DARE TO EXPLORE WITH WILD FRONTIERS

defining the difference in travel

Gorilla Express – Uganda
Gorillas & Game
2015 Lodge Safari (6 Day / 5 Night)

Gorillas, gorillas and a little game…..

This new, improved safari is aimed at those who are a little short on time, but nevertheless keen to see a touch more of Uganda on their visit!. We have ample time to trek gorillas twice, as well as spending a night in Queen Elizabeth National park – enjoying some game viewing – before heading back to Entebbe.

We include flights – to save those long journeys by vehicle – but you will still have time to see some of the local culture, and beautiful forests on your safari. Uganda boasts some of the best bird watching in Africa, with over 1000 different species, including the rare shoebill stork and the remarkable grey crowned crane.

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.

2015 Departure Dates

31 January 2015
06 February
06 March
17 April
24 April
27 May
28 June
12 July
26 July
07 August
23 August
04 September
18 September
30 October
13 November
23 December trek on Christmas day

Scheduled departure dates (starting / ending in Entebbe) are guaranteed with minimum two persons.

Quick Reference Itinerary:

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	Arrive Entebbe and transfer to Boma Guest House	**Meal Basis:** B&B
Day Two	Transfer to Entebbe airport for scheduled flight to Kihihi, near Bwindi. Met and transferred by Wild Frontiers to Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.	**Meal Basis:** Full Board
Day Three	Full Day Gorilla Tracking Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda Overnight at Buhoma Lodge	**Meal Basis:** Full Board
Day Four	Option of second day Gorilla Tracking or explore the local area on foot, and enjoy a forest walk. Overnight at Buhoma Lodge	**Meal Basis:** Full Board
Day Five	Depart for Queen Elizabeth National Park Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp in the south. Visit Ishasha Community project en route.	**Meal Basis:** Full Board
Day Six	Return flight to Entebbe, with airport transfer to an Entebbe hotel included if required, or alternatively connect directly End of services.	**Meal Basis:** Breakfast & lunch
	Visit to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary optional and should be pre-booked.	

6 Day/5 Night "Gorilla Express" Lodge Safari 2015 Detailed Itinerary:

Please note that itinerary and accommodation may vary depending on availability. Your final itinerary will be confirmed at time of booking.

Day One

Arrive at Entebbe International Airport where you will be met by a Wild Frontiers 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.

Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary 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.

The Boma Guest House www.boma.co.ug

The Boma is a small, family run guest house located in the suburbs of Entebbe. A converted residential home, The Boma offers quiet, relaxed accommodation and a peaceful atmosphere. Each en suite room is uniquely decorated, with many having their own veranda. Gourmet meals are prepared upon request and guests can enjoy the welcoming bar area any time of day as well as the guest house's large garden, private swimming pool and large patio boasting of beautiful views towards Lake Victoria.

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 Wild Frontiers' 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

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%.

Please refer to our detailed information sheet for more detailed information on Gorilla Tracking requirements, conditions, and considerations.

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.

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, and visit the local elephant trench project – which stops elephants coming into the village and raiding crops.

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

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.

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 night, please note your vehicle returns to Entebbe late afternoon (approximately 16h00/17h00) so DO NOT book flights departing prior to 20h00 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!

Six Day Lodge Safari

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)
- Bottled water in safari vehicle
- All park entrance fees, 1 x forest/community walk at Bwindi,
- Game drives in QENP Ishasha
- Full liability insurance cover
- 24 hour emergency contact

Excludes:

- Gorilla Permit of USD600 Bwindi – must be pre-booked/prepaid
- All international flights and airport taxes
- Personal expenses such as porters, drinks, tips, visas and travel insurance
- Services/activities/meals not included above

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 can be obtained on arrival for USD50 per person, single entry. Passports must be valid for a minimum of 6 months or 12 months in the case of UK nationals.

Flights:

It is imperative that you reconfirm your onward/return flights. Our office in Uganda can assist you with this.

