

Uganda

UGANDA CHIMPANZEE SAFARI



- Track and study wild chimpanzees alongside Uganda's leading primatologists
- Full day permits, tracking up to 100 chimps in Kibale Forest and Kyambura Gorge
- Includes game drives and boat safaris in Queen Elizabeth N.P. and Batwa village visits
- Includes one year's membership to Jane Goodall Institute and a local donation

SUMMARY



Kibale Forest and Kyambura Gorge in South West Uganda are two of the best places in the world to view chimpanzees in the wild. This chimpanzee safari not only allows you to come face-to-face with our closest living relatives, but also gives fascinating insight into the complex social behaviour of chimpanzees, courtesy of Uganda's leading chimpanzee experts who accompany the group.



Starting in Kibale Forest National Park, home to over 700 chimps and 13 species of primates, you will have special permits which allow you to track all day, heading out before sunrise to watch the chimps waking in the tree tops, before following them as they play, fight, mate and patrol the borders of their forest home. You then continue to the dramatic Kyambura Gorge, a spectacular river valley carved into the plains of Queen Elizabeth National Park, descending the valley floor, to again search for the chimps who live here. All the while, you will have experts on hand to explain the group's behaviour and discuss the ongoing conservation issues faced by the chimpanzees in today's Uganda.

Whilst the focus of this tour is very much on the primates, there is also time to search for tree climbing lions and other big game in Queen Elizabeth, as well as the chance for some exciting boat safaris on the Kazinga Channel.

YOUR EXPERTS

Julia Lloyd



A respected and experienced primatologist who has spent a number of years living and working in Kibale with a team of researchers, habituating and studying chimpanzees. Her knowledge of the chimps and her dedication to the conservation of the regions great apes, will not only enlighten you, but also inspire you to join her in the fight for their continued survival in these forests. Having studied for her PhD at Makerere University in Uganda, she gained previous field experience in Tanzania and other habitats in Uganda. She was approached by the Jane Goodall Institute to manage the collaborative Kibale Primate Habituation Project in 1998 and from then on the Ugandan rangers taught Julia how to track and follow the chimpanzee, understanding their unique behavioral pattern.

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY



Day 1 - Entebbe to Kibale

After being welcomed in Entebbe by your guide, you will enjoy a coffee and a briefing on the trip ahead, before driving towards Fort Portal via the town of Mubende set in Uganda's rolling hills, with a picnic lunch en route. You then continue on to Kibale itself, a total journey of around 6 hours, including stops for lunch through fantastic scenery, with plenty of stops for photography. Arrive late afternoon at the comfortable Primate Lodge, situated in the heart of Kibale Forest National Park. With eight unique safari tents in classic East African style, each of the comfortable rooms are raised on a wooden platform, with a spacious private veranda overlooking the forest. The comfortable lounge is centered around a welcoming fire place to warm yourself during in the evenings. The rest of the day is yours to relax at the lodge or take time to explore nearby crater lakes. O/N: Primate Lodge (FB).



Day 2 - Chimpanzee Tracking - Community Visit

This morning is an early start as you head into Kibale forest with the chimpanzee team and hopefully enjoy your first encounter with the chimpanzees. Depending on where the chimpanzees nested the night before, it may take anything from ten minutes to over an hour to reach the nesting site. You can expect to watch silhouettes of chimpanzees waking in the trees as dawn breaks, often a noisy affair, with a dawn chorus of contact calls and pant hoots. When the chimps have been located, you can then spend one hour in their company as your guides explain the group dynamics and relationships.



After returning to the lodge for lunch, you then spend the afternoon walking through the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary and surrounding forests - an area well known for its excellent birdlife and up to 6 other different species of primates. The sanctuary itself is run by the Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development (KAFRED) and all money raised from tourism here is used to help fund local community projects, including a small local library and a new secondary school where you will have the chance to meet the local community. You then return to the camp in the evening. O/N: Primate Lodge (FB).

