Every journey is re-packaged to meet the needs of each group. What you read here is a general overview of what the real experience will be like.



TAKEOFF CONNECTION
TOUR & TRAVEL

Uganda Journeys

Ten journeys for visitors from outside East Africa, planned from Entebbe by people who live here. Each one follows a single route. You choose how comfortably you travel along it.

How these journeys work

Every journey starts and ends in Entebbe and follows a single route with a fixed number of nights. Budget, Midrange and Luxury share that route. What changes is the standard of the lodges and camps, how you travel and the experiences each tier includes.

Any activity on a journey's add and swap list can be taken on any tier, and where an activity can be swapped for another of the same standard there is no charge.

Terms in brief

- Prices are in US dollars per person, for two people sharing a room and a private vehicle. Student journeys are per student, for groups of five or more, and the group leader travels free. Where possible, single occupancy will be considered.
- International flights, visas and travel insurance are not included. Flights within Uganda are included where the itinerary says so, and where a scheduled flight is not available we charter that section and quote the difference.
- A 30% deposit holds your booking and is not refundable. The 70% balance is due no later than 14 days before travel. Gorilla and chimpanzee permits are bought as soon as the deposit clears.
- Cancellation 48 hours or more before travel returns 50% of the balance paid. Inside 48 hours there is no refund. If a visa is refused, or a serious life event stops you travelling, the full balance paid is refunded once we have the embassy letter, medical letter or death certificate. The deposit is never refunded. You can cancel online at takeoffconnections.com/manage.
- Park, permit and activity fees follow the Uganda Wildlife Authority tariff for 2027. Gorilla permits are priced at $800, and cost $600 in April, May and November.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · GORILLAS · CHIMPANZEES · LIONS

The Primate Trail

Gorillas in the mist, chimpanzees in the canopy and lions asleep in the fig trees.

Very few places let you sit with wild gorillas, track chimpanzees through old forest and watch lions climb trees, and Uganda offers all three in a single week. This route joins Kibale, Queen Elizabeth and Bwindi in one line, then flies you back to Entebbe from the edge of the forest so the last day is not lost to a road.

You travel out by road and fly back from the forest edge. Each day has one main event, and the hours around it are yours to spend with your guide and at your lodge.

9 nights · Entebbe 1 · Kibale 2 · Queen Elizabeth 3 · Bwindi 3

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
Your guide meets you at the airport and you are on the lake shore within twenty minutes. Dinner is at the hotel, with Lake Victoria dark and warm beyond the terrace. Sleep well. Tomorrow starts early.

Day 2 KIBALE
A morning drive west through tea country, with lunch on the road, brings you to the forest edge by late afternoon. You settle into your lodge, and at dusk you may hear the first chimpanzee calls carry across the valley.

Day 3 KIBALE
At dawn you walk into Kibale Forest with a ranger and a tracker, following chimpanzee calls through the undergrowth. When you find them you stay for an hour, close enough to see each face. In the afternoon a community guide leads you along the boardwalks of Bigodi Wetland, where monkeys and turacos work the trees overhead.

Day 4 QUEEN ELIZABETH
The road drops towards the Rift Valley and the land opens into savannah. After lunch at your lodge you board a boat on the Kazinga Channel, where hippos crowd the shallows and elephants come down to drink.

Day 5 QUEEN ELIZABETH
Sunrise on the Kasenyi plains belongs to Uganda kob and, with luck, to lions. Later you follow the rim of the old volcanic craters and stop at Katwe Salt Lake, where families still harvest salt by hand.

Day 6 ISHASHA
A longer drive south through the quiet sector of the park. Ishasha's lions climb the fig trees to escape the heat and the flies, and you spend the afternoon looking up into the branches until one shifts and gives itself away.

Day 7 BWINDI
The road climbs into mountains where the forest pours down the slopes. You reach your lodge, meet your ranger and hear what tomorrow will ask of you.

Day 8 BWINDI
The trek. Trackers go ahead at first light and radio back where the family slept. You walk for anything from two to six hours with a porter at your elbow, then sit a few metres from a silverback and his family for a full hour. Nobody says much on the way down.

Day 9 BWINDI
A slow day. A community guide takes you through Buhoma village to a blacksmith and a banana beer brewery, and the afternoon is yours.

Day 10 ENTEBBE
A short drive to the airstrip and a one-hour flight over the hills to Entebbe. Midrange and Luxury guests have a day room at the hotel before they leave Uganda. Budget guests have a late lunch and go to the airport.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$7,400 per person

High-end budget lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide.

Midrange

$11,200 per person

Premium lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a second morning with chimpanzees inside Kyambura Gorge.

