



MURCHISON FALLS

Uganda's largest park is named after the Nile's 40m plunge over the rift valley scarp. Below the Falls, the river is home to a multitude of hippos, crocodiles and waterbirds. Big game roams the rolling savanna plains to the north of the river while primates & birds live in forests to the south.

- ✓ Cruise up the Nile (A) towards Murchison Falls (B), past resident hippos, crocodiles & waterbirds and day visitors including watering elephants & wallowing buffalo.
- ✓ Watch the Nile explode into Fajao Gorge over the 45m high Murchison Falls (B) - the most dramatic event on the river's 6800km course.
- ✓ Get closer to the action at the Top of the Falls viewpoint (B) to see, hear & feel the river crash through a 6m cleft in the rift valley cliffs.
- ✓ Take an early morning game drive through the scenic Buligi grasslands (C) to the banks of the Albert Nile.
- ✓ Search for the iconic shoebill in the papyrus delta (D) where the Nile enters Lake Albert.
- ✓ Come face to face with your chimpanzee cousins in the Kaniyo Pabidi Forest (E).

A DEFINITIVE LIST OF THE HABITUATED GORILLA GROUPS IN UGANDA

| Trailhead | Group Name | Members | Species |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK | Buhoma Trailhead | Mutare: 14 members with 1 silverback Habinyanja: 17 members with 1 silverback Rushigura: 16 members with 1 silverback | |
| | Ruhija Trailhead | Bitukura: 12 members with 3 silverbacks Oruzogo: 19 members with 3 silverbacks Kyaguriro Mukiza: 11 members with 1 silverback (research) Kyaguriro Rukara: 9 members with 1 silverback | |
| | Nkurungo Trailhead | Nkurungo: 11 members with 1 silverback Bushaho: 10 members with 1 silverback | |
| RUSHAGA TRAILHEAD | Nshong: 26 members with 4 silverbacks Mishaya: 12 members with 1 silverback Kahungye: 13 members with 3 silverbacks Bweza: 9 members with 1 silverback Busingye: 9 members with 1 silverback Bikingye: 22 members with 1 silverback (under habituation) | | |
| | MGAHINGA GORILLA NATIONAL PARK | Nyakaagezi: 10 members with 3 silverbacks | |

QUEEN ELIZABETH

QENP enjoys a fabulous rift valley setting between lakes George and Edward at the foot of the Rwenzori mountain. A variety of habitats, including savanna, acacia woodland, forest, wetland, & open water supports a wide range of mammal & bird species.

- ✓ Enjoy the best possible introduction to African birding as you seek 604 species in QENP's modest 1978km² area. Easy ticks along the Kazinga Channel (A) contrast with careful searches for forest rarities in the depths of Marumagambo (G).
- ✓ Check off mammals, reptiles & waterbirds galore as you cruise across the rift valley floor on the Kazinga Channel (A).
- ✓ Watch local people extract salt from evaporation pans in Lake Katwe (B) - a process used since the 14th Century.
- ✓ Meander between extinct volcanic craters (C), their fiery cones now filled with lakes, forests & grass.
- ✓ Get up early to find lions breakfasting on the Kasenyi plains (D).
- ✓ Follow chimpanzees through the forested depths of the Kyambura Gorge (E).
- ✓ Gaze across the rift valley floor from the Kichwamba Escarpment (F) towards the snowy tips of the Rwenzori.
- ✓ Look up to find lions in Ishasha (H). These obliging felines love to doze in the boughs of shady fig trees!

SEMLIKI

In the broad Semliki Valley, on the far side of the Rwenzori, East African grasslands merge with Congolese forest. Semliki National Park contains the eastern limit of this hot, steamy jungle and is crammed with unfamiliar forest birds & primates from the Congo-Guinea biome.

- ✓ Descend into the Semliki Valley (A) for a taste of the neighbouring Congo with tropical forest, oil palms, primates and Pygmies, all just an hour from the comforts of Fort Portal.
- ✓ Follow the Kirima Trail (B) into the Semliki Forest to look for 46 Congo-Guinea bird species found nowhere else in East Africa & 35 that occur in only 2-3 other Ugandan forests.
- ✓ Walk through forest to the muddy, meandering & jungle fringed Semliki River (C).
- ✓ Cook eggs the natural way in the boiling waters of the Sempaya Hot Springs (D).

BWINDI IMPENETRABLE

This ancient forest in Uganda's mountainous south western corner has been weaving itself into tangles for 25,000 years, in the process accumulating an extraordinary biodiversity. Species counts list 350 birds, 310 butterflies, 200 trees, 51 reptiles and 120 mammals, including the rare and unforgettable mountain gorilla.

- ✓ Conclude your long journey into the heart of the Bwindi Impenetrable - by air, road & steep, muddy forest trail - with a magical hour in the company of a family of Mountain Gorillas (A).
- ✓ After tracking gorillas, enjoy an insightful community walk, an enthusiastic Batwa (Pygmy) dance, pretty waterfalls & stunning rainforest horizon.
- ✓ Look south (B) towards the roller coaster horizon formed by the Virunga volcanoes.
- ✓ Search for species listed on the superb birdlist for the Ruhija sector of Bwindi (C), including 15 birds endemic to the Albertine Rift.

RWENZORI MOUNTAINS

Africa's highest mountain range, the 5100m Rwenzori - or Mountains of the Moon - is the snowy source of the Nile referred to by early geographers. Trails to the snow peaks ascend glacier-carved valleys filled with colourful mosses & giant forms of lobelias, heathers and groundsel.

- ✓ Endure days of mud, cold, rain, and pasta meals to walk on equatorial snow and ice (A).
- ✓ Enter the bizarre wonderland of the high Rwenzori (B) to walk through forests of lichen-draped heathers, beneath gargantuan groundsel, and past giant rosettes of lobelia.
- ✓ Relax with a sundowner at the base of the Rwenzori (C) and immerse yourself in the 2000 year-old history of Ptolemy's fabled Mountains of the Moon.

LEGEND

The inset maps on this sheet show Uganda's 10 national parks at the same scale, contrasting, for example, the 5000km² expanse of Murchison Falls with the tiny, 33km² Mгахinga.

- Attraction/ activity
- Lodgets

See overleaf for key to other symbols & lines.

HABITATS

- Savanna/wooded savanna
- Tropical forest
- Afromontane vegetation (>3500m)

MGAHINGA GORILLA

The tiny (33km²) Mгахinga N.P. protects a variety of rare and distinctive flora and fauna, including mountain gorillas & golden monkeys, on the Ugandan slopes of the Virunga volcanoes.

- ✓ Track mountain gorillas on the slopes of Mгахinga's three volcanic cones (A).
- ✓ Traverse zones of Afromontane vegetation reach the to the 4127m summit of towering Mt Muhuvura (B).
- ✓ Look for the spectacular Rwenzori turoaco on the flank of Mt. Sabinyo (C).
- ✓ Go underground to learn the legends and lore of the Batwa (Pygmies) in Garamba Cave (D).

LAKE MBURO

Uganda's smallest savanna park contains a scenic mosaic of grassland, wetland, acacia woodland and open water. A variety of herbivores include species, including eland, impala and zebra, that are rare or absent from other Ugandan parks.

- ✓ Break the journey between Bwindi & Entebbe with the graffes, zebras, elands (etc.) of Lake Mburo.
- ✓ Don't settle for just another game drive. Look for wildlife in Lake Mburo on foot, on a mountain bike, aboard a boat & on horseback.
- ✓ Scan Lake Mburo's extensive wetland system for rare, papyrus endemic birds.

KIBALE

East of the Rwenzori, the landscape is dotted with stunning crater lakes, carpeted with tea plantations & shaded by tropical forests packed with birds and primates. Species lists in Kibale forest include 13 primates including chimpanzee and red colobus, and 355 birds.

KIDEPO VALLEY

One of Africa's great wildernesses, Kidepo lies in the farthest corner of the remote Karamoja region. Big game favourites roam rolling grasslands that extend in all directions towards distant mountain ranges in Uganda, Kenya & South Sudan.

- ✓ Thread through the narrow pass in the Napore-Nyunge Hills (A) to see the vast plains of Kidepo spread out before you.
- ✓ Explore the rolling grasslands of the Narus Valley (B), home to elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, eland, hartebeest, lion, hyena, cheetah...
- ✓ Look for ostriches and secretary birds in the vast, and expanse of the Kidepo Valley (C) and tour the Narus Valley (B) in search of vultures, raptors, savanna hombills and the improbably colourful Abyssinian roller...
- ✓ Visit a traditional Karamojong manyatta (kraal) (D).
- ✓ Drive south (E) through the length of Karamoja from the hot, ochre plains of Kidepo to the cool green slopes of Mount Elgon.

MOUNT ELGON

This massive extinct volcano was once Africa's highest mountain, towering above Kilimanjaro's present 5891m. Though reduced to 4321m, Mt. Elgon's emblematic tiers of waterfall-streaked basalt cliffs still rise 3000m above the surrounding plains, ascending through altitudinal bands of forest.

- ✓ Ascend through concentric zones of Afromontane vegetation to find the sunrises along the rim of a giant caldera, 8km wide (A).
- ✓ Relax at a resort at the beautiful Sipi Falls (B) before, after, or instead of your mountain climb.