

## Primate Safari Uganda 2016/2017



Duration 12 days / 11 nights

### Highlights:

Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, x2 Gorilla tracking, x2 Chimpanzee Tracking Nile Boat cruise, Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo National Park

### Destinations:

Uganda: Murchison Falls National Park, Kibale National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Bwindi "Impenetrable" Forest National Park, Mburo National Park





## Safari program

August 2016

- Day 1 – Arrive in **Entebbe, Uganda**, Stay at Boma Guest House  
Day 2 – Transfer to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary – Walking with Rhinos - **Murchison Falls National Park**  
Day 3 – (AM) Game Drive followed by – (PM) Nile Boat ride  
Day 4 – (AM) Game Drive Transfer – Short flight to **Kibale National Park** – (PM) Chimp tracking  
Day 5 – (AM) - Chimpanzee Trekking then return to your lodge for lunch – (PM) Bigodi Swamp Walk  
Day 6 – Drive to **Queen Elizabeth National Park** – arrive for lunch – (PM) Game Drive in the park  
Day 7 – (AM) Game Drive in the park to return for lunch - (PM) boat trip on the Kazinga Channel  
Day 8 – Game drive via **Ishasha** with picnic lunch to **Bwindi National Park**  
Day 9 – Gorilla Tracking in the morning in **Bwindi National Park** - (PM) a choice of relaxing or  
Exploration and tour of the Buhoma Community or  
Carbon of set Tree Planting  
Day 10 – Gorilla Tracking in the morning in **Bwindi National Park** - (PM) Relax  
Day 11 – Drive to **Lake Mburo National Park** (Approx. 7 hours) with lunch at a local resatrant.  
– (PM) Game Drive  
Day 12 – (AM) Game Drive in the park – followed by your return drive to Entebbe. (6 hours)

Meal Key -

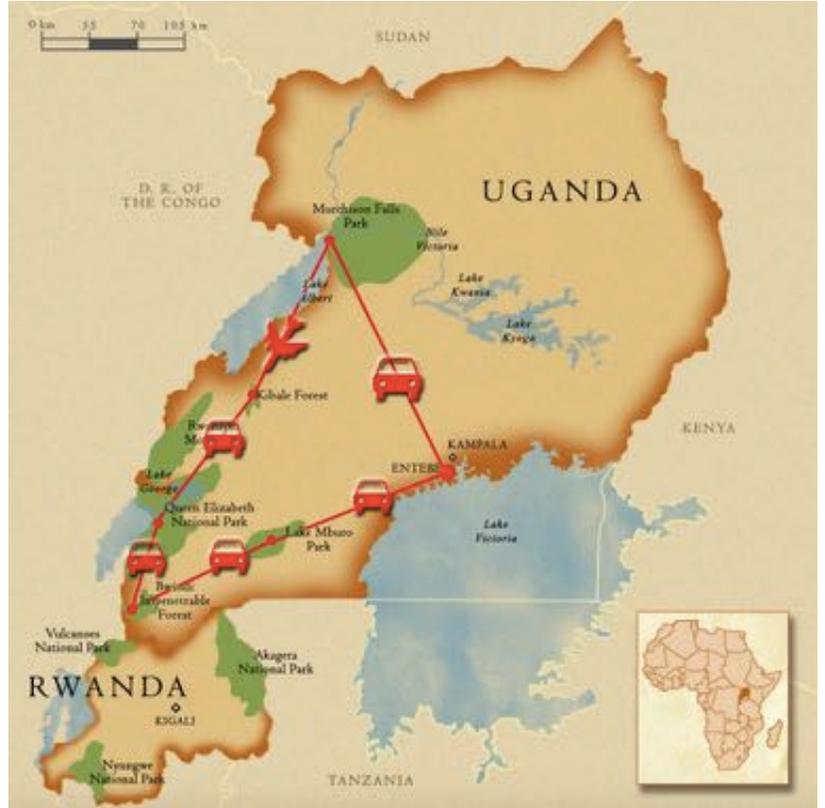
**B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner**



## Destinations:

Uganda, One of the few places left where you can observe the endangered mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. In addition, Uganda has chimpanzees, colobus monkeys and other primates as well as some of the best birding in Africa in Queen Elizabeth National Park. Once known as the "Pearl of Africa", Uganda is regarded as one of the most scenic countries on the continent.

Also in this trip you will be travelling to Rwanda, Land of a Thousand Hills. This war-torn country continues to be a leader in peace and reconciliation and is renowned for its wonderful people and spectacular montane wildlife.