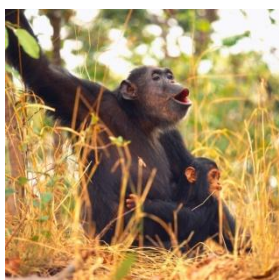
Day 3 - Full Day Chimpanzee Tracking

Today the group is split in to as one group spend a full day in the forest tracking the chimpanzees and exploring Kibale Forest National Park in depth. This moist evergreen forest is well known for its large number of chimpanzees (thought to be up to 700) but is also home to a host of other primates. Not only will you track the Chimpanzees all day with guides from the Uganda Wildlife Authority but you will have the opportunity to study and observe their movements and behaviour alongside chimpanzee experts. The second group will head in to the forest for a mornings tracking, before a wildlife walk in the afternoon. A packed lunch will be provided and taken as required in the forest. As the sun sets, you leave the forest and chimps behind and return to the lodge for a well deserved shower and the chance to discuss the day's events around the lodge fire. O/N: Primate Lodge (FB).



Day 4 - Full Day Chimpanzee Tracking

Today the groups swap around. On the walks you will be looking out for other species of primates including the red, black and white colobus, blue monkeys and baboons. For botanists and butterfly lovers the network of shady forest trails provides much to enjoy, while birders can keep an eye out for many of the 335 species recorded in the park. The forest is also home to the elusive forest elephant, smaller and hairier than its savannah counterpart, which moves seasonally into the developed part of the park, while other terrestrial mammals include buffalo, giant forest hog and a half dozen antelope species. You return to the camp late afternoon. O/N: Primate Lodge (FB).





Day 5 - Queen Elizabeth National Park

This morning you depart south and drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park, home to Uganda's highest number of mammal species including large elephant herds, the Uganda Kob, (an endemic antelope), buffaloes and the famous tree climbing lions, before arriving at the newly opened Kyambura Lodge. Originally a coffee plantation and storage plant, the 4 banda's have been sensitively refurbished and now offer spectacular views across Kyambura Gorge with the Rwenzori Mountains in the distance.

After lunch at the lodge, you then board your boat for a safari on the Kazinga Channel, allowing you to get close to many of the larger animals as they come down to cool off in the afternoon, as well as hundreds of wetland birds, keeping a close eye out for the crocodiles...O/N: Kyambura Lodge (FB).



Day 6 - Chimpanzee Tracking Kyambura Gorge - Game Drives

Today you will go chimp tracking in Kyambura Gorge itself, which lies on the eastern side of QENP, right in front of the lodge. The steeply forested walls of Kyambura are home not only to chimpanzees but also to the red-tailed monkey, black and white colobus, giant forest hog and many bird species. A half day walk down to the Gorge is a rewarding experience, not only for seeing chimpanzees but also to explore the beautiful river valley.



As you walk along the top of the Gorge, you will have a wonderful aerial view of the valley itself, with the Rwenzori Mountains as a backdrop before descending into the gorge. The resident chimpanzee researcher will be on hand here to tell you the history of the chimpanzees themselves and the recent introduction of a buffer zone around the gorge as a conservation initiative. After returning to the lodge for lunch, you will embark on a game drive in this largely open and scenic park, before returning to the lodge for the evening. O/N: Kyambura Lodge (FB).

Day 7 - Chimpanzee Tracking Kyambura Gorge - Game Drives

This morning you return to Kyambura for your final chimpanzee trek and then after lunch, will enjoy a further game drive, passing through the Ishasha area looking out for the famous tree climbing lions. This evening is your farewell meal where you can toast a successful chimpanzee safari with your guides. O/N: Kyambura Lodge (FB).



