

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge

Fact Sheet

LOCATION

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is located on the Nteko Ridge overlooking Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Perched at an altitude of 2161 m a.s.l. it is totally mosquito free and it enjoys superb views of the forested hill locally known as 'Nkuringo', the Kashasha River Valley, the magnificent Virunga Volcanoes, the world-renowned Bwindi forest and the Great Albertine Rift Valley.

GPS Coordinates: S 01° 05' 05" E 29° 37' 52"

ACCESSIBILITY

By Road: Nkuringo is approximately 550km (8-9 hours) from Kampala, on a tarmac road - crossing the Equator; 35km (1 ½ hours by 4x4) from Kisoro, on an unpaved road; 170km (5-6 hours – including border crossing) from Kigali via Kisoro.

By Air: daily scheduled flights (Aerolink) from Entebbe Airport leave at 7:30am and arrive in Kisoro Airstrip at 9am; from Kisoro flights leave at 9am and lands in Entebbe at 11:30am – Private charters can be arranged.

Closest International Airports: Entebbe (Uganda) and Kigali (Rwanda) - with many airlines combining Kigali and Entebbe, clients can also consider arrival in one airport and departure from the other (East African visa can be applied online).

On foot with Nkuringo Walking Safaris, for those who like to experience nature and local culture: when coming from or going to Queen Elizabeth National Park, one can avoid the 6-7 hour drive around the forest and reach Nkuringo on foot crossing the magnificent Impenetrable Bwindi Forest (4-6 hours from Buhoma on clearly marked trails); when coming from or going to Kisoro, one can walk along some beautiful trails through local villages and by dug-out canoes across Lake Mutanda – always accompanied by a professional guide.

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge and Nkuringo Walking Safaris can provide assistance in organizing and tailor-making any travel arrangement in Uganda and East Africa.

We also have a sister hotel in Entebbe, our beautiful **Papyrus Guest House**, which is the ideal base before and after your safari.

WEATHER

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is open throughout the year.

Sitting almost on the Equator, the climate is wet yet mild, with consistent temperatures year-long (around 23-24°C during the day and 7-11°C at night). The altitude in Bwindi region varies from 1150 to 2600m therefore there can be wide climatic variations within the park. Rain can happen anytime as there is no real dry season, however in general the period of lesser rainfall is **June-July** and **December-February**. **April-May** (short rains) and **October-November** (long rains) is when the rainfall is highest. The total annual rainfall is 2390mm. June and July are the cooler months.

It is recommended to always pack waterproof clothing and good hiking shoes suitable for walking wet forest trails.

THE LODGE

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge, formerly known as Nkuringo Gorilla Camp, has organically grown over the years from a campsite in 2007 to a fully-fledged lodge, offering eco-friendly accommodation and operating as Carbon Neutral Lodge.

Named Uganda's leading Safari Lodge at the World Travel Awards in 2016, 2017 and 2018, Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is one of the best accommodations available near Bwindi National Park.

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge prides itself on its **green credentials**, being one of only two venues in the entire country operating with a carbon neutral footprint. We work through the Uganda Carbon Bureau to offset our carbon footprint. Electricity is provided almost entirely by solar panels and is supported by a generator only when necessary. Our rainwater harvesting system allows us to be fully independent during the rainy season and for part of the drier period.

One of the initiatives started by Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is the planting of indigenous trees in Nkuringo to support our eco-system, to promote conservation and reforestation in the area. Clients staying with us, can adopt a tree for USD 20 and they will receive regular updates about their adopted tree.

ROOMS

Guests at Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge stay in individually hand-crafted cottages, each offering the tranquility of the rain forest, the atmosphere of a mountain chalet and the warm hospitality Ugandans are known for.

When you stay with us, you become family.

There are **8 Cottages**, **3 Villas made up of 2 interconnecting superior cottages** and **1 Family Villa made up of 2 interconnecting superior cottages** – each room/cottage is solar powered and can offer twin beds or a double bed.

Room Facilities: ensuite bathroom, private veranda, safe box, complimentary drinking water, shampoo and hair conditioner, hairdryer (provided on request), hot water bottle in the bed in the evening, fire-place, daily housekeeping service, extra bed and baby cots, tea and coffee brought to your room.

Each cottage (approx. 50 sqm) is individually designed, can become a triple, has a spacious wooden veranda (10-15 sqm) and enjoys view either of the Virungas or of Bwindi forest.

