

GROUP ADVENTURES

Gorillas & Volcanoes Safari 4D/3N

Safari

4 Days / 1 Country

Uganda

Departure city: **Kampala, Uganda**

End city: **Kampala, Uganda**

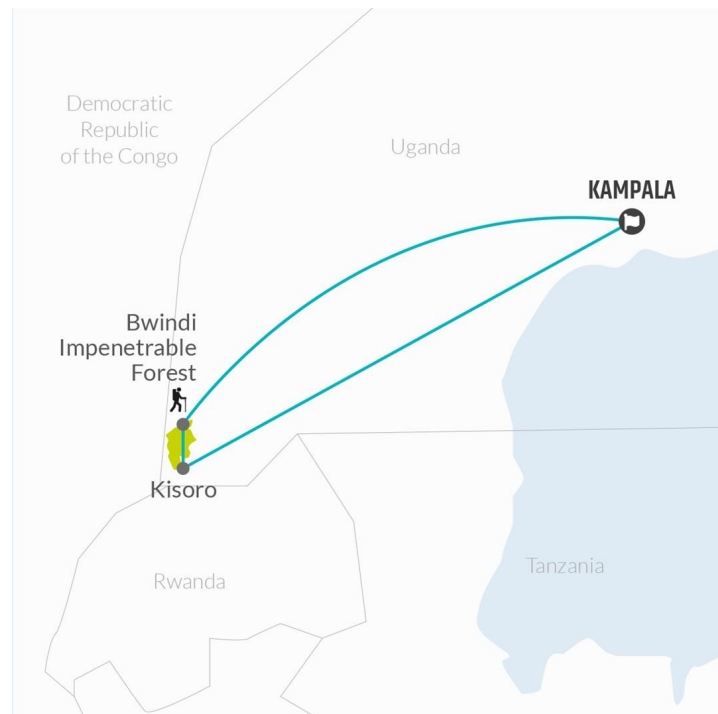


HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness endangered gorillas in their natural habitat
- Climb up a volcanic mountain and get amazing views
- Take photos of yourself crossing the Equator
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Not only will you be taken by our expert guides to witness the endangered mountain gorillas of Uganda on this 4-day trip, but you will also have the opportunity to climb up a mighty volcanic mountain, on top of which you will have splendid views!.

MAP



What is included



Group Adventures

Group Adventures are designed to forget about all the travel logistics and let our guides take you to the best places with a group of like minded travelers



Accommodation: 3

- 3 Nights Accommodation in Kisoro



Transport: 1

- All transfers as per itinerary



Meals: 3

- 3 Breakfast(s),



Guides:

- English speaking driver/guide

What is not included

- *Airfare
- *Tips and gratitude
- *Food & drinks (other than water)
- *Personal expenses
- *Medical & travel insurance
- *Porters
- *Accommodation in Entebbe / Kampala (Contacts available for a guesthouse in Entebbe; \$60 USD for double and \$50 USD for single, including breakfast and airport transfers)
- *Payments: Airport departure tax

*Prices for optional activities are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Please confirm these prices before departing on your trip.

Additional information

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Gorilla tracking in Bwindi can be challenging, and travellers need to be in shape.

What to Bring

- Walking shoes suitable for steep muddy slopes and carry a rain jacket because the park is often wet.
- Rain gear, sunscreen lotion, a hat (as the weather is unpredictable) and insect repellent.
- Extra spending money for personal expenses during your trip: snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and souvenirs. As a general guideline we recommend budgeting US\$10-15 per day.

Gorilla Trek Rules

For conservation reasons, visits to the gorillas are tightly controlled. The following rules apply and must be strictly adhered to.

- No one with a communicable disease (e.g. flu, diarrhea) is allowed to enter the park.
- Stay together in a tight group while with the gorillas, don't surround them.
- Don't get closer than 7 metres (21 feet) to the gorillas.
- Don't eat or smoke when with the gorillas or within a distance of 200 metres from the gorillas.
- Turn away from the gorillas and cover your nose & mouth if you have to sneeze or cough.
- Don't leave litter. All litter must be carried out of the park and disposed off properly.
- No person under 15 years is allowed to track gorillas.
- Don't spit on vegetation or soil when in the park; use your hankie or other garment.

Tipping

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy it has become customary to offer a small gratuity to local staff at the end of the tour if service has been of a high standard. Naturally this always remains at your discretion.

Yellow Fever Vaccine

Please note that you are required to have an up-to-date yellow fever vaccine to travel in Uganda. You can arrange this in your home country and bring proof, or you can have the vaccine done in the airport upon arrival to Uganda for around US\$40. Rules and restrictions are always changing, so please make sure to do your own research for vaccines and visas before arriving in Uganda.

