

**QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY
BEST OF UGANDA – GORILLAS, CHIMPANZEES AND GAME
EIGHT DAY LODGE SAFARI**

<p>This safari is available on scheduled dates, guaranteed with a minimum of two guests, or can be scheduled for private groups. Itinerary may change based on permit and accommodation availability.</p>	
Day One	<p>Arrive Entebbe and transfer to Lake Victoria Hotel Optional visit to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary <i>(visit to Ngamba may also be scheduled for final day and is subject to availability)</i></p>
Day Two	<p>Depart for Lake Mburo National Park Overnight in Mantana Lake Mburo Camp</p>
Day Three	<p>Depart for Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda Overnight at Buhoma Lodge <i>(this itinerary may travel to Parc National des Volcans in Rwanda for gorilla tracking, dependent upon permit availability)</i></p>
Day Four	<p>Full Day Gorilla Tracking Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda Overnight at Buhoma Lodge</p>
Day Five	<p>Optional Second Day Gorilla Tracking, Community or Forest Walk Overnight at Buhoma Lodge</p>
Day Six	<p>Depart for Queen Elizabeth National Park Game Drives – Ishasha Sector Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp</p>
Day Seven	<p>Game Drives - Mweya Sector, Kazinga Channel Boat Cruise Queen Elizabeth National Park Overnight at Mweya or Jacana Lodge</p>
Day Eight	<p>Return to Entebbe Overnight (not included) or transfer to Entebbe International Airport</p>

**DETAILED ITINERARY
BEST OF UGANDA – GORILLAS, CHIMPANZEES AND GAME
EIGHT DAY LODGE SAFARI**

Please note that itinerary and accommodation may vary depending on availability. Final itinerary will be confirmed at time of booking.

Day One



Arrive at Entebbe International Airport where you will be met by a Gerling Safaris representative and transferred to your accommodation. Depending on your arrival time, a half day trip to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary can be arranged.

Entebbe is a small, quiet town located on the shores of Lake Victoria is easy to explore on foot or local transport on motorbikes known as “boda bodas”. Visit the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre where you can see and learn about Uganda’s native wildlife, local markets to buy clothes and crafts, curio shops for souvenirs, and the Botanical Gardens on Lake Victoria where you can walk among beautiful trees, watch monkeys moving through the canopy above, and spot many native bird species. Entebbe has a wide variety of restaurants serving many different cuisines as well as several bars and clubs where you can sample the local beer, catch a game of football and chat with the local Ugandans, known for their open and friendly nature.

Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary



Leaving from Entebbe, travel by speed boat or traditional motorized canoe to Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary located on beautiful Lake Victoria.

Officially opened in 1999, Ngamba Island was created to offer permanent sanctuary to orphaned chimpanzees, victims of illegal trade and habitat destruction. Now home to more than 45 chimps, the island serves as a tourist destination for local and international travellers offering an opportunity to learn about the species and the importance of conserving their fragile forest habitat. Enjoy a guided tour of the sanctuary and a close up experience with the chimpanzees as they come into camp for their morning or afternoon feeding. Cold drinks, tea and coffee are available at Ngamba and the island has a unique gift shop with a wide range of local crafts and sanctuary related tshirts and products. Your visit and purchases directly support the project with proceeds going towards operating costs of the sanctuary, ensuring the well being of the chimpanzees.



Lake Victoria Hotel



This landmark hotel, built in the old colonial style, boasts a beautiful view of Lake Victoria and a quiet and relaxing atmosphere. All rooms are en suite and have air conditioning and satellite television. The hotel serves both European and Indian cuisine and offers several dining options including a formal dining area, outside terrace, and a breakfast room. In addition, the hotel’s two bars and full size pool with its own bar and restaurant provide a perfect atmosphere for unwinding and socializing with friends.

Day Two



Depart Entebbe for Lake Mbuoro National Park (approximately 5 hours), arriving at Mantana Mbuoro Tented Camp in time for an afternoon game drive and/or boat cruise in the park.

Lake Mbuoro, gazetted in 1982 as Uganda's fourth national park, consists of 260 sq km of grassland, wetland, and acacia woodland habitat. At the centre of the park lies Lake Mbuoro which, along with 14 other lakes in the area, forms part of an extensive wetland system. Lake Mbuoro National Park is home to several animal species including topi, eland, klipspringer, zebra, buffalo, oribi, sitatunga, leopard and a variety of water and acacia savannah bird species such as the marabou stork, bronze tailed starling, and Uganda's national bird, the beautiful grey crowned crane.

Your stay at Lake Mbuoro will provide opportunities to experience the park's vast wildlife in a variety of settings including morning and afternoon game drives, guided walks, and boat rides around the lake. Your schedule and itinerary will be personalized based on your party's individual preferences, interests, and time available.



Mantana Lake Mbuoro Camp



Located off the main route high up on a hillside in the national park, this tented camp boasts views stretching far and wide. This camp provides very traditional East African safari style tented accommodation, each en suite tent with its own wooden deck, private dressing area and hot "bush showers". The camp offers a thatched central dining and bar area serving cold drinks and multi course meals. Mantana's spectacular views and free roaming wildlife offer guests a special opportunity to get close to nature.