Travel insurance:

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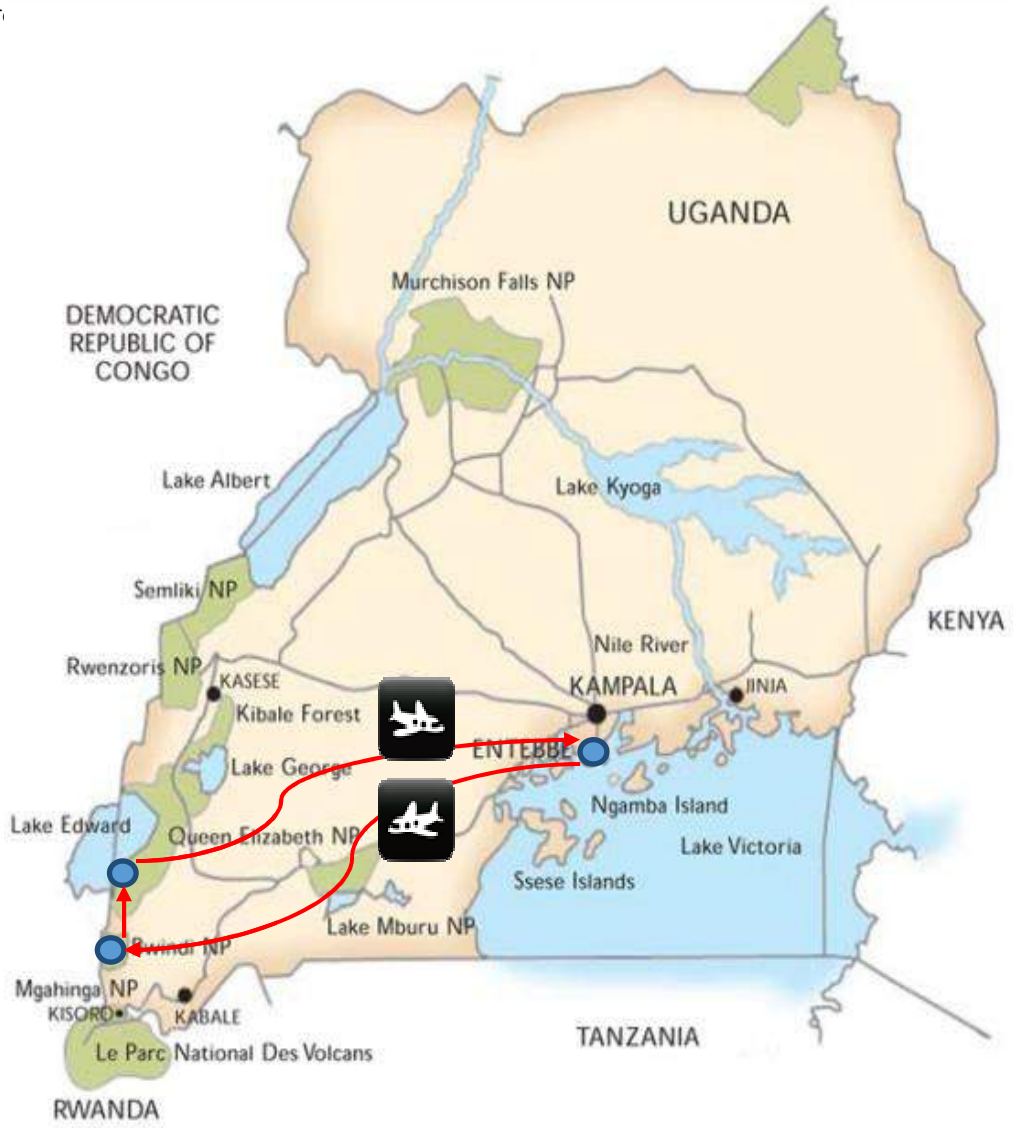

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE VIA BELOW:

Websites:

- **www.wildfrontiers.co.ug**
- **www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com**

Contact:

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