



7 DAYS - THE 'GORILLA KINGDOM' EXPLORER

SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Gorilla Kingdom Explorer provides you with the ultimate 'Bucket List' wildlife encounter Uganda has to offer, first going to the ancient Bwindi Forest for a close-up introduction to the endangered mountain gorillas of Africa and next to the forested slopes of the Virunga volcanoes for another tracking and climbing adventure.

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 second 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 an exhilarating climb of the forested slopes of three of the eight extinct volcanoes that make up the Virunga Volcanoes.

The last part of your safari goes 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, warthog, buffalos, hippos, and, since 2015, a small population of Rothschild's giraffe.

- □ Day 01 Arrival in Entebbe. Arrival and transfer to your accommodation.
- Day 02 Entebbe to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Scenic drive to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- □ Day 03 Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Gorilla Tracking in the Bwindi Forest. Explore Batwa Cultural Trail. Activity Options Gorilla Habituation Experience • Explore Bwindi Forest Trails.
- □ Day 04 Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Mgahinga Gorilla NP.

 Transfer to the Mgahinga Gorilla NP and Golden Monkey Tracking.
- □ Day 05 Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. Volcano Trekking on one of three volcanoes in the park. Activity Options Explore Batwa Cultural Trail.
- □ Day 06 Mgahinga Gorilla NP to Lake Mburo National Park. Transfer to the Lake Mburo NP. Game Drive and Walking Safari. Activity Options Cycling Safari • Boat Cruise Lake Mburo.
- □ Day 07 Lake Mburo NP to Departure from Entebbe. Return drive to Entebbe. Airport transfer and departure from Entebbe.



☐ Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Bwindi Impenetrable NP - Gorilla Tracking Permit.

Bwindi Impenetrable NP - Explore Batwa Cultural Trail.

Mgahinga Gorilla NP - Golden Monkey Tracking Permit.

Mgahinga Gorilla NP - Volcano Trekking.

Lake Mburo NP - Game Drive.

Lake Mburo NP - Walking Safari.

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 Guest House - FB.

Day 02 - 03 2 nights @ Gorilla Valley Lodge - FB.

Day 04 - 05 2 nights @ Travellers Rest - FB.

Day 06 1 night @ Rwakobo Rock - FB.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 1 night @ Emin Pasha Hotel - FB.

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

Day 04 - 05 2 nights @ Mount Gahinga Lodge - FB.

Day 06 1 night @ Mihingo Lodge - FB.

☐ Safari Activities & Services Not Included In Safari Price Cost of international/local flights not listed in this itinerary. Cost of mandatory visas and health certificates.

A valid Yellow Fever certificate is mandatory for Uganda.

A Tourist Visa for Uganda can be obtained online here:

https://visas.immigration.go.ug/#/help/visa

Cost of medical, travel, and any other personal insurance.

Cost of personal expenditures such as gratuities and tips.

Cost of hotels and lodges listed as **Lodge Options** in this itinerary.

Cost of activities listed as **Activity Options** in this itinerary.



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

9 1		
Price Per Person Sh	naring (PPS) in a Doub	ole / Twin Room
2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 3,004
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,784
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,674
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,608
6 pax travelina	PPS from	US \$ 2.564

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 \$ 8,961
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 8,598
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 8,416
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 8,307
6 nax travelina	PPS from	115 \$ 8 235

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



THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER

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

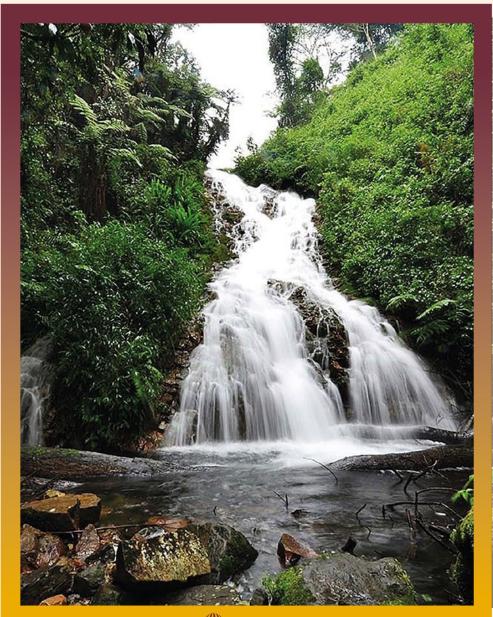
5 Star Lodge Options Kampala Kampala Serena Hotel Emin Pasha Hotel Latitude 0 Hotel

