The Ultimate Uganda and Rwanda Gorilla Safari

Trip Code: URG

Version:

WILDLIFE	GUIDED GROUP	LEISURELY 1



HIGHLIGHTS

- Gorilla tracking in Bwindi or Mgahinga, with further opportunity in Rwanda's Virunga National Park
- Rhino Sanctuary visit and Murchison Falls on the shores of the Nile
- Chimp trek in Kibale, Ishasha tree climbing lions & game drives

- Visit the lovely Lake Bunyonyi and Queen Elizabeth National Park

AT A GLANCE

- 13 days wildlife/safari and activities
- Max altitude 2500 m
- Join at Entebbe, End in Kigali

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This fabulous wildlife safari holiday to Uganda and Rwanda focuses on tracking the endangered Mountain Gorillas as well as the wildlife highlights of these countries. Our adventure begins with a 'Rhino Walk' at the Ziwa Sanctuary to see these beautiful and also endangered giants. We then move to the Murchison Falls National Park where we enjoy boat rides, game drives on the shores of the River Nile, and see the famous waterfalls. Hippos, elephant and giraffe are all found on the river banks and gives us a lovely start to this two-week wildlife holiday.We then track chimpanzees in Kibale National Park (loads of elephants here as well) with its splendid views over to the Rwenzori Mountains, and pop to the Bigodi Wetlands for some further monkeys and to see its prolific birdlife.

Continuing south we cross the Equator and enter Queen Elizabeth National Park for some classic game drives to see lion, leopard, buffalo, Kob, elephants and much more. We include Ishasha where the lions, unusually, hang out in the trees. From our hotel base on Lake Bunyonyi we track the gorillas in their forest habitat - a most humbling of wildlife experiences. A couple of days later we are in Rwanda in Virunga National Park, where we have a free day to take advantage of a list of further awesome wildlife to see - we can purchase a further gorilla permit and see them here, near Dian Fossey's famous hide-out in the forest. Or we can go see the golden monkeys, before we have time at Lake Kivu, Gisenyi and Kigali for a city tour and our flight home. These two countries are both beautiful, they contain some very special wildlife and this holiday will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Is this holiday for you?

Everything in Africa is on a big scale, and to cover the ground necessary our journey includes a few long drives accompanied by Uganda's spectacular scenery. Such drives, including your game drives, can often be on dirt tracks, graded roads and also tar highways. Our toughest day will be when we are gorilla tracking and we could be in the forest between 2-6 hrs depending on their location. As gorillas don't follow paths and the terrain can be rough and steep. It might also be wet and muddy (but don't be put off the rewards are immense). The accommodation on this journey will range from lodges and hotels through to permanent tented lodges with en-suite facilities. The lodges usually have a bar and restaurant to relax at, and some have a swimming pool. This journey is suitable for the adventure traveller looking to experience some of Africa's most special safari experiences!

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified wildlife guide
- Uganda Gorilla tracking permit
- Specialist Gorilla tracking guide and team
- Chimpanzee tracking permit
- Entebbe Airport transfer
- Single timed transfer in Kigali
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Park Fees
- Transfers in 4WD vehicle with pop-up roof for game drives

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Ugandan and Rwanda Visa
- Optional activities in Virunga
- Optional Rwanda Gorilla permit in Virunga
- Tips for local staff
- Departure tax if applicable
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Travelling to your Destination

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive that low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Airport transfers are provided for all clients arriving on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

On the return there is a transfer to Kigali Airport for the flight departing in the evening of the final day of the itinerary.

If your flight schedules do not fit with these airport transfers we can provide private transfers at an additional cost.

Clients booking a Land Only Package must provide the KE office with details of their flights. Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be sent with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts and dinners are included.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Drinking Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

There will be a mixture of Western and local cuisine available in most places we stay. Popular local dishes include 'matoke' (a staple made from bananas), millet bread, cassava, sweet potatoes, chicken and beef stews and river fish. Beer is probably the most widely available alcoholic drink across Uganda & Rwanda. Pombe is a locally made fermented banana beer and waragi is the local millet-based alcohol.

