



6 NIGHT CHIMP TRACKING, GORILLA
TREKKING & HABITUATION -
FLYING

SUNDESTINATIONS™

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Details: 1 night Entebbe - 2 nights Crater Safari Lodge - 3 nights Gorilla Safari Lodge

This overview tour introduces you to the scenery of the Ugandan landscape, the mountain gorillas of Bwindi, the chimpanzee of Kibale National Park; and the local cultures in the Pearl of Africa.

Enjoy gorilla trekking in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Forest, a one-of-a-kind experience; and a bonus visit to the neighbouring Batwa Pygmy community. You will also enjoy a gorilla habituation experience, an activity unique to the area.

Enjoy tracking chimpanzee in Kibale Forest, a walk to the "Top of the World" to view the crater lakes, and a visit to Wilson's Village. There will be additional time for alternate activities at both lodges.

This itinerary is mainly via road, but does include a short yet scenic flight from Kisoro to Entebbe.



Day 1 Arrive and **Overnight in Entebbe**

Upon arrival at Entebbe Airport, you will be met by your hotel transfer company. Enjoy a well-deserved drink and dinner in the comfort of the hotel bar and restaurant area.



Day 2 Crater Safari Lodge



ABOUT CRATER SAFARI LODGE

The well-appointed Crater Safari Lodge is situated in a prime location on a hill overlooking the second largest crater lake in Uganda. The views from the lodge are breathtaking, and the rooms enjoy views of the crater lake below. Close to the lodge is the famous Kibale National Park, home of the chimp trekking safari. The national park protects the lush and dense evergreen rain forest, which is the natural habitat of chimpanzee.

Crater Safari Lodge is the perfect place to base yourself for a true jungle experience in Uganda. The lodge is an award winning eco-lodge, and offers an unsurpassed remote wilderness experience.

The main area houses the restaurant, intimate bar area and lounge. The boma area is the ideal place to relax around a roaring and crackling fire; and share stories about the day's activities. The sparkling swimming pool adorning the manicured lawns is the perfect place to soak up the African sun and enjoy panoramic views of the sublime crater lake.

Early Morning Flight to **Crater Safari Lodge**

Your driver will transfer you to Entebbe airport in time for your 1hr 20min scenic flight to Kasese Airport, which takes place in a small plane (Cessna Grand Caravan). You will fly over scenic Uganda, and take in the aerial views of Lake Victoria and the spectacular hilly landscapes below. This is one of Africa's most scenic flights.

The drive to Crater Safari Lodge is roughly 2 - 3 hours from Kasese. The roads meander through small villages, verdant landscapes carpeted with banana trees and lush greenery. Tea and coffee plantations, small lakes and hills with views of crater lake valleys define your route to Crater Safari Lodge.

Settle in, enjoy lunch and take in the atmosphere before heading out on your afternoon activity.

Afternoon Activity: **Top of the World Hike**

The surrounding area is home to 9 crater lakes and abundant tea and coffee plantations. The famous Kibale National Forest is home to gangs of chimpanzee, and the neighbouring Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary is home to abundant birdlife and primates. The "Top of the World" viewpoint hike offers breathtaking views of the 9 crater lakes as well as Uganda's landscape.



Day 3 Tracking Chimpanzee in the Kibale National Park

Today is the day you will enjoy tracking and observing chimpanzee in the wild! You will need to pre-arrange your trekking time.

There are two slots - morning and afternoon.

- Get up early, have a full breakfast and amazing Ugandan coffee.
- Set off on your morning activity of a crater lake or visit Wilson's Village before the chimp trek. If you have the morning permit, these activities can be done after your chimp tracking.
- Depart for the chimpanzee trek. It's a 15 minute drive to the starting point. Walks leave Kanyanchu Visitor Centre at 08.00, 11.00 and 14.00 and last between 2-5 hours. Early arrival to allow for registration and briefing is recommended. Contact time with chimpanzees is limited to one hour; and participants must be aged 16 or over.
- Lunch is at the lodge
- If there's time in the day, we highly recommend a guided walk to the **Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary**, a fascinating boardwalk trail that meanders through the papyrus swamp.



ABOUT CHIMPANZEE TRACKING IN KIBALE:

The Kibale National Park is carpeted with gnarled vines, lush greenery and wild jungle terrain. The moist evergreen forest is a varied tract of tropical land, comprising over 351 tree species, 70 species of mammal, 375 species of bird and - most famously - is home to 1 species of primate!

Needless to say, there's plenty to see during your walk through the park. The habitat is ideal for gangs of chimpanzee, which are located by listening carefully for vocalisations and the loud swaying of trees. The chimps are very vocal and notoriously cheeky. Watch as they launch between branches and fly through the air.

During your walk you will be encouraged to tread carefully - although an easy walk, the terrain is dense. Your guide will teach you about the complexities of chimp behaviour and their highly-developed mental capacity.

