



UGANDA IN STYLE – 11 DAYS

A luxury safari experiencing some of Uganda's less visited National Parks and Reserves. Staying in boutique hotels and some of the best lodges in Uganda, travel in style to some of the most beautiful and stunning locations Uganda has to offer. Your journey takes you from Kampala to Lake Mburo National Park, then on to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park to visit the impressive Mountain Gorillas, to Semliki Wildlife Reserve via Queen Elizabeth National Park and finally fly to Kidepo Valley National Park on the border with Sudan. A unique safari experiencing a vast variety of habitats and wildlife – a truly unforgettable experience!

DAY 1 ARRIVAL

On arrival at Entebbe Airport you will be welcomed by a safari representative who will transfer you to your hotel. **Emin Pasha Hotel** is a luxury boutique hotel nestled in two acres of beautifully landscape gardens of **Kampala**. Centrally located and within walking distance of Kampala's business district, it is amazingly tranquil and peaceful. The Hotel is in a lovingly restored old colonial building and features 20 bedrooms. The Fez Brasserie and Wine Bar offers eclectic cuisine and a selection of South African's finest wines. Other amenities include a pool, massages, a small library and two private lounges.

Overnight at the Emin Pasha Hotel (BB)



DAY 2 KAMPALA – LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

After Breakfast we will depart towards **Lake Mburo National Park**, located between **Kampala** and **Bwindi National Park**, making it a great location for a stopover. The park extends over 260 km² and its altitude ranges from 1220 to 1800 meters above sea level. There are several large lakes in the park which are fed by the **Rwizi River** with **Lake Mburo** being the largest of them. The park mainly consists of open savannah and acacia woodland while papyrus swamps line the verges of the lakes. The park is home to some of the rarer species of Uganda such as impalas and zebras. Furthermore, there are several antelope species, hyenas, buffalos, leopards, jackals, wild pigs, hippos and around 300 species of birds to be seen. Bird viewing opportunities are excellent - for birders, this is one of the best places to find the African fin foot and the papyrus bush shrike. Take an afternoon game drive. Dinner and overnight, **Mihingo Safari lodge (FB) 1 night**.

Mihingo Lodge is a peaceful and exclusive retreat adjacent to **Lake Mburo National Park**. It features ten tents which are built on wooden platforms with stilts, covered by a thatched roof. Suspended under the thatched roof is a spacious and comfortable tent equipped with en-suite bathrooms. The main dining area is a large thatched structure built out of rocks, the wood of dead weathered olive trees found on the land, and native grasses. Below the dining area, an infinity swimming pool stretches out from the rocks; guests can enjoy the view over **Lake Mburo National Park**.



DAY 3 BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast we will head towards the highlands to **Kabale** (6 hours), and then another 4 hour journey offers excellent views including mountain lakes and the triangular peaks of the **Virunga Volcanoes** of Rwanda and the Congo. The road then climbs up towards Nkuringo, which looks down onto **Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**, home of the mountain gorilla. We will stay in the **Nkuringo Village** prior to tomorrow's gorilla trek in the park.

This rainforest is said to be 25,000 years old, making it one of Africa's most biodiverse habitat. The altitude of this mountain park ranges from 1200 - 2600 meters. Five rivers and a high annual rainfall make it rather humid. Besides its mayor attraction, the mountain gorillas (*gorilla gorilla berengeri*) the National Park is also home to an amazing 120 mammal species, 350 species of birds, 202 species of butterflies and over 200 species of trees.



It is believed that about 350 gorillas remain in several stable groups in the park. The great protection over the last years has resulted in a steady increase of the population. Although best known for its mountain gorillas, **Bwindi Impenetrable Forest** also attracts spectacular birds. There are 23 of the 24 Albertine rift endemics including the African green broadbill, bar tailed trogon and other beautiful forest species

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge is high up on Nteko Ridge, on the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, with breathtaking views. The lodge is in the shadow of three volcanoes, looking down into the thick treetop canopy of Bwindi and beyond to the golden grasses of the Western Rift Valley. 8 Stone cottages with fireplaces, soft armchairs, warm duvets, excellent meals made from local produce, good wine, a lush botanical garden, a cosy library and sheltered verandas with views to the volcanoes.

