



# Uganda in Depth

Departs  
16 June 2024

**Blue Dot Travel**

Go somewhere different







**\$12,390 pp**

Including one Gorilla trek

Single supp \$1,800

Additional Gorilla trek

\$1,000

International flights not included

## UGANDA IN DEPTH

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 west you'll see a plethora of elephants, hippos, chimps and more. And then there's the mountain gorillas. There are just 880 of these majestic 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, it's 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 landlocked 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, Sunday 16th June  
IN TRANSIT**

Depart Australia for Entebbe. All flights are to be confirmed. *Meals in flight*



**Day 2, Monday  
17th June  
ENTEBBE**

Welcome to Uganda! After landing at the Entebbe International Airport, we will be

met and transferred to Karibu Guesthouse for one night. The guesthouse is quite charming and conveniently located just 10 minutes from the airport. 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, we'll stroll through the Botanical Garden, which offers a mix of forest and horticulture with impressive birdlife. **D**

**Day 3, Tuesday 18th June  
ENTEBBE — GULU**

Our private guide will meet us this morning and head off in a 4x4 vehicle north of Kampala to the Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch. We 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 we will spend one night. Bomah Hotel in Gulu is on 3.5 acres of landscaped grounds with beautiful gardens. *B/L/D*

**Day 4,  
Wednesday 19th  
June  
GULU —  
MURCHISON  
FALLS NATIONAL  
PARK**

We'll leave this morning and head to Murchison Falls National Park, with a stop for lunch in Gulu. We'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 5, Thursday  
20th June  
MURCHISON  
FALLS  
NATIONAL PARK**

After an early breakfast, we will 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, we will embark on a Nile River cruise for game viewing at close quarters. After our boat cruise, we will have a picnic lunch with a view of the Murchison Falls. We will have an afternoon game drive and return as the sun sets. *B/L/D*

**Day 6, Friday 21st June  
MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK — HOIMA**

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



**Day 7, Saturday  
22nd June  
HOIMA —  
KIBALE  
NATIONAL PARK**

After breakfast, we'll head towards Kibale Forest through Uganda's

rural areas and will be rewarded with stunning views as we pass small villages and local markets (approx 250 kms, 5-6 hrs drive). We'll arrive at the Kibale Forest Camp by mid to late afternoon to spend two nights. Kibale Forest Camp is a small safari-style tented camp in the lush surroundings of Kibale Forest, with its southern edge joining Queen Elizabeth National Park, one of Uganda's most beautiful tropical forests. 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 and 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 8, Sunday 23rd June  
KIBALE NATIONAL PARK**

Today the forest opens its doors for a chimp tracking experience. After a pre-tracking briefing at walking distance from our 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, our guide will explain more about



the forest and its inhabitants, including other primates and birds. Upon sighting the chimpanzees, we will stay with them for an hour as they continue their daily routine – growling, grooming, feeding, and caring for the young ones. After our forest walk, return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, we will transfer to Bigodi Village for a community walk that will bring you closer to the local tribe in this area—accompanied by a local guide, who can tell us about the traditional customs and lifestyle. We will follow the village path, visit a primary school and traditional homesteads, and learn more about the crops in the fields. Overnight again at the Kibale Forest Camp. *B/L/D*

**Day 9, Monday 24th June  
KIBALE NATIONAL PARK — QUEEN  
ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK**

After breakfast, we head via the crater lakes area via Kasese to Queen Elizabeth National Park, where we will spend two nights at QE Bush Lodge (approx 155 kms, 2-3 hrs drive). We will cross the Equator as the road

passes through 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 principles, 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 of the seasonal Kamera River, teeming with wildlife. Each comfortable self-contained cabin has an eco-toilet and an outside shower. *B/L/D*

**Day 10, Tuesday 25th June**  
**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 famous for its volcanic features, including volcanic cones and deep craters.



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

regions. The morning will be spent on game drives in this prime game viewing area, with elephants, 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 various animals, including crocodiles, warthogs and birds. This is a truly amazing experience that rivals other great African wildlife adventures. Return to the lodge for dinner. *B/L/D*

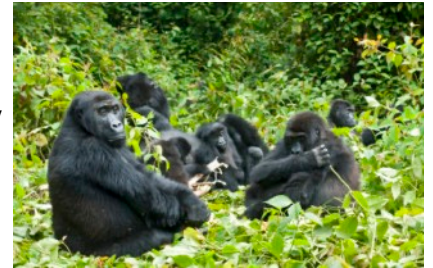
**Day 11, Wednesday 26th June**  
**QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK— Bwindi IMPENETRABLE FOREST**

