

## Gorilla & Wildlife Walking Safari, Uganda

A wildlife adventure like no other - tracking great apes in their natural environment.



### Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

### Holiday overview

Style	Walking Safaris
Accommodation	Hotels, Lodges, Guest farm
Grade	Gentle
Duration	17 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	Walks on: 8 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Maximum altitude	2,300m, Rwenzori Mountains, Day 8
Trip Leader	Local Leader Uganda
Land only	Joining in Entebbe, Uganda

**Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available**



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# Group departure Dates and Prices

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## 2026 Dates:

Sat 24 Jan - Mon 09 Feb

Sat 25 Jul - Mon 10 Aug

## Group prices

Visit the holiday pages of our website for up-to-date land only and flight inclusive prices for all group departure dates. Single supplement options can also be found here.

<https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/holiday/gorilla-wildlife-walking-safari-uganda>

**Deposit** - Please note that at the time of booking we require a higher deposit to cover the cost of chimpanzee and gorilla permits. If for any reason we are unable to secure the permits and we have to cancel the trip, you will of course receive a full refund. However, if you cancel the trip for any reason, this deposit is non-refundable. Please contact the office for full details or refer to our terms and conditions at the Essential Information page of our website.

## No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

## Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

## Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

## Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

## Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

## Trip highlights

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- Track and observe rare mountain gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and chimpanzees in Kibale
- Enjoy exciting safaris by jeep, boat, foot and bicycle in Uganda's top national parks
- See an incredibly diversity of birds and animals including elephants, giraffes, zebras, rhino, monkeys, big cats, hippo and buffalo
- Walk to spectacular viewpoints in Kibale Forest and Rwenzori Mountains National Park
- Stay in delightful accommodation set in idyllic surroundings where you can enjoy armchair wildlife viewing and birdwatching
- Discover a dynamic, fascinating country with wonderfully warm and welcoming people

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Fly to Entebbe, Uganda.
Day 3	Visit Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. Drive to Murchison Falls NP.
Day 4	Game drive in Murchison Falls NP. Afternoon boat trip on the River Nile to Murchison Falls.
Days 5-6	Drive to Kibale NP. Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale Forest. Walk in Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary.
Days 7-8	Walking in the Kibale Forest and Rwenzori Mountains NP. Drive to Queen Elizabeth NP.
Day 9	Safari drive in Queen Elizabeth NP, followed by a boat trip on the Kazinga Channel.
Days 10-11	Game drive to see tree climbing lions in the Ishasha Sector. Continue to Bwindi NP. Walk Ivy River Trail.
Day 12	Gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Day 13	Walk to Kisoro town. Drive to Lake Bunyonyi.
Day 14	Drive to Lake Mburo National Park. Guided cycle ride.
Days 15-16	Safari walk in Lake Mburo NP. Drive to Entebbe. Transfer to airport for flight home.
Day 17	Arrive London.

## Trip summary

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With its lush and varied landscape of tropical rainforest, high mountains, crater lakes, manicured plantations and swathes of bushland, Uganda seems to encapsulate the African continent in one country. Like many of its African neighbours it has an abundance of big game, but unlike other safari hotspots, Uganda has a wildlife jewel that makes it exceptional: seeing mountain gorillas and chimpanzees in their natural environment.

With only around 1,000 mountain gorillas remaining in the wild - scattered through the mist-covered mountain forests of Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo - tracking them is a genuine once-in-a-lifetime experience. In the protected Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, a small number of these endangered gorilla families have been habituated to accept the presence of people. Guided by expert rangers through the dense forest undergrowth, the moment that you come face to face with a mighty silverback and its family takes your breath away. Seeing them play, sleep, eat and interact within their close-knit family groups is profoundly moving and utterly unforgettable. The time spent tracking and observing a troop of chimpanzees in Kibale National Park is every bit as special.

In addition to tracking Uganda's great apes, you'll go on safari in the country's best national parks including Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo. Exploring by jeep, foot, boat and bike, you'll see lions, elephants, zebra, giraffe, boks and hippos as well as myriad species of birds. You'll also cruise on the Nile, take nature walks in varied landscapes, and enjoy a scenic hike in Rwenzori Mountains National Park - the highest mountain range in Africa.

During your time in Uganda, you'll stay in attractive safari lodges and a guest farm, all of which offer high levels of comfort, friendly service, and beautiful settings where you can feel at one with your natural surroundings.

