

Uganda and Tanzania – African Highlights

Safari Knight Tour Itinerary

2021 Departures

June 12-28 – Sold Out

Focus

Birds and Mammals



Itinerary Rating

- Gorilla trekking requires a certain level of fitness. An easy and comfortable trip in general.

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Safari Knights

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Day 1

Arrival in Entebbe

You will be met by your local safari guide and transferred to your lodge. The Entebbe International Airport is on the shores of Lake Victoria and approximately 40km by road south west of the central business district of Kampala, the capital and largest city of Uganda.

Winston Churchill called Uganda the “Pearl of Africa” because of its beauty, colour, and abundance of wildlife. Uganda is a land of astonishing diversity and one of the last refuges of the endangered Mountain Gorilla. It has 22 primate species and some of the richest birding in Africa with over 1,000 species. Uganda has the highest mountain range in Africa with the Rwenzori Mountains and big cats and plains game.

Accommodations: Karibu Guest house or similar

Included: Breakfast

Day 2

Kampala

Today, you can rest and recover from jet lag and get acclimatized. Or if you are up to it, there are a number of possible local excursions. We have an opportunity to do rafting on the Nile in Jinja or visit the Entebbe Botanical Gardens. There is also a possibility of visiting the Mabamba Wetlands to look for the Shoebill.

Accommodations: Karibu Guest House or similar

Included: Breakfast

Day 3

Kampala to Kibale Forest National Park



After breakfast, we will start our panoramic road trip south west from Kampala to Kibale Forest National Park, passing through beautiful scenery and tea estates.

We will stopover for lunch at Fort Portal and then proceed to the lodge for dinner and our overnight stay.

Accommodations: Kibale Forest Camp or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4

Kibale Forest National Park



This morning, national park rangers will lead us into the mountain forests of Kibale to look for chimpanzees in their natural habitat.

There is also a chance to see other primate species such as the black and white Colobus monkeys, Da Brazza's monkeys, Patas monkeys, Galagos and others. There are about 22 species of primates in Uganda. There are also a wide variety of birds in Kibale.

Once found, we have the opportunity to spend an hour with the chimpanzees, taking photographs and watching them.

After the trek, we will enjoy some locally prepared cuisine at Tinka's homestead.

We will then head out on an afternoon walk in Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, known for its huge array of primates, Sitatunga, mongoose, otters, bush pigs and many bird species. Bigodi is a community-based conservation project.

Accommodations: Kibale Forest Camp or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5

Kibale Forest National Park to Queen Elizabeth National Park

Today we make our way from Kibale to Queen Elizabeth National Park. QE Park is well known for its tree climbing lions. The park is located in the western region of Uganda and is 1978 square kilometers in size. QE Park is known for its volcanic cones and crater lakes. It is also home to 95 mammal species including leopard, lions, elephants, buffalo and hippos and over 500 bird species.

Accommodations: Marafiki Safari Lodge or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch (packed), Dinner

Day 6

Queen Elizabeth National Park

After an early morning breakfast, we will head out on a game drive followed by a boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel. In the afternoon, we will go on a community tour at the Katwe salt lakes.

Accommodations: Marafiki Safari Lodge or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7

QE National Park to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

After breakfast this morning, we will make our way to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. This park is in the south western part of the country and is home to over half of the remaining population of the rare mountain gorilla.

We will pass through the Ishasha sector of the QE park and we will take this opportunity to look for the tree climbing lions.

Accommodations: Rushaga Gorilla Camp or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

After breakfast, we will begin our gorilla trekking experience. The park range will lead us through the forest in search of these wonderful animals. The trek can take a couple of hours to a full day depending on how far the gorillas have moved since they were last spotted. The terrain can be varied with ups and downs and does require a certain level of fitness.

Later in the day, we will partake in a cultural experience with a community tour of the local Batwa people who inhabit the local forests.

Accommodations: Rushaga Gorilla Camp or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 9

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to Kampala to Arusha

After an early morning breakfast, we will transfer back to Kampala passing through the beautiful Kigezi highlands commonly referred to as the “Switzerland of Africa”.

