10-Day Uganda Gorilla Trekking and Wildlife Safari from Kigali

Uganda



DURATION	COUNTRY	STARTING FROM
10 days, 9 nights	**Uganda**	**USD 3,291 per person**

TOUR SUMMARY

This 10-day safari starts in Kigali, Rwanda, and ends in Entebbe, Uganda. It combines golden monkey and gorilla trekking with game viewing in three more Ugandan parks.

You are picked up in Kigali before 2 pm, cross the Cyanika border and stay in Kisoro. You trek golden monkeys in Mgahinga National Park and mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, then walk the waterfalls trail near Buhoma. Next come a game drive in the Ishasha sector in search of tree-climbing lions and a boat trip on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park. After the Bigodi wetlands near Kibale you head to Murchison Falls National Park for game drives, and you finish with rhino tracking at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary on the way to Entebbe.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Start from Kigali (before 2pm), drive to Cyanika Border and cross into Uganda

The pick-up will be from either; the Hotel in Kigali or from the Kigali Airport upon arrival (before 2pm). The assigned Professional English-speaking Tour Driver-guide will pick/receive you and we shall embark on a transfer to Cyanika Border Post. From Cyanika, you will be received by our Uganda-based Professional Tour Driver-guide who will take over from his Rwanda-based counterpart. You will cross border into Uganda and overnight at a property close to Mgahinga NP where you will undertake golden monkey trekking tomorrow.

Accommodation: (Traveler's Rest Kisoro-Budget Level) | Meals: Dinner | Transfer Time: Approx. 5 hours.

Main Destination:

Kisoro (Town, Uganda)

Accommodation:

Travellers Rest Hotel

Mid-range hotel located in or near Kisoro

Meals & Drinks:

Dinner (Breakfast & lunch not included)

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 2

Golden monkey trekking Mgahinga NP, transfer to Bwindi (Ruhija Sector)

When it comes to primates, Uganda is truly rich and one species that you don't want to miss is the golden monkeys. Compared with other monkey species, the golden monkeys are gorgeous in appearance. These attractive primates are in the Mgahinga NP which is part of the Virunga Mountains where they are endemic. This morning, we will embark on a drive of about 45 minutes to an hour to the Mgahinga NP ranger's post. Once there, we shall receive some briefing and then a ranger-guide will lead you on this adventure into the Mgahinga Forest to encounter golden monkeys. Once located, you will be allowed an hour in their presence. The time with these primates is just so amazing that you won't realize how time has gone. On return, you will board the car and embark on a transfer to accommodation at the edge of the Bwindi NP where we will have gorilla trekking tomorrow.

Accommodation: (Broadbill Forest Camp-Budget Level) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Transfer Time: 3-4 hours.

Main Destination:

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Gorillas)

Accommodation:

Broadbill Forest Camp

Budget tented camp located just outside Bwindi NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 3

Gorilla trekking Bwindi Forest, return and stay at leisure - recovering

Have breakfast and move to the rangers' post. You will receive some briefing on the dos and don'ts during gorilla trekking. Thereafter, you will enter the forest for your adventure and encounter. The beauty of this rain forest is spectacular! The area offers dramatic steeply forested landscape and is incredibly dense but crisscrossed by numerous animal trails allowing access to tourists. The time taken (4-8 hours) and the terrain vary with the movements of these great primates. Once you have located a gorilla group, you will be allowed an hour in their presence. The thrill of spending time observing these gentle but endangered giants is unforgettable. Return to the accommodation, and rest after a strenuous trek. *(extra cost): In case you finished early and the body is willing to go out again, you can request your guide to arrange; a community visit, or some short nature walk.

Main Destination:

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Gorillas)

Accommodation:

Broadbill Forest Camp

Budget tented camp located just outside Bwindi NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 4

Drive to Buhoma, Bwindi Forest hike - waterfalls trail, afternoon Buhoma community visit

We will have breakfast and then drive off to Buhoma sector of Bwindi. Once there, we shall proceed for the Forest walk along the waterfall trail. This is the perfect way to experience the depth of this "impenetrable" forest. Starting from Buhoma – at the north gate, Munyaga river trail gets you to some beautiful pristine waterfalls – a truly rewarding experience. Along the way you will encounter some flora and fauna, black and white colobus monkeys, sometimes blue monkeys among others. Return to the accommodation for lunch and some rest before moving out to encounter the community. This encounter involves cultural dances from the local people of the community and also participating in some activities e.g. traditional cooking, weaving among others. Return for dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: (Ride 4 a Woman-Budget Level) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Transfer Time: Approx. 2 hours.

