

6-Day Gorilla Flying Adventure Safari (Kisoro and Kihihi)



This amazing adventure takes us to 'Bwindi Impenetrable Forest' in Uganda's mountainous far southwestern tip where you will have the opportunity to track Mountain Gorillas.

Highlights:

- Discover the southern region of the Pearl of Africa optimizing the transfer times
- Fly to Kisoro and out of Kihihi with daily departures and no minimum of participants
- Unforgettable encounter with the Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park
- Beautiful hike "across" Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, accompanied by professional guide and armed rangers
- Meet, explore and learn from the local communities
- Support sustainable tourism initiatives

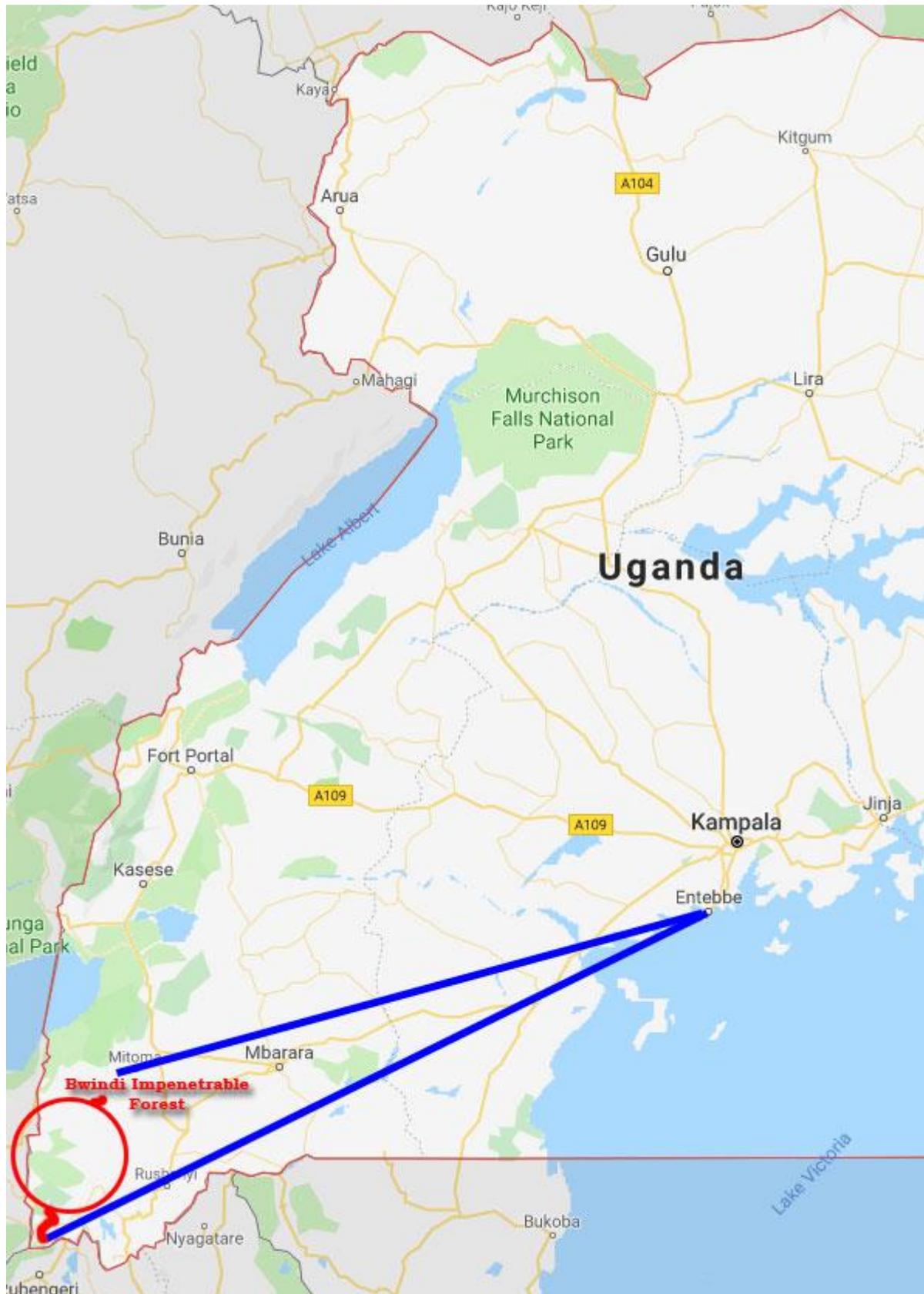
Specially created for:

- Nature lovers
- Safari aficionados
- Walking enthusiasts
- Adventure travellers
- Perfect for those guests who like to take their time to fully enjoy the hike across Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (short or long hike) and get to know also the "other" side of the park.

Your Safari at a Glance

Days	Routes/activities	Accommodation	Meal Plan
Day 1	Arrival in Entebbe and transfer to the Guest House – Exc. to Mabamba Swamps (Optional Extra)	Papyrus Guest House	
Day 2	AeroLink Flight Entebbe/Kisoro – hike & canoe on Lake Mutanda - Nkuringo	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	B, L, D
Day 3	Gorilla Tracking - Nkuringo or Rushaga gorilla groups	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	B, L, D
Day 4	Nombe Forest (birding), Community tour and Buninga Forest (encounter with the Batwa)	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	B, L, D
Day 5	Hike across Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to Buhoma	Mahogany Springs Lodge	B, L, D
Day 6	Transfer to Kihiki – AeroLink Flight Kihiki/Entebbe		B, L

If guests prefer, they can skip the morning flight Kihiki-Entebbe on Day 6 and opt to drive back to Entebbe with their vehicle (thus saving the cost of the flight) – it would be 425 km, approx. 8-9 hours.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Entebbe & Mabamba Swamps

Arrival in **Entebbe** as per your international flights and transfer to Papyrus Guest House.

Optional Extra: In the afternoon (departure from the hotel must be max at 14.30/15.00 hours) departure by car and local canoe to Mabamba Swamp, one of the best places for spotting the rare **shoebill storks**. Of course some fortune is needed but rarely does one leave the swamp without seeing one! Many other water birds have chosen this area as their home so birding is always very interesting.

Enjoy a relaxing sundowner on **Lake Victoria** and then return to the Guest House.

- Accommodation: Papyrus Guest House (Garden room)
- Meal Plan: Bed & Breakfast basis; Lunch & Dinner on own's account

Day 2: AeroLink Flight to Kisoro, hike and canoe across Lake Mutanda

After an early breakfast, transfer to Entebbe International Airport for the AeroLink **flight to Kisoro** across central Uganda and offering a view of the country beautiful landscape of mountains, hills, cultivated terraces, tropical rainforest, bamboo forests and the majestic chain of the Virunga Volcanoes.

Upon arrival meeting with the vehicle and our walking safari guide for a briefing on the very interesting activities of the day which will be adapted to the clients' desires. You can either walk for approx. 90 minutes - 4km to **Lake Mutanda** Sheba's Camp - or drive 30 minutes to the lake. You then "settle" in a dugout canoe for 2-3 hours of gentle relaxed cruising across the lake, enjoying the beautiful landscape. After lunch at a restaurant on the lake shores, continuation on foot till Rubuguri (9km - 2/3 hours) where you meet up the vehicle and drive for another 10 km up to the Lodge in **Nkuringo** (approx 1 hour). Of course you can also be picked up by the vehicle at the lake and drive all the way up to the Lodge. Guests decide!

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Private Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

AeroLink flight schedule Entebbe – Kisoro (to be reconfirmed at the time of reservation):

- Jan to 14th Jun & 16th Sept to Dec – Dept at 0745 and arrival at 0855
- 15th Jun to 15th Sept – Dept at 0700 and arrival at 0810

Day 3: Gorilla tracking

After breakfast, at around 7:45 am, with packed lunch and drinking water you will be transferred to the National Park Head Quarters for the briefing on the dos and the don'ts while with the gorillas. You then continue to the forest for the start of the actual **gorilla tracking**.

