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10 Day - Highlights of Uganda Safari

There is no other country in Africa – like Uganda – the “Pearl of Africa.”

In 1908, in his book *My African Journey*, Sir Winston Churchill wrote:

"For magnificence, for variety of form and colour, for profusion of brilliant life — bird, insect, reptile, beast — for vast scale — Uganda is truly "the Pearl of Africa". The Kingdom of Uganda is a fairy tale. The scenery is different, the climate is different and most of all, the people are different from anything elsewhere to be seen in the whole range of Africa..."



From its source in Lake Victoria, the River Nile crosses the Rift Valley to give Uganda a dazzling range of unique habitats. Uganda's resulting beauty, natural wonders and biodiversity have impressed generations of travelers. Visitors return for Uganda's welcoming people and temperate climate. Uganda's most coveted natural attractions include the endangered Mountain Gorilla, Chimpanzees and over 1,000 species of birds. Uganda's diverse habitats have enthralled wildlife-watchers, and seasoned African Safari-goers, for decades.

Hikers and mountain climbers congregate in the Rwenzori Mountains as well as in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which also boasts three major peaks. Game and bird viewing is particularly popular in Uganda's many national parks, and one of the special attractions is the tree-climbing lions of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Yet there is so much more to Uganda: walking or quad bike safaris, mountain climbing and grade 5 white water rafting are a few of the adventure activities. Her culture of 52 tribes and their languages and dance set the country apart. A comparatively small country, Uganda has won many accolades including Lonely Planet number one destination to visit in 2012.

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Mirembe Villas Kigo, Kigo Road, Kampala, Uganda

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Day 1: Depart to Murchison Falls National Park

After breakfast, we set off from Entebbe or Kampala on our long drive to Murchison Falls National Park, a protected area of over 4000 km².

Time permitting you may break your journey at **Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary**, a species reintroduction programme that has successfully bred over a dozen white rhino and the only place in Uganda where you can see rhino. These docile animals are best viewed on an early morning walking safari. Here we will also enjoy our lunch.

Murchison Falls National Park has 76 mammal species and 451 bird species. The River Nile runs through the park and attracts Nile crocodile, hippo and the rare semi-aquatic Sitatunga antelope. Lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, Rothschild's giraffes, warthogs, giant forest hog, Uganda Kob, topi and waterbuck are just a few of the big name mammals you may see.

If time allows, visit the **Top of the Falls** and feel the force of the River Nile under your feet as the half a kilometre wide river narrows to just 7 m wide and cascades down through a 45 m drop.



Paraa Safari Lodge, one of Uganda's first safari lodges, is set within the boundaries of Murchison Falls National Park, giving you easy access for game drives. It's well designed modern interiors, balconies and numerous swimming pools overlook the River Nile, on its journey from the river's source in Lake Victoria to join Lake Albert.

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Overnight at Paraa Lodge (FB)

Day 2: Boat Trip to the bottom of the falls

Your morning will start with an early morning game drive. You may choose to take a packed breakfast to eat mid-morning or eat a full breakfast upon your return to the Lodge. Admire the wildlife and birdlife of **Murchison Falls National Park** and ask your driver guide lots of questions along the way. After the game drive, you will return for lunch and an hour or to use relaxation by the pool.

One of the highlights of this Safari will be the **boat ride to the bottom of the Murchison Falls**.

Overnight Paraa Safari Lodge (FB)



Day 3: Depart for Kibale Forest

This morning we will depart for **Fort Portal** and explore the area around the base of the Rwenzori Mountains with an (optional) visit to the world-famous Rwenzori Mountain Sculpture Foundation.

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Later we drive to Kibale Forest National Park, in **Western Uganda**, an incredibly diverse forest that is home to over 13 species of primates including chimpanzee, red Colubus monkey, the rare L'Hoest monkey, blue monkey, grey-cheeked mangabey, black faced vervet monkeys, baboons, pottos and bushbabies. Cleverly constructed boardwalks lead you through Papyrus that towers above your head in Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary, a few minutes' drive from Kibale Forest. With over 130 bird species, multicolored butterflies, eight different types of primates and the rare, semi-aquatic Sitatunga (antelope), this is community tourism at its best.