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 Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Your safari starts with a scenic drive 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



THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



GORILLA FAMILIES OF BWIND BUHOMA SECTOR 4 GORILLA FAMILIES RUHIJA SECTOR 4 GORILLA FAMILIES **NKURINGO SECTOR 2 GORILLA FAMILIES RUSHAGA SECTOR 7 GORILLA FAMILIES** RIFT VALLEY **EXPL**®RER

- 01 | Habinyanja Gorilla Family
 - Home: Buhoma, Count: 12 with 2 Silverback
- 02 Katwe Gorilla Family
 - Home: Buhoma, Count: 9 with 2 Silverback
- 03 | Mubare Gorilla Family
 - Home: Buhoma, Count: 9 with 1 Silverback
- 04 Rushegura Gorilla Family
 - Home: Buhoma, Count: 19 with 2 Silverback
- 05 Bitukura Gorilla Family
 - Home: Ruhija, Count: 13 with 2 Silverback
- 06 Kyaguliro Gorilla Family
 - Home: Ruhija, Count: 4 with 1 Silverback
- 07 Mukiza Gorilla Family
 - Home: Ruhija, Count: 15 with 1 Silverback
- 08 Oruzogo Gorilla Family
 - Home: Ruhija, Count: 19 with 2 Silverback
- 09 Kutu Gorilla Family
 - Home Rushaga, Count: 20 with 1 Silverback
- 10 Bikingi Gorilla Family
 - Home: Rushaga, Count: 12 with 2 Silverback
- 11 Busingye Gorilla Family
 - Home: Rushaga, Count: 9 with 1 Silverback
- 01 Bweza Gorilla Family
 - Home: Rushaga, Count: 15 with 3 Silverback
- 12 Kahungye Gorilla Family
 - Home: Rushaga, Count: 25 with 5 Silverback
- 13 Mishaya Gorilla Family
 - Home: Rushaga, Count: 8 with 1 Silverback
- 14 Shongi Gorilla Family
 - Home: Rushaga, Count: 11 with 1 Silverback
- 15 Bushaho Gorilla Family
 - Home: Nkuringo, Count: 10 with 1 Silverback
- 16 Nkuringo Gorilla Family
 - Home: Nkuringo, Count: 12 with 0 Silverback



kilometers of montane and lowland forests that can be accessed only on hiking trails established at main park entry points linked to the four sectors of the forest, Rushaga, Buhoma, Nkuringo, and Ruhija.

Of the close to 1,000 mountain gorillas in this region, about 470 reside in the ancient Bwindi Forest, dating back to the last ice age and providing the backdrop for the 'Bucket List' adventure of tracking mountain gorillas in their natural habitat of dense bamboo thickets with enchanting views of tropical rainforests. The remaining African mountain gorillas are in three other locations: the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, and the Virunga National Park in the DRC. These three national parks and a string of eight volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley are today known as the Virunga Conservation Area (VCA).

In addition to the famous mountain gorillas, the park features an astonishing variety of flora and fauna, including 120 species of mammals, of which 10 are primates, 350 species of birds, 310 species of butterflies, 27 species of chameleons, geckos, and frogs. The forest is among the most ecologically diverse in East Africa, with more than 1,000 flowering plant species, 200 species of trees, and 104 species of ferns. You also have the opportunity to observe other primates, such as chimps, black and white Colobus monkeys, and L'Hoest monkeys.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Gorilla Habituation Exp.- US \$ 1,500 Per Person

Two types of gorilla tracking permits are available in the ancient Bwindi Forest. The standard permit costs US \$ 800 per person, allowing a larger group of 8 to visit a habituated gorilla family for 1 to 2 hours. The longer and more exclusive gorilla habituation experience costs US \$ 1,500 per person and allows a smaller group of 4 to join

researchers during their visit to one of the gorilla families habituated to human presence for 4 hours.

Activity Option - Explore Batwa Cultural Trail - US \$ 80 Per Person

The Batwa Forest People are an ethnic group with rich and ancient ancestral traditions and rely on the forest, hunting and harvesting wild yams and honey without adversely affecting the area's ecosystem. Exploring the 'Batwa Trail' allows you to join their guides and venture along extensive forest trails to learn about their cultures, traditions, and techniques of surviving in the forest. You will also visit their villages in the forest to observe musical performances and traditional hunting/gathering demonstrations.