### Entebbe, Uganda: 1 Night – Boma Guest House

Meals: D (only)

Once you arrive in Uganda you will be taken to your hotel, Boma Guest House, to acclimatize to Ugandas altitude and temperature.

The Boma is Entebbe's original and most exclusive Hotel, set in tropical gardens in a leafy suburb, a few minutes drive from Entebbe International Airport. Their rooms combine the modern comforts one expects today with the charm and character of the original 1940's home.

### The rooms do vary, but most include the following:

- Four Poster Beds with mosquito nets.
- Private verandah.
- En-suite bathroom.

Wireless Internet connection is available throughout the property, though the signal can vary from room to room. In some areas the signal is stronger on the verandahs

<http://www.boma.co.ug>

### Day2: Early breakfast Transfer (06.30am) to Murchison Falls National Park (approx 6hrs)



## **Murchison Falls National Park : 2 Nights – Baker’s Lodge (standard)**

**Meals: BLD**

Established as a game reserve back in 1926, Murchison Falls National Park is one of the oldest reserves in Uganda. Located in the north west it over looks one of nature's best kept secrets, the River Nile, on its journey from its source at Lake Victoria to join Lake Albert – here it channels into a gorge only six meters wide, and cascades 43 meters below and is one of the world's most powerful flows of natural water.

Park highlights include the rare yet famous Shoebill stork, Martial Eagle, the African Fish Eagle, Papyrus Gonolek, Lesser and Greater Flamingo, White-tailed Lark and Verraux's Eagle Owl.

Amongst the discerning ornithologists, Uganda has for long been the best kept secret in terms of its plethora of bird species with over 1,000 on record.

### **Activity en route to Murchison Falls**

**Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary** is home to Uganda's only rhinos.

Tracking these enormous creatures on foot through the savannah and swamps is a thrilling experience, and your specialist guide will share his expert knowledge on these impressive animals. The guides know each of the nine rhinos by name, from the huge, battle scarred males to the gentle females resting in the shade with their calves.

### **Responsible Travel**

Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary is a non-profit project. All income from visitors helps to keep the project running, while fundraising campaigns support the relocation, protection and management of the rhinos.

Ziwa conducts education and community outreach programs about the need to conserve rhinos, biodiversity in Uganda and the impacts of conservation.

Visitors are encouraged to support the sanctuary through donations, paid membership or volunteering on or off site.



## Accommodation

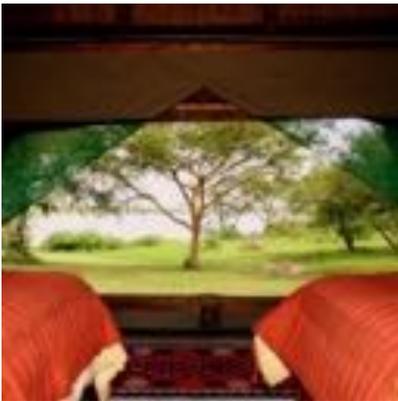
Baker's Lodge in Murchison Falls National park is the newest accommodation facility within the upmarket Uganda Exclusive Camps and Lodges group, opened officially in early 2015.

Situated on the South bank of the mighty Nile River which transects Murchison Falls National Park this intimate, safari styled lodge is set within a large private area that has been cleared of all the dense undergrowth to reveal beautifully trimmed grassed areas, large shady trees and wetland areas hosting abundant birdlife along the water's edge.

Baker's Lodge derives its name from the historic English explorer Samuel Baker. In the late 1800's he and his companion, Florence spent some time in this area during his expedition along the Nile river, where he was the first European to view and consequently name the Murchison Falls a little further upstream.

The lodge provides a thatched central lounge, bar and dining area which is raised with wooden decks all around allowing guests to savor the morning sunrise for breakfast, sunset in the evening with 180 degree river views and the cool breezes thereof.

Each of the individual thatched accommodation cottages is raised from the ground on supporting pillars and has it's own deck overlooking the river. Care has been taken to ensure each of the cottages has privacy as well as excellent views. Solar hot water showers and baths as well as solar lighting complete the services for this eco-friendly top quality establishment.



<http://ugandaexclusivecamps.com/bakers-lodge/>

## Activity Day 3

Morning Game drive followed by Sundowner boat cruise on the Nile ending at the foot of Murchison Falls.

