



## UGANDA: GORILLAS & BEYOND - A MARCO POLO JOURNEY (2024)

Explore the “Pearl of Africa,” from the banks of the Nile to the deepest reaches of the rainforest, blazing a trail through the mists of Uganda’s waterfalls and evergreen rainforests, and tracking chimpanzee, tree-climbing lion and endangered mountain gorilla along the way.

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Small Group Journeys, Marco Polo Small Group Journeys, Luxury African Safaris



Africa, Uganda



11 days from AU\$23,885 pp



16 Guests

## Journey Overview

Explore the “Pearl of Africa”, from the banks of the Nile to the deepest reaches of the rainforest, blazing a trail through the mists of Uganda’s waterfalls and evergreen rainforests, and tracking chimpanzees, tree-climbing lions and endangered mountain gorilla along the way.

### Journey Highlights

- Encounter mountain gorilla under the biodiverse canopy of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, ranging through mist-covered hillsides to observe these greatest of apes in their natural surroundings, sensing the deep connection between their species and our own
- Cruise up the Nile River to the misty base of Murchison Falls, spotting wildlife, such as water birds, including the rare shoebill stork, wallowing hippo, elephant that come down to the riverbank to drink and the fearsome Nile crocodile basking in the sun
- Trek the lush, tropical trails of Kibale National Park in search of chimpanzee, sociable primates that forage for food and utter vocalisations that reverberate through the forest
- Set out on two full days of game drives in the wilds of Queen Elizabeth National Park, keeping watch for tree-climbing lion as well as elephant, Cape buffalo, Ugandan kob — a type of antelope symbolic of Uganda



## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrive Entebbe, Uganda

Arrive in Entebbe, Uganda, a nation of stunning greenery, deep lakes, soaring mountains and rich biodiversity. Transfer to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

***Protea Hotel Entebbe***

### Day 2: Murchison Falls National Park | The Nile's Jewel

Depart Entebbe and fly to Murchison Falls National Park, one of the most scenic spots along the Nile and the location of the classic Humphrey Bogart film, *The African Queen*. After settling into your lodge on the banks of the Victoria Nile, join your guide for a visit to Murchison Falls, where invigorating spray — the collective force of the majestic Nile — showers a narrow ravine.

***Nile Safari Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### Day 3: Murchison Falls National Park | Nile Safari

Set out on a game drive along the northern bank of the Nile, in Murchison Falls National Park. You may see giraffe, buffalo, elephant, warthog, leopard, lion and antelope. Later, embark by boat to the base of the falls, watching for hippo, crocodile and other species.

***Nile Safari Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### Day 4: Kibale National Park | Bunyaruguru Crater Walk

After breakfast, board a flight to Kibale and transfer to your lodge. Later, you may take an optional nature walk along the top of Bunyaruguru Crater.

***Kyaninga Lodge | Meals: BLD***

### Day 5: Kibale National Park | Forest of Chimpanzees

Kibale Forest is home to 11 species of primates, including chimpanzee and mangabey, and 300 types of bird. Rise early for the start of your chimpanzee trek, listening to the forest's silence as you go. Later, Ride Like a Local by African canoe across a lake, watching for wildlife and admiring the scenery.

***Kyaninga Lodge | Meals: BLD***

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## **Days 6: Queen Elizabeth National Park | Nature Anew**

Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park, home to elephant, lion, hippo, buffalo and baboon, any of which you may see as you set out on an afternoon game drive.

***Ishasha Wilderness Camp | Meals: BLD***

## **Days 7: Queen Elizabeth National Park | Wildlife Sightings**

Keep exploring, watching for tree-climbing lion, a sight seldom seen elsewhere in Africa. Then, toast your safari with a Scenic Sundowner.

***Ishasha Wilderness Camp | Meals: BLD***

## **Day 8: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park | Highlands**

Set out for a morning game drive through Queen Elizabeth National Park. Make your way out of the Rift Valley through the Kigezi Highlands and on to the mountains of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon at your camp, savour a Chef's Table experience.

***Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp | Meals: BLD***

## **Days 9: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park | Gorilla Encounters in the Wild**

Spend two days tracking endangered mountain gorilla, spending up to an hour among them each day. See mothers keeping infants close as they knucklewalk on three limbs. Watch scampering toddlers reined in by an attentive father. Later, visit the Uganda Nursing School Bwindi, a project supported by Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy.

***Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp | Meals: BLD***

## **Days 10: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park | Visit Again**

Today, once again bask in the bond that exists between primate and man as you set out on your final gorilla trek.

***Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp | Meals: BLD***

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## Day 11: Depart Entebbe

Fly to Entebbe and return to your hotel, where a dayroom awaits until your international flight home.

***Protea Hotel Entebbe (dayroom) / Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

Internal air included: Entebbe/Murchison Falls/Kibale; Bwindi/Entebbe Gorilla and chimpanzee permits are included.

Minimum age is 15 years.

Each guest on this journey will receive an A&K Safari Duffle.

First group event: welcome briefing at 10:00 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: hotel transfer at 11:25 a.m. on Day 11.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

This journey entails active elements such as hiking through isolated jungle regions.

## Included with every Marco Polo Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations (Where Available)
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access (Where Available)
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.



## Map



## Accommodation

### Kyanninga Lodge



Set against a stunning backdrop of Lake Kyanninga and the legendary Mountains of the Moon in the distance, Kyanninga Lodge is the result of six years of commitment creating an experience not to be missed. Each of the eight cottages are built on platforms and set apart to offer fantastic views, privacy and tranquillity. Each of the spacious cottages are beautifully appointed with an indoor sitting area which leads out to a private deck where you can enjoy morning coffee or tea and views over the lake and the Mountains of the Moon. The en suite bathrooms have marble countertop basins set atop beautifully crafted Elgon Olive pedestals, claw footed freestanding baths, glass walled showers with plenty of hot water.

### Why we like it

- Enjoy a refreshing dip in the lodge's swimming pool, which overlooks the lake and provides a perfect spot in which to soak up the surrounding natural beauty
- Enjoy a game of croquet out on the lawns with the stunning vista views in the background
- Walk to down to the shores of Lake Kyanninga, the lake has remarkably blue water and nearby is the 'land that time forgot' rainforest which is a true wilderness area

## Ishasha Wilderness Camp



Ishasha Wilderness Camp is an exclusive tented camp that offers quality accommodation in the unspoilt remote southern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Each of the ten East African meru styled tents are situated in the wooded area besides the Ntungwe River. They are comfortably furnished with each with its own dressing area and private en suite bathroom providing hot water "bush" showers and an eco-friendly toilet. The central dining area which is under thatch is a relaxed area to enjoy meals and relax after a full day safari. There are excellent game viewing opportunities, with buffalo, elephants, kob, topi and other species of antelope all common.

### Why we like it

Due to the remoteness of the lodge on game drives, you are unlikely to encounter other vehicle Birdlife is abundant especially with the arrival of the migrant birds are during the months of October through November Visit the ongoing community projects which work tirelessly in reducing the threats to the eco systems through increased economic opportunities for the local community



## Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest



Located deep in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in western Uganda, this intimate lodge offers luxury in the midst of one of Africa's most amazing natural environments. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Bwindi is one of the most biologically diverse areas on earth including 113 species of mammals (including a herd of the rare forest elephant), 200 species of butterfly and over 360 species of birds. In addition, Bwindi is home to seven species of primates of which the most endangered is the elusive mountain gorilla. Only 700 of these magnificent animals remain worldwide and Bwindi is home to just over half of them.

Gorilla Forest Camp has a bar and dining cottage as well as a natural raised platform for open-air dining. At night, a traditional African campfire is lit where the gorilla briefings take place. Cuisine and service has been described as the best in Uganda. Experienced guides will accompany you on your gorilla trekking where a maximum of eight visitors are allowed to each gorilla family group. Tracking can take anything between half an hour and up to nine hours dependent on the family you are visiting. You will also be trekking at altitudes of 5200 feet so a good level of fitness is required.

### Why we like it

- Perfect luxury base to go gorilla tracking
- Other activities on offer include bird watching, forest tracking and visits to the local market and villages
- Eight spacious tents on raised wooden platforms with en suite bathrooms
- A superb mini spa offering various treatments and massages
- Children are welcome at the camp but only children aged 15 and above are able to track the gorillas



## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Aug 1, 2024 - Aug 11, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$24,360 pp</b>	AU\$5,990	Included	Call for Availability

### Aug 10, 2024 - Aug 20, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$24,360 pp</b>	AU\$5,990	Included	Call for Availability

### Sep 11, 2024 - Sep 21, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$24,360 pp</b>	AU\$5,990	Included	Call for Availability

### Oct 12, 2024 - Oct 22, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$23,885 pp</b>	AU\$5,530	Included	Call for Availability

# Abercrombie & Kent

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