As you travel around this dynamic, engaging and beautiful country, with the friendliest of people and the most captivating wildlife, you'll understand why Uganda is considered the 'Pearl of Africa'.

## Special notes

### Gorilla tracking and permits

With so few mountain gorillas in existence, gorilla tracking is a unique experience. As these are wild animals there is not a 100% guaranteed sighting, however the ranger guides have an impeccably high success rate. Gorilla tracking is an exclusive experience in which small groups can observe up close the mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. It is for this reason that daily permits for gorilla tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park are extremely limited. We advise that you book early to avoid disappointment as they can sell out early. Gorilla permits are included in the price of your holiday.

### Grading

Whilst the walking holiday is graded as gentle overall, we would advise that the gorilla and chimpanzee tracking in the forests will be the toughest days. The forests can present some challenging terrain with uphill walking taking you beyond any marked paths. You can be walking for anything from one to seven hours, this is entirely dependent on where the apes are situated in the forest.

### Respecting the wildlife

The safaris on this holiday will be undertaken in national parks where the animals are wild. For your safety please respect the wildlife, never try to touch a wild animal and keep noise to a minimum whilst on the vehicle or on foot during your safari. It is important that you listen carefully to the instructions given by your guides. It may be necessary that you need to be escorted to/from your room at some of your lodges due to possible roaming wildlife. You will be accompanied by Ranger Guides whilst walking in Kibale, Bwindi, Rwenzori Mountains and Lake Mburo National Park.

## Your guide

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In Uganda you will be led by a local English-speaking guide with guiding qualifications and valuable experience. These guides have extensive knowledge of the wildlife and are excellent at spotting and identifying the many birds and animals you will encounter. Pictured here is one of our guides, Raymond, who was a Ranger working at Lake Mburo NP for several years before leaving to become a tour guide. He loves nothing more than sharing his passion for Uganda's wildlife and ensuring that you have the best possible holiday experience.

During your tracking days and on some walks, you will be led or accompanied by a Ugandan Ranger Guide.

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London to Entebbe

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Depart London on your overnight flight to Entebbe.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive in Entebbe. Group transfer to hotel.

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On arrival at Entebbe International Airport in Uganda you will be met and assisted through the airport before being transferred to your hotel just a short drive away.

**Overnight: The Boma Hotel or Best Western Premier Garden Hotel, Entebbe**

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## Day 3: Visit Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. Drive to Murchison Falls National Park - 6-7 hours.

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This morning you will begin your journey to Murchison Falls National Park taking you past the hustle and bustle of Kampala, Uganda's capital city. As you will become accustomed to during your time in Uganda, road conditions are often poor and journeys therefore long and somewhat bumpy - welcome to the Ugandan massage! However, there is always plenty to see as so much of Ugandan life is visible along the roads as you pass through villages and towns. In between, the scenery is varied, lush and often very beautiful.

On route today you'll make a visit to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary for your first wildlife experience of the holiday. At the sanctuary you'll have a short walking safari to see up-close the endangered Southern white rhinos that are being re-introduced to Uganda. To date, the project has proudly provided a safe haven for 15 Southern white rhinos and continues to grow its numbers as the rhinos reproduce.

Afterwards you continue on to Murchison Falls National Park. At 1,480 square miles this is Uganda's largest national park and is abundant in wildlife and diverse landscapes. You will arrive at your accommodation for the night. Located on the banks of the River Nile you are likely to spot pods of hippos.

**Overnight: Murchison River Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 4: Game drive in Murchison Falls National Park and River Nile boat trip with walk to the top of the Murchison Falls.

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After an early breakfast you will take a game drive in the park. The drive takes you across the savannah, through the Borassus palm forest and across grassland down to Lake Albert where the Albert Nile heads north. You'll be in search of wildlife roaming the African savannah including elephants, lions, giraffes and Cape buffalo. Be sure to also look overhead, for Murchison Falls National Park has an impressive diversity of birdlife, including the black-chested snake eagle, secretary bird, colourful swallow-tailed bee-eater and, if you're very lucky, the prehistoric-looking shoebill stork.



You will spend the afternoon on the Nile where crocodiles and hippos reside, taking a boat trip along the river to see the powerful Murchison Falls. The waterfall is between Lake Kyoga and Lake Albert and is where the mighty River Nile forces itself through a narrow seven metre gorge and tumbles down over 40 meters with immense power. At the waterfall you will have the option to walk to the top to get the best view of the falls from above. The walk to the top takes about 45 minutes to an hour but is worth it for the close-up view which you can't quite get from the boat.