Overnight at Crater Safari Lodge midrange or Kyaninga/Primate Safari Lodge luxury (FB)



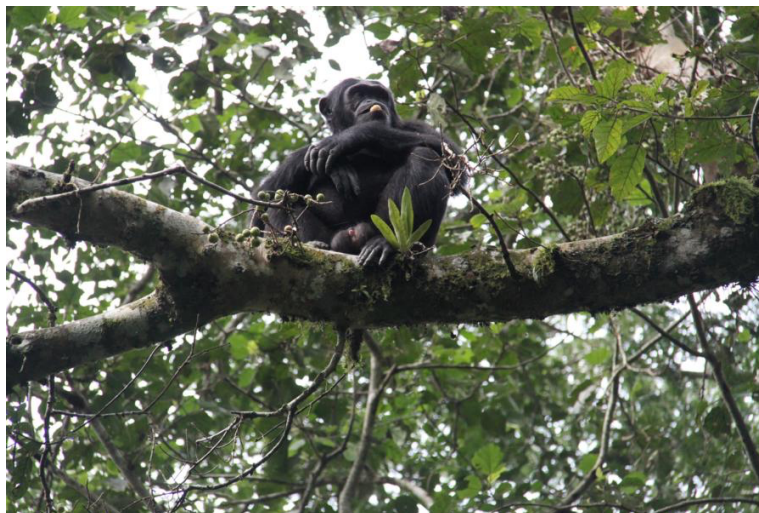
Day 4: Chimpanzee tracking

After breakfast, it's an early start to report to the ranger headquarters at 8 am in **Kibale Forest National Park** to **track habituated Chimps**. These engaging apes, our closest living relative, are great fun to watch as they play and fight in the fruiting trees. Your experience guides will introduce you to the different members of the chimp families, as well as the birds and plant life of the forest. The trails through the forest are generally easy to navigate and you will always be accompanied by Rangers.



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The elusive forest elephant, smaller and hairier than its savannah counterpart, moves seasonally into areas of Kibale Forest. Occasionally other large mammals such as buffalo, giant forest hog and numerous antelope species can also be seen. Birders will be on the look-out for an incredible list of 335 bird species. Butterfly lovers and botanists will be impressed by equally long lists of rare and endemic forest species.

Overnight at Crater Safari Lodge mid range or Kyaninga/Primate Safari Lodge luxury (FB)

Day 5: The Rift Valley

On day four, your driver will take you via Kasese towards Queen Elizabeth National Park, set on the floor of the Rift Valley, with the (occasionally visible peaks of the) **Rwenzori Mountains** behind you. The landscape of northern Queen Elizabeth comprises dozens of ancient craters carved into gentle rolling hills. The **Kazinga Channel** lies in central Queen Elizabeth, its banks fertile with large mammals such as hippo, elephant and buffalo and over 600 bird species, more than any other national park in Uganda.

Overnight at Parkview Lodge midrange or Katara Lodge/Mweya Safari Lodge luxury (FB)

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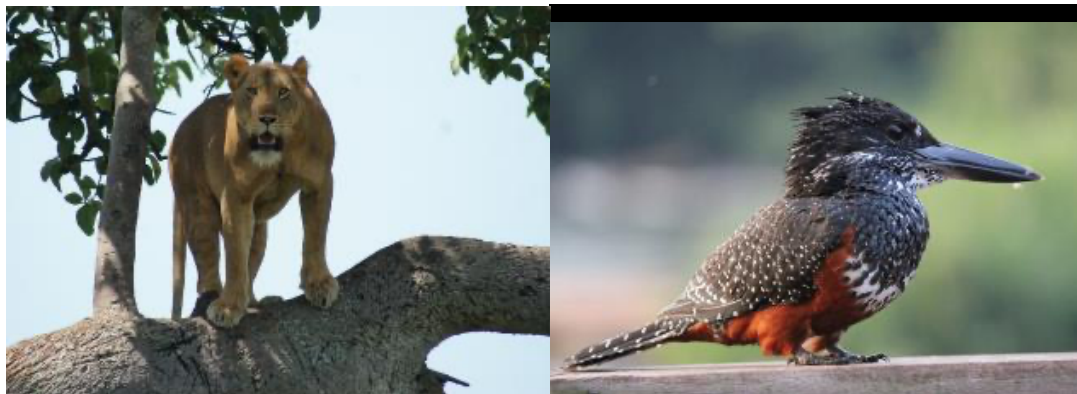
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Day 6: Water Safari on the Kazinga Channel

Start your day early with a 6 o'clock coffee or tea wake-up call, ready for your early morning game drive. Make sure to ask the hotel staff for a packed breakfast that morning. A popular route for the game drive is the Kasenyi sector, well-known for its lions that prey on Queen Elizabeth's large population of Uganda Kob (antelope). If you are very lucky, you may spot a Giant Forest Hog, Africa's largest pig. Keep your eyes peeled to spot an elusive leopard!

