

16 Days Uganda Gorillas, Adventure and Culture Midrange Safari

Highlights

- Participation in white water rafting
- Visit the Sipi waterfalls
- The spectacular Murchison Falls of the Victoria Nile
- In search of the Shoebill
- Boat trip across Lake Albert and the Nile Delta
- Game drive and water safari on the Kazinga Channel
- Eye to eye with a chimpanzee family
- Entebbe Botanical Garden on the shores of Lake Victoria



Experience the unique charm of East Africa. On this trip, there are not only many different activities to participate in, but also impressive natural spectacles. We go on an adventurous white water rafting and look for a hippopotamus and crocodiles on a water safari. Even the view from the Sipi waterfalls is just magnificent. While being briefed by local conservationists, you'll always be on

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the lookout for other rare species such as the tree-climbing lion or the hartebeest and White Colubus monkeys. If you are attentive, you will also see the funny Shoebill, whose sight has amused many tourists. In villages like Buhoma, you can meet the local people and after adventurous game drives you can get in contact with the native people in the smaller villages. This trip to Uganda offers unforgettable experiences in the wild and allows a whole new look at the culture of this unique country in the middle of East Africa.

Day 1 – Welcome to the former capital of Uganda (Entebbe)

After your arrival at the airport, you will be greeted by your guide and taken to your guest house. The small town in the middle of Lake Victoria has just 70,000 inhabitants and scores with its **botanical garden**. Get ready for your journey and relax with a traditional, fruity cocktail.

Overnight at The Boma Guesthouse (B&B)

Day 2 – Drive to the Source of the Nile (Jinja)

In the early morning the trip to **Jinja** starts. A few kilometers downstream from the source, the Nile takes its first stage of the 6,300-kilometer journey to the Mediterranean Sea through the **Bujagali Falls**. Here the river divides into many channels. In Jinja you have the chance to visit the **source of the Nile** and the place where Speke became the first European who saw the Nile Spring in 1862. There is also a memento of **Mahatma Ghandi**, where one scattered his ashes. If time permits, we drive through Jinja Town.

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Overnight at 2Friends Guest House (HB)

Day 3 – Wild water - Rafting and drive to Sipi Falls (Jinja, Sipi Falls)

In the early morning, the adventure begins with white water rafting over the world famous rapids of the Nile River. White water rafting is one of Uganda's famous activities and is professionally organized with excellent safety regulations. You will be equipped with safety equipment and have plenty of time to practice your maneuvers on the river before you go into the real water. The breathtaking experience is captured on camera and can be taken as a reminder. A truly adrenaline adventure.

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In the afternoon, you will drive from Jinja to the Sipi Falls. In this place there are not only numerous bird species, but also a large volcanic base.

Overnight at Lacam Lodge or Sipi River Lodge (HB)

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Day 4 - Hike to the Sipi Falls (Sipi Falls)

Sipi offers great activities such as hiking, mountain biking and fishing. The sunsets from the **Sipi Falls** down to the Plains are breathtaking. Spend the day exploring the area on foot. You may want to swim in one of the pools under the waterfalls. Or you can pick and roast your own coffee and enjoy a nice cup of Arabica coffee (Sipi Hike and Coffee tour are included). At the end of the day you stay in a traditional lodge.

Overnight at Lacam Lodge (FB) or Sipi River Lodge (HB)

Day 5 - Visit of Murchison Falls National Park (Murchison Falls National Park)

Today we drive to Murchison Falls National Park, a protected area of more than 4,000 square miles. As time permits, you will stop at the **Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary**. This is a reintroduction program that has successfully bred over a dozen white rhinos and is the only place in Uganda where you can see rhinos.

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The Nile River flows directly through the park, attracting Nile crocodiles, hippos and the semi-aquatic Sitatunga antelope. Lions, leopards, elephants, buffalos, the Rothschild giraffe, warthogs, the big forest hog, Uganda kob, topi and water buffalo are just a few of the great mammals that you will see here. If time allows, visit the **Top of the Falls** and feel the power of the **Nile River**, which rumbles meters below your feet. The safari lodge where you will stay today is one of Uganda's first safari lodges, located within the park boundaries of Murchison Falls National Park, providing easy access to game drives. It is beautifully landscaped and has modern interiors, balconies and several pools for swimming. From there you can even admire a part of the Nile, which travels a journey from the source of the river to Lake Victoria before flowing into Lake Albert.