**Overnight: Murchison River Lodge (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 5: Drive to Kibale National Park - 6-7 hours. Lunch en route at Fort Portal.

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This morning you will leave Murchison Falls National Park for the long drive to Kibale National Park ready for your chimpanzee experience tomorrow. The drive will take about 8 hours and en route you'll drive past many scenic tea plantations and have a break in Fort Portal for lunch. You should arrive at your lodge in the

afternoon where you can refresh yourself and perhaps relax on the private veranda and try spotting the wildlife in the surrounding forest.

The 296 square mile tropical rainforest at Kibale boasts the highest concentration of primates anywhere in Africa and is home to 13 different species including the rare red colobus and L'Hoest's monkeys. It is also one of the best places in the world to track chimpanzees in the wild.

**Overnight: Isunga Lodge, Kibale National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 6: Chimpanzee trekking in Kibale Forest National Park. Bigodi Swamp walk. Optional community visits.**

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Today you will visit Kibale Forest and spend time tracking and observing chimpanzees, its most famous inhabitants. Kibale has one of the highest diversities and densities of primates in all of Africa totalling 13 species including the black and white colobus, blue monkey, grey-cheeked mangabey, red tailed monkey, bush babies and pottos.



After an initial briefing at the Kibale Visitor Centre, you will set off with your ranger guide and armed ranger. As you are walking through the forest, your guide will identify any primates you see as well as other birds and wildlife that inhabit the forest. Once your guides make contact with the trackers who stay in the forest, you will know you have located a family of chimpanzees and your hour with them will begin. As the chimpanzee troops are so big with as many as 120 family members, you will be observing them with other groups who have also tracked-in. You will be able to observe the chimpanzee's behaviour as they climb and swing through the trees, play on the ground, feed and interact with each other. It's a truly fascinating experience that is over all too quickly. You will then trek back to the park's visitor centre where you will be presented with your Chimpanzee Tracking Certificate. A great souvenir!

After lunch you have the opportunity to go on a guided walk through the swamps, of Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary which is adjacent to Kibale National Park. The wetland provides a home for many different primates and other mammals and also has an impressive diversity of birdlife. The walk will be led by a member of the Bigodi Community who will tell you about the local customs and way of life as well as being excellent wildlife spotters. After the walk there is the opportunity to take part in other community activities or you can return to your lodge and simply relax.

**Overnight: Isunga Lodge, Kibale National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: Hike to the 'Top of the World' viewpoint near Kibale Forest - 3-4 hours.**

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Leaving your lodge after breakfast, you will drive to the start point of today's walk at Lake Nyabikere known as the 'Lake of Frogs' in the crater lake region of Kibale. You follow a pleasant trail that takes you past crater lakes, small villages, banana groves and manicured tea plantations. Tea has become one of Uganda's most important crops and the country is now the third biggest producer of tea in Africa. Uganda's climate provides plentiful sunshine and rainfall, along with rich soil conditions and a relatively high altitude; in fact everything required to grow large quantities of good quality tea. As you walk and travel through the countryside you will no doubt see much evidence of this thriving industry.

Your picturesque path takes you uphill to reach an observation point aptly called 'the top of the world'. From here your exertions are rewarded with fantastic, far-reaching views over rainforest and crater lakes, as far as the distant peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains. After your walk you will have lunch and continue to your accommodation at Fort Portal.

**Overnight: Kluge's Guest Farm, Fort Portal (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 8: Walking in Rwenzori Mountains National Park - 5-6 hours. Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park.**

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Today you will be walking in Rwenzori Mountains National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site designated for both its bio-diversity and natural beauty. Located in southwestern Uganda, the Rwenzori Mountain range straddles the equator on the Uganda-Congo border and is the highest in all Africa with three peaks over 5,000m. It is home to Africa's third highest peak after Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya and provides a haven for numerous species of birds, wildlife and flora, including several that are unique to this region.

The trail takes you to a maximum altitude of 2,300m and partly follows the River Mubuku from which you'll get lovely views of Baker and Portal and, on a clear day, the snow-capped Margherita Peak, 5,109 metres, a truly spectacular sight of the Rwenzori Range's highest summit. Along the trail you may come across lots of wildlife, in particular chameleons, vervet monkeys and a variety of birds.

