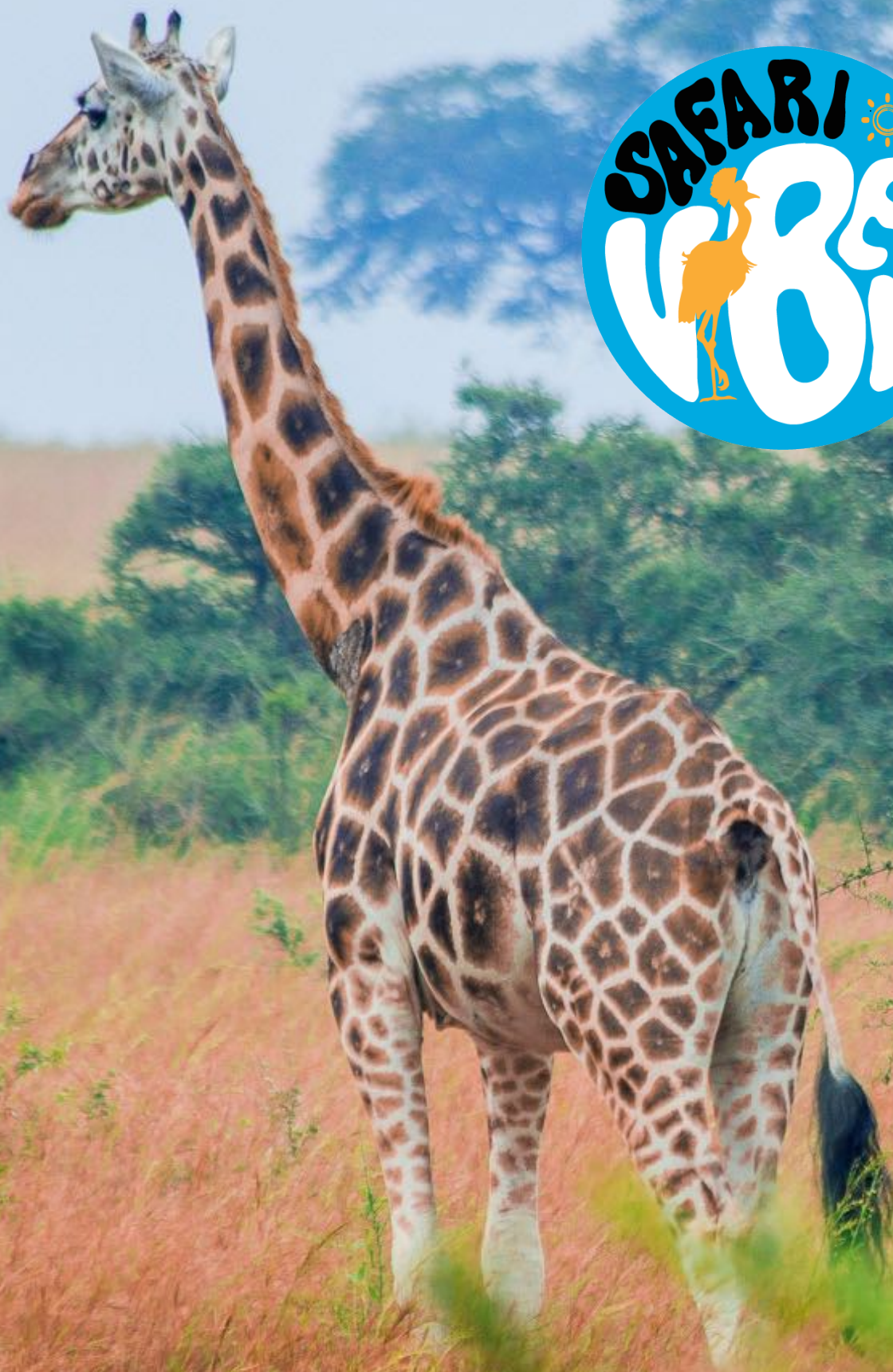


THE BEST OF UGANDA

18 Day Safari





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18 DAY SAFARI

Itinerary Brief

Day 1: Arrival in Uganda and transfer to your lodge in Entebbe

Day 2: Shoebill Stork pursuit in Mabamba Swamp

Day 3: Jinja adventure day

Day 4: Transfer to Sipi Falls

Day 5: Waterfall hike in Sipi Falls then transfer to Moroto

Day 6: Morning nature walk and afternoon visit to traditional Manyattas, option of sleeping in the kraal with the Karamojong

