

## 8 days The Best of Uganda for Africa Rebound

**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 Nile crosses the Rift Valley, which gives Uganda its different and unique habitats. Uganda's beauty, natural wonders and biodiversity have impressed many generations of travelers.

Visitors keep coming to Uganda for their warm people and pleasant climate. Uganda's biggest attractions include the endangered mountain gorillas, chimpanzees and over 1,000 bird species. Uganda's different habitats have delighted wildlife watchers and season-dependent Africa visitors for many years. Hikers and mountaineers have gathered in the Ruwenzori Mountains just like in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, where 3 of the highest mountains are located.

Wildlife and bird watching are especially known in Uganda's National Parks, one of the main attractions are the tree-climbing lions in the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Nevertheless, there is so much more to see in Uganda: running safaris, quad bike safaris, mountaineering and 5 star white water rafting are some of the adventure activities. As a small country by comparison, Uganda has won many awards including Destination Number 1 in Lonely Planet in 2012.

## **8 days The Best of Uganda for Africa Rebound**

### **Day 1 Arrival in Entebbe**

Your guide will welcome you at the airport and bring you to his home where you will have a warm welcome dinner and a short introduction to Uganda.

You will get to know the guide and his family more before you embark on your journey of a life time.

**Overnight either at the guides home or at African Roots (dinner included depending on arrival time)**

### **Day 2 Drive to Murchison Falls National Park**

Today you will drive to Murchison Falls National Park, a protected area of over 4000km<sup>2</sup>.

As time permits, you will stop at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, a reintroduction program that has successfully bred over a dozen white rhinos and is the only place in Uganda where you can see rhinos. These good-natured animals can best be observed on an early game drive.

Murchison Falls National Park has 76 mammal species and 451 bird species. The Nile River flows through the park and attracts Nile crocodiles, hippos and the Sitatunga antelope, which lives half in the water. Lions, leopards, elephants, buffalos, the Rothschild giraffe, warthogs, the big forest pig, Uganda kob, topi and water buffalos are just a few of the great mammals you will see. If time permits, visit the Top of the Falls and feel the power of the Nile River, which narrows under your feet from half a kilometer to only 7 m and plunges down 45 m.

Today we will overnight at Murchison River Lodge, an eco lodge which is perfectly situated at the Nile. The safari thatched tents are the ideal accommodation to enjoy the sounds of nature.

**Overnight at Murchison River Lodge (FB)**

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### **Day 3 Boat ride to the bottom of the falls**

Your morning starts with an early game drive. You may wish to have your breakfast packed or you can have a full breakfast when you get back to the lodge. Admire the wildlife and bird life of Murchison Falls National Park and ask your guide many questions on the way. After the game drive, you will return for lunch and an hour of relaxation by the pool.

One of the highlights of this safari will be the boat trip to the bottom of the Muchison Falls. There are excellent photo moments with lots of elephants, hippos, Nile crocodiles and buffalos sunbathing on the banks or looking for food.

### **Overnight at Murchison River Lodge (FB)**

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### **Day 4 Drive to Kibale Forest National Park**

Today your guide will drive you via Hoima to the Kibale Forest, an enormously flaccidly rich forest of 795km<sup>2</sup> which is home to over 335 bird species (some of them very rare and can only be found here) and 13 species of primates including chimpanzees, Red Colubus Monkey, the rare L'Hoest Monkey, Blue Monkey, Gray Mangabey, Black faces Vervet Monkey, Baboon, Pottos and Bush Babies. Something very special awaits us today. We stay in a traditional homestay run by Tinka John very close to the Kibale National Park and next to the Bigodi Wetlands.

John Tinka's love for tourism and nature conservation not only determined his life, but also created a future for himself and his family.

Even after deciding to retire as a civil servant after working for the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), he was committed to conservation and community tourism.

The 55-year-old, who retired to community tourism, had the dream of a lifetime and started an amazing community tourism project that generated tourism revenue.

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A Home away from home as he says, in which we learn a lot about local traditions and different dishes.

### **Overnight at Tinka Johns Homestay in Bigodi (FB)**



### **Day 5 chimpanzee Tracking**

After breakfast, report to the Ranger Headquarters at 8 a.m. in Kibale Forest National Park to find the local chimpanzees.



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These active monkeys, our closest relatives, are great fun to watch while playing and fighting in the fruit trees. Her experienced ranger will introduce her to the various family members of the chimpanzee family, as well as to the birds and plant life in the forest.

The paths through the forest are generally easy to find and you will always be accompanied by rangers who explain the fascinating use of forest plants.

The elephant, hard to find, smaller and more fur-bearing than its brother in the savannah, moves into the Kibale Forest depending on the season.

Sometimes large mammals such as buffalo, large forest pig and numerous antelope species can be seen.

Bird watchers also get their money's worth with a list of 335 bird species.

