10 DAYS – NATURE CULTURAL & PRIMATE SAFARI IN UGANDA

Murchison Falls | Kibale Forest | Queen Elizabeth | Bwindi Forest

Overview

This safari starts and ends in Kampala or Entebbe Airport. Depending on your arrival time, you will relax at your pre-booked hotel, or you can opt to go for a tour in the Botanical Gardens. Visit Murchison Falls NP and marvel at the Nile, as it squeezes through a 6-meter canyon. Adventure further to Queen Elizabeth National Park with its grassy plains, tropical forest, rivers, swamps, lakes and volcanic craters that are home to an incredible abundance of wildlife. Explore the spectacular beauty of the rain forest in Bwindi National Park and observe the gentle and endangered gorillas for an awesome experience. Wrap up your tour with a visit to Lake Bunyonyi which is the second deepest lake in Africa after lake Tanganyika.

Itinerary

DAY 01: ARRIVE IN ENTEBBE – UGANDA

On arrival at Entebbe international airport, a tour guide from Silverback Travel Company will be in the arrivals lounge holding a placard bearing your names. He will transfer you to the hotel for refreshments and overnight stay. He / She will brief you on the next day's program as per the itinerary. *Dinner & overnight at The Boma Hotel Entebbe – Breakfast |Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 02/03 – MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

On day two you will enjoy morning breakfast and drive to Murchison falls national park. It will take you around 6-7 hours from Kampala with about 305 km, with a stopover at the Zziwa rhino sanctuary for a rhino trek (Optional activity). After lunch at the Kabalega dinners, you will enter through Kichumbanyobo gate. Para covers about 85km from Masindi town by the shortest route. You will visit the top of the falls and then proceed to your pre-booked accommodation. (6-7Hrs Driving)

On day three you will have an early morning breakfast and then go for a game drive where you will spot various animal species like elephants, giraffes, lions, Uganda Kobs among others. In the afternoon you will go for a launch cruise on the park's main tourist attraction the unique Murchison Falls as well as the river Nile with its streaming hippo and serried ranges of crocodile along the sandbanks, as well as large numbers of different species getting down to drink & bathe. *Dinner and overnight at Pakuba Safari Lodge – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 04 – TRANSFER TO KIBALE FOREST

Your journey to Kibale Forest will be your longest drive on this tour, but possibly the most scenic. The drive will take you through tea plantations, lively village markets and over rolling hills of lush green countryside that is so characteristic of western Uganda.

Kibale Forest National Park itself is an extensive tract of dense tropical rainforest located just south of the town Fort Portal. The various ecosystems in this space are reputed to harbor the highest density of primates in all of Africa. The rare red colobus monkey as well as the black and white colobus are just some of the primates you may encounter on your forest walks here. The highlight of a trip to Kibale Forest is of course to spend some time observing the wonderfully entertaining chimpanzees.

Your lodge for the next two nights offers a unique jungle experience near the boundaries of the park. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of nature in one of the property's beautifully decorated cottages, each set in a private nook in the forest. The rooms are spacious and have large terraces from where you can watch the activities of the forest inhabitants. The main lodge building offers stunning views of the forest canopy below and on a clear day you can see all the way to the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains. *Dinner and overnight Turaco Tree Top – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 05 – CHIMPANZEE TRACKING & SWAMP WALK
No other animal reminds us so much of ourselves as the chimpanzee. Besides many common features and mannerisms, chimpanzees also share 98% of our human DNA, making them our closest living relatives. It is not so surprising then that we find the habits and biology of these primates so fascinating to study.

While Chimpanzees can be found in 21 countries throughout Africa, they are most easily sighted in Uganda due to the high concentration of the species here. On a Chimpanzee Tracking experience in Kibale Forest you will have the opportunity to follow an experienced guide into the forest to observe these fascinating creatures at a close range. Watching them interact with each other and go about their daily routine of grooming, playing and foraging is an incredible experience.

While your chances of encountering chimpanzees are high during your tracking excursion, it is never 100% guaranteed. These are, after all, wild animals with wills and minds of their own! After socializing with the chimps, you will be invited to engage in the human custom of a hot lunch. Served by residents you will learn about the traditional cuisine of the region and its preparation. This meal will offer a nice insight into the local culture, as well as giving a real taste of Uganda!

