

The Gorilla Safari Company

11 DAY "BEST OF UGANDA" SCHEDULED GROUP TOUR

*Entebbe – Murchison Falls National Park – Hoima – Kibale Forest National Park
Queen Elizabeth National Park - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - Lake Mburo National Park
11 Days / 10 Nights*

\$3,890 PER PERSON SHARING (April/May & November)

\$4,140 PER PERSON SHARING (January-March, June-October & December)

**** LIMITED PLACES ****

KEY FEATURES:

- Guaranteed to run with a minimum of two people
- Small group tour led by our top professional English-speaking guides
- Quality accommodation; flexibility to add private arrangements before or after the tour
- Gorilla trekking in Buhoma; chimpanzee trekking in Kibale
- Visits to community projects / cultural encounters / optional BATWA visit and Uganda Museum
- Safari boat cruises on the Kazinga Channel, Lake Mburo and at Murchison Falls
- Game drives at Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Game drive in Ishasha to search for tree-climbing Lions; cross the Equator point twice with photo stops

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

- DAY 1: Arrive into Entebbe / overnight city hotel
- DAY 2: Transfer to Murchison Falls National Park via ZIWA Rhino centre (includes rhino trekking)
- DAY 3: Game drive and boat cruise at Murchison Falls
- DAY 4: Game drive / transfer to Hoima / optional cultural activities
- DAY 5: Transfer to Kibale National Park
- DAY 6: Chimpanzee trekking / transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park (crossing the equator)
- DAY 7: Game drive and safari boat cruise in Queen Elizabeth Park / Kazinga Channel
- DAY 8: Game drive through Ishasha sector (tree-climbing lions) / transfer to Bwindi National Park
- DAY 9: Gorilla trekking in Bwindi / optional cultural activities
- DAY 10: Transfer to Lake Mburo and afternoon boat cruise
- DAY 11: Morning game drive and transfer to Entebbe

TOUR DATES 2017:

20-30 th January 2017	16-26 th April 2017
17-27 th February 2017	19-29 th May 2017
17-27 th March 2017	17-27 th November 2017
16-26 th June 2017	
21-31 st July 2017	
20-30 th August 2017	
17-27 th September 2017	
20-30 th October 2017	
17-27 th December 2017	

Day 1 - The Boma Hotel Entebbe

On arrival into Entebbe Airport you will be met and assisted to your driver who will transfer you to the BOMA HOTEL for a stay of one night. Time permitting you may wish to visit the Botanical Gardens which are a short taxi journey from the hotel.

Overnight: The Boma Hotel Entebbe



Day 2 - Pakuba Safari Lodge, Murchison Falls National Park

After breakfast, you will be met by your guide who will transfer you by road (around 6.5hrs) to Murchison Falls National park. The panoramic drive north-west takes you through the famous Luwero Triangle. Your journey will be broken with a stop to see the first of the BIG-5 (Rhino) at the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. The Rhino encounter lasts around 2 hours, afterward you will continue onto Masindi stopping for lunch before reaching Pakuba Safari Lodge where you stay for two nights.

Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch

Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch located in Nakasongola district is the proud home of the only wild Rhinos in Uganda. The Rhino re-introduction project is a project of Rhino Fund Uganda and Uganda Wildlife Authority. Located approximately 4hrs drive from Kampala this 1hr activity to track Rhinos on foot with the specialist rangers provides an exciting way to pass the morning or afternoon. The Rhino re-introduction project is part of the Uganda Wildlife Authority's funded schemes whereby they have re-located White Rhinos from Kenya and succeeded in breeding them with current numbers at 18. When the numbers reach 40 they will release 10 Rhinos into protected areas in Uganda as part of an ongoing breeding and re-introduction process. Visitors are led by trained rangers who will guide you on foot through the reserve and provide you with the opportunity to get VERY close (safely) to these exceptional animals.



Murchison Falls National Park

Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's largest National Park. The Murchison Falls Protected Area (MFPA) comprises of Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), Bugungu and Karuma Wildlife Reserves. The park derives its name from the waterfalls where the mighty River Nile explodes through a narrow gorge and flows down to become a placid river which flows through the centre of the park as it makes its way to Lake Albert.