Itinerary

Day 1: Kampala - Kisoro, Uganda

Kampala - Kisoro

In the early morning (7 am) we pick you up from your guesthouse or hotel in Kampala and leave for the southwest of Uganda.

The first part of the journey takes us through central Uganda. After a stop in Mbarara for lunch, we continue on through a beautiful landscape nicknamed the "Switzerland of Africa", passing mountains, lakes, hills with cultivated terraces, tropical rainforest and bamboo forest. On the last hill the landscape unfolds beneath us, offering great views of the vast planes between Uganda, Rwanda and Congo, and of the Virunga volcanoes dominating the landscape. We will descend into the valley and stay overnight at the famous Travellers Rest Hotel near Kisoro.

In the sixties the famous American 'gorilla-woman' Dian Fossey visited the Travellers Rest Hotel many, many times to do paperwork, relax or meet people. Fossey said about the hotel: "It was my second home". Travellers Rest Hotel is just outside of Kisoro and offers a cozy stay for tourists coming to see the endangered mountain gorilla. The hotel, built in a somewhat colonial style, and entirely renovated in 1999, has a comfortable atmosphere.

Driving time: ± 9 hours

Day 2: Kisoro, Uganda

Gorilla Tracking Day (B)

Today is 'gorilla tracking' day! Rise up early and feel the excitement as you get ready for this unforgettable experience!

You will travel about 1 hour by car from the Travellers Rest Hotel in Kisoro up to Nkuringo, in the southern part of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP. Once there, you will receive a briefing and start tracking around 8.30am. Once you have found the gorillas, you will be able to spend up to one hour with them! You are expected to be back at the starting point by 7.00pm at the latest. Being physically fit is recommended.

Day 3: Kisoro, Uganda

Kisoro Activity Day (B)

The 3rd day will be spent in and around Kisoro, with Travellers Rest Hotel as the home base. There are many very interesting activities that you will be able to choose from today. They have been developed in close collaboration with local organizations and the National Park. All the activities can be done individually or in groups. They include:

1. Gorilla tracking in Mgahinga (1 day). Please note: the gorillas in Mgahinga move around and so the Uganda Wildlife Authority doesn't sell permits in advance - you will only know if this activity is available once you are in Kisoro.
2. Climbing Muhavura Volcano (± 8 hrs; distance 12km; height 4127m; elevation gain 1700m).
3. Climbing Gahinga Volcano (± 6 hrs; distance 8km; height 3474m; elevation gain 1100m).
4. Visiting Sabinyo Gorge (± 4 hrs; distance 6km, no elevation gain).

5. Climbing Sabinyo Volcano (Sabinyo has 3 peaks, you can climb all 3 in the same day, but you need to be fit!! ± 8 hrs; distance 14 km; height 3669m, elevation gain 1300 m).

6. Hiking in Mgahinga to the viewpoint & Garama Cave (pygmy cave) (± 4 hrs; distance 1 and 4 km).

7. Bird walk in Mgahinga (start at 10am, it can last until 4-5pm).

8. Cultural village walk (with a local guide, walking through the land of the Bufumbira tribe)

9. Walking to Lake Mutanda. Visit Python island and go canoeing on this beautiful lake.

10. Batwa Trail: Please note that this activity costs an additional \$80 USD.

It starts at the base of Mt Muhavura at 8.00 am and finishes by 3-4 pm. You'll need walking shoes, hat, and rain gear, and a packed lunch with sufficient drinks.

The Batwa Trail runs across the lower slopes of the Muhavura and Gahinga volcanoes in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. The forest is home to a variety of wildlife but the Batwa Trail is far from being a conventional nature walk. With the help of Batwa guides, you'll see the forest as a larder, pharmacy, builder's yard, tool kit and, above all a home. Along the trail, you'll fire a bow and arrow, check hives for wild honey, help repair a Batwa shelter, harvest plants for medicine and food, light a fire without a matches, listen to legends and learn about Batwa traditions.

The highlight of the trail is a descent into the Garama cave, a 200m-long lava tube beneath Mt. Gahinga. The Batwa are famed for their music and dance and their historic, subterranean council chamber in Garama Cave provides the setting for an unforgettable performance.

The Batwa trail is celebration of the forest culture of the "first people". It is impossible, however, to ignore the fact that Batwa life has greatly changed. The day's events conclude with a discussion about the Batwa's current situation; how it can be improved; and progress to date towards doing so.

11. Or just sit and relax or read a book in the garden of Travellers Rest Hotel!

Day 4: Kisoro - Kampala, Uganda

Kisoro - Kampala (B)

Early in the morning after breakfast, you will travel back to Kampala. On the way back to the city you will have lunch in Mbarara town, and after passing Masaka town, there will be an opportunity to stop at the Equator for photos and buying souvenirs.

Driving time: ± 9 hours