After your Safari, you will head back to the lodge for a few hours relaxation by the pool and lunch.

In the afternoon, you will take a boat for a **water safari** on the Kazinga Channel at Mweyathat connects the two lakes of Edward and George. This is likely to be a big highlight of your trip! The expert Uganda Wildlife Authority guides will identify many of the Channel's 100 bird species and you're likely to see African Skimmers, Great White Pelicans, Spoonbill and a number of Bee-eater species. Hippos wallow at the edge of the water, huge Nile crocodiles bask in the sun and elephants come down to drink.



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The Kazinga Channel boat ride is a brilliant opportunity to take some close-up wildlife shots.

Overnight at Parkview Lodge midrange or Katara Lodge or Mweya Lodge luxury (FB)



DAY 7: Depart for Bwindi - home of the mountain gorilla!

Today we will depart for **Bwindi Impenetrable Forest** with an 'en route game drive' passing through Ishasha, the remote, southern sector of **Queen Elizabeth National Park**. It is on the expansive plains of Ishasha that you will be on the lookout for its famous resident: the tree climbing lion. A sighting is not guaranteed but you have a better chance of seeing them here in the large low-limbed fig trees of **Ishasha** than anywhere else in Africa.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage site and one of the richest biological and botanical regions in the world. The forest covers an area of 331 km² at the south-western edge of the western Rift Valley. Bwindi's most-revered species are the approximately 400 wild Mountain Gorillas (2011 census) that make up half of the world population of these gentle apes.

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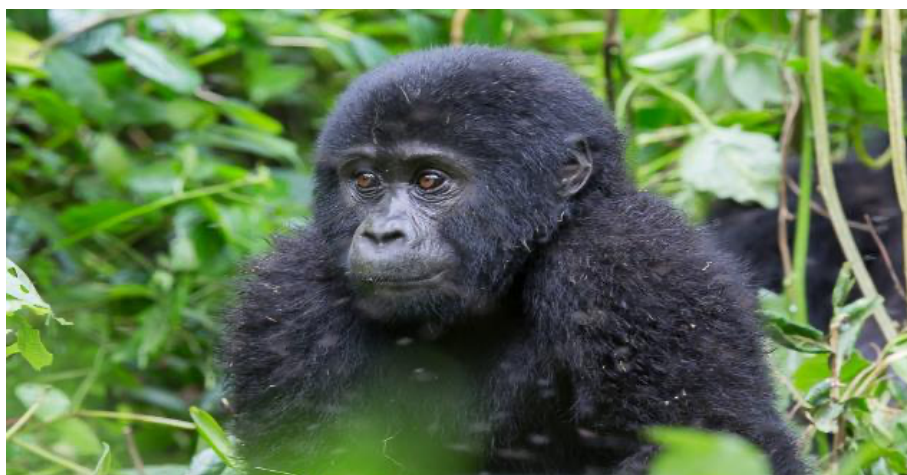


After a few hours in the vehicle, you may enjoy an afternoon walk around the village of Buhoma (your home for two nights) and a chance to visit one of the handicraft shops or to meet the Batwa, the ancient forest-dwelling tribe.

Overnight at Haven midrange or Mahogany Springs Lodge or Silverback Lodge luxury (FB)

Day 8: Gorilla Tracking

You will be up early on the morning of your **Gorilla Tracking** for a good breakfast in preparation for the day's physical activity. You will report for registration at the Uganda Wildlife Authority ranger station by 8 AM. After a briefing by the rangers, your gorilla trek will start. The trek usually takes between three and six hours so a reasonable degree of fitness is required, as well as a strong pair of walking boots or shoes.



