12-Day Uganda Gorilla and Chimpanzee Trekking and Wildlife Safari

Uganda



DURATION	COUNTRY	STARTING FROM
12 days, 11 nights	**Uganda**	**USD 3,102 per person**

TOUR SUMMARY

This 12-day Uganda safari combines gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park with chimpanzee tracking in Kibale Forest and game viewing across the main parks of western and northern Uganda.

You start with rhino tracking at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary on the way to Murchison Falls National Park for a game drive and a Nile boat cruise. You then visit Kibale Forest and the Bigodi Wetlands, take a game drive and a Kazinga Channel boat cruise in Queen Elizabeth National Park, and head to Bwindi through the Ishasha area. After gorilla trekking you relax at Lake Bunyonyi and finish with a walking safari in Lake Mburo National Park.

ITINERARY

Arrival

A transfer from the airport can be arranged for an extra cost.

Accommodation before the tour starts can be arranged for an extra cost.

Day 1

Arrival at EBB Airport and Transfer to Hotel then Later Kampala City Tour

Upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport, an SCB tour and travel-assigned English-speaking Professional tour driver-guide will receive you. Thereafter, you will transfer to the booked accommodation. You will check in and take your rest – recovering from jet lag, and adjusting to the time difference. #Optional (extra cost): Just in case you reached early and are interested in some activity, you may consider; a). excursion to the Entebbe Botanical Gardens to sight a few primates and birds, b). excursion to Mabamba wetland in search of the prehistoric shoe-bill stork or Kampala city sighting. Otherwise, you will check-in and just take your rest.

Main Destination: Kampala (City)

Accommodation: Dolphin Suites

Mid-range hotel located in or near Kampala

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 2

Transfer to Murchison Falls National Park via Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

You will wake up early, have breakfast, and drive off to Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary. Once there, you will proceed for an hour of on-foot rhino tracking. From the rhino tracking, you will head to Masindi where you will have a lunch stop. After lunch, you will embark on the transfer to Murchison Falls National Park. The highlights of this park include the roaring rapids of the Murchison and the rolling plains of Uganda's largest National Park where you will have the chance of viewing lions, giraffes, hartebeest, buffalo, and elephants. Then surely, the concentration of hippos and Nile crocodiles here will fascinate you. If interested and time allows, you can proceed for a late afternoon-evening game drive.

Main Destination: Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

Accommodation: Red Chilli Rest Camp

Budget lodge located inside Murchison Falls NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 3

Game Drive and Boat Cruise at Murchison Falls National Park

You will have breakfast and depart for an early morning game drive across the rolling plains of Uganda's largest national park and be on the lookout for wildlife including lions and leopards (though hard to spot) among others. For any birder, there are quite several birds to sight too during the drive. You will return to the accommodation for some rest time and lunch. After lunch, you will head out for the boat trip to the base of Murchison Falls where you will also be able to catch sight of more animals including hippos and crocodiles and several water birds. #Optional (extra cost): If interested, you'll continue with a hike to the top of the falls. The hike may be a strenuous one but the thrill of reaching the top is unforgettable. You will return to your accommodation and relax.

Main Destination: Murchison Falls National Park

Accommodation: Red Chilli Rest Camp

Budget lodge located inside Murchison Falls NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 4

Top of the Falls Experience and Transfer to Kibale Forest National Park

You will have breakfast and then drive to the top of the falls to truly appreciate the beauty and magnificence of the Murchison Falls. From the top, you will embark on a transfer that will see you overnight at the edge of Kibale National Park. The drive is quite long but incredibly scenic —passing through villages, lush green countryside, and hills dotted with tea plantations that characterize this part of Uganda. The beautiful scenery will amaze you all the way. Upon arrival at the accommodation, you will check in and just relax. #Optional (extra cost 15$): If interested, you can proceed with the crater lakes excursion. You will enjoy the beauty of the numerous small lakes, surrounded by gentle hills, and the stunning views all over. Otherwise, just enjoy your rest at the facility.

Main Destination: Kibale National Park (Chimps)

Accommodation: Primate Lodge Kibale

Luxury lodge located inside Kibale NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 5

Chimpanzee Tracking Bigodi Wetland and Transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park

You will have breakfast and proceed to chimpanzee tracking for briefing and tracking. The Bigodi wetland boasts an extensive array of biodiversity among which are several primate species like the black and white Colobus monkeys, red-tailed monkeys, L'Hoest's monkeys, and baboons. The Bigodi is also a paradise for bird watchers. Among the major bird species within the area is the Great Blue Turaco. From Bigodi, you will embark on a transfer (about 2 hours) to Queen Elizabeth National Park. You will reach Queen early enough to have lunch, rest, and then proceed out for game viewing. During the game drive, you will look out for wild animals like reedbuck, bushbuck, kob, warthogs, elephants, lions, and buffaloes to mention but a few. Alternatively, you could choose to go for the Queen's breathtaking explosion crater drive (instead). You will return to the accommodation and take your rest.

Main Destination: Kibale National Park (Chimps)

Accommodation: Kazinga Wilderness Safari Camp

Budget lodge located just outside Queen Elizabeth NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 6

Game Drive and Boat Cruise around Kazinga Channel

You will wake up early, have breakfast, and drive out for an early morning game drive Thereafter, you will 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 on the water shores. After the boat trip, you can proceed for a brief late afternoon game drive and thereafter, return to the lodge.