The area is home to an astonishing biodiversity of wildlife. Ranging from dense rainforest to undulating savannah ensures incredible diversity and the prime game-viewing area is the peninsula between the Victoria and the Albert Niles, known as the Buligi Circuit.

Regular animal sightings including Crocodiles, Hippos, Elephants, Giraffes, Warthogs, Waterbuck, Buffalo, giant Forest Hogs, large prides of Lion, Hartbeest, Oribis, Ugandan kob, Chimpanzee, Leopard and over four hundred bird species including the rare Shoebill, Martial Eagle and the African Fish Eagle. Greater and lesser Flamingos are also sighted along with White-tailed Lark and Verraux's Eagle Owl and Papyrus Gonolek. In addition to game drives visitors can enjoy hiking or nature walks to the top of the Falls, boat cruises at the base of the falls, community visits, and evening drives.

Overnight: Pakuba Safari Lodge



Day 3 - Pakuba Safari Lodge, Murchison Falls National Park

Enjoy an early morning game drive. Murchison Falls National Park is home to Giraffes, Lions, Hartebeests, Elephants, Cape buffalo and many other mammals. Bird species include the Black Chested Snake Eagle, Blue Napped Mouse birds, the Secretary bird, Swallow Tailed Bee-eaters and the Silver Headed Agama, occasional sightings of the famous Shoebill are always a highlight.

After the game drive, your driver will return you to the lodge for a late breakfast and relaxation. After lunch, enjoy a boat cruise on the placid Victoria Nile to the bottom of the magnificent Murchison Falls where the Nile plunges through a narrow crevice and over a 40 metre drop. En route, you may be able to see the Nile crocodile, pools of hippo, water bucks and a variety of bird species.

Murchison Falls Boat Trip

One of the highlights of a visit to Murchison Falls National Park is the boat safari to the foot of Murchison Falls. Hippos and crocodiles are seen in abundance as well as herons, cormorants, bee-eaters, fish eagles, kingfishers and sometimes the rare Shoebill. The boat departs from the base of the falls around 2:00pm and journeys (17km) on a 3hr round trip returning as the sun sets. This allows time for a morning game drive when animal sightings are at their best. An early morning boat safari is also available heading in the opposite (28km) direction along the delta where the Victoria Nile enters Lake Albert which offers excellent game viewing and birding opportunities and takes around five hours.



Day 4 - Hoima Cultural Lodge, Hoima

After breakfast, your guide will take you on a short game drive as you exit the park heading for Hoima. The journey takes around 3-4hrs.

On arrival, you may wish to relax in the lush gardens or enjoy cultural encounters including cycling tours around the town or other cultural activities which your guide would be pleased to arrange for those who wish to participate.

Overnight: Hoima Cultural Lodge



Day 5 - Kibale Guest Cottages, Kibale Forest National Park

After breakfast, your driver will transfer you around 5hrs to Fort Portal, stopping for lunch en route. Continue onwards to the outskirts of Kibale Forest where you stay for one night at Kibale Guest Cottages.

Overnight: Kibale Guest Cottages



Day 6 - Parkview Safari Lodge, Queen Elizabeth National Park

In the morning, you will be transferred to the meeting point to join a small group led by a Ugandan Wildlife Authority specialist guide to track the Chimpanzees on foot in Kibale Forest. The activity lasts approximately 3-4 hours, after which you will be returned to the lodge for lunch and a chance to change before continuing onwards (around 4hrs) to the Queen Elizabeth National Park where you stay for two nights at Parkview Safari Lodge. (You will also cross the equator and may stop for a photo opportunity).

Kibale Forest Chimp Tracking

Chimpanzee walks take place 08.00am and usually last 2 to 3 hours with approximately 4-6 people in a group each led by an armed Ugandan Wildlife Authority specialist guide. Chimpanzees are the most sought after primate by visitors, but you should also look out for the Black & White Colobus, Red Tailed Monkey and the Grey Cheeked Mangabey. Your guides will also point out Pittas & different bird species and provide information on the plant species within the forest.