Activity Option - Explore Bwindi Forest Trails - US \$ 40 Per Person

Guided hiking through the Bwindi Forest on the many established forest trails is organized by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and features fantastic views of pristine tropical rainforest and enchanting waterfalls. In addition to the famous mountain gorillas, the park features an astonishing variety of flora and fauna, including 120 species of mammals, of which 10 are primates, 350 species of birds, 310 species of butterflies, 27 species of chameleons, geckos, and frogs. The forest is among the most ecologically diverse in East Africa, with more than 1,000 flowering plant species, 200 species of trees, and 104 species of ferns. You also have the opportunity to observe other primates, such as chimps, black and white Colobus monkeys, blue monkeys, and L'Hoest monkeys.

4 Star Lodge Options Buhoma Lodge Silverback Lodge Trackers Lodge Gorilla Valley Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options Bwindi Lodge Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp





THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER

☐ Day 03 - Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Today, you will go on an exciting *Gorilla Tracking* adventure in the ancient Bwindi Forest, which will be the ultimate highlight of your safari. You will also venture to *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail*, an experience established by the Batwa Forest People of southwestern Uganda to highlight their ancient cultures and traditions. Please see the *Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price* section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options Buhoma Lodge Silverback Lodge Trackers Lodge Gorilla Valley Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options Bwindi Lodge Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp

Day 04 - Bwindi Impenetrable NP to Mgahinga Gorilla NP.

Today, you transfer to the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park with the opportunity to venture into the dense bamboo forests for Golden Monkey Tracking, which are considered the smallest primate species and endangered. The Mgahinga Gorilla National Park is situated in southwestern Uganda, bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and was gazetted as such in 1991. It is the smallest of the ten parks the country has established, covers just 33 square kilometers, and is part of the Virunga Conservation Area (VCA). This regional management association includes the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, and the Virunga National Park in the DRC. The 434 square kilometers of the VCA also includes a string of volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and Mgahinga NP features three of the eight volcanoes that make up the famous Virunga Volcanoes range, namely, Mt. Muhabura (4,127 m), Mt. Gahinga (3,474 m), and Mt. Sabinyo (3,645 m).

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

Of the three volcanoes within the park boundaries, Mount Muhabura (4,127 m) is the second highest in the volcano range and is situated on the border between Rwanda and Uganda. Climbing its peak rewards you with fantastic views of at least five other volcanoes in the border triangle. The climb is considered demanding and may take a whole day to achieve. Climbing Mount Sabinyo (3,645 m) can also be challenging, so it is advisable to be fit for a long climbing session. By comparison, Mount Gahinga (3,474 m) is the smallest of the three volcanoes and the easiest and fastest to climb.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price section for details. Other activity options in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

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

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





Activity Option - Explore Batwa Cultural Trail - US \$ 80 Per Person

The Batwa Forest People are an ethnic group with rich and ancient ancestral traditions and rely on the forest, hunting and harvesting wild yams and honey without adversely affecting the area's ecosystem. Exploring the 'Batwa Trail' allows you to join their guides and venture along extensive forest trails to learn about their cultures, traditions, and techniques of surviving in the forest. You will also visit their villages in the forest to observe musical performances and traditional hunting/gathering demonstrations.

Activity Option - Volcano Trekking - US \$ 100 Per Person

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

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

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

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

4 Star Lodge Options Travellers Rest

5 Star Lodge Options Mount Gahinga Lodge

☐ Day 05 - Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

Today, you venture into the dense bamboo forests for *Volcano Trekking*, where you can climb one of the three Virunga volcanoes within the park boundaries. Climbing any of these volcanoes varies in degrees of difficulty or time required. **Please see the Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

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 06 - 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, which allows for cycling, horseback, and walking safaris through park landscapes. 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, which were driven out of the park by human overpopulation many years ago.

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. Other activity options in Lake Mburo National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

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 07 - Lake Mburo NP to Departure from Entebbe.

It is time to say farewell to the lake and the golden savannahs of the Lake Mburo National Park and enjoy a scenic drive back to Entebbe. Your driver/guide will then transfer you to the Entebbe International Airport for your scheduled departure from Uganda later that day.



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

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

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



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



