

## **17-Day Safari in Uganda**

### **Brief itinerary**

Day 1: Arrival in Uganda at Entebbe International Airport

Day 2: Drive to Jinja town and have an afternoon boat cruise to the source of the Nile

Day 3: Drive to Kapchorwa district

Day 4: Hike to Sipi Falls

Day 5: Drive to Kidepo Valley National Park

Day 6: Full day Game drives in Kidepo

Day 7: Morning game drive and afternoon Karamojong Cultural Experience

Day 8: Drive from Kidepo Valley National Park to Murchison Falls National Park

Day 9: Morning game drive and afternoon boat cruise on the River Nile.

Day 10: Drive from Murchison Falls to Kibale National Park

Day 11: Chimpanzee trekking and Bigodi swamp walk

Day 12: Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park and have an afternoon game drive

Day 13: Morning game drive and afternoon boat cruise

Day 14: Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park via Ishasha Sector

Day 15: Gorilla trekking Experience

Day 16: Drive to Lake Mburo National Park

Day 17: Morning game drive/nature walk and proceed to Entebbe

## **Detailed itinerary**

### **Day 1: Arrival in Uganda at Entebbe International Airport**

A shuttle will be available to pick you up at the airport, transfer you to the hotel, and provide an opportunity to relax for the evening. Depending on your arrival time, you may receive a briefing about the safari or have it the following day before embarking on the trip.

Overnight at Papyrus Guest House on a bed and breakfast basis

Excludes: Lunch and dinner

### **Day 2: Drive to Jinja town and have an afternoon boat cruise to the source of the Nile**

Jinja City is situated in Jinja District, Busoga Sub-region, in Eastern Uganda. It is famously known as an adventurous city offering a range of activities, including bungee jumping, zip-lining, tubing, water rafting, horse riding, and quad biking, among others. After breakfast, you will set out for a 3-hour drive from Entebbe to Jinja Town.

After lunch, transfer to the Nile for a boat cruise. You will explore the beautiful sights along the Nile and the adjacent peninsula, and also observe a variety of water birds, including kingfishers, egrets, herons, and cormorants, among others.

Overnight at 2 Friends Hotel, Jinja

Inclusions: Breakfast and Dinner

### **Day 3: Drive to Kapchorwa district**

After breakfast, embark on your journey to Kapchorwa. Kapchorwa is situated in eastern Uganda, in the Sebei sub-region. It's endowed with beautiful scenery featuring hills, mountains, and forests, as well as moderately cool weather.

Upon arrival at the lodge, check in and relax for the rest of the evening.

Overnight at Sipi Valley Resort

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)

### **Day 4: Hike to Sipi Falls**

After breakfast, you will meet a local guide and start off the hike to visit all three Sipi waterfalls. You follow a trail that is 7 to 8km long, which passes through the local communities and their tea and banana plantations, the main crops grown in this area.

Between visiting each waterfall, you are treated to breathtaking landscape scenery, from the green slopes of Mountain Elgon to the distant flat plains of Karamoja in the distance. Each waterfall offers a unique experience, ranging from plunging waterfalls to breathtaking views, caves, and rainbows. The entire hike will take between 3 and 4 hours, visiting the first waterfall from the top and then descending to the second and finally to the third, which is the largest and main one at the end of the trail. It features a large whirlpool, allowing you to dive in for a refreshing swim in the cold water.

**Optional:** Abseiling on Sipi Falls – You can do the thrilling abseiling on the biggest waterfall, which you visit last on the hiking trail. Abseiling along the gushing waterfalls, which plunge 100 meters from the top into the pool below, is quite sensational!

Overnight at Sipi Valley Resort

Inclusions: All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner)

#### **Day 5: Drive to Kidepo Valley National Park**

After breakfast, set out on your journey to Kidepo Valley National Park, approximately a 4 to 5-hour drive. The park is situated in the North-Eastern part of Uganda, bordered by South Sudan and Kenya. Due to its remote location, it is among the most isolated parks in Uganda, offering a unique atmosphere of untouched wilderness. The park is home to over 80 mammal species and more than 400 bird species.

Upon arrival at the Lodge, check in and rest for the entire evening.

Overnight at Kidepo Savannah Lodge

Inclusions: Breakfast & Dinner

#### **Day 6: Full day Game drives in Kidepo**

Kidepo is home to approximately 80 mammal species and boasts about 476 bird species, which include Ostriches, helmeted Guinea Fowls, secretary birds, African Swallow-tailed kites, among others.