Main Destination:

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Gorillas)

Accommodation:

Ride 4 a Woman

Budget guest house located just outside Bwindi NP

Day 5

Game drive (Ishasha) in search of tree-climbing lions and connect north Queen

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast and then, drive off to Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth NP – famously known for its tree-climbing lion population. Once there, undertake a game drive in search of this rare species of lions. The chance of spotting these lions stands at about 60-70% but sometimes they are hard to spot (most especially when they are down in the grassland looking for prey). Should you get the chance to spot the lions up in the tree, the sight is picturesque and unforgettable. From Ishasha (south), exit and head to the booked accommodation in the north sector. Check in and take rest. *Optional (no cost): If interested, you may consider a late afternoon-to-evening game drive/safari in the Kasenyi plains.

Accommodation: (Irungu Forest Safari Lodge-Budget Level) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Transfer Time: Approx. 5-6 hours.

Main Destination:

Queen Elizabeth National Park (Uganda)

Accommodation:

Irungu Forest Safari Lodge

Mid-range lodge located just outside Queen Elizabeth NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 6

Morning game drive and afternoon boat trip along the Kazinga Channel

Be up early and have your breakfast. Proceed for a morning game drive in the Kasenyi plains and be on the look for Cape buffalos, herds of elephants plus lions, leopards (though hard to spot) among others. Return to the accommodation for some rest time and lunch. After lunch, you will go for a 2-hour boat trip on the Kazinga Channel that connects Lakes George and Edward. During the trip, the sight of wildlife including giant hippos, elephants and crocodiles among others will fascinate you. You will also see many varieties of birds at the water shores. *After the boat trip, you can decide either to return to the lodge to rest or first proceed for a brief late afternoon game drive and thereafter, return to the lodge.

Accommodation: (Irungu Forest Safari Lodge-Budget Level) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Transfer Time: n/a.

Main Destination:

Queen Elizabeth National Park (Uganda)

Accommodation:

Irungu Forest Safari Lodge

Mid-range lodge located just outside Queen Elizabeth NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 7

Another game drive, head to Kibale and do the Bigodi wetland excursion

Be up early and have your breakfast. Proceed for one last morning game drive in the Kasenyi plains and after a satisfying encounter, we shall embark (right away) for a transfer that will see us check in at an accommodation at the edge of the Kibale Forest NP. We hope to have lunch at this property and also rest a bit before going out in the Bigodi. The Bigodi wetland boasts of an extensive array of biodiversity among which are several primates' species like the black and white colobus monkeys, red-tailed monkeys, L'Hoest's monkey, and baboons. The Bigodi is also a paradise for bird watchers. *Optional (extra cost 250$ pp): If interested, you can consider chimpanzee tracking (Kibale Forest) in place of the Bigodi wetlands excursion. After the beautiful time in the Bigodi (or Kibale Forest), we shall return to the lodge where we will enjoy dinner and then overnight.

Accommodation: (Chimpanzee Forest Lodge-Budget Level) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Transfer time: Approx. 2 hours.

Main Destination:

Kibale National Park (Chimps)

Accommodation:

Chimpanzee Forest Lodge

Mid-range guest house located just outside Kibale NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 8

Transfer – Kibale Forest (via Hoima) to Murchison Falls National Park

Have breakfast, check out and embark on the journey to Murchison Falls National Park. The highlights of this park include the roaring rapids of the Murchison, the rolling plains of Uganda's largest National Park where you will have the chance of viewing lions, leopard, giraffes, hartebeest, buffalo, and elephants among others. For birders, Murchison Falls boasts about 450 bird species including the grey parrot, dwarf king fisher and the Goliath heron among others. Expect lunch en route. The drive is quite long but incredibly scenic. The beautiful scenery will amaze you all the way (with very little/no room to be bored). *Note: You can decide to do a game drive first and then finally, proceed to the booked accommodation. Otherwise, we can go straight to the accommodation, check in and stay at leisure.