Paraa Safari Lodge, one of Uganda's first safari lodges, is located within the park boundaries of Murchison Falls National Park, providing easy access to game drives. It is beautifully landscaped with modern interiors, balconies and a multitude of swimming pools overhanging the Nile River, which travels from the source of the river to Lake Victoria to flow into Lake Albert.

Overnight at Paraa Lodge (FB)

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Day 6 – Search for the iconic Shoebill (Murchison Falls National Park)

Your morning will start with one of the highlights of this safari, a boat trip to the Nile Delta, home of the iconic Shoebill, a really fun bird. If you wish, you can take breakfast with you or enjoy your breakfast at your return to the lodge.

After the boat trip, you will return to the pool for lunch and some relaxation.

In the afternoon we embark on a game drive through the park. Admire the wildlife and birdlife of the Murchison Falls National Park and learn about the area from your guide.

Overnight at Paraa Lodge (FB)



Day 7 - Game drive and boat safari at Murchison Falls National Park (Murchison Falls National Park)

After breakfast, you can enjoy an early game drive. Your driver will drive you along Lake Albert and the Nile Delta. Murchison Falls National Park is known for its abundance of wildlife. No wonder every game drive here is unique! You will

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never know what you are expecting. In the afternoon, you will embark on a boat trip to the bottom of the Falls, past large Nile crocodiles or hippos sunning themselves at the base of the falls.

Overnight at Paraa Safari Lodge (FB)

Day 8 - Drive to Kibale National Park (Kibale National Park)

Today your guide will drive you from Hoima to the Kibale Forest, a multi-faceted forest covering 795 square kilometers. The forest gives over **335 species of birds** (some very rare and only found here), **13 species of primates** including chimpanzee, red colobus monkey, the rare L'Hoest monkey, blue monkey, grey-cheeked mangabey, black faced Vervet monkeys, baboons, pottos and bushbabies.

Kluges Guest Farm is a Ugandan-German family run lodge where you can enjoy the pool, beautiful gardens and evenings at the Campfire.

Overnight at Kluges Guest Farm (HB)

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Day 9 - Chimpanzee-Tracking (Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary)

After breakfast, we report to the Ranger Headquarters of the **Kibale Forest National Park** at 8 AM to set out to find the chimpanzees living there. It's great fun to watch this active apes play and romp in the fruit trees. The experienced ranger will introduce you to the various family members of the chimpanzee family and show you many more inhabitants of the forest. As you walk through the forest on small trails, you will be told how the locals use the woodland plants, e.g. also to combat some diseases. Even the elusive **forest elephant**, which is smaller and bears more coat than its brother from the savannah, moves in the Kibale Forest. Sometimes even large mammals such as buffalo, large forest pigs and various antelope species can be admired.

Today we invite you for a **traditional lunch** where you can try out different specialties from Western Uganda.

In the afternoon, we visit the neighboring **Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary**. Cleverly constructed walking paths guide you through the papyrus that grows above your heads. With over **130 species of birds**, colorful butterflies, eight species of

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primates and the rare semi-aquatic Sitatunga antelope, this area is a showpiece of responsible tourism.

Overnight at Kluges Guest Farm (HB)

Day 10 – Depart to Queen Elizabeth National Park (Queen Elizabeth National Park)

Your driver will drive you through Kasese towards Queen Elizabeth National Park, which is at the foot of the **Rift Valley**. From time to time even the peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains can be seen on the horizon. The landscape of northern Queen Elizabeth consists of several dozen craters. With more than **600 species of birds**, the Queen Elizabeth offers even greater variety than other national parks in Uganda. On the way to the lodge you can observe a large variety of wildlife such as elephants. Keep your eyes open for the hard-to-find leopards!

Katara Lodge is located high above the Kichwamba Ridge with breathtaking views over the bottom of the Rift Valley. Just in front of you also see the foothills of the Rwenzori's. And to the left far away is the chain of the eight Virunga volcanoes. In the afternoon, relax by the swimming for and taking the splendid landscapes.

Overnight at Katara Lodge (HB)



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Day 11 - Game drive and boat safari on Kazinga Channel (Kasenyei Sektor, Kazinga Kanal)

Start your day early in the morning and get ready for another morning game drive. A well-known route leads through the **Kasenyei sektor**, which is famous for its lions. Elephants, antelopes, warthogs, baboons and sometimes even hyenas can be admired here. If you are very lucky, you will discover the big forest pig, Africa's largest pig. Keep your eyes open!

