Gorillas Galore: 12 day Uganda & Rwanda combo

Kibale Forest - Queen Elizabeth Park – Bwindi Forest – Virungas
12 Days / 11 Nights

travel WILD FRONTIERS





TWO COUNTRIES. TWICE THE ADVENTURE.

This action-packed 12-day safari brings you the very best of Uganda and Rwanda – with time to track gorillas in both Bwindi and the Virunga Mountains.

Your journey kicks off in Entebbe and wraps up in Kigali, taking in chimpanzee trekking in Kibale Forest, big game and birdlife in Queen Elizabeth National Park, unforgettable gorilla encounters in both Bwindi and the Virungas – plus a powerful visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial and time to soak up Rwanda's natural beauty. You can even opt for a second gorilla trek or a golden monkey hike.

Love the idea but want to tweak the route? No problem – this itinerary is just a starting point. We can flip the trip, add more days, or tailor it to suit your travel style and budget. You dream it, we'll make it happen.

Click here to view your Digital Itinerary





Boma Hotel	Entebbe	Breakfast	1 Night
Primate Lodge Kibale	Kibale Forest National Park	Full board	2 Nights
Ishasha Wilderness Camp	Southern Queen Elizabeth National Park	Full board & local drinks	3 Nights
Buhoma Lodge	Bwindi Impenetrable Forest	Full board & local drinks	3 Nights
Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge	Volcanoes National Park	Full board	1 Night
Kigali Serena Hotel	Kigali	Dinner and breakfast	1 Night

Brief itinerary:

Day 1	Meet and greet Entebbe airport. Transfer to Boma Hotel for overnight.
Day 2	Drive to Kibale Forest, balance of day at leisure. Overnight Primate Lodge x 2 nights.
Day 3	Chimpanzee trekking. Optional Bigodi swamp walk, crater lakes, forest walk or explore local area.
Day 4	Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Game viewing. Overnight Ishasha Wilderness Camp x 3 nights.
Day 5	Game drives.
Day 6	Game drives. Bush sundowner drinks.
Day 7	Continue to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Visit Ishasha Community Project enroute. Overnight Buhoma Lodge x 3 nights.
Day 8	Gorilla trekking or forest walk. Afternoon free to relax or explore local area on foot.
Day 9	Optional second gorilla tracking in Bwindi. Or Forest walk /village visit/curio shopping/Batwa.
Day 10	Drive via Kisoro to Rwanda. Arrive late afternoon. Overnight Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge.
Day 11	Gorilla trekking / Golden Monkey Hike/ Dian Fossey's grave. Afternoon drive to Kigali. Overnight Kigali Serena.
Day 12	Visit Genocide memorial. Transfer to Kigali airport.

Detailed itinerary:

Day 1: The Boma Hotel, Entebbe

On arrival at Entebbe Airport, a Wild Frontiers rep will meet you and transfer you to The Boma Hotel for the night.

Entebbe sits on the shores of Lake Victoria — a relaxed town that's easy to explore. Visit local markets, stroll the Botanical Gardens, take a boat cruise, or hop on a boda boda (motorbike taxi) for a quick tour.

The Boma is Entebbe's original hotel, set in lush gardens just a few minutes from the airport. It blends 1940s charm with simple modern comforts, with rooms that are all individually styled in a mix of African and European décor.

Overnight: The Boma Hotel

Day 2: Primate Lodge Kibale, Kibale Forest National Park

Depart after breakfast to Kibale Forest. The drive via rural villages and towns will take approx. 6-7 hours, stopping for a picnic lunch en route.

Kibale Forest is a rich mosaic of tropical rainforest, montane woodland, and swampy grasslands. It's renowned for its incredible primate diversity — 13 species in total — including chimpanzees, olive baboons, red-tailed monkeys, diademed monkeys, and the striking black-and-white colobus. Bird enthusiasts will be delighted by the presence of nearly 300 bird species, along with over 140 butterfly species and a fascinating array of forest insects.

Overnight: Primate Lodge Kibale x 2 nights **View iBrochure**

Tucked next to the chimp trekking starting point, this eco-conscious lodge blends naturally into its lush surroundings. The main lodge houses a relaxed lounge with comfortable sofas and a small library, perfect for unwinding after a day in the forest. Guests can enjoy a mix of local and international dishes, grab a drink at the bar, or share stories around the campfire. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the public spaces.

The lodge's Luxury Forest Cottages are secluded and tranquil, offering forest views, a private sitting area, large verandas and en-suite bathrooms styled with natural stone and bamboo touches.

