



KENYA & UGANDA SAFARI

The Masai Mara in Kenya borders the Serengeti national park, and is renowned for the influx of the Serengeti Great Migration of wildebeest, zebra and gazelles in the dry season. It is also home territory to a huge number of predators – lions, hyenas, leopards and cheetah. There could be nowhere more contrasting than here to begin the safari that will move into wilder ranges and the dense forests of Uganda! Uganda is renowned for being a haven for the rare Mountain gorilla, and is fortunate enough to also have several places where chimpanzees have been habituated, so that it is possible to observe both ape species here. It is also situated between Lake Victoria and the fold of mountains forming the western Great Rift Valley, so is endowed with varied scenery and a stunning variety of mammals (especially primates) and bird-life, such as the rare shoebill, and including some unusual species normally only seen in the dense jungles to the west.

14-DAY ITINERARY

<i>Days 1-3</i>	<i>Rekero Camp, Masai Mara Game Reserve (Kenya)</i>
<i>Days 4-6</i>	<i>Semliki Safari Lodge, Semliki-Toro Game Reserve (Uganda)</i>
<i>Day 7</i>	<i>Ndali Lodge, Nyinambuga Crater Lake</i>
<i>Day 8</i>	<i>Mweya Lodge, Queen Elizabeth National Park – northern sector</i>
<i>Days 9&10</i>	<i>Ishasha tented camp, Queen Elizabeth National Park – southern sector</i>
<i>Days 11-13</i>	<i>Gorilla Forest Camp, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park</i>
<i>Day 14</i>	<i>Last day. Private charter to Entebbe or Kampala.</i>

HIGHLIGHTS

The sight of crushing herds of wildebeest leaping headlong into the Mara River in order to cross to the other side, or following a stalking cheetah intent on getting close enough to a Thomson's gazelle to warrant a chase in the Masai Mara. Silently walking through riverine forest in Semliki Game Reserve, listening for or the pant-hoot calls of wild chimpanzees, while watching for forest elephant. Gliding quietly along the shores of Lake Albert, in the hope of spying the rare shoebill (a stork-like bird). Spending time, perhaps at closer quarters with the more habituated chimpanzees of Kibale forest, where we can also observe red-tailed monkeys, and twelve other species of primates! Searching for a leopard while watching birdlife in the Kazinga channel by boat. Exploring the Ishasha area of Queen Elizabeth national park, renowned for its tree-climbing lions. Spending a precious hour with primate giants – the mountain gorillas of Bwindi forest.

DESCRIPTION

DAY 1 REKERO CAMP, MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE (KENYA)

This morning you take a scheduled flight from Nairobi to the Masai Mara. You will meet up with your *Wilderness Africa* guide upon arrival in the Mara (depending on dates this will be either Dave Christensen or Justin Bell). Our home here will be a beautiful semi-permanent tented camp close to the confluence of the Mara and Talek Rivers, overlooking large pools populated by hippos and crocodiles. The whole camp is designed to have minimal impact on the environment while still attaining the highest standards of luxury. There are only six tents, each with en suite bathroom with shower and flush toilet. From our camp, we can explore the Mara in our own private 4 wheel drive vehicles, or on foot during guided bush walks. We may also visit a Maasai village just outside the park to gain an insight into the lifestyle of this pastoral tribe.

DAYS 2-3 REKERO TENTED CAMP, MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE

The Mara is a vast area of undulating grassy plains intersected by the Mara River and its tributaries. Its spectacular herds of plains game are swelled in July / August by the migration. About 1.3 million wildebeest, together with the associated herds of 200,000 zebra and half a million Thomson's gazelle, form a vast assemblage of ungulates whose annual movement through the Serengeti (Tanzania)- Mara Ecosystem is known as the migration. The sight of hundreds of thousands of these animals moving together through the seas of grass must rank as the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth. Other animals seen in the grasslands are Topi (most often seen standing on termite mound), eland, Grant's gazelle, kongoni (Coke's hartebeest), warthog, elephant and buffalo, and, very occasionally, rhino. The forest bordering the Mara and Talek Rivers is home to buffalo and elephant, and also the shy forest-dwelling bushbuck. In places where the Mara River widens and flows more quietly, hippopotamus congregate, sometimes in groups of fifty or more. At night and sometimes on wet cloudy days hippo emerge from the water to feed in the grasslands. A large shaggy antelope, the Defassa waterbuck, grazes near the rivers. The Mara's abundant herbivores make it a paradise for predators. Larger carnivores include the big cats: lion, cheetah, leopard as well as spotted hyena.