Clouds, with the ultimate goal of protecting the natural habitat of the mountain gorilla, will also directly benefit the community of Nkuringo who also have a significant stake in the venture.

Guests will be able to walk from the lodge to the Gorilla tracking starting point.



Overnight Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge (FB) 3 nights

DAY 4 – BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

This morning we will take **a guided walk** and experience the local community in the Ntungamo village. The people of Nteko are largely self-sufficient. The community experience discovers how they rely on local producers to provide commodities such as medicine, tools, soap, beer, baskets and food.

Overnight Clouds Mt Gorilla Lodge (FB)

DAY 5 – BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

Up relatively early for a hearty breakfast to give you the energy needed for your **gorilla trek**. Before 8 am report to the ranger station for registration and a talk by one of the rangers; the guides will then take you through the bush pushing your way through the undergrowth, parting thick creepers, to track the gorillas. The trek can take from half an hour to 7 hours – a reasonable degree of fitness is required as well as a sturdy pair of walking shoes.

Once you are close to the group the guides will ask you to leave behind your bags as no food items should be carried close to the gorillas. Just take your cameras with you as you are about to meet the gentle giants! Sit in the forest amongst the gorillas, listening to them grumble to each other and marvel at the sheer size of the dominant male; the silverback. It is an extraordinary feeling sitting in the dense rainforest knowing you are with a few of the last remaining mountain gorillas – sadly enough there are only about 650 of these beautiful creatures left. You are allowed exactly one hour with the gorillas before returning to the base station.

Please note: please listen to the instructions of the local rangers at all times. It is forbidden to approach the gorillas closer than 5 meters, to feed them or to use flash photography. Likewise for your and their safety! You will be accompanied by armed guards which guarantee your safety in an area where wild buffaloes are sighted. While walking, please feel free to ask guides to slow down if they are going too fast and if you need a rest. There is the additional option to hire porters on site.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority does not allow a trekking when you are sick as gorillas are very susceptible of human diseases. Should you feel sick the day of the trek we urgently advise you to abide this rule. In order to receive a 50% refund of the permit cost you MUST get a doctor's report that day (please ask your guide to arrange this for you).

We must also stress that, while you have a very good chance of seeing gorillas, success is NOT guaranteed. They are wild creatures with no fixed routine and finding them requires the skills and experience of your tracker and guides, as well as luck. The trackers and guides have helped to habituate the gorilla groups and know them intimately. They will take you to the area where they left the gorillas the day before. Before leaving they may be able to suggest how long the hike might be.



Overnight Clouds Mt. Gorilla lodge (FB)

DAY 6 QUEEN ELIZABETH NP

After breakfast drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park. The journey is stunning with wonderful mountain vistas and the drive takes you through remote mountain villages and banana and tea plantations. Queen Elizabeth National Park is savannah and forest in a rift valley setting – begin wildlife spotting on entering the park on the drive to the lodge especially in the Ishasha region where it is possible to see tree climbing lions. The key species of the area include Uganda Kob, lion, elephant, buffalo, hippo, topi, waterbuck, reedbuck, olive baboons and a range of other primates. In the afternoon we take on a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, a natural channel between Lake Edward and Lake George - this is a superb opportunity to bird watch.

Overnight at Jacana Safari Lodge (FB)

DAY 7 QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

A whole day in the Queen Elizabeth National Park to enjoy the wildlife and birds – morning and afternoon game drives. It is also possible to hike in the Kyambura Gorge in search of chimpanzees.

Overnight at Jacana Safari Lodge (FB)

DAY 8 SEMLIKI

This morning drive to Semliki Valley Wildlife Reserve. **Semliki Valley Wildlife Reserve** is the oldest protected area in Uganda and home to a staggering array of flora and fauna. The Reserve is situated

in the basin of the **Western Rift Valley**. It is one of the most diverse habitats in Africa with wonderful examples of Riparian forest, gallery rain forest, borassus palm forest, and short and high grass savannas. Chimps exist next to elephant, lion and buffalo as well as the usual Western Uganda species.

