

BEST SELLER

## Gorilla and Chimp Safari

UGANDA - TRIP CODE UG

WILDLIFE

### Why book this trip?

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A once in a lifetime chance to experience the ultimate wildlife encounter: to get up close and personal with the endangered mountain gorilla in their natural habitat, Bwindi national park. Plus opportunities to track chimps and take game drives, this is a perfect trip for wildlife lovers.

- **Kibale National Park** - Spend a day tracking chimpanzees through the jungle; as well as the chance to spot another 13 species of primate including the Ugandan red colobus
- **Queen Elizabeth National Park** - Safari through Uganda's finest reserve in search of lion, elephant and buffalo
- **Kazinga Channel** - Take an exhilarating cruise looking out for hippo, crocodile, elephant and birdlife



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 10  
Lunch: 7  
Dinner: 9



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader / Driver  
Local Guide(s)  
Ranger(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Boat  
Minibus



**ACCOMMODATION**  
1 nights  
comfortable  
bungalow  
4 nights  
comfortable lodge  
5 nights premium  
lodge



**TRIP PACE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
8 - 12

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Kampala

Arrive in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, bordered by one of the African Great Lakes; Lake Victoria.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 5pm for the welcome meeting and after there will be the opportunity to have dinner at our lodge overlooking Lake Victoria. There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Kampala at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Entebbe International Airport (EBB), which is 45 minutes from our accommodation. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, you might choose to relax by the outdoor pool or on the terrace overlooking Lake Victoria. Our lodge is on the outskirts of Kampala city, so if you'd like to explore the city in more depth the lodge can give advice and assist with arranging a taxi.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Cassia Lodge (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Lodge**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## DAY 2 - Drive to Kibale rainforest

After breakfast we will depart Kampala and head west to Fort Portal. On your way look out for black and white colobus monkeys as many of these primates are hiding in trees along the road. Fort Portal rests in the shadow of the fabled Mountains of the Moon and is famous for the many tea plantations. From this lovely town we will continue to Kibale National Park for a stay within the tropical forest.



ACCOMMODATION:

Primate Lodge Kibale (or similar)

Grade: Premium Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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## DAY 3 - Chimp Trek in Kibale followed by a Swamp Walk through the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary

Today the forest opens its doors for sensational chimp tracking. Kibale Forest is reputable for having the greatest variety and highest concentration of primates in East Africa. Enjoy a guided nature walk in the tropical rainforest in search of the wild chimpanzee, redtailed monkey, black and white colobus monkey and many others. After lunch we transfer to Bigodi for a complete different walk. Here you will have the choice to join a guided Swamp Walk through the Wetland Sanctuary, which is famous for the many birds and primates that live in this area. Alternatively, you may decide to go for a Village Walk. Accompanied by a guide who can tell you everything about the traditional customs and lifestyle of the inhabitants, you will follow the village path and visit a primary school, Catholic church, traditional homesteads, learn about the crops and listen to the story telling of a Mzee (elderly man). Both activities are an initiative of the inhabitants of Bigodi Village and the revenues are shared by the local community (you can choose which activity to join locally. This is included in the package). Please note we might have to split the group for the chimp trek (morning and afternoon trek).



ACCOMMODATION:  
Primate Lodge Kibale (or similar)



Grade: Premium Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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#### **DAY 4 - Day walk at the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains and transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park**

Today you can enjoy the majestic Rwenzori Mountains in their full glory on a guided walk in the foothills of the 'Mountains of the Moon'. As well as enjoying the scenic views, we will get a glimpse into local village life and meet some of the locals and visit a waterfall. After this walk we transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park, where we spend the next two nights.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Elephant Plains Lodge (or similar)



Grade: Premium Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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#### **DAY 5 - Game drive Queen Elizabeth National Park; Kazinga Channel river cruise.**

The day begins early when we start with a morning game drive and head to the mating ground of the Ugandan kobs. We search for lion, elephant, buffalo and other animals in their natural habitat before

returning for lunch.

In the afternoon we take a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, a natural channel between Lake Edward and Lake George. Thanks to the abundant birdlife as well as the herds of elephants, buffaloes and hundreds of hippos that are cooling off at the shores, this cruise will be one of the highlights of your tour.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Elephant Plains Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Premium Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 6 - Short game drive in the Ishasha sector; transfer to Bwindi National Park**

After breakfast we head towards the south, passing the southern sector of the National Park (if road conditions allow). This part is called Ishasha and is famous for the tree climbing lions. After a short game drive in this area we continue to Bwindi. While driving through a verdant countryside, you will pass traditional homesteads and enjoy panoramic views. In the afternoon we will arrive in Bwindi National Park, the home of the endangered mountain gorillas.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Bwindi National Park Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



