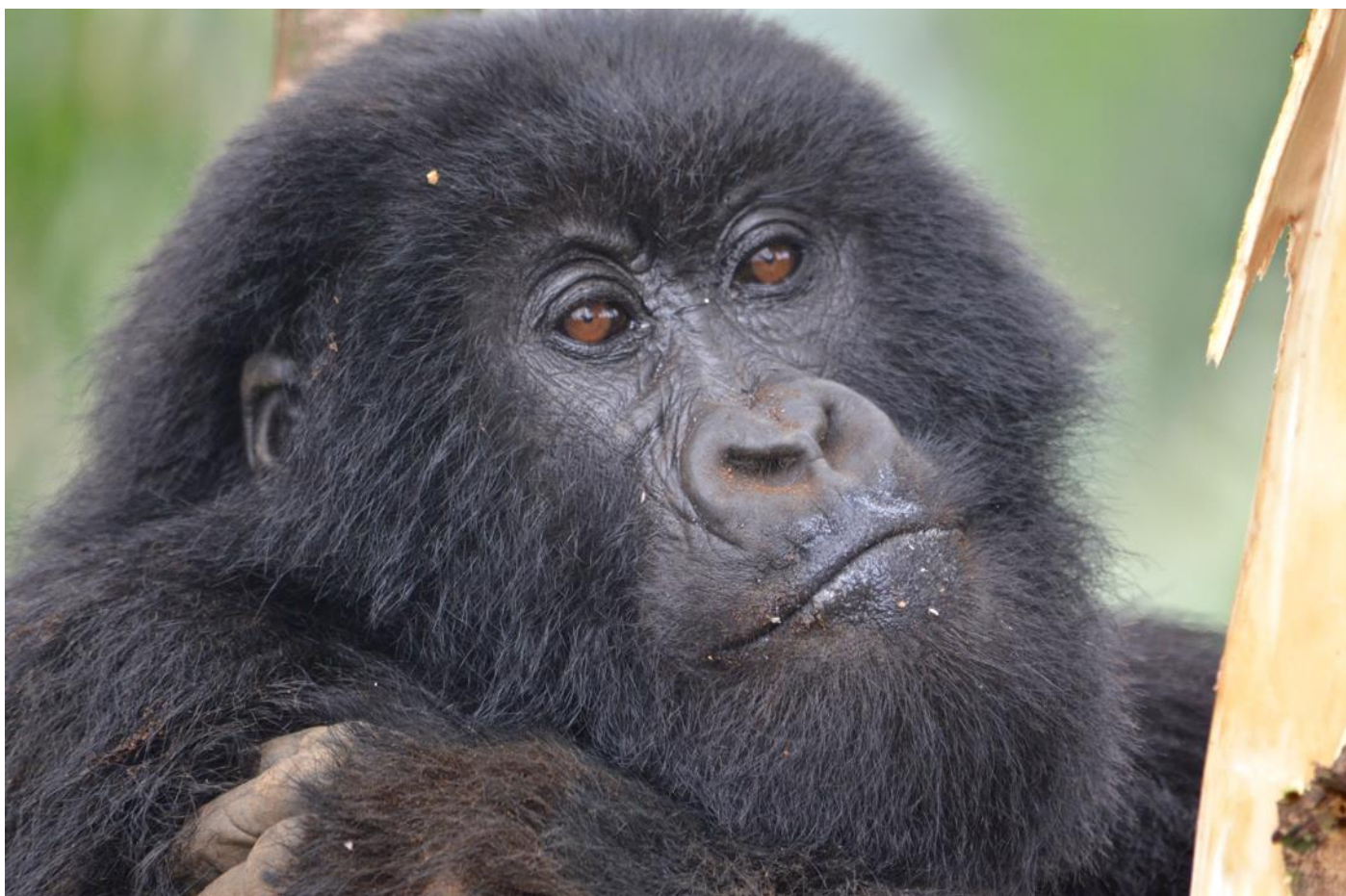


TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



11 NIGHT UGANDA AND RWANDA WITH VOLCANOES SAFARIS A WILDLIFE AND CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA



Day One

Arrive at Entebbe airport where an Aerolink member of staff will assist you with the check-in and transfer to your domestic flight to Kasese - check-in time is one hour before the flight. Once in Kasese you will be welcomed by your expert guide who will provide knowledge and assistance throughout your journey.

Transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park and the contemporary Kyambura Gorge Lodge. Enjoy pre-dinner drinks on the veranda that overlooks the savannah plains with the magnificent Rwenzori Mountains in the distance.

Approximate Travel Times: Flying 2 hours; Driving 2 hours

Overnight at Kyambura Gorge Lodge (L, D)

Day Two

The Kyambura Gorge is an extraordinary natural environment and forms a stark contrast to the surrounding grasslands. Here you can track one of our closest animal relatives: the chimpanzee. The chimp population is quite mobile and viewing can be unpredictable but the walk itself is enchanting.



