

TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



13 DAY BEST OF UGANDA SAFARI

- *Rhino tracking at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary •*
 - *Boat safari to the Murchison Falls •*
 - *Chimp tracking in Kibale NP •*
- *Game-viewing drives in Queen Elizabeth NP •*
- *The ultimate Gorilla tracking in Bwindi NP •*
- *Accommodation in intimate safari lodges •*



Your Safari in brief:

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITY	ACCOMMODATION	MP
Day 1	Entebbe	Arrival Transfer	Karibu Guest House	BB
Day 2	Murchison Falls NP	Drive + Rhino Tracking	Murchison River Lodge	FB
Day 3	Murchison Falls NP	AM game/PM Nile Cruise	Murchison River Lodge	FB
Day 4	Kibale Forest NP	Drive, Lunch en-route	Primate Lodge Kibale	FB
Day 5	Kibale Forest NP	AM Chimps/PM Bigodi	Primate Lodge Kibale	FB
Day 6	Queen Elizabeth NP	Drive/PM Game Drive	Mweya Safari Lodge	FB
Day 7	Queen Elizabeth NP	Lion tracking/boat cruise	Mweya Safari Lodge	FB
Day 8	Queen Elizabeth NP	AM/PM Game drive	Ishasha Jungle Lodge	FB
Day 9	Bwindi Impenetrable NP	Community walk	Engagi Lodge	FB
Day 10	Bwindi Impenetrable NP	Gorilla Tracking	Engagi Lodge	FB
Day 11	Bwindi Impenetrable NP	Second Gorilla Tracking	Engagi Lodge	FB
Day 12	Lake Mburo NP	PM boat trip	Mantana Tented Camp	FB
Day 13	Entebbe	Nature walk+drive to Entebbe		

FULL ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival – Entebbe (10 mins drive)

Upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport, you will be met by Tracks Safaris representative and transferred to the Karibu Guest House for one night.

Overnight at Karibu Guest House (BB)

Day 2: Entebbe - Murchison Falls National Park (350kms/6-7hrs)

Today we will depart for the most beautiful protected area in Uganda: Murchison Falls National Park. En route we will make a stop at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, home to the only wild rhinos in Uganda. The reserve was created to reintroduce rhinos to the country which had been extinct since 1982. Together with a guide you will track the rhinos and observe them in their habitat at a very close and safe distance. Have lunch at the Rhino sanctuary and thereafter we will drive to Murchison Falls National Park and drive for an hour deeper into the National Park to the site of Murchison Falls after which the park is named– one of Uganda most beautiful sights.

Murchison River Lodge – FB

Murchison Falls National Park is the largest protected area in Uganda. The waterfall for which the park is named is the most electrifying sight of its type in East Africa. The southern part is mostly covered by dense woodlands and harbors one of the most varied forest faunas in East Africa, and is a premier sight for bird watchers, as well as one of the best and most affordable - places to track chimpanzees. The northern part is mostly covered by green grasslands with scattered acacia trees, borassus palms and riverine woodlands. . The world's longest River Nile is thronged with hippos, crocodiles, waterbucks and buffaloes. Wildlife includes lions, Leopards, elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, hartebeests, oribis, Uganda kob and so much more.

Day 3: Murchison Falls National Park

After an early breakfast we start the day with a game drive on the northern bank of the Nile, with chances of seeing Rothschild Giraffe, elephants, lions, Jackson Hartebeest, Oribis, Waterbucks, different species of the savannah woodland birds, and if lucky even the elusive leopard to top the Africa's "The Big 5" amongst a multitude of African plains game. Lunch at Murchison River Lodge.

In the afternoon, enjoy a Nile launch cruise to the bottom of the water falls for game viewing at close quarters, after the launch cruise, get off from the bottom of the falls and hike up to the top of the falls where you will be rewarded with amazing views of the Nile.

Murchison River Lodge – FB



Day 4: Murchison Falls - Kibale Forest National Park (441km /7- 8hrs)

After breakfast, check out and drive south to Fort Portal, with lunch (packed) en-route. *Fort portal rests in the shadow of the fabled 'Mountains of the Moon' and is famous for her many tea plantations.* You will continue into Kibale National Park arriving at Primate Lodge Kibale in time for dinner and overnight.

Primate Lodge Kibale-Standard Cottage - FB

Kibale Forest National Park is an extensive Biodiversity National Park in South Uganda and also known as the "Primate Paradise" has one of the greatest variety and concentration of primates in Africa including our famous cousins the Chimpanzee, Red Colobus Monkeys, Vervet Monkeys, L'Hoest's, Black-and- White Colobus and the Olive Baboons. There is also a wide array of unique birds, forest elephants (smaller and hairier than the more familiar savannah elephant) and much more.



Day 5: Kibale Forest NP

Today the forest opens its doors for your **chimpanzee tracking experience**.

Following the pre-tracking briefing, you will walk or drive to the trailhead for the start of an unforgettable adventure – hiking in the footsteps of the habituated family of chimpanzees. En-route, your guide will enthrall you with stories and facts about the forest and her other inhabitants including other species of primates and birds and other big mammals.

Upon sighting the chimpanzees, you will spend one hour with them as they go about their daily life - feeding, playing, grooming, taking care of their young, howling and screeching, in their natural habitat.

Return back to the lodge for lunch then in the afternoon enjoy a guided nature walk through the Bigodi wetland.