Luxury

$21,150 per person

Our finest lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, private boats on the water and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a second morning with chimpanzees inside Kyambura Gorge, a dawn with researchers tracking radio-collared lions, a private launch on the Kazinga Channel and the choice of travelling out by road or flying both ways.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Chimpanzee tracking permit, Kibale
- Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary guided walk (community-run)
- Queen Elizabeth park entry 3 days
- Kazinga Channel launch cruise, shared boat
- Katwe Salt Lake village visit
- Gorilla trekking permit
- Porter for the gorilla trek
- Buhoma village walk with a community guide
- Flight from Bwindi (Kihihi) to Entebbe on the way back

Add or swap on any tier

- Chimpanzee habituation experience (4 hours) instead of the standard tracking, $160 per person
- Night game drive in Queen Elizabeth, $100 per person
- Private launch on the Kazinga Channel, $140 per person

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

Gorilla trekking is for ages 15 and over, and chimpanzee tracking for ages 12 and over. Permits are bought the day the deposit clears. Gorilla permits cost $200 less in April, May and November. Luxury guests may travel out by road or fly both ways, and flying out means a flight to Kasese in place of the drive to Kibale, with chimpanzee tracking in Kyambura Gorge.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · BATWA · GOLDEN MONKEYS · GORILLAS

The Virunga Highlands

Three volcanoes, the Batwa and a family of gorillas, between two lakes.

The far south-west corner of Uganda is where the country folds into mountains. Three Virunga volcanoes rise over Mgahinga, a gorilla family waits in the steep forest at Nkuringo, and two of Africa's loveliest lakes lie on either side. This trip moves through the highlands on foot and by canoe, in the company of the Batwa, the forest people who lived here long before it became a park.

The gorilla trek is the reason most people come. The Batwa Trail and the golden monkeys are what they tell their friends about afterwards.

8 nights · Entebbe 1 · Nkuringo 2 · Lake Mutanda 3 · Lake Bunyonyi 2

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
Your guide meets you at the airport and drives you to the lake shore for dinner and an early night.

Day 2 NKURINGO
A one-hour flight to Kihihi, then a drive of about three and a half hours south through terraced hills to Nkuringo, where the forest meets the mountains. The last stretch of road is narrow and dramatic. You arrive in time for tea and a briefing with your ranger.

Day 3 NKURINGO
Gorilla day. Nkuringo is steep, so the walk takes effort, and a porter is at your side from the first step. The reward is an hour with a gorilla family in forest that drops away into valleys on every side.

Day 4 LAKE MUTANDA
A drive of about an hour and a half brings you to Kisoro and the shores of Lake Mutanda. The afternoon is spent in a dugout canoe among the islands, stopping at a lakeside village.

Day 5 MGAHINGA
The Batwa Trail. A morning with Batwa guides walking through the forest at the foot of the volcanoes, learning how their families hunted, gathered honey and sheltered in Garama Cave, a lava tube inside the mountain. Songs and stories are shared at the cave mouth.

Day 6 MGAHINGA
Golden monkeys live in the bamboo at around 2,500 metres, and tracking them means pushing through thickets with a ranger. They are quick and playful and rarely still. The afternoon is free.

Day 7 LAKE BUNYONYI
A drive of about two hours takes you through Echuya Forest, where you stop to look for the Grauer's swamp warbler, and on to Lake Bunyonyi, whose name means place of little birds. You reach the lake by lunch.

Day 8 LAKE BUNYONYI
A day in a dugout canoe. You paddle among the islands, hear the story of Punishment Island, and visit a Bakiga community above the shore.

Day 9 ENTEBBE
A drive of about three and a half hours to Kihihi and the flight to Entebbe. Midrange and Luxury guests have a day room before they leave Uganda.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$6,550 per person

High-end budget lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide.

Midrange

$9,750 per person

Premium lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes an evening by the fire with Batwa elders.

Luxury

$15,250 per person

Our finest lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, private boats on the water and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes an evening by the fire with Batwa elders and a private canoe with an island picnic on Lake Bunyonyi.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Gorilla trekking permit
- Porter for the gorilla trek
- Batwa Trail and Garama Cave, Mgahinga, with Batwa guides
- Golden monkey tracking permit and Mgahinga entry
- Nkuringo community walk with a local guide
- Lake Mutanda dugout canoe and island village visit
- Echuya Forest birding stop for the Grauer's swamp warbler
- Lake Bunyonyi canoe day with Punishment Island and a Bakiga visit
- Entebbe to Kihihi return flights

Add or swap on any tier

- Mount Sabinyo summit hike with a ranger (8 hours, strong walkers), $220 per person
- Second guided forest walk at Ruhija for Albertine Rift birds, $100 per person

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

Nkuringo is a steep sector. If you prefer an easier trek, ask us to use Rushaga or Buhoma instead. Golden monkey permits are limited to eight people a day.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · KIDEPO · KARAMOJA · THE IK TRIBE

Edge of the Map

Kidepo's savannah, a Dodoth homestead and a day with the Ik tribe of Timu Forest.

Kidepo Valley lies in the far north-east of Uganda, a long way from everything else, and most of the people who live around it have never met a tourist. You fly in over the plains, spend three nights among buffalo, elephants and lions in the Narus Valley, then drive into Karamoja to meet the Dodoth herders and the Ik tribe, one of the smallest and least known peoples in Africa.