Day 7: Transfer to Kidepo Valley National Park and late afternoon game drive

Day 8: Game drive in Kidepo Valley National Park

Day 9: Transfer to Murchison Falls National Park and walk to top of Murchison falls

Day 10: Game drive and boat safari in Murchison Falls

Day 11: Transfer to Kibale and Bigodi Swamp walk

Day 12: Head to Kibale Forest National Park and Chimp Habituation Experience

Day 13: To Queen Elizabeth National Park and evening game drive

Day 14: Safari by road and boat safari Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park

Day 15: Ishasha sector, morning game drive and proceed to Bwindi

Day 16: Gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park

Day 17: Transfer to Lake Mburo

Day 18: Walking safari in Lake Mburo and then transfer to Kampala/Entebbe



Day One **Arrival**

Your Guide will pick you up from Entebbe Airport to transfer you to your hotel in Entebbe to check in.
Here you will have a rest day before your trip begins the next day.

Accommodation: The Boma Entebbe



Day Two **Shoebill Stork tracking in Mabamba Swamp**

After an early breakfast we head out on a canoe journey into the Mabamba Swamp in search of the rare and elusive Shoebill Stork. Returning from the swamp in time for lunch we will then be transferred to Jinja where we will be sleeping tonight before an adventurous photo walk the next day.

Accommodation: The Haven Lodge



Day Three **Jinja Adventure Day**

The source of the world's second longest river, Jinja is the melting pot of Eastern Uganda.

Here you have a day to relax and unwind or go on an optional activity

Full Day white water rafting tour : \$140 per person

Horseback riding \$60 per person per hour

ATV Quad Biking \$55 per hour

Accommodation: The Haven Lodge



Day Four

Drive to Sipi falls.

From Jinja, we drive to Sipi Falls, 150km east of Jinja on the foothills of Mount Elgon.

Lying on the border between Kenya and Uganda, Mount Elgon is said to have the largest surface area of any extinct volcano in the world and a caldera which covers over 40km² at the top of the mountain. The highest peak, Wagagai, sits at 4,321m and is the second highest in Uganda (after Rwenzori) and the eighth highest in Africa, though millions of years ago it was the continent's tallest.

You will check into your hotel and have lunch before doing a coffee tour and relaxing at the sunset spot overlooking rolling hills. This spot is great for landscape photographers and enthusiasts altogether.

Accommodation: Sipi River Lodge



Day Five

Water fall hike and transfer to Moroto

You will have your breakfast and go for a hike to view the Sipi water falls; a series of 3 water falls and the highest is 100 meters high. These are beautiful waterfalls on the foothills of Mt Elgon, go for a walk on the slopes of Mt Elgon as you learn about the culture of the people. This place is known for its beautiful views of the eastern Rift Valley.

After the hike, you will have lunch before proceeding on a 5 hour drive to Moroto reaching just in time for dinner.

Accommodation: Tita Lodge/ Hotel Africana





Day Six

Moroto

After an early morning start to the day, we will embark on a 3 hour hike to Mount Moroto where we will visit indigenous Karamajong people living on the foothills of Mount Moroto.

After this, you'll meet the Karamajong living in a Kraal, better known as Manyatta or Boma in Swahili. A Kraal is basically a village made out of huts surrounded by fences made of wood and thorns. These are put up to keep the cattle in and to protect them against rival tribes and wild animals. Some of the Kraals are permanent and others are temporarily for when they trail the fresh grass to feed the cattle.