In the afternoon you can choose whether you would like to spend more time with the local communities and learn more about their day-to-day lives on a Community Walk or go deeper into the forest on a Swamp Walk in the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary. The Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary is home to 8 primate species, over 200 bird species, butterflies and various reptiles. For bird lovers the highlight of the afternoon is spotting the beautiful great blue turaco. Both the Community Walk and Swamp Walk are operated by KAFRED, a registered community-based organization. The income from the walk is used for community development projects such as schools and hospitals. *Dinner and overnight stay at Turaco Tree Top – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 06: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK
Queen Elizabeth National Park is Uganda's most visited game reserve and arguably the most scenic. The national park protects the vast savannah plains, bushland, wetlands and forests that lie at the base of the Rwenzori Mountain range. Kazinga Channel, which flows through the park and connects Lake George in the east to Lake Edward in the west, attracts a rich array of animals and birds, including the infamous Nile crocodile and one of the world's largest concentration of hippos. On your first game drive you will explore the park along a 200-kilometre network of well-maintained game viewing tracks. *Dinner and overnight at Kasenyi Camp – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 07 – GAME DRIVE & KAZINGA CHANNEL CRUISE
Game drives in Queen Elizabeth National Park including a launch trip of about two hours on the Kazinga Channel to view some of the largest concentration of hippo in the world {reported to be about 30,000} and other game with excellent birding. Queen Elizabeth National Park is one of best birding parks in Africa, with 560 + recorded species and a record of 296 bird species seen in one 24-hour period.

- ***Join A Research Team and Track the Majestic Lions of QENP (Included in The Price)***

For visitors who yearn to get a closer look at African wildlife, while contributing to an important conservation program at the same time, a Lion Tracking research trip can be a rewarding adventure. This unique experience allows visitors to join a research team who track and monitor some of lions in

the park though locator devices. The data collected will further the conservation program, while you get a unique and intimate insight into the lives and habits of these fascinating predators. The additional cost for this optional activity is USD 100 per person. *Dinner and overnight at Kasenyi Camp – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 08 – ISHASHA – BWINDI

After a relaxed breakfast, your guide will transfer to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park the southern sector of queen Elizabeth, which is well known for the tree climbing lions and other wildlife like the spotted hyenas, Leopards, elephants (with large tasks), topi and different species of birds, where you will do a short game drive in search for these tree climbing lions before proceeding to your lodge in Bwindi. This is one of our favorite drives in Uganda. The serpentine roads wind through lush rainforests, skirting hill tops (keep your eyes open for the volcanos!) and dipping into lively villages in the valley before arriving your lodge.

Gorilla Tracking is the main highlight of a visit to the southern parts of Bwindi Forest, but you are also in the perfect place for volcano hikes, birding etc. The sunset scenes are unforgettable so make sure to find your way to the veranda in time for sundowners. *Dinner & overnight at Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge – Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 09: GORILLA TREKKING EXPERIENCE – BUNYONYI

Early morning you will start your gorilla trek. Bwindi, a World Heritage Park, is home to just over half of the world's last surviving mountain gorilla population of 880 individuals. Today's trek can take from one to six hours, sometimes more, at elevations in excess of 2,270 m (7,500 ft) and over rough terrain. The area around Buhoma is an excellent place for watching primates and birds and you may catch a glimpse of the noisy but evasive Chimpanzees or the beautiful Horn bills and Turaco. The forest is home to 120 species of mammals, 346 species of birds, 202 species of butterflies, and 163 species of trees, making it one of the richest ecosystems in Africa. You will be allowed to stay in the presence of the gorillas for at least an hour before driving to Lake Bunyonyi for an overnight. *Dinner & overnight at Birds Nest Resort– Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner*

DAY 10: ENTEBBE – DEPARTURE

After an early breakfast at your lodge, you're embark on your journey to Entebbe with a lunch stop in Mbarara, then at the Equator for a photo shoot. Later drive to Entebbe International Airport to check-in for departure flight. An extra night's stay in Entebbe for next day's departure can be arranged on request.

DATES

- All our trips run throughout the year (2023/2024) let it be groups or Private since we have a special partnership with our service providers

- The bookings with the hotels mentioned in the program depend on availability. Reservations will only be made after your booking.
- In case the mentioned hotels are not available during the requested period, we will do our utmost best to book a hotel in the same class for you (of course we will only do this after consulting you). It is not possible to 'reserve' gorilla and chimpanzee permits. Therefore, we can only buy them after your booking and down-payment and here it all depends on availability.

PRICE INCLUDES…

- 4x4 Customized Safari Jeep/Vans with Fuel for the Safari.
- Experienced English speaking driver guide
- Gorilla & Chimpanzee permits (one permit per activity)
- Lion Experience in QENP
- Park Entrance Fees + Taxes
- Airport Transfers (Complementary)
- Enroute Hot Lunches as per the Itinerary
- English speaking Safari guide – Accredited by USAGA.
- Accommodation based on Full Board.
- Game Drives & Park entrance fees
- Swamp walks in Bigodi
- Bottled water in the car (1Litre per day)!

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE…

- International Flights Tips & Laundry
- Extra meals & drinks
- Visa Fees USD 50 (Single Entry) & USD 100 East African Visa
- Insurance (Both Indemnity & Medical)