We will have a stopover at the Equator for photographs and lunch before proceeding to Kampala. We will arrive in time for a transfer to Entebbe International Airport to catch your international flight.

Your local guide will meet you at the Kilimanjaro International Airport. You will be transferred to the beautiful and tranquil surroundings of Rivertrees Country Inn, an ideal base to unwind and recover from your flight and your week in Uganda.

Accommodations; Rivertrees Country Inn or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day10

Arusha

We have a day at Rivertrees Country Inn. We can unwind or do a local excursion to the local hot springs. Maji Moto, known locally as Kikuletwa hot springs or Chemka hot springs is an oasis amidst the Tanzanian savannah.

The oasis is a unique phenomenon, the only place in Tanzania where the groundwater actively interacts with geothermal sources, forming a number of small lakes with warm, never stagnating water. Kikuletwa hot springs gets its name from the water that bubbles in underground caves, surrounded by fig trees.

Accommodations: Rivertrees Country Inn or similar

Included: Breakfast



Day 11

Arusha to Tarangire National Park

After breakfast, we take a drive north toward Tarangire to explore the evocative savannah landscapes of this National Park for a game drive and picnic lunch in a baobab filled wonderland. One of the lesser-known game reserves in Tanzania, Tarangire rivals the Serengeti with its vast number and diversity of wildlife. It is an excellent choice for travelers who wish to encounter more animals and less tourists while on safari.



The Tarangire National Park is known as a wonderful birding destination and features large numbers of game. The landscape is of particular interest too, due to the high number of baobab trees and its enormous herds of elephant. An often-overlooked gem, Tarangire's characteristic skyline, framed by the stubby branches of fat baobab trees, is the backdrop for superb game viewing. Lion and other predators are frequently spotted. The park boasts over 500 species of birds, including some species endemic to Tanzania.

We end the day with a late afternoon stroll on the shores of Lake Manyara guided by one of the local Masai Morani.

Accommodations: Maramboi tented lodge or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 12

Tarangire National Park to Lake Manyara

After breakfast, we drive to Lake Manyara National Park which offers a wilderness experience in diverse habitats, from its Rift Valley soda lake to dense woodlands and steep mountainsides.

Apart from a spectacular setting, the park is famous for its unusual tree-climbing lions and the vast elephant herds it was established to protect. The shores of the lake, encrusted with pink flamingo, attract more than 400 species of birds, many of them waterfowl or migrants. Large herds of buffalo, cheetah, Masai giraffe and impala roam the lake shores and the forested valley slopes.

A Lake Manyara safari is a fascinating experience, as the park also features a ground-water forest, Acacia Tortilis woodland and hot springs called Maji Moto. Troops of several hundred Olive Baboon appear alongside Sykes Monkey and Short-eared Galago. Cape Clawless Otter, Egyptian Mongoose, Hippo and Klipspringer are other park residents. We spend a night in a coffee plantation on the slopes of the Ngorongoro Crater at the Ngorongoro Farm House.

Accommodations: Ngorongoro Farm House or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 13

Lake Manyara to the Serengeti

After breakfast we depart for a drive around the cloud shrouded rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, followed by a descent into the endless plains of the Serengeti. With a name that means 'endless plains' in the Maa language, the Serengeti National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stretches along a vast plateau between the eastern arm of the rugged Rift Valley and the huge expanse of Lake Victoria. The park covers an immense 1.5 million hectares.

The park is famous for its vast, open grasslands, which allow for excellent sightings of abundant wildlife. Tanzania's oldest game reserve, it is also one of the oldest ecosystems on earth and its climate and vegetation have remained largely unchanged for millions of years.

While the Serengeti boasts incredible numbers of resident wildlife, it is perhaps best known as the site of the annual Great Migration, when an estimated three million antelope – mostly wildebeest — migrate to Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve. One of the greatest spectacles in the natural world, the migration follows the seasonal rains, spending the wet season on the south eastern plains of the Serengeti and the dry season in the woodlands of South Western Kenya.

