

Best of Uganda Custom Safari

By Next Adventure in association with Classic Africa Safaris

Murchison Falls, Kibale Forest, Queen Elizabeth NP, Bwindi and Lake Mburo

Classic Africa Safaris brings a total of over 85 years combined experience to its customers. We endeavour to ensure that every safari runs smoothly. We take great pride in our work and do our best to demonstrate that you are in capable hands. We pay attention to detail and are flexible whenever possible to accommodate our customers.

Please remember though, that you are in Africa, and no matter how capable we are, things don't always work or operate as you are accustomed to. Patience, a sense of adventure and humour should be brought with you!

Please consult your international air itinerary for flight details which are subject to change.

Your itinerary includes detailed descriptions and information pertinent to your tour and safari. Guide, bird and wildlife books and maps may be consulted to enhance your experience.

*The lodge, hotel and camp descriptions are those of the owners.
Next Adventure cannot verify the accuracy of the descriptions or images used.*

Important Notes Regarding Passports & Visas:

Before departure: Ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your travel dates. Also, you will need at least 1 blank page in your passport for visas for entry and exit stamps.

On arrival: A visa for Uganda is easily obtained on arrival for US \$50 per person. All visa requirements and fees are subject to change. Please be sure you have correct change to pay for your visas and double-check that you have been given enough days for your stay before leaving the desk.

Day 1 Arrive in Entebbe, Uganda

Arrive at Entebbe International Airport, meet and greet and transfer to your accommodation. Overnight at **Karibu Guesthouse** where your stay includes breakfast. Dinner this evening, if desired, is on your own.

Karibu Guest House is a small boutique property set on the hillside of Entebbe overlooking Lake Victoria. Its four spacious en-suite rooms are individually styled and decorated, each with its own unique colour theme. Being a small property, Karibu's owner-management couple (Leslie and Kevin) and the Karibu staff work hard to ensure all of their guests receive a high level of friendly, personalised service through-out their stay.



Day 2 Drive to Murchison Falls

This morning we start our journey in Uganda and drive about 6 hours to Murchison Falls National Park. This is Uganda's largest national park, with an area of 3840km². It lies in the core of the Murchison Falls Conservation Area. This impressive park protects a chunk of untamed African savannah bisected by the mighty river Nile. The dramatic Murchison Falls, where the world's longest river explodes violently through a narrow cleft in the Rift Valley escarpment to plunge into a frothing pool 43m below strikes an exhilarating impression on all 5 senses. Murchison Falls is occupied mainly by lush grasslands. The highest diversity of wildlife is found on the open plains north of the Nile, where elephant, buffalo, giraffe and a huge variety of antelope are regularly encountered. The Nile itself boasts one of Africa's densest hippo and

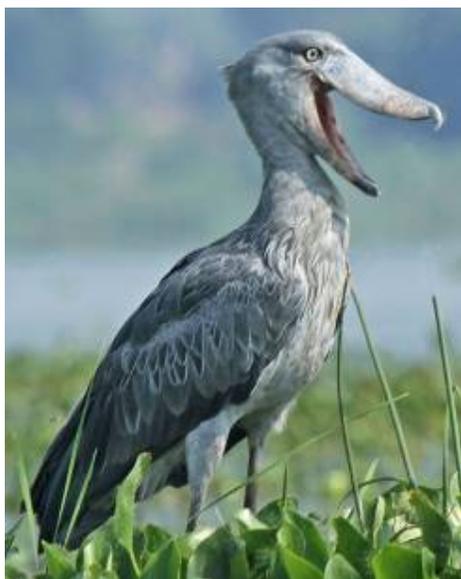
crocodile populations, and a dazzling variety of water birds including the world's most accessible wild population of the rare shoebill.

Overnight at **Paraa Safari Lodge** (BLD)

Paraa Lodge is located in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda's largest game reserve. The 54 rooms are well appointed with ceiling fans, veranda and private bathroom. The lodge has two levels and there are no elevators although two rooms have been equipped for disabled use on the ground floor. Electricity is available until 1.00am. The Captain's Table restaurant offers international cuisine and is located on the upper floor together with the Explorers Bar, both benefiting from the superb view of the River Nile.



Day 3	Murchison Falls
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Today we get to explore the wonders of this magnificent park, by safari vehicle and boat. The shared launch trip takes you along the Nile to the bottom of the falls. Murchison Falls National Park is said to be the best game park in Uganda. During a typical game drive you can be expected to see a large number of antelope species, including the bush buck, the water buck, Thomson's gazelle and the dik dik to name but a few. Larger herbivores, such as giraffe and elephant are present in the park in great numbers and often the lumbering giraffe will cross the roads right in front of you. MFNP is the most accessible park in Uganda to see the giraffe. Huge groups of buffalo are a common sight whilst exploring the park on a game drive. Primates, such as the baboon and the patas monkey, stare at you as you pass by and if you are a bird lover then Murchison Falls National Park will not disappoint.