After your walk in Rwenzori Mountains National Park you will drive south to Queen Elizabeth National Park. This should take a couple of hours or so.

**Overnight: Kasenyi Safari Camp, Queen Elizabeth National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 9: Full day at Queen Elizabeth National Park with game drive and boat trip.**

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Queen Elizabeth National Park is home to over 100 mammal species, making it an incredible destination for a safari. The park has a rich diversity of habitats from open savannah to rainforest, dense papyrus swamps and crater lakes to the vastness of Lake Edward. Elephants, hippos, buffaloes, boks and waterbuck are among the mammals you are most likely to spot and you may also see lions although the population in the park is quite small. It is also an excellent park for birders to enjoy with a multitude of colourful and unusual species.



You start the day with an early morning game drive through the park, followed by a cultural visit to one of the fishing villages around the park to get an understanding of the local way of life. In the afternoon you will take a leisurely boat trip on the Kazinga Channel. The natural channel links Lake Edward and Lake George in Queen Elizabeth National Park, and attracts an abundance of birdlife, reptiles, elephants, buffalo and hippopotamus - all of which you will be able to admire as you journey slowly up the channel.

**Overnight: Kasenyi Safari Camp, Queen Elizabeth National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 10: Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park - 7-8 hours. Game drive en route in the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth Park.**

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After breakfast you will depart for Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The road conditions are very poor for much of the drive so be prepared for a long and sometimes uncomfortable journey.

On the way you will pass through the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park. At the entrance gate your guide will pop the top of your vehicle so that you can look for wildlife as you drive slowly through. Ishasha is renowned for its resident tree climbing lions as this is one of only two places in the world you can see them. However, there are only 20-30 lions in total so sightings are far from guaranteed. Along with the lions you may also see large herds of buffalo, antelope and hippo.

From Ishasha you continue Bwindi the home of the Mountain Gorillas. Of Uganda's forested parks, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is of course best known for gorilla tracking, but it also provides refuge to elephants, chimpanzees, monkeys and various small antelopes, as well as 23 bird species restricted to the Albertine.

**Overnight: Engagi Lodge, Bwindi (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 11: Walking in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - 5-6 hours.**

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Today you will walk through Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to Nkuringo via the Ivy River Trail. Bwindi is a primeval forest covering approximately 128 square miles. The forest is within a mountainous region so the trail will involve some steep inclines with altitudes from 1,460m to 2,160m, but during this wonderful rainforest experience you will be able to spot a large variety of wildlife. Colobus monkeys, Bush duikers, 220 species of colourful butterflies and 350 bird species are all abundant in this ancient, 25,000 year old forest. At the end of the day you will transfer to your accommodation for the night.

**Overnight: Lake Mulehe Safari Lodge, Bwindi (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 12: Gorilla tracking in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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It's an early start this morning as you venture into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in search of the mighty Mountain Gorilla. Sadly the mountain gorilla is considered critically endangered and only exists in small numbers, so this really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Mountain gorillas depend on strong social bonds and usually live in family groups of up to 20 with the silverback as the dominant alpha male. Bwindi forest has many family groups, only some of which have been habituated - a process that takes up to five years to get the groups used to human presence. For the trek, each group of trekkers (of up to nine people) is assigned to a single gorilla family.



Your day begins at the park HQ where you will enjoy some energetic dancing by a local women's group followed by a trek briefing. You will then meet your Ranger guide and assistants and have the chance to employ a local porter to carry your backpack and help you make your way through the tricky forest terrain. Initially you will be walking on forest trails but, as you near the gorillas you may find yourself on challenging ground which can be steep and slippery especially if it has rained.

The length of your day is entirely dependent on the location and movements of the gorillas. Your trek may begin at the HQ or, more likely, you will drive to one of the four different access points in the forest. Your ranger guide will then lead your group through the forest, happily sharing their knowledge about the forest's flora, fauna and the habits of the gorillas. Trackers will have spent the night in the forest at the last location of the gorilla family, and will then track them to their current location - radioing it in to your guide. The moment you hear the calls from the trackers is very exciting as you know you are finally about to come face-to-face with a mountain gorilla.