After breakfast, we will depart to the southwestern part of the Queen Elizabeth National Park for a game drive in the Ishasha Plains, well known for the tree-climbing lion population. (approx 160 kms, 5-6 hrs drive). 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 area's biodiversity by reducing ecosystem threats. Communities fight a continual battle between growing their crops and the game incursions which raid them as an easy food source. We'll also visit a local school before arriving late afternoon at the village of Buhoma to spend three nights at the Engagi Lodge. *B/L/D*

 **Day 12, Thursday 27th June**  
**BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST**  
**GORILLA TREK**

Another highlight awaits us today: a meeting with the gentle giants of Bwindi! Only 880 individual mountain gorillas exist in the wild. 400 of them can be found in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. After a

very early breakfast, we'll be transferred to the nearby National Park offices, to be allocated a gorilla family and an expert tracker. After a briefing by our guide and appropriate safety precautions, we will drive to the head of the trail to start a thrilling adventure. Porters are on hand to be hired to assist you up and down the steep slopes. Be prepared to walk some considerable distance in steep and muddy conditions, sometimes with rain overhead, to encounter the gorillas. It becomes completely worthwhile as, for one hour, we can delight in being in such proximity to these magnificent and rare creatures while they eat, play and rest. After a long day in the forest, we will be driven back to the lodge for a hot shower, dinner, and to compare our photographs. *B/L/D*



 **Day 13, Friday 28th June**  
**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 10 km. 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 14, Saturday 29th June**  
**BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST**

After breakfast, we will be met by our professional walking guide and proceed to the National Parks headquarters in Buhoma to meet our National Parks ranger-guides on the walk to Nkuringo. Two routes can be followed, although both routes meet in the forest to become one. The two walking trails are 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 6 to 8 hours. 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 2 km is uphill and rated difficult. As an option, you can accompany the 4WD and driver. The scenery is stunning. **B/L/D**



**Day 15, Sunday  
30th June  
LAKE MUTANDA**

After a leisurely breakfast, we will be transferred to the Lake Mutanda Resort for 1 night at Mutanda Lake

Resort. 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 fireplace. After lunch at the resort, we can undertake a 3-4 hour canoe/walking excursion, starting with a gentle canoe ride to Kyangushu Island and then anchoring near the picturesque village of Mukozi. We will be warmly welcomed by the nursery school children, 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 16, Monday 1st July  
DEPARTURE**

After an early breakfast, we will be transferred to the Kisoro Airstrip for your light aircraft flight departing at approximately 08h40 back to Entebbe. Upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport at approximately 11.00hrs, you will be met and transferred to the Boma Guesthouse Entebbe for lunch (own expense). After lunch, you will be transferred to the Entebbe International Airport for your onward flight on your travel schedule. Those taking up the Tanzania extension will fly to Arusha. All flights are to be confirmed. **B**

**TANZANIA EXTENSION**

**Tour cost: \$6,900 pp**  
**Sing Supp: \$1,200**  
**Includes flight Entebbe – Kilimanjaro Airport and flight from Kilimanjaro Airport to Nairobi**

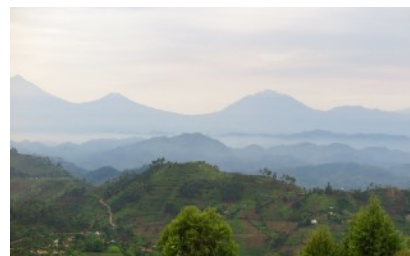
**Day 1, Monday 1st July  
Entebbe, Uganda – Arusha**

Upon arrival at Entebbe airport, connect with our flight to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (about 1hr. 10 mins). After visa and immigration formalities, we'll collect our luggage before being met by our Tanzania guide and driver. Overnight at Kibo Palace Hotel (or similar). **B**

**Day 2, Tuesday 2nd July  
Arusha – Karatu**

After breakfast, we'll begin our drive to Karatu (about 2 hrs. 30 mins). Check in to the lodge with the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Today we have the option to participate in a local community village program. A small village community, Mto wa Mbu offers a close-up look at life in an African town away from the main tourist trail.

There's an option to visit the Meserani snake park for an information session centred on the Maasai people and their culture.