After your safari, head back to your lodge for a few hours at the poolside and lunch.

In the afternoon we continue a boat safari right through the **Kazinga Channel**, which connects the two **lakes Edward and Geoge**. This will surely be one of the highlights of your trip!

The Kazinga Canal is in the center of Queen Elizabeth and many different animals frolic on the fertile shores of the canal. Your guide will show you the different species of birds and you will see special species such as the brown-headed scissor beak or the great white pelican. Hippos swim by the water's edge, giant Nile crocodiles are sunning themselves and elephants come down to drink. The boat ride through the Kazinga Channel offers a truly brilliant opportunity to take some great close-ups.

Overnight at Katara Lodge (FB)



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Day 12 - Hiking in the Kyambura George (Kyambura George)

After a good breakfast, we will spend the morning for hiking in the Kyambura Gorge on the edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park. The forest of the Kyambura Gorge is home to a variety of bird species and a small number of chimpanzees and other monkeys, such as the black-and-white Colobus and vervet monkeys. As you cross the river in the gorge, you can spot hippos, elephants and antelopes. These often romp around the water's edge to drink.

Overnight at the Katara Lodge (FB)

Day 13 - Search for the Tree climbing Lions (Bwindi Impenetrable Forest)

Today we drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and on the way take a short game drive through Ishasha, the southern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park. On the vast plains of the Ishasha you will find a famous inhabitant, the tree-climbing lion. A sighting is not guaranteed, however, in the large low-hanging Fig Trees of Ishasha there are far better chances to see the lion, as in the rest of Africa. After a few hours in the car, take a relaxing afternoon walk in the village of Buhoma (your home in Bwindi) and visit one of the many craft markets. Or you can visit the Batwa tribe who lives in the middle of the forest.

Overnight at Mahogany Springs Lodge (FB)



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Day 13 - In touch with the Kings of the Jungle (Bwindi Impenetrable National Park)

You wake up early for your **gorilla tracking** and a good breakfast in preparation for the daily activity. We will register at 8 o'clock at the Uganda Wildlife Authority Ranger Station. After a briefing the gorilla tracking begins. The trekking usually takes between 3 and 6 hours, so a certain level of fitness is required and a pair of good running or hiking boots.

The Rangers will lead you through village gardens through to a jungle-like forest. They are passed through sometimes dense bush where the guides sometimes cut off the underbrush with a machete and try to locate the gorillas.

The **Mountain Gorillas** are under 24 hour observation for their own safety, so it's almost guaranteed to see them. The Rangers retain each gorilla family with the help of radio communication among themselves.

Partly due to the gorilla tourism, the number of gorillas is slowly recovering, yet they are critically endangered. Gorillas and humans share their genetic material almost identically and their health must not be endangered by contact with human diseases (for example, by food or flu). To stop the transmission of human diseases to the gorillas, you are required to maintain a distance of 7 meters.

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Overnight at Mahogany Springs (FB)

Day 15 - Stop at the Equator on the way to Entebbe (Entebbe)

After breakfast, we start the return trip to Entebbe to stop for a picnic lunch and take photos at the equator. Then it's on to the city, where the rest of the day is at leisure. Immerse yourself for the last time in the nightlife of this cozy capital and take a piece of the lifestyle home with you.

Overnight at the Boma (HB)

Day 16 - Transfer to the airport (Entebbe)

Depending on the time of departure, there is still time to visit the Entebbe **Botanical Garden** on the shores of Lake Victoria, home to many native birds. During the day you will be driven to the international airport of Entebbe. Review

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your trip and take back great memories with you back home. Please visit us again soon in beautiful East Africa.

Please note that check-in for international flights should be made two hours before departure. The departure hall has a small restaurant, some duty free shops and places to sit.

Dayroom at The Boma (B&B)

Midrange

		2 People in Double	4 People in double rooms	6 People in double rooms	Single supplement
Price per Person	\$	6,370.00	5,040.00	4,950.00	900.00

Optionale Extras:

Whitewater Rafting half day	\$	140.00	125.00	125.00	-
Ziwa Rhinos	\$	45.00	45.00	45.00	-
Boat safari on the Nile Delta	\$	55.00	55.00	55.00	-
Batwa Trail	\$	70.00	70.00	70.00	-

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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 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.

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

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- 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 program
- International travel insurance

Optional

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