary and mineral water.
Meal plan index: BB-Bed & Breakfast, HB-Half Board, FB-Full Board.

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 - 02 2 nights @ Bush Lodge - FB.
Day 03 1 night @ Enjojo Lodge Ishasha - FB.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 - 02 2 nights @ Kyambura Gorge Lodge - FB.
Day 03 1 night @ Ishasha Wilderness Camp - 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 \$ 1,268
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 1,112
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 1,034
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 988
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 956

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 \$ 5,079
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,835
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,713
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,640
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,591

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

LONG SAFARI PROGRAM

Day 01 - Kampala to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Your tour starts with a scenic drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park, where you will go on an afternoon **Game Drive** upon arrival. 'Queen E', as it is commonly called, is the second most popular national park in Uganda, next to Murchison Falls NP. It was initially gazetted as the Kazinga NP in 1952 but renamed Queen Elizabeth National Park just two years later to commemorate a visit by England's Queen. The park is home to an amazing variety of wildlife, such as elephants, buffalos, hippos, chimps, many antelope species, and the Rothschild's giraffe. It features altogether more than 90 species of mammals and 20 species of carnivores, such as the lion, leopards, side-striped jackal, and spotted hyena, and is also considered a birder's paradise with 600 tropical bird species identified to date. The parkland covers 1,978 square kilometers of vistas ranging from Lake Edward and Lake George near the crater-dotted Katwe region and below the Rwenzori Mountains in the north to the rolling golden savannahs of the Ishsha sector and its tree-climbing lions in the south.

Of these landscapes, four have become famous for offering unique experiences. First, there are the volcanic cones and crater lakes found around Katwe, Fort George, and Kasenyi on the west side of the Kazinga Channel, which formed as a result of volcanic activity along the Albertine Rift Valley and are used today by local communities to extract salt. Next on the 'not to miss' list is the Kazinga channel itself, a 32 km long natural canal linking Lake Edward and Lake George, and known for its substantial population of hippos. Exploring the channel during a boat cruise allows you to say hello to the 'Hippo Nation' and observe many of the 600 tropical bird species recorded in this national park, including the rare and elusive 'Shoe-bill Stork'.

Another item on your 'must-see list' for 'Queen E' is the Kyambura Gorge, situated on the Mweya peninsula and known as the 'Valley of the Apes'. The gorge was formed thousands of years ago by the flow



THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



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 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.



**THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**



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



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 02 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Mweya Sector).

Your safari adventure to the Queen Elizabeth National Park offers you further opportunities for game drives, nature walks, and cultural explorations. Today, you venture on an extensive **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 03 - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Ishasha Sector).

Today, you will go on a **Chimpanzee Tracking Kyambura Gorge** adventure, and after a transfer to the Ishasha sector of the park, you will go on an exciting **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 - Ishasha Sector

Enjojo Lodge

Ishasha Jungle Lodge

Savannah Resort





THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



5 Star Lodge Options - Ishasha Sector Ishasha Wilderness Camp

□ Day 04 - Queen Elizabeth NP to Kampala.

It is time to say farewell to the Kazinga Channel and its 'Hippo Nation', 'The Valley of The Apes', and the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha, and enjoy a scenic drive back to Kampala.



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

Our comprehensive approach to customized cross-border tour developments means you can enjoy the very best 'Bucket List' experiences East Africa has to offer, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rwenzori mountains to the golden savannahs of the Serengeti and on to the sandy white beaches of Zanzibar and Mombasa.

We can provide you with a unique and responsible exploration of the breathtaking vistas along the 'Great Rift Valley', which is the heart of East Africa.



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 4/5 Star Lodges Uganda





ISHASHA WILDERNESS CAMP • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



KYAMBURA GORGE LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



ISHASHA WILDERNESS CAMP • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



KYAMBURA GORGE LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



KYAMBURA GORGE LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



MWEYA SAFARI LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



KYAMBURA GORGE LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP



MWEYA SAFARI LODGE • QUEEN ELIZABETH NP