The visits are arranged with the communities and paid for through them. The day with the Ik tribe is a real hike into the Morungole mountains, so come ready to walk.

8 nights · Entebbe 1 · Kidepo 5 · Kaabong 2

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
You arrive and sleep at the hotel. The flight to Kidepo leaves the next morning.

Day 2 KIDEPO
A flight of about two hours takes you over the plains to Kidepo. After lunch at your lodge you drive into the Narus Valley, where herds of buffalo move along the river bed.

Day 3 KIDEPO
A full day on safari with a picnic lunch. Kidepo is one of the few parks in Uganda where cheetah live, and lions are often seen on the rocky outcrops.

Day 4 KIDEPO
A morning walking safari across the valley with a ranger, then a drive to the Kanangorok hot springs near the South Sudan border.

Day 5 KAABONG
A drive of about three hours into Karamoja. You meet a Dodoth elder at his homestead and visit the manyatta, the cattle camp that organises daily life here. The evening is spent around a fire.

Day 6 KAABONG
The day with the Ik tribe. You drive to the foot of the Morungole mountains and walk up into Timu Forest with an Ik guide. Lunch is with the elders of the Ik tribe, who tell you how they have survived hunger, displacement and isolation. You walk back in the afternoon.

Day 7 KIDEPO
The drive back to Kidepo takes about three hours, and the afternoon is a game drive.

Day 8 KIDEPO
A sunrise game drive and a slow last day at the lodge.

Day 9 ENTEBBE
You fly back to Entebbe. Midrange and Luxury guests have a day room at the hotel before they leave Uganda.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$5,850 per person

High-end budget lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide.

Midrange

$8,000 per person

Premium lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a night game drive with a Kidepo ranger.

Luxury

$15,000 per person

Our finest lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, private boats on the water and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a night game drive with a Kidepo ranger, a morning with Karamojong blacksmiths and bead makers and private game drives with a sundowner stop.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Kidepo park entry 5 days
- Ranger guide for the walking safari and the hot springs trip
- Dodoth manyatta visit with an elder (community fee included)
- Ik tribe day with guide, porter, security and a community contribution
- Entebbe to Kidepo return flights

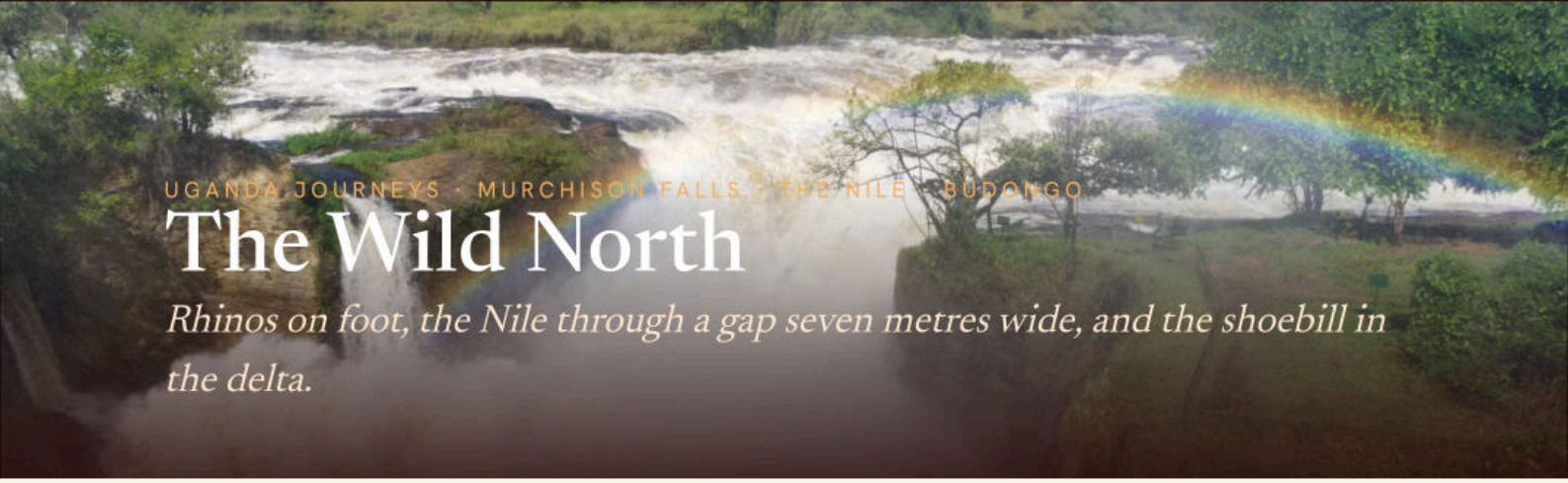
Add or swap on any tier

- Mount Moroto sunrise hike as a 2-day extension (price on request), $590 per person

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

Flights depend on availability. Where a scheduled flight is not available we charter the section and quote the difference. The hike to meet the Ik tribe takes four to six hours on foot.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · MURCHISON FALLS · THE NILE · BUDONGO

The Wild North

Rhinos on foot, the Nile through a gap seven metres wide, and the shoebill in the delta.