Day 3: Primate Lodge Kibale, Kibale Forest

Chimpanzee Trekking

Head out early on your chimp trek, into a forest alive with bird calls and primate chatter. Chimps may be on the move or resting close to the ground. Either way, it's an exciting walk through lush forest. While sightings aren't guaranteed, your expert guide will point out wildlife and forest highlights along the way. Once found, you'll spend an unforgettable hour with the chimps in their natural habitat.





Bigodi Swamp Walk (Optional Extra)
In the afternoon, enjoy a 2–3 hour guided walk through Bigodi Swamps, one of Uganda's richest ecosystems with exceptional birding and primates like colobus monkeys.

Overnight Primate Lodge

Day 4: Ishasha Wilderness Camp, Southern Queen Elizabeth National Park

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Depart early to Queen Elizabeth National Park. It's full day drive down to the southern sector, with plenty of game viewing on the way.

Set within the western arm of the Great Rift Valley, the park boasts a rich tapestry of wildlife, including elephants, buffalo, hippos, leopards, Uganda kob and over 600 bird species. The remote Ishasha sector, characterized by its unique blend of savannah and riverine forest, is renowned for its tree-climbing lions which often seek refuge in the branches of sycamore fig and acacia trees.

Tucked beside the Ntungwe River, the eco-sensitive **Ishasha Wilderness Camp** offers an idyllic blend of seclusion, comfort and outstanding service. The thatched lounge and dining area is cosy and relaxed, with meals often served al fresco by the river. Come evening, unwind by the fire with sundowners and stories under the stars.

Ten spacious, en-suite canvas tents are tucked along the riverbank, each with a private verandah—perfect for morning coffee as the surrounding bush stirs to life. Colobus and Vervet monkeys play nearby, and you might spot Henry, the resident hippo, lazing below the deck. Elephants often wander through camp, adding a wild touch to your stay.

Overnight: Ishasha Wilderness Camp x 3 nights View iBrochure





Day 5: Ishasha Wilderness Camp, Southern Queen Elizabeth National Park

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Day at leisure to enjoy game viewing in Queen Elizabeth National Park, looking out for huge herds of buffalo, elephant and of course the famous tree-climbing lion typically found in the area. Don't miss the chance to enjoy a special bush breakfast – one of the highlights out here (optional extra, pre-booking essential).



Overnight Ishasha Wilderness Camp.

Day 6: Ishasha Wilderness Camp, Southern Queen Elizabeth National Park

Another day to do things your way – up early with the birds at dawn, or taking it slow with coffee on your verandah and the river flowing by. Spend the day out on game drives with a picnic lunch or head back to camp for a lazy afternoon siesta.

As the sun sets, take in the views with a sundowner drink and snack in hand – alongside the river or on the ridge with sweeping views of the plains.



Overnight Ishasha Wilderness Camp.

Day 7: Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Continue your journey onto Bwindi, with a brief stop en route at a community project near Ishasha Village (drive +- 3 hours). The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park lies in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Rift Valley. Its mist-covered hillsides are blanketed by one of Uganda's oldest and most biologically diverse rainforests, with almost 400 species of plants. This 'impenetrable' forest is also home to an estimated 460 mountain gorillas - including several habituated families.

Tucked at the edge of the forest, Buhoma Lodge is one of only two lodges located inside the national park gate and offers the ultimate base for your once-in-a-lifetime Gorilla trek.

Built with sustainable materials and full of character, the lodge's elevated lounge, bar and dining area serve up hearty multi-course meals and stunning views over the forest canopy. A crackling fireplace sets the tone for cosy evenings.

Ten spacious, eco-friendly chalets offer privacy and comfort. Wake to birdsong and monkey chatter, sip coffee on your verandah and take in sweeping views of the forest. With the trek start point just steps away, even the gorillas occasionally drop by—while the resident L'Hoest's monkeys are regulars in the garden.

Overnight: Buhoma Lodge x 3 nights **View iBrochure**




Day 8: Gorilla Trekking - Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

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Coming face to face with mountain gorillas is a rare and exhilarating wildlife encounter that is hard to capture in words. Experienced guides and trackers will accompany your party on an early morning trek into the dense rain forest on the steep mountain slopes. Gorilla trekking is strenuous, with treks ranging from 45 mins up to eight hours, at high altitudes in often hot conditions. We do recommend hiring a local porter to assist you on your trek. Although mountain gorillas are wild animals and sightings cannot be guaranteed, viewing success rates are over 95%.

Once you have located your gorilla family, spend an hour quietly observing them. The time passes so quickly; be sure to enjoy this experience fully and not just through your camera lens.