Overnight at **Paraa Safari Lodge** (BLD)

Day 4	Murchison Falls
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This morning we have another boat excursion but this time to the Delta region of the Nile. Excellent chances of seeing the rare shoebill and other water birdlife. In the afternoon drive and take a ferry across the Nile to game drive in the northern sector of the park, most of the game is to be found in the area north of the Victoria Nile River and East of the Albert Nile and Lake Albert. This is where part of the movie *The African Queen* was filmed. Game is now returning quite rapidly and game drives can be very exciting. Game often seen includes elephant, oribi,

giraffe, waterbuck, hartebeest, topi, buffalo, sitatunga, bushbuck, warthog, bush pig, lion, leopard, mongoose, genet, hyena, jackal and bat eared fox.

Overnight at **Paraa Safari Lodge** (BLD)

Day 5	Drive to Kibale Forest
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Drive to Kibale Forest area, the drive is a full day of approximately 8 hours. After leaving the Rift Valley, we pass through beautiful agricultural countryside where every type of fruit and vegetable imaginable is grown. Upon reaching Kyanjojo, in the lower foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains {Mountains of the Moon}, we drive through beautiful tea plantations and into Kibale tropical rain forest.

Overnight at **Primate Lodge** (BLD)



Primate Lodge is situated in Kibale Forest National Park and is the perfect gateway for tracking the primates of Uganda. The lodge is committed to the conservation of nature and culture and is constructed using local materials and makes use of solar power electricity in order to minimize the impact on the environment. Primate Lodge features 8 luxury safari tents and 7 cottages. All the rooms are privately situated within the forest, making it an ideal place to unwind and enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds you.

The luxury tents are on a raised wooden platform and covered by a grass thatched roof, blending perfectly with the natural environment. The interior is tastefully decorated in African style, with queen sized beds, brightly coloured bed spreads and large windows to take in the forests. The en suite bathrooms are furnished with a natural touch of stone and bamboo.

Day 6	Kibale Forest: Chimp Tracking
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This morning we get the opportunity to explore Kibale Forest National Park. It is home to 13 primate species and a guided forest trek can be taken in search of one of the most popular primate species in the world – the chimpanzee. Although chimp sightings are not guaranteed, the odds are good with the chance of encountering them standing at higher than 90%. This morning you will go on a forest walk in search of primates. Whilst trekking in the depths of the lush green forest, you will be surrounded by bird song and can expect to see at least 5 or 6 other types of primate, most probably the grey-cheeked managebey and the red-tailed monkey and of course the chimpanzee. The walking is fairly easy due to the well-maintained trails and reasonably flat terrain. This afternoon we have a swamp walk.

Overnight at **Primate Lodge** (BLD)

Day 7	Kibale Forest: Chimp Habituation Experience
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Today we have the chimp habituation experience; this is a unique opportunity to really spend a day in the life of a chimp. It is a full day activity in the forest, so not for the faint hearted! It begins with an early morning arrival at the park headquarters where you will meet with the park rangers and UWA researchers. You will then set off into the forest to find the chimps' nesting site. Hopefully you will be in time to see them waking up, stretching and coming down from the tree tops.

In the early morning, the entire forest is waking up and you will have the opportunity to observe the sights and sounds as you peacefully watch the morning routine of the chimp group.

You will be able to spend the day walking through the forest and watching the chimps' daily routines, where they feed, what they feed on and the social interactions of the group. The UWA researchers with you know the individual chimps so they will be able to answer any questions you have what you have seen.

When the group decides that evening is coming, they will find a new nesting site, expertly build new nests and settle down for the night. At this point you will say farewell to your new friends and head back to the park headquarters.

Overnight at **Primate Lodge** (BLD)

Day 8	Queen Elizabeth National Park: Mweya
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Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park (up to 11 hours). The drive passes through Fort Portal and then south along the eastern length of The Rwenzori Mountains, with the hope of viewing the glaciated peaks. We gently descend into The Great African Rift Valley and Queen Elizabeth National Park and Mweya Lodge, situated on a peninsula overlooking Lake Edward and Kazinga Channel, offering beautiful views of the park with the Rwenzori Mountains in the background.

