GORILLA ENCOUNTER: 08-Days | N(A)KK (Camping / Accommodated)

Validity: 2025



All information provided in this tour dossier is subject to change without prior notice. Changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better quality experience where possible. Overnight accommodation stops can change without prior notification, depending on road or weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the properties listed in this dossier, these are to be used as a guideline only. We recommend that you download the most up to date version of this tour dossier one week prior to your tour departure date, however, changes are possible within 7 days prior to your tour departure.

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometres and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time during these drives to talk to your fellow travellers, have a drink and take note of the world passing by your window. Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometre. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average day could take anything from 5 to 14 hours, it all depends on the day... and that's only an "average"!

Please ensure that you have downloaded and read a copy of the <u>PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION</u> booklet as this document contains important information (e.g travel insurance, visas, your money, health etc) you need to know before you depart on tour

Tour departure point

Please ensure you arrive at the departure point at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time 10:00am Hillside Plaza Hotel, Plot 1A Kira Road – Ntinda II Rd, Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 702 608415 http://www.hillsideplazahotel.co.ug/contact.html

Tour ending point

Hillside Plaza Hotel, Plot 1A Kira Road – Ntinda II Rd, Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 702 608415 http://www.hillsideplazahotel.co.ug/contact.htm

Gorilla Trekking Permit – USD865 – USD950

The cost of a permit to visit the gorillas is currently as above. Please check actual amount with us closer to departure. You will be pre-invoiced for this non-refundable amount.

Chimp Trekking Permit - USD140 - USD240

The cost of a permit to visit the chimps is currently as above. This activity is regarded as an optional activity due to the location and logistics involved the day the chimps are visited. If you do not wish to participate in the chimp trekking, you will remain at the visitor's centre (limited facilities) for between 2 – 4 hours while the group participates in the activity. Please inform us if you do not wish to participate in this activity.

Maximum Number of Passengers

20

After hours emergency contact

Our reservations staff are available to receive emergency calls. We would like to request that you respect this emergency number and use it only in the event of emergencies. Please only contact this number if, for example, you have missed your incoming flight, you cannot find your airport transfer or you are running late for your tour departure.

If calling from outside South Africa: 00

0027 82 578 2199

If calling within South Africa:

082 578 2199

Arrival / Departure

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems. We also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart the day after the tour officially ends to allow for delays and changes.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent or Nomad to make these bookings.

What's included

Meals as outlined in the itinerary, which are prepared and served at the Nomad truck / accommodation / qualified crew / filtered water / transport in the Nomad truck / included highlights as per the itinerary / entrance fees to National Parks.

What's excluded

Items of a personal nature (snacks, alcohol, soft drinks) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities) / souvenirs / tips.

Countries Visited

Uganda

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Onward Travel

This tour can be linked with a number of our other routes and offers you the opportunity to add on a visit to Zanzibar, explore the plains of the Serengeti and even venture further south towards Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. If you are interested to enhance your tour further, please contact us to receive a list of all the available options to suite your time frame and budget.

Green Seats - Travel Responsibly in Africa

Nomad has a non-profit Trust that looks after the people, animals and places that we visit. We realise that a footprint is left where we travel and for this reason, the Nomad Africa Trust was established. Your donation to the Trust is called a "Green Seat". If you would like to help Nomad making Africa Greener, simply choose the tick box during your booking process (or contact us afterwards to add it) and we will take care of the rest. The Nomad African Trust is responsible for the administration of the funds collected from the sale of the green seats and these funds are distributed to various projects as identified by the Trust.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Masindi – Murchison Falls National Park

After a quick stop in the city of Kampala, we head in the direction of The Murchison Falls National Park. Also referred to as the Kabaraga Falls, Murchison Falls is a waterfall found on the course of the great Nile and is located within the Murchison National Park. The park is recognized as one of the best National Parks in Uganda. After settling into our accommodation in Masindi, your guide will brief you on the activities for the following day.

Accommodation Kabalega Resort http://www.kabalegaresort.com/ **Facilities** Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite ablutions

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Jinja to Masindi Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Optional Activity Ziwa Rhino Walk

Day 2 - Masindi - Budongo Central Forest Reserve

Budongo Forest is the biggest Mahogany forest found in the whole of East Africa and is home to the largest number of chimpanzees throughout Uganda. It is believed that there are between 600 – 700 chimpanzees in Budongo and this morning we will meet up with our chimp guide who will take us on our trek through the forest in search of the chimps. We will also enjoy a boat cruise in the park. Note: As the Chimp trekking is limited to 12 guests per trek, should there be more than 12 guests on a tour the trekking will be split between the morning and the afternoon. Therefore you may find that you will first do the boat cruise activity followed by the Chimp trekking or vice versa. Please allow for flexibility.

