16-Day Uganda Primate, Game and Cultural Safari

Uganda



DURATION	COUNTRY	STARTING FROM
16 days, 15 nights	**Uganda**	**USD 5,020 per person**

TOUR SUMMARY

This 16-day safari is for travellers with more time to explore Uganda, known as the Pearl of Africa, with chimpanzee and gorilla trekking, game drives and cultural visits.

You start at Budongo Forest for chimpanzee trekking and the top of the falls, then take game drives, a Nile boat cruise and a Delta cruise at Murchison Falls, and a cultural walk in Hoima town. You trek chimpanzees in Kibale and Chambura, explore Queen Elizabeth National Park by game drive and boat cruise, and visit the Katwe salt mines. After gorilla tracking and a community walk in Bwindi you go canoeing or hiking at Lake Bunyonyi, visit Lake Mburo National Park and drive to Entebbe.

ITINERARY

Arrival

You'll be picked up from the airport (or hotel)

Accommodation before the tour departs can be arranged for extra cost

Day 1

Transfer to Budongo Forest

Start you 16 day primate, game and cultural tour by driving to Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary to track the endangered White Rhinos that are being restocked in the country. Take some time searching for the Rhinos in the wild and thereafter, drive to Budongo Forest, located in Murchison Falls National Park Conservation area. You will stay overnight at Budongo Eco-Lodge on Full Board

Drive time: Approximately 4-5 hours

Meal plan: Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Budongo Eco Lodge

Day 2

Budongo Chimpanzee trekking and the top of the Falls visit

After breakfast, you will walk to the forest headquarters for briefing about Chimpanzee trekking Dos and Don’ts. Thereafter, start your primate walk in the Budongo Forest guided by well-trained and experienced ranger guides. Your walk will expose you to other primates, birds and different plant species in the forest. Once you get into close proximity with the Chimps or one community/party of habituated chimpanzees, you will be allowed one hour of observations and photography before you return back to the Lodge. You may carry packed lunch or order for hot lunch which you can have when you return to the lodge. In the afternoon, you will drive to Murchison Falls National Park for a brief game drive via the top of the falls to see how the Nile waters squeeze through a narrow gorge only later to explode into what has been refereed to as one of the strongest and most powerful waterfalls on planet Earth. There after you will proceed to Murchison River Lodge or Pakuba Safari Lodge for overnight.

Drive time: Approximately 2 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Packed Lunch and Dinner

Lodge: Murchison River Lodge or Pakuba Safari Lodge

Day 3

Morning game drives and boat cruise on the Nile

Your 16 day primate, game and cultural tour will be action packed. As such, you will need to wake up early to be transferred by ferry to the northern banks of the River Nile commonly known as Paraa for your early morning Game drive. The northern bank of the park provides a great opportunity to spot several antelopes, hippos, buffaloes, giraffes, buffaloes, and if you are lucky, you will spot some big cats such as leopards and lions. Return to the lodge for lunch and then go for a boat cruise to the bottom of the Falls. On your way from the jetty point to the bottom of the Falls, you will spot several herds of buffaloes, crocodiles, hippos etc. as they flock the River Nile to drink water as well as some water bird species. You will continue upstream to the base of the Falls to observe how the water squeezes in a narrow gorge to only later explode in what has been referred to as the strongest and most powerful water Falls on the planet earth. Return to the Lodge for overnight.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Murchison River Lodge/Pakuba Safari Lodge

Day 4

Morning game drive and late afternoon Delta cruise

After an early breakfast you will return to the northern bank of the River Nile for yet another game drive in search of some of the wild animals that you could have missed seeing during your previous game drives. Return to the lodge for lunch and thereafter go for a late afternoon boat cruise to the Albert delta. Depending on how lucky you are, there are chances that you may find elephants, buffaloes and hippos crossing the delta while crocodiles are also taking opportunity of this crossing to catch the vulnerable animals. There are also high chances that you will spot the rare Shoebill stock. Return back to the lodge for overnight:

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Murchison River Lodge or Pakuba Safari Lodge

Day 5

Hoima Town for a Cultural walk

After breakfast, you will drive to Hoima town, a distance of about 3 hour's drive from Murchison Falls National Park. Depending on the nature of the road, you may pass via Lake Albert for a scenic drive to the escarpments and then to Hoima town. After Check-in your hotel, you may go for a cultural walk or just enjoy the cultural performances at the lodge and learn more about the cultures of the local people in this area.

Drive time: 3 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Kontik Hotel/Hoima Cultural Lodge

Day 6

To Kibale National Park.

You will drive to Kibale Forest National Park via Fort Portal town. You will have a stop in Fort portal town for Lunch before proceeding to check-in at Rwenzori View Guest House. No major activity on this day but if time allows, you may drive around Fort Portal town for sightseeing.

