

## Introduction

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge is a **premier eco-luxury lodge** perched on the Nteko Ridge, overlooking the breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Bwindi Impenetrable Forest** in southwestern Uganda.

At 2,161 meters (7,087 feet) above sea level, it offers **panoramic views** of the mist-covered jungle, the majestic Virunga Volcanoes, and the dramatic Albertine Rift Valley. Guests are immersed in a setting that blends adventure with tranquility, where the forest's whispers and the calls of exotic birdlife provide a constant soundtrack.

Since its humble beginnings as a simple campsite in 2007, Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge has grown into an internationally recognized beacon of responsible tourism and sustainability. Known for delivering intimate, tailor-made experiences, the lodge invites travelers to step into the world of endangered mountain gorillas, explore one of the most biodiverse rainforests on Earth, and connect deeply with the local community.

Nkuringo's commitment to conservation, community empowerment, and authentic cultural encounters sets it apart as more than just a place to stay — it's a destination that leaves a lasting impact on both guests and the land.

Whether it is the thrill of gorilla trekking for you, the comfort of eco-conscious luxury, or the chance to engage meaningfully with local communities, with Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge, you will enjoy an unforgettable journey rooted in sustainability, comfort, and purpose.

## Accolades

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge has earned widespread acclaim, consistently ranking among the top safari lodges in Uganda and East Africa.

- Nine-time winner of the prestigious **World Travel Award** for Uganda's Leading Safari Lodge, including the most recent 2025 award.
- Holds the **#1 ranking on TripAdvisor** as the top-rated safari lodge in the Bwindi region.
- Backed by over **99% five-star guest reviews** praising exceptional hospitality, expert guiding, eco-luxury experiences, and meaningful community connections.

This combination of global recognition, authentic guest experience, and a steadfast commitment to conservation and community upliftment makes Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge not just a place to visit, but a destination to celebrate and share.

## Location

**Location:** Kisoro District, Southwestern Uganda

**Place:** Southern Sector of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

**GPS Coordinates:** S 01° 05' 05" E 29° 37' 52"

**Google Map Pin:** <https://g.page/Bwindilodge>

**Altitude:** 2,161 meters (7,087 feet)

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge is located in Uganda's southwestern highlands, perched on the Nteko Ridge, one of the highest points bordering the renowned **Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**. From 2,161 meters (7,087 feet), guests enjoy sweeping views over the rainforest canopy and the Virunga Volcanoes straddling Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Guests gaze across the dramatic Kashasha River Valley and the Albertine Rift escarpment, with morning mists curling through the trees and golden evening light setting the hills aglow. This exceptional setting offers not only a tranquil retreat in nature but also immediate access to the Nkuringo trailhead — just a 10- to 15-minute walk away — where unforgettable gorilla trekking adventures begin.

The lodge's design blends seamlessly with the rugged surroundings, using locally sourced volcanic stone, handcrafted woodwork, and thatched roofing that mirror the tones and textures of the forest. Every veranda and terrace offers cinematic, uninterrupted views of one of Africa's most unspoiled and biodiverse landscapes, making Nkuringo a true gateway to the wild heart of Uganda.

# Accessibility

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge is well connected by multiple travel routes, offering guests a variety of ways to reach this remote yet accessible wilderness.

- **By Road:** Approximately 550 kilometers (8–10 hours) from Kampala via scenic tarmac roads that cross the Equator and wind through the southwestern highlands. From Kisoro town, the lodge is 35 kilometers (about 1.5 hours) via a dramatic, unpaved mountain road. From Kigali, Rwanda, it's about 170 kilometers (5–6 hours), including the border crossing.
- **By Air:** Daily scheduled flights with Aerolink connect Entebbe International Airport to Kisoro Airstrip (about one hour). Private charters are available for guests seeking flexibility. Pre-arranged 4x4 transfers from Kisoro Airstrip to the lodge (about 1.5 hours) ensure a smooth arrival.
- **On Foot (Nkuringo Walking Safaris):** For adventurous travellers, there are two scenic walking trails that link Buhoma to the lodge across Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
  - The **Buhoma–Nteko Trail**, also known as the **Ivy River Trail**, is 13 km and takes around 4 to 5 hours. It ends at Nteko Ridge, where a vehicle transfer is required for the remaining 7 km to reach the lodge.
  - The second option, the **Buhoma–Nkuringo Trail**—known as the **Kashasha River Trail**—is a longer, more challenging 19 km route that takes about 6 to 8 hours, ending directly at the lodge.

