



# GORILLAS & GAMEPARKS

Uganda | Rwanda | Kenya

19 nights

## Day 1: Entebbe - Kampala

Jambo! Welcome to Africa. Once you have cleared Immigration & Customs, proceed to the Arrivals area and look for a driver holding The Safari Co sign. You will then be transferred to Kampala, Uganda's capital. The rest of the day is at leisure so you can relax after your flight. This evening you may dine at the hotel restaurant or go into the city (own cost).

*Accommodation: Silver Springs Hotel or similar*

## Day 2: Fort Portal

(B,L,D)

We depart Kampala in the morning and travel westward to Fort Portal. This serene town rests peacefully in the northern foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains, enveloped by lush tea plantations. Our lodging offers great amenities including a rejuvenating pool and vast gardens, ensuring a relaxing stay.

*Accommodation: Mountains of the Moon Hotel or similar 2 nights*

## Day 3: Fort Portal

(B,L,D)

Spanning 766 km<sup>2</sup>, the Kibale Forest predominantly consists of lush rainforest, serving as a habitat for a diverse array of wildlife. Within its bounds, 60 mammal species, 335 bird species, along with numerous insects and plants thrive. Notably, the forest is home to 13 primate species, with chimpanzees being a major highlight. Today, you'll venture deep into the forest, guided by experts who will lead you on a search for these captivating primates in their natural environment. Whether swinging from treetops or frolicking on the forest floor, witnessing a chimpanzee community is an awe-inspiring experience, showcasing their strong familial bonds and remarkable agility. The remainder of the day offers leisure time to unwind at the hotel or explore the town and its surroundings at your own pace.

## Day 4: Queen Elizabeth National Park

(B,L,D)

Today, we journey to the picturesque Queen Elizabeth National Park, renowned for its stunning landscape featuring two interconnected lakes framed by a lofty peninsula. After lunch, we embark on an afternoon boat excursion along the scenic Kazinga Channel. This voyage offers a rewarding glimpse into the park's abundant wildlife, including thousands of hippos, a vibrant array of bird species, and the lively activity of a bustling fishing village. Later, we'll gather for sundowners overlooking the tranquil waters of the Kazinga Channel, followed by dinner at the lodge's restaurant.

*Accommodation: Mweya Lodge or similar*

## Day 5: Kigali

(B,L)

We leave Queen Elizabeth NP in the morning and drive through to Rwanda, crossing the border at Gatuna. Once in Rwanda we will drive to the capital city of Kigali. Our hotel has a popular restaurant for you to enjoy this evening

*Accommodation: Chez Lando Hotel or similar*

**Day 6: Ruhengeri****(B,L,D)**

The morning brings a sombre yet enlightening visit to the Genocide Museum, offering profound insights into history. Following this, we'll explore the vibrant carving and curio markets. In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic drive through breathtaking landscapes and terraced farmlands to reach Ruhengeri, our home base for the next two days.

*Accommodation: The Pastoral Centre of our Lady Fatima Hotel or similar 2 nights*

**Day 7: Ruhengeri****(B,L,D)**

Free day. Highly recommended is a canoe trip down the Mukungwa River – a great way to get up close to rural Rwanda, meet the locals and see how they tend to their crops. Or you may choose to explore the town centre, a 15 min walk or quick bike-taxi ride, and has a vibrant food market, shops and restaurants.

**Day 8: Kisoro****(B,L,D)**

This morning we will visit the Gorilla Fund – a great place to learn about the conservation work started by Dian Fossey in 1967 to save gorillas and the ecosystems in which gorillas live. A compulsory donation is expected (own cost) and well worth it. This afternoon, it's an easy drive back into Uganda through the border at Cyanika. Afternoon at leisure to relax in the hotel gardens and prepare your gear for the gorilla trek tomorrow.

*Accommodation: Ikoro Hotel or similar*

**Day 9: Gorilla Trekking Day****(B,L,D)**

You will be picked up early with the rest of the group and driven to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park entrance. From here you will be split into groups of 8 with a guide and park rangers. Begin your hike in the tropical rainforest navigating through a lush forest adorned with hanging vines, moss-draped trees, and thriving Giant Lobelias. Depending on your gorilla family's location, you might veer off the trail and navigate steep terrain amidst dense foliage. Despite the exertion, the sight of your gorilla family will be breathtaking. With only about 900 mountain gorillas remaining globally, it's a profound privilege to observe them for an hour, witnessing their daily rituals of feeding, playing, grooming, and resting in their natural habitat. An unforgettable encounter! After the trek, you'll be transported to Lake Bunyonyi, where The Safari Co team and their truck await your arrival.

