OVERVIEW: WILDLIFE OF UGANDA

There is a reason Uganda has been named a top place to travel by both National Geographic and Lonely Planet. With its rich mix of wildlife and incredible ecosystem diversity, Uganda is a destination that shouldn’t be missed, and our Wildlife of Uganda safari explores it all. Expect a multitude of primate sightings including gorillas, chimpanzees, vervets, colobus, and baboons. There are 13 distinct species alone in Kibale National Park, while the hills of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest will bring you up-close with the gorillas in the mist. You’ll also have traditional safari sightings of elephants, lions, leopards, and many others in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo National Parks.

While on safari, you’ll have the opportunity to enjoy the company of Ugandans on a community village walk, during lunch served in traditional style, and while exploring the forest with the Batwa people. You’ll be accompanied by one of our expert Ugandan naturalists throughout your safari, as you explore the best of Uganda’s wild places.
Arrive in Entebbe Airport. A Deeper Africa driver will be waiting for you once you clear customs. Look for him holding a sign with your name on it. He will welcome you to Uganda and transfer you to Karibu Guest House just a few minutes away from the airport.

The Karibu Guest House is located outside of the city of Entebbe and is family owned and operated. Once a former presidential home, the guest house now serves as a tranquil bed and breakfast with brilliant bird-life in its gardens. Take a stroll around the premises to view the 36 unique species of birds.

INCLUDED

Wifi
Begin your drive after breakfast to Primate Lodge in Kibale National Park. Today is your day to see the countryside and everyday life of Uganda. As you drive westward, you’ll notice the rich, fertile farmlands rolling over the hillsides, sometimes terraced up the slopes. Observe local people walking to and from school, cattle and goats being herded along the road to new pastures, and the hustle and bustle of markets that vibrate with activity. As you cross over the equator, stop to snap a picture of the official market sign.

You’ll arrive late afternoon at Primate Lodge. Constructed from local materials and utilizing solar power for electricity, this quaint, cozy lodge is committed to sustainability. This accommodation is in the Crater Lakes region surrounded by lush, green hills, and many small lakes that were once volcanoes.

You can spend the afternoon pursuing your choice of activities including:

- Exploration of the Crater Lakes region
- Bird watching from the cottages or surrounding trails
- Visit to nearby tea estates.
- Nocturnal wildlife walk through Kibale Forest (additional cost)

INCLUDED

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Wifi
Rise early this morning to prepare for chimp trekking in Kibale Forest. You'll meet with the rangers from the Ugandan Wildlife Authority who are actively engaged in the primate research within Kibale – they will be guiding your expedition. Trek out in search of the park's chimpanzees and other primates.

Several families of chimpanzees have been habituated by the researchers and you'll have a full hour of close-up viewing once you reach them. Kibale Forest supports one of the highest primate densities in the world which includes chimpanzees as well as numerous other species such as colobus, red tailed monkeys, blue monkeys, vervet monkeys, l'hoests monkeys, grey cheeked mangabey, and olive baboons.

After trekking, it is a short drive to the home of John Tinka, a community leader of the Bigodi Community Project. John will be discussing the important work the project does for the local community to foster tourism projects that share profits with the local farming people in the area. Proceeds from the project have funded a new community school and library. You'll join John for a delicious traditional lunch. After lunch, you will hike around the Bigodi Wetlands with one of the community guides who will help you spot its legendary bird life. You may also see small primates as you navigate the Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary.

**INCLUDED**

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Wifi

**Chimps of Uganda**

Uganda is home to over 5,000 chimpanzees, making it one of the most important countries in Africa for conservation of these captivating creatures.

The majority of chimps live within Uganda's National Parks. Kibale Forest is considered the premiere destination to view chimps in East Africa due to the accessibility and habituation by researchers. Bundongo Forest in Murchison Falls National Park is the largest Mahogany forest in all of East Africa as well as the home of the largest number of chimps in Uganda. In Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kyambura Gorge is a remote, hidden gem for chimpanzee trekking.
Pass by the snowcapped Rwenzoris, known as the “Mountains of the Moons,” as you make your way to the savanna lands and lakes of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

You’ll be wildlife viewing in the northern sector of the park today as you move towards Kyambura Game Lodge. Here, approximately 5,000 hippos, 2,500 elephants and over 10,000 buffalo thrive in its grasslands and shorelines. The park is also famous for Uganda’s national animal – the Ugandan kob. Populations of Ugandan kob, buffalo, bushbuck, waterbuck, elephant, giant forest hogs and warthog were hit hard by poaching, but have begun to recover thanks to Uganda’s increased focus on conservation.