### DAY 7 - Gorilla trek

Today you'll experience what some people define a life changing event: a meeting with the gentle giants of Bwindi! Expect to walk a long distance in steep and muddy conditions, sometimes with rain overhead, before you encounter any gorillas. But it will definitely be worthwhile as you observe them closely while they eat, play and rest, a unique and unforgettable experience! Unfortunately, Mountain gorillas (as opposed to Lowland gorillas) are one of the world's most endangered species so the entrance and gorilla tracking fees revenue generated from tourism in protected parks such as Bwindi, offer them their only chance of survival. Distinct from their cousins who live in the open spaces and lowland forests of West Africa, Mountain gorillas are found at an altitude of between 1520m and 3650m. Gentle giants and vegetarians, they are normally peaceful unless provoked. Our groups have been rewarded with the thrill of very close encounters.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Bwindi National Park Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### DAY 8 - Nature walk and time at leisure in Bwindi

Today you have the option of joining a guided nature/village walk to explore the surroundings of Bwindi. Due to availability issues, we often will have to split the group in 2 for the gorilla trek. Those who didn't take part on the gorilla trek on day 7 will be going on trek today.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Bwindi National Park Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 9 - Drive to Lake Bunyonyi through coffee plantations and rolling hills**

After breakfast we depart to Lake Bunyonyi, the second deepest lake in Africa. The drive itself is very scenic through small villages, coffee and banana plantations and rolling hills. Upon arrival there should be ample time to relax, visit the local village or explore the surroundings by boat.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Arcadia Cottages (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Bungalow



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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### **DAY 10 - Transfer to Lake Mburo and game drive**

Today we head to Lake Mburo National Park, enjoying lunch en route. Lake Mburo is the only National Park in Uganda where you can experience a safari on foot and if we have time this evening we will enjoy a game walk at dusk, otherwise we will make our walk the following morning. With spectacular panoramic views over the plains, our accommodation for the evening is the ideal spot in which to enjoy our last night of the tour.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Rwakobo Rock Safari Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Premium Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### DAY 11 - Drive to Entebbe where the tour ends

Departing Lake Mburo at 7.30am this morning we'll drive for around six hours along the way, back to Entebbe. We'll arrive into Entebbe around 1.30pm and depending on your flight time your leader will take you directly to the airport or to a chosen guesthouse where we have arranged communal day rooms for those on late flights. The dayrooms are available until 9pm and will be shared between 3 people, if you'd like your own dayroom you can enquire about this and pay directly to the guesthouse.

The earliest your flight can depart Entebbe International Airport (EBB) is 4pm.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### Climate and country information

#### Uganda

##### Climate

Although conditions are tropical, hot and humid in the centre and west, the rest of Uganda has a pleasant and comfortable climate. The dry season is generally from December to early March and June to the end of August/early September. Temperature can vary from around 28°C during the day to 12°C in the evening. High mountain areas become much cooler at night. Most of Uganda experiences a double rainy season. Rainfall is moderate, only exceeding 1250mm a year in the higher areas. But it may rain at any time of the year, particularly in equatorial rainforest such as Bwindi. Lake Victoria influences the local weather patterns considerably and ensures the surrounding region is wetter than elsewhere.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+3	3 Pin Flat	Christian, Roman Catholic, Islam	English, Swahili

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### Budgeting and packing

#### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were



originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Lake Mburo - Night game drive in search of leopards - US\$30 per person.

Bwindi - Guided community walk - US\$25 per person; Guided nature walk to waterfalls in Bwindi Forest - US\$70 per person; Basket weaving community visit \$20 per person.

Entebbe (Day 11) - Day room at Boma Guesthouse/Karibu Guesthouse \$112 per room (max 3 persons per room); airport transfer \$10 per person; dinner only \$25 per person + hotel shuttle transfer \$10 per person.

## **Clothing**

Temperatures are warm and humidity is high all year round. But as much of our route in Uganda is driving across high country or at a reasonable altitude, warm clothing is needed particularly at night and in the early morning. Do not bring green fatigues or camouflage jackets/trousers that might be considered of military origin. Lightweight, hard wearing gloves are useful for protecting hands during the gorilla and chimp search. Long sleeved shirts and long trousers are recommended for protecting arms and legs.

## **Footwear**

Sturdy walking boots for the tracking and sandals or trainers/light shoes for travelling.

## **Luggage**

20kg

## **Luggage: On tour**

One main piece of baggage (a soft bag or holdall for ease of loading onto vehicles) plus a daypack.

## **Equipment**

Take a torch (ideally a head torch), insect repellent and a personal water bottle. Binoculars will be useful for game viewing as is a camera with telephoto lens for close-up wildlife shots. Accommodation has mosquito screening where necessary so nets are not required. Walking poles are strongly recommended. A hat and long socks so you can tuck your trousers in for the gorilla trek are also recommended.

## **Tipping**

### **Explore leader**

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

### **Local crew**

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow US\$40.00 per person for group tipping.

