



Uganda in Detail Private Tour

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different





UGANDA IN DETAIL

If you like close encounters with wildlife, friendly people and stunning scenery, Uganda might just be the best place to visit in all of Africa. In fact, this wonderful country offers the complete African wildlife experience with the added bonus of the gorillas. There are 10 national parks covering a significant percentage of the countryside. In the North East, you can spot the big cats, the savannah animals and an amazing variety of birdlife. Down the west side of the country you'll see a plethora of elephants, hippos chimps and more. Plus there's the mountain gorillas. There are just 880 of these wonderful primates left in the wild and you are assured of seeing them in their natural habitat on this tour. Put simply, Uganda offers a wildlife experience second to none.

However, its not all about the wildlife. Churchill was right... Uganda is the pearl of Africa! With stunning scenery, much of the country is on a plateau which ascends to over 5,100 metres on Mount Stanley in the south - the 3rd highest peak in Africa. The landscape is a combination of jungle, grasslands and land that has been cleared for farming. Uganda shares Lake Victoria - the largest tropical lake in the world - as its eastern border with Kenya and Tanzania.

Uganda is a land locked nation about the size of Victoria. It is predominantly a Christian country with 80% of the 30 million people being of Christian faith. The West first took real notice of Uganda in the early 70's when the dictator Idi Amin took power. Dubbed "the butcher of Uganda", Amin was a military official who, after seizing power, was responsible for the expulsion and murder of hundreds of thousands of people – namely any one who did not agree with his ways. He died in exile in 2003. Today, the country is at peace. Visitors are attracted by the gorillas which are protected from poachers around the clock. It is a safe place to visit and the hospitality industry is well trained in service with a smile.

While the recent past of this struggling nation cannot be ignored, it is well and truly open for business. You will be greatly rewarded by visiting. Not just for the gorillas, but also for the people, the magnificent scenery and the culture.



**Day 1
IN TRANSIT**

Depart Australia, flying in to Entebbe (likely via Doha or Dubai). All flights are to be confirmed.
Meals in flight.



**Day 2
ENTEBBE**

Welcome to Uganda! After landing at the Entebbe International Airport, be met and transferred to the boutique guesthouse to

spend 1 night. Conveniently located just 10 minutes from the airport, the guesthouse is quite charming. The city of Entebbe, with a population of 70,000, sits on the Northern shores of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake. Depending on arrival times, take a stroll through the Botanical Garden which offers a mix of forest and horticulture with impressive birdlife. *D*

**Day 3
ENTEBBE — GULU**

After breakfast, be met by your private English speaking guide and head off in your 4x4 vehicle north of Kampala to the Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Sanctuary. There you will embark on a rhino tracking expedition guided by trained rangers to see the only wild rhinos in Uganda. Lunch is followed by a transfer to Gulu where you will spend 1 night. The hotel in Gulu is set in 3.5 acres of landscaped grounds and beautiful gardens. *B/L/D*

**Day 4
GULU — KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**

After breakfast, set out this morning to travel to the remote Kidepo Valley National Park. Arrive for lunch at Kidepo Savannah Lodge where you'll spend 3 nights. In the afternoon, end the day with a game drive through the National Park. Located on the edge of one of the most beautiful National Parks in Uganda, enjoy vistas across the expansive Narus Valley. The Lodge at Kidepo provides eight beautifully appointed safari tents on raised decks. Each of the spacious tents have a private verandah. All safari tents are ensuite with hot 'bush' showers, running water for hand-basins and a flushing toilet. *B/L/D*

Day 5
KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Today, your first morning game-drive in the Kidepo Valley National Park, followed by lunch at the lodge. You will have the opportunity to visit an authentic Karamajong Settlement, returning to the lodge as the sun sets. Overnight and dinner at the lodge. *B/L/D*

Day 6
KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, a guided bush/nature walk with an armed ranger in the National Park to soak up the beauty of the savannah at a leisurely pace. You are likely to spot plenty of wildlife living on the grasslands. Then late in the afternoon, a second game-drive to enjoy the native flora and fauna from a different perspective. *B/L/D*



Day 7
KIDEPO — MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

Leave Kidepo this morning and head to Murchison Falls

National Park, with a stop for lunch in Gulu. You'll arrive at Fort Murchison Lodge by mid-afternoon, situated in the former Aswa Lolim Game reserve, just outside the northern park boundaries of Murchison Falls National Park. There will be a short game drive in the National Park before dinner at the lodge. *B/L/D*