Kibale Forest National Park covers an area of around 795km and contains one of Uganda's most beautiful tropical forests making it the home to the largest concentration of Chimpanzees in Africa as well as 13 other species of Primates, and a vast array of birds and butterflies. Tracking Chimpanzees is usually considered more difficult than tracking Gorillas because they move faster & high up in the trees, therefore sightings are not guaranteed (however we have a 100% success rating for 2016!). The Chimps have become habituated to researchers and the Ugandan Wildlife Authority trackers, but they are by no means tame. Tracking takes place in the early morning when the Chimps de-nest (from their nocturnal nests) and the late afternoon when they move to new nests for the evening. Chimps share 98% of human DNA and the average weight of an adult well grown male is between 35 & 70 kilograms, with a height of approximately 3m whereas an adult female chimpanzee average weights of between 26 & 50 kilograms and a height of between 2 & 4 feet.



Overnight: Parkview Safari Lodge



Day 7 - Parkview Safari Lodge, Queen Elizabeth National Park

Enjoy an early morning game drive in the Queen Elizabeth National Park. The park's diverse ecosystem of grassy plains, tropical forest, rivers, swamps, lakes and volcanic craters is home to an incredible abundance of wildlife. Look out for buffaloes, lions, elephants and other wildlife in their natural habitat. Return to the lodge for a late breakfast.

After lunch, you will join the afternoon safari boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel. This is home to a variety of water birds and on a hot day, hippos, elephants, buffalo and waterbuck can be sighted as they bathe and drink water at the water edge. Crocodiles are occasionally sighted along the channel banks.

Queen Elizabeth National Park Gorilla Trekking

Volcanic craters, grassy plains, tropical forest and giant lakes connected by a channel groaning with hippos are what you will see at the Queen Elizabeth National Park. The park has almost 100 types of mammal and 606 different bird species, including the peculiar shoebill, the Kazinga Channel alone is said to contain the world's largest concentration of hippos, and other wildlife includes buffalo, the rare aquatic sitatunga antelope, giant forest hog, Uganda kob, Defassa waterbuck and elephant. And at Kyambura Gorge you can see habituated chimpanzees.



Kazinga Channel

The boat trip along the Kazinga Channel is a highlight of many stays within the Queen Elizabeth National Park providing perhaps the best game-viewing opportunities at the waters-edge as you journey towards the point where Lake Edward meets Lake Albert. Visitors can expect to see large numbers of Hippo, Crocodiles, Buffalo and Elephants and be surrounded by vast numbers of migrant and resident water birds. Buffaloes are often viewed resting in the water while large herds of Elephant enjoy themselves drinking and playing along the Channel banks. Crocodiles have also become a common sight. These waters are home to the largest Hippo population in Africa!



Day 8 - Mahogany Springs Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is home to the largest population of Mountain Gorillas (over 300) which is almost half of the world's population. There are also 346 species of birds and over 200 species of butterflies. This afro-montane forest has dense understorey of fern, vines and shrubs. Around 324 tree species have been recorded here, 10 of which occur nowhere else in Uganda.

Bwindi is one of the world's premier bird watching destinations. It contains 90% of all Albertine rift endemics, difficult or impossible to see in any other part of East Africa and seven IUCN red data listed species amongst the 346 species of birds. An experienced bird watcher can identify up to 100 species in a day.

After breakfast, your guide will transfer you (around 4hrs) through the countryside passing through traditional homesteads and farms to the southern sector of the Queen Elizabeth National Park, known as the Ishasha sector, famous for its rare tree climbing lions.

Regardless of whether you are lucky enough to see the Lions, the area is still scenic and sightings of Elephant are regular. Continue through the park heading southwards to Bwindi National Park where you stay for two nights at Mahogany Springs Lodge.

Ishasha Sector Game Drive

The Ishasha sector is located within the southern sector of the Queen Elizabeth National Park. The area is famous for sightings of resident Tree-climbing lions. Whilst the Lions are no different to other Lions, the fact that they reside in trees is unique to only a handful of locations in Africa including Lake Manyara Park in Tanzania.



