



## ***Nature & Cultural Safari Specialists***

### ***Luxury Eco adventure holiday in Uganda***

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#### **Introduction**

With the diverse landscapes of outstanding beauty, magnificent and unique wildlife, tourists' activities galore, all beautifully blended in the culturally rich and warm local Ugandans; one wonders why Uganda is the least visited among all the African countries! We designed this trip in an exceptional way to experience authentic African culture, the natural wonders, and the eco-friendly and most luxurious lodges unifying Ugandan's with their ecosystems. The trip is ideal for those interested in seeing and feeling the real Uganda, a country gifted by nature and referred to as the "Pearl of Africa" by Sir Winston Churchill upon his visit in 1908. You will be in a treat for first-hand experiences of the country's treasures from a totally unique perspective. This trip can be tailor-made at a time to suit you and can be adapted to suit your interests, budget and other requirements.

#### **The holiday**

Your luxury safari starts with Jinja at the source of the Nile. Here, we shall re-discover the point on Lake Victoria (the second largest fresh water body in the world after Lake

Superior) where Sir John Hannington Speke, the British explorer, discovered the beginning of the 6500km journey of the second longest river on the planet earth – River Nile, after the Mississippi River, to the Mediterranean Sea via Egypt. Enjoy the beauty of the white water rapids at Bujagali, and the surrounding community. Activities here include boat ride, white water rafting and Bungee jumping.

The next day we shall travel to Murchison falls national park, stopping over at the Nakasongola Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary where Rhinos are being bred and habituated in a bid to reintroduce them to the wild after their extinction during the wildlife hunting upheavals during the reign of Idi Amin Dada, the former president of Uganda in the 1970's. Murchison falls National Park was named after the magnificent falls along the river Nile. This is a point where the Nile River is forced into a 6.7m gap forming the most powerful water flow on earth before plunging in 43m pool down the river. The park also boasts of an astounding variety of animals including all the “Big Five” less the endangered black and white rhino; leopard, elephant, buffalo and lion. While in Murchison falls national park, we shall take a boat on the calmer stretches of the river, go for a game drive in the park, as we explore the serene beauty of this natural land and its biodiversity

You will continue your journey by flying to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest for the world's legendary activity, mountain gorilla tracking. If the skies are clear, our flight will provide a fantastic view of the picturesque undulating terraced hilly gardens of the southwestern Uganda and the captivating Virunga mountains on the border of Uganda, Rwanda and the D R Congo; crystal-clear blue skies in the shadow of the tropical rainforest canopy beneath the dazzling ice-capped Rwenzori mountain ranges will mostly amaze you. Gorilla tracking activity, while soaking up the natural beauty and life of the tribesmen and women of this unique part of Uganda, will give you memories that will last a lifetime.

From here, we proceed to Queen Elizabeth national park (optionally, we charter an aircraft). Named after the queen's visit in 1952, this is the most diverse national reserve in

the whole of African in terms of wildlife and habitats. Nestled in the western arm of the great rift valley, the park is a patchwork of ecological niches — explosion craters of volcanic activity that happened about 5000 years ago, fresh water rivers and lakes, dense tropical rain forests, open savannahs with acacia woodland pockets — containing the earth's greatest concentration of tropical fauna including more than 611 species of birds, 260 species of fish, 80 species of mammals and 1,700 species of plants, and over 300 butterfly species. We shall take on the most luxurious activity in this park, the Kazinga Channel Launch Cruise which is an ornithological paradise with over 200 species found in big congregations of water birds. The channel is world renowned for its masses of pelicans, African skimmers, gulls and terns, and migratory waders. Besides the hundreds of species of birds, you'll probably see other game like warthogs, giant forest hogs, Uganda kob, waterbucks, elephant, buffalos, and the crocodiles.

After having enough of this park, we cross the equator and drive to the park of primates, Kibale Forest National park. This park is famous for hosting 13 primate species including human's closest living relatives, the Chimps. We will spend a day with the chimpanzees and several other primates here including, red-tailed, l'Hoest, black-and-white colobus monkeys, etc.

Our trip ultimately ends in Kampala with a cultural retreat at the multi-award winning Ndere Troupe centre. This is the best cultural / traditional dance and performance troupe in the entire sub-Saharan African. The versatile artists here fuse traditional dance, music, and drama with modern arts by blending traditional instruments with modern ones to produce exhilarating sounds. They seemingly showcase endless repertoire of authentic African traditional dances and songs executed ebulliently by wriggling their flexible bodies and using various indigenous percussive, stringed and wind instruments.