Between January and March, the wildebeest give birth on the short grass plains of the South Eastern Serengeti. This time of year attracts a vast plethora of predators, from lion to hyena, leopard and cheetah. As the grazing runs low in this area the wildebeest move to the central Serengeti and then the Western Corridor before crossing the Grumeti and Mara Rivers on their journey North toward Kenya. Here the horizon fills with the dust of millions of hooves and the timeless drama of predator and prey takes center stage.

Accommodations: Serengeti Kati Kati or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 14

The Serengeti



Today we will spend another day in the Serengeti game driving and wildlife viewing.

This morning, there is an option to have a dawn balloon flight over the vast herds and endless plains followed by a champagne breakfast.

Accommodations: Serengeti Kati Kati or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 15

The Serengeti to Ngorongoro Crater



This morning we ascend the rift valley escarpment and descend into the lost world of the Ngorongoro Crater. The Crater, once a gigantic volcano, is the largest intact caldera in the world. Some maintain that before it erupted, it would have been higher than Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. Today the nearly three million-year-old ancient caldera shelters one of the most beautiful wildlife havens on earth.

A burbling spring and a large soda lake quench the thirst of the crater's inhabitants. Black Rhino are protected within the crater rim; giant tusked elephant wanders the forests; black-maned lion stalks the grasslands and flamingos crowd the soda lakes. An estimated 25,000 large mammals are resident in this bowl of plenty, including a large population of lion. Cheetah move in and out of the crater, while leopard is most often encountered in the spectacular Lerai Forest.

Among the smaller carnivores, both golden and black-backed jackal are abundant, while the normally shy and crepuscular serval are frequently seen during daylight hours. Vast numbers of buffalo, zebra and Thomson's Gazelle can be seen grazing the crater floor. On our way back to Ngorongoro Farm House after a morning of spectacular game viewing, we will stop in at a Maasai Boma. Lean Maasai, resplendent in their beads and furled in scarlet shuka robes, tend their herds on the crater rim and live within the conservancy in harmony with the wildlife.

Accommodations: Ngorongoro Farm House or similar

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 16

Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha

After breakfast we will return to Arusha where we will spend the next few days relaxing before our departure flight home.

Accommodations: Arusha Coffee Lodge or similar
Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 17

Arusha



A day of leisure in Arusha.

Accommodations: Arusha Coffee Lodge or similar
Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 18

Depart Arusha

A second day of leisure in Arusha before catching our international flights home.

Accommodations: Arusha Coffee Lodge or similar
Included: Breakfast

Included with your trip (Uganda portion):

- Accommodation on a full board basis except in Entebbe where only breakfast is included
- All ground transport in a private safari Landcruiser
- Cultural excursions
- All Park entry fees
- Chimpanzee tracking permit
- Gorilla tracking permit
- Batwa community tour
- Katwe salt lakes community tour
- Specialist naturalist guide
- Professional English-Speaking Driver/Guide on safari
- Local guides where required

Included with your trip (Tanzania portion):

- Accommodation on a full board basis except in Arusha
- Airport transfers from Kilimanjaro Int. Airport to Arusha on arrival
- Unlimited mileage in a 4x4 Safari Vehicle on Safari
- Game drives in Tarangire National Park, Manyara National Park Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park
- Park fees for Tarangire National Park, Manyara National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Serengeti National Park
- Activities: Chemka Springs Visit, Maasai Boma Visit.
- Specialist naturalist guide
- Professional English-Speaking Driver/Guide on safari
- Local guides where required
- Mineral Water in Safari Vehicle

Excluded with your trip:

- International flights
- All alcoholic drinks
- Laundry service
- Tips and gratuities for drives and guides
- Visa fees where required
- Items of a personal nature

Optional Activities:

- Balloon flight over the Serengeti. Please advise at time of booking if there is an interest so that provisional places can be made, and a quote provided. The price of the balloon flight varies depending on the number of passengers.