**Day 4: After breakfast transfer to Kibale National Park  
Game drive to Bugungu Airstrip for a shared flight to Fortportal/ Kibale National Park.**



## **Kibale National Park: 2 Nights – Primate Lodge (standard cottages)**

**Meals: BLD**

The Kibale National Park contains one of the loveliest and most varied tracts of tropical forest in Uganda. This is home to a host of forest wildlife, most famously 13 species of primate including the chimpanzee. The diversity and density of primates in Kibale is the highest in Africa. Kibale's 1450 chimpanzee represent Uganda's largest population of this endangered primate and the largest concentration in East Africa.

It is also home to the rare I'Hoest's monkey and East Africa's largest population of the threatened red colobus monkey. Other primates include the black and white colobus, blue monkey, grey cheeked mangabey, red tailed monkey, olive baboon, bush baby and potto.

Other mammals are present, though rarely seen. These include the elusive forest elephant, buffalo, leopard, bush pig and duiker.

Many of the facilities are community-based, thus providing the local community with the necessary revenue to keep their interest focused on the long-term protection of the areas.

### **Activity**

Afternoon Chimpanzee Tracking (2-3hrs)

Morning Chimpanzee Tracking (2-3hrs) followed by afternoon Bigodi Swamp walk

The **Bigodi Wetlands** Sanctuary features 8 primate species, numerous other interesting mammals, over 200 bird species, many reptiles, and uncounted varieties of trees, shrubs and vines. On your tour, you will likely see several kinds of monkeys including black and white colobus, red colobus, mangabey, red tail, vervet, and L'Hoest. Other wetlands mammals include baboons, sitatunga (an increasingly endangered swamp antelope), bush pigs, civet cats, mongooses, bush bucks and an occasional chimpanzee.

Birds are everywhere in the Sanctuary. Perhaps the favorite of visitors is the great blue turaco, shown above. Also frequently seen are varieties of papyrus gonoleks, hornbills, waxbills, weavers, cuckoos, kingfishers, flycatchers, and many, many others. You will be surrounded by a profusion of trees, shrubs, vines and flowers of all kinds on your walk.

### **Accommodation**

Located in the middle of Kibale Forest National Park, the eco-friendly Primate Lodge is the perfect gateway for tracking the primates of Uganda, with a special focus on the wild chimpanzees that inhabit this African rainforest.

The lodge features an exclusive camp with seven intimate cottages, privately situated in the forest making it an ideal place to unwind and enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds you.

<http://ugandalodges.com/primate>

**Day 6: After Breakfast Transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park (approx 3 hrs)**



[www.eartharksafaris.com](http://www.eartharksafaris.com)

Tribal Plot 251, Matalapaneng, Maun, Botswana  
PO Box 2097, Maun, Botswana



## **Queen Elizabeth National Park / Kazinga Channel: 2 Nights – Mweya Safari Lodge (standard) BLD**

Queen Elizabeth National Park is Uganda's most popular National Park and certainly one of its most scenic. It stretches from the crater-dotted foothills of the Rwenzori ranges in the north, along the shores of Lake Edward to the remote Ishasha River in the South, incorporating a wide of variety of habitats that range from savanna and wetlands to gallery and lowland forest.

The lush savannah of Queen Elizabeth National Park offers prime grazing to buffaloes, elephants, Uganda kob, waterbuck, warthog, giant forest hog and various antelopes. Famous tree climbing lion, leopard and hyaena, as well as a checklist of over 600 bird species.

The Topi are found in Ishasha.

Kazinga Channel: Its shoreline attracts large numbers of birds, mammals and reptiles year round.

### **Activity**

Game drive transfer to and from lodge  
Afternoon boat cruise to the Kazinga Channel

### **Accommodation**

Mweya Safari Lodge is located on a peninsula within the heart of the Queen Elizabeth National Park, and is surrounded by the magical Rwenzori Mountains aptly described as the 'Mountains of the Moon'.

<http://www.mweyalodge.com/accommodation>

### **Day 8: Transfer to Bwindi Forest National Park Game Drive through Ishahsa with picnic lunch (approx 7hrs)**



## **Bwindi “Impenetrable” Forest National Park: 3 Nights – Mahogany Springs Lodge**

**Meals: BLD**

### **THE DAY YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!!!!**

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is situated in the Virunga Volcanoes mountain range, and is located in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the western Rift Valley. It offers some of the finest motane forest birding in Africa and is a key destination for any birder visiting Uganda. Established in 1942 it became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1994. Amongst the numerous possibilities are no fewer than 23 of Uganda's 24 Albertine Rift endemics, including spectacular, globally threatened species such as African Green Broadbill and Shelley's Crimson wing. Bwindi is one of the few areas in Africa to have flourished throughout the last Ice Age and it is home to roughly half of the world's mountain gorillas.

