



# GORILLAS, GAMEPARKS & BEACHES

Uganda | Rwanda | Kenya | Tanzania

31 nights

## Day 1: Entebbe - Kampala

Jambo! Welcome to Africa. Once you have cleared Immigration & Customs, proceed to the Arrivals area and look for a driver holding The Safari Co sign. You will then be transferred to Kampala, Uganda's capital. The rest of the day is at leisure so you can relax after your flight. This evening you may dine at the hotel restaurant or go into the city (own cost).

*Accommodation: Silver Springs Hotel or similar*

## Day 2: Fort Portal

(B,L,D)

We depart Kampala in the morning and travel westward to Fort Portal. This serene town rests peacefully in the northern foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains, enveloped by lush tea plantations. Our lodging offers great amenities including a rejuvenating pool and vast gardens, ensuring a relaxing stay.

*Accommodation: Mountains of the Moon Hotel or similar 2 nights*

## Day 3: Fort Portal

(B,L,D)

Spanning 766 km<sup>2</sup>, the Kibale Forest predominantly consists of lush rainforest, serving as a habitat for a diverse array of wildlife. Within its bounds, 60 mammal species, 335 bird species, along with numerous insects and plants thrive. Notably, the forest is home to 13 primate species, with chimpanzees being a major highlight. Today, you'll venture deep into the forest, guided by experts who will lead you on a search for these captivating primates in their natural environment. Whether swinging from treetops or frolicking on the forest floor, witnessing a chimpanzee community is an awe-inspiring experience, showcasing their strong familial bonds and remarkable agility. The remainder of the day offers leisure time to unwind at the hotel or explore the town and its surroundings at your own pace.

## Day 4: Queen Elizabeth National Park

(B,L,D)

Today, we journey to the picturesque Queen Elizabeth National Park, renowned for its stunning landscape featuring two interconnected lakes framed by a lofty peninsula. After lunch, we embark on an afternoon boat excursion along the scenic Kazinga Channel. This voyage offers a rewarding glimpse into the park's abundant wildlife, including thousands of hippos, a vibrant array of bird species, and the lively activity of a bustling fishing village. Later, we'll gather for sundowners overlooking the tranquil waters of the Kazinga Channel, followed by dinner at the lodge's restaurant.

*Accommodation: Mweya Lodge or similar*

## Day 5: Kigali

(B,L)

We leave Queen Elizabeth NP in the morning and drive through to Rwanda, crossing the border at Gatuna. Once in Rwanda we will drive to the capital city of Kigali. Our hotel has a popular restaurant for you to enjoy this evening

*Accommodation: Chez Lando Hotel or similar*

**Day 6: Ruhengeri****(B,L,D)**

The morning brings a sombre yet enlightening visit to the Genocide Museum, offering profound insights into history. Following this, we'll explore the vibrant carving and curio markets. In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic drive through breathtaking landscapes and terraced farmlands to reach Ruhengeri, our home base for the next two days.

*Accommodation: The Pastoral Centre of our Lady Fatima Hotel or similar 2 nights*

**Day 7: Ruhengeri****(B,L,D)**

Free day. Highly recommended is a canoe trip down the Mukungwa River – a great way to get up close to rural Rwanda, meet the locals and see how they tend to their crops. Or you may choose to explore the town centre, a 15 min walk or quick bike-taxi ride, and has a vibrant food market, shops and restaurants.

**Day 8: Kisoro****(B,L,D)**

This morning we will visit the Gorilla Fund – a great place to learn about the conservation work started by Dian Fossey in 1967 to save gorillas and the ecosystems in which gorillas live. A compulsory donation is expected (own cost) and well worth it. This afternoon, it's an easy drive back into Uganda through the border at Cyanika. Afternoon at leisure to relax in the hotel gardens and prepare your gear for the gorilla trek tomorrow.

*Accommodation: Ikoro Hotel or similar*

**Day 9: Gorilla Trekking Day****(B,L,D)**

You will be picked up early with the rest of the group and driven to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park entrance. From here you will be split into groups of 8 with a guide and park rangers. Begin your hike in the tropical rainforest navigating through a lush forest adorned with hanging vines, moss-draped trees, and thriving Giant Lobelias. Depending on your gorilla family's location, you might veer off the trail and navigate steep terrain amidst dense foliage. Despite the exertion, the sight of your gorilla family will be breathtaking. With only about 900 mountain gorillas remaining globally, it's a profound privilege to observe them for an hour, witnessing their daily rituals of feeding, playing, grooming, and resting in their natural habitat. An unforgettable encounter! After the trek, you'll be transported to Lake Bunyonyi, where The Safari Co team and their truck await your arrival.

*Accommodation: Bunyonyi Overland Resort – room with ensuite or similar 2 nights*

**Day 10: Lake Bunyonyi****(B,L,D)**

Known as one of Africa's deepest lakes, Lake Bunyonyi offers an excellent opportunity for swimming – yes, it is safe! The surrounding hills are inhabited by the Bakiga people, who have a rich tradition of cultivation. In the morning, we'll visit a nearby school where you can engage with the students and educators. Later in the day, indulge in a relaxing boat cruise around the lake.