Accommodation

Lodges in Africa are often a series of buildings, sometimes with thatched roofs, wooden beams, and open sided for the cool air and views. It is likely that there is a main area with a restaurant and a lounge and then the actual accommodation is often in individual buildings, cottages or safari style permanent tents. These are usually linked by pathways through pleasant gardens.

All the accommodation mentioned below is subject to change without notice. Any alternative accommodation will be in a similar standard.

Our first guesthouse has simple ensuite rooms and is chosen for its location next to the airport. The accommodation has nice gardens and it's a good place to recover from the flight.

At Murchison Falls (day 2 & 3) we stay at the Murchison River Lodge or the Kabalega Wilderness Lodge. The Murchison River lodge has views over the River Nile and we can see pods of hippos whilst sipping our cool drinks under the thatched roof of the bar area. There is also a swimming pool with views. Here we stay in the thatched safari tents. These are amongst the bush and look towards the Nile. Instead of zips the thatched safari tents are fashioned with wooden doors and come with solar lights, bed linen, towels, mosquito nets and an adjacent, permanent styled bathroom with chemical toilet. Kabalega Wildness Lodge is also on the banks of the River Nile and the cabins here are spacious and all overlook the river. Meals are served in the restaurant which is perched at the highest point giving uninterrupted views of the wildlife on the river.

When in Kibale/Fort Portal (days 4 & 5) we stay at the Kluge's Guest Farm which is situated in 72acres surrounded by tropical forest and a wetland which is a haven for birds. It is off the beaten track, has a swimming pool and views of the Rwenzori mountains. We stay in the twin en-suite bungalows.

At Queen Elizabeth National Park we stay at Enganzi Lodge for 2 nights (days 6 & 7). It is built on the side of a hill with views of the remote Ugandan plains. The twin bedded, en-suite bungalows here are spacious and simple.

Our 1 night in Ishasha (day 8) is at Enjojo Lodge in the thatched cottages. Situated amidst acacia forest and grasslands, herds of elephant and antelopes are seen regularly on the land. It is built by local tradesman with local materials.

At Lake Bunyonyi, we stay for 2 nights (days 9 & 10) at the Birdnest. This beautifully situated property is built on a hill by the lake. It has a swimming pool. The en-suite rooms overlook the lake.

We have 1 night near the Virunga Mountain Park headquarters in Kinigi, Rwanda. This is at the Da Vinci Gorilla Lodge. The individual bungalows provide en-suite rooms in the gardens away from the main building with thatched roof and decking displaying views of the Virunga Mountains.

On Lake Kivu, just outside Gisenyi we stay at the lovely Paradise Kivu Resort. The en suite rooms are individual bungalows in grounds with views over the lake. It is very peaceful.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired with another single client of the same sex. If this is not available they you may have to pay the single room supplement. Single rooms are available at an additional cost.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Professional driver-guide will accompany the group throughout the tour. These guides also have in depth knowledge of the wildlife and the countries. On certain days (for example whilst Gorilla Tracking) you will have a different specialist guide. For optional wildlife viewing or walks at Virunga National Park you will have a different guide again.

Altitude

The altitudes on this holiday are not extreme and the maximum altitude attained is no more than the equivalent of a pressurised cabin on an international flight. You may 'feel' the altitude the first time you trek above 2,000 metres but all that is required is a slower pace to compensate. You should pay particular attention to your hydration levels while trekking above 2,000 metres.

Park Fees & Permits

The US$700 Gorilla Tracking permit for Uganda is included in the holiday price. If you wish to take the opportunity to also see the Gorillas in Rwanda then you will be required to purchase an additional permit (US$1500).

Spending Money

A total of US$400 - $500 should be sufficient to cover your personal spending including lunches, tips for drivers, miscellaneous expenditure on drinks, souvenirs etc, and airport departure tax (if applicable – this is dependent on which airline you fly with as it maybe included in your ticket). Optional activities (below) are not included in this cost. It is possible to use credit and debit cards to withdraw money from ATMs in banks and petrol stations in most towns. If you are bringing your travel money with you it is best to bring this as cash US dollars. Credit cards are accepted in most stores and restaurants, and dollars are generally accepted, though not everywhere and not necessarily for small items. You will be able to change small amounts of currency at the airport and Rwanda border.