Day Three



Depart Lake Mbuoro National Park and travel (6-7 hours) through the beautiful highlands of Uganda, often referred to as the Little Switzerland of Africa, arriving in the afternoon at Buhoma Lodge in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Guests will have the opportunity for two days of gorilla tracking. Other activities that can be enjoyed in and around the park include forest walks, visits to a local school or orphanage or Batwa pygmy village, and curio shopping.



Bwindi National Park, located in south western Uganda on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, is considered the most diverse forest in Uganda. The area, one of the few large expanses of forest in East Africa, where lowland and montane habitats meet, contains a dense ground cover of herbs, vines, and shrubs. Home to over 120 mammals, 345 species of birds, 200 species of butterflies, and 160 species of trees, Bwindi is one of the richest ecosystems in East Africa. The park contains almost one half of the world's population of the endangered Mountain Gorilla, making it an extremely valuable conservation site. Bwindi is also home to several endangered bird species with very limited ranges, and acts as an important catchment area for many rivers, supplying water for agriculture in the surrounding region.

Buhoma Lodge



Situated on the original "homestead" site at Bwindi, adjacent to the national park, this exclusive lodge has been extensively renovated to offer uninterrupted views of the pristine rain forest canopy. The lodge has eight beautifully appointed and spacious cottages situated along the mountainside, each with its own private veranda. Large comfortable beds ensure a good night's rest following a tiring day of gorilla tracking. En suite bathrooms are spacious and equipped with flushing toilets and piping hot showers, with the honeymoon cottage boasting a 'cuddle-tub'. Meals are wholesome and freshly prepared with a variety of international dishes and local specialties such as matoke and g-nut sauce. Unlimited hot beverages are available all day on a self-serve basis and are delivered to your cottage with early morning wake up calls upon request, allowing guests to watch the sun rise over the forest from their own private verandas. Lighting and heating throughout the lodge is solar powered and the lodge's inviting upper level lounge, bar and dining area, where guests can relax, dine and discuss the day's events, offers cozy fireplaces providing warmth and comfort in the cool evenings.

Days Four and Five



Gorilla Tracking - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park

Following breakfast at the lodge, travel to National Park Headquarters to meet your guides for the day and begin your gorilla tracking experience. Experienced guides and trackers will accompany your party on an early morning trek into the dense rain forest on the mountain slopes. The journey, through dense foliage and up steep climbs, is abundantly rewarded with the lifetime experience of viewing mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. You will have an opportunity to be within meters of these magnificent apes, sharing in their daily lives and experiencing their day-to-day activities. Mountain gorillas are extremely rare with only an estimated 700 remaining in the wild. This is an experience you won't soon forget!



Following the trek, return to your accommodation and, if time allows, take a guided afternoon forest or community walk. Please note: tracking may be fairly strenuous with treks up to six hours or longer, at high altitudes, not uncommon. Also, mountain gorillas are wild animals and, as such, sightings cannot be guaranteed. However viewing success rates are over 90%. Please refer to our information sheet (provided) for more detailed information on Gorilla Tracking requirements, conditions, and considerations.

On **Day Five**, those with pre-purchased permits will depart for a second gorilla tracking experience following breakfast at the lodge. Depending upon individual itinerary schedules, guests not tracking gorillas may wish to enjoy other activities available in the area such as a forest walk, a visit to a local school/orphanage or Batwa pygmy village, and curio shopping.

Forest Walk

Embark on a walk through tropical rainforest with experienced wildlife guides. Enjoy scenic views, the sights and sounds of the rain forest, ample opportunities for bird watching and glimpses of the many monkey species

living in the park as they move through the forest canopy.

Village Community Walk

Embark on a community walk through the local villages surrounding Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Optional activities include visits to a traditional home, local orphanage or school, banana brewing demonstrations and even meeting traditional medicinal healers. This three to four hour walk is easily tailored to your individual schedule and interests.

Days Six and Seven



Depart Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and travel (2-3 hours) to Ishasha in the southern part of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Spend two days in Queen Elizabeth National Park enjoying activities such as game drives, a boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel, where you can spot hippos, buffalo and a large array of water birds or chimpanzee tracking at nearby Kyambura Gorge. Please note - chimpanzee tracking is an optional additional activity and should be booked in advance.

Queen Elizabeth National Park spreads over 1,978 sq km in the western arm of the Great Rift Valley and is home to a wide variety of wildlife including elephants, lions, hippos, buffalo, Uganda kob, baboon, and many species of birds. With both a riverine and savannah habitat, the park includes the southern Ishasha area with its tree climbing lions and Maramagambo, one of the largest surviving natural forests in Uganda. The northern Mweya area, traversed by the equator and dominated by the scenery of crater lakes, is often occupied by large flocks of flamingos. A boat trip from Mweya along the Kazinga Channel, which joins Lakes Edward and George, provides one of the most memorable experiences offered by the park.