The Villas or 2-in-1 cottages command great views of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and can be used for a family (there is an interconnecting door) or as two separate private cottages – each room can host up to 3 people. The Family Villa differs from the other 3 villas only in design since both rooms share the same veranda.

Lodge facilities: a cozy restaurant serving home-made meals and freshly baked bread, a bar, a coffee-shop with an amazing view, outdoor and indoor lounges, free tea and coffee at the restaurant, in-house craft shop, massage parlour, complimentary Wi-Fi in the main area, 24-hour security, Excursion Desk, major credit cards accepted (Visa, MasterCard, Amex).

Children are welcome (babysitting services available at the lodge at no extra cost)

Total capacity: max 48 guests in 16 rooms

GENERAL

Check-in: after 12.30pm

Checkout: before 10.00am

Telephone & Wi-fi: the telephone signal is available and free Wi-Fi is provided in the main area

Voltage 220V – UK Outlet: recharging station in the main area

Water: water comes from rainwater collection or, in the dry season, is carried from the Kashasha River by lorries; bottled water is provided in the rooms and is available at the bar.

ACTIVITIES

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is the ideal starting point for gorilla tracking and many interesting guided activities :

- Gorilla Tracking – access to several habituated gorilla families (more than half of the gorilla permits available) and to 2 gorilla families under habituation – min age 15 years
- Community Walks, including local markets, coffee and tea plantation tours, schools etc
- Nature Walks
- Encounter with the Batwa people - hunter-gatherers originally living in Bwindi forest
- Birding in Bwindi Forest, Nombe and Buniga pocket forests
- Hiking in Bwindi National Park
- Excursions in dug-out canoes on Lake Mutanda
- Ascents of the Virunga volcanoes

Unique Attractions

- The lodge provides a prime access point to the world-renowned Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home to half of the remaining endangered **Mountain Gorillas** – the lodge basically sits on the south-west buffer zone of the park and the Uganda Wildlife Authority Office is within a 5-minute walk.
This section of the forest is home to the Nkuringo gorilla group (3 habituated families – 24 permits) and the Rushaga gorilla group (6 habituated families + 2 under habituation – 48 + 4 permits); the drive from the lodge to Rushaga starting point is approx 45/60 minutes.
- Bwindi is most certainly one of the best **birding** locations in East Africa: 350 species recorded, of which 23 endemics (90% are Albertine endemics). There is also the pocket forest of Nombe, 5km from the lodge.
- The Buniga pocket forest is interesting for its diverse bird life (over 100 species identified) and the presence of mammals like duikers, black & white colobus monkeys, chimps etc. The forest also provides the means for **the Batwa** people to re-act and explain their hunter-gatherer life before they were forced out of Bwindi in 1991. They are one of the most ancient tribes who roamed Equatorial Africa and this activity helps them to preserve their heritage and to earn a much needed income from their culture. (70% of the fee paid goes to the foundation which operates local community conservation and development projects; the other 30% goes to the Kisoro Local Government, owner of the forest).

COMMUNITY SOCIAL RESPONSABILITY

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge works in partnership with the **Nkuringo Youth Initiative Foundation** to bring about sustainable development through the facilitation of local skills.

Realizing that alternative *community local initiatives* can actually transform the future outlook for the young generations, the Nkuringo Youth Initiative Foundation was founded in November 2007 to champion the implementation of such *community local initiatives* to promote rural development and to use *eco-tourism* as a means to help the community members to bring about progress to the villages and themselves.

Nkuringo Youth Initiative Foundation is a fully registered Community Based Organization (CBO) - Registration No. DCGS/398/2010.

Vision: self-empowered and responsible youth, utilizing the resources around them to build their communities.

Goal: to promote, engage and inspire the youth; mostly the vulnerable and disadvantaged so that they may earn a minimal income and have access to basic services through the following programs: Environmental and Community Sensitization Programs, Primary Health Care and Family Planning, Agricultural Projects and Local Skills Development to enable them to live dignified lives. Under our Local Skills Development Programmes we are running the Bee Keeping project, the Oyster Mushrooms Project, Tailoring Classes and also Tea and Coffee Plantations Tours.

We believe the best reward in travel is 'giving back'. Responsible Travel is becoming a niche and if you wish to tap into this, we are keen to partner with you in promoting sustainable tourism. We have a wide range of activities that guests may take part in whilst on safari – please ask us for more details.

RESERVATIONS

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