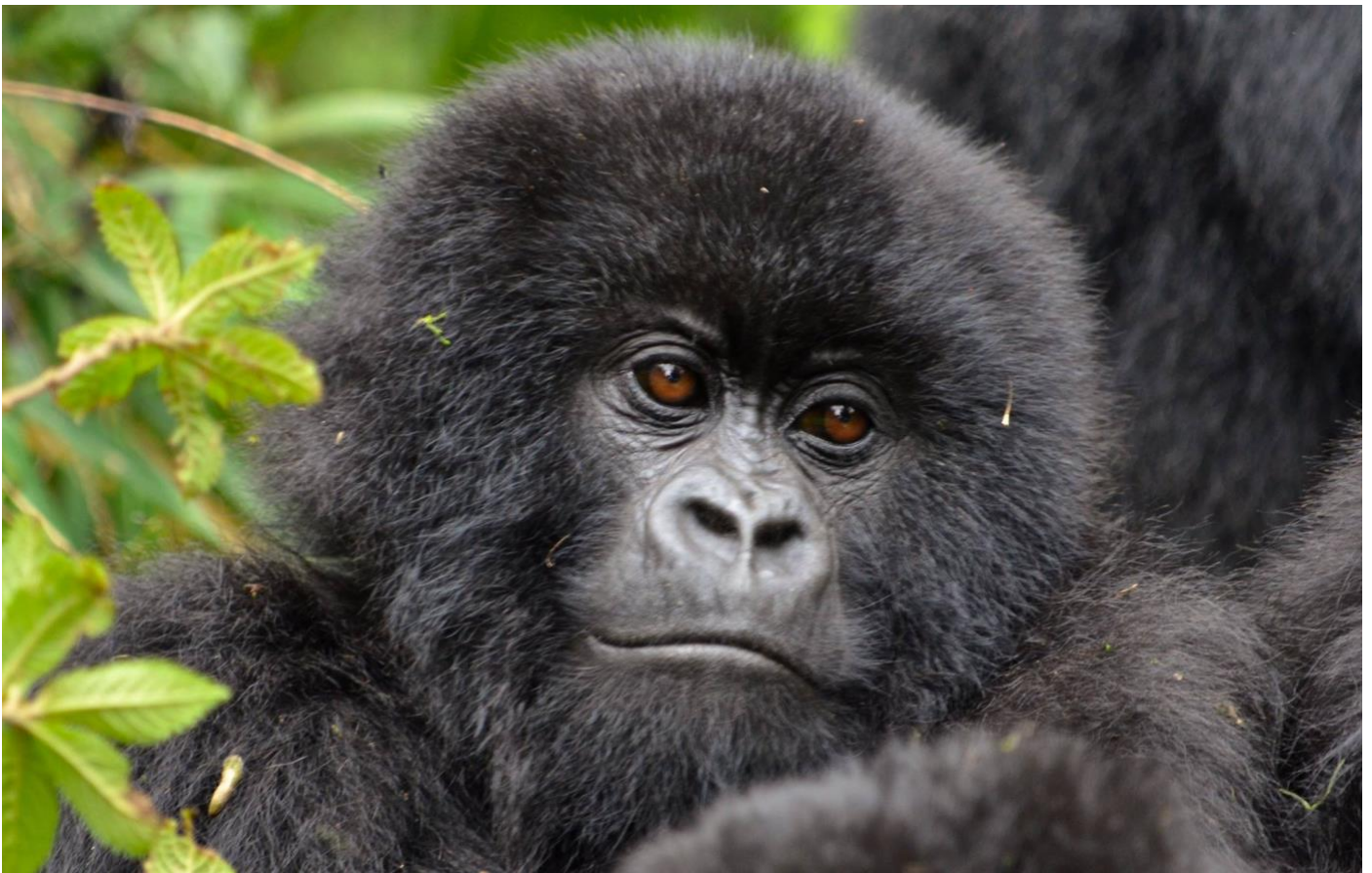


# TRACKS SAFARIS

## WE GET YOU CLOSER



**8 NIGHT/9 DAY ITINERARY - GORILLAS, GOLDEN MONKEYS AND CHIMPS  
RWANDA AND UGANDA WILDLIFE SAFARI**



### **Day 1: Kigali**

Upon arrival at Kigali international airport you will be met by Tracks Safaris' representative and transferred to your Kigali Hotel where you will have a briefing for your safari.