Another route begins in Kisoro, passing through rural villages to Lake Mutanda. From there, guests cross the lake by dugout canoe and continue on foot to Nkuringo. This trail is especially popular with those arriving on the early morning flight to Kisoro Airport, offering a relaxed and scenic way to reach the lodge while enjoying local culture and landscapes along the way.

## Climate and Weather

Thanks to its high-altitude rainforest location, Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge enjoys a mild, temperate climate year-round. Daytime temperatures average 23–24°C (73–75°F), while nights are cool, dropping to 7–11°C (44–52°F). With its equatorial position, the region receives rainfall throughout the year, totaling approximately 2,390 mm annually.

The drier months (*June–September, December–February*) are the most popular for gorilla trekking, as trails are firmer and conditions less muddy. Still, the wet seasons (*March–May, October–November*) offer distinct advantages: the forest becomes exceptionally lush, panoramic views of the Virunga Volcanoes are often clearest after rainfall, and visitors benefit from lower rates and fewer crowds.

Guests are encouraged to pack reliable waterproof clothing, sturdy hiking boots, and warm layers for the cool evenings. No matter the season, the rainforest rewards travelers with breathtaking sights and unforgettable nature experiences.



## Accommodation

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge offers a thoughtfully designed collection of 13 eco-luxury cottages (15 rooms) with a total capacity of 30 guests. The lodge is nestled within lush gardens and along forest edges, providing privacy, comfort, Wi-Fi access, and inspiring views.

- **Deluxe Garden Cottages (6 units):** Each 45-square-meter cottage is crafted from volcanic stone with African-inspired décor, a cozy fireplace, ensuite bathroom, and a large private veranda. Ideal for couples or solo travelers, these cottages accommodate up to two guests and are surrounded by vibrant gardens with views toward either the Bwindi Forest or the Virunga peaks.
- **Two-Bedroom Family Villas (2 villas):** Designed for families or small groups, each villa features two interconnected bedrooms, private bathrooms, and a fireplace. Each bedroom accommodates up to three guests, making these villas ideal for triple occupancy or larger family stays. Expansive verandas provide breathtaking vistas of the surrounding hills and forest canopy.
- **Luxury Forest Suites (5 units):** Spacious 90-square-meter suites positioned along the forest edge, featuring floor-to-ceiling glass windows, elegant interiors, bathtubs with panoramic views, private lounges, in-room fireplaces, and minibar. Perfect for honeymooners and couples seeking indulgence, each suite accommodates up to two guests, promising a romantic and secluded escape.

All accommodations are powered by solar energy (with a backup generator) and include daily housekeeping. They offer thoughtful amenities, such as complimentary tea and coffee, hot water bottles, in-room safes, and on-call butler service, for a personalized experience.

## Dining and Facilities

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge offers an exceptional blend of dining options and facilities designed to elevate every guest's stay, while celebrating local flavors and eco-conscious hospitality.

**Rafiki Lounge and Dining Area:** At the heart of the property, this inviting space features high ceilings, wooden beams, and panoramic views of the Bwindi Forest and Virunga Volcanoes. Guests enjoy freshly prepared, home-cooked meals using locally sourced ingredients, complemented by freshly baked breads and complimentary tea and coffee. The Rafiki Bar serves a curated selection of fine wines, local beers, cocktails, and spirits, creating the perfect atmosphere for relaxation.

**Mylica Premium Lounge:** An elegant indoor lounge just steps from the main area, open through the day and offering stunning Virunga Peak views and premium bar experiences. Every evening, guests are invited to join Master Cocktail Classes, where expert mixologists guide them in crafting signature cocktails in an intimate, elevated setting.