Drive time: Approximately 4 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Rwenzori View Guest House

Day 7

Chimpanzee trekking and Bigodi Wetland Walk

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Kibale National Park headquarters located at Kanyanchu. Here, you will join other trekkers for briefing before you proceed into the forest for chimpanzee trekking. You will be led by a well-trained and experienced ranger/guide who will take you for a guided primate walk inside Kibale Forest National Park. This forest provides an opportunity to visit one of the habituated communities of chimpanzees. You are allowed to spend an hour with these Great Apes while observing their behaviour. You are allowed to take photographs. So make sure your cameras are nearby. Kibale National Park is also home to other 13 primate species which can also be spotted while trekking the Chimpanzees. Of course there are also numerous species of forest birds. In fact, this is another haven for bird lovers.

After lunch, you will drive to Bigodi Village for a wetland walk. This walk is designed and managed by the local community surrounding the park. All the fees you pay for this walk directly go to benefit the local community living around Kibale Forest National Park. As Encounter Africa Safaris, we encourage our clients to take part in this walk as the money raised from it helps the communities to sustainably manage and utilize this wetland

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Packed Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Chimpanzee Forest Guest House or Isunga Lodge

Day 8

To Queen Elizabeth National Park

After breakfast, your will drive 3-4 hours from Kibale National Park to Queen Elizabeth National Park. You will have an opportunity of passing through small towns, seeing several foothills of Mountain Rwenzori, small rivers that originate from Rwennzori mountain ranges as well as crossing the Equator at Kikorongo. You will check-in at Bush Lodge, relax as you prepare for a late afternoon game drive in Mweya. This section of Queen Elizabeth National Park is endowed with Antelopes, Buffaloes, Warthogs, elephants and many other wild animals including lions and leopards. Please note that a chance to sight lion and leopard can not guaranteed. Return to the Lodge for overnight.

Drive time: Approximately 3-4 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Elephant Hab or Pumba Safari Lodge

Day 9

Game drive and Boat Cruise.

After an early morning cup of coffee, you will drive back to Kasenyi plains for a game viewing. It's this time of the morning that the big cats are usually out to hunt for their prey. There will be high chances of spotting lions and or leopards on a hunt or feasting on their kill. However, we cannot guarantee it. Of course, there is a guarantee that you will see buffaloes, hippos, and several species of antelopes, and many more. You may return to the lodge for lunch or drive directly to Mweya jetty for an afternoon boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel. This two hour boat cruise is one of the highlights in Queen Elizabeth National Park. It provides you an opportunity to view over 300 out of the 700 water bird species recorded here, antelopes, crocodiles, elephants, buffaloes and hippos. Return to the lodge for overnight.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Elephant Hab or Pumba Safari Lodge

Day 10

Chambura Chimp Trekking and Katwe salt mines

After breakfast, you will be driven to Kyambura to join other trekkers for briefing and their after start you chimpanzee walk in the gorge. Your experienced ranger guide will help you identify several flora and fauna species resident in this gorge. Once you find a community of chimpanzees, you will be allowed to spend one hour with them for photography. Return from the trek for lunch and short relaxation at the lodge before moving out for a visit to Lake Katwe salt mines. Lake Katwe is an explosive crater which is gifted with salt. The local community have been mining/extracting salt from this lake for decades. You will meet a local guide (from the community) who will take you for a tour around the salt mines while explaining how salt extraction is done, the challenges faced as well as the opportunities available. Lake Katwe salt extraction project is one of the living examples of man and biosphere reserves or conservation areas in the whole world where man harmoniously co-exists with wildlife. Return to the Lodge for overnight.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Elephant Hab or Pumba Safari Lodge

Day 11

To Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

After breakfast, you will drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, located in southwestern Uganda and shared between three districts of Kabale, Kanungu and Kisoro. Your journey to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park will take you through the rolling hills with terraced gardens of Irish potatoes and sometimes tea. You will arrive late afternoon for overnight at the Lodge. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is home to almost half of the world's endangered mountain gorillas and the only National Park where wild chimpanzees co-exist with mountain gorillas.