In Ishasha the Lions have taken a particular like to the large Fig Trees which offer a comfortable support and a good view of the grasslands where Ugandan Kob (Lion lunch) graze in abundance. Ishasha is less than an hour from Bwindi and passing through it may not always result in sightings of the Tree Lions, but the landscape itself is diverse and home to abundant wildlife. Keep your eyes open for the blue turaco often sighted here.

Overnight: Mahogany Springs Lodge



Day 9 - Mahogany Springs Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Enjoy an exciting day trekking the Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi. You will join one of only a handful of Gorilla tracking groups sent out each day in the Forest (each group has a maximum of 8 people).

After the trek there will be opportunities to enjoy cultural visits, take a walk to the river, shop for souvenirs or meet the BATWA pigmies to learn about their fascinating history.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Gorilla Trekking

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Gorilla Trekking

Trek through the forest towards the Gorillas, and once located your group will spend 1hr observing them as you marvel at the sheer size of the dominant male; the Silverback. It is an extraordinary feeling sitting in the dense rainforest knowing you are with a few of the last remaining mountain gorillas. It is amazing to think there are only around 650 of these beautiful creatures left.



Day 10 - Mburo Safari Lodge, Lake Mburo National Park

After breakfast, you will depart from Mahogany Springs with packed lunches heading 4hrs North West to Lake Mburo National Park. There will be a brief stop at Igongo cultural museum. This is rich with cultural heritage of western Uganda. Continue to the park arriving in time for the evening boat cruise along Lake Mburo.

Lake Mburo National Park is the only park in Uganda with an entire lake from which it derives its name. It is home to species of animal not found in the Queen Elizabeth Park including Zebra. In the afternoon, you will be taken on a shared boat cruise on the lake viewing a diversity of animal and plant species: crocodiles, hippos and birds including Pelicans, Black Crake and Heron.



Lake Mburo National Park

Lake Mburo is the only park in Uganda with an entire lake from which it derives its name. This is a very special park; every part of it is alive with variety, interest and color. Renowned for its impressive biodiversity, Lake Mburo National Park shelters almost 70 mammal species and over 300 avian species in its forests, swamps and grasslands. Crocodiles, hippos and a myriad of waterbirds are found in and around the five lakes, of which Lake Mburo is the largest. Several species of mammals are resident including Zebras, Impalas, Elands, Topi and Buffalo. Giraffe were also re-introduced in 2016 and both Zebra and Giraffe are not found in the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The park contains an extensive area of wetland and its sculptured landscape with rolling grassy hills and idyllic lakeshores has a varied mosaic of habitats: forest galleries, rich acacia tree valleys, seasonal and permanent swamps which all support a wealth of wildlife. The park is only 370sq km and the smallest of Uganda's savannah national parks.

Lake Mburo Boat Cruise

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon boat cruise on the lake viewing a diverse variety of animals and plant species. The presence of Lake Mburo within the park is a blessing; many of the animals in the park are best viewed from the water including crocodiles, Hippos and birds such as Pelicans, Black crane, Heron, Cormorant and Fish eagle. Occasional glimpses of the rare Shoebill stork add to the excitement. Boat excursions last around 2 hours but arrangements for extra time can be made with management at an extra fee.

Overnight: Mburo Safari Lodge



Day 11 - Departure

Enjoy an early morning game drive amongst the rich biodiversity of the park. Regular animal sightings include large herds of Zebra, Impala, gigantic Eland, Topis Warthog and Waterbucks as well as a variety of bird species. Look out for the newly introduced Giraffes in the Park which were transported in 2016 all the way from the Murchison Falls Park. After lunch at the lodge, you will be transferred back to Entebbe where you continue with your onward arrangements.