You will spend an hour with your gorilla family, getting surprisingly close to them, and you will be amazed how little attention they pay to you. They could be on the ground or in the trees, eating, playing or just sleeping. There is something intensely moving about the whole experience and you will undoubtedly feel immensely humbled to have had this exceptional opportunity. All too soon, you will be told that your time is at an end, and you will say a final goodbye to the apes and the tracker team before trekking back along the same route.

Back at the park HQ you will be given a certificate of achievement, say thank you to your guide and trek team and then return to your lodge to reflect on an incredible day.

**Overnight: Lake Mulehe Safari Lodge, Bwindi (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 13: Walk to Kisoro - 3 hours. Drive to Lake Bunyonyi.

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In the morning you'll walk from your lodge in Bwindi to the town of Kisoro. From here, you'll make your way to one of Uganda's most beautiful lakes - Lake Bunyonyi. The drive is approximately two to three hours, but the stunning views en route of the terraced mountains make this a pleasant journey through what is known as the "Switzerland of Uganda". On arrival you'll be able to take in the natural beauty of this area from the comfort of your hotel - the lake, the hills, and the prolific birdlife.

**Overnight: Birdnest @ Bunyonyi Resort, or Arcadia Cottages, Bunyonyi (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 14: Drive to Lake Mburo National Park. Guided cycle ride.

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Today you drive to Lake Mburo National Park. The park forms a mosaic-like habitat with rocks, dry slopes, open and wooded savannas, forests, and swamp. This diversity of habitats is reflected in the diversity of bird life with 313 bird species recorded in the including several species of eagles, storks, roller birds, weaver birds, kingfishers, owls and hornbills to name but a few. There are also large numbers of giraffe, zebra, impala and buffalo roaming the landscape as well as leopard and hyena although these are rarely seen during the day. Around the outskirts of the park, you will also come across herds of Ankole cattle which are farmed in this region of Uganda. They have very distinctive large, curved horns and are considered a measure of wealth and social status in the communities that have them.

Once you have settled into your accommodation, you will head out for a cycle ride with a ranger guide in one of the more game rich areas of the park.

**Overnight: Rwakobo Rock Lodge, Lake Mbuho National Park (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 15: Nature walk and game drive in Lake Mbuho National Park. Drive to Entebbe - 5-6 hours driving.**

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After breakfast you will have a final chance to experience the superb wildlife and scenery of Uganda as you take an early morning nature walk and game drive.

Saying farewell to Lake Mbuho you then start the long drive back to Entebbe. On the way you will stop at an intersection in Kampala which is directly on the Earth's equator! After lunch in a local restaurant, and a chance to stand with each foot on different sides of the world, you will continue to your hotel in Entebbe.



**Overnight: The Boma Hotel or Best Western Premier Garden Hotel, Entebbe (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 16: Group transfer to the airport.**

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If you have not added the optional shoebill excursion to the nearby Mawamba Swamp (see page 15), you will be transferred to the airport today for your overnight flight back to London.

**Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)**

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**Day 17: Arrive UK**

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## Our grading system

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Gorilla & Wildlife Walking Safari is graded as a Gentle walking holiday, as described below.

### Gentle

Trips within this grade typically mix sightseeing with easy-paced half and/or full day walks. On these trips, walks will be on relatively low altitude trails, for a duration of around 4-6 hours. On all of our Gentle graded trips, some ascent and descent should be anticipated, and there may occasionally be a longer walking day. Holidays within this grade generally use hotels and comfortable lodges although a few do have some nights camping.

These holidays are suitable for people who enjoy easy-paced walks in the British countryside or exploring on foot rather than in a vehicle.

## What the price includes

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Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ 14 x breakfasts, 13 x lunches, 12 x dinners
- ✓ 14 nights in good standard hotel and lodge accommodation on a twin-share basis
- ✓ All tracking permits, excursions and entry fees as described in the itinerary
- ✓ A highly experienced English-speaking local guide
- ✓ Ranger guides in Kibale, Rwenzori Mountains, Bwindi and Lake Mburo
- ✓ Safe drinking water
- ✓ All road transport as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK (flight inclusive option)
- ✓ Single, timed, group airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Visa fees
- × Tips
- × Optional sightseeing/activities
- × Locally paid bar bills and laundry
- × Evening meals in Entebbe
- × Optional shoebill excursion

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in this itinerary but if our first choice of accommodation is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



### **The Boma Hotel or Best Western Premier Garden Hotel, Entebbe**

Located close to Entebbe airport, the Boma Hotel has simple yet comfortable en suite rooms that come complete with 4 poster beds (with mosquito nets), TV, safes and coffee/tea making facilities. The hotel also has a pool, bar, restaurant and free Wi-Fi.

