

## **10 DAY WILDLIFE, PRIMATES AND CULTURAL SAFARI IN UGANDA, THE PEARL OF AFRICA**

### **Highlights of this Tour**

- Gorilla Tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park
- Chimpanzee Tracking in Kibale Forest National Park
- Rhino Tracking in Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary
- Tree climbing Lions in Ishasha

### **Day 1: Arrival at Entebbe Airport and Evening Cultural Concert**

After a long flight, you finally land at the pearl of Africa as declared by Churchill Winston. This is not a myth or fantasy but the real truth. In fact, one can evidently confirm it even from above during the flight before landing. Upon checking out, you will be welcomed by our friendly tour guide/driver who will be with you for the rest of the holiday. After which, you will be transferred to the hotel for an afternoon rest. Later on in the evening, you will be driven to Ndere cultural centre for a thrilling traditional concert that depicts the wealth of Uganda's cultures. **(Overnight at Protea Hotel Kampala Skyz; 45 Minutes' drive)**

### **Day 2: Entebbe - Rhinos and Murchison Falls National Park**

After an early morning breakfast, you set off for a pretty long but rewarding journey. With regular breaks, you reach your first attraction, Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary (70km<sup>2</sup>), a haven for white rhinos that became extinct due to extensive poaching during the unrests in the 1970s. An organisation, Rhino Fund, was formed to re-establish Rhinos with extra protection for them so that they can later be sent back into the wild after attaining a certain number. The view of rhinos is usually done on foot with the guidance of highly trained rangers who track their movements and can read their behaviours. After that, you will have a lunch break before continuing further to the day's final destination, a rich national park of Uganda. It is not only known for its wealth in animal species but also most importantly, for its thunderous Murchison Falls of the great River Nile. These falls flow through a thin 8m deep and 44m long gorge. The Nile divides the park into the southern and northern sections of the park. The southern part is predominantly forest and mainly harbours primates and birds while the northern is savannah grassland and its where all the game activities take place. **(Overnight at Paraa Safari Lodge B, D. Drive time 6-7 Hours)**

### **Day 3: Game Drive, Boat Ride on the Nile and Hiking to the Top of the Falls**

The early morning bird catches the worm is the guideline today's game. You have another very early morning breakfast and set off to catch animals while it's still cool before they hide in shades in the approaching afternoon heat. With fully charged cameras and watchful eyes, the park will offer animals ranging from big cats (Lions and shy Leopards), giraffes, elephants, buffalos, antelopes (Uganda Kobs, Hartebeests, Waterbucks, Bushbucks, Oribis), Patas monkeys, about 450 bird species and many other mammals. The game drive lasts about 4 to 5 hours depending on the sighting and weather conditions. After which, we drive to a

convenient place for lunch picnic before having an afternoon boot ride on the Nile. The boot ride lasts 2 hours up to a view point of the thunderous falls. During the Nile boot ride, we expect to see hippos, crocodiles, varied bird species and several mammals that come to drink water due to the afternoon heat and thirst. After the 2 hour ride, you will board off to the mainland where you will be received by a ranger to take you through the hiking to the top of the falls. The hiking is moderately demanding but the reward is the breath-taking view of the Murchison Falls. It lasts between 45 minutes and 1.5 hours depending on your fitness. At the end of the hiking, you will be driven back to the lodge and for a free evening at the hotel. **(Overnight at Paraa Safari Lodge)**

#### **Day 4: Murchison Falls - Kibale Forest National Park**

You leave the northern part of the country drive towards the southern. The beauty of the journey is the varying landscapes and the different ways of living for the several tribes that you will be driven through. From the forest and savannah grasslands of the park to the escarpment with a beautiful view of the western arm of the Great Rift Valley and the oil rich Lake Albert. In the afternoon towards your destination, you will drive through the gorgeous undulating hills of Tooro which are covered with large tea plantations that add to their beauty. You will reach the Fort Portal town early enough to be treated to a finger licking local lunch buffet. After lunch, you have the option of visiting a nearby market with your guide to have a taste of Ugandan shopping before driving for the next 45 minutes to the lodge. **(Overnight: Kibale Guest Cottages. Travel Time: 6-7 Hours)**