Enjoy a cup of coffee before setting off for an early morning game drive in the Narus Valley. Narus Valley is renowned for hosting one of the largest herds of buffalo in the country. There are also high chances of spotting cats such as cheetahs, leopards, and lions, along with mammals like elephants, waterbucks, Jackson hartebeests, giraffes, and various bird species including ground hornbills, red and yellow bishops, weaver birds, secretary birds, and ostriches, among others. After the drive, have a picnic breakfast while observing more wildlife, then return to the lodge for lunch.

After lunch, head out for another evening game drive or have an evening sundowner as you watch the sunset and a few animals feeding in the distance or visit the Kanangorok Hot springs – one of the most permanent water sources in the park.

Overnight at Kidepo Savannah Lodge

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner)

#### **Day 7: Morning game drive and afternoon Karamojong Cultural Experience**

Have a cup of coffee/tea and head out for a morning game drive in the Narus Valley to view more game. After the drive, you have a picnic breakfast while enjoying the view of large herds of buffalo, waterbucks, Uganda Kobs, Topis, Warthogs, and, if you're lucky, a cheetah, leopard, or Lion.

In the afternoon, you will visit the Karamojong community, which is famously known for its semi-nomadic pastoral lifestyle and its proximity to the park borders. During the visit, you will have the opportunity to learn about their unique culture and traditions, visit their Manyatta homesteads, and be entertained by their traditional dance.

After the tour, you will return to the lodge for relaxation and dinner

Overnight at Kidepo Savannah Lodge

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

**Day 8: Drive from Kidepo Valley National Park to Murchison Falls National Park**

After breakfast, head out to Murchison Falls National Park, which takes approximately 6 hours, including a stop for a coffee break and lunch.

Murchison Falls National Park is the largest protected area in Uganda, with over 80 mammal species, including lions, Hippos, African bush elephants, and cats, as well as over 500 bird species.

Overnight at Bamboo Village

Inclusions: (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

**Day 9: Morning game drive and afternoon boat cruise**

Have a cup of coffee and head out for an early morning game drive starting at 6am, lasting for 3 to 4 hours. During the drive, you will see various wildlife such as waterbucks, buffaloes, oribis, Jackson's heart beast, elephants, and leopards, along with bird species like vultures, herons, among others. After the game drive, you will go to the lodge for a full breakfast or enjoy a bush breakfast.

Murchison Falls National Park is traversed by the Victoria Nile, dividing the park into the Northern Bank and the Southern Bank. The Victoria Nile flows through a narrow gorge, creating the spectacular Murchison and Uhuru falls. Lunch at the Lodge.

Afterwards, you will head out to the pier for the 2 pm boat cruise to the bottom of the falls. Regular visitors to the banks include Nile crocodiles, large schools of hippos, elephants, buffaloes, sandpipers, kingfishers, African Fish Eagle, hooded vultures, among others. After the cruise, you will hike or drive to the top of the falls.

Overnight at Bamboo Village

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

**Day 10: Drive from Murchison Falls to Kibale National Park**

After breakfast, you will begin the journey from Murchison Falls to Kibale National Park, which is approximately a 6 to 8-hour drive. During the trip, you will enjoy a spectacular view of the local people, farmlands, traditional homesteads, Mountain Rwenzori tea plantations, and have an en-route lunch.

Upon arrival at the Lodge, check in and later relax for the entire evening.

Overnight at Turraco Treetops

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

**Day 11: Chimpanzee trekking and Bigodi swamp walk**

After breakfast, begin the day with a transfer to Kanyachu Park Headquarters in time for a briefing that starts at 7:30 a.m. Then, later in the day, head out to the forest to observe the chimps.

Kibale National Park is home to the Eastern Chimpanzees and shelters over 13 primate species, including red-tailed monkeys, L'Hoests, Olive baboons, and vervet monkeys, among others.

During the chimpanzee trek, the ranger guide will provide detailed information on more than just primates. The walk promises to be both interesting and informative, and it is sure to be exciting. You will spend an hour observing the chimps in their habitat, noting their movements and feeding habits.

After the trek, you will visit the Bigodi Swamp Walk and take a coffee tour. The swamp is approximately 4.5km in size and shelters over 200 bird species, including the Great Blue Turacos, papyrus gonolek, blue-crowned eagles, and primates such as olive baboons, L'Hoests monkeys, and others. The local guides will share exciting details of the local lifestyles and culture of the community. After the walk, you will proceed on a coffee tour in the neighbouring communities surrounding Kibale. The tour typically lasts between 2 and 3 hours, and you will also have the opportunity to visit a coffee farm. If it's harvesting season, you will have the chance to hand-pick some coffee, see how it's dried and pulped, and enjoy a cup of locally made coffee.