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The rangers will guide you through the village gardens and into the jungle-like forest. They will escort you through the sometimes thick bush, occasionally hacking the dense undergrowth with a machete as you search to locate the gorillas. The mountain gorillas are under 24 hour monitoring for their own safety, so you're almost guaranteed to see them. The rangers monitor each gorilla family by keeping in close radio contact.

In part due to gorilla tourism, the population of gorillas is slowly increasing but the species remains critically endangered. Gorillas and humans share almost identical genetic material and their health must not be compromised by coming into contact with human diseases (via our food, for example). To reduce transmission of disease from humans to gorillas, you will also be advised to keep a distance of 7 metres from the gorillas.

Once you have located the gorilla family, you will be asked to leave all your belongings to one side, and approach the gentle giants, just with your camera. The guides will interpret the animals' behaviour and advise on what you are watching. Females and their young, young males and even a dominant Silverback may be seen: feeding, playing, interacting with each other, or just sleeping! You will never forget your encounter with the gorillas. They will be quite curious to see you! You are allowed exactly one hour with the gorillas before returning to base.

Overnight at Haven mid range or Mahogany Springs Lodge or Silverback Lodge luxury (FB)

Day 9: Discover the place of many little birds - Lake Bunyonyi

It is the only lake in Uganda with no hippos, no crocodiles and no bilharzia in its green waters. On Lake Bunyonyi you can paddle wherever you wish to - you should only avoid one island, Punishment Island, where women who got pregnant before marriage were taken.

Otherwise, this beautiful area invites you to relax and linger. You can explore the islands by canoe and on foot, visit a market or school projects, or just go swimming. You have 2 days to fully explore this area.

Overnight at Birds nest (FB)

Day 10: Depart for Entebbe

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After breakfast, we start our journey back towards Entebbe International Airport, stopping for a picnic lunch and a fun photo opportunity at the Equator.

A dayroom can be organized for you to shower and change in Entebbe. After a farewell dinner, your Around Africa Safaris guide will transfer you to **Entebbe International Airport** for your outbound flight.

Dayroom at Lake Victoria Serena (FB) \$180 extra

Please note that check-in for international flights should be done two hours prior to flight departure. The departures area of the airport has a small restaurant, several duty-free shops and a seating area.

Mid range

price per client	\$	\$3,988.00	\$3,122.00	\$2,992.00	\$494.00
		2 pax	4 pax	6pax	single

Luxury

price per client	\$	\$4,775.00	\$3,963.00	\$3,834.00	\$648.00
		2 pax	4 pax	6pax	single

For Uganda itineraries and costs - customised to your specification and price range - *please get in touch with Manya Africa Tours!*

Please note:

1. Prices are valid for 2022 and 2023.
2. The Gorilla Tracking included in this safari depends on the availability of gorilla trekking permits at the time of booking. These permits are strictly limited and sold out in advance, especially during peak seasons of Christmas and school holidays. We therefore strongly recommend booking early.
3. The safari indicated here is essentially an offer. Changes in the course of the journey, the duration of your tour, the number of travelers, as well as the choice of accommodation are subject to availability, although we always

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endeavour to stick as closely as possible to this programme. For the majority of itineraries, we can offer luxury, midrange or budget versions of this safari upon request.

4. Sometimes it is not possible to adhere to the travel plan as described in this itinerary, due to weather and road conditions, authority regulations, organizational requirements, etc. Occasionally, the planned route of the tour has to change according to the situation on the ground. We must therefore explicitly refuse liability for adherence to the journey plan.
5. By booking this safari, the client accepts [ManyA Africa Tours' terms and conditions of business, available to read on our web site.](#)
6. For FAQs, including what equipment to bring for your Gorilla tracking, [please visit our website.](#)

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Included

- All accommodation on Half Board (HB), Full Board (FB) or Bed and Breakfast (B&B) basis as quoted in the text
- Safari vehicle and fuel
- English speaking tourist guide
- 1 gorilla permit per person
- 1 chimp permit per person
- Game drives and walks
- Entrance fees to the national parks
- All boat tours
- Taxes
- Free mineral water in the vehicle during the tour
- AMREF emergency evacuation insurance

Excluded

- Visa fees
- Drinks / alcoholic drinks
- Additional meals
- Tips
- Activities not part of the described programme
- International travel insurance

Optional

- German or another language speaking Safari-Guide
- Other activities highlighted as optional in the itinerary

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