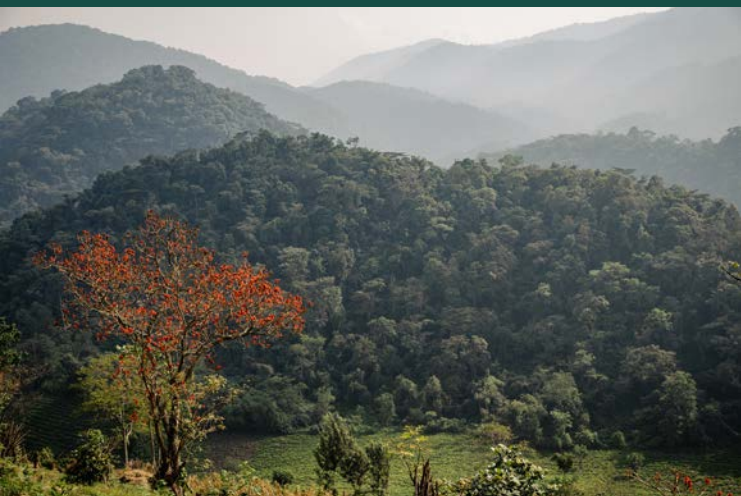


WHY TRAVEL TO  
*Uganda*



## WHO WE ARE:

Asilia Africa is a leading safari company with a long-standing reputation for quality safaris. Meaning 'genuine' or 'authentic' in Swahili, we have built this reputation for incredible travel experiences while maintaining our unwavering commitment to empowering both people and nature alike in each region that we operate.

Asilia was built by passionate people with deep roots in East Africa's original family-run safari companies, such as Rekero Camp in 1986 and Oliver's Camp in 1992. In 2004, they combined their experience, family spirit and commitment to Africa and formed Asilia. Together, they sought to offer safari experiences paired with conservation efforts that bring meaningful change to the region. Today, we are a fast-growing, leading travel company. We own and operate 17 camps and lodges in unique locations within Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, whilst also offering comprehensive Destination Management Services (DMS) across these regions, as well as Rwanda.

For a more detailed look at the Asilia DMS offering please see this [document](#).

## ASILIA DMS SERVICES:



### ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ Hand-picked by our experienced and dedicated team
- ✓ Asilia properties and Asilia Accredited properties
- ✓ A range of products to fit your clients' budget and travel interests



### VEHICLE AND GUIDES

- ✓ Asilia trained or Asilia Accredited guides
- ✓ Asilia owned and Asilia Accredited vehicles
- ✓ All vehicles audited annually to meet Health & Safety requirements
- ✓ All guides are trained in First Aid and Emergency Response



### FLIGHTS

- ✓ Scheduled and chartered light-aircraft flights booked through Asilia
- ✓ Multi-country trip planning
- ✓ Smooth transitions between destinations



### TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Carefully curated by our experienced team
- ✓ Diverse range of products to suit all interests — culture, adventure, beach, wildlife — we have you covered
- ✓ All products audited annually to meet Health & Safety requirements



### INCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT

- ✓ 24-hour access to Park.Doctor, experienced in dealing with medical incidents in remote locations
- ✓ All key staff are trained in First Aid and emergency support
- ✓ Emergency evacuation service
- ✓ Data protection for all guests
- ✓ Public liability insurance up to US\$10 million



### CONCIERGE SERVICES

- ✓ Meet and greets on arrival
- ✓ Airport facilitation
- ✓ Special requests and occasions



## UGANDA

Uganda offers a blend of wilderness, wildlife experiences and culture, making it a safari destination of discovery and human-connection.

Known for its breathtaking scenery, such as the landscapes around Lake Victoria and the Rwenzori and Virunga Mountains, Uganda stands apart as a destination for those seeking more than the usual safari experience. Misty rainforests give way to sunlit savannahs, and encounters with wildlife like the famous mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park are both intimate and awe-inspiring.

Uganda is best known for being one of the few places where you can come face-to-face with mountain gorillas. It is home to more than half of the world's population. Travellers visit from all over the globe to encounter our primate cousins in their natural habitat and in doing so play a vital role in helping to protect this critically endangered species. The marriage of tourism and conservation has been a success story, changing the trajectory of the future of the species.