Queen Elizabeth National Park resides in a fertile, equatorial area and has beautiful scenery. It is Uganda's most popular and accessible savannah reserve, with a total area of 1978km². It is primarily associated with grassy savannah plains, but this impressive park also includes within its boundaries, leafy rainforests, dense papyrus swamps and natural volcanic crater lakes. As a result it has one of the highest biodiversity ratings of any game reserve in the world, including a total of 95 recorded mammal species and more than 610 species of birds. In the afternoon, we will explore the park and its wonders on a game drive and a shared boat cruise on the Kazinga channel to view some of the largest concentration of hippo in the world {reported to be about 30,000} and other game with excellent birding.



Overnight at **Mweya Lodge** (BLD)

Mweya Lodge is situated on a peninsula overlooking Lake Edward and Kazinga Channel, offering beautiful views of the park with the Rwenzori Mountains in the background. The lodge has been completely renovated to a high standard with excellent rooms, en suite facilities, restaurant, bar area, outside dining and a swimming pool.



Day 9 Queen Elizabeth National Park: Ishasha

Game drives in Queen Elizabeth National Park. Queen Elizabeth National Park is one of best birding parks in Africa, with 560 + recorded species and a record of 296 bird species seen in one 24 hour period. In the afternoon we drive to the Ishasha region of QENP (about 3 hours) and have game drives in search of its most famous residents – the tree climbing lions.

Overnight at **Ishasha Wilderness Camp** (BLD)



Ishasha Wilderness Camp is located in a magical setting on the edge of the Ntungwe river in the middle of the wilderness. The camp is composed of East Africa meru styled tents. Each tent has its own private en suite bathroom and dressing area providing hot water 'bush' showers and an eco friendly toilet. A central dining area, also under canvas, provides a comfortable environment for meals and an outdoor lounge area besides the river and evening 'fireplace' venue for guests completes this unique bush experience.

Day 10 Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable

Today we drive through the park to the Ishasha region in search of tree climbing lion (75% success rate) and other wildlife. After a picnic lunch, we continue to Bwindi Impenetrable (a World Heritage site) passing through the scenic area known as The Switzerland of East Africa.

Overnight at **Mahogany Springs Lodge** (BLD)

Mahogany Springs Lodge is a new luxury lodge in the Buboma, Northern side of Bwindi. Mahogany Springs is located on its own private section of the Munyanga River and the gorillas can regularly be viewed from the terraces crossing the river outside the lodge.

Mahogany Springs offers privacy and serenity blended with optimal comfort in a spectacular setting. At Mahogany Springs it is the little touches that make the big difference, from the tiny details in the design of the lodge through to the unrivalled service levels provided by the highly trained management team.

The lodge has 6 luxury and spacious suites, all with 2 double beds and en-suite facilities. Each cottage has its own private elevated terrace with chairs, table and stunning panoramic views. The suites are spacious with large double doors and beautiful windows. There are power points in the rooms as well as a dressing table/desk. All suites have large en-suite bathrooms with a gorgeously designed open terracotta shower. For added comfort and peace of mind all the suites have an advanced mosquito net system that wraps around the entire area of the beds.



Day 11**Bwindi Impenetrable Forest: Gorilla Tracking**Gorilla tracking day:

After breakfast take a short drive to Park Headquarters and meet with excellent local guides and trackers who will give a talk on the etiquette of gorilla trekking. We then hike into the forest where the gorillas were seen the night before and track from that point. The trekking can take from 1 to 6 hours and climb to altitudes in excess of 7,500 feet. The terrain is rough and at times muddy. Although the Hike is physically demanding the beauty of the forest and surrounding scenery make the trekking worthwhile. Once the gorillas are located all fatigue is forgotten, as the experience is often described as being the most profound natural history experience in the world. Picnic lunches are provided and it is important to take plenty of water. Cameras and plenty of fast speed film is recommended. It can rain at a few minutes notice; hence waterproof clothing is a good essential including zip lock bags for cameras and film.



Overnight at **Mahogany Springs Lodge** (BLD)

Day 12**Bwindi Impenetrable Forest: Batwa Cultural Experience**

Bwindi Forest is home to a fantastic diversity of flora and fauna, including some exotic plants and rare and endangered animals. The forest is also home to the Batwa pygmies. These people were the original dwellers of the ancient forest and were known as the 'keepers of the forest'. The Batwa lived in harmony with the forest and survived by hunting small game using bows and arrows and gathering plants for both food and medicinal purposes. In 1992 the lives of the Batwa changed forever, when the forest became a national park and world heritage site in order to protect the endangered mountain gorillas that reside within its boundaries. The Batwa were evicted from the park and became conservation refugees in a world that was very unfamiliar to them. Their skills and means of subsistence were not useful in this modern environment and they began to suffer.

