



UGANDA SIGNATURE SAFARIS



11 Days Opulent Uganda

Entebbe, Bwindi, Queen Elizabeth N.Park, Kibale, Murchison
Falls, Entebbe/Depart

Itinerary

Uganda is home to the world's most exotic and endangered giants. This 11 days opulent Uganda expedition explores them in the most elegant of styles, with exceptional lodges and private flights between destinations. Track gorillas in Bwindi, safari across the big-game savannah, encounter chimpanzees and rare mangabeys, and then boat and walk through legendary grasslands. Tailored for intimacy and authenticity, it's a journey to the heart of Africa.

| Day 1:

Arrival Entebbe - Transfer The Boma Entebbe

Upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport, you will proceed to clear with immigration and customs formalities; thereafter, met by Primate Expeditions Ltd representative and transferred to The Boma Entebbe (normal check in at 1400 hours). Rest of the afternoon at your leisure.

The Boma Entebbe-Standard BB

| Day 2:

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Flying across Uganda will give you a strong impression of its remoteness and wildness. Swathes of savannah extend for hundreds of miles, divided by the red clay roads and clumps of forest. Volcanoes appear on the horizon, with a string of peaks that are comfortably Africa's highest mountain chain. The River Nile twists onwards, and Lake Victoria is imposing in size. Your first private flight travels west, skirting the edge of the lake and mountains en route to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, a thick jungle that clings to steep valleys and rolling hills.

From the air, you are likely to see the iconic mist, swirling insatiably, moving like a phantom. One glance from the plane and you know that this is the habitat for gorillas, a mysterious world unconnected from everything else. Touch down and check into Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp, the only luxury property within the national park. Widely regarded as one of the world's finest jungle getaways, it boasts both views over the canopy and a sense of being deep within the trees. Take lunch on your private deck, soak in the bathtub overlooking the jungle, and explore the surrounding walking trails throughout the afternoon. You will be searching for golden monkeys on this private afternoon walk, another of Bwindi's endangered species, and another primate that hides from the world.

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp - LDBB

| Days 3-4:

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - Intimate Encounters with Gorillas

From a distance, you see shocks of black fur, moving slowly on all fours, and disappearing into the canopy. The troop might be moving, so you must keep walking, following them until they halt and feed. Approach the gorillas slowly, showing respect to their space. One or two will provide a greeting, perhaps a wave of the arms or an imposing stare, an action that's both a welcome and a warning about respecting their territory. Walk a little farther, and you see the whole troop, over a dozen gorillas bounding in and around the trees. Inquisitive infants, boisterous blackback males, a sublime silverback with thickset arms and an almost impossibly wide chest. Spend an hour from seven meters away, analyzing their many behaviors and expressions. It is widely recommended that you take your photos at the start, and then put the camera down and fully absorb what is probably the world's most intimate wild animal encounter.

With each gorilla trek, you get to spend an hour with a troop, in a maximum group size of eight trekkers. You don't watch them from a distance. There are no fences or ropes. On some occasions, you are fully surrounded by the troop, gorillas on each side of you. Officially you are allowed within seven meters, and it is the gorillas that are most effective in maintaining this distance. If you come too close, they'll be quick to remind you how powerful they can be. After the hour, you will trek back towards the trailhead, enjoying a packed lunch en route. Then it's back to Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp, where the outdoor bathtub is perfect for reenergizing your muscles.

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp - LDBB

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📍 | Day 5:

Queen Elizabeth National Park

Transition from forest to savannah, exchanging boisterous gorillas for belligerent hippos. Fly north from Bwindi, passing over the volcanic peaks en route to the golden savannah of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Touch down, and the atmospheric difference from Bwindi comes from the openness of this habitat. Such vast plains provide seemingly endless visibility, making it relatively easy to find the landscape's giants. Thousands of Ugandan kob are scattered across your vista, their impressive hooped horns rising above agile, fragile bodies. Nomadic elephants wander onwards, leaving their giant footprints in the dust. Lionesses poke their heads up from the grass and then roll over into a state of repose.

After the flight, you will spend the rest of the morning on a game drive. The lions climb trees here, and you will be seeking them out amongst the fig fruit, the beautiful hunters' frames draped over high branches. From here, they have an expert view over their prey. Leopards can also be seen in the trees and the next two days create an opportunity to see some of the cats hunting. It is around the river where many ambushes take place, so spend the afternoon on a Kazinga Channel boat safari, enjoying wildlife along the banks and cruising through the hippos. It is not long before one yawns, and you are staring into the gaping jaw of a huge male hippo.