At Murchison Falls the Victoria Nile, which has run quietly through Uganda for hundreds of kilometres, forces itself through a gap seven metres wide and drops forty-three metres. Around it lies Uganda's largest park, home to giraffe, elephant, lion and buffalo, and a delta where the shoebill stands in the papyrus.

This trip begins with rhinos tracked on foot at Ziwa and ends in Budongo Forest, on one of the best birding roads in the country.

7 nights · Entebbe 1 · Ziwa 1 · Murchison 4 · Budongo 1

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
Your guide meets you at the airport. Dinner is at the hotel and the evening is quiet.

Day 2 ZIWA
An early start north to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. A ranger leads you on foot to a group of white rhinos, and you stand close enough to hear them tearing at the grass.

Day 3 MURCHISON
A drive of about three hours takes you to the park. You cross the Nile by ferry at Paraa and drive straight into your first game drive as the light turns gold.

Day 4 MURCHISON
The launch heads upriver to the foot of the falls, with hippos and crocodiles lining the banks. The boat stops where the water is pounded white.

Day 5 MURCHISON
A morning boat trip into the delta to look for the shoebill in the papyrus. In the afternoon you hike to the top of the falls with a ranger and stand beside the gap.

Day 6 MURCHISON
A dawn game drive for lions and giraffe. Later a visit to a Bagungu fishing village on the Nile, and the afternoon is yours.

Day 7 BUDONGO
A drive of about two and a half hours to Budongo Forest. You walk the Royal Mile, a wide forest road that is one of the finest birding trails in Uganda, and take a forest walk through Kaniyo Pabidi.

Day 8 ENTEBBE
The drive back to Entebbe takes about five hours. Midrange and Luxury guests have a day room before they leave Uganda.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$4,100 per person

High-end budget lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide.

Midrange

$5,900 per person

Premium lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a morning fishing for Nile perch with a local boatman.

Luxury

$12,800 per person

Our finest lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, private boats on the water and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a morning fishing for Nile perch with a local boatman, a night game drive and a private launch to the falls.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Ziwa rhino tracking on foot
- Murchison Falls park entry 4 days
- Nile launch to the foot of the falls, shared boat
- Delta boat trip for the shoebill, shared boat
- Ranger guide for the top-of-the-falls hike
- Bagungu fishing village visit
- Budongo Royal Mile birding walk and Kaniyo Pabidi forest walk

Add or swap on any tier

- Budongo chimpanzee tracking (replaces the forest walk), $160 per person
- Dawn at Mabamba Swamp for the shoebill, on the drive in from Entebbe, $140 per person

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

The shoebill is not guaranteed, but the delta boat gives a very good chance. Chimpanzee tracking in Budongo can replace the forest walk for an extra $100.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · RWENZORI · SEMULIKI · TORO

Mountains of the Moon

Crater lakes, the Bambuti and the Bakonzo, beneath snow on the equator.

The Rwenzori mountains carry snow on the equator, and the Greeks believed they were the source of the Nile. Around them lie crater lakes, tea country, a Congo-basin forest and the homes of three peoples with their own languages, the Toro, the Bambuti and the Bakonzo.

This trip moves between them slowly, with enough time at each stop to walk, to listen and to see the mountains clear. It is the quietest route we offer.

9 nights · Entebbe 1 · Fort Portal 4 · Semuliki 2 · Rwenzori 2

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
Your guide meets you at the airport and the first night is spent at the hotel.

Day 2 FORT PORTAL
A drive of five to six hours west, with lunch on the way, brings you to Fort Portal and your lodge.

Day 3 FORT PORTAL
A Toro guide takes you to the Amabere Caves, where a legend of a princess hidden by her father is told in rock, and around the crater lakes. In the afternoon you visit a tea estate and taste the leaf.

Day 4 FORT PORTAL
A free day at the lodge. Midrange and Luxury guests spend the morning tracking chimpanzees in Kibale, an hour away. Budget guests walk around the crater lakes or visit the Toro royal sites.

Day 5 SEMULIKI
A drive of about an hour and a half to Semuliki. You walk to the Sempaya hot springs, where water boils out of the ground, and visit a Bambuti community, the forest people of the Ituri.

Day 6 SEMULIKI
A birding walk through Semuliki forest, which holds Congo-basin birds found nowhere else in East Africa. The afternoon is free.

Day 7 RWENZORI
A drive of about three and a half hours to the Rwenzori foothills and Ruboni, a village at the end of a mountain trail.

Day 8 RWENZORI
A hike with Bakonzo guides on the Kilembe trail, through bamboo and giant heather, with views of the snow when the clouds lift. In the evening Ruboni sings and dances for its guests.

Day 9 FORT PORTAL
A drive of about two and a half hours back to Fort Portal and a free afternoon in town.

Day 10 ENTEBBE
A drive of six hours to Entebbe. Midrange and Luxury guests have a day room before they leave Uganda.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$4,250 per person

High-end budget lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide.