DAY 4 SEMLIKI SAFARI CAMP, SEMLIKI-TORO GAME RESERVE (UGANDA)

We fly by private charter to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (Nairobi) to connect with a Kenya Airways international flight to Entebbe. We take a private charter from Entebbe to the Semliki Safari Lodge airstrip - just ten minutes from camp. This afternoon we can relax by the pool and enjoy the sunset in camp, or we can go for a short drive in the late afternoon. We look for Uganda kob, black and white colobus, vervet monkeys, and if we are very lucky we might see the shy large-maned lions the area has a reputation for! It is exciting to be in a place where only a few years ago only a couple of hundred kob were thought to have survived, and now numbers of kob, buffalo, warthog and topi are all on the increase.

DAYS 5 & 6 SEMLIKI SAFARI CAMP, SEMLIKI-TORO GAME RESERVE

Aside from game driving, walking is also an option nearer camp, including the possibility of tracking the savanna adapted chimpanzees. The Semliki chimpanzees may be hard to find, as they move between the dense riverine forest of the Mugiri River and the savanna-woodland surrounding it. Although they have been studied and habituated by researchers for several years, they are still shy and furtive. This makes the experience of finding them somewhat more like encountering truly wild chimpanzees (except that if you are quiet they might not run away) as they watch you and may begin pant-hooting in alarm and excitement. The tracker or researcher may have to pant-hoot back to inform them who is there and to calm them. Here, we may also stay with the researchers for a while or even the whole morning or afternoon, so that we may get a far more in-depth exposure to the life of a researcher and learn more about our closest relatives.

We may also set off after dinner on a night drive with a spot-light searching for a leopard, white-tailed mongoose, genet or other nocturnal wildlife. Other activities that are possible include driving to the simple fishing villages on the shores of Lake Albert, and exploring the lake by boat, observing the myriad birdlife along the shoreline and in the swamps there. If we are lucky we might even spot a shoebill stork, one of the most sought-after species by avid bird-watchers!

We could also set off after an early lunch by car to see the hot springs, dense forest, and huge variety of West African birdlife in the Semliki national park, two hours drive further west.

DAY 7 NDALI LODGE, NYINAMBUGA CRATER LAKE

We set off this morning by road through the foothills of the Ruwenzori Mountains for Fort Portal, seat of the Toro king. We continue to Ndali Lodge situated on the rim of Nyinambuga Crater lake. Here we may walk around the coffee farm, boat on the lake or rest before having an early lunch. It is a 45 minute drive through beautiful tea plantations on the steep slopes with wonderful views of the Ruwenzoris and other crater lakes, to the primeval Kibale forest, where we begin our afternoon chimpanzee track at 2:00pm. The track this afternoon is likely to be deep in the forest. Here in Kibale, there are three chimpanzee communities that have been habituated, although only one is reserved for tourist visits. They are more used to being approached by visitors, and so we are more likely to find some of the members of this group of chimpanzees, and can spend up to an hour with them if we find them. Chimpanzees live in large communities varying between 50 and 200 individuals. This community has about 120 members, although their habits are quite varied and they are rarely all seen together at one time. Their diet is very varied, and the males are even known to hunt monkeys. They move often and extremely easily through the forest, both through the undergrowth (knuckle-walking) and through the trees. When they decide to move to another area, it can be quite a challenge to keep up with them! Their social life is extremely complex, and like us, they are masters in the art of politics, so watching them interact can be confusing and exciting at the same time.

DAY 8 MWEYA LODGE, QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK (NORTH)

We may either return to Kibale forest for another morning of chimpanzee tracking, or we have a leisurely breakfast and then drive to Queen Elizabeth national park, crossing the equator to Mweya Lodge. Mweya is a 50 room lodge set on a peninsula overlooking the Kazinga Channel. Queen Elizabeth is one of Uganda's best wildlife viewing areas. Here is possible to go for walks, game drives or take a ride by boat in the Kazinga channel. Later we can enjoy the evening light on the Kazinga, listening to the honk of hippos, and the whoop of hyenas.

DAYS 9&10 ISHASHA TENTED CAMP, QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK (SOUTH)

We drive through Queen Elizabeth national park to the wilder southern sector. On the way we could game drive through Lake Edward flats, looking at the stunning variety of birdlife, including the possibility of seeing a shoebill stork, or searching for elephant, buffalo and waterbuck. We then continue to camp, situated on the banks of the Ishasha River. Our camp has only 8 tents. We spend the afternoon relaxing or on a game drive, looking out for Ishasha's famous tree-climbing lions, or depending on the time of year, we could look for breeding "leks" of Uganda kob, where these antelope compete fiercely for females. In the evening we enjoy hot showers and sundowners around the campfire. A delicious 3-course dinner with fine wines is served in the dining tent.

DAY 11 GORILLA FOREST CAMP, BWINDI NATIONAL PARK

We will probably make the most of Ishasha's abundant wildlife by going for a morning drive and leaving camp in the late morning. The drive from Ishasha to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest only takes two to three hours. The scenery changes along the way as we leave the flat lowlands and enter the forest. In the late afternoon we can go for a short forest walk identifying some of the birds special to this area, such as the black bee-eater, brown-necked parrot, and several species of turacos.