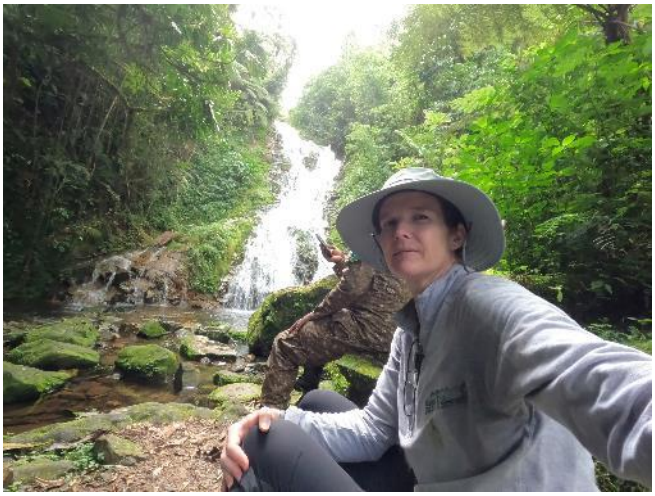

Head back to Buhoma Lodge for a complimentary massage after your trek or explore the surrounding Bwindi community. Optional activities that may be enjoyed in and around the park include forest walks, visits to a local school/ orphanage/Batwa pygmy village/ Ride for a Woman project, or curio shopping.

Overnight Buhoma Lodge.

Day 9: Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Today is yours to explore at your own pace. Choose to embark on a second gorilla trek for another magical encounter or enjoy one of the other optional experiences available in the area.

The ***Bwindi Forest Walk***, led by a Uganda Wildlife Authority guide, is a peaceful hike through the forest to a scenic waterfall — keep an eye out for monkeys and colourful birdlife along the way.





Or join the ***Bwindi Village Walk***, a fascinating 3–4 hour journey through the local community, where you might visit a traditional healer, stop by a village school or orphanage, or watch how local banana brew is made.

Overnight Buhoma Lodge.

Day 10: Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge, Volcanoes National Park

Travel through the lush highlands of southwestern Uganda — often called the 'Little Switzerland of Africa' — along winding mountain roads and through rural villages en route to Rwanda. On clear days, the towering Virunga Volcanoes line the horizon like silent sentries. It's a scenic but full travel day, with around 7–8 hours on the road and a +- 1-hour border crossing.

Straddling the Rwandan border with the DRC, Volcanoes National Park is a refuge for rare mountain gorillas. Treks through the jungle-covered slopes offer the chance to spend another unforgettable hour with these gentle giants in the wild. Beyond gorilla tracking, you can hike to Dian Fossey's tomb, visit the Karisoke Research Centre, track Golden Monkeys or climb Mount Bisoke to its stunning crater lake.

Overnight: Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge

Set in Ruhengeri, Tiloreza is a modest boutique hotel with 22 simple, comfortable rooms in lush garden surroundings, with hammocks to laze in, a restaurant, heated pool, massage service, bicycle hire and friendly staff.

Day 11: Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge, Volcanoes National Park

Set off to Volcanoes National Park and the trekking start point. After an early coffee, you'll be grouped according to fitness level and head into the forest with expert guides and scouts. Trek times vary depending on the gorilla family's location — from a quick half-hour to a full day of hiking through bamboo forest and up into steep, dense forest.

Not trekking today? Choose between a golden monkey walk or a hike to Dian Fossey's grave — both offer a different glimpse into this remarkable region. All activities start in the morning and must be pre-booked.

Afternoon drive to Rwanda's bustling capital, Kigali.

Overnight: Kigali Serena **view iBrochure**





Day 12: End of Itinerary

Visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial — a powerful and moving tribute to the lives lost in 1994. It's a place of remembrance, reflection and learning, also highlighting other global tragedies.

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

End of safari.

Please contact us on reservations@wildfrontiers.com for a detailed quotation

Included:

- Meet and greet upon arrival in Entebbe, transfer airport – Entebbe hotel
- 1 night Boma Hotel including breakfast
- Private safari vehicle and guide
- 2 nights Primate Lodge including all meals
- 3 nights Ishasha Wilderness Camp, including all meals and local drinks
- Bush sundowners at Ishasha
- 3 nights Buhoma Lodge, including all meals and local drinks
- Community fees and contribution to the Future Generations Trust
- 1 night Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge including all meals
- 1 night Kigali Serena including breakfast
- All park fees & Game drives
- Genocide Memorial visit in Kigali
- Transfer to Kigali Airport

Excluded:

- **Gorilla trekking & Golden Monkey permits**
- All optional activities
- All international flights and airport taxes
- Personal expenses such as porters, drinks, tips, visas, health requirements and travel insurance
- Optional activities not included above

Note: Should gorilla permits be booked at Ruhija rather than Bwindi, there is an additional shared vehicle transfer fee of USD 250 /vehicle return

We offer 8,9 and 10 day small group, set departures as well as combination Uganda/Rwanda trips. We are experts at designing your own private tailor made trip to meet your exact personal interests.