You’ll arrive at Kyambura Game Lodge, located near the Kyambura Gorge within the park. Take in sweeping views from the lodge’s common areas and relax in its comfortable hillside cottages.
Today is open for wildlife viewing drives with your guide in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

In the afternoon, you’ll embark on a two hour boat excursion along the Kazinga Channel. While on board, you’ll be treated to up-close views of the largest concentration of hippo in the world, along with good sightings of waterbuck, buffalo, and other game stopping along the shorelines for a drink. The Kazinga Channel is a 20 mile (32 kms) natural channel linking Lake Edward and Lake George. There are many fish in the channel which attract substantial populations of aquatic birds. You’ll spot on average over 60 bird species along the way. Crocodiles are also known to lurk in the waters. The boat cruise will likely be a highlight of your safari as it provides a unique vantage point along the water.
After breakfast, you’ll head to the northern side of the park where vegetation will begin to more closely resemble lush central African rain forest. Your last stop in Queen Elizabeth National Park will be the remote and open Ishasha plains. While most famous for tree-climbing lions, the Ishasha plains are also home to elephants, Ugandan kob, topi, eland, buffalos, warthogs, and other savanna wildlife. The Ishasha River runs through this sector of the park and it supports a healthy hippo population. Wildlife viewing followed by a picnic lunch.

After lunch, continue the drive south into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest region. Bwindi is a magnificent swathe of forest that crosses the Albertine Rift Valley. This ancient rain forest – one of the few in Africa to have flourished throughout the last Ice Age – is one of the most biologically diverse in Africa and was named a World Heritage site. Bwindi has at least 90 mammal species, including 11 different primates.

You’ll arrive in the evening at Bwindi Lodge. Located in the misty hills outside of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, this lodge is in a prime location. Separated by nothing more than an idyllic stream, the gorillas themselves are frequent visitors to the lodge grounds.
Today you will come face to face with the gorillas in the mist. After an introductory session at the park headquarters to learn about forest and gorilla trekking etiquette, Ugandan park guides will lead you out on your way through the forest. You’ll hike to the point where the gorillas were seen the day before and track from that point onwards. Trekking can range from 1 to 5 hours as you move into the gorilla’s home range. The terrain is rough and sometimes muddy, so make sure to wear comfortable footwear. Picnic lunches are provided. Be sure to look up into the branches to spot some of the 350 species of birds sighted here.

Close to half of the world’s mountain gorilla populations (approximately 320) reside in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Mountain gorillas’ larger size and thicker fur coats distinguish them from their lowland counterparts. We consider seeing mountain gorillas to be the most profound wildlife viewing experience in the world.

You’ll likely come upon a family of habituated gorillas as they are sitting down for a meal. Getting within several feet of the gorillas, you’ll find that these primates are often as curious about you as you are about them as young ones often wander up to inspect the new humans in their midst. Watching the dynamic between the gorilla family as mothers cradle infants in their arms, and young adolescents attempt to play with their stern silverback father, it’s not hard to see the resemblance we bear to these complex creatures with whom we share 98% of our DNA.

Gorilla Doctors

Gorilla Doctors is a real conservation success story. The organization proves that our presence and your visits can change the future of an endangered species.

Gorilla Doctors provides veterinary treatment to gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda), Parc Nationales des Volcans (Rwanda), and Virunga National Park (DR Congo). Vets, rangers, guides, and other wildlife conservationists monitor the health of each gorilla. They intervene in emergency situations, observe daily interactions, and note health problems as they develop.
The area around Bwindi forest is home to the Batwa people, who are known as the “keepers of the forest,” and are the region’s indigenous inhabitants. When Bwindi Impenetrable forest became a National Park and World Heritage site in 1992, the Batwa people who had lived within the forest for generations were forced to move. Many Batwa died during the early years of exile, and the tribe’s very existence was threatened. In recent years, the Batwa Development Program (BDP), an organization created in partnership between the Batwa people and two American medical missionaries, has made great strides in improving their quality of life. BDP works closely with the Batwa community to ensure that their indigenous rights are respected and that they also benefit from tourism to the national park.