Overnight at Turraco Treetops

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

### **Day 12: Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park and have an afternoon game drive**

After breakfast, you will proceed to Queen Elizabeth National Park, a 3-hour drive away. Queen Elizabeth was founded in 1952 as Kazinga National Park and later renamed to commemorate a visit by the Queen of England and Prince Charles. The park is home to over 95 mammal species and more than 600 bird species.

Upon arrival at the lodge, check in and have a hot lunch. After lunch, you will proceed on an evening game drive to view wildlife and birds. There are high chances of spotting elephants, buffalo, waterbucks, oribi, warthogs, leopards, snakes, and various bird species, among others. Later, proceed to the lodge and relax for the remainder of the evening.

Overnight at Aardvark Safari Lodge

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

### **Day 13: Morning game drive and afternoon boat cruise on Kazinga Channel**

After breakfast, you will head out for a game drive to view more game and bird species, including mammals such as buffaloes, olive baboons, waterbucks, wart hogs, and leopards, as well as birds like secretary birds, sunbirds, bee-eaters, vultures, eagles, and others.

After lunch, proceed to the pier for a 2 pm boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel. The channel is 32 Kilometres long, linking Lake Edward and Lake George. The cruise offers an up-close view of wildlife, including schools of hippos, Nile crocodiles, elephants, kingfishers, African Fish Eagles, sandpipers, Harmer's kops, and Herons, among others.

After the boat ride, you can decide to rest for the entire evening or visit some crater lakes, such as the twin lakes located in Magambo sub-county, formed as a result of a volcanic eruption. However, the locals have many myths about their formation. Some locals believe the lakes have the power to grant couples twins.

Overnight at Aardvark Safari Lodge

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

#### **Day 14: Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park via Ishasha Sector**

Today, you will head out to Bwindi via the Ishasha Sector, famous for its tree-climbing lions and multitude of animals. A game drive through Ishasha is approximately one hour long, featuring large herds of buffalo, kobs, and hartebeests. The tree-climbing kobs can be spotted in the trees, snoozing on fig trees.

You may have packed lunch and have it after the game drive, or proceed to Bwindi for a late lunch.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is notable for being home to half of the world's mountain gorilla population, with over 350 bird species, including 23 localised Albertine Rift endemics, as well as numerous butterfly species and other unique species. Upon arrival at the lodge, you will check in and relax for the entire evening.

Overnight at Haven Lodge

Inclusions: All Meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

#### **Day 15: Gorilla trekking Experience**

Today is dedicated to visiting the mountain gorillas. The park is a UNESCO heritage site and home to over half of the mountain gorilla population.

After an early morning breakfast, head to the Visitor Information Centre for a briefing on the gorilla viewing guidelines and entertainment from various cultural groups. The trek is usually between 1 and 8 hours, depending on how far the gorillas have moved in search of food. When you finally find the gorillas, you are allowed to spend an hour in their vicinity, observing their behaviours and feeding patterns.

Later in the afternoon, you can choose to relax or visit the Batwa community. The Batwa are believed to be the first inhabitants of the Bwindi Forest; however, they were evicted when the park was gazetted in the 1990s. During the activity, you will learn how the Batwa survived in the jungle.

Overnight at Haven Lodge

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

#### **Day 16: Drive to Lake Mburo National Park**

After breakfast, you will proceed to Lake Mburo National Park, a 4- to 5-hour drive away. Lake Mburo is one of the smallest parks in Uganda, home to large herds of impalas and zebras, Defassa waterbucks, hippos, and other wildlife.

You will arrive at the lodge in the afternoon and later have a hot lunch. After lunch, you will proceed on an evening game drive to view some game and birds. Later, proceed to the lodge and relax for the remainder of the evening.

Overnight at Rwakobo Rock

Inclusions: All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

**Day 17: Morning game drive/ nature walk and proceed to Entebbe**

After breakfast, you will head out for a nature walk/ morning game drive to view more game and bird species and later proceed to Entebbe

Overnight at Papyrus Guest House on a bed and breakfast basis

Exclusions: Lunch and Dinner

**The Safari includes**

- Gorilla and Chimpanzee permits
- Airport transfers
- 4 x 4 Safari Vehicle
- Batwa Community Visit
- Bigodi Swamp Walk
- Bottled drinking water
- Guide fee
- Nature Walk in Lake Mburo
- Boat cruises and Game drives
- Karimojong Cultural Experience
- Park Entrance fees

**The safari excludes**

- International and Domestic Flights
- Personal expenses, e.g. tips, souvenirs, alcoholic and soft drinks
- Personal insurance
- Visas
- Abseiling on Sipi Falls