



Journeys of a lifetime

MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND LAKES



Introduction

We start our Journey in Uganda at Murchison Falls which is Uganda's largest National Park. The park is cut in half by the Nile and its landscape varies from dense rainforest to undulating savannah and shelters a wide variety of wildlife. Murchison Falls are very impressive, here the Nile forces its way through a 7 meter gap in the rocks and into the gorge below.

After Murchison we move on to Kibale Forest National Park, an extensive National Park, protecting a large block of rainforest that offers some excellent forest for bird watching. Kibale also harbors the greatest variety and concentration of primates found anywhere in East Africa. The big attraction here is tracking one of the groups of Chimpanzees that make their home in the forest, these wild chimpanzees have been habituated to human presence and it is fascinating to get close to a family group and watch them going about their daily routine.

The next leg of our journey takes us to the "Pearl of Africa" as Queen Elizabeth National park is known. This is Uganda's finest Park and home to a wide variety of game. The park is stunningly beautiful with huge biodiversity and home to over 600 bird species including the strange and rare Whale Headed Stork and also 100 mammal species.

The park includes Lake Edward and Lake George which are joined by the Kazinga Channel and which are located in prime wildlife viewing areas.

The highlight of our trip comes next, with our visit to the Bwindi impenetrable forest. Bwindi Forest Park is home to more than 300 mountain gorillas living in an estimated 9 families headed by the silver back males. Gorilla trekking is a wildlife experience not to be missed; spending time with these very intelligent and close relatives of mankind is a very moving experience, only

a small number of permits are issued to track gorillas on each day making this an exclusive experience.

For the final leg of our Safari we return to Entebbe by road via the lovely Lake Mburo National Park, home to a great variety of plains Game and birdlife.

Day 1

You will be met off your early morning flight and transferred to the Boma Guesthouse for one night on a bed and breakfast basis. If time permits it is possible to take an interesting afternoon visit to the chimp sanctuary on Ngamba Island in Lake Victoria. (Payable locally)

<http://www.boma.co.ug/>

Day 2

You will be collected by your private 4x4 safari vehicle and personal safari driver/guide and driven to **Murchison Falls National Park** where you will be staying at Nile Safari Lodge on a full board basis for the next two nights. Lunch is taken on route.

Day 3

Today you will have a morning game drive in the park. The forest shelters many primate species, including Chimpanzees, while the river attracts various antelopes, buffalo, giraffe and elephants.

In the afternoon you will have an afternoon cruise to the bottom of the Falls. A boat trip on the Nile is a highlight of any trip to this park. Hippos can be seen in hundreds from a boat trip along the Nile while on sandbanks huge crocodiles bask in the sun, along the shores one can often spot elephant giraffe, buffalo and various antelope species.

Nile Safari Lodge nestles peacefully within the rich papyrus forest on the southern banks of the River Nile, the Lodge offers some of the most luxurious accommodation in Uganda's largest national park. Nile Safari Lodge has a choice of wooden chalets and luxury tents cleverly positioned to maximize stunning views and to give a true feeling of wild Africa.

The Lodge has ten rooms, which include 5 wooden chalets and 5 luxury tents, all fitted with en-suite washrooms. From each private balcony – suspended over the River Nile – a massive expanse unfolds. Hundreds of weaver nests occupy overhanging trees, while the silent ripple of water whispers untold secrets. Giant Nile crocodiles bask on sand banks, hippos snort with contentment, whilst elephant herds wade through the papyrus islands in search of food. The lodge has a ice swimming pool in which to take refuge from the hot equatorial sun.

A boat trip to the bottom of Murchison Falls is a must, as is a drive to the top. Every drop of water in the River Nile plunges and explodes through a narrow ravine, creating the most powerful single concentration of water in the world. Game drives take place on the northern banks of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and birding in the area is superb. The Lodge has several prime locations for bush dining, chosen for their exclusivity and remoteness.

View at http://www.geolodgesafrica.com/nile_safari_lodge.htm

Day 4

This morning you will have a visit to the top of Murchison Falls this will be followed in the afternoon by Chimpanzee tracking in the Budongo Forest. Budongo is the largest Mahogany forest in East Africa and home of the greatest population of chimpanzees in Uganda.

Day 5

Today you will depart for **Kibale Forest National Park** where you will be staying at Primate Lodge in a luxury tent on a full board basis.

Day 6

After breakfast, you will have a Chimpanzee Trekking excursion to locate and observe one of the habituated families that live in the forest.

In the afternoon you will have a Bigodi Swamp Walk. This is a community initiative and is a great chance to see some of the primate species that inhabit the area as well great bird watching, butterflies and a wide variety of reptiles.