DAYS 12 & 13 GORILLA FOREST CAMP, BWINDI NATIONAL PARK

Our last two days are spent immersed in the forest and glades of Bwindi, absorbed by the unique experience of tracking wild Mountain gorillas; one of the most endangered species of animals on the planet. The forest is also home to ten other species of primates, including wild chimpanzees, L'Hoest's, red-tailed and blue monkeys, as well as an amazing variety of bird life. We may track twice, on two consecutive mornings, visiting two different family groups of gorillas. The hike could take anything from an hour to most of the day, so we should be prepared for anything. If we are tired, we will have enough trackers with us to be able to return to camp, while the rest of our group continues. The experience of spending an hour with gorillas is remarkably different from chimpanzees. Firstly gorillas, especially the huge male silverback, are huge. They are also vegetarian, and more sedentary, and often provide the opportunity to sit and relax and watch the young play, or the mothers interact with their sons and daughters. Gorilla groups are usually smaller than chimp communities, and so we usually see all the members of the group when we visit them. Since they tend to move less distance we often have more observing time. Frequently we pause for a snack picnic lunch on the trail, and return to camp by mid-afternoon. If we return early, or are feeling energetic, we can also go for a walk through other parts of the forest, enjoying the views across into the Congo, bird-watching (perhaps trying to spot three different species of turaco), or visiting some of the local villages.

DAY 14 LAST DAY IN UGANDA

This morning we fly by private air charter to Entebbe or Kampala.

End of *Wilderness Africa* services

NOTES ON FLIGHTS

If leaving via Nairobi or on Emirates, we fly to Entebbe to connect directly with onward flights. If you fly out on the early morning British Airways flight (depart 9am only on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays), we can arrange for you to fly to Kajjansi Airport on the outskirts of Kampala instead. You can then spend the afternoon shopping, relaxing in a hotel, or visiting some of the sights of this centre of learning in East Africa, before spending the night and catching your flight home the following morning. These services would be quoted separately and are not included in this itinerary.

COST OF THE ABOVE SAFARI IN 2008

For the Masai Mara portion – Day 1 to 4

For each of a group of 8 – USD 2,280 per person

For each of a group of 6 – USD 2,450 per person

For each of a group of 4 – USD 2,595 per person

For the Uganda portion – Day 4 to 14

For each of a group of 8 – USD 7,100 per person

For each of a group of 6 – USD 7,495 per person

For each of a group of 4 – USD 7,595 per person

FLIGHT COSTS – approximate!!

Scheduled flight Nairobi–Mara – USD 150 per person

Private charter Mara-Nairobi International (JKIA)

For up to 6 people – USD 1,600 for the group For 7 to 10 people – USD 1,980 for the group

Scheduled flight Nairobi-Entebbe – approx USD300 per person (can be booked internationally)

Private charters Entebbe-Semliki & Bwindi-Entebbe

For a group of 4 or 6 – USD 5,600 for the group For a group of 8 people – USD 6,650 for the group

WILDERNESS AFRICA TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Included in the price: Services of a Wilderness Africa professional guide; accommodation in best available twin-bedded tent/room on full board everywhere; ground transport in customized 4 wheel drive vehicles; all park entry and camping fees; two days of gorilla tracking permits; two days of chimp tracking permits; soft and alcoholic drinks (except premium brands); Flying Doctor membership (covers air evacuation to Nairobi Hospital in an emergency).

Not included in the safari price: Any services in Entebbe or Kampala on Day 14; items of a personal nature (e.g. visas, airport taxes, telephone or fax services, etc.); any kind of insurance; laundry; premium brands (eg champagne); gratuities; international flights to and from East Africa.

General: Specially requested single accommodation will be charged at a supplement. We reserve the right to substitute campsites, hotels and/or lodges and to alter the itinerary should this be considered necessary or advisable. Should exceptional circumstances arise (e.g. sudden unexpected increases in park fees or fuel), we reserve the right to alter the above prices.

Deposits:

To confirm a booking -	30% of full safari cost required.
60 days prior to safari -	Full safari cost required

Cancellations:

**No of days prior
to safari start date**

> 120

60-120

30-59

<30

Terms

Full refund less US\$1,200 per person and any deposits on gorilla permits

Deposit is forfeit

50% of full safari cost is forfeit

Full safari cost is forfeit

Insurance: While on safari with us you are not covered by any insurance (such as personal, travel, accident or baggage loss). We suggest that you make arrangements so that you and your property are fully insured for the duration of your safari and also for travel in light aircraft. Similarly, you are advised to arrange adequate insurance in the unforeseen event of postponement or cancellation of your safari.

Liability: Although every possible care is taken to safeguard you and your property, we accept no liability for any accidents, injuries, or illnesses arising during the safari, nor thereafter, nor the loss or damage to your property and persons. **By booking and paying a deposit for a safari, you are deemed to have accepted the liability and insurance clauses above.**