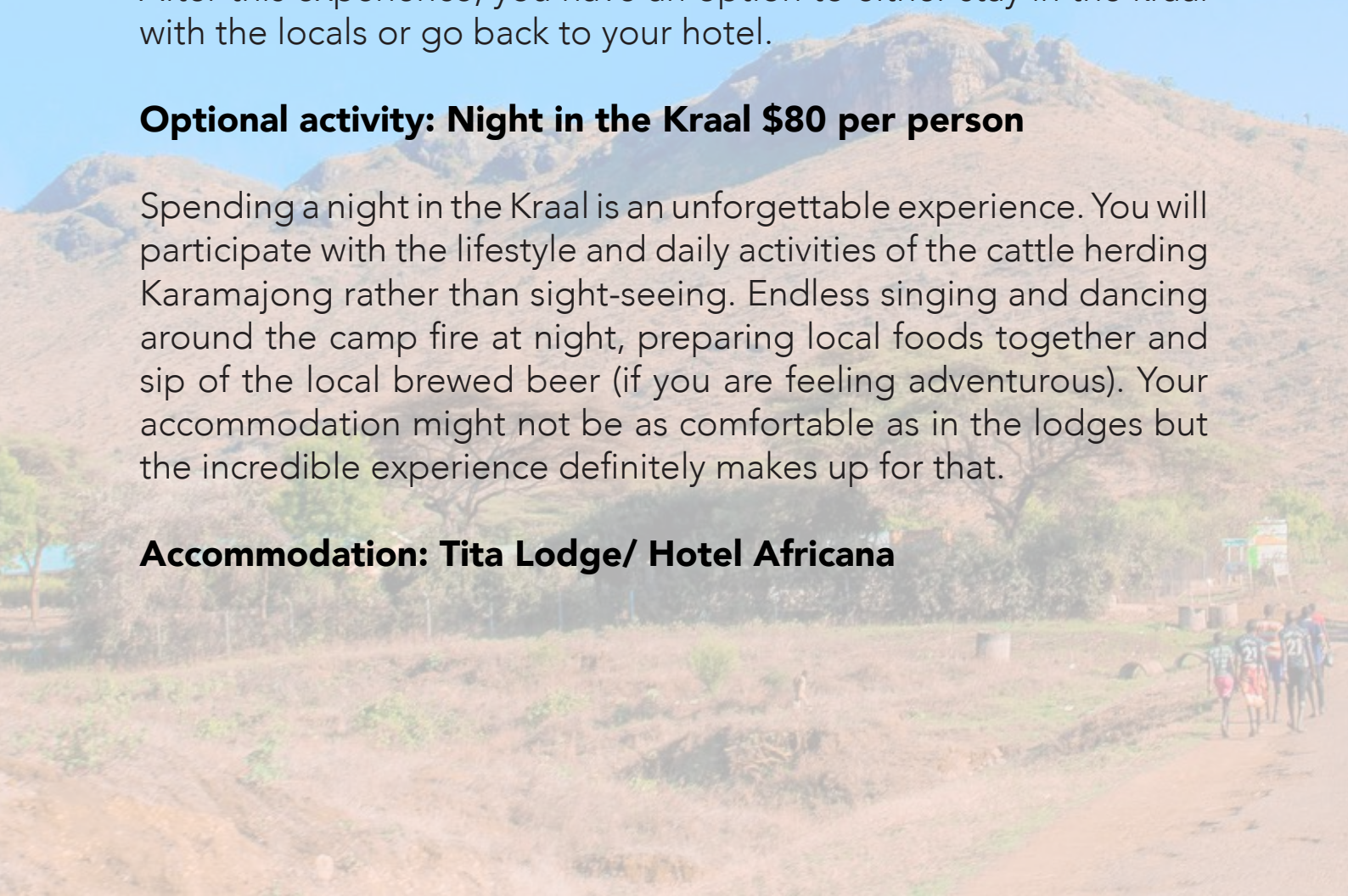
The Karamajong are related to the Maasai in Kenya and live a similar lifestyle. The main difference is that the Karamajong is completely unknown and you are therefore sure to experience a very authentic and memorable visit.

After this experience, you have an option to either stay in the kraal with the locals or go back to your hotel.