Midrange

$7,750 per person

Premium lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a morning with the chimpanzees of Kibale.

Luxury

$11,250 per person

Our finest lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, private boats on the water and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a morning with the chimpanzees of Kibale, a morning on a crater lake by kayak and paddleboard and a private guide for the Rwenzori hike.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Crater lakes and Amabere Caves with a Toro guide
- Toro tea estate visit and tasting
- Semuliki park entry 2 days
- Sempaya hot springs and Bambuti community visit
- Semuliki forest birding walk with a guide
- Rwenzori park entry 2 days
- Day hike with Bakonzo guides on the Kilembe trail
- Bakonzo song and dance evening at Ruboni

Add or swap on any tier

- Two-day Sine Camp trek on the Kilembe trail in place of the day hike, $450 per person

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

The mountains are often in cloud, and clearest in the early morning. The Bambuti visit depends on a community partner that we confirm before departure. A two-day trek to Sine Camp can replace the day hike for an extra $290.

Travel 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2027 · 30% deposit to book · balance due 14 days before travel



UGANDA JOURNEYS · TRAVELLERS 60+

The Seasoned Traveller

Uganda without the long roads.

Uganda's roads are long, and for many travellers they are the hardest part of a safari. This trip skips most of them. You fly to Murchison Falls and later to Bwindi, by way of Entebbe, so no day in a vehicle is longer than about two hours, and every day has a rest built into it.

A guide trained in first aid travels with you, and your gorilla trek is made in a sedan chair carried by four porters. The pace is set by you.

9 nights · Entebbe 3 · Murchison 3 · Bwindi 3

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE — Your guide meets you at the airport and drives you to the hotel on the lake shore. The evening is for dinner and sleep.

Day 2 ENTEBBE — A gentle day in Entebbe. You wander the Botanical Gardens, visit the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre and take a sunset cruise on Lake Victoria.

Day 3 MURCHISON — A one-hour flight to Pakuba, a short drive to your lodge and a late afternoon game drive among giraffe and elephants.

Day 4 MURCHISON — A launch trip upriver to the foot of the falls, with lunch afterwards and a long rest.

Day 5 MURCHISON — A morning game drive, a quiet afternoon at the lodge and an evening to yourself.

Day 6 ENTEBBE — You fly back to Entebbe and spend a quiet night at the hotel.

Day 7 BWINDI — A one-hour flight to Kihihi, a drive of about two hours to Bwindi and a briefing with your ranger.

Day 8 BWINDI — The trek. You are carried in a sedan chair by four porters along the forest paths, with a ranger beside you, and you sit with a gorilla family for an hour. The trek takes between two and six hours.

Day 9 BWINDI — A rest day. A community guide takes you to Buhoma village, and you can sit for most of the visit.

Day 10 ENTEBBE — A short drive to the airstrip and a flight to Entebbe. Midrange and Luxury guests have a day room at the hotel before they leave Uganda.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$9,550 per person

High-end budget lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide. Includes a first-aid trained guide throughout.

Midrange

$12,300 per person

Premium lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a first-aid trained guide throughout and a short canoe trip to see the shoebill at Mabamba Swamp.

Luxury

$21,000 per person

Our finest lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, private boats on the water and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a first-aid trained guide throughout, a short canoe trip to see the shoebill at Mabamba Swamp, a private launch to the falls and a second guide in Bwindi.

Included on every tier

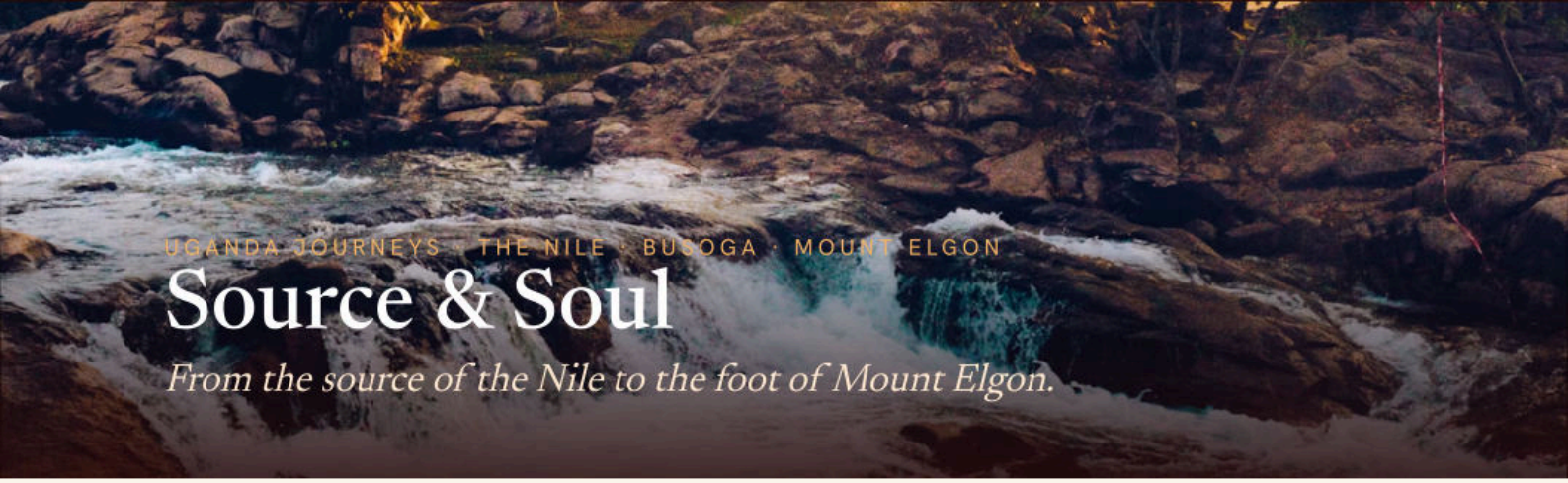
- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Entebbe Botanical Gardens and the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre
- Lake Victoria sunset cruise from Entebbe
- Murchison Falls park entry 3 days
- Nile launch to the foot of the falls, shared boat
- Gorilla trekking permit
- Sedan chair with four porters for the whole trek
- Personal porter
- Buhoma village visit with a community guide
- First-aid trained guide and full first-aid kit in the vehicle, 10 days per person
- Entebbe to Pakuba (Murchison) return flights
- Entebbe to Kihihi (Bwindi) return flights