Bigodi Swamp Walk is an initiative of the local community and is known for its rich diversity of birds and primates. The path and board walk maybe flooded and muddy after heavy rainfall and gumboots are recommended. The walk is about 4km in length taking 3-4 hours at birding pace with local community guides. All proceeds from eco- tourism go back to into the community, a conservation project well worth supporting.

Later return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

Primate Lodge Kibale-Standard Cottage -FB

Day 6: Kibale - Queen Elizabeth National Park (180km/3hrs)

After an early breakfast, drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park with **scenic views of crater** lakes and the surrounding rolling hills, you will go through banana farmlands, Afterwards, you will proceed south alongside the majestic Rwenzori 'Mountains of the Moon' to Queen Elizabeth National park. We have included an afternoon/evening game drive for you.

Mweya Safari Lodge - FB



Day 7: AM Game drive OR Lion Tracking (Optional activity at USD 60PP) & Boat Cruise

After breakfast, we shall head out for a **morning game drive** and head to the mating ground of the Uganda Kobs. We shall 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.

Later return to the lodge for dinner and overnight. **Mweya Safari Lodge - FB**

Day 8: Game drive in Ishasha Sector, PM game drive

After breakfast, you will depart the northern part of QENP and drive to the southern section of Queen Elizabeth National Park in search of the tree climbing lions, with a game drive through the Ishasha side in search of the tree climbing lions. It is a beautiful route with the Rwenzori Mountains on your right side and the green valley on the left; this is one of the most amazing scenic views you will experience, getting there in time for lunch and some rest. Later on you will enjoy another game drive in search of the tree-climbing lions, returning back in time for dinner.

Ishasha Jungle Lodge - FB

**Day 9: Queen Elizabeth – Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (100km/1hr)**

You will wake to a game drive in the wilderness while enjoying the sunrise that the wild has to offer; after your drive you will check out and head further south to Bwindi National Park, home of the gorillas.

Upon arrival check in and enjoy lunch.

Engagi Lodge – FB

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, home of the rare but critically endangered Mountain Gorillas (gorilla beringei beringei), lies on the edge of the albertine Rift Valley in south-western Uganda, with a wide altitude range between 1,160m and 2,600m.

The forest itself, dating back to the ice ages, is one of Uganda's oldest and ecologically most diverse with almost 400 species of plants, 350 species of birds including 23 Albertine Rift endemics as well as 120 mammals species including lots of smaller ones like rodents and bats but also the Gorillas, Baboons, Chimpanzees, Elephants and Antelopes.

Day 10: Gorilla Tracking (3 to 8hrs)

Arise early today and prepare for an amazing adventure; an encounter with the gentle giants of Bwindi! Following breakfast, transfer to the park offices where participants are divided into groups of 8 and allocated a gorilla family as well as a tracking guide.

Please remember to bring your passport for registration, appropriate, waterproof hiking boots and a light raincoat. 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 a pre-tracking briefing by your guide (touches on the gorillas generally, your assigned gorilla family as well as appropriate safety precautions), you drive to the trailhead for the start of your thrilling adventure – participants can expect to walk long distances in steep and sometimes muddy conditions with rain overhead, which can be tough and require a degree of fitness. Granted, the time taken can be quite unpredictable taking anything from 2 to 8hrs or longer however the thrill of coming face to face with a giant Mountain Gorilla silverback will more than compensate for the effort in their quest.

Upon sighting the gorillas, you spend the allowed one hour with them as they go about their daily life; feeding, moving, playing, raising their young and sometimes wrestling by the juveniles – it is a totally unique and unforgettable experience!

Afterwards, you hike back to base where your Driver will be waiting to transfer you to the lodge for a deserved shower and lunch or dinner depending on the time taken on the trek.

Engagi Lodge – FB



Day 11: Seond Gorilla Tracking

Dinner and Overnight at Engagi Lodge - FB

Day 12: Bwindi Impenetrable - Lake Mburo National Park (250km/5-6 hrs) PM Boat Cruise

We drive to Lake Mburo National Park and as we enter the park it is likely that you will spot some wildlife, like impalas, topis, warthogs, zebras and buffaloes. In the afternoon you can go on a boat ride on the lake and enjoy the rich bird life and the hippos that are cooling off. Dinner and overnight at **Mantana Tented Camp - FB**

Day 13: AM Bush Walk, Lake Mburo National Park - Entebbe (270km/4hrs)

Early start of the day as we go for a nature walk guided by a ranger. After breakfast we transfer to Entebbe with a stop at the equator for photos or shopping. Lunch is included on this day. Arrival late in the evening in Entebbe and connect with your international flight back to the UK. **B, L**

INCLUSIONS:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation in a safari customized 4WD Toyota Land Cruiser
- Accommodation as shown on the itinerary and meals where mentioned as included in the itinerary
- All park entrance fees
- English speaking Guide / driver
- Mineral water in the vehicle; 2 liters per person daily on safari
- Two gorilla and one chimpanzee trekking permits
- Medical emergency evacuation cover

EXCLUSIONS:

- Optional activities unless specified as included
- Entry Visa Fees; fees for International travel Vaccinations and Inoculations
- Items of personal nature such as Room service, Beverage, Communication charges (telephone, fax, and internet) and Laundry
- Tips and gratuities for Guide/driver and hotel staff



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