Accommodation at Marera Valley Lodge (or similar). **B/L/D**

**Day 3, Wednesday 3rd July  
Karatu – Northern Serengeti**

Breakfast at the lodge, then we'll check out and drive to Northern Serengeti for the quest of the great migration (the drive is about 6 hrs. 20 mins). To reach the Serengeti you must travel through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, skirting the Ngorongoro Crater before entering the Serengeti. Along the way, we can visit Olduvai Gorge (cost is USD\$40 pp), a site famous for discovering human ancestor remains that provide the most continuous known record of human evolution during the past 2 million years. There's an option to visit a local Maasai village to experience the Maasais' local way of life, culture, and lifestyle. We'll enjoy extraordinary scenery and spot wildlife on our way to our accommodation. Upon arrival, check in and have lunch. In the afternoon, a game drive in the Northern Serengeti. Wedged between the Central Serengeti and Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve to the north, Northern Serengeti is endowed with gorgeous landscapes of green rolling hills, granite outcrops and acacia woodlands dotting open savanna, incredible wildlife, and most importantly, massive herds of wildebeest and zebra

making the dangerous crossing of the croc-infested Mara River during the Great Migration in June and July and again in September, October, and November. This park sector is also home to the greatest concentration of elephants in the Serengeti, as well as good numbers of lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena and diverse resident animals such as giraffe, topi, eland and hippo. The Mara River, which courses its way through the Northern Serengeti and then into Lake Victoria to the west, is undoubtedly the highlight of this remote region of the Serengeti. The river is home to giant pods of hippos and attracts an abundance of game, from giraffes and elephants to leopards and lions. Accommodation is at Acacia Migration Camp Serengeti (or similar).

**B/L/D**

**Day 4 and 5, Thursday 4th and Friday 5th July Serengeti National Park (optional balloon ride)**

Early breakfast at the camp before we set out for the area around Northern Serengeti, looking for big cats, likely to be out hunting prey. On a lucky day, you will see wildebeest, zebra, impalas, lions, and much more wildlife. Return to the camp mid-



morning before we embark on an afternoon game drive when the sun has cooled. Return to camp at dusk for dinner and overnight accommodation

at Acacia Migration Camp Serengeti. There is an opportunity to enjoy an early morning balloon ride over the Serengeti. The cost for this optional excursion is an additional AUD\$975. **B/L/D**

**Day 6, Saturday 6th July North Serengeti – Central Serengeti National Park**

After breakfast, depart for Central Serengeti (about 3 hrs. 10 mins). viewing wildlife on our way. The wide-open plains of the Serengeti – green after the rains, brown and burnt in the dry season – are home to thousands of hoofed animals and fierce predators. Flat and rolling, with long grass and acacia trees, these plains get their name from the Maasai word Siringet – 'the place where the land moves on forever'. Check in and have lunch. In the afternoon, a game drive - watching the landscape change within the park from the vast treeless central plains to thick scrub and forest in the north. Linking these areas is the savanna, dotted with acacia trees and magnificent rock outcrops. You may visit the Simba Kopjes, an outcrop favoured by lions and cheetahs as high perches and a place to

hide their cubs, and they can often be seen basking in the morning sun on top. Simba is Swahili for lion and kopje Afrikaans for 'little head'. Accommodation at Ang'ata Serengeti Camp (or similar). **B/L/D**

**Day 7, Sunday 7th July Serengeti National Park – Ngoro Ngoro Conservation Area**

Today you will explore the world-renowned Ngoro Ngoro Crater, widely regarded as a microcosm of African natural habitats and often touted as a veritable Garden of Eden. The distance is around 400 km (about 5 hrs, including the Ngoro Ngoro crater tour). Within this crater lies every type of ecosystem, including riverine forests, open plains, and freshwater and alkaline lakes. Ngoro Ngoro Crater is the remnants of an ancient volcano caldera, and within its 300 square kilometres is a remarkable concentration of wildlife. The scenery is spectacular as you descend almost 600 meters to the crater floor. There is every chance that you will see a considerable variety of wildlife in this compact area, including the highly endangered black rhinoceros. In the afternoon, you will leave the crater and then drive for 1.5 hours to Karatu. Check-in, with the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Accommodation is at Marera View Lodge (or similar). **B/L/D**



**Day 8, Monday 8th July Karatu – Arusha – Nairobi**

After breakfast, we'll depart and drive to Arusha. The driving distance is 200 km (about 3 hrs. 25 mins) If there are clear skies, we'll enjoy fantastic mountain views as we travel. Drop off in Arusha at the airport for your afternoon flight to Nairobi. Our flight from Kilimanjaro takes 1 hour and 30 minutes. Upon arrival, pick up by the hotel vehicle and transfer to the airport for check-in and overnight at Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport (or similar). **B**

**Day 9, Tuesday 9th July**

Depart for Australia. **B**



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 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.