Day 8 - Depart - Optional Gorilla Tracking Extension

This morning after saying good bye to the team, you will return to the park for one final game drive before returning to Entebbe. For those looking to visit the gorillas, we can easily arrange a trip to Bwindi Forest from here.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR THE SEPTEMBER TRIP, THE ITINERARY IS REVERSED SO THAT WE VISIT KYAMBURA GORGE FIRST.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dates: 2012
08 to 15 September

2013
TBC

Total cost: From £2,695 + £300 for 5 chimpanzee permits.
Please note that the itinerary is based on a minimum of 6 paying clients and a maximum of 8. Previously we have obtained this group size, but in the unlikely event that there are less than the minimum numbers, we will review the situation 12 weeks prior to travel and discuss your options. *With this in mind, it is important that you do not pay for any supplementary details relating to this trip, such as flights, visas or vaccinations until we confirm the trip is definitely running. Any financial commitments made by you prior to the 12 week review will not be refunded should the trip be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.*

Single Supplement: If you are happy to share accommodation with a fellow traveller of the same sex then you will NOT be charged a single supplement for your holiday. This is of course dependent on there being another same sex traveller on the trip who is also willing to share. If we cannot find you a suitable room-mate, then we will pass on the single supplement, imposed by the properties we are using. We will endeavour to keep this supplement to a minimum and will discuss your room options 12 weeks prior to the date of departure. Should you however wish to guarantee a single room then the additional cost is £395.

Includes: Guide expertise, all accommodation on a full board basis unless otherwise shown, ALL chimpanzee permits as shown, services of English-speaking guide/driver, local guides and trackers. Bottled water throughout, alcohol at Kyambura lodge. A year's membership to the Jane Goodall Institute and a donation to a local partnership trust.

Excludes: International economy return flights to Entebbe (which we are happy to arrange), travel insurance, visas, vaccinations, gratuities, alcohol unless stated, soft drinks, extra meals.

GROUP FLIGHT DETAILS

Date	Route	Flight Number	Depart	Arrive
Day 1	Heathrow to Nairobi	KQ101	20:00	06:30+1
Day 2	Nairobi to Entebbe	KQ410	07:55	09:10
Day 8	Entebbe to Nairobi	KQ415	19:55	21:05
Day 8	Nairobi to Heathrow	KQ102	23:45	05:45+1

+ 1 Arrival the following day

The flights above are not included in the cost of the trip however Steppes Discovery is able to book these flights on your behalf. The group transfer will be waiting at Entebbe airport to pick you up from the Kenya Airways flight detailed above. If you are not arriving on the designated group flights you will need to ensure you are at Entebbe arrivals hall at designated flight arrival time. Alternatively please speak to our office to arrange a private transfer at an additional cost.

We are aware that when it comes to booking international flights there are a number of different options available to you which may be cheaper than the fares Steppes Discovery is able to offer. Please bear in mind however that when booking international flights with Steppes in conjunction with your holiday you are afforded a much greater level of financial protection than if you book your flights separately through a different source. This is down to EU Package Regulations which state that if a tour operator is booking international flights combined with ground arrangements on your behalf and the flight from the UK is unable to take off, then the tour operator is obliged to refund the full cost of your holiday.

Recently, this has become most pertinent on the occasions when flights were grounded in April 2010 due to volcanic ash and in December 2010 due to snow and frozen runways. Those travellers who had booked hotels and ground arrangements through a tour operator but had booked flights independently were still liable for the cost of their holiday, despite not being able to fly from the UK. Those travellers who had booked a 'package' through a tour operator including flights and ground arrangements were fully refunded the total cost of their holiday or, as in most cases with Steppes' clients, were found alternative arrangements at a later date at no additional expense.

This additional insurance against unforeseen circumstances can offer not only peace of mind but valuable cover should the unexpected occur.