Ishasha Wilderness Camp - LDBB

📍 | Day 6:

Queen Elizabeth National Park

Strange hoots wake you. Open the curtains, and there is an elephant herd on the plains blowing their trumpets through the morning stillness. Zebras are grazing nearby, and you photograph their distinctive stripes from your veranda. Breakfast is served as a buffalo herd marauds past, and you have already grown accustomed to antelope filling the panorama. Ishasha Wilderness Camp is in the heart of the bush, providing a luxury safari-under-canvas experience that lets you feel the wilds of Africa. This is not camping, but a boutique suite that's open to all the sounds and smells of the park.

Today's program is flexible, but it is highly recommended that you take advantage of the unique safari activities on offer. Private game drives focus on the more mammals, particularly tree-climbing lions and elephants. Boat safaris are more relaxed and are an easy way to sit back and watch the wildlife unfurl. Walking safaris are legendary, an exclusive chance to wander across the big-game landscape. Guides keep you clear of the predators, but you may come astonishingly close to elephants, giraffe, zebra, and buffalo, along with the varied collection of antelope species.

Ishasha Wilderness Camp - LDBB



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📍 | Day 7:

Kibale National Park - Iconic Monkeys and Mangabeys of Central Africa

You will take a private air charter and the ambiance switches once more, the dense Kibale rainforest exuding a certain exoticism. It's unlikely to feel like anywhere you have explored before with its bizarre creepers, haunting monkey calls, and the strange expressions on the faces of mangabeys. This is a Central African-style forest, with primates seen mostly in the Congo Basin. Grey-cheeked mangabeys give you a peculiar stare, red colobus monkeys peacefully feed high in the canopy, L'Hoest's monkeys scamper past the lodge, and over a quarter of Africa's primates can be found when you follow your guide beneath the trees. Spend the afternoon on a primate tracking safari before settling into Kyaninga Lodge and a night of surreal monkey calls.

Kyaninga Lodge - LDBB

📍 | Day 8:

Kibale National Park

The most famous of Kibale's residents are the chimpanzees, endangered creatures that hold your stare intensely. They seem to communicate with you through their emotive faces and compelling grins. Encounter your first chimpanzee and time stands still, their piercing eyes giving a message of clarity. Watch the primate's face, and it is hard to discount the idea that some form of formal greeting is being made. Walk a little closer, and you make eye contact with more of the troop, although it's hard to keep track when there are 60 or more chimpanzees in the vicinity.

You spend an hour with a habituated troop, immersed in their social interactions and communicative behavior. Their hands and feet are remarkably similar, along with their ingenious use of gestures used to communicate. When they start to shout, the noise is deafening, each call echoing off the trees. It is strange and sublime at the same time, the chimpanzees inviting you into their peculiar forest realm. Sometimes you are treated to a family clique, perhaps 8 – 12 chimps split off from the main troop. On other treks, you might see them all, dozens of primates filling the trees with their antics. Both experiences are wonderfully enchanting, such rare mammals that have so much in common with you.

Kyaninga Lodge, LDBB

📍 | Day 9:

Murchison Falls National Park

Fly into the north of Uganda, watching the mountains ripple into the ochre dirt and open savannah. Giraffe watch you land, their heads poking above trees around the airstrip. Elephants become your neighbors, and two nights at Paraa Safari Lodge keep you in the big-game heart of the park. Warthogs run, wildebeest canter, and you are never too far from the roar of lions and leopards. Today's private safari program is fully flexible, allowing you to mix game drives with walks and journeys on the water. Murchison Falls offers an excellent diversity of wildlife, along with the famous giants you have already become accustomed to. It is an easy place to watch animals wander past and to feel the pull of Africa's authenticity.

Kyaninga Lodge, LDBB



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📍 | Day 10:

Murchison Falls National Park to Entebbe

This final safari day follows the River Nile. Start in a boat, admiring the wildlife coming for a morning drink. Tension hangs in the atmosphere as lions and leopards lurk nearby, their location raucously revealed by storks and monkeys in the trees above. Cruise through the hippos, past the swimming elephants, and onwards to Murchison Falls, a thunderous rumble of water where the Nile narrows to just seven meters across. Return to the riverside lodge for lunch and a few quiet hours on the veranda, before following the route of the Nile back towards Lake Victoria. This journey back to Entebbe takes two full days by road; it's completed in less than two hours by flight. Your final night is then spent back at Lake Victoria Serena Resort & Spa, where a one-hour treatment is waiting upon your arrival.

Lake Victoria Serena Resort & Spa, LDBB



📍 | Day 11:

Transfer Entebbe / Depart

You are staying just a few miles from Entebbe International, Uganda's main airport, making for an easy getaway onto your departing flight.

End of Primate Expeditions services