

# Discover Uganda Safari

18 Days Tailor-made safari | Departure; Any day

## Highlights

- Visit the Source of the Nile, Bungee Jumping & Whitewater rafting in Uganda's adventure capital (Jinja), and the spectacular Sipi Falls in Eastern Uganda.
- Game viewing in Murchison Falls National Park.
- Jungle through the rainforest of Kibale in search of the playful Chimpanzees.
- Track down the tree-climbing lions of Queen Elizabeth National Park in the Ishasha sector
- Breathtaking mountain gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- Lake Bunyonyi, the birders' paradise
- Game viewing in Lake Mburo National Park.

## Overview

***Discover Uganda Safari:** Traverse and discover Uganda's natural beauty and diverse cultures from the central to the east, north, and western regions, experiencing the varied beautiful landscapes, traditions, and sceneries. Visit the source of the 2nd longest river in the world and all of the most incredible National Parks of Uganda.*

Join the Discover Uganda Safari and undertake the path of Winston Churchill to rediscover "The Pearl of Africa." The Equator and the Rift Valley run through Uganda, resulting in a unique ecosystem. Uganda is also well known for its wildlife game reserves, magnificent scenery, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, people, and rich culture. The memories of a cruise on the Kazinga channel will stay with you forever when you visit one of Africa's top parks, Queen Elizabeth National Park. "Lonely Planet" describes the people of Uganda as the friendliest in Africa, and you will get to experience this while on this tour. The safari's highlight will be gorilla trekking and a close-up encounter with a family of mountain gorillas in their natural habitat in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

## Itinerary

### DAY 01

#### Arrival at the Entebbe International Airport

Our guide will warmly welcome you on arrival at the Airport or at your hotel in Entebbe/Kampala. For the former, you are transferred to your hotel, where you are briefed about your safari by the guide. Depending on the arrival time, you are advised to exchange your money for the local currency on this day. You may also have the chance to visit Kampala city, about an hour's drive from Entebbe.

## **DAY 02**

### **To the Source of the Nile, Jinja.**

After breakfast, we leave the busy Kampala city and head towards the east. Jinja is situated directly at Lake Victoria, where the Nile finds its origin. On our way, we will stop at Mabira Forest, one of Uganda's most extensive and beautiful tropical forests. A hike will enable you to stretch your legs, and you will have a chance to see different species of primates, birds, and colorful butterflies. Continue to Jinja for lunch and a relaxing afternoon. After lunch, we proceed to the source of the Nile for a boat ride before we retreat for dinner and overnight.

**Driving time:** ±2 hours

**Budget Accommodation:** *Explorers Backpackers or Nile River Explorers.*

**Luxury Accommodations:** *Jinja Nile Resort or Source of the Nile Hotel*

## **DAY 03**

### **To Sipi falls.**

Sipi Falls, located in Eastern Uganda, Kapchorwa district, is a series of three waterfalls lying on the edge of Mount Elgon National Park near the Kenyan border. The Sipi falls area offers an astonishing calm environment with fresh air from the slopes of Mountain Elgon. It provides a magnificent place to wind down, relax and cool out. We depart Jinja in the morning, spend the day at Sipi falls, and retreat to Jinja for the overnight.

## **DAY 04**

### **To Murchison Falls National Park.**

We begin our panoramic drive northwest early morning through the famous Luwero Triangle and visit the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, then drive to Masindi Town for lunch. After that, go to Murchison Falls National Park. If time allows, we see the top of the falls, after which we travel to our accommodation for dinner and overnight.

**Drive time:** ±7 hours

**Budget accommodation:** *Red Chilli Camp.*

**Luxury accommodation:** *Paraa Safari Lodge, Nile safari Lodge, or Sambiya River Lodge.*

## **DAY 05**

### **In Murchison Falls National Park.**

Today we head for an early morning game drive on the northern bank of the River Nile. This is a beautiful drive across Borassus Palm Forest and grassland savannah down to Lake Albert, where the Albert Nile heads north to Sudan. Animals you may see include; Elephants, Lions, Cape buffalo, Rothchild's Giraffe, Jackson's Hartebeest, Waterbuck, Oribi, Bushbuck, Bohor reedbuck, Spotted Hyena, and if you are lucky, the Leopard. After lunch, go for a boat cruise to the bottom

of the falls, an experience not to be missed!! Here you will see the River Nile said to be the 2nd longest river in the world, crushing through a narrow gorge and forming the magnificent Murchison Falls. While on the cruise, you may see Hippos, Crocodiles, Elephants, Waterbuck, and Uganda Kobs, among others. This is also the zone of many birds, with species like Goliath Heron, Egyptian Geese, Pelicans, Bee-eaters, Kingfishers, Hornbill, Cormorant, and the rare Shoebill stork. We then return to our accommodation for dinner and overnight.