Optional activity: Night in the Kraal \$80 per person

Spending a night in the Kraal is an unforgettable experience. You will participate with the lifestyle and daily activities of the cattle herding Karamajong rather than sight-seeing. Endless singing and dancing around the camp fire at night, preparing local foods together and sip of the local brewed beer (if you are feeling adventurous). Your accommodation might not be as comfortable as in the lodges but the incredible experience definitely makes up for that.

Accommodation: Tita Lodge/ Hotel Africana





Day Seven

Transfer and game drive in Kidepo Valley National Park

We will have our breakfast early in the morning in Moroto and go head to Kidepo reaching just in time for lunch and an evening game drive. The park inhabits one of the most exciting faunas of any Ugandan parks, with over 80 species of mammals. Several of which are endemic to Kidepo National Park like the cheetah, the striped hyena the caracal and over 460 bird species including ostriches.

Voted the best park in Africa 4 times by CNN, Kidepo valley national park covers an area of 1442 sq. km and it has a landscape dominated by rugged savannah and the Morungule Mountains. There are also the Narus and Kidepo rivers valleys which all contribute to form the beauty that is KVNP. There is also the Kanangarok hot spring towards the southern Sudan border.

The vegetation is mostly open tree savannah as result of the variations in rainfall across the valleys. There's more rain received in the Narus valley compared to the Kidepo valley which in turns results in to variations in vegetation and animal population in the two valleys.

The park has a variety of wild life species and birds so there are a number of things to do that make it a prime Uganda safari destination. While Uganda is mostly known for gorilla trekking expedition in Bwindi, Kibale and Mgahinga National parks, Kidepo valley offers and entirely different experience right from its location, climate, vegetation and wildlife population. It is a very unspoiled wilderness.