We also use the Best Western Premier Garden Hotel in Entebbe which is also located close to the airport. The hotel has a bar and free Wi-Fi. All rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, a minibar, a safe and tea and coffee making facilities.



### **Murchison River Lodge, Murchison National Park**

At Murchison River Lodge you will be staying in thatched safari tents, each with their own en suite bathroom with solar heated water. The tents are set among the trees and bushes with wildlife right on your doorstep. Hippos are known to roam the area and you will have staff to assist you to and from your tent. Rooms are under canvas, with mosquito nets and a solid wooden door. This family run lodge has a restaurant, bar, swimming pool and craft shop. The lodge enjoys panoramic views of the River Nile and Murchison Falls National Park.



### **Isunga Lodge, Kibale**

Isunga Lodge sits in an elevated position with magnificent views of the rainforest and the distant Rwenzori Mountains. The lodge has six peaceful, secluded cottages that have outside seating and are equipped with mosquito nets, hot showers and flush toilets. Lighting is provided by solar power. The lodge has a comfortable lounge area with Wi-Fi as well as a good restaurant.



### **Kluge's Guest Farm, Fort Portal**

Located on the foothills of Rwenzori Mountains National Park, Kluge's Guest Farm offers eco-friendly accommodation with en suite guest rooms, mosquito nets, private terraces, a swimming pool and a restaurant serving home-grown produce. It's a "piece of paradise" abundant with colourful flowers, trees and wildlife. Wi-Fi available in communal area.



### **Kasenyi Safari Lodge, Queen Elizabeth National Park**

Kasenyi Safari Lodge is located on the rim of lake Bunyampaka on the edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park. The lodge has an elevated, thatched dining structure overlooking the lake. Rooms are permanent safari tents built on platforms with thatched canopy roofs. They have large, stylish bathrooms with baths, spacious living areas and private decks. Bunyampaka is a salt lake, still mined by hand, and a magnet for the park's wildlife. You may also see flamingos there at certain times of the year.



### **Engagi Lodge, Bwindi**

This stylish lodge, tucked into the forest, is a comfortable, peaceful place to stay. Accommodation is in cottages built from local materials and offering a veranda where you can sit and enjoy the forest vistas and look for wildlife. Cheeky vervet monkeys are often to be seen in the trees outside the rooms. There is a lounge/bar, a dining room and an open-air dining deck with views over the forest. The food here is of a very high standard.



### **Lake Mulehe Safari Lodge, Bwindi**

Lake Mulehe Safari Lodge enjoys a scenic lakeside location and is surrounded by woodland giving it a sense of peace and tranquillity. Rooms are individual cottages, well-spaced for maximum privacy. Each has a good level of comfort and a private veranda to enjoy the lovely views. The lodge has a bar and restaurant as well as its own private beach by the lake.



### **Birdnest @ Bunyonyi Resort, or Arcadia Cottages, Bunyonyi**

Birdnest @ Bunyonyi is a lakeside hotel with a swimming pool, lounge, bar and restaurant where you can enjoy local and international cuisine. Guest rooms are comfortable and spacious with an en suite bathroom. Wi-Fi is available in the lobby and restaurant. The hotel itself is nestled among lush green hills with undisturbed views across Lake Bunyonyi and is a perfect place for a spot of birdwatching. Alternatively we may use Arcadia Cottages which are in a very peaceful hillside location overlooking Lake Bunyonyi and Mount Muhavura. Within its large, landscaped grounds there are 11 self-contained cottages built in a traditional style each with a balcony and veranda. The cottages are arranged around a central lodge where you will find a bar, restaurant and Wi-Fi.



### **Rwakobo Rock Lodge, Lake Mburo National Park**

This is a family-run, eco-friendly rondavel, style lodge with guest rooms in thatched cottages. It has a scenic setting on the edge of Lake Mburo National Park with fantastic views and a gorgeous sunset to enjoy. En suite rooms have solar heated water, mosquito nets and a private veranda. An open-air bar and restaurant serves a mix of homemade western and Ugandan cuisine and overlooks a nearby rocky pool where you can spot wildlife such as warthogs, impalas and bushbucks.

