# Gorilla Express – Uganda

## Luxury Lodge Safari (6 Day / 5 Night)



### This best seller is aimed at those who are a short on time, but keen to see some game as well as gorillas on their safari. You’ll have ample time to trek endangered mountain gorillas twice, as well as enjoy abundant game viewing in Queen Elizabeth National park.

**On this hosted FLY IN safari we include domestic flights to save those long journeys by vehicle. Luxury accommodation, friendly hosts, professional guides and custom made safari vehicles promise to make this the trip of a lifetime. Aside from incredible gorillas and game, Uganda boasts some of the top bird watching in Africa, with over 1000 different species including the remarkable grey crowned crane and a host of endemic forest birds.**

**Luxury accommodation, professional guides and custom made safari vehicles - this safari will be the trip of a lifetime. Please note - two gorilla trekking options are available with this itinerary based on availability. Please make your request at the time of booking.**

**Quick Reference Itinerary:**

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| Arrive Entebbe and transfer to Hotel No. 5 or similar. |
| Transfer to Entebbe airport for scheduled flight to Kihihi, near Bwindi. Met and transferred by Wild Frontiers to Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. |
| Full Day Gorilla Tracking  Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda Overnight at Buhoma Lodge |
| Option of second day Gorilla Tracking or explore the local area on foot, and enjoy a forest walk.  Overnight at Buhoma Lodge |
| Depart for Queen Elizabeth National Park Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp in the south. Visit Ishasha Community project en route. |
| Return flight to Entebbe, with airport transfer to an Entebbe hotel included if required, or alternatively connect directly End of services.  **Please do not book a flight out of Entebbe before 19h00** |
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| Visit to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary optional and should be pre-booked. |

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| **This safari is available on scheduled dates, guaranteed with a minimum of two guests, or can be enjoyed by private groups or individuals any day. The itinerary may vary slightly based on permit and accommodation availability.** | | |
| **Day One** |  | **Meal Basis:**  B&B |
| **Day Two** |  | **Meal Basis:**  Full Board |
| **Day Three** |  | **Meal Basis:**  Full Board |
| **Day Four** |  | **Meal Basis:**  Full Board |
| **Day Five** |  | **Meal Basis:**  Full Board |
| **Day Six** |  | **Meal Basis:**  Breakfast |
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**Detailed Itinerary:**

Please note that itinerary and accommodation may vary depending on availability.

### Day One

Arrive at Entebbe International Airport where you will be met by a tour representative and transferred to your accommodation. Depending on your arrival time, a half day trip to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary can be arranged at an additional cost. This could also be arranged at the end of your safari if you prefer.

Other options include the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in Entebbe, where there are a variety of visitors’ programmes including behind the scenes ‘work’ with the animals or a ‘chimpanzee close up’ or a luxury boat cruise on Lake Victoria. Ask when you book, if you are keen on this.

Entebbe is a small, quiet town located on the shores of Lake Victoria and is easy to explore on foot or local transport on motorbikes known as “boda bodas” or local taxis. Visit the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre where you can see and learn about Uganda’s native wildlife, local markets to buy clothes and

crafts, curio shops for souvenirs, and the Botanical Gardens on Lake Victoria where you can walk among beautiful trees, watch monkeys moving through the canopy above, and spot many indigenous bird species. Entebbe has a wide variety of restaurants serving many different cuisines as well as several bars and clubs where you can sample the local beer, catch a game of football and chat with the local Ugandans, known for their open and friendly nature.

Overnight at Hotel No. 5 [www.hotelnumber5.com](http://www.hotelnumber5.com/)

Nestled in the leafy suburbs of Entebbe, Hotel No.5 is a stylish boutique hotel. With all luxurious rooms opening onto the garden and swimming pool, this is a great option for guests looking for an intimate stay in a tranquil setting. Make yourself at home – unwind beside the swimming pool, pamper yourself with a spa treatment, or work up a sweat in the hotel gym. Attention to detail , outstanding dining and an attentive guest experience are synonymous with Hotel No 5.