Perhaps the country's greatest treasure lies in its biodiversity. You'll find a unique combination of East and Central African wildlife, including tree-climbing lions, shoebills wading in swamps, and playful chimpanzees in Kibale Forest. The country's high-altitude lakes and rolling tea plantations are as much a draw as its wildlife, offering a well-rounded experience.





## TOP 5 EXPERIENCES UGANDA

### Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Nothing quite compares to gorilla trekking in Bwindi. The experience begins in a dense, moss-laden forest where the humid air hangs with the earthy scent of wet leaves. Trekking here isn't a straightforward walk. Your guide leads you along narrow, foliage-dense trails. Sometimes there's little to no path at all, yet every step is worth it. After hours navigating through the jungle, you're face-to-face with a gorilla family, their calm presence, and watchful eyes revealing a complex, peaceful intelligence. You may see a playful youngster roll in the leaves or an elder sit in quiet dignity. This encounter feels like and is a privilege, a rare connection in an ancient forest.

### Golden Monkey Trekking in Mgahinga National Park

Golden monkeys live in Mgahinga's bamboo thickets, where the air is cooler and the forest floor softer underfoot. These agile creatures are smaller and faster than gorillas, darting between bamboo stalks, sometimes pausing just long enough for you to catch a flash of their blue-grey fur and golden backs. Trekking here is lively. There's a sense of movement all around as the troop weaves between branches, feeding and grooming, and you find yourself keeping pace in a forest alive with rustling leaves and calls of the wild.

### Chimpanzee Trekking in Kibale National Park

Kibale is Uganda's chimpanzee stronghold, known for its dense jungle trails and thick canopies. As you walk, the air feels heavy with the smell of decaying wood and wild fruit. Chimpanzee calls echo above, and soon enough, you spot them. Energetic, social, and sometimes loud. Watching a group of chimps interact you'll see quarrels, greetings, and play, as they swing from branches







with remarkable agility. Kibale feels alive with their activity, each encounter offering a window into fascinating primate behaviour.

### Meet the Batwa People of Bwindi

The Batwa, an indigenous tribe, have lived in harmony with Uganda's forests for centuries. Meeting them, you'll listen to stories passed down through generations. This experience provides for an intimate look at a culture rooted deeply in the forest. As you sit and talk together about the plants they use for medicine or fire making and their deep beliefs, you'll get a sense how connected the community is to their land and heritage and reflect on your own relationship with the natural environment.

### Game Drive in Queen Elizabeth National Park

Queen Elizabeth National Park offers Uganda's classic safari experience. The landscape here is open and wild, stretching across savannah, forest, and wetland. As you drive through the park, keep an eye out for the tree-loving lions in the Ishasha sector, watchful and powerful as they lie draped across branches. Further along, you might spot herds of elephant, buffalo, and the occasional leopard stalking the grasslands.

## UGANDA OR RWANDA FOR GORILLA TREKKING

Gorilla trekking in Uganda and Rwanda offers an unforgettable chance to see one of the world's most endangered species in their natural habitat. While on the surface the experience may seem similar in both destinations, the conditions, scenery, and logistics are quite different.





## Comparing Experiences: Terrain, Trek Difficulty, and Viewing Conditions

In Rwanda, gorilla trekking takes place in the Volcanoes National Park. The terrain is often steep and of mixed challenge depending on where your group is located. Encounters with gorillas are often open, with sightings frequently on gentler inclines or forest clearings. You do often get less of a wilderness feel compared to Uganda, for example, getting glimpses of human habitation as a distant backdrop to your encounter and the overall experience feels more structured.

Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest lives up to its name, with denser vegetation and more rugged trails. Although this may demand a higher fitness level, the thick foliage provides an intimate setting, and the lush surroundings feel genuinely wild. The trek can be more unpredictable, with hiking times varying between 2-6 hours but the reward is a true off-the-beaten-track jungle adventure through ancient forest as part of the experience. Uganda also offers tracking options in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which is more open with less dense vegetation, but is also less well connected in terms of infrastructure.

## Accessibility and Tourism Infrastructure

Rwanda, with its primary gorilla trekking location only about two hours from Kigali International Airport, offers straightforward access. Rwanda's roads are well-maintained, and the tourism infrastructure around Volcanoes National Park has seen significant investment. Luxury lodges and eco-friendly accommodations reflect Rwanda's push for high-end, low-impact tourism. Rwanda has set its trekking permit pricing at US\$1,500.

