

## Bwindi, Kibale and Lake Mburo

*Meet with the primates of Kibale and Bwindi, and explore oft-overlooked Lake Mburo National Park, on this 10-night/11-day private Uganda safari.*



### **Day 1: Arrive Entebbe (-)**

Arrive Entebbe, where you will be met by your driver and transferred to the Karibu Guesthouse for one night, B&B basis.

#### ***Karibu Guesthouse***

*Karibu Guesthouse is a boutique hotel set within private gardens in a quiet suburb of Entebbe, from where it enjoys views of Lake Victoria and easy access to Entebbe International Airport (approx. 10 minutes' drive time). It offers eight spacious and air-conditioned en-suite rooms, and facilities including a spa and swimming pool.*

### **Day 2: Entebbe to Ndali Lodge, Kibale (B, L, D)**

You will be met by your guide after breakfast and depart for Kibale Forest, in the west of Uganda. This is a drive of approx. 4-5 hours, with a lunch stop en route in Fort Portal. You can expect to arrive at Ndali Lodge, your home for the next 3 nights, late this afternoon.

#### ***Ndali Lodge***

*Ndali is a small and luxurious lodge set on the shores of Lake Nyinambuga, in a private 1,000-acre estate adjoining Kibale Forest. It's a fantastic base from which to track the chimps of Kibale and explore the nearby crater lakes.*



*Small and intimate, Ndali Lodge offers just 8 cottages, all facing west for spectacular sunsets over the Rwenzori Mountains. The rooms are large and furnished using local materials. Each has an ensuite bathroom with shower and bath and a private veranda. Ndali is an ecolodge – the power is solar-generated, and dinner is served by candlelight.*



*Activities available at Ndali include walks to the Mahoma waterfall, swimming in the lake (or swimming pool), trips to a tea plantation, chimp tracking in Kibale, and guided tours of the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary.*

### **Day 3: Kibale chimp tracking and Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary (B, L, D)**

After an early breakfast (approx. 7am), meet your driver and transfer to Kibale Forest National Park.



Your chimp tracking adventure starts with an 8am briefing by the park rangers, after which you begin your journey into the rainforest on foot. The tracking experience can last anywhere from 2-3 hours, depending on the location of the chimps. You'll have the chance to watch the chimps at close range, accompanied by experienced rangers, who will explain their unique behaviours and social formations.

Kibale has the highest density of primates in Africa and is home to approximately 1,500 chimps, as well as other primates including red colobus monkeys, the blue monkey, olive baboon, red tailed monkey, grey cheeked mangabey, potto, and bush baby. There are a number of other mammals found within Kibale, including leopard, bush pig, forest elephant, buffalo and duiker, but the wildlife is shy and elusive, and as such very rarely sighted during the course of chimpanzee tracking. The birding, however, is excellent, with over 300 species found within Kibale, including several endemics. Your guides will be able to tell you much about the birdlife of Kibale Forest.

Following the chimpanzee tracking, you'll be returned to Ndali Lodge for lunch.

In the afternoon, travel to the Bigodi Wetlands, a protected zone adjoining Kibale National Park. Here you'll enjoy a guided walk in the company of your guide, exploring the Wetlands via a network of wooden boardwalks and easy trails.

The Bigodi Swamp provides a habitat for a great variety of birds, including great blue turaco, papyrus gonolek, many varieties of barbet, woodpecker, roller and weaver bird. Many primates are also present in the region, including the ubiquitous black-and-white colobus monkey, red-tailed monkey and, less often sighted, the grey-cheeked mangabey. Present but rarely sighted is the sitatunga antelope, or marsh buck.



Return to Ndali Lodge for dinner and overnight.

#### **Day 4: At leisure at Ndali Lodge (B, L, D)**

Today is at leisure. A number of activities can be arranged locally from Ndali (some at additional cost), including canoeing and swimming on Lake Nyinambuga, a guided tour of the estate's tea plantation, and guided crater lake walks.

#### **Day 5: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (B, L, D)**

After an early breakfast, you will be met by your guide and depart for Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. This is a scenic drive of approx. 8 hours, taking you past Queen Elizabeth National Park and into the lower Bwindi foothills, a region notable for its vast coffee and tea plantations.

Late afternoon, arrive Buhoma Lodge, where you check-in for three nights (full-board basis).