INCLUSIONS:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport assistance service • Transfers with English speaking guide in a minivan or Land-cruiser with pop-up roof for game viewing • Guaranteed window seat for every person • Accommodation and all meals on safari • Bottled water • Park fees & VAT • Game drives in Murchison Falls National Park • ZIWA Rhino trekking experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game drives in Lake Mburo National Park • Game drives in Queen Elizabeth National Park • Game drive in Ishasha (tree-climbing lions) • Safari boat cruises at Lake Mburo, Kazinga Channel and Murchison Falls • 1 x gorilla trekking permit per person • 1 x chimpanzee trekking permit per person • Transfers to community projects and other activities as listed |
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EXCLUSIONS:

- International flights
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Drinks
- Additional activities or services not listed (BATWA encounter) or massage treatments, laundry etc.
- Tipping and porter hire

Our itineraries are every bit as personalized as our service.

We customize each itinerary to suit our client's requirements and budget.

Please get in touch to speak with one of our specialists today and together we will design your wildlife adventure in Uganda.



Uganda Group Tour 2016 after trekking, with Travel Director Donna

GET IN TOUCH!

If you would like to book this itinerary, learn more about the properties and locations, or tailor it to suit your requirements, please contact us:

Email us: Gorilla@GorillaSafariCompany.com

Call us: (UK) 01327 437 340 / (USA) 866 443 7173 (toll-free)

www.gorillasafaricompany.com

We believe our awesome service is worth a “PANT-HOOT”! (that’s chimp talk)

11 GOOD REASONS TO BOOK WITH US

VALUE: we have negotiated the very best rates with our partners in Africa, ensuring that we remain super competitive with our pricing, whilst adding value to your trip. You will not pay any more by booking your trip with us as a package compared to booking each element individually.

NO CREDIT CARD FEES: unlike almost every other travel operator **we do not charge any credit card fees** including Visa, MasterCard or AMEX. Other companies will typically add a 2% minimum charge for credit cards which (if booking directly in Africa) can be anything up to 7%.

CONSISTENT & RELIABLE SERVICE: each client will work with a dedicated specialist (the same person manages with your booking from start to finish). We keep in touch with you right up until departure and are always on hand to answer any questions from visa information, tipping guidelines, what to pack and “can I take a hair-dryer” questions!

INDEPENDENT: we are a 100% privately owned and independent company which gives us complete freedom to recommend the best itinerary that is suited to you. We are not obligated to or incentivized by any properties so we will always give you our completely unbiased opinion.

Our country specialists regularly visit Rwanda and Uganda to conduct site inspections on every single property we book, ensuring they meet the highest standards for inclusion in our portfolio.

FLEXIBILITY: in addition to our scheduled group tours and suggested itineraries, we also design individual trips from scratch to meet your personal requirements and we are always happy to keep ‘tweaking’ things until you are 100% satisfied. We welcome your input and work with you to create your perfect “Bucket List” experience.

PEACE OF MIND: we have a 24-hour emergency contact line for use whilst travelling and we also provide emergency contact numbers for our partners on the ground in Rwanda and Uganda.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION: you will be fully covered and protected financially when you book a trip with us. We are bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK and our ATOL number is 7303. We are a registered California Seller of Travel in the US #2116014-40. We have comprehensive travel supplier failure insurance in place in the unlikely event that one of our partner fails after payment has been made.

PASSION: we LOVE gorilla trekking and the company is the product of love and respect for these amazing animals. We guarantee that our “gorilla gurus” will get almost as excited about your adventure as you do and we never tire of helping people enjoy one of the most exciting and unique wildlife experiences possible.

INFORMATION: we provide all of the information required to help you prepare for your trip, from guidance on visas, passports, vaccinations, clothing, safety, gorilla trekking, currency and how much to tip. We even give you a list of the gorilla families so you can get to know them before you travel! Stay up to date with our news and latest information us on our social media channels.

THE BEST PARTNERS: over many years, we have established excellent relationships with all of our partners in each country that we operate. Our professional safari guides and drivers are hand-picked by us and are as friendly as they are knowledgeable, many developing specialist fields such as photography or birding.

THE COMPLETE PACKAGE: if you are thinking of linking your gorilla adventure with a safari elsewhere in Africa, for example Tanzania or Kenya, we tailor-make an itinerary to suit any budget. Kenya and Tanzania link particularly well with Rwanda and Uganda. You can choose to either travel solo, in a small private group or join a scheduled group tour if you prefer.