Game Drives

The Ishasha area of Queen Elizabeth National Park is rich with wildlife including warthog, water buck, bush buck, leopard, Ugandan kob, elephants, countless bird species and even the rare giant forest hog. The Ishasha sector of the park is known for its famous tree climbing lions sometimes found lying about in the branches of the native fig trees.

In the Mweya area of Queen Elizabeth National Park, also rich with wildlife, visitors will find vast numbers of Uganda's unique and strange Euphorbia, or "candelabra" tree. The many nearby crater lakes and mountain ranges provide a beautiful backdrop for your journey.



Chimpanzee Tracking – Kyambura Gorge

Travel to Queen Elizabeth National Park's Kyambura Gorge to begin your chimpanzee tracking experience. Experienced guides and trackers will accompany your party into the gorge to search for wild chimpanzees as well as several other species of primates in their natural habitat. You may have an opportunity to be within meters of these amusing and very social apes, sharing in their daily lives and experiencing their day-to-day activities.

Chimpanzees, our closest cousins, are extremely endangered with only an estimated 5000 remaining in Uganda. Following the trek, you can enjoy a boat ride, take an afternoon drive or relax as you reflect on your time with the chimpanzees.

Please note – chimpanzee tracking may be fairly strenuous as the chimpanzees are highly mobile as they search for food throughout the forest. Also, chimpanzees are wild animals and, as such, sightings cannot be guaranteed. However viewing success rates are over 50% in Kyambura Gorge.



Boat Cruise - Kazinga Channel

Enjoy a leisurely boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park. You may encounter herds of elephant, buffalos and antelopes, families of warthogs, large groups of hippos, and crocodiles basking on the shore. Kazinga's shores are a haven for numerous birds, including many migratory species as they make their way south to warmer climates. The cruise also provides a spectacular view of the beautiful Mweya Peninsula and life in local fishing villages set along the banks.



Mweya Safari Lodge

Located on a peninsula overlooking the Kazinga Channel on one side and the Rwenzori Mountains on the other, this recently renovated lodge provides some of the best accommodation and service facilities in Uganda. Amenities include a swimming pool, the Tembo bar and an elegant air-conditioned restaurant with global cuisine. Breakfast is served on the lodge's outdoor terrace with views of the Kazinga Channel below.



Jacana Lodge

Set on the edge of a crater lake, Jacana Lodge blends in perfectly with the wooded surroundings of the Maramagambo Forest. Built using rock, wood, rope and other natural materials, each log cabin is beautifully and uniquely furnished and all rooms are en suite. A floating dining area on the crater lake provides a tranquil setting for sundowners and dinner in the evenings.

Day Eight

Depart Queen Elizabeth National Park and travel to Entebbe, via the equator and the bustling city of Kampala, stopping en route to shop for local crafts and a visit to the Royal Drum makers at Mpigi.

End of Gerling Safaris Best of Uganda Eight Day Safari. Overnight optional. If staying in Entebbe, please request assistance at time of booking safari. If departing Entebbe same night, please note your vehicle returns to Entebbe late afternoon (approximately 4:00 pm) so DO NOT book flights departing prior to 8:00 pm in order to allow time for security, check in and any delays.

If you plan to spend additional time in please feel free to speak with a Gerling Safaris representative at the time of booking or upon your return about the many activities and destinations available in Entebbe and

throughout Uganda. You can explore Kampala, spend a night on Ngamba Island and participate in a forest walk or the sanctuary's Chimpanzee Caregiver program, or take a short trip to Jinja, the adventure centre of Uganda, offering grade 5 whitewater rafting, quad biking and bungee jumping!

GERLING SAFARIS BEST OF UGANDA SAFARI

<p>Includes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport transfers • 4x4 transport with English speaking local driver/guide as above • Accommodation and meals as above (full board on safari, bed and breakfast in Entebbe) • All park entrance fees, 1 x forest/community walk at Bwindi, 1 x boat cruise on Kazinga Channel, game drives in QENP & LMNP, 1 x walk/boat trip in LMNP • Full liability insurance coverage
<p>Excludes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorilla Permit of USD500 Bwindi & USD750 in Rwanda – must be prebooked/prepaid • All flights and airport taxes • Kyambura Chimpanzee tracking permits USD50 each • Personal expenses such as porters, drinks, tips, visas and travel insurance • Services/activities/meals not included above
<p>Health:</p>	<p>Yellow fever & malaria prophylactics are required. For gorilla/chimp trekking it is imperative that you are healthy and free of any disease or virus – officials do have the right to refuse entry if you are found to have or show any signs of communicable illnesses.</p> <p>Should you opt to spend a night on Ngamba Island and participate in the Infant Integration or Caregiver Program, please request full documents and inoculation requirements for these activities as they are over and above the normal ones required for travel to Africa. These activities must be booked well in advance.</p>
<p>Visas:</p>	<p>Most nationalities require a visa to enter Uganda & Rwanda which can be obtained on arrival for USD50 per person, single entry. Passports must be valid for a minimum of 6 months or 12 months in the case of UK nationals.</p>
<p>Flights:</p>	<p>It is imperative that you reconfirm your onward/return flights. Our office in Uganda can assist you with this.</p>

Scheduled departure dates are guaranteed with minimum two persons.