#### **Day 5: Chimpanzee Tracking and Bigodi Swamp Walk**

Brace yourself for a very interesting day. After breakfast, you will head towards the information centre of Kibale Forest National Park for briefing. This forest prides itself of being the biggest primate harbour of the world. In addition to primates, it is also home to several bird species, forest elephants, buffalos, galagos, bush babies among other mammals. There are about 1300 chimpanzees in this forest, however, only a few of them are habituated for human viewing. This foot activity is moderately energy demanding, but usually easy to do since the forest is not thick with a manageable topography. After tracking, you will have lunch in a traditional Ugandan set up from a local Ugandan home with explanations on how and why things are done that way. After lunch, you will make a second walk along the periphery of Bigodi Swamp for view of several monkey species, birds and plants. This activity is undertaken by a locally formed organisation with the main of conserving the environment (Bigodi Swamp) and community development through the proceeds earned in tourism. This normally takes 2-3 hours depending on your pace, sightings and weather changes. In the late afternoon, you return to the lodge for relaxation. **(Overnight: Kibale Guest Cottages.)**

#### **Day 6: Kibale Forest - Queen Elizabeth National Park (Afternoon Boat ride)**

This another amazing journey through a region filled with crater lakes of unquestionable beauty. In addition, you will experience once again the way of life of the locals, the big plantations of cooking bananas (Matoke), the local households, ever waving and smiling

children and many more await you on this journey towards Queen Elizabeth National Park. In the early afternoon, you will enter the park where you will be treated to the best activity in this animal sanctuary, the boat ride on the natural Kazinga channel. This canal connects two lakes, L. George to the west and L. Edward to the East. The afternoon scorching sun makes this canal an inevitable attraction point for variety of animals. Hippopotamus, elephants, buffalos, crocodiles, several antelopes, about 600 species of birds, lizards and many more depending on what Mother Nature provides at that particular moment. After the unforgettable ride on the channel, you slowly proceed to the lodge while on the lookout for other animals. The lodge is located on a hill with a marvellous endless view of the park. **(Albertine Safari Lodge. B, D travel Time: 3-4 Hours)**

### **Day 7: Kazinga Channel - Tree Climbing Lions (Ishasha Sector) - Bwindi**

In the early morning, about a 3 hour drive to the southern sector of the park which is famous for the unique lions, the tree climbing lions. This sector of the park is spotted with fig trees, which are short enough to be climbed and flat enough for the lions to sleep on as they digest their dinner through the day. Lions, due to their heavy less flexible muscles, are usually poor climbers, but because of the nature of these trees, they have adopted to climbing them.

After the search for the tree climbing lions you will continue to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, home to more than half of the world's surviving mountain gorillas. This is a mountainous region with unbelievably splendid views. From this point on for the about 4 days, you will drive through possibly Africa's most beautiful region, simply known as the *Switzerland of Africa*. A region that is well packaged with hills, mountains, crater lakes, beautiful people, vegetation, the list cannot end, and all depends on what impresses you. **(Bakiga Lodge. Travel Time: 6-8 Hours)**

### **Day 8: Gorilla Tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**

After breakfast, you will proceed to the park information centre where you will be briefed about the park and the conservation of the gorillas. At about 8:00am, you will be guided into the forest where you will enjoy its beauty and freshness before reaching these endangered, huge but gentle giants. The ones you will visit are habituated and used to human visits. However, a respectful social distance is kept between them and humans to avoid any human to animal transmission of infectious diseases and to make them not feel insecure. Depending on where they built their nests the previous night and following the destroyed grass and thickets during their movements, the trackers are able to locate them in advance before you go into the forest to sight them. Therefore, the duration of the activity depends on how far they have moved. This can last anywhere between 2-7 hours. This is an experience one can never forget. Return to the Lodge for relaxation and overnight. **(Bakiga Lodge. B, L, D)**