*Accommodation: Bunyonyi Overland Resort – room with ensuite or similar 2 nights*

**Day 10: Lake Bunyonyi****(B,L,D)**

Known as one of Africa's deepest lakes, Lake Bunyonyi offers an excellent opportunity for swimming – yes, it is safe! The surrounding hills are inhabited by the Bakiga people, who have a rich tradition of cultivation. In the morning, we'll visit a nearby school where you can engage with the students and educators. Later in the day, indulge in a relaxing boat cruise around the lake.

**Day 11: Jinja****(B,L,D)**

Rise early for a long drive through to Jinja today. On arrival, you can relax and take in the stunning vistas as you sip a cold drink in the camp bar or on your deck overlooking the Nile River. There's also free entertainment from cheeky monkeys!

*Accommodation: Nile Porch – permanent tent with ensuite or similar 2 nights*

**Day 12: Jinja**

(B,L)

Free day. There are optional activities you can book eg Mountain Biking, Quad Biking, Horse Riding, Village Walks, Birding and Fishing on the Nile. Later this afternoon we'll take a sundowner's cruise on the Nile.

**Day 13: Kenyan Highlands**

(B,L,D)

Today we cross into Kenya where we'll stay up in the Kenyan highlands just outside of Eldoret. Our river camp is a laid-back resort with a pool, shady gardens and a very vibrant bar with unique furnishings.

*Accommodation: Naiberi River Camp – ensuite room or similar*

**Day 14: Nakuru**

(B,L,D)

This morning, we travel down the picturesque Eldama Ravine to Nakuru. There will be some free time in Nakuru town for shopping before we head out to the farm. Our accommodation is in self-contained cottages nestled within sprawling gardens. You might like to join the afternoon guided farm walk and visit the Kenana knitters project or just relax in your cottage.

*Accommodation: Kambu Farm Cottages or similar 2 nights*

**Day 15: Lake Nakuru**

(B,L,D)

Today we enter Lake Nakuru National Park and spend the day game driving. This small park is packed with wildlife and a soda lake with over 400 species of birdlife - an ornithologist's paradise. It is also home to both the black and white rhino, and where some scenes from the movie "Out of Africa" were filmed.

**Day 16: Masai Mara**

(B,L,D)

Today's journey takes us into the heart of the Masai Mara. En route, the landscape transforms as herds of goats and cows, tended by vigilant Maasai owners, meander across vast plains, stirring up clouds of dust. We pause to visit a Maasai village, where we'll engage with locals and gain insight into their customs and semi-nomadic way of life. In the afternoon, we reach our camp and settle in. This distinctive camp features luxury tents, each providing a tranquil, private vista of the surrounding scenery, ensuring a truly unique experience.

*Accommodation: Sekenani Camp – permanent tent with ensuite or similar 2 nights*

**Day 18: Masai Mara**

(B,L,D)

Our day is dedicated to wildlife! We'll head off early in 4WDs and traverse the park past herds of zebra, wildebeest, antelope, and towers of giraffe. With luck on our side, we may spot The Big 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo & rhino). The Masai Mara is quite simply, one of the greatest wildlife attractions in the world and at this time of year, the great migration should be in full swing.

**Day 19: Lake Naivasha**

(B,L,D)

This afternoon we arrive at Lake Naivasha and take a boat ride on the lake viewing hippos, fish eagles and birdlife before arriving at Elsamere, the former home of the late Joy & George Adamson. Joy became world famous for her pioneering conservation work and relationship with the lioness Elsa, as told in her bestselling book and subsequent film, Born Free. After a video presentation on the life of the Adamson's, enjoy a delicious afternoon tea in the gardens.

*Accommodation: Camp Carnellys or similar*

**Day 19: Nairobi**

(B,L)

Today we journey through the Rift Valley and up the escarpment where we stop for photo opportunities, before continuing to Nairobi, Kenya's capital. Tonight, you might like to eat in the famous Carnivores Restaurant which is located in the grounds of our hotel.

*Accommodation: Tamarind Tree Hotel or similar (1 night)*

**Day 20: Nairobi**

(B)

Your adventure with The Safari Co ends after breakfast when you will check out from hotel and be transferred to airport.

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**2027 DEPARTURES**

04 Jun – 23 Jun

13 Jul – 01 Aug

23 Sep – 12 Oct

01 Nov – 20 Nov

**PRICE**

NZ\$11,600 per person twin share

NZ\$1,800 single supplement (willing to share option may be available)

*Prices subject to change until confirmed and paid in full.*

**INCLUSIONS**

- 19 nights accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner)
- Sightseeing as indicated
- Services of experienced driver/guide plus camp/cook assistant
- Fully equipped safari vehicle, with camping / cooking equipment
- All road tolls, vehicle taxes, National Park entry fees
- Airport transfers (day 1 & day 20 only)

**EXCLUSIONS**

- International airfares
- Travel Insurance
- Entry Visa to all countries
- Items of a personal nature (eg. drinks, souvenirs)
- Any other optional activities you choose to take yourself
- Tipping
- Gorilla Permit USD\$850
- Chimpanzee permit USD\$285