Add or swap on any tier

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

Sedan chairs are limited and must be booked two to three months ahead. Please tell us about any medical conditions when you book, and carry your medication in your hand luggage.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · THE NILE · BUSOGA · MOUNT ELGON

Source & Soul

From the source of the Nile to the foot of Mount Elgon.

Jinja is where the Nile begins, and Busoga, the kingdom around it, is one of the oldest in Uganda. A few hours east, Mount Elgon rises over Sipi Falls and the Sebei coffee farms. This trip follows the river to its start and then climbs to the mountain that watches over it.

Rafting is the headline. The Busoga day and the Sipi walks are what make it a journey.

7 nights · Entebbe 1 · Jinja 3 · Sipi Falls 3

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
Your guide meets you at the airport. The first night is spent at the hotel.

Day 2 JINJA
A drive of about three hours, with a guided walk through Mabira Forest on the way. In the afternoon a boat takes you to the Source of the Nile, where the lake pours into the river.

Day 3 JINJA
A half day of white-water rafting on grades three to five, with lunch on the bank. In the evening you take a boat on the river at sunset.

Day 4 SIPI FALLS
A drive of about five hours east to Sipi Falls, through Mbale, with Mount Elgon filling the horizon.

Day 5 SIPI FALLS
A guided hike to the three Sipi waterfalls takes three to four hours. In the afternoon you visit a Sebei family farm and pick, process, roast and taste your own coffee.

Day 6 SIPI FALLS
A walk in Mount Elgon's Kapkwai Forest with guides from the Benet community, the forest people of the mountain, and a visit to the Kapkwai caves.

Day 7 JINJA
A drive of about four and a half hours back to Jinja, with the evening free on the river.

Day 8 ENTEBBE
A morning visit to the Busoga Kingdom with a cultural guide, then the drive to Entebbe. Midrange and Luxury guests have a day room before they leave Uganda.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$3,250 per person

High-end budget lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide.

Midrange

$5,000 per person

Premium lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a morning fishing for Nile perch with a Busoga fisherman.

Luxury

$7,900 per person

Our finest lodges and camps, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, private boats on the water and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a morning fishing for Nile perch with a Busoga fisherman, a private rafting guide and a private boat on the Nile and a chef's dinner on the river.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Mabira Forest guided eco-trail walk
- Source of the Nile boat trip
- Busoga Kingdom day with a cultural guide (arranged in advance)
- Nile white-water rafting, half day (grades 3-5)
- Nile sunset cruise
- Sipi Falls three-waterfall guided hike
- Coffee experience on a Sebei family farm
- Mount Elgon National Park entry, 1 day
- Kapkwai Forest guided walk with the Benet community and the caves

Add or swap on any tier

- Sipi Falls abseiling (100 m), $110 per person

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

The Busoga palace needs a visit arranged in advance, which we do for you. Rafting can be swapped for a calm kayak trip at no charge.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · MUSEUMS · MUSIC · LAKE VICTORIA

Kampala Unplugged

Museums, tombs and music in Kampala, then the lake shore and a night with the chimpanzees of Ngamba.

Most visitors pass through Kampala on the way to somewhere else. It is worth a few days of its own. The Uganda Museum, the royal tombs at Kasubi, the galleries of Nakasero and an evening of drums at Ndere Centre show how the capital thinks about itself.

Then the trip slows down. You spend an afternoon on the beach at Entebbe, and Midrange and Luxury guests cross Lake Victoria to spend a night on Ngamba Island, where orphaned chimpanzees are raised by keepers.