Nature trails into the forest have been created, and quite apart from the chimps, the walks are wonderful. You may have an opportunity to see other animals such as Red, black- and- white Colobus monkeys, baboons, vervet, red-tailed; L'Hoest's and blue monkeys, grey-cheeked mangabey and sometimes the big mammals including elephants, buffaloes, warthog, bushpig, and giant forest hog.

Primate Lodge is located in the heart of Kibale Forest National Park. It is a comfortable tented camp offering a great base from which to view the range of wildlife in the forest and park. The tents are all set on raised wooden platforms and each has a private veranda offering views over the forest. All tents have en suite bathrooms with showers. There is a treehouse high in the canopy for those with a sense of adventure!

The restaurant serves both local and international cuisine and the adjacent bar and lounge areas are excellent places to relax after a day's game viewing. The most popular activity here is chimp trekking but there are also opportunities for guided nature walks and nocturnal walks (subject to availability). The visitor centre is very close to the lodge.

View at <http://www.ugandalodges.com/primate/index.php>

Day 7

Today you will drive to the Queen Elizabeth National Park where you will be staying for the next two nights on a full board basis at Katara Lodge. You will arrive in time for lunch after which you will have an afternoon game drive in the park.

Queen Elizabeth National Park, almost 2,000 sq. km, is bordered to the North by the Rwenzori mountains and to the West by Lake Edward, and is divided into a Northern and Southern sector. This beautiful park is very varied with sprawling cacti, savannah, forests, rivers and lakes. A highlight of the park is the hippos and the birds on the Kazinga Channel, which links Lake Edward and Lake George. From the launch trip on the Channel, one can watch hundreds of Hippos at close range, spreading their mouths wide and rushing to the water. The birdlife is

spectacular and includes pelicans, fish eagles, kingfishers, cormorants and saddle bill storks. Buffalos and waterbucks come to the water to cool off, and you may see elephant, lion and crocodile.

The park's northern section is particularly scenic. When the weather permits, there are tremendous views of the Rwenzori peaks from its plains, which are decorated with giant candelabra euphorbia trees.

Kyambura Gorge, where visitors can take a walking safari along a river through tropical forest is a popular visitors spot, here Black and White Colobus, Redtail Monkeys and Chimpanzees can often be seen. Kyambura also has resident populations of lion and leopard.

Day 8

Morning game drive in the park followed by lunch and an afternoon boat safari on the Kazinga Channel.

Katara Lodge is situated on the Great Rift Valley escarpment with uninterrupted views of the savannah, Lake Edward and the Virunga and Rwenzori mountain ranges beyond, Katara Lodge is a 20 minute drive away from the main entrance of the Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda's premier safari destination and one of the most biodiverse reserves in the world. The park's varied habitats, which include open savannah, dense papyrus swamps, crater lakes, the extensive Maramagambo Forest and the forested Kyambura Gorge, are home to almost 100 mammal species and over 600 bird species.

Katara Lodge is the ideal base from which to explore the park and the many activities it offers, including game drives, bird watching, the famous launch cruise along the Kazinga Channel, chimpanzee tracking in the Kyambura Gorge, and forest walks in the Kalinzu or Maramagambo forests, all of which provide truly memorable wildlife experiences and incredible opportunities for nature photography.

<http://www.kataralodge.com/>

Day 9

Game drive transfer through the Southern sector of the park on route to Bwindi impenetrable forest. The area around Ishasha is renowned for its "tree climbing" lions, whose habit of lounging in the upper branches of old fig trees is not usually found in other lion populations. You can also see hippo, herds of buffalo, Uganda kob, topi, and many elephant. Your accommodation tonight will be at Mahogany springs on a full board basis for two nights. This is the newest and most comfortable lodge in the Buhoma area and the best place to stay for gorilla trekking in Bwindi.

<http://www.mahoganysprings.com/>

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is best known for its superb gorilla tracking and is the natural habitat for just over half the world's last surviving population of mountain gorillas. It also provides refuge to elephant, chimpanzee, monkeys and various small antelope and over 350 different bird species.

The main reason for a safari in Bwindi is to track and spend time with the Mountain Gorillas. The

gorillas you will track will belong one of the 'habituated' family groups, Only six permits per gorilla group are issued per day and you may spend anywhere between half and eight hours in search of these animals.

Once the gorillas are located, you will be allowed a maximum of one hour with them observing their behaviour and interaction with each other.

Clients wishing to track mountain gorillas should be of a reasonable fitness as it is a strenuous exercise and if you are in good health you will benefit far more from the entire experience. Bwindi Impenetrable forest contains a number of other species which are sometimes encountered in the thick cover.

Day 10

Today you will take your first Gorilla Trekking Experience.