### **Day 9: Bwindi - Lake Mburo National Park**

Today, you transfer to Lake Mburo NP, the second smallest but one of the richest parks of Uganda. It is well known for its wealth in Zebras, Impalas, Bushbucks, Elands, about 550 bird species, Buffalos, Giraffes and many more. As you are driven towards the lodge, you

will be able to sight a great deal of animals already on a short game drive. Your lodge today is also located on a hilltop with a marvellous view of the park. The entire evening is left free for you sit on the verandas of your comfortable cottages with a beer or cigar in the hand, or spend it in the swimming pool. This is a pretty long journey but with spectacular breaks including lunch. **(Mihingo Lodge. Travel Time: App 8 Hours)**

### **Day 10: Morning Nature Walk and Transfer to Airport**

You will have an awakening breakfast of a cup of coffee, tea or milk before setting out in nature on foot to get as close as possible to the wild animals with the guidance of a well-trained armed ranger. After about 2 hours of this experience, you will return to the lodge where you will have a second breakfast before checking out. At this point, you will have chance to refresh yourselves in preparation for the flight. On the way to Kampala, you will have a lunch break at the equator and an opportunity for photos and buying souvenirs. **(Travel Time: App 5 Hours)**

### **Travel Costs**

Bearing the above itinerary in mind, this high end trip would cost a daily average of about *419 USD* per person in case of a couple. This reduces depending on the number of travel guests and would be higher if it is a single traveller.

### **This trip covers the following costs**

- Full Board accommodation (In at least 3.5\* and above accommodations) in Hotels/Lodges/Tented Camps
- All transport services with a Pop up roof 4WD Land Cruiser Tour Vehicle and guarantee of a window seat, from the time of arrival to departure back home.
- A full time English speaking tour guide / driver
- All meals, clean bottled mineral drinking water and soft refreshments (like fresh Ugandan fruits) during the journeys
- All activities described within the itinerary including Gorilla and Chimpanzee permits per person in the booking.

### **This trip excludes the following items**

- Online Visa for Uganda (<https://visas.immigration.go.ug>) to be acquired before arrival at Entebbe Airport
- Flight to and from Uganda
- Yellow fever vaccination before start of flight is a requirement
- Hard drinks
- Tips
- Souvenirs
- Any extra activity not included or those described as optional in the itinerary

## Travel Dates

Please kindly understand that due to the fixed dates of the cultural concert on day 1, it is not possible to have flexibility in the travel dates of your own choice. Fortunately, there are many dates for you to choose from. We have also included a list of *Recommended Airliners* plus their arrival times in Entebbe airport, so that the arrival and departure of the flights fits in the flow of the itinerary.

Please take into consideration that for ease of reservations especially for gorilla and chimpanzee permits, we advise you to make a partial booking as early as a year to your planned travel date, if possible. This allows us to make an early purchase of the permits from the Uganda Wildlife Authority, a government body in charge of wildlife. This is because these permits are very limited in number due to the utmost need to conserve these animals yet there are so many tourists who want to view them. The rest of the payment can be made up to 5 months to the travel date so that we finalise with the hotel bookings. We highly appreciate your interest in visiting the Pearl of Africa along with us.

Available Travel Dates	
Arrival in Uganda	Departure from Uganda
03 January 2021	12 January 2021
17 January 2021	26 January 2021
07 February 2021	16 February 2021
21 February 2021	02 March 2021
07 March 2021	16 March 2021
21 March 2021	30 March 2021
04 April 2021	13 April 2021
18 April 2021	27 April 2021
02 May 2021	11 May 2021
16 May 2021	25 May 2021
06 June 2021	15 June 2021
20 June 2021	29 June 2021
04 July 2021	13 July 2021
18 July 2021	27 July 2021
01 August 2021	10 August 2021
15 August 2021	24 August 2021
05 September 2021	14 September 2021
19 September 2021	28 September 2021
03 October 2021	12 October 2021
17 October 2021	26 October 2021
07 November 2021	16 November 2021
21 November 2021	30 November 2021
05 December 2021	14 December 2021
19 December 2021	28 December 2021
02 January 2022	11 January 2022

<i>16 January 2022</i>	<i>25 January 2022</i>
<i>06 February 2022</i>	<i>15 February 2022</i>
<i>20 February 2022</i>	<i>01 March 2022</i>