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TRIP NOTES

Age Restrictions	Please note that due to the nature of this tour and the rules for primate viewing, the minimum age for this tour is 16 yrs old.
Extras	Here are some suggestions of ways to enhance your trip even before you arrive; upgrade your flight from economy to premium economy or business class, upgrade your hotel room, prebook valet or airport parking, airport hotels and airport lounges. If you wish to take advantage of the reduced tour operator rates we are able to offer, please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.
Costs For Tailor made Trips	Please contact us for a bespoke itinerary, which we can design on a private basis, to suit your budget and wanderlust.
Extra Permits	Please contact us should you wish to take advantage of extra permits, subject to availability and payment of an additional charge.
Notes About Permits	Chimpanzee viewing can be denied at short notice given the nature of wild animals. Obtaining a chimpanzee permit is therefore not a guarantee of seeing a chimpanzee. Seeing chimpanzees in the wild should be seen as a privilege not a right.
Accommodation	Accommodation is in some of the finest lodges in Uganda, small wilderness eco-lodges with friendly staff that give you a real feel for the country. All of them are comfortable, well run and in great locations, with en suites with twin or double beds, showers and toilets. Please do remember though that you are in a developing country where infrastructure can be poor and service is sometimes a little relaxed. A good sense of humour and an open mind will help you get the most from this trip.
Travelling in this region	Due to the nature of these tours and the area visited, from time to time we experience unforeseen schedule changes, imposed by airlines and ground agents which can adversely affect or interrupt your itinerary at any stage of the booking. Whilst we are unable to cover the cost of any additional expenses that maybe incurred as a result of these changes, we will of course make every effort to assist you in resolving these matters as quickly as we can and to ensure the trip runs as smoothly possible.
Weather and best times to travel	The region can be visited at any time of year with best times from June to October with least amount of rain. The wettest months are March to May and generally to be avoided, but it can rain at any time. Rain however can be excellent as it clears the air of haze and mist, with brighter sunshine for photography.
Vaccinations and Visas	All visitors must be in possession of a valid passport with at least six months left before expiry. Visas are required for entry into Uganda, for British citizens (both of which can be obtained on arrival (the latter for a fee of U\$40 per person) A Yellow fever vaccination is essential and we recommend inoculations for Typhoid, Tetanus and Hepatitis A. If you are a regular traveller abroad we would recommend that you are up to date on all childhood inoculations and vaccinations including polio. Malaria is present in the area and expert advice is therefore essential. Please consult a medical practitioner or call MASTA on 09068 224100 (premium rate call) at least one month before you travel.

Health and Fitness

A good level of fitness will allow you to fully appreciate this safari and with this in mind we recommend you undertake some form of regular exercise in preparation for the sometimes challenging gorilla tracking. Please bear in mind however that the walking to see the chimpanzees is very much done at a pace that is comfortable for everyone and is not a hike - it is a holiday after all. There will be plenty of stops on the way to rest and enjoy the scenery and the guides and porters are very much there to help.

Extensions

Extensions to see the gorillas and trips in other parts of East Africa can be easily arranged. Please contact us for details.

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION



An unavoidable consequence of travel is the emission of carbon dioxide into the high atmosphere and while Steppes Discovery takes measures to reduce the carbon footprint of its holidays, regrettably it is not yet possible to make them carbon neutral. If you are able to, we suggest you consider offsetting the carbon emission of your long haul flight by using Rainforest Concern's Forest Credits scheme. Details can be found at www.forestcredits.org.uk

Rainforests have a central role to play in the slowing of climate change and yet we are removing forests from the planet at a faster rate than they can grow back. Rainforest Concern supports projects that look to preserve the forests that we have

Rather than replanting new ones, working to safeguard biodiversity and local communities and in so doing mitigate climate change.



The objectives of the Institute are to increase primate habitat conservation, increase the awareness of, support for and training in issues related to our relationship with each other, the environment and other animals, expand non-invasive research programmes on chimpanzees and other primates and to promote activities that ensure the well being of chimpanzees, other primates and animal welfare, particularly by supporting sanctuaries in Africa for orphan chimpanzees illegally taken from the wild. Steppes Discovery supports long term research in Kibale in Uganda and annual membership is included with all programmes in Uganda.

WANT TO DISCUSS THIS TRIP



Please call Chris on ++ 44 (0) 1285 880 936 or e-mail him on chris@steppesdiscovery.co.uk for more details or to make a booking.

Having travelled extensively through some of the world's rich primate habitats, including Borneo, Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Central African Republic and the DRC, Chris has developed a passion and understanding for these wild and captivating areas.

Having come face to face with gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans on numerous occasions he will be more than happy to share his enthusiasm for the great apes.