In the afternoon take a cruise on the Kazinga Channel, which flows between Lakes Edward and George. Kazinga is home to one of the greatest concentrations of hippo in Africa and herds of elephant, buffalo and other animals come to drink at the water's edge. The channel is a magnet for water birds, with great flocks of pelicans and other birds on the shore, and a great spot to see African fish eagle.

Overnight Kyambura Gorge Lodge (B, L, D)

Day Three

Second chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu, a forest reserve 30 minutes' drive from Kyambura Gorge Lodge where there is a community of about 40 habituated chimpanzees.

You can also visit various community projects from the Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT) including:

Kyambura Gorge Buffer, Kyambura Women's Coffee Cooperative, Kyambura Wetland Restoration, Kyambura Dance Group, Kyambura Community Playground and much more.

Overnight at Kyambura Gorge Lodge (B,L,D)

Day Four

Join a local scientific researcher on his daily game drive in Queen Elizabeth National Park to locate and record the behaviour of a lion pride which is being studied in the park.

Transfer by road to Ishasha Wilderness Camp. Approximate Travel Times: Driving 2 hours

Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp (B, L, D)

Day Five

Take an early morning or evening game drive for the best opportunity to see game. What you see depends on the season, but the Kasenyi plains are excellent for sighting lion and large herds of Uganda kob. The Mweya peninsula is one of the best places to look for leopard, which live in the dense, scrubby thickets.

Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp (B, L, D)



Day Six

Your safari now continues to the primeval Bwindi forest. Travelling via Ishasha – subject to road conditions – you can observe the unusual behaviour exhibited by the tree-climbing lions. The long journey through the rapidly changing landscape takes you to Volcanoes Bwindi Lodge, which looks across to the towering trees of the forest. Depending on when you arrive you may have time to explore the lodge grounds with its clear mountain stream or visit the local village.

You can also visit the Bwindi bar a VSPT project located just 3 minutes from the lodge. They serve chilled drinks and delicious snacks at pocket friendly prices. A few minutes at Bwindi bar will give you an insight in what life in Bwindi Community is like. Approximate Travel Times: Driving 2 hours

Overnight at Bwindi Lodge (B,L,D)

Day Seven

After enjoying an early breakfast, you set off gorilla tracking. Trekking through the steep, densely forested hills and then finally coming across the gorillas camouflaged in the vegetation is an inspiring and privileged moment. Tracking in the Bwindi forest requires stamina and can often take most of the day.

Overnight at Bwindi Lodge (B,L,D)

Day Eight

Today you will travel to Gahinga Lodge and in the afternoon visit the Gahinga Batwa Village and experience the culture and history of one of Africa's oldest tribes. Visit their new home and gain insight into their traditional life in the forest and even have lessons in hunting and gathering of medicinal plants.

Other activities for those interested in the culture and natural history of Mgahinga include hiking the Muhavura, Sabinyo or Gahinga volcanoes, enjoying the Batwa Dance Group perform, visit the Batwa Vocational Centre and tracking gorillas in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

To track gorillas in Mgahinga, additional permits are required. Overnight at Mount Gahinga Lodge (B,L,D)



Day Nine

A relaxed morning during which you will be accompanied by a ranger to track the golden monkeys through the bamboo forests of the mountains.

Return to the lodge and after lunch drive across the border into Rwanda. The magnificent Volcanoes Virunga Lodge is perched on the top of a hill with 360° panoramic views of the chain of volcanoes and Lakes Bulera and Ruhondo. From the terrace you can take in the sunset over the lakes and – weather permitting – enjoy an exhilarating performance from the colourful Intore Dance troupe that showcases the unique Rwandese culture.

Approximate Travel Time: Driving 2.5 hours

Overnight at Virunga Lodge (B,L,D)

Day Ten

It is an early start for gorilla tracking in the Volcanoes National park through the enchanting bamboo forest on the slopes of the Virunga range of volcanoes. After a gentle climb of between one and three hours, you will spend one hour in the company of these gentle giants before returning to base in time for a late lunch. Some gorilla families can be more elusive, and tracking can take a full day, especially if it is wet and muddy.

Overnight at Virunga Lodge (B,L,D)

Day Eleven

Today choose from one of the optional activities:

- Go for a second gorilla trek (additional permits required)
- Trek to the grave of pioneer primatologist Dian Fossey and visit the gorilla cemetery, the final resting place of her favourite gorilla, Digit, and many other gorillas.
- Visit Lake Kivu, location of the finest inland beaches in Africa.
- Take a guided walk to Lake Bulera, to experience village life.
- Tour the former Imbabazi Orphanage and beautiful English cottage gardens.

Overnight at Virunga Lodge (B, L, D)



Day Twelve

Drive to Kigali, and time permitting, enjoy a city tour and a visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial before your international flight. A visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial is a moving testimony to this country's past that it has courageously overcome (guests to pay/donate entrance fees directly).

Transfer to the airport in time for your return flight.

Approximate Travel Time: Driving 3 hours

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