Day 4 Road Transfer to Gorilla Safari Lodge

Your driver will collect you from your hotel. There will be a packed breakfast from your hotel. You will enjoy a 8 - 10 hour adventurous road transfer through Uganda where you will end up at Gorilla Safari Lodge, located on the edge of the verdant Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.



ABOUT GORILLA SAFARI LODGE:

Gorilla Safari Lodge sits comfortably at the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, a primeval forest and lush jungle region in south west Uganda.

This national park is home to wild gorillas, forest elephants and 23 species of bird endemic to the area. Located an 8 minute walk from the briefing point for trekking makes the lodge a sought after accommodation option for gorilla trekking safaris.

Banana and guava trees cocoon the 18 bedroomed lodge, and in the distance there are views of the forest jungle with its ancient canopy of trees decorating the lofty hills.

Day 4 (continued)

The journey time is dependant on how often you stop during your time on the road. Your driver will always stop upon request, and let you know the various stopping points en route.

Meander your way past hilly tea plantations, muddy roads fringed by banana trees, coffee plantations and carpets of lush greenery smothering vast tropical landscapes. Dotted across the region you'll stumble across small villages, reed huts and friendly locals. Expect awe-inspiring views of misty horizons hovering over pristine crater lakes as you head up into the hills.

Your driver will stop en route so that you can take in the views. Feel free to ask him questions about the area. Uganda certainly lives up to its reputation as being the "Pearl of Africa" and this drive introduces you to the remote, untouched beauty of this country. After an eye-opening journey into paradise, you will find yourself at the jungle-style entrance of Gorilla Safari Lodge - a warm and welcoming haven on the fringe of the jungle forest.



Day 5 Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Forest

Today is the day you will enjoy a gorilla trekking experience. You can choose the degree of difficulty when it comes to trekking. You will need to pre-arrange your trekking time.

- Get up early, have a full breakfast and amazing Ugandan coffee.
- You will walk the short 8 minute walk to the starting point for the briefing with the rangers and porters.
- At the briefing point you will be assigned to a Gorilla family. Your personal ranger will lead your group for the trek.
- You have the option of employing a porter to carry your gear (advisable). Porters have walked in excess of 3 hours to the briefing point in the hopes of being selected to accompany you on your trek. By supporting them, you are also supporting the local communities.
- A packed lunch is provided. You will stop en route to enjoy your lunch.



ABOUT GORILLA TREKKING IN UGANDA:

The Bwindi is the oldest rainforest jungle, and was recognised as a World Heritage Site in 1994. There are numerous gorilla groups and over 400 species of plants, 120 species of mammal, and 23 species of bird endemic to the area. You might be lucky enough to see the bonobo monkeys, reptiles, and even the rare forest elephants.

There are many different gorilla groups to track in the forest, some of which are more habituated than others. You will be briefed beforehand about the individuals or groups that you will be tracking.

Locating the gorillas can take anything from a few hours to a full day arduous trek through tricky terrain. The gorillas located high up on the steep slopes are less habituated, and somewhat more burly than the ones on the lower slopes.

Day 6 Gorilla Habituation in Bwindi Impenetrable National Forest

You've spent hours with a particular gorilla family, trekked through the jungle and have knowledge of the terrain. It's now time to become acquainted with the truly wild mountain gorillas of Bwindi. These massive primates and giant silverbacks dwell high-up on the slopes of the volcanoes in the jungle, and rarely come into contact with humans.

The habituation trek involves joining researchers on a hike to visit the identified wild gorilla groups. The idea is that the gorillas get used to the presence of humans, and identify us as non-threatening.

You will be briefed about your gorilla trekking adventure at the starting point (same as for the gorilla trekking) after which you will be led by experienced gorilla trackers onto the slopes of the jungle laden volcanoes of Bwindi.

ABOUT THE GORILLA HABITUATION:

The Gorilla Experience means spending all day on a trek in the forest which includes 4 hours with a gorilla family. It is only available in Uganda (Rushaga) where Gorilla Safari Lodge is located. This is an intimate, one of a kind experience where you spend time with researchers, trackers, rangers and conservationists. This is all part of getting a gorilla family used to human presence, a process which takes \pm 2-3 years.



Day 7 Kisoro to Entebbe

Enjoy a 2 - 3 hour adventurous road transfer from Gorilla Safari Lodge to Kisoro Airport. This will be an extremely early morning departure, which means there will be a packed breakfast for the road. You will fly in a small plane over scenic Uganda, and take in the aerial views of Lake Victoria and the spectacular hilly landscapes below.

This is one of Africa's most scenic flights. The duration of the flight is approx. 1hr 15mins and takes place in a Cessna Grand Caravan. You will arrive in Entebbe before midday, in time to connect with your international flight. If your homeward bound flight departs the following day, you will overnight in Entebbe.

Catch up on your sleep, and relax before the long homeward bound journey.



For rates and reservations please contact the reservations office on:

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