#### ***Buhoma Lodge***

*Buhoma Lodge is a rustic retreat with a fantastic location on the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. It offers just ten cottage rooms, all of which open onto private verandas overlooking the Munyaga River Valley and Bwindi Forest. Each cottage is en-suite, with hot and cold running water, flush loo, and separate bath & shower.*



*Buhoma enjoys a high elevation, allowing for superb views of the rainforest from both the rooms and communal areas. The main building at Buhoma is built on two levels, and incorporates a cosy lounge with fireplace, a bar and restaurant area.*

## Day 6: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest – Gorilla tracking (B, L, D)

After an early breakfast, transfer the short distance to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest’s northern Buhoma gate. Once in the park, you will be given a short briefing by the rangers in which they will explain how to behave once you encounter the gorillas, including guidance on how close you can get and on taking photographs. Following the briefing – between 8 and 9am – you’ll set off on foot into the hills of Bwindi.



The gorilla tracking will last anywhere from one to eight hours, depending on the location of the gorillas. The hills of Bwindi are extensive, and the gorillas, as wild animals, roam freely. Gane and Marshall staff have all had hugely different experiences of tracking the gorillas—in some instances trekking for most the day before reaching the gorillas, in other cases having them stroll past the entrance gate of the park before the pre-trip briefing had even finished! Do be prepared for the possibility of a long trek, and pack good walking boots with this in mind.

After the gorilla tracking experience, you’ll be returned to Buhoma Lodge with the rest of the day at leisure.



## Day 7: Bwindi to Lake Mburo National Park (B, L, D)

You will be met by your driver after breakfast and depart for Lake Mburo National Park (approx. 5 hours’ drive). On arrival, check-in at Mihingo Lodge for three nights (full-board basis).

### *Mihingo Lodge*

*Mihingo Lodge occupies a fantastic setting just outside Lake Mburo National Park, where it perches on a high rocky kopje with views down to the savannah plains below.*

*Mihingo Lodge offers twelve East African-style tented rooms, each with its own unique design and character. The rooms are spaced apart to ensure a good level of privacy and positioned on raised wooden decking to make the most of the views. All of the rooms are en-suite, with flush loos and hot and cold running water.*

## Day 8: Game-viewing in Lake Mburo National Park (B, L, D)

Today will be spent exploring Lake Mburo National Park through a mixture of game-viewing activities.

Amongst the smallest of Uganda's national parks, Lake Mburo is a compact gem. Part-savannah and part-wetland, the park protects a diversity of wildlife, including over 350 bird species, as well as leopard, topi, zebra, hyena and plentiful plains game.

Start your exploration of Lake Mburo with a morning game drive, exploring the savannah plains, acacia woodland and lakeside, before returning to your lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a boat safari on Lake Mburo, returning to Mihingo Lodge as the sun begins to set.



Dinner and overnight at Mihingo Lodge.

## Day 9: Lake Mburo National Park (B, L, D)

Start the day with a guided bush walk in Lake Mburo, led by a talented ranger.

Lake Mburo is the only national park in Uganda where you can explore on foot (accompanied, of course, by an experienced ranger). Big game encounters are a real possibility, though the walking safari is primarily a chance to explore those aspects of the African bush that are often overlooked on a 4x4 driven safari – the smaller creatures and plant life that are otherwise easy to miss. After the early morning walking safari, return to the lodge for breakfast.

The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the lodge or arrange an additional game-viewing activity. In addition to game drives and walks, activities that can be arranged at Mihingo Lodge include horse riding safaris (to be booked in advance and at additional cost), and mountain biking within the perimeter of the park.

## Day 10: Return Entebbe (B)

After a leisurely breakfast, depart Lake Mburo for Entebbe, a drive of approx. 5 hours. On arrival in Entebbe this afternoon, check-in at the Karibu Guesthouse for one night.

Evening at leisure.

## Day 11: International departure (B)

Your itinerary ends in Entebbe this morning. An airport transfer is included.

*Please see price guide on next page.*

**Price Guide:**

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£4,940 per person**, based on two travellers in shared twin/double accommodation. This cost is reduced for larger group sizes, with four travellers (in two rooms) starting from £4,090 per person, and six travellers from £3,790 per person.*

*For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).*

**Includes:**

- Transfer to/from Entebbe Airport
- Ground transport in private safari vehicle
- English-speaking driver/guide
- Accommodation as described in itinerary (twin/double rooms)
- Meals as described in itinerary
- Entrance fees for national parks
- Activities mentioned in the program
- Gorilla permit
- Chimp tracking permit

**Excludes:**

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Visa fees
- Meals and drinks not mentioned above
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips
- Travel insurance