The Batwa Cultural Experience was created by the displaced Batwa with the help of BDP to educate their children and to share their amazing heritage and traditions with the world. A day spent with the Batwa gives you the opportunity to enjoy a hike through the forest with a local Batwa guide who will help you see the area through the lens of his people’s knowledge and traditions. Visit a traditional Batwa homestead and learn from the women how to prepare, cook, and serve a meal while sampling traditional cuisine. Learn how to shoot with a bow and arrow and hear ancient stories and songs from elders.
Depart the ethereal mountain forests of Bwindi as you drive eastward toward Lake Mburo National Park. Pass through beautiful agricultural countryside where fruits and vegetables grow in abundance. Turn off the main road to look for herds of Ankole cattle. These cows are famous for their long horns and are raised by the Banyankore people.

Lake Mburo has savanna, acacia woodland, swamp, and lake environments. This park is the only reserve in Uganda to support a population of impalas. There are also plentiful topi, bushbuck, zebra, buffalo, eland, reedbuck, and warthogs. Viewings of predators are rarer, but the water environments bring abundant sightings of hippos and at least 315 bird species have been recorded.

Mihingo Lodge is set in a series of rugged hills on the west side of the park with majestic views of Lake Mburo and the undulating grassy valleys that hold wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities. Hiking, walking, biking, and horseback riding are available from the lodge.
You'll have time this morning for wildlife viewing in the park or hiking before you head back to civilization. If time permits, stop in Kampala (Uganda’s capital city) for lunch, shopping, and a visit with the Mpigi Royal Drum Makers. At Mpigi, traditional ceremonial drums are crafted using methods passed down through generations.

Arrive back in Entebbe for dinner at either Faze 3, Ciao Bella, or Goretti’s – all local restaurants with great food. A driver will transport you to the Entebbe Airport for your international flight home.

**International Flight #1**
- Departs: Entebbe, Uganda
- Arrives: TBD

**Included**
- Breakfast
- Lunch

**Day 11**

**International Flight #2**
- Departs: TBD
- Arrives: TBD
INCLUDED IN YOUR SAFARI

• Full board accommodations in all lodges and tented camps
• All meals
• All park and entrance fees
• Experienced and professional safari naturalist guides
• All in-country transportation
• Laundry available at some lodges and camps
• Bottled water available at all times
• Extensive pre-departure briefing and materials including health information, reading list, and map

EXCLUDED IN YOUR SAFARI

• Gratuities
• Alcohol and certain beverages in some camps and lodges

We plan your wildlife adventures in areas where wildlife habitats are known to exist for the season and time you are traveling. Still, animals in the areas you are viewing are not in a zoo. They run freely, and we cannot always anticipate their movements.

Also, Deeper Africa uses best efforts to provide the lodging set out in this itinerary, but occasionally there are circumstances that occur in Africa that require lodging substitutions. We reserve the right to make comparable lodging substitutions whenever necessary.

2017 pricing
$5,949 - $7,799

2017 CUSTOM PRICING & DEPARTURE DATES

April, May, & November, 2017 ★ Best Value
• 6 guests: $5,949 USD per person
• 4 guests: $6,249 USD per person
• 2 guests: $7,199 USD per person
• Single supplement: $499 USD

January - March, June - October, December, 2017
• 6 guests: $6,549 USD per person
• 4 guests: $6,849 USD per person
• 2 guests: $7,799 USD per person
• Single supplement: $899 USD

Possible Additions:
• Private boat excursion: $85 - $170 USD per person
• Nocturnal Walk in Kibale: $46 - $92 USD per person

All pricing is in US dollars. Arrivals and departures through Entebbe Airport, Uganda. Prices do not include international airfare. All itineraries and prices are subject to change. Gorilla permit prices fluctuate; pricing subject to park fees.

Deeper Africa
5353 Manhattan Circle, Suite 202
Boulder, Colorado 80303
888.658.7102   303.415.2574
720.565.0512   fx
www.deeperafrica.com

gorilla and chimpanzee safaris