



GORILLA TRACKING

IN ASSOCIATION WITH MAHLATINI

Uganda's Highlights - 8 Nights

Day One

On arrival at Entebbe Airport you will be met by your guild/driver for your tour around Uganda. You will then be driven to the Mantana Camp at Lake Mburo, with a transfer time of approximately 3 hours. The flat river valleys of Lake Mburo National Park feature dense thickets of vegetation offering an fascinating environment for wildlife viewing. Depending on when you arrive you should have time for afternoon safari activities such as game drives, canoeing or walking.

Overnight at Mantana Camp - Lake Mburo National Park

Day Two

This morning you will be taken on a safari to some of the parks best locations for game viewing. After your safari you will be driven through the Western Highlands of Uganda onto Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, this drive should take between 7-10 hours based on road conditions. Depending on when you arrive there should be time for an evening walk on one of the many trails in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.

Overnight at Lake Kitandara Tented Camp - Bwindi National Park

Day Three

You depart this morning for a trek into the depths of Bwindi National Park. You will be led by experienced trackers who will bring you amongst a family of mountain gorillas. The incredible primates are extremely rare; with only 700 remaining in the wild very few people in the world are lucky enough to see them in their natural habitat. After your gorilla trek you will return to the camp for a late lunch. All meals included.

Overnight at Lake Kitandara Tented Camp – Bwindi National Park

Day Four

This morning you will depart for Queen Elizabeth National Park, be prepared for some incredible scenery along the way. This park protects 200km² of Rift Valley Savanna, interspersed with patches of forest and crater lakes, an idea location for a safari. You will arrive in the Park in time for an evening safari boat trip along the beautiful Kazinga channel. The boat cruise is a great location for photography, bird watching, or game viewing with such diversity of life supported by the channel; including hippos, water birds, elephants, buffaloes, Nile crocodiles and the occasional leopard.

Overnight Hippo Hill Camp - Queen Elizabeth National Park

Day Five

The Kyambura Gorge will be your first destination today. This 100m deep gorge is drained by the Kyambura river creating a microclimate that supports a dense tropical forest, very different to the savannah landscape that surrounds the gorge. Your guide will take you on a trek into this gorge, home to an incredible diversity of wildlife, including groups of wild chimpanzees which you might be lucky enough to see. In the afternoon your driver/guild will show you around the highlights of Queen Elizabeth National Park, giving you a chance to enjoy some of Ugandas finest game viewing .

Overnight Hippo Hill Camp - Queen Elizabeth National Park

Day Six

This morning after your breakfast you will be driven to Kibale Forest National Park, along the way with the help of your personal driver/guild there will be some great opportunities for game viewing. Within Kibale Forest National Park is an area known as the Bigodi Wetlands, this is a community tourism initiative established to protect the Magombe Swamp. The papyrus choked wetland is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife including 8 primate species, and 140 species of bird. In the afternoon you will visit the Bigodi Wetlands bird and primate sanctuary, where you might just come across a rare shoebill stork or perhaps a Central African red colobus.

Overnight Kibale Camp - Kibale Forest National Park

Uganda's Highlights continued...

Day Seven

This morning you will be taken chimpanzee tracking, through Kibale Forest National Park. During this walk you will have a very good chance of seeing many of the 13 primate species native to Kibale. Your guides have years of experience within the forest and are certain to be able to answer any of your questions. In the afternoon you will be transferred to Kampala.

Overnight Kibale Camp - Kibale Forest National Park

Day Eight

Morning transfer to Kampala. If you have time perhaps take in an optional visit to Ngamba Island. Alternatively spend the afternoon visiting the Botanical Gardens or the craft market.

Overnight St Bruno Tented Camp - Entebbe

Day Nine

Transfer to Entebbe airport for departure.

Includes:

Accommodation, Meals, Park fees, Gorilla permit and Transportation in 4x4 safari vehicle and services of driver /local guide

Excludes:

Tips, Portorage, Flights, Expenses of a personal nature, Visas, and Optional excursions

Places you will visit...