6 nights · Entebbe 3 · Kampala 3

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
Your guide meets you at the airport. Dinner is at the hotel.

Day 2 KAMPALA
You drive into the capital, visit the Uganda Museum and spend the afternoon at the Kasubi Tombs, a UNESCO site where the kings of Buganda are buried.

Day 3 KAMPALA
Namirembe Cathedral on its hill, then a walk through Kampala's galleries, including Nommo. In the evening the Ndere Centre serves dinner and plays drums, dance and song from across Uganda.

Day 4 KAMPALA
A food walk through Owino Market and Old Kampala with a local guide, then a night of live music in the city.

Day 5 ENTEBBE
You drive to Entebbe and spend the afternoon on a beach on Lake Victoria, with sunbeds, paddleboards and lunch.

Day 6 NGAMBA ISLAND
A speedboat takes about fifty minutes to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary. Budget guests spend a half day with the keepers at feeding time and return to Entebbe. Midrange and Luxury guests stay the night on the island, help with the caregiving programme and watch the chimpanzees settle at dusk.

Day 7 ENTEBBE
Midrange and Luxury guests return by boat in the morning. Everyone has a last lunch and a transfer to the airport.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$2,900 per person

High-end budget hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private safari vehicle and a driver-guide. Includes a half day on Ngamba Island.

Midrange

$4,000 per person

Premium hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with an extended Land Cruiser, a specialist guide and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a night on Ngamba Island with the caregiving programme.

Luxury

$5,700 per person

Our finest hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. All inclusive, with a private specialist guide, a private car and a day room in Entebbe on your last day. Includes a night on Ngamba Island by private speedboat with a private briefing from a keeper.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Uganda Museum and Kasubi Tombs with a guide
- Namirembe Cathedral and Kampala's art galleries (Nommo and others)
- Ndere Centre dance and dinner evening
- Kampala food walk through Owino Market and Old Kampala
- Entebbe lakeshore beach day with lunch and paddleboards

Add or swap on any tier

- Mabamba Swamp shoebill canoe trip from Entebbe, $140 per person
- Morning or evening with local fishermen at Kasenyi landing site, $100 per person
- Lake Victoria Nile perch sport fishing, half day, $420 per person

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

Ngamba overnight rates are confirmed with the sanctuary at booking. A shoebill canoe trip at Mabamba or a morning with fishermen at Kasenyi can be added to any tier.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · STUDENT GROUPS · LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Life in Busoga

Time with the people of Busoga, then Murchison Falls and the Nile.

Busoga is one of Uganda's oldest kingdoms, and Jinja, at its heart, is where the Nile begins. For four days your group lives close to a Busoga community. Mornings are spent where the community needs hands and good company, in a local school, on a family farm or on a project the community has chosen, and afternoons follow the pace of the village. The group decides what suits it best.

Around that week you see Murchison Falls, Kampala and the source of the Nile. Groups of five or more travel together, and the group leader travels free.

11 nights · Entebbe 1 · Murchison 2 · Kampala 2 · Jinja 6

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
The group arrives for an orientation and a child-safeguarding briefing that every visitor completes.

Day 2 MURCHISON
A drive of about six hours north, with lunch on the way. You cross the Nile by ferry at Paraa and take a first game drive in the evening light.

Day 3 MURCHISON
A dawn game drive, then the launch to the foot of the falls in the afternoon.

Day 4 KAMPALA
A last morning drive in the park, then the road south to Kampala, about five and a half hours with lunch.

Day 5 KAMPALA
The Uganda Museum and the Kasubi Tombs in the morning, and in the evening a drum and dance workshop and dinner at Ndere Centre.

Day 6 JINJA
A drive of about three hours to Jinja. The group meets its hosts, and in the afternoon a cultural guide takes you through the Busoga Kingdom.

Day 7 JINJA
The first morning with the community. Your hosts show you around, and the group begins in the place it has chosen, a school, a farm or a community project. Afternoons are for football with the children, cooking with your hosts and learning a craft.

Day 8 JINJA
A full day alongside your hosts. The work is real and shared, and the conversation is the best part of it.

Day 9 JINJA
The days settle into the rhythm of the village, and the group finds its own place in it.

Day 10 JINJA
A last morning, a farewell meal and the goodbyes.

Day 11 JINJA
A boat to the Source of the Nile in the morning, and white-water rafting or a Nile kayak trip in the afternoon.

Day 12 ENTEBBE
A drive of about three hours to Entebbe and the group's departure. Luxury groups spend a last night on Ngamba Island before they fly.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$4,550 per student

High-end budget lodges and hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private minibus and a Ugandan coordinator who stays with the group.

Midrange

$6,600 per student

Premium lodges and hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private minibus and a Ugandan coordinator who stays with the group. Includes a night at a lodge on an island in the Nile.