In the local Lukiga language, Bwindi actually means 'Impenetrable.' This double warning is apt; tangled vegetation draped over a deeply fissured landscape of steep, slippery valleys and high, draughty ridges. Although the terrain is far from easy to negotiate, it is well worth the effort. A trek through this, one of Africa's most ancient rainforests, in search of the endangered mountain gorilla, ranks among the world's premier wildlife encounters.

#### **Activity**

2 x Morning Gorilla Tracking

#### **A choice of afternoon activities:**

(time permitting) Afternoon Batwa (Pigmies) Community Walk (3-4hrs) visiting community hospital and locals

**OR**

Carbon off-set talk and tree planting (prior arrangement necessary) and relax in the lodge

#### **Accommodation**

Set back on the pristine waters of the Munyanga river and facing the Impenetrable forest the natural setting of Mahogany Springs is a retreat perfect for starting your adventure to see the Mountain Gorillas.

Mahogany Springs firmly believes in the importance of giving back to the country of Uganda and the environment. They are always looking for donations to projects they support. More info can be obtained from the lodge.

<http://www.mahoganysprings.com/>

**Day 11: After breakfast transfer to Lake Mburo National Park (approx 7hrs)**



## Lake Mburo National Park: 1 Night – Mihingo Lodge

**Meals: BLD**

Lake Mburo National Park is a compact gem, located conveniently close to the highway that connects Kampala to the parks of western Uganda. It is the smallest of Uganda's savannah national parks and underlain by ancient Precambrian metamorphic rocks which date back more than 500 million years. It is home to 350 bird species as well as zebra, impala, eland, buffalo, oribi, Defassa waterbuck, leopard, hippo, hyena, topi and reedbuck.

Lake Mburo was originally gazetted in 1933 as a Controlled Hunting Area and upgraded to a Game Reserve in 1963. The Banyankole Bahima residents continued to graze their cattle in the Reserve until it was upgraded to National Park status in 1983. The Obote government's decision to upgrade the Park was reportedly in part intended to weaken the Banyankole, who supported anti-Obote rebels. As the evicted pastoralists were not compensated for lost grazing land or assisted with resettling, many remained hostile to the Park's formation. The rangeland outside the park was subsequently subdivided into small ranges and subsistence farming plots.

In 1985 the second Obote regime fell and the previous residents of Lake Mburo re-occupied the Park's land, expelling park staff, destroying infrastructure and annihilating wildlife. Less than half of the Park's original land area was eventually re-gazetted by the NRM government in 1986.

### Activity

Afternoon Game drive transfer to the lodge.  
Morning game drive before departing the National Park.

The network of game tracks in the east of the park passes a variety of landscape features including acacia woodland, wetlands, grassy hillsides, rock outcrops and seasonally flooded valley floors.

### Accommodation

Mihingo is a luxurious, family owned lodge in a magical setting adjacent to Lake Mburo National Park. Perched high on a rocky kopje, whose pre-Cambrian granite boulders were formed over 500 million years ago, it has spectacular views over a vast savannah landscape. Designed to blend in with its fragile surroundings, this environmentally friendly lodge offers comfort, relaxation and the experience of being at one with nature. An infinity pool overlooks the valley below where buffalo, eland, impala, warthogs, bush buck and zebra can be seen at the waterhole. On the rocks you may have the rare chance of seeing the resident family of Klipspringers.

To further enhance your experience of wild Africa, Mihingo is the only lodge in Uganda to offer daytime and overnight horse safaris into the national park.

<http://www.africatravelresource.com/africa/rwanda/virunga-mountains/hanna-cottage/>

**Day 12: After breakfast transfer to Entebbe for your flight home. (approx 6hrs) Meals: BL**





**Price includes the following:**

- All accommodation (standard twin room basis)
- Meals on a Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner basis (**BLD**) **note: first and last days have different meal allocations.**
- Road and air transfers
- All activities: including x2 boat cruises (unless otherwise stated)
- Vehicles and services of your guide/driver
- Park fees
- Mineral water in vehicle
- Emergency evacuation to Nairobi.
- X2 Gorilla permits
- X2 Chimpanzee Permits
- Game Drives – Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth National Park & Lake Mburo National Park.

**All tracking has a lower age limit of 15 years.**

**Price excludes the following:**

- Flights to and from Uganda, international flights as well as domestic and International departure taxes
- Entry Visa to Uganda
- Tips & Gratuities
- Any beverages other than mineral water in the Vehicle
- Any beverages not included in Lodge policy
- Any items of a personal nature.
- Inoculations: most importantly Yellow Fever certificate
- Personal Medical Insurance