Main Destination: Queen Elizabeth National Park

Accommodation: Kazinga Wilderness Safari Camp

Budget lodge located just outside Queen Elizabeth NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 7

Sunrise Game Drive – Kasenyi Plains and Head to Ishasha Sector, then Connect to Bwindi

You will wake up early and proceed for an early morning game drive in the Kasenyi plains. You will be on the lookout for Cape buffalos, herds of elephants, lions, and leopards (though hard to spot) among others. You will return to the lodge and check out then head to Ishasha sector in search of tree-climbing lions. The chance of spotting these lions is about 70% though sometimes they are hard to spot (most especially when they are down in the grassland looking for prey). Should you get to spot them, the sight is picturesque and memorable. From Ishasha, you'll continue to the accommodation at the edge of Bwindi National Park (Buhoma sector). Once at the lodge, we can choose to just relax or (at an extra cost 15$), move out for the late afternoon-to-evening local community and cultural encounter.

Main Destination:

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Gorillas)

Accommodation: Buhoma Community Haven Lodge

Budget lodge located just outside Bwindi NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 8

Bwindi Forest Walk/Hike - Waterfalls Trail and Transfer to the Ruhija Sector of Bwindi

You will have breakfast and then move out 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, the 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, and sometimes blue monkeys among others. You'll return to the accommodation, check out, and transfer to the Ruhija sector of Bwindi where you will have the gorilla trekking tomorrow. With a strenuous day ahead, we recommend that we take this afternoon to relax.

Main Destination: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Gorillas)

Accommodation: Bakiga Lodge

Budget lodge located just outside Bwindi NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 9

Gorilla Trekking Bwindi Forest and Transfer to Lake Bunyonyi for Relaxation

You will have breakfast and move to the rangers' post. You will receive some briefing (from a ranger guide) on the dos and don'ts during trekking. Thereafter, you will enter the Bwindi Forest for your adventure. The time taken 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. You will return to the accommodation, check out, and transfer to Lake Bunyonyi. Lake Bunyonyi is framed by lush, green-terraced hills that reach a height of (2,200 – 2,478m) but it's the 29 islands of various shapes and sizes scattered across the water that make it most magical — you could admire them all day.

Main Destination: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Gorillas)

Accommodation: Itambira Island

Mid-range hotel located in or near Lake Bunyonyi

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 10

Relaxation while Enjoying the Stunning Beauty of Lake Bunyonyi

After days of long drives and of course the strenuous gorilla trekking (previous day) in Bwindi, this day is at your disposal for relaxation. All meals will be served at the accommodation. Optional (at extra cost): Should you wish to go out for an activity, you may consider the following; Historical Islands tour, visit to the Batwa/pygmies' community, Nyombe swamp excursion, mountain bike cycling, zip lining, canoeing or kayaking on the lake. The activity can be arranged onsite with the help of your driver-guide. Enjoy your stay.

Main Destination: Lake Bunyonyi

Accommodation: Itambira Island

Mid-range hotel located in or near Lake Bunyonyi

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 11

Transfer to Lake Mburo National Park and Afternoon (Evening) Game Drive

You will have breakfast and set off to Lake Mburo National Park via Mbarara City. You will arrive at the accommodation in Lake Mburo in time and rest before moving for an afternoon-to-evening game drive. On the game drive, you can expect to see the gigantic eland antelopes, zebras, topi, impalas, Uganda kob, and Cape buffaloes among others. Later, you will relax at the accommodation where you will spend the night. #Optional (extra cost 30$): If interested, you may consider the night game drive to encounter nocturnal creatures which will be a rare sighting compared to the regular daytime sightings.

Main Destination: Lake Mburo National Park

Accommodation: Kigambira Safari Lodge

Luxury lodge located inside Lake Mburo NP

Meals & Drinks:

All meals included

Drinking water (Other drinks not included)

Day 12

Morning Walking Safari in Lake Mburo National Park and Depature for Kampala or EBB Airport

You'll enjoy your early breakfast and proceed for the Mburo morning park (bush) walk in the presence of an armed Uganda Wildlife Authority ranger guide. On this early morning guided walk, you will have the opportunity to encounter (at close range): zebras, giraffes, eland, topi, and Cape buffaloes among others.

You will take the trail to the top of the hills and see Lake Mburo and beyond. From this vantage point, you will have a great view of 9 of the twelve lakes surrounding Lake Mburo National Park. Thereafter, you will return to the accommodation for checkout and then hit the road to Entebbe Airport.

Main Destination: Entebbe International Airport (Entebbe)

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.

A transfer back to the airport can be arranged for an extra cost.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Cost includes

- Park fees (For non-residents)
- Gorilla permits (One per person, non-resident)
- Chimp 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
- Meals (As specified in the day-by-day section)
- Drinking water (On all days)

Cost excludes

- International flights (From/to home)
- Roundtrip airport transfer
- 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

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/12-day-uganda-gorilla-and-chimpanzee-trekking-and-wildlife-safari/**

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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.