**Day 11: Jinja****(B,L,D)**

Rise early for a long drive through to Jinja today. On arrival, you can relax and take in the stunning vistas as you sip a cold drink in the camp bar or on your deck overlooking the Nile River. There's also free entertainment from cheeky monkeys!

*Accommodation: Nile Porch – permanent tent with ensuite or similar 2 nights*

**Day 12: Jinja**

(B,L)

Free day. There are optional activities you can book eg Mountain Biking, Quad Biking, Horse Riding, Village Walks, Birding and Fishing on the Nile. Later this afternoon we'll take a sundowner's cruise on the Nile.

**Day 13: Kenyan Highlands**

(B,L,D)

Today we cross into Kenya where we'll stay up in the Kenyan highlands just outside of Eldoret. Our river camp is a laid-back resort with a pool, shady gardens and a very vibrant bar with unique furnishings.

*Accommodation: Naiberi River Camp – ensuite room or similar*

**Day 14: Nakuru**

(B,L,D)

This morning, we travel down the picturesque Eldama Ravine to Nakuru. There will be some free time in Nakuru town for shopping before we head out to the farm. Our accommodation is in self-contained cottages nestled within sprawling gardens. You might like to join the afternoon guided farm walk and visit the Kenana knitters project or just relax in your cottage.

*Accommodation: Kembu Farm Cottages or similar 2 nights*

**Day 15: Lake Nakuru**

(B,L,D)

Today we enter Lake Nakuru National Park and spend the day game driving. This small park is packed with wildlife and a soda lake with over 400 species of birdlife - an ornithologist's paradise. It is also home to both the black and white rhino, and where some scenes from the movie "Out of Africa" were filmed.

**Day 16: Masai Mara**

(B,L,D)

Today's journey takes us into the heart of the Masai Mara. En route, the landscape transforms as herds of goats and cows, tended by vigilant Maasai owners, meander across vast plains, stirring up clouds of dust. We pause to visit a Maasai village, where we'll engage with locals and gain insight into their customs and semi-nomadic way of life. In the afternoon, we reach our camp and settle in. This distinctive camp features luxury tents, each providing a tranquil, private vista of the surrounding scenery, ensuring a truly unique experience.

*Accommodation: Sekenani Camp – permanent tent with ensuite or similar 2 nights*

**Day 17: Masai Mara**

(B,L,D)

Our day is dedicated to wildlife! We'll head off early in 4WDs and traverse the park past herds of zebra, wildebeest, antelope, and towers of giraffe. With luck on our side, we may spot The Big 5 (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo & rhino). The Masai Mara is quite simply, one of the greatest wildlife attractions in the world and at this time of year, the great migration should be in full swing.

**Day 18: Lake Naivasha**

(B,L,D)

This afternoon we arrive at Lake Naivasha and take a boat ride on the lake viewing hippos, fish eagles and birdlife before arriving at Elsamere, the former home of the late Joy & George Adamson. Joy became world famous for her pioneering conservation work and relationship with the lioness Elsa, as told in her bestselling book and subsequent film, Born Free. After a video presentation on the life of the Adamson's, enjoy a delicious afternoon tea in the gardens.

*Accommodation: Camp Carnellys or similar*

**Day 19: Nairobi****(B,L)**

Today we journey through the Rift Valley and up the escarpment where we stop for photo opportunities, before continuing to Nairobi, Kenya's capital. Tonight, you might like to eat in the famous Carnivores Restaurant which is located in the grounds of our hotel.

*Accommodation: Tamarind Tree Hotel or similar (2 nights)*

**Day 20: Nairobi****(B)**

Free day to kick-back, catch up on your washing, emails, shopping etc. There is a good choice of restaurants and bars close-by, plus a modern supermarket where you can stock up on personal supplies. Option to visit the nearby elephant orphanage at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (must be pre-booked in advance – own cost).

**Day 21: Arusha****(B,L,D)**

Today is an easy drive into Tanzania via the Namanga border. We arrive mid-afternoon and you have the rest of day free to relax or explore Arusha.

*Accommodation: Pazuri Inn or Planet Lodge, Arusha*

**Day 22: Serengeti****(B,L,D)**

Early this morning, we'll be transferred to Arusha Airport for a scenic one-hour flight into the iconic Serengeti National Park. Upon arrival, we'll be picked up in 4WD vehicles and spend the day game-driving through this UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is brimming with wildlife, including lions, leopards, cheetahs, and around 500 bird species across nearly 15,000 square kilometers. The vast plains are dotted with trees and kopjes, where majestic lions reign over their territory. Around midday, we'll stop for a picnic hamper lunch, before continuing our afternoon safari, exploring the savannah in search of more wildlife. We'll overnight within the Serengeti at an exclusive safari campsite, nestled among towering acacia trees, offering stylish ensuite tents and delicious hearty meals for a true African adventure.