 **Day 8**
MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast, set out on a morning game drive on the northern bank of the Nile, with a fair chance of seeing elephants, giraffes, lions, hippos, hartebeests and a great variety of birds. Mid-morning you will embark on a Nile River cruise for game viewing at close quarters. After the boat cruise, you'll enjoy a picnic lunch with view of Murchison Falls. Enjoy a final afternoon game drive, returning just as the sun sets. *B/L/D*

Day 9
MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK — HOIMA

After breakfast, depart from Fort Murchison and enjoy another scenic game drive on the northern bank of the Nile, with lunch at the Paraa Safari Lodge. Driving distance is 145 kms (approx 3-4 hours). After lunch, proceed to the town of Hoima to spend one night at the Hoima Cultural Lodge. The Hoima Cultural Lodge is situated in Hoima district, offering a break in the journey from Murchison Falls and Kibale. *B/L/D*

Day 10
HOIMA — KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, head towards Kibale Forest through Uganda's rural areas and will be rewarded with stunning views, passing small villages and local markets. Driving distance is 250 kms (approx 5-6 hours). We'll arrive at our lodge by mid to late afternoon to spend two nights. The accommodation is a small safari style camp in the lush surroundings of Kibale Forest, with it's southern edge joining Queen Elizabeth National Park one of the most beautiful tropical



forests in Uganda. Kibale National Park helps make up a 180 km long corridor for Africa's wildlife, and is home to some wonderful

creatures, including an astonishing 13 species of primates. Seated on your private veranda, the red, black and white colobus monkey, as well as other primates, can often be observed in the dense camp surroundings. You will also be treated to sightings of many bird species and colourful butterflies.

B/L/D

 **Day 11**
KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

Today the forest opens its doors for a chimp tracking experience. After a pre-tracking briefing at walking distance from your accommodation, we will start our hike adventure into the forest. Follow the footsteps of a

large habituated family of chimpanzees, with over 120 individuals that have made Kibale one of the best locations in Africa for chimp viewing. En route



your guide will explain more about the forest and its inhabitants, including other primates and birds.

Upon sighting the chimpanzees, you will stay with them for an hour or so as they continue their daily routine – growling, grooming, feeding, and taking care of the young ones. After your forest walk, return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon you'll transfer to Bigodi Village for a community walk to bring you closer to the local tribe that lives in this area. Accompanied by a local guide, you will learn more about the traditional customs and lifestyle. We will follow the village path and visit a primary

school, homesteads and learn more about the care of the crops in the fields. Overnight again at the safari lodge. *B/L/D*

Day 12
KIBALE NATIONAL PARK — QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, head via the crater lakes area via Kasese to Queen Elizabeth National Park, where we will spend two nights at QE Bush Lodge. Driving distance is 155 kms (approx 2-3 hours). Cross over the Equator as the road traverses the Queen Elizabeth National Park. This afternoon we will enjoy a game drive in the National Park. Located in the heart of Queen Elizabeth National Park, the bush lodge is built along ecological principals and the unique setting has animals roaming in and around the camp. The rooms are made from a combination of canvas and local materials and built to ensure the best views on the seasonal Kamera River, teeming with wildlife. Each comfortable self contained cabin has an eco-toilet and an outside shower. *B/L/D*

Day 13
QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Stretching from the crater-dotted foothills of the Rwenzori ranges in the North, along the shores of Lake Edward to the remote Ishasha River in the South, Queen Elizabeth National Park incorporates a wide of variety of habitats that range from savanna and wetlands to lowland forest. Besides fantastic wildlife sightings, the park is also famous for its volcanic features, comprising volcanic cones and deep craters.



Combined with Kibale National Park in the north, and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in the south, this is one of the most remarkable safari regions in Africa.

The morning will be spent on game drives in this prime game viewing area, with elephant, Uganda Kobs, baboons and buffalo in the grassland thickets of North Kazinga and savannah lands of the Kasenyi Plain. After lunch we will head out to spend the afternoon on the Kazinga Channel boat cruise, viewing the large concentration of hippos and a varied range of animals including crocodiles, warthogs and birds. This is a truly amazing experience which rivals other great African wildlife adventures. Return to the lodge for dinner. *B/L/D*

Day 14
QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK— BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST

After breakfast, depart to the south western part of the Queen Elizabeth National Park for a game drive in the Ishasha Plains, well known for the tree-climbing lion population.