The beauty of this rain forest is spectacular. The area offers a dramatic, steeply forested landscape and is incredibly dense, but crisscrossed by numerous animal trails allowing access to tourists. The time taken and the terrain vary as per the movements of these great primates. The thrill of spending time observing these gentle and endangered giants is an awesome, exciting experience to be long savored. Many find it to be a rare and moving opportunity. The tracking can take place at Nkuringo or at Rushaga (1 hr drive from Nkuringo), as per the gorilla permits obtained.

Upon return, relax at the lodge and, for those who like, at 5.00 pm either stroll through the community center or drive up to the **“Top of the World”** - the name given to the football field, high up in Nkuringo which offers amazing views over the peaks and forests around Nkuringo. A great way to stretch your legs after the gorilla tracking and to enjoy a sundowner.

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Private Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

Day 4: Community tour, Nombe and Buniga Forests (encounter with the Batwa)

This morning after a hearty breakfast, enjoy birding in **Nombe Pocket Forest** – it was part of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and it is still quite impenetrable, however it was cut off from it as people needed more land to live on and cultivate. It can be reached on foot (approx. 1 hour to go and 2 hours to come back) or by vehicle and the visit lasts approx. 2 hours, depending on the interest of guests.

Lunch at the lodge and at 2.00 pm departure to Buniga Forest Trail Walk, an informative project run by USAID and the **local Batwa community**. The Batwa tribe was forced to leave their home in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park in 1991 when it was declared a UNESCO Heritage site for gorillas only. They had been living in the forest as nomadic hunter-gatherers for millennia, in perfect balance with the flora and fauna around. Moving out and suddenly living in communities with a completely different way of life has proven to be a huge challenge. They now survive as best as they can and earn a living explaining their previous life in the forest and their rich heritage.

Continuation of the walk through the **community** to visit the traditional herbalist and the black smith.

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Private Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

Day 5: Hike across Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

After an early breakfast, start your unforgettable hike (19km - 7-9 hours) directly from Nkuringo Lodge, following the **Kashasha River Trail**. This is a full day walk where there would also be the opportunity to visit the Munyaga River Falls, hidden in the forest. However, if clients prefer, they can also opt for the shorter trek and in this case they will be taken by vehicle along the Nteko Ridge till the junction of the **Ivy River Trail** with the forest (7 km) and they then start their hike from here (13km - 4-5 hours).

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park is a vast unique natural reserve - monkeys, duikers, bush pigs and some of Bwindi's world renowned bird species plus many butterflies can be sighted. If you are very lucky you may even encounter gorillas! Once part of a much larger forest that included the Virunga Volcanoes in neighboring Rwanda, the park is nowadays an ecological island within a sea of villages and farmland, its conservation importance is immense. The emphasis of this activity is for your walking guide to share his knowledge of the forest with you, it is not simply an A to B hike. The trail is also an important footpath for local people, particularly on market days, travelling from Nkuringo and Nteko to Buhoma, on the northern boundary of the park. There is no road through Bwindi so vehicles driving between the two locations have an incredible 170 km bone jarring journey taking 6 to 8 hours.

Upon arrival at the park headquarters in **Buhoma**, continue to your lodge in the outskirts of the national park for some relax and to enjoy the “other” side of Bwindi. If interested possibility to arrange a community walk directly with the guide for later in the evening (optional and to be paid locally).

- Accommodation: Mahogany Springs Lodge (Standard Room)
- Meal Plan: Full Board (lunch box)

Day 6: Transfer to Kihihi and AeroLink flight to Entebbe

After a leisurely breakfast, departure to **Kihihi Airstrip** (60km – 1 hour) for your morning AeroLink flight to **Entebbe**. End of services.

- Meal Plan: Breakfast and Lunch (lunch box); Dinner on own's account

AeroLink flight schedule Kihihi-Entebbe (to be reconfirmed at the time of reservation):

- Jan to 14th Jun & Sept 16th to Dec. – Dept at 0945 and arrival at 1125
- Jun 15th to Sept 15th – Dept at 0945 and arrival at 1125
- Jan to May & Nov to Dec. – Dept at 1405 and arrival at 1555
- Jun 1st to Oct 31st – Dept at 1515 and arrival at 1625

Depending on your departure flight either enjoy day room/overnight at Papyrus Guest House or wait for your departure flight at the Airport.