*Accommodation: Golden Safari Camp or similar – permanent tent with ensuite*

**Day 23: Serengeti – Ngorongoro – Karatu****(B,L,D)**

Wake up the sounds of wildlife and savour a freshly brewed coffee as the sun rises over the plains. After breakfast, depart for Ngorongoro Crater – nestled in this colossal volcanic caldera a plethora of wildlife thrives, from elusive black rhinos to prowling hyenas, jackals, and the world's most concentrated lion population. Spend the rest of the day game driving with a picnic lunch within the Crater. Tonight, you will be staying in a boutique little resort on the outskirts of Karatu.

*Accommodation: Kudu Lodge or similar*

**Day 24: Arusha****(B,L,D)**

After breakfast, we depart for Arusha where we'll visit the Shanga Foundation. Established with the mission of offering locals with disabilities an opportunity to master a craft and sustain themselves economically, you'll be impressed by the exceptional quality of the unique products, all meticulously handmade from recycled materials. Free time to watch the artists at work as well as having lunch in the restaurant. Later, arrive at our accommodation. For those seeking to acquire a rare Tanzanite gem, we recommend you attend the gem information session at our hotel, before making your purchase.

*Accommodation: Mt Meru Hotel or similar*

**Day 25: Arusha - Marangu****(B,L,D)**

Today we drive through colourful towns and past richly cultivated pastures to the town of Marangu. The Marangu Hotel began its history as a farmhouse built in the early 1900s and is a family-owned business, with a long history and deep connection to Kilimanjaro. On a clear day

you have magnificent views of the snow-capped mountain from the Hotel's gardens. Free afternoon to relax by the pool, or in the garden bar which is a great place to catch up with other travellers who are about to trek Kili or have just come off the mountain.  
*Accommodation: Marangu Hotel or similar 2 nights*

**Day 26: Marangu**

(B,L,D)

Today, you'll delve into the rich culture of the Chagga people, an indigenous Bantu-speaking community, who are the third largest ethnic group in Tanzania. With a local guide, meander through villages, lush banana and coffee plantations, and uncover the intricate network of caves once utilized by the Chagga for sheltering both themselves and their livestock from Maasai raids. Indulge in freshly picked coffee beans, expertly roasted, and brewed for a flavoursome experience. Your exploration might lead you to a stunning waterfall, inviting you for a refreshing swim at your leisure.

**Day 27: Stone Town, Zanzibar**

(B)

Early this morning, we depart for Kilimanjaro Airport and take a short domestic flight to Zanzibar. Little has changed in the last 200 years in Stone Town. A labyrinthine of winding alleys, bustling bazaars, mosques, and grand Arab houses whose original owners vied with each other over the extravagance of their dwellings. This one-upmanship is particularly reflected in the brass-studded, carved, wooden doors. Later find yourself a rooftop bar or sit on the beach to watch the sun sink into the sea and cast a warm glow over the city.

*Accommodation: Forodhani Park Hotel or similar*

**Day 28: Spice Tour - Nungwi**

(B)

Fragrant cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, pepper and many other spices brought the Sultans of Oman and the beginnings of the infamous slave trade to Zanzibar. Our half day tour will wow you with the sheer number of spices produced and their incredible value for many ailments. Later this afternoon we drive to Nungwi Beach at the northern end of the island.

*Accommodation: Z Hotel or similar (3 nights)*

**Days 29/30: Nungwi, Zanzibar**

(B)

Two free days to relax and unwind on Nungwi Beach. Diving, fishing and sailing on a Dhow are just some of the optional activities you can do here. At the end of the day there are plenty of bars to enjoy a sunset cocktail and a variety of beachside restaurants to dine in.

**Day 31: Stone Town, Zanzibar**

(B)

Today, we return to Stone Town. Free afternoon - perhaps some last-minute shopping or a boat tour across to Prison Island which offers intriguing historical insights and the chance to encounter magnificent giant tortoises up close. Tonight, we'll meet for our final meal as a group and toast our remarkable adventure.

*Accommodation: Forodhani Park Hotel or similar*

**Day 32: Departure day**

(B)

Your adventure with The Safari Company ends this morning.

## 2025 DEPARTURES

08 June – 09 Jul

20 Jul – 20 Aug

31 Aug – 01 Oct

12 Oct – 12 Nov

## PRICE

NZ\$17,790 per person twin share

NZ\$2,500 single supplement (willing to share option may be available)

*Prices subject to change until confirmed and paid in full.*

## INCLUSIONS

- 31 nights accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner)
- Sightseeing as indicated
- Services of experienced driver/guide plus camp/cook assistant
- Fully equipped safari vehicle, with camping / cooking equipment
- All road tolls, vehicle taxes, National Park entry fees
- Airport transfers (day 1 & day 32 only)
- Domestic flight Kilimanjaro - Zanzibar

## EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- Travel Insurance
- Entry Visa to all countries
- Items of a personal nature (eg. drinks, souvenirs)
- Any other optional activities you choose to take yourself
- Tipping
- Gorilla Permit USD\$850
- Chimpanzee permit USD\$285