**OPTIONAL EXTRA: Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary** [www.ngambaisland.com](http://www.ngambaisland.com/)

Leaving from Entebbe, travel by speed boat or traditional motorized canoe to Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary located on beautiful Lake Victoria.

Officially opened in 1999, Ngamba Island was created to offer a permanent sanctuary to orphaned chimpanzees, which are victims of illegal trade and habitat destruction. Now home to more than 45 chimps, the island serves as a tourist destination for local and international travellers offering an opportunity to learn about the species and the importance of conserving their fragile forest habitat.

Enjoy a guided tour of the sanctuary and a close up experience with the chimpanzees as they come to the boundary area for their morning or afternoon feeding. Cold drinks, tea and coffee are available at Ngamba and the island has a unique gift shop with a wide range of local crafts and sanctuary related t-shirts and products. Your visit and purchases directly support the project with proceeds going towards operating costs of the sanctuary, ensuring the well-being of the chimpanzees.

### Day Two

Depart your lodge, for the short drive to the Entebbe domestic airport for your scheduled flight to Kihihi airstrip, near Bwindi/Queen Elizabeth National parks.

The flight takes just over an hour (depending on the plane used) and upon arrival you will be met by a tour representative and driven to Buhoma Lodge, located at Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. The drive to the lodge is through local villages and mountain roads – lovely scenery and very interesting en route!

Guests will have the opportunity for two days of gorilla tracking (pre-booking essential). Other activities that can be enjoyed in and around the park include forest walks, visits to a local school or orphanage or Batwa pygmy village, and curio shopping.

Bwindi National Park, located in south western Uganda on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, is considered the most diverse forest in Uganda. The area, one of the few large expanses of forest in East Africa, where lowland and mountain habitats meet, contains a dense ground cover of herbs, vines, and shrubs. Home to over 120 mammals, 345 species of birds, 200 species of butterflies, and 160 species of trees, Bwindi is one of the richest ecosystems in East Africa. The park contains almost one half of the world’s population of the endangered Mountain Gorilla, making it an extremely valuable conservation site. Bwindi is also home to several endangered bird species with very limited ranges, and acts as an important catchment area for many rivers, supplying water for agriculture in the surrounding region.

**Buhoma Lodge** [www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com](http://www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com/)

Buhoma Lodge commands spectacular and uninterrupted views of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park home to the rare and elusive Mountain Gorilla. We offer a top quality, intimate lodge for our guests’ enjoyment in this area. Situated within the National Park, Buhoma Lodge is a short distance from the meeting point for gorilla tracking and other activities in the area.

Ten comfortable cottages have been carefully built, each with its own private verandah, allowing wonderful views of the forest canopy of the National Park. Inside the spacious cottages you will find comfortable beds, a well appointed en suite bathroom with flushing toilet and a hot shower and also some rooms with bath tubs. An elevated lounge area, complete with bar and dining facilities, offers a cosy, comfortable environment, to discuss the day’s activities around the fireplaces which add atmosphere and warmth in the cool evenings.



As part of our commitment as an organization with a responsible tourism policy we have designed the lodge using sustainable local materials where possible, with the emphasis being on natural products, which has in turn given support to the local communities and businesses. Supplies are obtained from as nearby as possible from local sources and staff are also generally recruited locally and trained on site. Our water supply is gravity fed and solar power is used for lighting with power points limited to a central area allocated for recharging cameras and videos.

Meals are freshly prepared with many local ingredients, offering a balance of international and locally flavoured cuisine with meals being of several courses. Our bar has a selection of local and imported beverages and our friendly local staff will attend to your needs.

Hot beverages are available throughout the day on a self service basis, but, are delivered to your cottage with early morning wake up calls as required, allowing you to awake gently and savour the early morning sounds of the forest.