Accommodation: Kidepo Savannah lodge / Apoka Lodge

Meal plan: Full board





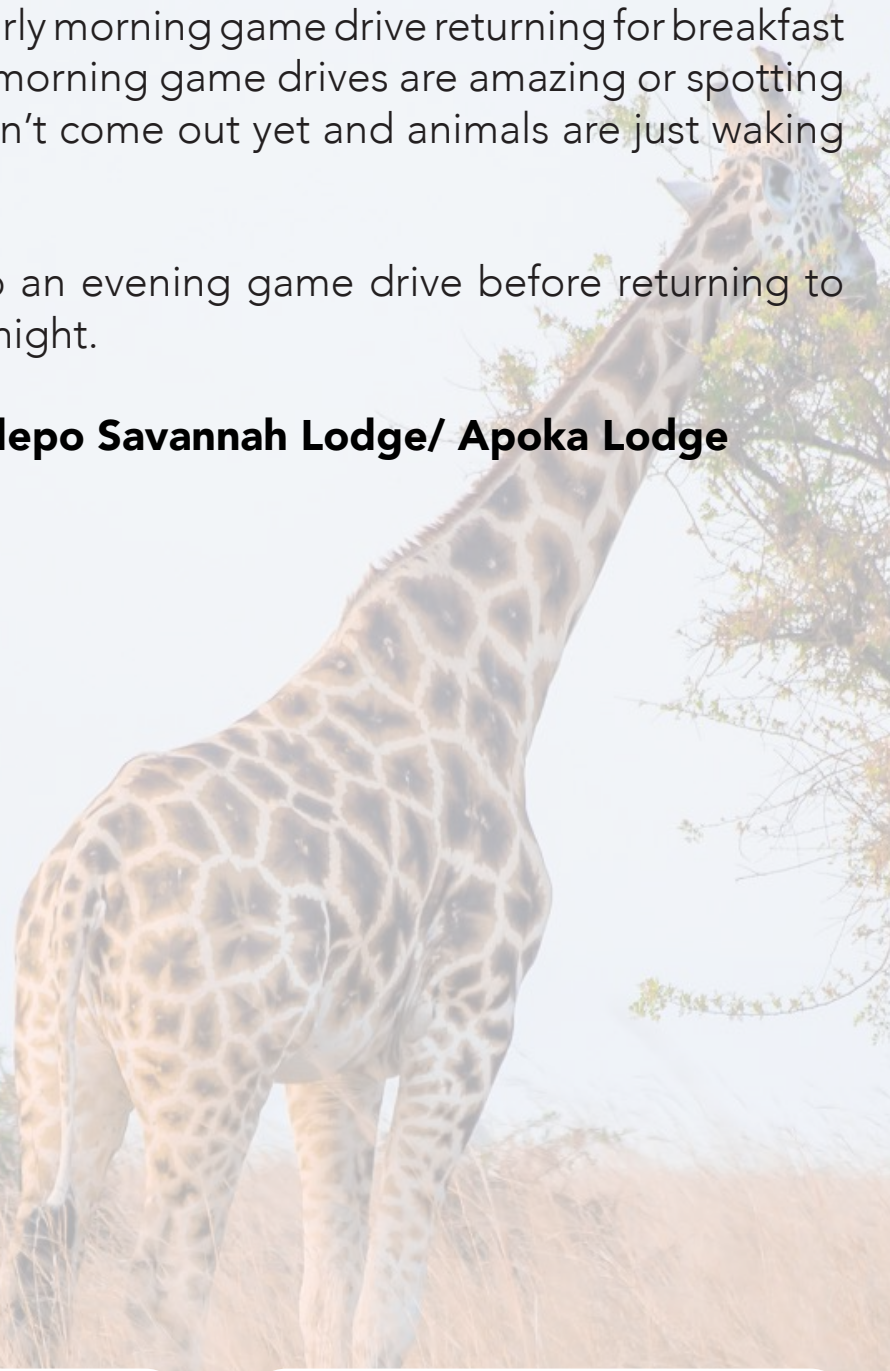


Day Eight **Kidepo Game Park**

We will go out on an early morning game drive returning for breakfast at around 9am. Early morning game drives are amazing for spotting wildlife as the sun hasn't come out yet and animals are just waking up.

After lunch we will do an evening game drive before returning to our hotel for another night.

Accommodation: Kidepo Savannah Lodge/ Apoka Lodge





Day Nine

Drive to Murchison Falls National Park

After your breakfast you will drive to Murchison falls National park, have lunch on the way and reach the park just in time to do a waterfall hike. This is a great place for taking amazing photos of the landscape and the sunset if you are lucky.

We will then proceed to check into our hotel to relax for the night and get dinner while getting ready for a full-on day in the park tomorrow.

Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's best-known and biggest nature reserve. With the impressive and powerful Murchison waterfall and its remarkable animal populations, this is a must visit in the Pearl of Africa. There are superb activities on offer such as a boat safari or Delta safari on the Nile. The river divides the park between a Northern and Southern section as it makes its way through multiple rapids and waterfalls to Lake Albert. Unfortunately, during the war years poachers and troops wiped out the majority of wildlife.

Accommodation: Pakuba Safari Lodge / Nile Safari Lodge





Day Ten

Game drive and boat safari in Murchison Falls

Early morning start to the game drive just in time for sunrise and strategically as the animals are waking up. You may have a chance to see game like hyenas, giraffes, lions, birds, Hartebeests, buffaloes, elephants, primates and others as well as different species of birds.

After the morning game drive, we will return to our accommodation for lunch before heading back out for an afternoon boat cruise and hike to the top of the most powerful waterfall in the world. On your boat cruise, you will see, crocodiles, hippos, elephants and lots of birds. This section of river has the biggest concentration of crocodiles anywhere in the world.

BALLOON EXCURSION (OPTIONAL EXTRA) \$380 PER PERSON

We can also arrange to watch wildlife in a hot air balloon instead of a car. Strategically fly over animals while taking amazing photos of the landscape, sunrise and wildlife.

Please note that your itinerary is flexible; you are welcome to discuss the program with your guide if you'd like to change the days and times of the boat rides and game drives. The availability of the boat cruises should also be considered if amending your schedule.

Accommodation: Pakuba Safari Lodge / Nile Safari Lodge





Day Eleven

Transfer to Fort Portal and Bigodi Swamp

An early start from Murchison Falls after breakfast and transfer to Fort Portal Town reaching just in time for lunch.

