

GORILLA ENCOUNTER UGANDA RWANDA, UGANDA

3 day private package
(standard accommodation)



For those wishing to visit the rare mountain gorillas, this three day trip offers the best value option. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda, one of four forests where these primates inhabit, is four to five hours' drive from Kigali. Trekking in Bwindi allows you to take advantage of the lower permit rates in Uganda. We encourage you to stay longer in Rwanda and Uganda, however if you only have a few days then this tour is a great option.



**Cost includes:**

- meet and greet services with assistance at Kigali airport
- all safari transport in 4x4 safari vehicles with English speaking driver-guide
- accommodation as specified
- meals as listed
- all park fees and government taxes
- city tour of Kigali on day three if flying out after 6:00pm

Cost excludes:

- gorilla trek permit at USD600 per permit, per person (permits are increasing to USD700 per permit, per person for treks from 1 July 2020)
- visas and international flights
- meals not listed, drinks, dining rooms tips, porterage, personal travel, baggage and medical insurance.

Important information:

This is Africa will purchase your permits on your behalf. Gorilla permits are non-changeable and non-refundable. Full payment and a copy of your current passport must be forwarded to This is Africa at the time of booking.

Prices of gorilla permits may be increased without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on to the client, even if permits have already been issued.

Children under the age of 15 years are welcome on safaris, but they are not able to trek to see the gorillas due to government regulations.

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

Kigali to Kigali

Accommodation: standard

Departs: daily

Day 1: Uganda, Bwindi Impenetrable Park - Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge

Day 2: Uganda, Bwindi Impenetrable Park - Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge

Day 3: Rwanda, Kigali airport

A similar standard of hotel may be used in cases of non-availability.

Want to trek the mountain gorillas twice?

Additional permits for trekking the mountain gorillas can be purchased.

Regulations allow only one visit per day, therefore an additional night needs to be added to facilitate a second trek.

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.

Gorilla Encounter Uganda

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, in Bwindi. **Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge or similar (LD*)**. *Lunch is dependent on arrival time.

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. As their name implies, mountain gorillas live in forests high in the mountains, at elevations of 8,000 to 13,000 feet. At 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 often 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 around 1,000 mountain gorillas left in the wild. When you first sight the gorilla troop it is common for the alpha male silverback to beat his chest at your group as a warning. Around 45 minutes to an hour is 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 (BLD)**.

Day 3: Kigali

Today you are transferred to Kigali. If flying out of Kigali after 6.00 pm you are taken on a city tour prior to transferring to the airport. Kigali is a sprawling city set amongst a series of hills. The tour includes a poignant visit to the Genocide Memorial which was erected on the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide in April 2004. The memorial is built on the site where 250,000 people were buried. You are transferred to the airport for your onward flight (flight not included) **(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 you require your passport to be reissued 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 they are issued by a Ugandan government authority.

Important information

- Prices for airport taxes, park fees, gorilla permits and applicable government taxes and levies may be changed without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on to the client.
- Distances and times mentioned within the itinerary may vary due to local conditions at time of travel. At times the sequence of locations and excursions may need to be altered from that of the original itinerary due to flight times and permit availability.
- It is the responsibility of the client to be at the tour departure point at the time assigned by the tour operator. On completion of the tour, flights must be booked taking into consideration the time recommended by the tour operator.
- The tour operator may re-route the itinerary or change the accommodation in rare cases of non-availability, or if local conditions restrict accessibility.
- Transfers may be in a two-wheel drive or minibus
- It is the responsibility of the client to have all necessary documentation, including visas and inoculation certificates relating to this tour.
- 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.
- Children younger than 15 years of age are unable to trek to see the mountain gorillas, however we would be pleased to book this safari for families with younger children with a child minder to be arranged during your trek.
- Due to limited luggage space in vehicles, suitcases are unsuitable for scheduled road safaris. We recommend luggage packed in inexpensive soft sided bags not exceeding 15kgs.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- 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.
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