Accommodation: (Ikorom Safari Lodge-Budget Level) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Transfer Time: 7 hours.

Main Destination:

Murchison Falls National Park (Uganda)

Accommodation:

Ikorom Safari Lodge

Mid-range lodge located just outside Murchison Falls NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 9

Exploring Murchison NP - Morning and Afternoon game drives/safari

Today you will have a full packed game viewing opportunity in the park. Murchison Falls NP is a home to different wildlife species such as; Buffalos, Jackson hartebeests, elephants, Lions, Giraffes, leopards, Hyenas, among others. They are widely spread all over the Savannah grasslands, grazing or hunting for prey. These make the park's landscape so amazing for game viewing/game driving. *To avoid the long drive back to the lodge, we can proceed to Red Chilli and enjoy hot lunch there. After the lunch, we can move back for the second leg of our game viewing. After a satisfying day's encounter, we shall head back to the lodge to freshen up – awaiting dinner and the overnight stay. #Optional (extra cost 30$ pp): If interested, you may consider the 11am boat trip towards the bottom of the falls that also offers the opportunity to hike (extra 25$ pp) to the top of the falls.

Accommodation: (Ikorom Safari Lodge-Budget level) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Transfer Time: n/a.

Main Destination:

Murchison Falls National Park (Uganda)

Accommodation:

Ikorom Safari Lodge

Mid-range lodge located just outside Murchison Falls NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 10

Transfer to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, rhino tracking and continue to Entebbe

You will have your breakfast and then drive off to Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary – a successful conservation effort that was set to save the near-extinct rhino population in Uganda. Today, visitors to Uganda have a chance to encounter rhinos thanks to this effort. Once in Zziwa, we will proceed for an hour of on-foot rhino tracking. From the rhino tracking, we will drive off to Entebbe for a drop off at the airport (for flight from 18:00 or later) or hotel of your booking.

Accommodation: Recommended on Request | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Transfer Time: Approx. 7 hours.

Main Destination:

Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch (Uganda)

Accommodation:

No accommodation (End of tour)

Meals & Drinks:

Breakfast & lunch (Dinner not included)

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

End of tour

Additional accommodation can be arranged for an extra cost.

You'll be dropped off at the airport.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Cost includes

- Park fees(For non-residents)
- Gorilla permits(One per person, non-resident)
- All activities(Unless labeled as optional)
- All accommodation(Unless listed as upgrade)
- A professional driver/guide
- All transportation(Unless labeled as optional)
- All Taxes/VAT
- Roundtrip airport transfer
- Meals(As specified in the day-by-day section)
- Drinking water(On all days)

Cost excludes

- International flights (From/to home)
- Additional accommodation before and at the end of the tour
- Tips(Tipping guideline US$10.00 pp per day)
- Personal items (Souvenirs, travel insurance, visa fees, etc.)
- Government imposed increase of taxes and/or park fees
- Some meals(As specified in the day-by-day section)

GOOD TO KNOW

- Packing for Safari? Keep it simple!
- Bring comfortable, lightweight clothes in natural colors like khaki, olive, sand, and earth tones. Pack layers too: mornings can be surprisingly chilly, while the middle of the day gets hot. You don't need a fresh outfit for every day, since most lodges and camps can arrange laundry service.
- Don't forget your sun protection: a good hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Comfortable shoes are enough for most safaris. Heavy hiking boots are only needed if you're doing a walking safari, primate tracking, or mountain climbing.
- A good pair of binoculars is a must. A camera is great, but binoculars will transform the way you experience wildlife, especially birds and animals that are far away.
- For luggage, we recommend a soft-sided bag over a hard suitcase. It fits much more easily into safari vehicles and small aircraft, where space is tight and weight is often limited to 15 kg.
- Most importantly, don't overpack. Travel light and enjoy the adventure!

Ready to book this safari?

Request a quote and we will tailor it to your dates and group: **gorillatreking.com/safari/10-day-uganda-gorilla-trekking-and-wildlife-safari-from-kigali/**

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Email: **bookings@gorillatreking.com**

Starting prices are per person and depend on season, group size and availability; request a quote for exact pricing. Itineraries can be adjusted to suit your plans.