In 2001, when the Batwa tribe was on the edge of extinction American medical missionaries, Dr Scott and Carol Kellermann came to their rescue. They purchased land and established programs to improve the conditions and lives of the Batwa. This included the building of a school, hospital and housing. The Kellermanns also developed water and sanitation projects and found ways that the Batwa could generate income and sustain themselves. These projects are now managed and operated by the Batwa Development Program (BDP). BDP works closely with the Batwa community to try to ensure that their indigenous rights are respected and they also benefit from the forest being a national park and tourist attraction.

The Batwa cultural Experience was created by the displaced Batwa pygmies with the help of BDP to educate their children and to share their amazing heritage and traditions with the world. A day spent with the Batwa gives you the opportunity to enjoy the following:

- Hike through the forest with the people of the forest. You will have a Batwa guide and he will provide you with the chance to see the forest and its habitants through his eyes.

- See how they lived and hunted in the traditional manner. Enjoy trying out your hunting techniques as the Batwa teach you how to shoot with a bow and arrow.
- Visit a traditional Batwa homestead and learn from the women how to prepare, cook and serve a meal. You will also have the opportunity to sample the dishes.
- Talk to a medicine man and learn about the medicinal properties of the forest flora.
- Hear ancient legends and traditional songs.

Overnight at **Mahogany Springs Lodge** (BLD)



Day 13	Bwindi Impenetrable Forest: Gorilla Tracking
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Second gorilla tracking day.

Overnight at **Mahogany Springs Lodge** (BLD)

Day 14	Drive to Lake Mburo
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Drive to Mbarara passing through the Switzerland of East Africa area and eventually into Ankole Cattle country around Mbarara. These cattle are incredible with horns larger than one can imagine. Continue to Lake Mburo National Park, game drive. The drive today is 6 to 7 hours.

Lake Mburo National Park is a small park, excellent for birding, antelope and other grazers, one of the only places to easily see Impala and zebra in Uganda. Game drives offer particularly picturesque game viewing with the Park's mixture of savannah, acacia woodlands, grassy valleys, rocky outcrops, swamps, lakes and rolling hills. Herds of impala (found nowhere else in Uganda), buffalo and zebra, plus waterbuck and eland are amongst the variety of wildlife to be seen. Birders will enjoy the Park's 310 recorded water and dry land species. In this valley we can operate night drives and walks. This is the only park where we will see Impala and Burchell's Zebra. It is an excellent place for walking and exploring a nearby Khopji to perhaps see Klipspringer. Game drive to the lodge.

Overnight at **Mihingo Lodge** (BLD)

Mihingo Lodge is a peaceful and exclusive retreat adjacent to Lake Mburo National Park. There are 10 private and comfortable tents on wooden platforms under thatch roofs, all with en suite bathrooms with hot and cold running water, showers and flushing toilets. The main dining area is a large thatched structure built of rocks, the wood of dead weathered olive trees found on the land and native grasses. Below the dining area, an infinity swimming pool stretches out from the rocks and seems to disappear into the vast landscape beyond. From the dining and pool area, guests can enjoy the view of a westward oriented valley and its stunning evening sunsets over Lake Mburo National Park.



Day 15	Bwindi Impenetrable Forest
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This morning we have a game drive or a bush walk before driving back to Entebbe.
Overnight at **Karibu Guesthouse** (BL)

Day 16	Bwindi Impenetrable Forest
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You are transferred to the airport for your international departure flight. (B)

Estimated Safari Cost: \$7,995 per person (based on 2 guests, 2013 rates)
Gorilla & Chimpanzee Permits: \$1,370 per person

Safaris include:

- Airport transfers
- Meet and Greet upon arrival
- Departure services
- Additional guides as needed
- Comfortable, modern, 4X4 vehicles, customized for maximum viewing with open roof hatches. These are usually Toyota Land Cruisers, or comparable vehicles
- Professional, experienced drivers, and guides who are knowledgeable in all aspects of Uganda and Rwanda Safaris
- All accommodations and meals as stated in your chosen itinerary
- All excursions as stated in your chosen itinerary, which includes all park fees and taxes
- Emergency International communications available
- Books available in the vehicles to help identify the flora and fauna
- Umbrellas, bean bags and blankets in the vehicles
- Courtesy bag which includes tea, coffee, biscuits, and paper napkins
- Coolers in our vehicles
- Bottled water in vehicles ONLY

What is NOT included in our safaris:

- Insurance
- Gratuities
- Beverages (however, bottled water is included in the vehicles only)
- Items of personal nature

Kili & Louise McGowan

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We take safaris personally!™

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