

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 2,161 meters (7,000 ft) above sea level. It is totally mosquito free and enjoys superb views of the forested hill locally known as 'Nkuringo', the Kashasha River Valley, the magnificent Virunga Volcanoes, the world-renowned Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and the Great Albertine Rift Valley.

GPS Coordinates: S 01° 05' 05" E 29° 37' 52."
Google map pin: <https://q.page/Bwindilodge>

ACCESSIBILITY

By Road: Nkuringo is approximately 550km (8-10 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/Bar Aviation) from Entebbe Airport leave at 7:00 am and arrive in Kisoro Airstrip an hour later; from Kisoro, flights leave at 9 am and land in Entebbe at 11:30 am – 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 at one airport and departure from the other (East African visa can be applied online). The new national carrier, Uganda Airlines, will launch direct flights between London Heathrow in November 2022.

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



THE LODGE

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge 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, 2018, 2019 and 2020, Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is one of the best accommodations available near Bwindi National Park.

The Lodge prides itself on its **green credentials**, being one of few 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 - power supply is ensured for 24 hours. Our rainwater harvesting system allows us to be fully independent during the rainy season (and our excess water is supplied to the community through our Bwindi Drop Project) and most of the drier period. We have also installed technology in all rooms to use natural gas for water heating.

One of the initiatives started by Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge is the planting of indigenous trees in Nkuringo to support our ecosystem, 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 tranquillity 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 **5 Standard Garden Cottages, 6 Deluxe Garden Cottages, 4 Forest Suites** (2 of which are Honeymoon Suites) **and 2 Two-bedroom Family Villas**. Each cottage/suite has an outside balcony, is solar-powered with a gas water heater, and can offer single, twin or double beds.

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 (except standard rooms), daily housekeeping service, extra bed and baby cots, tea and coffee brought to your room. A private Butler services the Garden Cottages, the Forest Suites and the villas.

Each **Deluxe Garden Cottage** (45 square meters) is individually designed, can be made into a triple room, has a spacious wooden veranda (10-15 sqm) and enjoys views of either the Virungas or of Bwindi Forest. The cosy **Standard Garden Cottages** (38 square meters) are our last addition - located in our original garden and surrounded by rare trees and flowers; they bear testimony to our humble beginnings. From the verandas, guests can enjoy the twittering sounds from some of the rarest birds on the continent.

The **Forest Suites** are approximately 90 square meters, and their large windows offer panoramic views of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Each suite has beautifully inspired interiors that showcase simple and contemporary use of local materials. With oversize beds, a spacious bathroom, a private lounge and a panoramic veranda, the suites provide an elegant and unique atmosphere.

The **Villas or 2-in-1 cottages** command superb views of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and can be the perfect option for a family (there is an interconnecting door) or for friends travelling together. They are, in fact, two independent private cottages and each room can host up to 3 people.

Lodge facilities

We used the quiet time of the pandemic lockdown on travel to redefine the main area – it has been an incredible experience which has unified and renewed the connections with our community. In the central higher position of the property sits a new elegant grand building commanding magnificent views over the misty jungle of Bwindi forest and across the rugged landscape to the imposing Virunga mountains. It is here that the reception, the dining lounge, the main bar, the Excursion Desk and the in-house craft shop are located. The restaurant serves homemade meals and freshly baked bread. The Mylika Bar and Lounge, located in our vintage building, is a very private outdoor and indoor lounge with a fantastic view – the perfect space for those searching for tranquillity. A massage parlour is also available—free tea and coffee at the restaurant, complimentary wi-fi in the main area, and 24-hour security.

Major credit cards accepted (Visa, MasterCard, Amex).

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

Total capacity: max 40 guests in 19 rooms

GENERAL

Check-in: after 12.30 pm

Checkout: before 10.00am

Telephone & wi-fi: the telephone signal is available, and free wi-fi is provided in the main areas

Electricity Voltage 220V – UK Outlet

Water: we harvest rainwater using iron roofs on all buildings found on the property. The water is banked in giant underground tanks, purified, and pumped to supply tanks across the property. When we run out of water during the intense dry seasons, we fetch water from the Kashasha river into our underground tanks. Water in all cottages is safe for use but not drinking. We provide safe, filtered water for drinking in glass bottles found in the rooms and in the common areas.

ACTIVITIES

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

- Gorilla Tracking – access to several habituated gorilla families (more than half of the gorilla permits available) and two gorilla families under habituation – minimum tracking age is 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 the 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 RESPONSIBILITY

Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge works in partnership with the **Gorilla Junction Organization** to promote sustainable development by facilitating local skills.

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

Goal: to promote, engage and inspire the youth; mainly the vulnerable and disadvantaged, so that they may earn a minimal income and have access to essential services through the following programs:

- Environmental and Community Sensitization Programs,
- Primary Health Care and Family Planning,
- Agricultural Projects
- 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
- Tea and Coffee Plantations Tours.
- Crafts and Basket making
- School Fees Support
- [Pack for Purpose](#)
- Water Tank Project
- Nkuringo Water Project - providing clean, safe drinking water, better sanitation and hygiene to the community.

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 participate in whilst on safari – please ask us for more details.

RESERVATIONS OFFICE

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