

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



7 DAYS - THE 'PRIMATE KINGDOM' EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

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

The second part of your safari takes you to the 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, warthog, buffalos, hippos, and small population of Rothschild's giraffe.

- ❑ **Day 01 - Arrival in Entebbe.**
Arrival and transfer to your accommodation.
- ❑ **Day 02 - Entebbe to Kibale National Park.**
Scenic drive to the Kibale National Park. *Crater Lakes Hike.*
- ❑ **Day 03 - Kibale National Park.**
Chimpanzee Tracking in the Kibale Forest.
Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary.
Activity Options *Chimpanzee Habituation Experience.*
- ❑ **Day 04 - Kibale NP to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**
Transfer to the Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- ❑ **Day 05 - Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**
Gorilla Tracking in the Bwindi Forest. *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail.*
Activity Options *Gorilla Habituation Experience • Explore Bwindi Forest Trails.*
- ❑ **Day 06 - Bwindi Impenetrable 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, airport transfer and departure from Entebbe.



Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Kibale NP - *Crater Lakes Hike*.

Kibale NP - *Chimpanzee Tracking Permit*.

Kibale NP - *Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary*.

Bwindi Impenetrable NP - *Gorilla Tracking Permit*.

Bwindi Impenetrable NP - *Explore Batwa Cultural Trail*.

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 @ Karibu Entebbe - FB.

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

Day 04 - 05 2 nights @ Rushaga Gorilla Lodge - FB.

Day 06 1 night @ Eagle's Nest - FB.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 1 night @ Latitude 0 Hotel - FB.

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

Day 04 - 05 2 nights @ Bwindi 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

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

<i>2 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 3,051
<i>3 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 2,838
<i>4 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 2,732
<i>5 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 2,668
<i>6 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 2,625

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

<i>2 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 10,811
<i>3 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 10,458
<i>4 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 10,281
<i>5 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 10,176
<i>6 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 10,105

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 Kibale National Park.

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



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RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**

GORILLA FAMILIES OF BWINDI



- 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



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





THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



□ Day 03 - Kibale National Park.

Today, you will go on an exhilarating **Chimpanzee Tracking** adventure in the Kibale Forest, which will be one of the highlights of your safari. You will also venture to **Explore Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary**, a community-managed initiative known for its excellent biodiversity. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Crater Safari Lodge

Chimpundu Lodge

Turaco Treetops

Chimpanzee Forest Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Kibale Lodge

Ndali Lodge

Kyaninga Lodge

Primate Lodge

□ Day 04 - Kibale NP to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

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 thick-

ets 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

Day 05 - 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 06 - 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, 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 factors 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





MURCHISON FALLS



LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



KIBALE LODGE • KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



LATITUDE 0 HOTEL • KAMPALA



KIBALE LODGE • KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



MIHINGO LODGE • LAKE MBURO NP



BWINDI LODGE • BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NP



MIHINGO LODGE • LAKE MBURO NP