Uganda's main trekking location is Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, reached via a short flight to Kihikihi airstrip from Entebbe, followed by





around an hour and half drive into the forest offering a fascinating glimpse of Ugandan life on the way. While the infrastructure here is improving, it's more basic than Rwanda's. Accommodation options vary, with few high-end lodges. Uganda's trekking permits are priced at US\$800, making it a good option for travellers seeking a more affordable experience, or those looking to do multiple treks. Beyond gorilla trekking Uganda offers a broader range of wildlife and activities for an all-round safari experience.

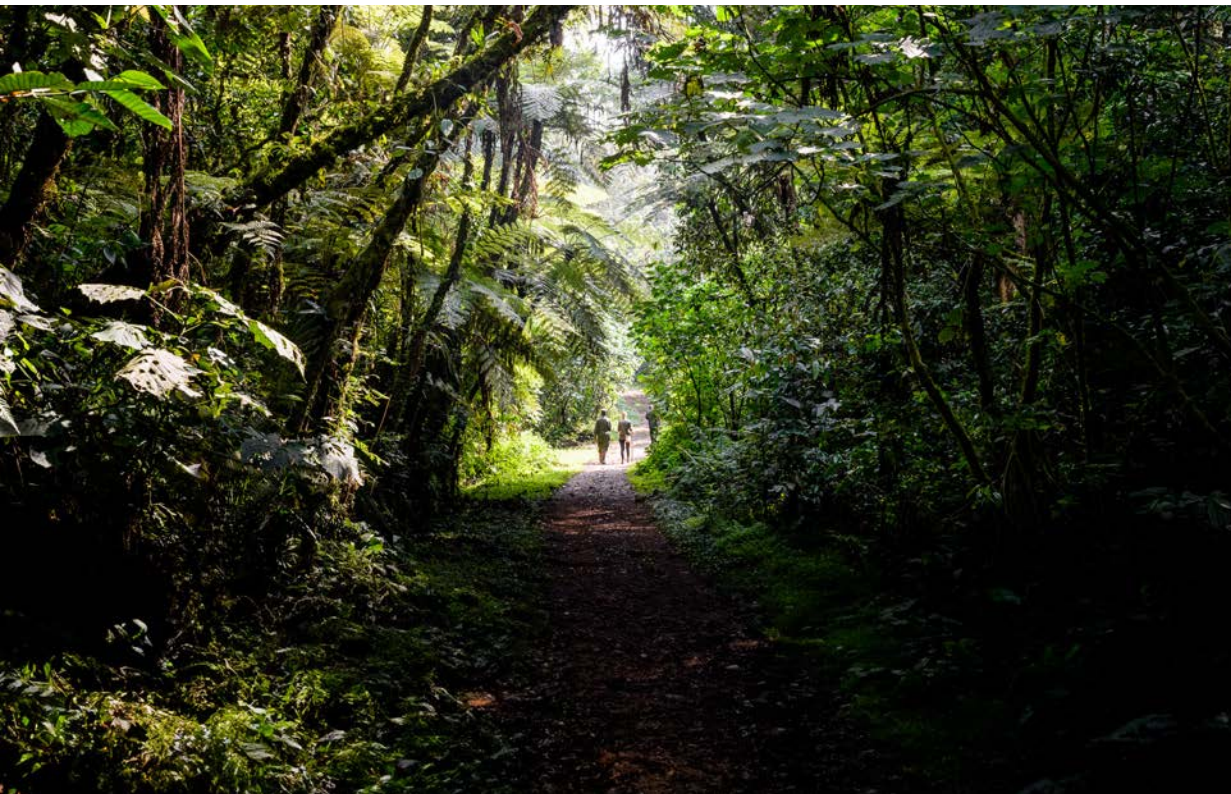
### Wildlife Ethics, and Gorilla Populations

Both Uganda and Rwanda are considered safe for tourists and have strict guidelines in place to minimise stress on gorilla families. Rangers are highly trained, and group sizes are limited to maintain ethical viewing conditions. Gorillas in both countries belong to the same species, with families led by silverbacks who are familiar with human observers. While sightings are not guaranteed, gorilla encounters are highly likely in both Uganda and Rwanda.