## Meal arrangements

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All meals included except dinner on day 2 in Entebbe. 14 x breakfasts, 13 x lunches, 12 x dinners.

## Flight arrangements

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### Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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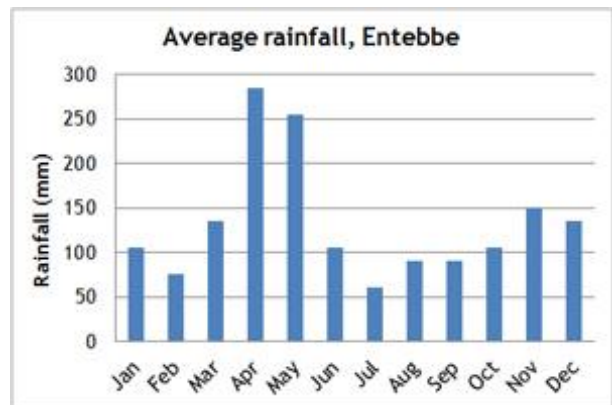
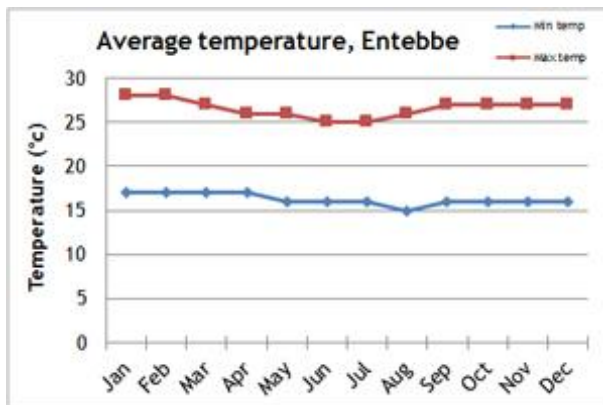
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



# Extensions

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## Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400.



### Search for shoebills at Mawamba Swamp

On the day you depart from Entebbe, you can take a morning excursion to look for shoebill storks at nearby Mawamba Swamp. Although sightings are not guaranteed there is a very good possibility that you will see this extremely rare and impressive bird during a two-hour guided boat trip through the papyrus swamp.

Included, is an early morning transfer to the dock at Entebbe followed by a boat ride across Lake Victoria to the landing site at Mawamba. There you switch to a traditional wooden boat crewed by two boatmen. They will take you through the swamps to the last-known locations of the shoebills. Afterwards, you return to Entebbe and are transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Please note that if you have a flight that leaves in the morning, you will need to book an additional night in Entebbe. Contact the office for a quote and further information.



## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- Our unique itinerary takes you to six of Uganda's best national parks with varied walking safaris and intimate, up-close wildlife experiences.
- Stay in hand-picked accommodation of a high standard in incredible locations, including two forest camps where you can feel at one with the surroundings.
- You will be guided by a local English-speaking leader with excellent knowledge and experience of the varied walks and sightseeing you will undertake in Uganda. They also have incredible wildlife knowledge. You will also be accompanied by Ranger Guides for several walks.
- All meals where stated are included, as well as safe drinking water during the trip.
- Your gorilla and chimpanzee permits are included in the price of the holiday.
- You only need to carry a day sack. This trip is supported by a vehicle which takes your main baggage between accommodations. All transfers and safari drives are by 4x4 safari vehicles with a pop-up roof and included in the price.
- A fixed group transfer to/from airport the airport is included at the start and end of the trip.
- Our maximum group size is 12 for this trip. This provides for a genuine small group travel experience and the best way to enjoy wildlife viewing.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

## What our clients say



*This holiday will live long in the memory. Our wildlife experiences were exceptional, especially the gorilla trek which was an absolutely magical day. Our guide, Raymond, was a delight to spend time with, not only was his wildlife knowledge excellent, but he gave us a real insight into Ugandan life. All our lodges were great - well located with good, friendly service and the logistics couldn't have been any smoother from arrival to departure. We would recommend Uganda to anyone if you want an African wildlife experience that is very different and immensely rewarding.*

*-Adam and Kirsty (private holiday)*



*We saw an amazing array of animals, including gorillas, lions, chimpanzees, elephants, hippos, rhinos and some beautiful birds. Everything was very well organised, the accommodation was of a good standard along with the food. Our guides, Jurius and Hamid, were very knowledgeable and cared about our welfare. The only downside was the unpaved roads which after a few hours was rather uncomfortable. We had an incredible experience which I can totally recommend.*