Kabalega Resort http://www.kabalegaresort.com/ Accommodation **Facilities** Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite ablutions

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Nile River Cruise

Optional Activity: Chimp Trekking (compulsory)

Day 3 – Lake Kikorongo

This morning we depart Masindi and transfer towards the edges of the Queen Elizabeth National Park. Our accommodation for the night is nestled atop a hill overlooking Lake Kikorongo.

Simba Safari Camp https://ugandalodges.com/simba/ Accommodation **Facilities** Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Masindi to Lake Kikorongo Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 - Gorillas (Lake Bunyonyi)

Crossing the Equator once more we travel south to the beautiful scenery of Lake Bunyonyi. With eager anticipation we prepare for the upcoming Gorilla trekking excursion and tonight we will receive a briefing on what to expect.

Accommodation Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort https://mbzgroup.africa/ **Facilities Accommodated**: Two per room with En-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Lake Kikorongo to Lake Bunyonyi

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Route



Day 5 - Gorillas (Lake Bunyonyi)

The mountain gorilla is extremely endangered and while exact numbers vary it is widely assumed that there are only around 650 left. Visiting the gorillas is a great way to support their future on earth as the money spent on permits is used for their protection. An extremely important part of the future conservation of the remaining gorillas rests in the community development work – as local communities change their attitudes towards wildlife and start to protect rather than poach, the future of the mountain gorilla is assured.

As permits granting permission to visit the gorillas are extremely limited we require flexibility in both the tour itinerary and where we actually visit them. The home of the mountain gorillas is completely at odds with man-made borders and so their range encompasses Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Whenever possible we choose to make use of the National Park in Uganda, but this depends on the availability of permits. Should we not obtain permits to visit the mountain gorillas in Uganda then we will inform all passengers beforehand that the tour will travel to Rwanda or DRC.

On your free day in Bunyonyi you will have the opportunity to participate in certain optional activities. You can also go hiking or explore the area on a mountain bike.

Accommodation Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort https://mbzgroup.africa/
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Lake Bunyonyi National Park to the starting point of the gorilla trek (in safari or smaller vehicles)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Pre-Bookable Optionals Gorilla Trekking, Golden Monkey Trekking
Optional Activities Rwanda Day Trip, Motor boat trips (Islands)

Day 6 - Gorillas (Lake Bunyonyi)

Although there are 2 days allocated to Gorilla Trekking you will only spend one day on the trek. The other days are there to provide a large enough window in which to obtain permits and to allow the entire group to trek if there are more than 6 of you on the tour.

Accommodation Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort https://mbzgroup.africa/
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Pre-Bookable Optionals Gorilla Trekking, Golden Monkey Trekking
Optional Activities Rwanda Day Trip, Motor boat trips (Islands)

Day 7 - Lake Mburo

We depart the beautiful Lake Bunyonyi for another of Uganda's beautiful water bodies – Lake Mburo. Lake Mburo is situated in the Ankole sub-region of Uganda, near the town of Mbarara, and spans an area of approximately 260 square kilometres and is surrounded by rolling hills, open grasslands, and patches of woodland. With over 350 recorded bird species, Lake Mburo National Park is a paradise for birdwatchers. The park's diverse ecosystems, which include acacia woodlands, savannahs, and wetlands, provide optimal habitats for numerous bird species, including the rare and odd looking shoebill stork.

Accommodation Leopard Rest http://www.leopardrestcamp.com/
Facilities Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom

Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Lake Bunyonyi to Mburo Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Pre-Bookable Optionals Various walk (birdwatching, sundowner), National Park Boat Ride, National Park Biking Safari, National Park Night

Game Drive

Day 8 - Kampala

This morning we leave the Ankole region and set off on our return journey to Kampala and make a crossing of the Equator along our way. Your tour comes to an end upon arrival in the city.

Accommodation Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through Nomad.

Route Mburo to Kampala
Meals Breakfast, Lunch
Included Highlight Crossing of the Equator

The Itinerary is flexible and can be changed without notice in order to accommodate the best possible viewing of the Mountain Gorillas. The Permit price to visit the Gorillas can also change without notice.

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