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## **DAY 08**

### **To Queen Elizabeth National Park.**

After our morning breakfast, we will proceed to Queen Elizabeth National Park, following the mystical Rwenzori Mountain Range. Queen Elizabeth National Park is a savannah with grassy

plains and volcanic craters and is home to abundant wildlife. We will have a game drive en route to the park headquarters. Watch out for lions, leopards, giant forest hogs, Cape buffalo, elephants, Defassa waterbuck, Uganda Kob, bushbuck, and a variety of birds, among other wildlife. After checking in and having lunch, we could enjoy the unique 2-hour drive through a fishing village and head to the biggest salt lake in the country (Lake Katwe). Overnight at our accommodation

**Driving time:**  $\pm 3$  hours

**Budget Accommodation:** *Queen Elizabeth Bush Lodge or Simba Camp.*

**Luxury Tour:** *Mweya Safari Lodge or Jacana safari Lodge*

## **DAY 09**

### **In Queen Elizabeth National Park.**

We start with an extensive early morning game drive in the park while pursuing the most wildlife congested tracks, including the Kasenyi Track. Expect to see; Elephants, Buffalos, Lions, Bush bucks, Kobs, the rare Giant forest hogs, Hyenas, and Waterbucks. Return and have breakfast at your accommodation. In the afternoon, we'll take a launch cruise along the unique Kazinga channel, an experience not to miss!! You will appreciate the scores of Hippos, Buffalos, and Crocodiles close to the waterside and, if lucky, the rare Leopard prowling. There are various bird species, for example, Pelicans, Cormorants, egrets, herons, and Jacana. We then return to our accommodation for dinner and overnight.

## **DAY 10**

### **In Queen Elizabeth National Park**

Take a morning rest, and after, we proceed for a late afternoon game drive pursuing mainly wildlife overloaded circuits where we expect to see some of the big five; elephants, Buffalos, Lions, and, if lucky, the Leopard. Also, expect to see Bush bucks, Kobs, the rare Giant forest hogs, Hyenas and Waterbucks, and a variety of birds and magnificent sceneries!

## **DAY 11**

### **To Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**

After an early breakfast, we do a second game drive before embarking on a journey to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. We drive through savannah grasslands seeing banana plantations and herds of Long-horned Ankole cattle with their incredibly long curving horns. We ascend into the Kigezi highlands, famously known as the "Switzerland of Africa," with terraced farming and mountain scenery. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

**Driving time:**  $\pm 5$  hours

**Budget Accommodation:** *Buhoma community Rest camp or Wagtail Eco-safari camp.*

**Luxury Accommodation:** *Silver back lodge, Buhoma lodge, or Lake Kitandara Tented camp*

## **DAY 12**

### **In Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**

We will head to the briefing point at the park headquarters, and from here, you will be briefed about the do's and don'ts while in the forest with the gentle Giants. You are provided with walking sticks and advised to carry packed lunch & enough drinking water with you. The Gorillas have 95% similar DNA to us, and staring into their pondering eyes is as overwhelming as it is incredible. After tracking, we will travel back to our lodge, relax, dine, and stay overnight.

## **DAY 13**

### **To Lake Bunyonyi.**

We will drive to Lake Bunyonyi, spending the night overlooking Uganda's deepest lake, where you may try your hand at paddling a dugout canoe, eating freshwater crayfish, or simply just relaxing. Bunyonyi means "Place of many little birds" and is famous for the birds, otters, and delicious crayfish. Dinner and overnight at either White Horse Inn, Heritage Lodge Habuharo, or Bunyonyi Overland Camp.

## **DAY 14**

### **In Bunyonyi**

After breakfast, we shall kick off with a canoe cruise paddling a traditionally dugout canoe! This is an optional activity; hence you may also choose to unwind and relax by sunbathing, swimming, or chilling out! Return for lunch and after that a community walk in the evening.

## **DAY 15**

### **To Lake Mburo National Park.**

Early in the morning, embark on a 3-hour drive to Lake Mburo National Park. We will have an evening game drive or a safari walk under the escort of an armed ranger. Lake Mburo is the only Park in Uganda where you can have a safari on foot! It particularly contains interesting Kopjes, Kilspringers and Topis. Due to cattle herding in the area, it is amusing to see zebra grazing peacefully alongside the long-horned Ankole cattle. Return for lunch which should be taken leisurely, enjoying the view of the lakes in this park. Enjoy the boat ride on Lake Mburo and get close to the croc and hippos. Dinner and Overnight.

## **DAY 16**

### **To Kampala**

After breakfast, we leisurely drive back to Kampala. En route, we have two stopovers; one at the Equator, where we will have an opportunity to stand between 2 hemispheres simultaneously. The other stopover is at the Mpigi Royal Drum Makers, where we will have the chance to watch the ceremonial drums being crafted using methods passed down through generations. We arrive in Kampala in the afternoon for overnight.

## **DAY 17**

### **To Uganda Wildlife Education Centre and Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary**

We visit the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre early in the morning and proceed to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary. However, this will depend on the time for the boat. If the morning boat is available, then a visit to the center will be done in the afternoon and vice-versa. Return to the lodge for dinner, relax, and overnight.

## **DAY 18**

**End of trip and departure.**