### **Overnight: Flame Tree Village (Bed and Breakfast)**

*Flame Tree Village is strategically located in the quiet suburb of Nyarutarama in Kigali. It boasts a total of 20 spacious villas that are not only comfortable, but provide a tranquil, homely experience. Free Wi-fi internet connection is provided as well as a well-stocked pool bar. The residence has a pool as well as an in-door restaurant and an out-door sitting area.*

*The residence is located within easy access of major facilities and amenities such as the Kigali International Airport which is less than 10 minute's drive and the Kigali Central Business District also a mere 10 minute*

*drive. Within the area are also major shopping centers such as MTN Center Nyarutarama and the Nyarutarama Golf Club*

## **Day 2: Kigali – Volcanoes National Park (2.5 Hrs)**

After your breakfast at your hotel you will enjoy a city tour of Kigali including a visit to the Genocide Memorial site - a grim reminder of a senseless massacre of innocent's lives in 1994. Learn about Rwanda's history from pre-colonial times to the 1994 genocide; learn about other genocides in the world and how this country has dealt with that past. Tour more and see the new developments in Rwanda; the recovery has been incredible and a testament to humankind's resilience. The history of Rwanda dates back centuries, Kigali has been a part of it for 100 years. Founded in 1907 as a German settlement, Kigali did not become the capital until Rwanda's independence in 1962 when it replaced the colonial seat of power in Butare.

You will have lunch in Kigali and afterwards depart to Ruhengeri - the base for Gorilla trekking at the Parc National des Volcans. The town itself, located only 25km from Uganda border, is a relatively small city. The constant flow of humanity is quite remarkable and the town has great views of the surrounding volcanoes. People are very friendly here and although a former Belgian colony (and thus French-speaking) many people speak English.

## **Dinner and Overnight at Mountain Gorilla View Lodge-FB**



## **Parc National des Volcans**

In the heart of Central Africa, so high up that you shiver more than you sweat," wrote the eminent primatologist Dian Fossey, "are great, old volcanoes towering up almost 15,000 feet, and nearly covered with rich, green rainforest - the Virungas". Situated in the far northwest of Rwanda, the Volcanoes National Park protects the steep slopes of this magnificent mountain range - home of the rare mountain gorilla - and the rich mosaic of montane ecosystems, which embrace evergreen and bamboo forest, open grassland, swamp and heath. The mysterious rainforest is alive with the calls of colourful birds and chattering of the rare golden monkey, and littered with fresh spoor of the mountains' elusive populations of buffalo and elephant. Through gaps in the forest canopy, the magnificent peaks are glimpsed, easily accessible and among the highest in Africa, beckoning an ascent.

*The Mountain Gorilla View Lodge is located on the foothills of the Mount Karisimbi, one of the volcanic mountains that make up the Virunga Massif. The lodge is about 10 minutes' drive to the main entrance of the Volcanoes National Park where gorilla trekking starts. Mountain Gorilla View Lodge is an eco-lodge with 30 spacious chalets. To ensure the least disruption of the surrounding environment, the eco-lodge was constructed with locally available material.*



### **Day 3: Volcanoes National Park – Gorilla Trekking**

Early breakfast at your lodge and at 0630 hrs you will transfer to the Volcanoes National Park HQs and at 0700 hrs registration - where the park staff determines which group of gorillas you will visit. The park staff discusses your fitness level and advises you of the trekking times and conditions to the various groups based upon their location in the park the previous evening. There are a total of 80 gorilla permits available each day with a maximum of eight trekkers visiting any one group.

Once the trekkers are put into groups, each group's Lead Guide briefs the trekkers of the trekking procedures as well as the "do's and don'ts" while in the presence of gorillas. After the briefing trekkers return to their respective vehicles for the drive up the mountain to the starting point. Porters may be hired for the trek to carry your backpack and gear. The cost, US\$10 per person/per day. We advise that you take advantage of this service.

Please remember to bring your passport for registration, appropriate water proof hiking boots and a light rain coat. To protect from stinging nettles we recommend long pants and long sleeved tops. A pair of old gardening gloves can help grabbing onto the vegetation while most hotels/lodges provide a walking stick that come in very handy especially when hiking downhill. A small waterproof backpack is an excellent idea to carry a light snack, bottled water as well as protection for your camera.

After the trek, join your driver guide for a transfer back to your lodge.

### **Dinner and Overnight at Mountain Gorilla View Lodge-FB**



### **Day 4: 5th August 2019: Golden Monkey Trekking**

After breakfast transfer to the Volcanoes National Park HQs and at 0700 hrs - registration at the Volcanoes National Park Offices followed by a transfer to your Trail head. Golden Monkeys are among the most endangered primates in Africa and is believed the only viable population of these monkeys is in the Virunga Volcanoes. The golden monkey is a distinct species of guenon - Cercopithecus kandti and is



endemic to the Albertine Rift. Two groups each with over 100 individuals are being habituated for visitors in the Virungas.