Luxury

$10,000 per student

Our finest lodges and hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private minibus and a Ugandan coordinator who stays with the group. Includes two nights at the island lodge on the Nile and a last night on Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Community programme in Busoga, coordinated with a local partner, including a contribution to the host community
- Murchison Falls park entry 2 days
- Nile launch to the foot of the falls
- Uganda Museum and Kasubi Tombs
- Ndere Centre drum and dance workshop and dinner
- Busoga Kingdom cultural day
- Source of the Nile boat trip
- White-water rafting half day or Nile kayak

Add or swap on any tier

- Extra week with a Busoga community (per week), $510 per student
- Mabira Forest canopy walk and a Jinja youth enterprise visit, $110 per student

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

School activities happen only while schools are in session, and the rest of the programme runs all year. We confirm the host community and its partner before taking a deposit. Every visitor completes a child-safeguarding briefing and travels with their own group leader.



UGANDA JOURNEYS · STUDENT GROUPS · CONSERVATION

Conservation Expedition

How Uganda protects its wildlife, from rescue to research, with the people who do the work.

This expedition follows conservation from the rescue pen to the research station. Students begin with the keepers at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre and the caregivers on Ngamba Island, where confiscated chimpanzees are raised, then meet the team that brought rhinos back to Ziwa. They spend a day with researchers at the Budongo Conservation Field Station, home to one of the longest chimpanzee studies in Africa, and finish in Queen Elizabeth, with the researchers who follow the park's lions and the community of Katwe.

Each stop is arranged in advance with the institution itself. Groups of five or more travel together, and the group leader travels free.

9 nights · Entebbe 1 · Ngamba Island 1 · Ziwa 1 · Budongo 2 · Fort Portal 1 · Queen Elizabeth 3

Your days

Day 1 ENTEBBE
The group arrives for an orientation briefing.

Day 2 NGAMBA ISLAND
A morning behind the scenes at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, where keepers show how rescued animals are fed, treated and prepared for release or a lifetime of care. In the afternoon a boat takes the group to Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, where caregivers explain how orphaned chimpanzees arrive, and the group spends the night on the island.

Day 3 ZIWA
A morning with the caregivers and a science class on the island, then the boat back and a drive of about three hours to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. In the afternoon a ranger describes how rhinos disappeared from Uganda and how a small founding herd was returned.

Day 4 BUDONGO
At dawn the group tracks rhinos on foot, then drives about two hours to Budongo Forest.

Day 5 BUDONGO
A day at the Budongo Conservation Field Station. Researchers lead field training in the forest and explain how the Sonso chimpanzee community has been followed for over thirty years.

Day 6 FORT PORTAL
A drive of about six hours to Fort Portal, with lunch on the way.

Day 7 QUEEN ELIZABETH
A drive of about three hours to Queen Elizabeth. In the afternoon the group follows the Crater Drive along the rims of old volcanoes.

Day 8 QUEEN ELIZABETH
Dawn on the Kasenyi plains with the Uganda Carnivore Programme, whose researchers follow the park's lions and explain what the data is used for. In the afternoon the group visits the people of Katwe Salt Lake, who live beside the park.

Day 9 QUEEN ELIZABETH
A last morning with a ranger, who explains how the park is patrolled and how it works with the communities around it.

Day 10 ENTEBBE
A short drive to Kasese airstrip and a flight of about an hour to Entebbe, and the group's departure.

Where you stay, and what it costs

Budget

$5,000 per student

High-end budget lodges and hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private minibus and a Ugandan coordinator who stays with the group. Includes a dawn with the Uganda Carnivore Programme team and a talk on how the lions are monitored.

Midrange

$7,050 per student

Premium lodges and hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private minibus and a Ugandan coordinator who stays with the group. Includes a dawn with the Uganda Carnivore Programme team and lion tracking with its researchers.

Luxury

$9,000 per student

Our finest lodges and hotels, all carefully selected in the best locations. Full board, with a private minibus and a Ugandan coordinator who stays with the group. Includes a dawn with the Uganda Carnivore Programme team and lion tracking with its researchers and a private evening with a field researcher.

Included on every tier

- Airport transfers and every road transfer on the route
- Accommodation with the meals shown above
- Behind-the-scenes day at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre with the keepers
- Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary rhino tracking on foot, with a talk on the rhino reintroduction programme
- A day at the Budongo Conservation Field Station, with field training and a talk on the Sonso chimpanzee study
- Queen Elizabeth park entry 3 days
- Crater Drive and Katwe Salt Lake community visit
- Dawn at Kasenyi with the Uganda Carnivore Programme team and a talk on how the lions are monitored
- Flight from Kasese to Entebbe on the way back

Add or swap on any tier

- Lion tracking with Uganda Carnivore Programme researchers added to Budget (included on Midrange and Luxury), $930 per student
- Night game drive in Queen Elizabeth, $100 per student

Not included

- International flights
- Visa and travel insurance
- Tips, personal items and drinks outside the plan

Each visit is confirmed with the institution before the deposit is taken. The flight from Kasese needs four passengers, which a group of five meets. Where a scheduled flight is not available we charter the section and quote the difference.

TAKEOFF CONNECTION
TOUR & TRAVEL

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