### Scenic Differences

Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park offers dramatic views with volcanic peaks on the horizon and a landscape with stretches of bamboo forest. The trails are lush but relatively open, and you can expect a clear sense of place shaped by Rwanda's steady winds, towering volcanoes, and an organised trekking system.

Uganda's Bwindi, by contrast, is a rainforest maze, with misty trails cutting through deep jungle. The atmosphere is dense and alive, with the smell of damp earth and the sound of rustling undergrowth. This setting offers a raw, immersive jungle experience that's rewarding for those wanting to feel truly at the heart of an ancient ecosystem.



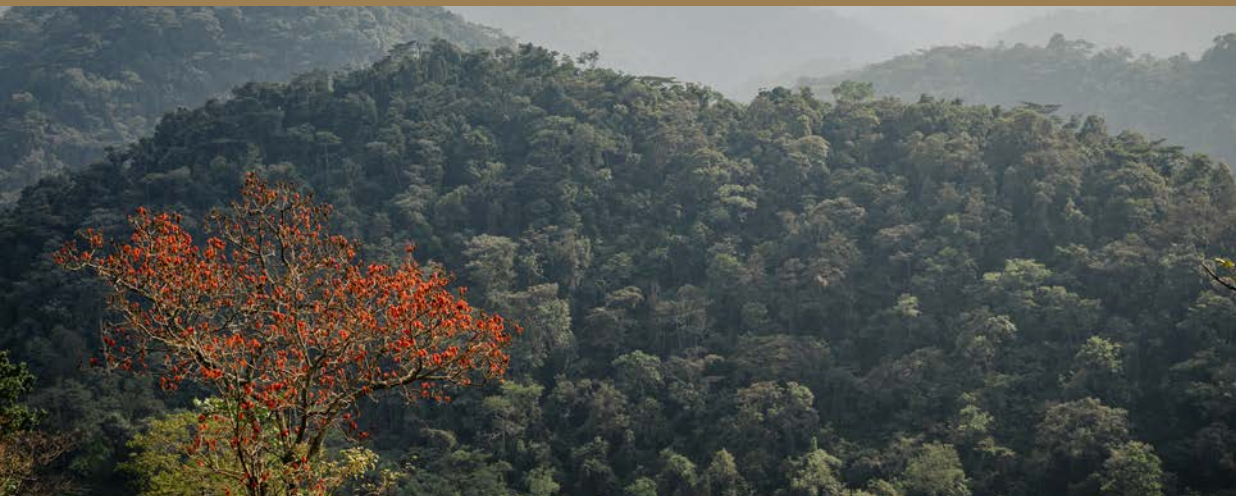




## Seasonal Considerations

Uganda's temperatures are generally mild, rarely dipping below 16°C (61°F) or rising above 30°C (86°F). The hottest months are January and February, making them comfortable for early morning and late afternoon activities. The heaviest rains typically fall in April, with October and November also experiencing significant rainfall.

For those interested in gorilla trekking, the dry seasons are the best times to go. However, with preparation and physical fitness, gorilla trekking remains possible year-round. Choosing the right season depends on what you want to see and how you want to experience it. Whether navigating forest trails in the rains or trekking under dry, sunny skies, Uganda offers a safari experience that is vibrant and diverse.



## Choosing Your Destination

If you're after a shorter trek, easier access, and higher-end infrastructure, Rwanda might be your choice. However, if you're keen on an experience that feels wilder and evokes a sense of exploration, Uganda offers a deeper immersion into the wilderness and a far lower permit price. Both options guarantee memories of a lifetime, with each country offering its own spirit and beauty that stays with you long after the trek.

## UGANDA TRAVEL SEASONS

Planning a safari in Uganda brings you close to some of Africa's most iconic wildlife, but the best times to visit depend on your priorities be that gorilla trekking, bird-watching, or classic safari game drives. Uganda's equatorial climate keeps it warm year-round, but the seasons can shape your experience with significant changes in rainfall and ground conditions. Here's a breakdown of what each season offers.

