



MOUNTAIN GORILLAS

UGANDA

Ultimate Uganda: Primate Quest and Classic Safari

12 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **JUN - AUG, DEC - FEB**

Journey through the rainforests and lush, rolling hills of Uganda in search of two of the world's most charismatic and endangered great apes—the mountain gorilla and the eastern chimpanzee. With luck, you'll encounter these majestic creatures and be able to observe and photograph them at close range in their natural habitat. Also witness other iconic East African flora and fauna during game drives, hikes, and boat rides amid the spellbinding natural landscapes of rainforests, savannas, volcanic crater lakes, and the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains. In addition to incredible wildlife-viewing opportunities, connect with community members and learn about daily life in local villages.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Journey into the dense foliage of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to track and observe endangered mountain gorillas in their natural habitat.
- Embark on a game-viewing boat ride on the Kazinga Channel in hopes of seeing hippos, buffaloes, crocodiles, elephants, and the unusual Shoebill Stork.
- Look for tree-climbing lions and other wildlife in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Trek in the rainforests of Kibale Forest National Park, home to the greatest variety and concentration of primates found anywhere in East Africa, including humans' closest living relative, the chimpanzee.
- Visit a local tea plantation to learn how this important export is grown, harvested, and processed.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Carbon offsetting



HIPPOS BY PELIN KARACA



QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK WITH EUPHORBIA TREE IN FOREGROUND

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - DEPARTURE

In flight.

DAY 2 - ENTEBBE

Arrive at Entebbe International Airport, where you will be met by our representative and transferred to the lodge in Entebbe. Entebbe is a small, quiet town located on the shores of Lake Victoria and is easy to explore on foot or by local transport known as “boda bodas” (motorbikes) or taxi. Visit the local market and the Entebbe Botanical Garden on Lake Victoria, where you can walk among beautiful trees, watch monkeys moving through the canopy above, and spot numerous endemic bird species. Entebbe has a wide variety of restaurants serving many different cuisines, as well as several bars and clubs where you can sample the local beer, catch a football game, and chat with the local Ugandans, known for their open and friendly nature. This evening, receive an orientation from your guide, followed by a welcome dinner. *Overnight at The Boma Guest House or similar. (D)*

DAY 3 - BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, transfer to the Entebbe domestic airport for the scheduled flight to the Kihhi airstrip, near the Bwindi and Queen Elizabeth National Parks. Please note: The baggage allowance is 30 pounds per person. The flight takes just over an hour (depending on the plane used), and upon arrival you will be met by a representative and driven to Buhoma Lodge within Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Located in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, Bwindi is one of the richest ecosystems in East Africa. The park is home to over 120 mammals, 345 species of birds, 200 species of butterflies, and 160 species of trees, and it contains almost half of the world’s population of the endangered mountain gorilla, making it an extremely valuable conservation site. Bwindi is also home to several endangered bird species with very limited

ranges, and acts as an important catchment area for many rivers, supplying water for agriculture in the surrounding regions. The drive to the lodge passes through local villages, mountain roads, and breathtaking scenery. Buhoma Lodge offers eco-friendly accommodations with comfortable chalets, a restaurant, bar, and spa; all guests are entitled to a complimentary massage during their stay. The group will have the opportunity for two days of gorilla tracking while at Buhoma Lodge. One day is included in the program cost, and the second day is optional at an additional cost of \$670 per person in advance. Spacious 4x4 vehicles are custom-built with focus on comfort, space, and 360-degree game-viewing visibility. The vehicles have large windows, and each passenger has a window seat. Additionally, each vehicle is specially equipped with inverters for charging cameras and cell phone batteries. *Overnight at Buhoma Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast at the lodge, walk down to the national park headquarters to meet your guides for the day and begin your gorilla tracking experience. Experienced guides and trackers will accompany you on an early morning trek into



MOUNTAIN GORILLA

the rainforest on the mountain slopes. The journey through dense foliage and up steep climbs is abundantly rewarded with the lifetime experience of viewing mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. You will have an opportunity to be within feet of these magnificent apes, sharing in their daily lives and experiencing their day-to-day activities. Mountain gorillas are extremely rare, with only an estimated 850 remaining in the wild. This is an experience you won't soon forget! Following the trek, return to the lodge and have time to relax and savor your experience. Please note: Tracking may be fairly strenuous; treks up to six hours or longer at high altitudes are not uncommon. As mountain gorillas are wild animals, sightings cannot be guaranteed. However, viewing success rates are over 95 percent. *Overnight at Buhoma Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

Today, those who have pre-purchased the optional second gorilla trekking permits will depart for their second tracking experience following breakfast at the lodge. Those not tracking gorillas will embark on a community walk through the local villages surrounding Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Activities may include visits to a traditional home, local orphanage or school, banana brewing demonstrations, and even meetings with traditional medicinal healers. After lunch, hike through tropical rainforest with experienced wildlife guides. Enjoy scenic views, the sights and sounds of the rainforest, ample opportunities for bird watching, and glimpses of the many monkey species residing in the forest canopy. *Overnight at Buhoma Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