Nestled on the crest of the beautiful **Wasa River Valley** is the small and luxurious **Semliki Safari Lodge**. The eight rooms are tented with large four-poster beds, Persian carpets and en-suite bathrooms. At night through the canvas you can hear the animals moving, the lions roaring and often the leopards harsh sawing as it hunts baboons. We have a lovely swimming pool area, ideal for relaxing, while still feeling as though you are truly in the heart of Africa. The food prepared by our chefs could best be described as 'fusion food', and we endeavor to use as much local, fresh produce as possible.

Overnight at Semliki Lodge 3 nights (FB)



DAY 9 – SEMLIKI VALLEY WILDLIFE RESERVE

An early morning rise, tea in your tent and a good breakfast before you depart on **A Boat Trip** on **Lake Albert** to try and see the incredible and rare shoebill, visually a cross between a dodo and a dinosaur. The lake is superb: there are sand cliffs where brightly coloured colonies of red-throated bee-eaters dart in and out of their burrows, there are several fishing villages along the way, virtually untouched by the 'western world'. Then drive back to the Lodge through the borassus palm forest and the acacia savannah reveals different species of raptors and passerines.



Afternoon game drive and Sun-downer. Overnight Semliki Lodge (FB)

DAY 10 – SEMLIKI VALLEY WILDLIFE RESERVE

An early morning rise, tea in your tent, and then you will go down into the beautiful gallery rainforest to **track wild chimpanzees**. Chimps are tracked by researchers in Semliki at dawn and dusk, as they tend to disappear in the middle of the day. The Semliki Chimp Project is jointly run by The Uganda Safari Company and the University of Indiana. The project was initiated to study bipedalism and the rare geography of Semliki makes ideal to study this important stage in man's development. There are also a number of bird species which are found in this picturesque forest. The time of this walk is hard to predict – please seek information previous to the walk from our lodge managers and the researchers to find out more about the current location of the chimpanzee groups and the likeliness of finding them.

Night game drive, **Overnight at Semliki Lodge (FB)**

DAY 11 FLY TO KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the airstrip for your flight to **Kidepo Valley National Park**.



You will be met by staff of our lodge at the airstrip, then drive to the lodge which takes only 5 minutes. Please talk to our lodge manager about the many places you can visit and activities you can do. He will be in the best position to advise you which areas to venture out to for the best game viewing and also weather conditions might cause a change of your itinerary. Let the explorer awake in you and take you to the best locations at the best time!

Game drives and **walks** at **Apoka** are directed by nature not time! Take a **walking safari** along a sandy dry river bed fringed with palm trees, climb to the top of a rocky outcrop and take in the views! We move slowly along isolated tracks to fully appreciate all around us, looking for tracks and signs of the animals movements we can stop at any point to investigate further. We may take a walk to track the lions, or even cheetah, always surrounded by Zebra, Waterbuck, Jackson's Hartebeest, Warthogs, Patas monkeys and big herds of Buffalo.



Afterwards, ***relax in your outdoor bathtub*** under the stars, or take a ***dip in our big rock swimming pool*** overlooking the savannah and a waterhole frequently visited by animals before having dinner at the main building.

Apoka Safari Lodge is located in the middle of ***Kidepo Valley National Park***. It offers ten big tented rooms with hardwood floors, hot running water (solar heated) and comfy furniture located around a dramatic rocky kopje each with the most astounding views out across the plains to the jagged mountains in the distance. Outdoor bathtubs are carved out of the rock face, the furniture is handmade.

Our staff are from the local community – the Apoka experience is truly unique, indigenous and natural. While the décor is uncluttered – a minimal aesthetic that uses the dramatic scenery and light as its inspiration and adornment – comfort is de rigueur. Oversized armchairs, king size beds, cushions in little private nooks, soft summer weight duvets, Egyptian cotton towels and wonderful fusion cuisine. It is just a short drive from the airstrip to the lodge. From the pool, carved into the rocks, you can observe animals at the below waterhole. Meals are served from a set menu but please do speak with our chef should you have special wishes.

Overnight at Apoka Safari Lodge 3 nights (FB)

DAY 14 – FLY BACK TO ENTEBBE FOR YOUR ONWARD FLIGHT HOME



Transport is by 4WD safari vehicle with your own private English speaking driver/safari guide charter flight. Bottled mineral water is provided in the safari vehicle. Currently, entrance visa for UK citizens costs \$50 and is available upon arrival at Entebbe Airport.