Lake Mbuoro National Park

The flat river valleys of Lake Mbuoro NP feature dense thickets of vegetation offering an attractive environment for wildlife viewing. There are five lakes here which are a big draw to the wildlife. The main attractions are the plains animals such as zebra, buffalo, impala, topis and elands. Other more elusive residents include leopard, aardvark, pangolin and porcupine. There is also a lot of activity around the water with plenty of crocodiles and hippos as you might expect in African lakes! The wetlands attract some of the rarer animals such as the shy sitatunga antelope. The birding is excellent with some 357 species recorded, drawn both by the water and the acacia savannahs. These include Uganda's national bird the crested crane, the rare shoebill stork, marabou stork and bronze-tailed starling, bee eaters and even more exotic birds such as the blue-naped coucal and the Nubian woodpecker. Lake Mbuoro National Park is situated between Kampala and the southern forests where the gorilla trekking takes place, making it a convenient place to stop off en route and gives you the chance to see a variety of Ugandan wildlife even if your main focus happens to be the primates.

Bwindi National Park

West across the Albertine Rift Valley is the ancient forest of Bwindi. As you approach it is obvious why it is was named the Impenetrable Forest. The deep river gorges and high ridges have remained forested for millions of years resulting in an incredible biodiversity. Bwindi has at least 90 mammal species, 350 species of birds, 324 species of trees, huge numbers of butterflies and, most importantly, it is home to probably half the world's population of mountain gorillas. The terrain is hilly, very muddy and can involve scrambling through dense vegetation, be prepared for an arduous day anything from 15 minutes to 8 hours but there is no doubt that to trek through jungle and montane forest in search of magnificent mountain gorillas is one of the most amazing wildlife experiences in the world.

Although gorilla tracking is the main focus of any visit, there are several forest trails ranging from a half hour stroll to several hours hard walking. The Ugandan Wildlife Authority has developed a partnership with local communities to encourage development through conservation. This enables local people to improve their standard of living through better agricultural practices, thus reducing pressure on forest resources. The park employs local people as wardens, researchers and rangers, local communities receive a proportion of the Park's income.

Queen Elizabeth National Park

Kampala is the capital city, social hub and the country's largest urban centre. Kampala city derived its name from the luganda word kasozi ka mpala -hill of antelopes in reference to the domestic Impala that cropped the lawns of Mengo during Mutesa's reign. Today, as you stand on the hills, the City provides magnificent evergreen trees, gently disrupted by red-tiled villas, green iron-roofed bungalows, as well as taller modern city profiles that give way to attractive views of the surrounding country side and nearby Lake Victoria.

The City has retained its traditional charm, and remains the greenest in Africa. But today Kampala is the heart of Uganda and the centre of commercial life and the seat of government. It is a vibrant modern metropolis adorned with gardens and parks providing colorful oases for its citizens and visitors alike, Hotel facilities range from the best international hotels, with state-of-the-art conference facilities, to accommodation for the more budget-minded.

Kibale National Park & Bigodi Wetlands

Kibale forest is one of the finest places in the world for watching primates. The forest here is home to 13 primate species more than any other East African park, this includes red-tailed L'Hoest and blue monkeys, grey-cheeked mangabey, red colobus and black and white colobus and a substantial population of habituated chimpanzees. The chimp tracking takes place twice a day, morning and late afternoon. In addition the park authorities offer fantastic night walks, a great opportunity to search for nocturnal primates such as the wide-eye bush baby and the sloth-like potto. Kibale is also a sanctuary to the elusive forest elephant, smaller and hairier than its savannah counterpart. Other mammals include buffalo, giant forest hog and several antelope species. The network of forest trails are a delight to botanists, birders and butterfly lovers.

Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary is a superb community tourism initiative established to protect the Magombe Swamp is a haven for birds and primates. The walks through the sanctuary are led by knowledgeable guides, for birders the morning walks are particularly recommended.