The Kabatwa group, found in the east of the park on the flanks of the Sabyinyo volcano and the Musongo group higher up on the flanks of the Karisimbi volcano at an altitude of about 2800-3000 meters. After we transfer back to the lodge to relax during the heat of the day.

**Dinner and Overnight at Mountain Gorilla View Lodge-FB**

**Day 5: Drive from Volcanoes National Park – Queen Elizabeth National Park (420kms/ 7-8hours drive)**

After breakfast cross the border into Uganda and you will drive south alongside the majestic Rwenzori 'Mountains of the Moon' to Queen Elizabeth National park. Arriving at the lodge – check in, take a shower and rest in the evening – dinner will be served at the time of your choice.

**Dinner and Overnight at Elephant Plains -FB**

*Elephant Plains Lodge is situated on the edge of the Queen Elizabeth National Park. One of Africa's finest national parks - Elephant plains has stunning views over Kasenye plains, Lakes George and Kikorongo and the lush savannah of the park.*

*The lodge offers spacious luxurious en-suite rooms with large windows for breath-taking views of the extensive Queen Elizabeth National Park from the comfort of your bed – complete with large luxury bathrooms sinks, shower and bath combination. The lodge also has a swimming pool for guests to relax after a day of game viewing.*



**Day 6: AM Game drive and afternoon boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel**

The day begins early when we start with a morning game drive and head to the mating ground of the Uganda Kobs. We search for lions, elephants, buffaloes and other wild animals in their natural habitat. In the afternoon we take on a scenic boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, a 33km long natural and pre-

historic canal that joins Lakes Edward and Lake George. Formed by tectonic activity millions of years ago during the formation of the rift valleys, the canal, 2 to 3kms at its widest, is now the most dominant feature of Queen Elizabeth National Park and one her key tourist attractions.

On a scheduled boat ride over a 12km stretch from Mweya to the bird sanctuary (2hrs), guests are almost always guaranteed excellent wildlife sightings including large schools of hippopotamus, Nile crocodiles, wallowing buffaloes on its reedy banks, elephants, multitudes of birds including many endemics as well as numerous other plains game that come to drink at its water's edge all day long.

#### **Dinner and Overnight at Elephant Plains-FB**



#### **Day 7: AM Game drives & PM Game drives**

Another beautiful day of game drives heading to the mating ground of the Uganda Kobs. We search for lions, elephants, buffaloes and other wild animals in their natural habitat. Take another game drive in the afternoon.

#### **Dinner and Overnight at Elephant Plains-FB**

#### **Day 8: Drive from Queen Elizabeth NP to Kibale National Park (185kms/ 2-3hours drive)**

Rise early and transfer to Kibale National Park and on arrival check in and relax by the lodge.

Kibale Forest is reputed for having the greatest variety and highest concentration of primates in East Africa. After a pre-tracking briefing at walking distance from your accommodation you will start your hike into the forest. Follow the footsteps of a large habituated family of chimpanzees with over 120 individuals that have made Kibale one of the best locations in Africa for chimp viewing.

En route your guide will explain more about the forest and the other inhabitants including other primates and birds such as the Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Black-billed Turaco, Pied Hornbill, Chestnut winged Starlings and many more.

Upon sighting the chimpanzees you will stay with them for one hour as they go about their daily routine. It is an unforgettable wildlife encounter and the hour is always over too soon.

#### **Dinner and Overnight at Primate Lodge Standard Cottages -FB**

*You couldn't be any closer to the forest than at Primate Lodge Kibale. It is located in the heart of Kibale Forest, right at the starting point for chimpanzee trekking. The spacious forest cottages tastefully decorated in African style, with a private bathroom and veranda to take in the view of the rainforest. WiFi is available in the main area.*





**Day 9: AM Bigodi Swamp Walk & later drive back to Entebbe for departure (Approx. 370kms/ 6hours drive)**

Transfer to Bigodi Swamp for another totally different nature walk. The Bigodi Swamp Walk is an initiative of the local community and is known for its rich diversity of birds and primates.

Return to the lodge for check out and drive back to Entebbe with a lunch en route in time to check in for your international flight back home.

**Included in the price:**

- Airport transfers
- Ground transport per private 4WD safari vehicle (Land Cruiser)
- English speaking driver/guide
- Accommodation in places mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as described in the itinerary
- Bottled mineral water in the safari vehicle
- Activities and excursions mentioned in the itinerary
- AMREF Flying Doctor Insurance
- One gorilla, one chimpanzee and one Golden Monkey trekking permit

**Exclusions:**

- International flight
- Visa for Rwanda and Uganda
- Meals and drinks not mentioned above
- Items of personal nature
- Tips



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