## Uganda

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

<b>Lunch price</b>	<b>Dinner price</b>	<b>Beer price</b>	<b>Water price</b>
£6	£12	£1.5	£1

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Ugandan Shilling.

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

You should take the majority of your spending money in US Dollars cash some of which to change into Ugandan Shillings. Please be aware that notes issued pre- 2006, or are not the "Big Face" kind, are not normally accepted in East Africa at all. Take mixed denomination bills in good condition and note that higher Ugandan Shilling rates are available for larger (\$50- \$100) US Dollar bills. Dirty and torn US Dollar notes are NOT accepted at all in Uganda. GBP Sterling is easily exchanged in Kampala only.

#### Where To Exchange

Your Tour leader will advise you

#### ATM Availability

Very limited and unreliable.

#### Credit Card Acceptance

Unreliable

#### Travellers Cheques

We do not recommend travellers cheques

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Boat, Minibus

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## Essential Information

### Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and

customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### **Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### **Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### **Visa and Passport Information**

Ugandan entry visas are required by UK, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA citizens. You must obtain the visa approval letter before departure via: <https://visas.immigration.go.ug> in order to apply for all types of visas on arrival. Please note the approval letter is only valid for 90 days from issuance. We advise to have a copy of your approval letter with you for check in for your flight and immigration on arrival. The Uganda High Commission in London is phasing out the issuing of visas at its offices, so visas will need to be gained on arrival which can take time as queues can be long. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. Please note you are required to have 6 months remaining validity on your passport and a yellow fever certificate to enter Uganda. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

### **Booking conditions**

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and [Booking Conditions](#).

### **Transfers**

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

### **Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements.

Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

### **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

### **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

#### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

#### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

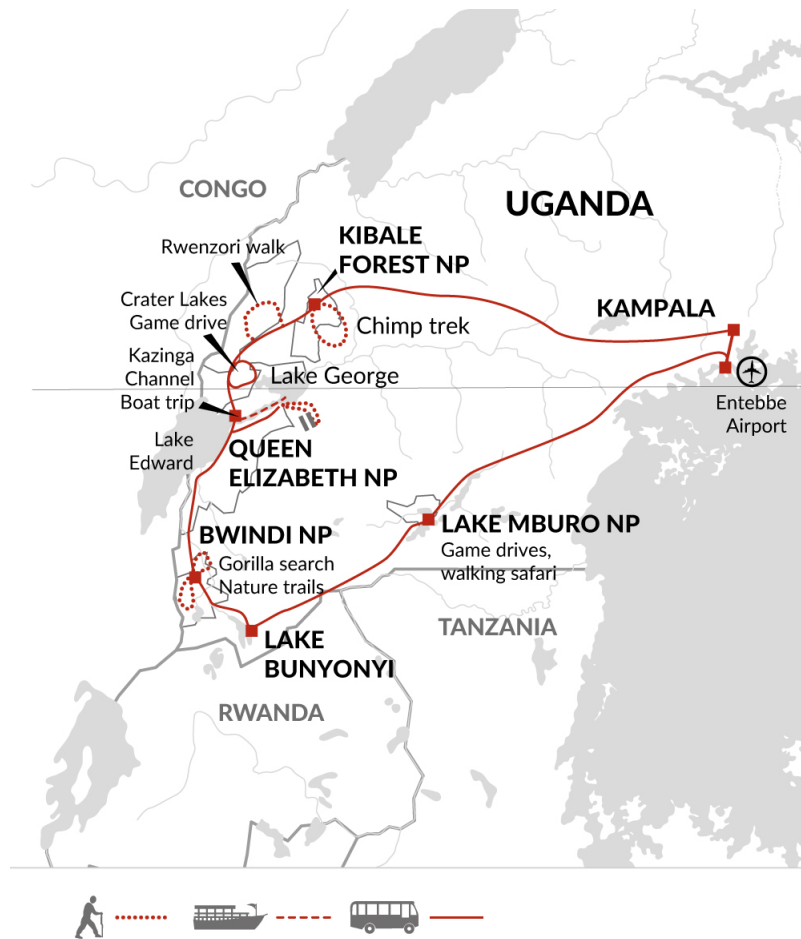
## **Uganda**

### **Vaccinations**

A valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required for entry into Uganda. We recommend protection against malaria, measles, tetanus, typhoid, hepatitis A, polio and yellow fever. You must travel with your Yellow Fever vaccination card. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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### **Additional Information**



## Why book this trip

This tour is perfect for travellers who are seeking the ultimate wildlife encounter, coming face to face with the mountain gorilla. Though the real highlight of this tour is the people and colours of Uganda; every day you come across smiling, friendly people with a backdrop of green vegetation and vibrant forest. This is not the Africa that you see on television, but a land of hope, promise and full of life.

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## Reviews



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**