### Day Three

**Gorilla Tracking - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park**

Following breakfast at the lodge, you will walk down to National Park Headquarters to meet your guides for the day and begin your gorilla tracking experience. Experienced guides and trackers will accompany your party on an early morning trek into the dense rain forest on the mountain slopes\*. The journey, through dense foliage and up steep climbs, is abundantly rewarded with the lifetime experience of viewing mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. You will have an opportunity to be within meters of these magnificent apes, sharing in their daily lives

and experiencing their day-to-day activities. Mountain gorillas are extremely rare with only an estimated 850 remaining in the wild. This is an experience you won’t soon forget! \*Some of the gorilla families are located in an area which you will need to travel to by vehicle, but don’t worry – we will transport you there!

Following the trek, return to your accommodation and, if time allows, take a guided afternoon forest or community walk. Please note: tracking may be fairly strenuous with treks up to six hours or longer, at high altitudes, not uncommon.

Also, mountain gorillas are wild animals and, as such, sightings cannot be guaranteed. However viewing success rates are over 95%.

### Day Four

Depending on individual preferences there are a variety of different itinerary options for this day.

### 2nd Gorilla Trek (Optional)

Those with pre-purchased permits will depart for a second gorilla tracking experience following breakfast at the lodge.

### Forest Walk (Optional)

Embark on a walk through tropical rainforest with experienced wildlife guides. Enjoy scenic views, the sights and sounds of the rain forest, ample opportunities for bird watching and glimpses of the many monkey species living in the park as they move through the forest canopy.

### Village Community Walk (Optional)

Embark on a community walk through the local villages surrounding Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Optional activities include visits to a traditional home, local orphanage or school, banana brewing demonstrations and even meeting traditional medicinal healers. This three to four hour walk is easily tailored to your individual schedule and interests.

### Batwa Cultural Experience (Optional)

Embark on a three to four hour hike to a Batwa village in the midst of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. This amazing encounter will allow you the opportunity to meet Batwa elders and their families and learn about their daily lives. Through the assistance of a skilled interpreter you will discover the unique traditions and practices the Batwa people inclu ding their deep attachment to the forest, the cuisine they enjoy, how they harvest their food, the style of their homes, and their burial rites. Visitors are even given the chance to learn how to light a fire with just a stick and how to shoot a target with traditional weapons.

* ***Please note that days 3 and 4 are interchangeable depending on when we can secure gorilla permits \****

### Day Five

This morning we depart Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and travel (2-3 hours) to Ishasha in the southern part of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Time permitting, during our drive from Bwindi to Ishasha, we may visit a Community Project on the border of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Here the local people allow you to enjoy some time in their homesteads, as well as see some of the crops and curios they produce, how they prepare their food while sharing stories about the Bakiga people and lifestyle.

Afternoon game drives will be enjoyed in the Ishasha area, looking for the huge herds of buffalo, elephant, Uganda kob and of course the famous tree-climbing lion typically found in the area.

Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp

**Ishasha Wilderness Camp** [www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com](http://www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com/)

Ishasha Wilderness Camp is situated inside the Southern Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park on the Ntungwe river, and is an idyllic retreat for people who truly enjoy the wilderness. This exclusive camp offers quality accommodation and services in this unspoilt remote southern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park famous for its tree climbing lions that can sometimes be spotted resting in the branches of the large fig trees in the area.

Each of the ten spacious framed canvas rooms, situated in the wooded area besides the river, is comfortably furnished and with large mosquito netted beds, its own private en suite bathroom and dressing area providing running water, hot water ‘bush’ showers and a flushing eco-friendly toilet.



A central lounge and dining area, under a cool thatched roof, provides a comfortable environment for meals and relaxing during the day. A shaded area beside the river offers al fresco dining and an evening ‘fireplace’ for guests to relax with sundowners and share their day’s experience.

As the camp is within the National Park, we have designed it to be as low impact as possible with low usage of water, power and other resources. Solar power is used for lighting with power points limited to a central area allocated for recharging cameras and videos.

Meals are freshly prepared with many local ingredients, offering a balance of international and locally flavoured cuisine with all meals being of several delicious courses. Our bar has a selection of local and imported beverages and our friendly local staff will attend to your needs. Hot beverages

are available throughout the day on a self-service

basis, and are delivered to your tent with early morning wake up calls as required, allowing you to savour the early morning sounds of the ‘bush awakening.