Situated amid lush rolling hillsides swathed in near tea plantations and clouds permitting/offering excellent views across to the glacial peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains to the west, Fort portal is named after a British fortress constructed between 1891 and 1893, on the site of the town's present day golf club, with the aim of protecting the Tooro Kingdom from guerrilla raids by King Kabalega of the greater Bunyoro Kingdom. Fort Gerry, as it was originally known, was named posthumously after the British consul general of Zanzibar Sir Gerald Portal. After lunch, we will have a chance to explore Bigodi s Swamp.

The Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary is an fascinating area, located in Magombe swamp. This area is recognized for an extensive array of biodiversity among which are several primates species like the red colobus monkey, baboon, black & white colobus monkey, blue monkey, grey cheeked mangabey, vervet monkey, red tailed monkey and the L'Hoest monkey. Additional Mammals such as chimpanzees, Sitatunga, mongooses, bush pigs, otters plus bush bucks, also visit this swamp coming from the adjacent Kibale National Park.

Accommodation: Kibale Forest Camp / Ndali Lodge / Kyaninga Lodge



Day Twelve

Kibale Chimp Trekking

Kibale Forest is the best place in East Africa for the Chimpanzee Habituation Experience. It is an all-day experience with the chimpanzees in Kibale Forest.

The Chimpanzee Habituation Experience begins early in the morning and lasts all-day long – you are with a guide, researchers, trackers and others as you are in the presence of Chimpanzees being habituated. Not only will you see Chimpanzees, but other primates, birds, butterflies, trees, and mammals.

The Chimpanzee Habituation Experience is different from normal chimpanzee trekking in that you are an active participant in the habituation process itself. The Chimpanzee Habituation Experience – also called CHEX is one of the more popular activities for our safari clients.

Covering a total land mass of 560 sq km, the Kibale Forest National is dominated with a dense verdant forest in the north that gives way to the medium altitude damp, ever-green, semi-deciduous forest in the south all together covering about 77 percent of the total land mass. The remaining 23 percent consists of a number of plantations having exotic conifers, grasslands as well as swamps. All these serve as a diversity of habitats to the various species of birds living within this park.

The Kibale National Park is a wide national park, sheltering a huge chunk of rainforest, and swamps that supports a diversity of flora and animal life. With a flourishing tropical rain-forest, swamp and charming diversity, this is one of the very attractive and striking forests within Uganda

Accommodation: Kibale Forest Camp / Ndali Lodge / Kyaninga Lodge



Day Thirteen

Transfer to Queen Elizabeth

We will leave Fort Portal late after excursions to crater lakes to drive to Queen Elizabeth, reaching just in time for lunch. We will check into our lodge and relax awaiting an evening game drive.

Set against the backdrop of the jagged Rwenzori Mountains, the park's magnificent vistas include dozens of enormous craters carved dramatically into rolling green hills, panoramic views of Kazinga channel with its banks lined with hippos, buffalo and elephants, and the endless Ishasha plains, whose fig trees hide lions ready to pounce on herds of unsuspecting Uganda kob.

Accommodation: Pumba Cottages / Katara Lodge







Day Fourteen

Queen Elizabeth game drive and boat cruise

Start your day early with a 6 o'clock coffee or tea wake-up call, ready for your early morning game drive. Make sure to ask the hotel staff for a packed breakfast that morning. A popular route for the game drive is the Kasenyi sector, well-known for its lions that prey on Queen Elizabeth's large population of Uganda Kob (antelope) that mate around this area. Wildlife to look out for includes elephants, antelope, warthogs, baboons and occasionally a hyena. If you are very lucky, you may spot a Giant Forest Hog, Africa's largest pig. Keep your eyes peeled to spot an elusive leopard!

In the afternoon, you will take a boat for a water safari on the Kazinga Channel at Mweya that connects the two lakes of Edward and George. This is likely to be a big highlight of your trip! The Kazinga Channel lies in central Queen Elizabeth, its banks fertile with large mammals such as hippo, elephant and buffalo.