This morning, depart Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and travel (2-3 hours) to Ishasha in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP). Time permitting, during the drive from Bwindi to Ishasha, you may visit a community project on the border of QENP. Meet Agartha, a local craftswoman, tailor, and organic subsistence farmer, who will welcome you into her homestead and share with you how the women of the Bakiga tribe prepare their local food. During the visit, Agartha will weave in stories of life as a Bakiga wife while you sample the dishes you have prepared together. Continue to Ishasha Wilderness Camp, situated within the southern part of QENP on the Ntungwe River. This exclusive camp offers quality accommodation and services in an unspoiled remote sector of QENP. Each of the 10 spacious canvas rooms is situated in the wooded area beside the river, comfortably furnished, eco-friendly, and each with its own private en suite bathroom and dressing area. This afternoon, venture on a game drive in search of buffalos, elephants, Uganda kobs (a type of antelope), and tree-climbing lions, which are only found in the Ishasha sector of QENP. These famed felines are often spotted resting in the branches of the large fig trees. This evening, enjoy a late

afternoon sundowner alongside the Ntungwe River. *Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

This morning, transfer to the Mweya section of QENP with game viewing en route. Located on a peninsula on Lake Edward, Mweya Safari Lodge offers excellent views of the Kazinga Channel, which connects Lake Edward to Lake George, and the surrounding savanna. On a clear day, you can also see the Rwenzori Mountains, aptly described as the "Mountains of the Moon." The peninsula houses the park's visitor center, and it is the starting point for safari boat rides. After lunch at the lodge, enjoy a scenic boat ride on the Kazinga Channel. Along the banks of this waterway it's possible to spot hippos, buffalos, caimans, elephants, and

numerous water birds. Lake George is a Ramsar site; its wetlands are important wintering grounds for migrating water birds as well as a number of native species. Afterward, attend a pre-dinner lecture: "An Introduction to Queen Elizabeth National Park." *Overnight at Mweya Safari Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day enjoying game drives in the Mweya area of QENP, also rich with wildlife. Visitors will find vast numbers of Uganda's unique and strange Euphorbia, or "candelabra trees." The many nearby crater lakes and mountain ranges provide a beautiful backdrop for the journey. Embark on another boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, where you may encounter elephants, buffalos, antelopes, warthogs, hippos, and crocodiles basking on the shores. Kazinga's shores are a haven for numerous birds, including many migratory species as they make their

way south to warmer climates. The cruise also provides a spectacular view of the beautiful Mweya Peninsula and daily life in local fishing villages set along the banks. *Overnight at Mweya Safari Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - KIBALE

After breakfast depart QENP for Kibale, an approximate four-hour drive. Have lunch en route and arrive at Primate Lodge, situated in the heart of Kibale Forest National Park, a tropical rainforest home to a remarkable 13 primate species, including the chimpanzee, and 325 species of birds. Accommodations are safari-style tents with en suite bathrooms on raised wooden platforms, covered by grass thatched roofs. This afternoon, visit a local tea plantation and learn how this important export is grown, harvested, and processed. Afterward, attend a pre-dinner lecture: "Chimpanzee Ecology and Behavior." After dinner, set off on a hike to search for nocturnal wildlife. Be on the look out for nightjars, pottos, bush babies, and tree hyrax. *Overnight at Primate Lodge Kibale. (BLD)*



GREY-CROWNED CRANE

DAY 10 - KIBALE

Today's highlight is the chimpanzee trek in the forest. The trek is expected to take a full morning. Sighting chimpanzees is not guaranteed, but in general the efforts pay off and visitors are delighted to watch these amazing animals in their natural habitat. Kibale is an extensive national park, protecting a large swath of rainforest that harbors the greatest variety and concentration of primates found anywhere in East Africa, including the very localized red colobus and L'Hoest's monkey. Kibale's major attraction, however, is the opportunity to track habituated chimpanzees. These apes are more closely related to humans than to any other living creature. This is one of the best-studied forests in Africa, and has been the site of several long-term primate projects. In the afternoon, spend time hiking in Kibale Forest with a focus on endemic plants. *Overnight at Primate Lodge Kibale. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - ENTEBBE

After an early breakfast depart for the drive back to Entebbe, stopping for curio shopping on the roadside and a quick photo stop at the equator. Upon arrival in Entebbe late this afternoon, you'll have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore or rest up at the hotel day room before the flight home. In the evening, transfer to the international airport for your flight home. *Day room at Protea Hotel Entebbe. (BL)*

DAY 12 - IN FLIGHT

Arrive back in U.S.

LAND PRICING

\$7,495 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$7,775 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, internal flights, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe