

GORILLAS AND GAME PARKS

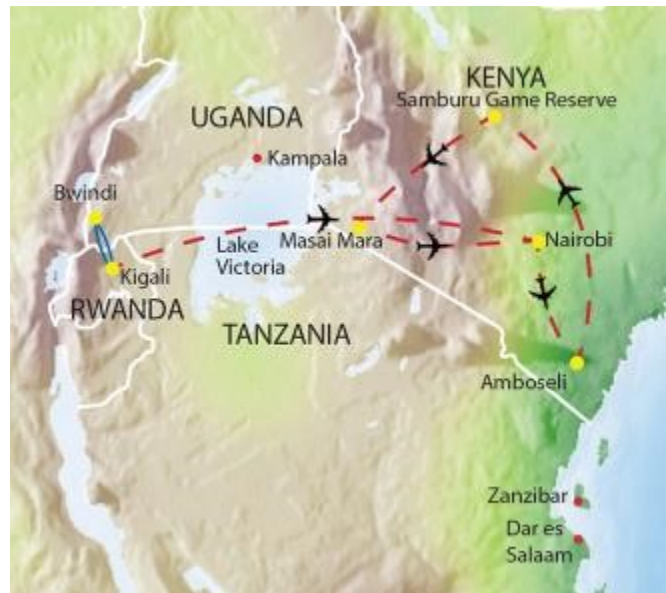
Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya



10 day private safari
(standard and deluxe accommodation)

This journey is the ideal way to combine extensive wildlife viewing with a visit to the rare eastern mountain gorillas. Your adventure begins with a gorilla trek in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda. From Nairobi you then begin a fly-in safari, visiting three of the most famous game parks in Kenya. Each day offers a new and unique African experience on this African journey.





Kigali to Nairobi

Accommodation: Uganda - standard, Kenya - deluxe

Departs: daily

Day 1: Uganda, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge*

Day 2: Uganda, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge*

Day 3: Kenya, Nairobi - Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport

Day 4: Kenya, Amboseli National Park - Ol Tukai Lodge

Day 5: Kenya, Amboseli National Park - Ol Tukai Lodge

Day 6: Kenya, Samburu National Reserve - Larsen's Tented Camp

Day 7: Kenya, Samburu National Reserve - Larsen's Tented Camp

Day 8: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Mara Engai Wilderness Camp

Day 9: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Mara Engai Wilderness Camp

Day 10: Kenya, Nairobi - ends

* Accommodation in Uganda may be substituted with alternate accommodation of a similar standard in cases on non-availability.

Cost includes:

Rwanda, Uganda (private safari)

- meet and greet services with assistance at Kigali airport
- all safari transport in 4WD safari vehicles with English speaking driver-guide
- accommodation as specified or similar
- meals as listed
- all park fees and government taxes.

Kenya (private fly-in safari)

- complimentary hotel airport shuttle on arrival
- flights Nairobi Wilson airport to Amboseli—Nairobi—Samburu—Masai Mara—Nairobi Wilson airport
- safari transport and game drives in 4WD safari vehicles as hosted by your camps and lodges
- accommodation as specified
- meals as listed
- local beverages at Mara Engai Lodge and Larsen's Tented Camp
- limited laundry at Larsen's Tented Camp and Mara Engai Lodge
- all park fees and government taxes

Cost excludes:

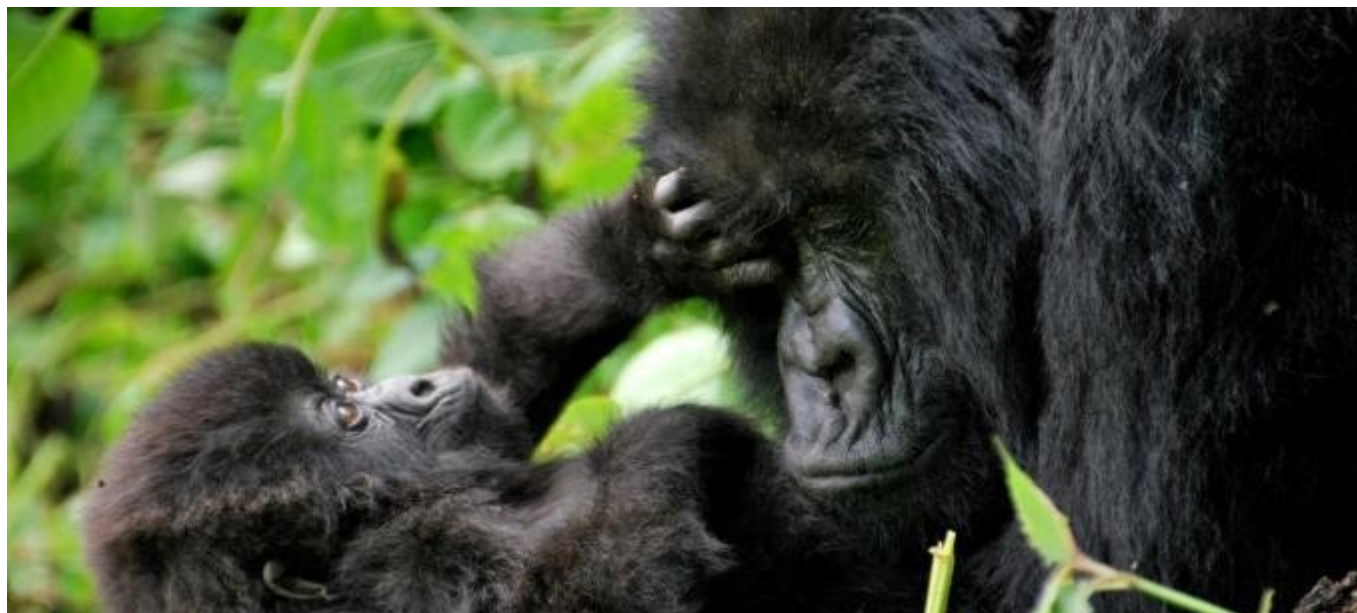
- gorilla trek permit at USD700 per permit, per person
- visas and international flights
- drinks, other than listed as included, dining rooms tips, portage, personal travel, baggage and medical insurance, telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

FI - fully inclusive of all meals and selected beverages (alcoholic and non alcoholic)



Day 1: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

On arrival in Kigali you will be greeted and briefed on your tour. Your drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda usually takes between four and five hours. However, as this includes a border crossing to enter Uganda, and is affected by local weather and road conditions, this drive can take longer. Central Africa offers travellers the chance to view thick jungle, a series of volcanoes and lush green hillsides when travelling. Driving times can be long, but the scenery is often outstanding and certainly very different to most of Australia. Your next two nights are spent in the jungle of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. **Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge or similar - standard room (D).**

Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge

Located only ten minutes' walk to the Rushaga park gate, Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge offers spectacular views of the of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park right from your room. Each chalet has a wrap-around balcony, mosquito netted beds and a private en-suite. The lodge's restaurant serves hearty meals and the friendly bar offers even more views across the forest.

Day 2: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

This morning you leave early, with a packed picnic lunch, and drive to the headquarters of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The park is one of four forests where these primates inhabit. At the park headquarters you are briefed by the park rangers who will guide you on your gorilla trek. Travellers are sorted into small groups of eight and guided into the park to visit the gorilla troop. Two rangers accompany the trekkers to ensure safety. The trek usually takes between 45 minutes and four hours. The duration of your trek is dependant upon the location of the troop on the day. The trek is through jungle, and at a high altitude, and therefore requires a good level of fitness. Travellers with contractible illnesses, such as colds, are not encouraged to visit the gorillas as this can be detrimental to the gorilla's health.

Mountain gorillas are the largest of the great apes. They live in family groups of 10 to 30 members. It is believed that there are less than 800 mountain gorillas left in the wild. Your trek, to one of the families living in the park, is through thick jungle. When you first sight the troop it is common for the alpha male silverback to beat his chest at your group as a warning. Around 45 - 60 minutes are spent with the troop. Gorillas pass their time eating, playing and interacting while you sit only metres away. Spending time with a gorilla troop is one of the world's greatest wildlife experiences. It is an activity reserved for a privileged few each year. After your trek you return to park headquarters, before transferring back to your lodge. **Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge or similar - standard room (BLD).**

Day 3: Nairobi

Your morning drive returns you to Kigali airport for a flight to Nairobi (flight not included). On arrival take the complimentary airport shuttle to your airport hotel. **Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport Hotel - superior room (B).**

Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport Hotel

The hotel offers 144 spacious, adaptable, contemporarily designed rooms, with a large ergonomic working area consisting of suites, interconnecting rooms, double and twin rooms, convenient for business, family and leisure travellers. Tailored to meet every guest's needs, the hotel also has facilities for pre or post flight passengers with day rooms. Specialising in relaxation and rejuvenation, personal fulfilment is also guaranteed at the Euphoria Spa, a rooftop deck with an infinity pool as well as an equipped gym for the fitness enthusiasts. The hotel features a contemporary café with around the clock menu offering local and global cuisine, a coffee shop that offers the best-handpicked flavours and a unique culinary experience. A bar with an amazing range of exotic cocktails, international wines, draught beer, mock tails and beverages for every mood.

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Day 4: Amboseli National Park

After an early breakfast, transfer to Wilson airport for your scenic flight to the Amboseli. Enjoy a game drive en route to the lodge. Enjoy lunch before setting off in the afternoon on a shared game drive hosted by the lodge.

In the far south of Kenya, on the border with Tanzania lies Amboseli National Park; a park which offers more than just wildlife viewing. With a backdrop of Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, Amboseli offers travellers spectacular views of this African icon from its flat plains. On a clear day even the worst photographer cannot help but capture iconic images of animals framed by the mountain behind them. The park is also famous for herds of large 'tusker' elephant, which roam the plains in search of water supplied by a consistent underground water table. **OI Tukai Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

OI Tukai Lodge

Set at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, OI Tukai lies at the heart of Amboseli National Park. Each room has uninterrupted views of either the wetlands or Mount Kilimanjaro, with the cottage style accommodation spreading out on either side of the main lodge. Each room is built from indigenous building materials and decorated with a beige and cream slate. The lodge features a library, bar, gift shop and spacious gardens to relax at in-between game drives. Views from the swimming pool to Mount Kilimanjaro are perfect on a clear day, which makes this lodge a great destination for travellers wishing to catch a glimpse of Africa's highest peak, whilst enjoying game activities within this popular park.

Day 5: Amboseli National Park

Today you enjoy shared morning and afternoon game drives in the park. **OI Tukai Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

Day 6: Samburu Game Reserve

After a final morning game drive in Amboseli you transfer to the airfield and fly to Samburu, via Wilson airport. Enjoy a game drive en route to the lodge. After lunch join a shared afternoon game drive hosted by the lodge. **Larsen's Tented Camp - standard permanent tent (FI).**

Larsen's Tented Camp

Set in lush lawns on the bank of the Uaso Nyiro River, Larsen's is the perfect stage for an endless pageant of wildlife - elephants rolling and trumpeting in the shallows, timid impala nervously drinking, baboons and vervet monkeys swinging through the canopy of trees. An animal viewing platform in a tree lets you scan the vast Samburu plain. Inclusive of game drives, champagne breakfasts on the banks of the Uaso Nyiro River, sunset cocktails in the wild, bird walks and black-tie dinners in the dining tent, Larsen's is the place to be. There are 20 spacious en-suite airy tents all raised on wooden platforms, each named after a bird. The tents reflect colonial elegance; hot showers and a surprising degree of comfort with towelling gowns in the tent and comfortable leather safari chairs.

Day 7: Samburu Game Reserve

Samburu Game Reserve is located around 100 kilometres north of Mount Kenya. The park was made famous by the best-selling book, and award winning movie; Born Free. Unlike many of Kenya's parks, Samburu has an arid, desert-like landscape with rocky outcrops and stone kopjes providing perfect viewing platforms for lion and leopard.



Mara Engai Wilderness Lodge





Lodges in this region tend to be hands-on with activities, such as walking safaris, mountain hiking and cultural interactions with the Samburu people supplementing twice daily game drives. Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives. **Larsen's Tented Camp - standard permanent tent (FI).**

Day 8: Masai Mara Game Reserve

Today you fly from Samburu to the Mara where you meet your Maasai ranger. Transfer across the Mara to your lodge, which sits atop an escarpment offering incredible views over the Mara. Enjoy a game drive this afternoon, prior to sundowner drinks. The Maasai people who call the park, and its surrounds, home have a close relationship with tourism. Their communities operate many of the game lodges and safari camps. **Mara Engai Wilderness Lodge - standard room (FI).**

Mara Engai Lodge

Mara Engai Wilderness Lodge is nestled amongst pristine Kenyan Ravine forest on the Siria Escarpment. Overlooking the amazing Masai Mara National Reserve and Wildebeest Migration Route, with around 120km of unbroken views – it is simply breath-taking. Located on the edge of the Mara Triangle, the North-Western part of the Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya, which is managed by the not-for-profit organization The Mara Conservancy on behalf of Trans-Mara County Council (Trans Mara District). Divided from the rest of the Masai Mara by the Mara River, the Mara Triangle is less crowded, often with many more game animals grazing on the plains and between the volcanic hills that distinguish this corner of the Mara.

Day 9: Masai Mara Game Reserve

Your day is spent on morning and afternoon game drives. Famed as one of the top game parks in the world, the Masai Mara Game Reserve is a highlight of any visit to Kenya. Undulating pastures, rocky outcrops and cloud covered savannahs attract the 'big five', along with high volumes of grazing animals. Game viewing in 'the Mara' can involve lively encounters due to the large amount of predators living within the park and its surrounding conservancies. Lions hunt en masse, with sightings of large prides commonplace. Leopard, cheetah, rhino, elephant and hippo inhabit the region throughout the year, whilst up to 1.5 million zebra and wildebeest call the Mara home between July and October during the great migration. The Mara and Talek rivers form dangerous crossing points as the migration turns north to enter the Masai Mara from its southern neighbour; the Serengeti National Park. Time spent in the reserve and its neighbouring conservancies, offers great game viewing, cultural experiences and an insight into the importance of national reserves in conserving Africa's wildlife. The Mara River crossing locations are an easy drive from Mara Engai. **Mara Engai Wilderness Lodge - standard room. (FI).**

Day 10: Nairobi

After a morning game drive (flight time permitting) transfer to the Mara airfield for your flight to Nairobi. **(B).**

Gorilla trek permits

Gorilla permits are not included in this tour price. This is Africa will purchase the trekking permits on your behalf at the time of booking. A copy of your current passport is required to issue permits. If your passport needs to be re-issued prior to your visit, permits can be issued on your current passport. Your new passport details will then be forwarded to our Uganda office. Full payment for the permit must be made at the time of booking. Once the permit is issued it is non-changeable and non-refundable. There are no exceptions made to this rule as permits are issued by a Ugandan government authority. Children under the age of 15 years of age cannot be issued a permit.

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Important information

This package requires a minimum of two travellers to operate. Solo traveller prices can be quoted upon request.

Children aged 2-11 years are welcome on this package however a private vehicle may be required by each lodge (own expense). Children under 16 years of age are not permitted to trek the gorillas due to government restrictions. Babysitting can be arranged by the lodges during your game activities. Please ask our consultants for details prior to booking.

Gorillas and Game Parks is the combination of two travel packages and a night in Nairobi to combine the two. It is not fully guided throughout.

Transfers may be in a sedan, minibus or 24 passenger coach. An airport shuttle is used in Nairobi.

Due to limited luggage space, suitcases are unsuitable for scheduled road safaris and fly-in packages. Luggage must be packed in inexpensive barrel style bags or soft sided bags not exceeding 15kgs (including hand luggage) and 65 x 46 cm in size. If your luggage exceeds this style or limits an excess baggage fee will be charged by the airline and they may not be permitted on the aircraft.

As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.

Distances and times mentioned within the itinerary may vary due to local conditions at time of travel.

The times and duration of safaris may change on tour in order to maximise wildlife viewing opportunities.

River crossing sightings during the migration are not guaranteed as animal movements are seasonal and unpredictable. However every effort will be made to see animals cross the Mara River. During peak season multiple vehicle departures may occur and vehicles may travel together.

It is the responsibility of the client to be at the departure point at the time assigned by the operator. On completion of the package, flights must be booked taking into consideration the time recommended by the operator.

It is the responsibility of the client to have all necessary documentation, including visas and inoculation certificates relating to this tour.

At times, the sequence or inclusion of activities may vary due to local conditions, arrival and departure times, opening hours or non-availability.

Prices may vary when booking seasons overlap. Bookings over Christmas, New Year and Easter incur holiday supplements. Please ask for a date-specific quote for travel during these dates.

Prices for airport taxes, park fees and applicable government taxes and levies may be changed without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase will be passed on to the client.

Please refer to our terms and conditions for amendments and cancellation policies if necessary.

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is a compulsory requirement for some countries in eastern and central Africa. We strongly advise you seek advice from a travel doctor regarding inoculations.



Oi Tukai Lodge