Optional Activity Costs: Please note that these prices are correct at time of writing, but are subject to change without warning.

GORILLA TRACKING PERMIT RWANDA: US$1500 per person. It is essential that this is pre-booked. If you wish to participate please inform KE on booking the main holiday. On booking we will check permit availability for the specific date and a non-refundable payment for the Rwanda permit must be made to secure your tracking permit. (Note your Uganda Gorilla permit is included in the trip price and deposit payment).

GOLDEN MONKEY TREKKING: US$100 per person. Pre-booking prior to departure not essential, however it is recommended to avoid disappointment if on the rare occasion groups are fully booked on the day.

VISIT TO DIAN FOSSEY TOMB: US$75 per person. Pre-booking prior to departure is optional.

TREK UP MT BISOKE: US$75 per person + private transfers (US$150 for the whole transfer which can be split by the number of people on the activity). Pre-booking prior to departure is optional.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Please be aware that plastic/polythene bags are illegal in Rwanda. The law says that they are not allowed to be manufactured, imported, used or sold in Rwanda (since 2008).

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

All nationalities require a visa for Uganda and Rwanda. The Uganda visa fee is $50. You must apply online for your e-visa at https://visas.immigration.go.ug (UK citizens).

A 30 day Rwanda visa is obtainable on arrival for UK passport holders for a fee of $50.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Uganda is the Ugandan Shilling.

The unit of currency in Rwanda is the Rwandan Franc.

Climate

Thanks to its equatorial location, the climate (and in particular the daily temperatures) of Uganda and Rwanda does not vary a great deal throughout the year. The main rainy season is March to May, and to a lesser degree November. In equatorial rainforest areas, it can rain at any time of the year. The driest months are July and August. The most popular times for Gorilla tracking is December to February and June to mid-September. We can expect daytime temperatures to range between 25°C and 30°C falling to between 12°C and 15°C at night. As all equatorial countries the sun rises (7am) and sets (7pm) at the same time throughout the year.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You should bring the following items:

- Lightweight hiking boots
- Trainers or sandals
- Underwear
- Socks
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Wicking base layer shirts
- Loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts
- T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper

- Sunhat (wide brimmed)
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 30 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Water bottles 1 litre x2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Antibacterial handwash
- Washbag and toiletries
- Basic First Aid Kit ; insect repellent (DEET); antiseptic cream; throat lozenges; diarrhoea treatment (Diocalm or Immodium); painkillers; plasters and blister treatment; and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Binoculars
- Swimwear
- Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- Camera
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Gloves and gaiters (to protect hands and legs whilst gorilla tracking)

- Umbrella and/or Poncho

- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Bright bold colours and white are not suitable for game viewing or bush wear as they attract insects and the attention of animals. Please do not bring camouflage or military style clothes as they can cause problems with local authorities.

Please dress appropriately for border crossings, village and market visits - ie: no bare feet, no bare chests, no bikinis and no hats.

Please be aware that plastic/polythene bags are illegal in Rwanda. The law says that they are not allowed to be manufactured, imported, used or sold in Rwanda (since 2008).

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary, joining in Entebbe. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Entebbe International airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel. The trip ends in Kigali in Rwanda, and return flights should be made from Kigali Airport.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are for the itinerary based on UK flights from London to Entebbe International Airport. The outbound flights will depart the UK in the morning, arriving in Entebbe that evening (day 1 of the itinerary). Return flights will depart Kigali Airport in the evening of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Make the most of your wildlife experience in one comprehensive holiday! A once-in-a-lifetime trip offering the opportunity to see gorillas in their natural habitat in both Uganda and Rwanda. Staying at local lodges with character and in amazing locations, you will get to enjoy the natural and wildlife wonders this twin-country itinerary has to offer and along with expert guides to make an unforgettable 2 week holiday.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change