**Guides' Private Lounge and Dining Area:** Thoughtfully created on the ground floor of Mylica Lounge, this dedicated space provides driver-guides with a private, comfortable setting to relax, dine, and connect during their stay.

**Mist Spa:** Tucked into a serene garden corner, Mist Spa offers a range of wellness treatments, including massages, aromatherapy, and locally inspired therapies. After a day of gorilla trekking or volcano hiking, it's the ideal spot for soothing tired muscles and restoring balance.

Additional amenities include the **Rafiki Craft Shop**, **complimentary Wi-Fi (available throughout the property)**, and 24-hour on-site security, ensuring guest safety and comfort at every turn.

## General Lodge Information

- **Check-in Time:** From 12:30 PM
- **Check-out Time:** By 10:00 AM
- **Electricity:** 220V power, primarily solar energy with a backup generator; UK-style power outlets.
- **Wi-Fi:** Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the lodge, including guest rooms and shared areas.
- **Payment Methods:** We accept cash and major international payment cards, including Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.
- **Child Policy:** Children are warmly welcome; babysitting services are available at no extra cost.
- **Safety and Security:** The lodge is fully fenced, provides 24-hour security, and offers safes in every guest room to ensure secure storage of valuables.
- **Guest Services:** On-call butler service, daily housekeeping, laundry service (available on request), and complimentary tea and coffee delivery to rooms.

## Unique Experiences & Attractions of The Region

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge offers privileged access to an enriching portfolio of experiences that bring guests closer to nature, wildlife, adventure, and local culture. These carefully curated attractions ensure that every stay is immersive, meaningful, and memorable.

### Primates & Wildlife Encounters

**Gorilla Tracking:** Step into the mystical Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to encounter endangered mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. The lodge is just a 10–15-minute walk from the Nkuringo trailhead and a short drive to the Rushaga Sector, offering access to multiple habituated families.

**Gorilla Habituation Experience:** Join researchers and trackers for a four-hour immersive interaction with a semi-habituated gorilla group — a rare opportunity to witness the dynamics of gorilla behavior up close.

**Golden Monkey Trekking:** In nearby Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, guests can hike through the Virunga Volcanoes forests in search of the playful golden monkeys — a thrilling, rare primate encounter not found in Bwindi.

### Nature & Adventure

**Mountain Biking:** A new addition to the lodge's adventure portfolio, guests can now explore scenic forest trails and local communities on high-quality pro bicycles available on-site at a cost. Guided or solo, these rides offer a fresh perspective on the region's landscapes.

**Virunga Volcano Hiking:** Adventurous guests can scale Mount Sabinyo, Gahinga, or Muhabura. These full-day hikes traverse rugged terrain and culminate in breathtaking summit views over Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC.

**Hiking Trails:** The region offers some of East Africa's most spectacular treks, including the famous Buhoma-Nkuringo Trail (4–6 hours) across Bwindi Forest. For extended journeys, multi-day hikes can link Bwindi to Mgahinga or the Virunga slopes, offering wildlife sightings, dramatic vistas, and authentic village interactions.



**Canoeing on Lake Mutanda:** Drift across this idyllic crater lake by dugout canoe, past volcanic peaks and island outcrops — a peaceful and photogenic experience great for birding and unwinding. These canoe rides are accompanied by a paddler (a local fisherman from a nearby village) and your walking guide.

**Birdwatching:** With over 350 bird species, including Albertine Rift endemics, the area is a paradise for bird lovers. Expert guides help guests spot rare and colorful species in the surrounding forests and wetlands.

## Culture & Community

**Batwa Cultural Encounters:** Guests can spend time with Batwa elders — Uganda's first forest people — to learn about traditional forest life, medicinal plants, music, and ancient storytelling traditions.

**Buniga Forest Guided Walks:** Adjacent to the lodge lies the Buniga Pocket Forest, where guests can explore biodiversity, indigenous knowledge, and conservation stories shared by community guides.

**Gorilla Junction Foundation Visit:** A deeply moving and inspirational experience where guests meet local artisans, witness community-led conservation projects, and engage with initiatives that empower women, youth, and the Batwa.