Highly recommended to book in advance are the bush sundowners and the bush breakfast, both hugely memorable experiences in beautiful settings.

**Queen Elizabeth National Park spreads** over 1,978 sq km in the western arm of the Great Rift Valley and is home to a wide variety of wildlife including elephants, leopard, lions, hippos, buffalo, Uganda kob, baboon,

and many species of birds. With both a riverine and savannah habitat, the park includes the southern Ishasha area with the massive Maramagambo, one of the largest surviving natural forests in Uganda. The northern Mweya area, traversed by the equator and dominated by the scenery of crater lakes, is often occupied by large flocks of flamingos.

### Day Six

Transfer to the airstrip for your return flight to Entebbe. Rest of the afternoon/evening is at leisure.

An airport transfer has been included after your safari has been completed – from your Entebbe hotel, or directly after the safari. End of Safari.

Overnight optional. If staying in Entebbe, please request assistance at time of booking safari. If departing Entebbe the same day DO NOT book flights departing prior to 2 hours post your domestic flight arrival time in order to allow time for security, check in and any delays.

If you plan to spend additional time in Uganda please feel free to speak with a Wild Frontiers representative at the time of booking or upon your return about the many activities available in Entebbe and throughout Uganda. You can explore Kampala, spend a night on Ngamba Island, take a luxury boat trip on Lake Victoria, visit Uganda Wildlife Education Centre and the Botanical gardens or take a short trip to Jinja, the adventure centre of Uganda, offering grade 5 white-water rafting, quad biking and bungee jumping!

### Includes:

* + Airport transfers
  + Return domestic flights from Entebbe to Kihihi on a scheduled flight
  + 4x4 transport with English speaking local driver/guide as above
  + Accommodation and meals as above (full board on safari, bed and breakfast in Entebbe)
  + Soft drinks, local beers, spirits and house wines whilst at Buhoma Lodge and Ishasha Wilderness Camp.
  + Bottled water in safari vehicle
  + Community visit en route from Bwindi to Ishasha
  + All park entrance fees,
  + Game drives in QENP Ishasha
  + Full liability insurance cover
  + 24 hour emergency contact

### Excludes:

* + Gorilla Permit of USD600 per trek Bwindi – must be pre-booked/paid
  + Optional extra of Forest Walk Bwindi (USD 70 pp including park fees)
  + Optional extra of Community Visit Bwindi (USD 30)
  + Optional extra of Batwa Pygmies Community Visit (USD 85)

***Please note - two gorilla trekking options are available on this itinerary. Please specify your permit requirements at time of booking.***

**GORILLA TREKKING AREAS & PERMIT ALLOCATIONS:**

On our scheduled departures, we typically buy permits for Buhoma & Ruhija, which are accessible from Buhoma area. One of the Buhoma families, and the Ruhija families, require a road transfer to the start point. This does not deviate from the enjoyment of the trek (and could be considered as enhancing your trip as you are seeing a different part of the region). Furthermore, your permit may be organised for day 3, or 4, of your safari. It will depend on availability at the time of purchase.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Health:** Yellow fever & malaria prophylactics are required.

For gorilla trekking it is imperative that you are healthy and free of any disease or virus – officials do have the right to refuse entry if you are found to have or show any signs of communicable illnesses.

Should you opt to spend time participating in the UWEC Wildlife Integration programmes, you may require additional inoculations and health clearances. Please enquire at the time of booking. These activities must be booked well in advance.

### Visas:

Most nationalities require a visa to enter Uganda which must be applied for and paid for online prior to arrival. A single entry tourist visa is USD 50 per person, single entry. Passports must be valid for a minimum of 6 months or 12 months in the case of UK nationals. The EAC Visa allows entry into Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya for one fee of USD100 – handy if you are visiting all three regions.

**Travel insurance:** Travel Insurance is compulsory.