POPULAR TRIP EXTENSIONS:

MURCHISON FALLS (UGANDA): River Nile, game drives, chimpanzee trekking, fishing, birdwatching.

JINJA (UGANDA): Source of the Nile, adventure activities including white water rafting, quad biking.

NYUNGWE FOREST (RWANDA): A lush, ancient rainforest teeming with chimpanzees, rare monkeys, birds, and breathtaking canopy walks

AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK (RWANDA): Big 5 game viewing in a scenic savannah park of rolling hills, lakes, and wetlands

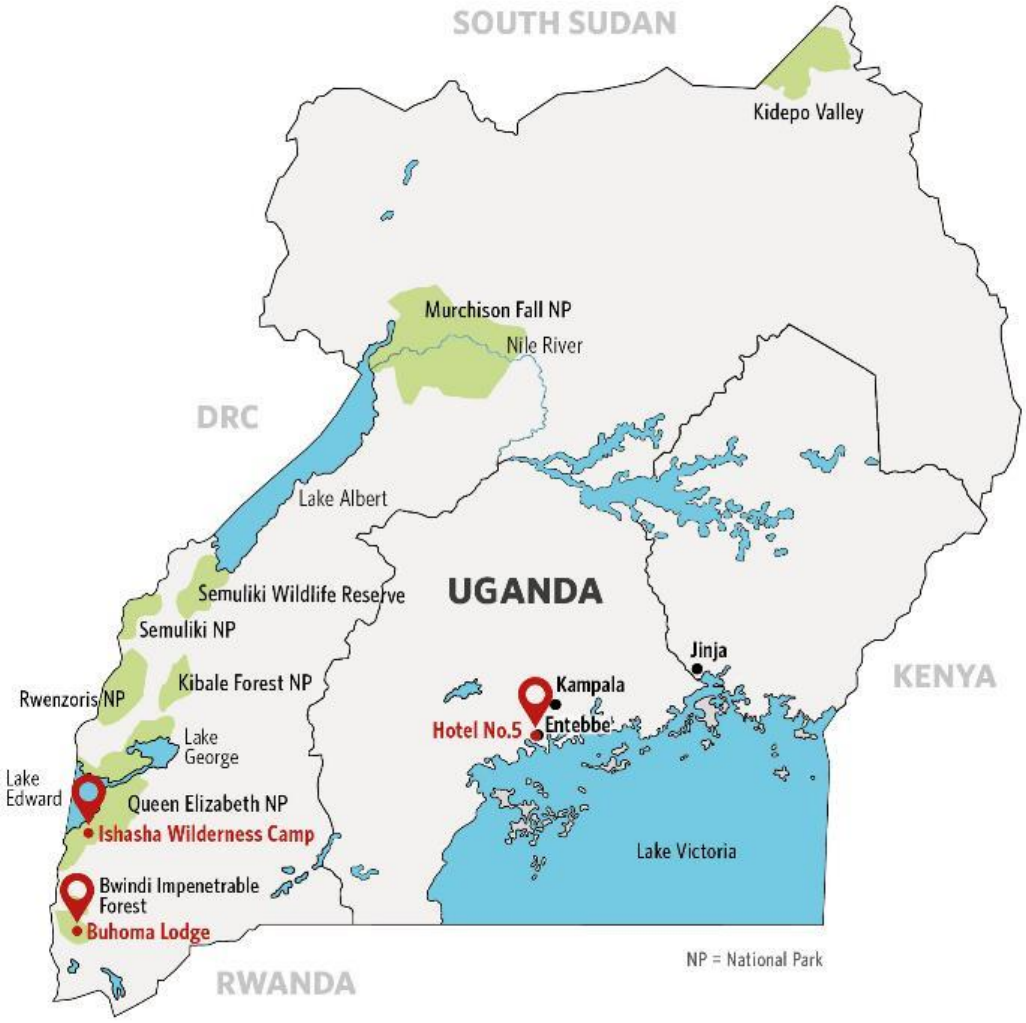
HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

Yellow fever inoculation is compulsory & malaria prophylactics are recommended. For gorilla trekking it is imperative that you are healthy and free of any disease or virus – officials do have the right to refuse entry if you are found to have or show any signs of communicable illnesses. Should you opt to spend time participating in any UWEC Wildlife Integration programme, you may require additional inoculations and health clearances.

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

Most nationalities require a visa to enter Uganda and Rwanda. For this itinerary, an East African visa (USD 100) is required. All visitors who require a visa should apply through the online application system prior to arrival at https://visas.immigration.go.ug. Passports must be valid for a minimum of 6 months after return date of travel and have at least 3 blank pages in it.

TRAVEL INSURANCE is compulsory for all guests travelling with Wild Frontiers.





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Updated JAN26/JC
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