Drive time: Approximately 5-6 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Rushaga Gorilla Havens Lodge or Trekkers Tervan Lodge

Day 12

Gorilla Tracking and Community walk

After breakfast, you will transfer to the park headquarters to join other trekkers to be allocated a Gorilla family that you will trek. Of course the park staff will first give you a full briefing concerning the Dos and Don'ts while with the gorillas. After that, you will be driven to the starting point of your allocated gorilla family to start your trek into the beautiful Impenetrable Bwindi Forest. This trek may take between 30 minutes to three quarters of the day, depending on where the Mountain Gorillas will be found. Please noted that gorilla trekking can be strenuous and as such a certain level of fitness is required. Once you find the gorillas, you will be allowed to spend one hour to observe them and take photographs. Although this time may seem too short a time, the experience you get will be worth it. Thereafter, you will return to the park headquarters where you will be awarded a certificate in recognition of your effort in contributing to the conservation of these endangered mountain gorillas. Return to the lodge for relaxation followed by a village walk in the evening to learn more about the local people living around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. This walk will enable you appreciate the effort of these people in conserving the forest and the gorillas. You can choose to support them through donation in kind. Please note that this is a voluntary act.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Rushaga Gorilla Havens Lodge or Trekkers Tervan Lodge

Day 13

Transfer to Lake Bunyonyi

Drive from Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to Lake Bunyonyi in Kabale District. Lake Bunyonyi is one of the three Lava damned Lakes in Uganda. The Lake was formed when lava flowing from one of the volcanoes blocked a river channel and water was forced to flow back hence filling the space to create the Lake Bunyonyi. Bunyonyi locally means small birds. So the Lake got its name because of the abundance of small birds in this area in filled the area. Lake Bunyonyi is said to be the deepest lake in Uganda and the second deepest in East Africa. The beauty of this Lake Bunyonyi will surely not disappoint you. It is one of the best places in Uganda to relax after your gorilla trek.

Drive time: Approximately 3-4 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Birdnest Resort

Day 14

Canoeing or Hiking

After breakfast, you are free to admire the beauty of the lake and its surrounding hills. You will have a choice of either taking a canoe ride on the lake to explore the different Islands with exciting histories behind them. For example, you will visit the Punishment Island. The story about this Island, it is the place where girls who were known to have conceived babies out of legitimate traditional marriage would be dumped and left to die. This is a whole day activity and you will surely enjoy it. Alternatively, you can hike one of the hills around the Lake Bunyonyi. Encounter Africa Safaris supports some projects around this area, which is part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). So, for those who want to do something in the community while on their tour, this is another opportunity for you to go for volunteer work. Return to the Lodge for overnight.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Bridnest Resort

Day 15

To Lake Mburo National Park

After breakfast, drive to Lake Mburo National Park via the Great Lakes Museum or Igongo Cultural center to learn more about the cultures of the ethnic groups in western Uganda. Lunch will be served en route. You will arrive at Lake Mburo National Park just in time for an evening game drive. Lake Mburo National Park is popular for animals such as Impalas, Giraffes, Zebras and so much more. Return to the Lodge for overnight.

Drive time: Approximately 6 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Lodging: Lake Mburo Safari Lodge or Rwakobo Rock

Day 16

Drive to Entebbe International Airport

Today marks the end of your 16 Days Safari with Encounter Africa Safaris. But, depending on your flight time, you can have a morning walking Safari or just embark on your journey to Entebbe International Airport. Of course you will have a stop at the Equator crossing in Kayabwe for photography and stretching.

Drive time: Approximately 5-6 hours

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Lunch

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Cost includes

- Park fees (For non-residents)
- Gorilla and 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)
- Round-trip 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
- Some meals (As specified in the day-by-day section)

GOOD TO KNOW

- What you need to know about our 16-Day Uganda Primate, game and cultural tour
- It can start any time on any date
- This safari is guided by our SOPs for the new normal Covid 19 post lockdown
- The tour is all inclusive with all activities, meals, Chimp and Gorilla permits, park fees, lodges, vehicle hire and guides fee. So, hidden costs are involved.
- Minimum number of participants is two people and maximum number is six people.
- Suitable for children aged 15 years and above.
- Safari starts and ends in Uganda
- You have an opportunity to trek Chimpanzees in Budongo Forest, Kibale National Park and Kyambura Gorge
- An opportunity to trek the endangered white Rhinos at Zziwa Rhino sanctuary
- You have an opportunity to trek chimpanzees in Budongo Forest, Kibale National Park and Kyambura Gorge
- You will visit three top National Parks in Uganda for game drives i.e. Murchison Falls National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park and Lake Mburo National National Park.
- You will enjoy four boat cruises on this tour. One on the River Nile in Murchison Falls National Park, another on Lake at Bunyonyi, in Lake Mburo National Park and on the Kazinga channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Zziwa Rhino sanctuary to visit the only remaining white rhinos in Uganda.
- If you enjoy walking safaris, a visit to the nearby villages will enable you to interact with the local communities and to learn the cultures of the local people in Uganda.
- 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/16-day-uganda-primate-game-and-cultural-safari/**

Uganda: +256 772 784381 | +256 704 890296 Namibia: +264 81 591 8824

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.