Driving distance is 160 kms (approx 5 hours). We will then head on a scenic road to Buhoma on the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. On the way to Bwindi you will visit the Ishasha Community Upliftment Group. The community group has been set up as an organisation committed to conserving the bio-diversity of the area by reducing threats to the eco systems. Communities fight a continual battle between growing their crops and the game incursions which raid them as an easy source of food. There is also an opportunity to visit a local school before arriving late afternoon at the village of Buhoma with three nights at the lodge. *B/L/D*

Day 15
BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST GORILLA TREK

Another highlight awaits today: a meeting with the gentle giants of Bwindi! Only around 900 individual mountain gorillas exist in the wild. 400 of them can be found in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. After a very early breakfast you'll be transferred to the nearby National Park offices, to be allocated a gorilla family as well as expert trackers and a team of porters. After a briefing by our guide, as well as appropriate safety precautions, you will drive to the head of the trail for the start of a thrilling adventure.



Porters are on hand to be hired to assist up and down the steep slopes. Be prepared to walk some considerable distance potentially in steep and muddy conditions, sometimes with rain overhead, in order to encounter the gorillas. It soon becomes completely worthwhile, when for one hour you will delight in being in close proximity with these magnificent and rare creatures watching them eat, play and rest. After a long day in the forest, be

driven back to the lodge for a hot shower, dinner and to compare photographs. *B/L/D*

 **Day 16**
BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST

Two options today. First, you may choose to undertake another gorilla trek (subject to permit availability) or second, to undertake a 2-3 hours



scenic walk on the Waterfall trail that follows the Munyanga River through one of Uganda's most pristine tracts of rainforest – passing beneath tree ferns and orchids and

with chances of seeing monkeys – and ending at a 33 metres high waterfall, before retracing your steps to the lodge. The walk is mainly flat but there are some steeper sections overall, you'll walk around 10kms. If you prefer you can stay and relax at the lodge and/or visit the local village with its craft shops and cafes. *B/L/D*

 **Day 17**
BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST

After breakfast, be met by a professional walking guide and proceed to the National Parks headquarters in Buhoma to meet our national parks ranger-guide escort on your walk to Nkuringo.

There are two routes that can be followed although both routes meet in the forest to become one. The two walking trails are known as the Ivy River (4 to 5 hours) and Kashasha River (6 to 7 hours) routes.

The latter trail is the most direct walk and Nkuringo is 13 km through the forest on this trail. As there is no road through Bwindi between Nkuringo and Buhoma, vehicles driving



between the two locations have an incredible 170 km bone jarring journey taking some 6 to 8 hours to undertake. We will spend one night at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge. The Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge overlooks a beautiful swathe of the forest. The camp has panoramic views of the majestic volcanoes of the Virunga chain and across the escarpment into the Albertine Rift Valley and is a

prime access point for a trek to see the Nkuringo group of mountain gorillas. This walk is only for the fit. The last 2kms is uphill and rated difficult. As an option, you can accompany the 4WD and driver. The scenery is stunning. *B/L/D*

 **Day 18**
LAKE MUTANDA

After a leisurely breakfast, you will be transferred to the resort to spend 1 night. The resort is on a 3.5 acre private peninsula stretching into Lake Mutanda. The main building where the restaurant is located resembles a Swiss chalet with an African touch - the perfect place to enjoy a sundowner on the veranda watching otters visiting the shore, or cosy up next to the fire place. After lunch at the resort we will have the opportunity to undertake a 3-4 hour canoe and



walking excursion starting off with a canoe to Kyangushu Island and then anchoring near the picturesque village of Mukozi. You will be warmly welcomed by the children of the nursery school, pay a visit to a craft maker and a traditional healer and finally stop for a sip of something outrageous in the local bar. Return to the resort by late afternoon. *B/L/D*

Day 19
DEPARTURE

After an early breakfast, you will be transferred to the Kisoro Airstrip for the light aircraft flight back to Entebbe. Upon arrival at the Entebbe International Airport, you will be met and transferred to the Boma Guesthouse Entebbe for lunch (own cost). After lunch, there will be a transfer to the Entebbe International Airport for your onward flight on your travel schedule. *B/Meals in flight*

Day 20
ARRIVE HOME

Arrive back in Australia.



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending over to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.