

# Western Uganda: Gorillas, Chimps and Wildlife Safari

9 DAYS/ 8 NIGHTS, PRIVATE JOURNEY

Kampala, Kibale N.P, Queen Elizabeth N.P, Bwindi N.P.



Enjoy the best of what Uganda has to offer in nature and wildlife. Visit the endangered mountain gorillas, hike through a rainforest tracking chimps and enjoy sightings of wildlife including the Big 4 on a classic safari.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Fantastic safari adventures
- ✓ Meet Mountain Gorillas in the wild
- ✓ Experience the city of Kampala
- ✓ Breathtaking scenery
- ✓ Meet locals and engage communities

**Starts:** Entebbe, Uganda

**Ends:** Kigali, Rwanda

*Fully Escorted by a Redroad Tours' guide.*

### Day 1: Arrive in Entebbe

Meet a Redroad Tours guide on arrival at the airport in Entebbe. Transfer to a hotel in Kampala for an overnight stay.

### Day 2: Kampala Sightseeing Tour

After breakfast, head out on a sightseeing tour of Kampala. Experience the hustle and bustle of the city of Kampala on a hair-raising walking and vehicle tour. Get to visit the oldest food market in the city, the bus terminal, the king's palace, and other attractions in the city. Round off the tour with a taste of local cuisine at a restaurant downtown.

In the afternoon, head to a slum and participate in a food pantry. The visit to the slums brings you up close to slum life and allows you to make a difference by serving food to street children. After that, head back to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

### **Day 3: Travel to Fort Portal**

Set off early morning and take a five-hour drive west of Kampala to the city of Fort Portal. Fort Portal is situated right within close range to a host of attractions in the region, including Kibale National Park, the home of chimpanzees. Arrive at your lodge in time for lunch. Either spend the afternoon at leisure at the lodge or take an optional tour of a nearby village or surrounding crater lakes.

### **Day 4: Chimpanzee Tracking and Swamp walk**

After breakfast, head to Kibale National Park, home to one of the highest populations of chimpanzees globally, and offers one of the best places to encounter chimpanzees in the wild. The forest is also home to many other primates and wildlife species. Take a guided walk through the forest with the help of a ranger and track down one of the chimpanzee families. The four-hour adventure offers such an exhilarating and insightful experience of the chimps in the wild. Head back for lunch and a leisurely afternoon at the lodge. Later in the afternoon, take a walk through the Bigodi swamp connected to Kibale Forest and witness various species of birds and monkeys. Return to the lodge for dinner and rest.

### **Day 5: Travel to Queen Elizabeth National Park**

After breakfast, make your way down south and into the Rift Valley. The three-hour journey ends with arrival at your lodge, located in Queen Elizabeth National Park, in time for your lunch. After lunch, take a leisurely two-hour boat safari on the Kazinga channel, a water channel connecting the rift valley lakes, Lake George and Lake Edward. The channel is host to several wild animals, including Hippos, Nile Crocodiles, Antelopes, and even Elephants. After that, head back to the lodge for dinner and evening at leisure.

### **Day 6: Lion Tracking and Game Drives**

Start your day at 5 am and head out for an experiential learning tour with a lion conservation researcher. With the help of GPS, track down collared lions and learn about lion conservation and behavior. After that, continue on a two-hour game drive for sightings of other wildlife. Queen Elizabeth is home to various mammals, including the Big Four, but it's most famous for its herds of Elephants and tree climbing lions. Return to the lodge for breakfast. Spend the afternoon at leisure at the lodge.

Later in the evening, head back for a second game drive; with the help of your guide, scout for more wildlife that you may not have seen in the morning. Return to the lodge for dinner and rest.

### Day 7: Travel to Bwindi

Set off at 7 am and head south to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. The six-hour journey is a scenic drive up and down rolling hills through lush gardens, quaint towns, and villages. Arrive at your lodge in time for lunch.

In the afternoon, take a walk through a nearby village. Get to engage locals in the community, and learn about their traditions and way of life. Spend the evening at leisure at the lodge.

### Day 8: Gorilla Trekking

Have breakfast at 7 am, then head to the Bwindi forest park headquarters for a briefing from the head ranger before starting your gorilla trekking expedition. The trek takes anywhere between two to eight hours of total trekking time. It all depends on where the gorillas are on a particular day.

Bwindi is on a high altitude, averaging 2000m above sea level, with a rugged terrain of steep slopes and narrow ridges. Hence why the forest is commonly dubbed “impenetrable.” The hike is physically challenging, but with the forest being home to half of the world’s remaining mountain gorillas, it’s also gratifying. Get to immerse in the mysterious intimacy of the rainforest, alive with colorful bird calls. Upon sighting the gorillas, spend a full hour with them as they go about their daily life, feeding, playing, and raising their young. Coming face to face with these magnificent creatures is one of wildlife’s greatest fairy tale moments.

### Day 9: Travel to Kigali and Fly Home

After breakfast, take a five-hour drive to Kigali and get dropped off at the airport for your flight back home. A flight after 1800hrs is suitable. Alternatively, you can also take a flight from Bwindi to Entebbe and then catch your return flight home.)

### Tour Pricing

Number of travelers	Budget	Mid-range	Luxury
2	\$2,459	\$2,932	\$4,742
4	\$2,149	\$2,614	\$4,271
6	\$2,045	\$2,507	\$4,114

## Lodging

Location	Budget	Mid-range	Luxury
Kampala	Nexus Hotel	Hotel Africana	Serena Hotel
Kibale N.P	Kibale Forest Camp	Turaco Treetops	Crater Safari Lodge
Queen Elizabeth. N.P	Bush Lodge	Ihamba Lakeside Safari Lodge	Mweya Safari Lodge
Bwindi N.P	Gorilla Valley Lodge	Rushaga Gorilla Camp	Gorilla Safari Lodge

In the unlikely event that Redroad Tours is unable to provide the accommodation(s) listed, for whatever reason, Redroad Tours will substitute similar quality accommodation(s) at no additional cost to the traveler.

## Activity Rating

This tour is not suitable to anyone who is physically challenged. Most of the activities on the tour require a moderate level of physical fitness such walking and hiking, with the exception of gorilla trekking. Gorilla trekking can be strenuous and we ask that even when you are in great shape, that you practice walking or even hiking in preparation for your trek.

80% - Easy

10% - Moderate (Chimp tracking, Swamp walk)

10% - Strenuous (gorilla trekking)

## What's included?

- Accommodation in double occupancy (two people sharing) with an option to upgrade
- Local transportation in private customized safari vehicles
- Experienced local tour manager
- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners
- All activities as described in the itinerary
- Park entry fees
- One gorilla tracking permit
- One chimp tracking permit
- All tipping of local guides

### **Other costs not included**

- International Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Visa - \$100 per person
- Meals not included on your itinerary
- Optional activities
- Any personal expenses
- Drinks
- Gratuities for Redroad Tours' guide