The weather may be quite variable during your trip. For the most part it should be warm and dry during the day, but it can be rainy and wet underfoot when trekking for the gorillas and chimps. It is therefore advisable to take a light raincoat.

Day 11

Transfer by road to Lake Mburo National park. You will enjoy a game drive on route to Mantana Tented Camp where you will be staying tonight on a full board basis. You will have an afternoon boat trip on the lake.

Lake Mburo National Park is situated between the towns of Masaka and Mbarara. It is the only National Park to contain an entire lake.

Lake Mburo has leopard and Hyena but no lions or cheetah, the attractive acacia-dotted savannah is home to huge herds of impala, as well as less common topi, eland, klipspringer and other antelope. There are also large herds of Buffalo and Zebra.

At the lake there are hippo and crocodile and a wonderful diversity of birds due mainly to the varying habitats of the lakeshore and the broad savannah. Among the birds found here are Kingfishers, marabou stork, bee-eaters and the cheeky bronze-tailed starling, as well as the majestic crowned crane, the national emblem of Uganda.

Mantana Tented Camp is a small camp with only nine well-spaced rooms each with panoramic views over acacia woodland and the lake below. The large tents are simple but comfortably furnished with an en-suite bathroom.

The rooms do not have running water but hot and cold water is provided in flasks next to the wash-basins and hot water is always available for a bucket shower. The dining and bar area is a large open-sided tent and you can enjoy your pre- or post-dinner drinks in the chairs set around the camp-fire every evening.

Activities from Mantana Tented Camp include game drives, walking safaris and canoe trips on Lake Mburo.

View at http://www.kimbla-mantanauganda.com/index_Page344.htm

Day 12

Guided morning bush Walk with a ranger, you will return to the lodge after lunch and then depart for Entebbe. You will be staying tonight at the Boma Guesthouse on a half board basis.

<http://www.boma.co.ug/>

TOTAL PRICE PER PERSON ON AN ENTEBBE TO ENTEBBE BASIS US\$4680 (£3120)

What's included?

Airport Transfers
Private 4x4 Safari Vehicle with English Speaking driver/guide
Full Board accommodation at all properties except where noted
Bottle Mineral Water in Safari Vehicle
All entrance and ranger fees at National parks
Activities and excursions as per Program
Chimp Trekking Permit in Kibale

What's not included?

International Flights
Visa Fees (US\$50 payable on arrival)
Gorilla Trekking Permits US\$500 per permit
Drinks at all properties
Tips
Items of a personal Nature

When to go

Although possible at any time of year the drier months are January/February and June to September when trekking conditions are less arduous are ideal.

Who should go

This a fabulous adventure in a part of Africa which still sees relatively few tourists and will suit guests who are prepared to experience Africa close up and personal rather than sealed off in five star game lodges. The tourist industry is relatively undeveloped and unsophisticated compared to its better known East African neighbors, so lodges and service are not quite at the levels seen in Kenya and Southern Africa. However in our opinion the friendliness of the local people, stunning scenery and unusual and varied wildlife all adds to the charm of this very beautiful country and more than compensates for any minor inconveniences.

This Safari will suit clients with an interest in photography, as the wildlife and the country as a whole is very photogenic.

The country is relatively inexpensive to visit and will suit those on a more limited budget.

We say

A trip to Uganda with both general big game viewing and Gorilla and Chimpanzee Trekking is a very special type of Safari experience and should not be missed. The chance to spend time with two of our closest relatives is a unique and very moving experience which cannot be replicated anywhere else in Africa. The fees you pay go into supporting these highly endangered animals

and the communities that live along side them, in the case of the Mountain Gorillas if it were not for visiting tourists and the income they bring in these gentle giants would almost certainly be extinct by now.

In our view a trip to Uganda offers a terrific combination of game viewing and the chance to explore one of Africa's most beautiful countries.

Wildlife Sightings

Africa's wildlife is free ranging and moves according to seasonal availability of food and water therefore no sighting is guaranteed. The following species can be found in the areas visited on this safari and guests can expect to see many of them.

Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Giraffe, Sitatunga, Giant Forest Hog, Uganda Kob, Hippo, Crocodile, warthog. Topi, Cape Buffalo, Hyena, Jackal, Bushpig, Duiker, Oribi, Chimpanzee. Mountain Gorilla, Baboon and many other primate species.

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Our consultants are dedicated to providing you, our clients, with the safari holiday of your dreams, we will always endeavour to offer you the best value safari and beach holiday in line with the time available and budget guidelines you have supplied.

The camps, lodges and hotels included in our trips are regularly vetted by our consultants to ensure the highest standards are maintained and that every safari and associated beach stay is a unique and authentic African experience.

Safari Club will never compromise the quality of our safaris by offering a knowingly inferior product in the interests of price.

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