**This trip will be accompanied by one of the best tour guides in East Africa; driven in a very luxurious 4x4 comfortable vehicle and sleeping in the most luxurious accommodation facilities in Uganda built, with African panache in mind.**

## **Brief itinerary**

Day 1 Arrival at the airport be welcomed by our representative and taken to your hotel for refreshments dinner and overnight stay.

Day 2 Spend the whole day in Jinja at the Nile

Day 3 Travel to Murchison Falls National Park

Day 4 Boat ride and game drive in Murchison Falls National Park

Day 5 Fly to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Take a village walk this day.

Day 6 A day with the mountain gorillas

Day 7 Transfer to Queen Elizabeth National Park

Day 8 Game drive and Launch cruise at the Kazinga Channel

Day 9 Travel to Kibale Forest National Park

Day 10 A day with the wild chimps

Day 11 Travel back to Kampala. Relax, go shopping and later in the evening enjoy the Afro Jazz entertainment with the Ndere Troupe

Day 12 End of tour and departure

*(There will be an optional trip extension to Kidepo Valley National Park for three days)*

### **Accommodations on this trip**

#### **Gorilla Forest Camp GFC – Bwindi Impenetrable forest National Park**

Situated about 500m inside the Bwindi park entrance at Buhoma, this is a very nice tented camp that is cut into a lush forest glade. Gorilla Forest Camp has been designed to blend seamlessly into this most atmospheric of environments, carefully-appointed towards the misty valleys and looming, forest-clad mountains that protect this fragile eco-system. It offers large private self contained twin-bed tents raised on wooden platforms, each with en-suite facilities and hot and cold running water, WC, basin and unusually – a bathtub looking out onto the forest. Each tent has a spacious wooden verandah where guests can relax, enjoy a private meal and absorb the exotic mystery of

the surrounding rainforest that provided the inspiration for the animation of Disney's The Jungle Book. The Gorilla Forest Camp offers a bar and dining cottage overlooking the rain forest, as well as a raised natural platform for open air dining. At night, a traditional African campfire is lit from where a lecture might be given by a visiting primatologist.

### **Primate Lodge – Kibale National Park**

Accommodation is in tents and cottages. Here you will be fascinated as you enter the lobby of this eco-lodge with a fine touch of African panache; there are local drums, several other traditional music instruments and other beautifications. The fire place in the compound of the lodge gives memorable experiences to gather around in the chilly evenings to listen to each other's stories. The interesting part of this lodge is that the only thing that separates you from nature is the tarpaulin of your tent or a wall of your cottage; while on your bed, you will hear buzzes of nocturnal birds, small insects and elephants too, somewhere in the forest, laughing out loud.

### **The Nile Safari Lodge - Murchison Falls National Park**

Nestled peacefully amongst the rich papyrus forest on the southern banks of the River Nile, the Lodge is one of the few wildest places in Africa offering the most luxurious accommodation in park. Rooms are designed in wooden chalets and luxury tents, all fitted with en-suite washrooms, with no air-conditioning, each with a private balcony suspended over river Nile which allows you to enjoy stunning views and to give a true feeling of wild Africa. From the deck of your own room, you will perceive sound of the silent ripple of water whispering untold secrets, hippos snort with contentment from their watery home, catch a glimpse of Giant Nile crocodiles bask on sand banks, whilst elephant herds wading through the papyrus islands. This magical wilderness is complimented by a restaurant, bar, an ambient lounge and a superb extended deck underneath the protection of a giant fig tree, an open fire place, the crystal clear swimming pool offering the best escape from the hot equatorial sun after a day of

activities in the park. The staff at the lodge is exceptionally compassionate offering a personal touch service to each visitor.

### **Jacana safari lodge – Queen Elizabeth National park**

Located at the edge of one of the park's crater lakes, in the dense Maramagambo forest, this tree house lodge is made of independent luxury chalets and a family cottage grown out of the dense foliage of the forest. The rooms are commodious to provide you with maximum comfort, and secluded with hot water showers, enclosed verandas offering picturesque views of the lake. The distinctive and unique design of jacana makes it the best eco-lodge in the park; with the delicate use of rock, poles, wood, rope, organic furniture and rich textures that blend perfectly with the smells, sights and sounds of the primeval tropical forest. Other facilities include a large stone fireplace with large lounging sofas which forms a cozy atmosphere comfortable for after-dinner storytelling and tales of the day's activities; a warm dining room and bar, swimming pool overlooking the lake, sauna and massage area; and the Captain's Table - a one-of-a-kind floating pontoon on the Nyamusingiri crater for any meal of the day or for sundowners and exploration.