*-Elaine*



*The trip overall was most enjoyable and Uganda is a destination that pleased beyond expectation.*

*- Mr D, Manchester*

*The itinerary was excellent. We saw and did so much in the 2 weeks - birds, animals, varied and amazing scenery, plus the highlight was sitting about 2 metres from a gorilla. Most days was packed with activity, which I really enjoyed as I want to see/do as much as possible when I travel.*

*Mr S, Essex*



*A wonderful holiday which showcased the diversity of wildlife, birds, landscape and flora that Uganda has to offer. Savannah, rainforest, mountain, lake, all in a country the size of the UK. Almost every day had a highlight, Murchison Falls, the crater lakes, 4 out of the big 5, spectacular scenery and then there were gorillas. My personal favourites were seeing a leopard close up, Murchison Falls, L Mutanda with the Virunga volcanoes as a back drop and being up close and personal with a Silverback gorilla. If anything, this holiday was several holidays in one.*

*- Lena, Cumbria*



*Wow, what a trip! Seeing the chimps and gorillas in their natural environment on this walking safari really was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. With so few gorillas in the wild it was a very special experience, one I'll treasure for a long time. Uganda itself is a very beautiful country and has lots of wildlife to be seen, including the big five and countless colourful birds.*

*- Mr P, Gloucestershire*



*A truly bucket list experience! I thoroughly enjoyed myself and thought Hameed (not sure if spelling correct) was fantastic. I would highly recommend this outstanding trip.*

*-Sandra Jones, Swansea*

*Amazing Holiday. Highly Recommended with an abundance of highlights, beautiful country lovely people lovely food and amazing wildlife and scenery. It's absolutely a country I could return to in the future.*

*-Alison, Bucks*

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT

For almost four decades, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now have trips to all corners of the globe but are conscious that our holidays can have a detrimental impact on the world around us and want to do all we can to reduce that.

We have focused our main responsible tourism efforts on reducing the carbon emissions produced by our holidays, and counterbalancing this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole.

### Carbon offsetting

Since 2007, we have donated a percentage of our client and staff flight costs to the Ecoan tree planting project in Peru. Ecoan are a trusted local NGO who use the funds directly to purchase seedling trees with the long-term goal of restoring 2.5 million acres of Andean land.

Ecoan maintains over 100 tree nurseries across Peru where their tree saplings are grown and then transported to planting sites during the rainy season. They use native trees such as the Polylepis, as these can survive at high altitudes. As well as sequestering carbon, they help protect against soil erosion, landslides and the effects of extreme weather on local crops. As such, they are enormously beneficial to the economic well-being of the surrounding communities. This is very much a community-led conservation project, with the local Quechuan people coming together to plant tens of thousands of saplings in the Andean highlands where they live. During the annual Queuña Raymi (tree festival), over 150,000 native trees can be planted in a single day!

For every person booking a long-haul, flight inclusive holiday with us, Ecoan can purchase and plant 20 trees in Peru, and for short-haul flights, 7 trees. Typically, we send over \$7,000 per year to Ecoan, which is over 7,000 trees.

### Reducing carbon emissions

- ✓ We offer the majority of our clients a free, filtered Water-to-Go bottle to help reduce the need for single-use plastic bottles during their travels.
- ✓ We predominantly use locally-owned hotels and guesthouses rather than multinational chains. In some of our destinations, such as Bhutan, we use homestays. Not only does this type of small-sized, locally-owned accommodation have a much-reduced carbon footprint, but it also helps support communities.
- ✓ We evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel-efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, choose direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We have stopped offering unnecessary optional flights, such as Everest sightseeing. We try to minimise internal flights where possible.
- ✓ We recycle as much of our office waste as possible and have introduced a client portal to reduce paperwork and to make it easier for clients to manage their trips online.

### Wider commitment to responsible and sustainable tourism

- ✓ We are signatories to the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside other like-minded travel companies to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.
- ✓ We will continue to support several charities with whom we have a long-standing relationship, such as Shiva Charity in Nepal.
- ✓ Over the years, we have given sizeable payments to emergency relief when a disaster has occurred in the countries we operate in. We always try to ensure that these funds go directly to those who need them most to help rebuild their lives.