The expert Uganda Wildlife Authority guides will identify many of the Channel's 100 bird species and you're likely to see African Skimmers, Great White Pelicans, Spoonbill and a number of Bee eater species. Hippos wallow at the edge of the water, huge Nile crocodiles bask in the sun and elephants come down to drink.

After this excursion, we will drive to Ishasha where we will be spending the night.

**Accommodation: Topi Lodge / Ishasha Wilderness
Camp**



Day Fifteen

Ishasha game drive and transfer to Bwindi

In the early morning we will once again drive off in the adventurous vast savannah of the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth NP to search for interesting sights such as the endemic tree climbing lions.

These lions in Ishasha climb on the tree tops as a way of protecting themselves from crawling insects and gnawing tsetse flies that are at the bottom. However, some people believe that they move from branch to branch in order to get warmth and stay away from the heat that is on the ground. In the branches though the winds are cool which might actually be the reason they are motivated to climb, though the real reason as to why these lions are able to climb remains unknown. In the evenings, the lions head to the trees to find rest and refreshment from the cool tree shades after having a sumptuous meal they might have hunted earlier.

After the game-drive we head to the lodge for lunch and then start the drive to Bwindi mountains the home of the mountain gorillas. The journey takes us from the savannah via cultivated hills to the jungle covered mountains of Bwindi

Accommodation: Buhoma Gorilla Camp / Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge



Day Sixteen

Gorilla Tracking Bwindi

You will have an early breakfast and be driven to the Park Headquarters for a briefing at 7:30 am about the rules of Gorilla Tracking. After the briefing, you will set off for the Gorilla trekking in the thick jungle.

The jungle is very lively with rich forest sounds. The trek ranges between 2 – 8 hours and you have one hour to stay with the Gorillas once sited.

Gorilla Tracking is a captivating and unforgettable experience which more than repays the effort needed to reach Bwindi and to trek through the forest. Bwindi has thirteen habituated gorilla groups that are tracked by tourists. Three of these are in the vicinity of Buhoma and one at Nkuringo. Uganda gorillas can also be visited in Ruhija and Rushaga regions of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

GORILLA TRACKING NOTE:

You can also choose to do the Gorilla habituation experience instead. By choosing this option, you will get to spend more time with the great apes.

Gorilla habituation experience in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is an initiative aimed at giving more time with gorillas to those who can afford. Gorilla habituation experience permits cost USD1500.00 per trek in the southern part of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and each gorilla family under habituation is visited by a maximum number of 4 people.



Optional Extra:

Batwa Community walk (\$85 per person)

In the afternoon after gorilla tracking, you can opt for a community walk among the Bwindi indigenous natives, the Batwa people who used to live in the Bwindi forest before it was gazetted as a National Park and learn about their life and culture as forest people. You will have dinner and stay overnight at your previous lodge.

For a long time, the Batwa pygmies depended on forest resources for survival. They used to hunt forest animals using spears and arrows for meat and gathering plants and fruits for food. They could harvest honey and depend on shrubs for medicine. They constructed huts using trees, leaves and climbing plants from the forest. In other words, one can conclusively say that the Batwa Pygmies lived in harmony with the forest, and animals like mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephants, birds among others.

When Bwindi Impenetrable National Park was gazetted and declared a world heritage, the Batwa were expelled from the forest and their life changed there and then leaving their lives endangered since they had no land outside the forest and were not used the life outside the forest.

The hike is moderately strenuous. Parts of the trail are steep but manageable. The path is well-maintained, and the guide will travel at your desired pace. The hike is not recommended for clients with major mobility issues or severe health problems that could place them at risk in an isolated environment.

Accommodation - Buhoma Gorilla Camp / Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge





Day Seventeen

Transfer to Lake Mburo

Have breakfast and drive to Lake Mburo National Park. Lying in the rain shadow area between Lake Victoria and the Rwenzori Mountains, Lake Mburo is home to over 350 bird and animal species including; the zebras, eland, impalas, oribi, buffaloes, water buck, hippos, leopard, reed-buck and hyenas.