If guests prefer, they can skip the morning flight Kihihi-Entebbe and opt to drive back to Entebbe with their vehicle (thus saving 283 USD pp!) – it would be 425 km, approx. 8-9 hours.

Upon request we can also book and quote 2 hrs of **chimp tracking at Kalinzo Forest** (possible at any time of the day) and/or split the long journey back to Entebbe by adding **an overnight and some game drives in Lake Mburo National Park.**

**Rates in USD per person sharing in a double
(Low Season)**

Validity 01.01.20 – 31.12.20

<u>Number of Participants</u>	<u>Rack Rate</u>
Based on 6 pax	2000
Based on 4 pax	2186
Based on 2 pax	2743
Suppl. High Season	226
Single Suppl.	386

Lodge Low Season: March, April, May, October, November

Lodge High Season: January, February, June, July, August, September, December

Included in the above quote:

- Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Private Cottage) for 3 nights in full board
- Mahogany Springs Lodge for 1 night (Standard Room) on full board
- Papyrus Guest House (Garden Room) for 1 night on Bed & Breakfast basis
- Lunch on Lake Mutanda on day 2
- Snacks for the sundowner on day 3
- Drinking water in the vehicle (1 litre per person per day) and while at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge
- All the excursions and activities indicated in the itinerary (canoe ride, walks etc) under the supervision of an experienced English-speaking Walking Guide
- Support of a private 4x4 vehicle with experienced English-speaking driver-guide, from the morning of day 2 to the morning of day 6 (6 seater)
- Transfers in Entebbe, Kisoro-Nkuringo and Buhoma-Kihihi
- Wi-Fi (in main areas of the Guest House and Lodge)
- AMREF Evacuation Insurance cover
- Government taxes

Excluded from the above quote:

- 1 Gorilla tracking permit per person, Park/Forest Fees and Batwa Fees (**625 USD**)
- AeroLink Flights Entebbe – Kisoro (**353 USD**) and Kihikihi - Entebbe (**283 USD**), to be reconfirmed at the time of booking
- All drinks, including the drinks for the sundowner on Day 3
- Uganda Entry Visa fee
- International air flights
- Any optional activity not indicated in above program
- Laundry Services
- Gratuities and Tips
- Day-room use at Papyrus Guest House on Day 6
- Any overnight in Lake Mburu N.P.
- **Baggage:** there is a maximum allowance of 15kg per person – for the domestic flights excess baggage is subject to space availability and is charged USD3 per each extra kg

TOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A 30% deposit of the total tour price will be required to secure a booking, the balance being due 45 days before the tour departure date.

Bookings not secured by the appropriate deposit will be released.

Cancellation between 90 and 45 days of tour departure will incur a 30% of tour price penalty charge. Confirmed bookings cancelled within 45 days of the tour departure date or no show will incur 100% of tour price penalty charge.

Availability of accommodation and activities is not guaranteed; reservations will be made after receiving confirmation of the final itinerary and the payment of the requested deposit. Should any of the quoted accommodations not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative suitable option, which might affect the final quoted price.

All clients who participate in this tour must be adequately covered by **medical insurance** as well as **travel insurance** to protect them in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Rates specified for this tour are subject to change without notice, however every effort will be made to maintain them. In the event of any change of Government taxes or operating conditions that affect the rates we reserve the right to pass on these charges.

*** UGANDA GORILLA PERMIT CANCELLATION POLICY (different and separate from the tour cancellation policy)**

Gorilla Permits will be guaranteed ONLY upon receipt of the full deposit (**US\$600** per permit in 2019) since we need to immediately pay Uganda Wildlife Authority Offices in order to secure the permits.

Cancellations received on full payment:

- More than 90 days before the tracking date, 25% cancellation fee
- 89 to 46 days before the tracking date, 50% cancellation fee
- 45 to 9 days before the tracking date, 75% cancellation fee
- 8 to 0 days before the tracking date, 100% cancellation fee

Important: the minimum age required for gorilla tracking is 15 years and in case of flu or of any other airborne disease the person will be not allowed to meet with the gorillas.