LOW-SEASON PRICE

Valid for travel in April, May and November only (gorilla permit US$600, chimpanzee US$200). Ask us for other months.

Dusk 2 Dawn Explorers Co.
Sustainable Safari Operator

10-Day Uganda & Rwanda Primate and Wildlife Safari

Gorillas, golden monkeys, chimpanzees and tree-climbing lions on one road journey from Kigali to Entebbe. The route runs through the Virunga volcanoes, Bwindi's ancient forest, the Ishasha plains, the Kazinga Channel and Kibale's primate forest then a unique extension of Murchison Falls National Park. It suits travelers who want the headline primate experiences and a big-game stretch in just over a week.

Prices (Permits: chimp $200 + gorilla $600) — 2pax sharing:

Discounted Creator Midrange: 7235 USD

This trip is recommended in the low season of November, April and May

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Kigali & Transfer to Mgahinga

Meals: Lunch, Dinner | Drive: ~3 hrs to Cyanika border, then ~1 hr to Mgahinga

Meet your driver-guide in Kigali and set off early through the hills of northern Rwanda to the Cyanika border crossing. After immigration formalities, continue into Uganda and on to Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, arriving in time for dinner and a briefing on tomorrow's tracking.

Accommodation:

Lake Mulehe Safari Lodge (Midrange)

Day 2: Golden Monkey Trekking & Batwa Experience

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, report to the park office for the briefing, then track a habituated troop of golden monkeys in the bamboo zone of the Virunga Massif. They are an endangered, acrobatic species found only in this region, and the trek is fairly gentle at 2–4 hours. In the afternoon, join the Batwa cultural experience to learn about the forest people's traditional hunting, fire-making and medicine, and their history as the original custodians of these forests.

Accommodation:

Lake Mulehe Safari Lodge (Midrange)

Day 3: Road Transfer to Buhoma & Community Walk

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Drive: ~6–8 hrs

Leave early for the long scenic drive to Buhoma, passing Kisoro, Kabale and the terraced hillsides of southwest Uganda. If you arrive with time and energy left, take a short guided community walk through Buhoma village, with stops at local crafts, a banana beer demonstration and a school or health project. Otherwise, keep it as a relaxed late-afternoon stroll.

Accommodation:

Gorilla Bluff Lodge

Day 4: Gorilla Trekking & Transfer to Ishasha

Meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner | Drive: ~2–3 hrs to Ishasha

The centerpiece of the trip. After an early breakfast, report to park headquarters for the briefing and ranger allocation to a habituated gorilla family. The trek can run anywhere from two to eight hours depending on where the family has moved, which makes this the most unpredictable day of the journey. Once found, you spend a full hour in the gorillas' presence. Afterward, drive to the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park, aiming to leave Buhoma by early afternoon so you arrive before dark.

Accommodation:

Topi Lodge

Day 5: Full-Day Game Drive in Ishasha

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Start at dawn, when the light is best and the cats are most active. Ishasha is one of the few places in Africa where lions climb trees, and they are often found resting in the fig trees. Elephant, buffalo, Uganda kob, topi and waterbuck are also common, with hippos along the Ntungwe River. Return to the lodge for lunch and a rest, then head out again for a late-afternoon drive.

Accommodation:

Topi Lodge

Day 6: Kasenyi Game Drive & Kazinga Channel Boat Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Drive: ~2.5–3 hrs

Leave Ishasha early and drive north through the Kasenyi plains, the park's best area for lion, kob and elephant, so the transfer doubles as a game drive. After lunch, take the afternoon boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel, which connects Lake Edward and Lake George and has one of the highest hippo concentrations in Africa, alongside crocodiles, buffalo, elephants and dense waterbird activity.

Accommodation:

Queen Elizabeth Bush Lodge (Midrange)

Day 7: Maramagambo Forest Visit & Transfer to Kibale

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Drive: ~4 hrs

After breakfast, take a guided walk in Maramagambo Forest, the largest tropical forest in Uganda's savanna belt, with a visit to the Bat Cave where thousands of fruit bats roost alongside resident pythons. Keep the visit to 2–3 hours, then drive to Kibale via Rubirizi and Fort Portal, passing tea plantations and crater lakes. Arrive in the late afternoon with time to rest ahead of tomorrow's early trek.

Accommodation:

Kibale Chimpanzee Forest Lodge

Day 8: Chimpanzee Trekking & Transfer to Murchison Falls National Park

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Drive: ~6–7 hrs

After an early breakfast, head to the Kanyanchu Visitor Center for your briefing. Then set off into Kibale Forest National Park, which has the highest density of primates in Africa: 13 species, including chimpanzees. Treks usually take 2–4 hours. Once the rangers find a chimp community, you get about an hour to watch them up close. After a packed lunch, start the long, scenic drive north through Hoima to Murchison Falls National Park. You'll arrive in the evening for dinner and an overnight stay.

Accommodation:

Fort Murchison Lodge

Day 9: Top of the Falls & Nile Boat Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Start with a visit to the top of Murchison Falls, where the whole Nile forces its way through a gorge just 7 metres wide and drops about 43 metres. The roar and spray

are unforgettable. In the afternoon, take a boat cruise from Paraa up the Nile toward the base of the falls. Watch for hippos, Nile crocodiles, elephants and buffalo along the banks, plus plenty of birds. If you're lucky, you might even see a shoebill. Return to the lodge for dinner.

Accommodation:

Fort Murchison Lodge

Day 10: Rhino Tracking at Ziwa & Departure from Entebbe

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Drive: ~2–3 hrs to Ziwa, then ~4–5 hrs to Entebbe

After an early breakfast, drive to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, the only place in Uganda where you can see rhinos in the wild. With a ranger, track southern white rhinos on foot and get within safe viewing distance. After lunch, drive on through Kampala to Entebbe International Airport, arriving at least 3 hours before your flight.

Accommodation: Optional according to flight if needed company will engage.

Forest Cottage Bukoto

Inclusions

Road transportation throughout (private 4x4 with driver-guide)

Accommodation and meals as indicated

All park entry fees

Golden monkey, gorilla and chimpanzee permits

Kazinga Channel boat cruise

Batwa cultural experience fee

Buhoma community walk

Top of the Falls

Boat Cruise base of the falls

Rhino Trekking

Professional English-speaking guide

Bottled water on safari

Exclusions

International flights

Visa fees

Travel insurance

Personal expenses (tips, laundry, souvenirs)