### **The Rain forest lodge – River Nile, Jinja**

This up-market eco-lodge is situated in Mabira forest and exhibits the peace and calm of an equatorial hardwood rainforest in the heart of Uganda. The Lodge has been built using local, onsite materials to create a stunningly unique atmosphere for visitors to truly appreciate the beauty and magnificence of the Mabira Forest Reserve. The rooms are secluded with balconies overlooking the forest, and windows that provide a thorough view of the forest. Other facilities here include a Swimming Pool, Sauna and Massage area, a well stocked canopy bar with daily cocktail specialties, a restaurant that serves continental dishes, and a multi-level encircling open lounge with comfortable seating providing beautiful views of Mabira Forest.

### **Mweya Safari Lodge – Queen Elizabeth National park**

Located on the peninsula within the heart of Queen Elizabeth national park, Mweya Safari Lodge offers the visitors with splendid accommodation, breathtaking views on the balcony from every room overlooking the Kazinga Channel. One may have a chance to see the occasional Leopard that normally visits the hotel premises at dusk. This is the palace where the Queen of England lodged in 1954. There is a swimming pool purposefully located for maximum relaxation, the poolside bar, Tembo safari bar and the Kazinga restaurant serving global cuisine, all set to offer a panoramic view of the park and the Rwenzori Mountain Ranges. There is a fully equipped gymnasium, sauna and massage parlour to offer maximum relaxation after long game drives in the park. There is also an open fire place in the compound of the lodge that will give you memorable experiences to gather around in the chilly evenings to watch the local dance groups wriggle their waists and bellies portraying the ancient traditions of hunting and the recent call for conservation; and admire the myriad brilliance of Rwenzori crystal clear mountain sky.

### **Kampala Serena Hotel - Kampala**

Kampala Serena Hotel is an inspirational blend of 5-star polish, pan-African flamboyance, social style and tourism. It is one of the world class hotels in Uganda set on 72 acres of landscaped grounds and water gardens in the heart of Kampala city. The hotel has been created around a central water theme, which manifests itself both in the extensive water gardens and in the hand-carved devises and shimmering mosaics with which it is decorated. A haven of cool and green environment where one can have an introduction of Uganda natural habitats and cultural amenities. This hotel has an unlimited wide range of facilities ranging from the personalized selection of all-inclusive rooms, extensive swimming pool, cocktail bars, pearl of Africa restaurant, Bambara residents lounge, Maisha mind body and spirit spa, to a garden auditorium and the roof-top terrace for private cocktails.

### **Apoka Lodge – Kidepo Valley National park**

Apoka is in the heart of Kidepo Valley National Park, tucked into the North-Eastern corner of Uganda. The editor of Canada's La Vie de Luxe magazine listed Apoka lodge in the launch of the issue using the following words:

*"True luxury is about experience – having the opportunity to explore the world's chicest hideaways...our team of writers have scoured the globe to bring you just that: the top 50 places in the world to stay, from grand yachts to urban oases to glamorous trains..."*

*"From the vantage point of your private veranda, off your wood, thatch and canvas 'cottage room', – one of Apoka's tents, perched atop large rocky outcrops – soak up the gorgeous savannah panorama of remote Kidepo Valley National Park in northeast Uganda, among the most beautiful – and underrated – destinations in East Africa. Watch the parade of giraffe, elephant, buffalo, antelope, zebra and some over 200 bird species. The interiors and amenities of Apoka complement the natural landscape outside – cream and chocolate carpets, plush white towels, Egyptian cotton bed linens, outdoor bathtubs carved out of the rock face. Join the other guests as they track game with well-trained guides along sandy riverbeds. Then retreat to your luxurious, blissfully isolated room underneath the stars, as lions roar in the distance."*

Everything is handmade by local craftsmen, the dining room, the lounging area and the bed rooms are capacious with natural canvas walls surrounding a rocky kopje with endless views across the savannah. The beds are big and hand-hewn with soft duvets draped with mosquito nets, hand-woven woolen carpets, extra large plush towels, oversized dressing gown. Each room has its own en-suite bathroom with double sink and large tropical shower with hot and cold shower. All rooms have electric lights, power points. There is also a swimming pool and outdoor stone bathtub in the sheltered terrace that is big enough to fit the whole family.

Send us an e-mail at [inquiries@ecouganda.com](mailto:inquiries@ecouganda.com) for more details