## Lodge-Based Signature Moments

**Top of the World Sundowner:** Just a short walk from the lodge, this breathtaking viewpoint offers dramatic sunset vistas over Bwindi, the Virunga Volcanoes, and the Albertine Rift. Enjoy canvas chair seating, chilled drinks, and canapés as the day comes to a close.

**Mist Spa Treatments:** Perfect for post-trek recovery, the spa offers soothing massages and aromatherapy designed to relax tired muscles and reconnect guests with nature in a tranquil garden setting.

**Master Cocktail Classes:** Held each evening at the Mylica Premium Lounge, guests can learn to craft signature cocktails with expert mixologists — a fun, interactive way to wind down before dinner.

# Sustainability

Sustainability isn't a tagline at Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge — it's the foundation of everything we do. From the architecture to our daily operations, each decision is rooted in minimizing impact and protecting the pristine environment that surrounds us.

As one of the few certified carbon-neutral lodges in Uganda, we actively offset emissions through a verified program with the Uganda Carbon Bureau and invite our guests to take part by adopting indigenous trees through our reforestation initiative.

## Our Sustainable Practices Include:

- Solar energy systems powering the entire lodge, with a backup generator used only when essential.
- Rainwater harvesting infrastructure that supplies the entire lodge — supplemented by a water delivery system during dry spells. Excess water is shared with local communities through the Bwindi Drop Project.
- Zero single-use plastic policy throughout the lodge. We use glass-bottled filtered water for all rooms and refill stations.
- Fresh organic vegetable gardens tended onsite, providing ingredients for our kitchen, and collaboration with surrounding local farmers who are trained and supported by the lodge to supply vegetables, potatoes, beans, fresh meats, and other farm products, reducing the need for long-distance food transportation.
- Sustainable construction using locally sourced volcanic stone, reclaimed wood, and thatching materials that harmonize with the surrounding landscape.
- Reforestation initiative where guests can adopt a tree for just \$20 and receive updates on its growth, contributing to long-term forest recovery.

Staying at Nkuringo means treading lightly on the land — and becoming part of a living, breathing model of responsible tourism.

## Conservation & Community

The lodge proudly partners with the [Gorilla Junction Foundation](#), a community-driven initiative dedicated to improving local livelihoods, advancing conservation efforts, and empowering women and youth. Guests visiting the foundation can witness firsthand the transformative projects underway, including:

- **Keep-a-Girl-Child-in-School Project:** Providing scholarships, menstrual health support, and mentorship programs to ensure young girls remain in school and thrive.
- **Skills Development and Livelihood Projects:** Supporting beekeeping, tailoring, crafts, coffee and tea farming, and other sustainable income-generating activities.
- **Conservation and Reforestation Efforts:** Engaging guests in tree planting and environmental education to help restore critical habitats.
- **Batwa Community Support:** Preserving the cultural heritage and dignity of the indigenous Batwa people through tourism, education, and economic inclusion.

Every guest staying at Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge becomes part of a larger story of positive change—where tourism is not only an unforgettable experience but also a force for good.

## Booking & Contact Details

Nkuringo Gorilla Lodge's reservations office is located in Entebbe and handles all pre-arrival arrangements, itinerary planning, and partner coordination. The on-site check-in desk provides support for resident guests with local bookings and guest services.

Room availability can be checked online at [www.nkuringosafaris.resrequest.com](http://www.nkuringosafaris.resrequest.com).

For guests arriving or departing through Entebbe, we highly recommend a stay at our beautiful sister property, **Papyrus Guesthouse**, which serves as the perfect base before or after your safari adventure.

For guests visiting **Kibale Forest**, we wish to bring to your attention our new sister luxury eco-lodge, **Mirima Lodge**, located by a lake, with breathtaking views and just minutes from Kibale National Park. Opening in late January 2026.

### Contact Information:

- **Phone:** +256 392 176327
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- **Website:** [www.mountaingorillalodge.com](http://www.mountaingorillalodge.com)
- **Social Media:** Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), and visit [TripAdvisor](#) for guest stories, lodge updates, and conservation news.

We look forward to hosting you soon and to creating unforgettable eco-luxury journeys that inspire, connect, and make a meaningful impact.