With over 13 lakes in the area, this lake also forms part of the 50km long wetland system that is linked by the swamp. It's known that five of these lakes lie in the park's border. It was once covered with the open savannah and it contains woodland since there are no elephants to tame the unique vegetation. Within the western part of the park, the savannah is also spread with the rocky ridges as well as the forested gorges and patches of papyrus as well as narrow bands of the lush riparian woodland line in many lakes.

Depending on road conditions, we should reach just in time for an afternoon game drive. We will then check into our lodge to refresh and watch the sunset before embarking an optional night game drive in pursuit of the elusive African Leopard.

Optional Extra: Night game drive \$80 per person.

The striking leopard is one of the hardest large species to observe in Uganda, thanks to its nocturnal, solitary behaviour and well-camouflaged coat. Their survival is partly due to their adaptability to warm and cold climates and ability to climb trees while carrying heavy prey - keeping it safe from other predators such as lions and hyenas.

Lake Mburo might have the highest leopard concentration ever recorded, due to its perfect leopard habitat and thousands of impala which are leopards' favourite prey in Mburo. The Leopard's secretive habits and wide-ranging distribution make it difficult to establish the actual population. A total of 27–36 individuals has been estimated in Lake Mburo National Park.

Accommodation - Rwakobo Rock



Day Eighteen

Lake Mburo walking safari and end of safari

We will have an early morning game drive with a packed breakfast in tow. We will go catch the morning light in all its glory with the added bonus of the wildlife.

We will then leave our vehicle and embark on a guided walking safari through the park.

Lake Mburo is one of the few parks where a walking safari is safe and highly recommended.

There are different trails that you can follow during these game walks in Lake Mburo national park. At Rwonyo, this guided walk will lead you to a salt lick where a variety of animals is attracted to the salty rocks. The trail to the western side of the lake begins at 7 am and usually takes approximately 2 hours. This early morning of the day, you may encounter hyenas returning to their dens and hippos heading to the lake. Walks through the woodland allow one to sight forest birds and mammals, and the hike to the top of the hill rewards visitors with an eye catching view of 9 of the region's 14 lakes. It is such a rare experience to be able to walk in a park amidst the wildlife with a breath of fresh air from the lake.

After our nature walk, we will begin our journey to Kampala/Entebbe stopping for lunch at the equator before proceeding.




The Tour includes:

- In-Country Transportation
- Activities described in itinerary
- Airport Pick-up and Drop-off
- Gorilla Tracking Permit \$700
- Chimpanzee Tracking Permit \$200
- Bigodi Nature walk
- Park Entrance Fees
- Kazinga Channel Cruise
- Bottled Water on Safari
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Relevant government taxes
- Full-Time English-speaking drivers and guides



Excluded:

- Meals and accommodation on Day 1 and Day 19
 - Drinks other than bottled water
 - Airfare
 - Visas
 - Yellow Fever Vaccinations (required)
 - \$20 Gorilla Trek Porter Fee (mandatory)
 - Gratuities
 - Personal Expenses
 - Trip and Medical insurance (recommended)
 - Activities not mentioned in the itinerary
 - Anything not mentioned as included
- 



Gratuities Guidelines

(This is only a guideline. You may use USD)

- Drivers (\$5-10/day, placed in a group envelope at the end of safari)
- Hotel Staff (\$3-5/day; place tips in the Staff Box at reception)
- Chimpanzee Ranger (\$10-15, depending on the quality of your experience)
- Bigodi Walk Guide (\$5-10)
- Canoe Guide (\$5)
- Boat Captain (\$5-10)
- Gorilla Ranger/Tracker (\$10-20, depending on quality of your experience) There will be a lead Ranger, and several assistant Rangers. You may opt to tip them as well, \$5-10.
- Porter during Gorilla Trek (hiring at \$20 is mandatory, gratuity \$10-15 depending on level of assistance) We will stop at a safe ATM prior to departure so that you can get Ugandan Shillings.

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You will not need a lot, but if you plan to buy crafts at the market or from the communities, or snacks during gas/bathroom breaks, you will want to use shillings.

We have found that taking the equivalent of \$50-100 USD from the ATM is sufficient, and any extra can be left as tips before you leave Uganda.