### Short Dry Season (December to February):

The dry season stretches through December, January, and February, bringing the driest and clearest conditions of the year. This period offers excellent trekking conditions, especially for gorilla and chimpanzee trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Kibale Forest. With firm terrain underfoot, the slopes are more manageable, allowing you to focus on the experience rather than the climb. Wildlife sightings improve, as animals often gather around water sources, making them easier to spot. The forest canopy thins slightly, revealing better bird-watching opportunities. January is often the driest month, with warm temperatures perfect for comfortable trekking.





### Long Wet Season (March to May):

Uganda's long wet season begins in March and lasts through May, with rain transforming the landscape into a lush, verdant paradise. Torrential downpours and steady drizzle make trails in Bwindi and Kibale challenging, as paths become muddy and slippery. These conditions can be difficult, especially for those less physically fit. For committed trekkers, the experience is rewarding as the wet season often deters people, making it a quieter time to visit. This season also brings vibrant birdlife, and the lush vegetation provides a stunning backdrop for photography. Just be prepared for unpredictable rains and have solid footwear to handle the terrain.

### Long Dry Season (June to August):

The long dry season, running from June to August, is prime time for both safari and gorilla trekking. The weather is cooler, paths are dry, and trails in Bwindi and Mgahinga are at their best for gorilla trekking. As the landscape dries, grasses thin, and animals concentrate around waterholes, increasing your chances of sightings in Uganda's safari parks like Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls. Early August is often still dry, though towards month's end, rainfall gradually increases. Gorilla trekking in these conditions is ideal, with fewer obstacles from slippery paths or dense vegetation. With clear skies, it's also a superb time for photography and extended game drives.

### Short Wet Season (September to November):

The short-wet season spans September through November, a period marked by lighter, intermittent rains. While trekking paths begin to grow muddy underfoot again, September often has dry pockets, making it a surprisingly good month for travel if you're flexible. September offers some of the best opportunities







for gorilla trekking before heavy rains return in October and November, bringing more challenging conditions in the forests. Wildlife viewing can be mixed in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls during this period, as rains may hinder movement. Still, this season offers more solitude, with fewer visitors on trails, adding to the sense of immersion in Uganda's wild spaces.

## WHAT MAKES A SAFARI IN UGANDA DIFFERENT?

Uganda's safari experience is a rare mix of gorilla trekking, diverse wildlife, and unique landscapes that set it apart from better-known destinations like Kenya, Tanzania, and Botswana. Known as the "Pearl of Africa", Uganda offers an intimate, varied safari experience. Here's what makes a Ugandan safari different, and why it may be the perfect choice if you're after something beyond the traditional safari route.

### Gorilla Trekking in Uganda: A Wilderness Experience

The chance to trek gorillas in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is the main draw for many visitors. Compared to Rwanda, Uganda has a larger network of trails, and trekking here is often less crowded and more affordable. The experience is personal and raw, offering a true sense of being in an ancient forest. Hiking through Bwindi's mist-covered trails, you'll notice the earthy smell of damp vegetation underfoot and hear the distant call of forest birds. When you finally reach a gorilla family, it's a quiet, powerful encounter.

Beyond gorillas, Uganda offers other primate encounters. Kibale National Park, known for its high chimpanzee population, allows you to track these playful primates, observing them as they swing through the trees above. There are also opportunities to trek





endangered golden monkeys who will dart around the dappled tree canopy playing fast agile games. This kind of primate trekking circuit is rare in Africa, making Uganda a unique destination for those interested in seeing a variety of species up close.

### Diverse Wildlife and Scenery Beyond the Usual

Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park has relatively low visitor numbers so brings a more intimate safari experience than popular locations such as the Masai Mara or Serengeti. Here, you will find buffalo, elephant and leopard, and may even find lion relaxing in the shady branches of a fig tree. Uganda's landscapes are similarly diverse; as you move through its parks, you'll find rolling savannahs, volcanic mountains, and lush forests. Each location has a distinct feel, from the sweeping plains of Kidepo Valley to the mountain vistas of Rwenzori.

### Comparing Uganda with Other Safari Destinations

For those choosing between Uganda and more established safari destinations, the appeal lies in a quieter, more varied journey, encountering primates and diverse ecosystems. Its smaller visitor numbers make it feel like a hidden gem. You'll encounter big game in Queen Elizabeth National Park, observe chimps in Kibale, and trek gorillas in Bwindi, all without the crowds. Uganda offers considerable variety, making it ideal if you're after a slower pace and a deeper connection with nature.