Also look out for the Black and White Colobus Monkey, Red Tailed Monkey and Gray cheeked Mangabey. Lovers of butterflies and plants will also be impressed by the almost as long list of rare and indigenous forest species.

At noon we return to Tinka John, who takes us with his sons on a culinary journey through western Uganda and explains some peculiarities of this culture.

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In the afternoon, visit the neighboring Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary. Cleverly constructed running paths lead you through the papyrus that builds up above your head in the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary. With over 130 bird species, colorful butterflies, eight species of primates and the rare semi-aquatic Situnfa antelope, this is a flagship model from Community Tourism.

### Overnight at Tinka Johns Homestay (FB)

### Day 6 Departure to Queen Elizabeth National Park

Your driver will drive you through Kasese towards Queen Elizabeth National Park, located at the foot of the Rift Valley, with the (sometimes visible peaks) of the Rwenzori Mountains in the background.

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The landscape of the northern Queen Elizabeth consists of several dozen craters inserted into small hills. Queen Elizabeth has more than 600 species of birds, more than other national parks in Uganda.

On the way to the property, you will likely see a large number of wildlife, especially elephants, Africa's largest pig. Keep your eyes open for a hard-to-find leopard!

Before we make ourselves comfortable in the camp, we pay a visit to the Rubona honey project to learn everything about the bees, which have become very rare everywhere, their honeycombs and honey production.



At the campsite of the elephant home, we encourage you to support responsible travel in all our operations. The visit of wild animals in the community is a sustainable opportunity for the community members through tourism. More community members are involved in tourism through the Elephant Home campsite. The Elephant Home takes advantage of the opportunities that the Queen Elizabeth National Park and its wildlife offer. We use tourism as a linchpin for community development and environmental protection. It is hoped that this



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will change the community's attitude towards wildlife, particularly elephants, which pose the greatest threat to community gardens. The income from tourism is used to support the local population through qualification, market for their products, educational sponsorships and other development partnerships.

### **Overnight at Elephant Home (FB)**



### **Day 7 Game drive and boat safari on Kazinga Channel**

Start your day early with your 6 o'clock coffee or tea alarm call, ready for your early game drive. Make it clear that the hotel staff is packing breakfast this morning. A very well known game drive route is the Kasenyi sector, famous for its lions that hunt the large stocks of Uganda Kob antelopes that mate here. Elephants, antelopes, warthogs, baboons and sometimes hyenas can be seen. If you are very lucky, you will see the big forest pig, Africa's largest pig. Keep your eyes peeled for the elusive leopard!

In the afternoon you will go on a boat safari on the Kazinga Canal, which connects the two lakes Edward and George. This will surely be one of the highlights of your trip! The Kazinga Channel is in the center of Queen Elizabeth, and large mammals such as hippos, elephants and buffalo come to the fertile banks of the banks.

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The Uganda Wildlife Authority's expert guide will identify many of the 100 bird species and you will see the African Skimmer, Great White Pelican, Spoonbill and a number of Bee Eater species. Hippos swim on the water's edge, huge Nile crocodiles bask in the sun and elephants come down to drink. The Kazinga Channel boat trip is a brilliant opportunity to take some great close-ups.

After this we will drive more to the Southern Sector of Queen Elizabeth and overnight at a homestead 1km away from boundaries of the Ishasha Sector.

**Overnight at Agatha's Homestead or if you prefer no shifting in between second night at Elephant Home (FB)**

### **Day 8 A Stop at the Equator**

In the early morning we go on a natural walk, where you have the chance to experience the zebras, antelopes and recently giraffes up close. After breakfast, we start the return trip to Entebbe International Airport to stop for a picnic lunch and take photos at the equator.

We have reserved a day room for you to move to at African Roots.

**Manya Africa Tours** | [www.manyaafricatours.com](http://www.manyaafricatours.com) | [info@manyaafricatours.com](mailto:info@manyaafricatours.com)

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After a farewell dinner, your safari guide will take you to Entebbe International Airport for your departure. Please be sure to be at the airport 2 hours before departure. The departure lounge has a small restaurant, some duty free shops and places to sit.

### Transfer to the airport (HB)

| price per person | \$<br>2,157.00 | \$<br>1,780.00 | \$<br>1,549.00 |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                  | 2 pax          | 2 pax          | 4 pax          |
| plus chimp       | \$<br>200.00   | \$<br>200.00   | \$<br>200.00   |
| plus Gorillas    | \$<br>700.00   | \$<br>700.00   | \$<br>700.00   |

**note: prices can change**

| \$<br>1,290.00 | \$<br>1,411.00 | \$<br>154.00      |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 4 pax          | 6 pax          | single supplement |
| \$<br>200.00   | \$<br>200.00   |                   |
| \$<br>700.00   | \$<br>700.00   |                   |

German or other speaking guide is \$240 on top of group price

### Please note:

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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 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





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- 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