



Discovering Our Planet Together



Ultimate Gorilla Safari

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys



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Trip Details:

Days

13 Days /
Feb–Mar,
Jun–Jul, Sep–
Dec

Price

From \$18795
(+Air/permits)

Ultimate Gorilla Safari

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys

To trek into the rainforest and sit with a family of mountain gorillas, catching the gaze of a huge silverback at close range, seeing them devour leaves stripped from branches, watching babies cling to their mothers, laughing at animated youngsters playing in the trees...it's a profound experience for a wildlife lover. And to capture these rare moments in photographs lets you relive the wonder in enduring images. Our extended time with endangered gorillas is the centerpiece of this primate-focused safari that also includes the chimpanzees of Uganda's Kibale Forest and golden monkeys in Volcanoes National Park in neighboring Rwanda. Many of our guests say they are never the same after these encounters...and your visit may be a life-changing experience for these species as well, as conservation tourism is the main hope for protecting their future.

Trip Highlights

Four different gorilla-tracking expeditions—two each in Uganda and Rwanda—maximize your time with the last of the world's endangered mountain gorillas

Look for golden monkeys and complete the primate experience in Kibale National Park, home to wild chimpanzees and colobus monkeys

Explore Murchison Falls National Park, Lake Albert and the Victoria Nile, where plains game, predators, hippos, crocodiles and birds abound



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Entebbe, Uganda

Day 2

Murchison Falls National Park—
Private Bush Camp

Day 3

Murchison Falls National Park—
Private Delta Cruise & Game Drive

Day 4

Chimp Trekking in Budongo
Forest Reserve / Private Nile
Cruise

Days 5 & 6

Murchison Falls Game Drive /
Kibale National Park—
Chimpanzee Trekking

Day 7

Bwindi Impenetrable National
Park

Days 8 & 9

Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi

Ultimate Gorilla Safari Itinerary

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys

Day 1: Entebbe, Uganda

Arrive in Entebbe and transfer to our hotel. If time permits, you may wish to visit the famous Entebbe Botanical Gardens nearby. Established in 1902, the gardens contain a diverse plant collection from tropical, subtropical and temperate zones. Also home to a wide variety of birds, the gardens offer an excellent introduction to Uganda's avian species. Vervet and black-and-white colobus monkeys are commonly spotted here as well. Meet your Expedition Leader at a welcome dinner this evening, where we'll have a full orientation to our gorilla tour.





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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 10

Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

Days 11 & 12

Gorilla Trekking in Volcanoes National Park

Day 13

Golden Monkey Trek / Depart

Day 2: Murchison Falls National Park—Private Bush Camp

Today we take a chartered flight to Murchison Falls National Park, which covers almost 1,500 square miles of wild and varied terrain at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley. Diverse habitats—including savanna, acacia forest, Borassus palm forest, riverine woodlands and papyrus swamp—support a wide variety of wildlife. The park is bisected by the Victoria Nile, a turbulent stretch of whitewater forced through a narrow gap to plunge 140 feet over a sheer wall, creating a thunderous roar. While Murchison Falls is the most powerful waterfall in the world, the calm stretch of river below offers superb wildlife viewing, with elephant, giraffe, buffalo, hippo and Nile crocodile frequently in view. Launch trips to the base of the falls and Lake Albert Delta offer fine birdwatching, with a chance to see rare shoebill storks—a coveted sighting that draws birders to Uganda for this reason alone. The 1951 film *The African Queen*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, was filmed on Lake Albert and the Nile within the park. Other notable figures who have visited here include Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Ernest Hemingway.

We spend the next three nights in peaceful seclusion at Nat Hab's private Murchison Bush Camp in the heart of this wildlife mecca. With just eight tents, the low-impact camp is set seasonally in a remote area with unsurpassed proximity for wildlife viewing—our location permits us to be first into the park each morning, far sooner than guests staying at outlying lodges. Enjoy total solitude and the safari ambience of a bygone era, with canvas tents and lantern-lit dining.

Day 3: Murchison Falls National Park—Private Delta Cruise & Game Drive

Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's richest wildlife enclave, with 144 mammal species including chimpanzees and Rothschild's giraffe, Uganda's largest population of Nile crocodiles among its 51 reptile species, and 550 bird species including shoebills, dwarf kingfisher, Goliath heron, great blue turaco and winged gray warbler. We scout for a wide variety of animals today, first on a private cruise in the Lake Albert Delta, where the Victoria Nile enters this swampy wetland as a sluggish stream, threading its way among small islands in a series of tributaries. The alluvial marsh is a designated Important Bird Area and one of the best birding locations in Africa, especially for aquatic birds—keep an eye out for African fish eagles among the 75+ species of waterbirds found here. In the distance, the Congo mountain ranges rise in undulating forested ridges on the horizon. After our cruise, we're met by our safari vehicles for an afternoon game drive. We look for a great plethora of animals that could include buffalo, elephant, giraffe, Uganda kob, Jackson's hartebeest, oribi, lion, leopard and side-striped jackal.



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Day 4: Chimp Trekking in Budongo Forest Reserve / Private Nile Cruise

This morning we set off to go chimpanzee trekking in Budongo Forest Reserve. Located on the escarpment east of Lake Albert, this semi-deciduous tropical rainforest is noted for its large chimp population of approximately 600 individuals, and its native mahogany trees, with some old-growth specimens as tall as 200 feet still standing. The forest is also home to 360 bird species, some of which are endemic to this localized region, including the yellow-footed flycatcher. Research on Budongo's chimpanzees began in the early 1960s, with the establishment of a forest reserve that later became the Budongo Conservation Field Station. Among a trio of pioneer researchers in the 1960s was Jane Goodall. This afternoon, we take another private boat cruise in search of wildlife along the river channels. In addition to the excitement of seeing scores of hippos and crocodiles, we also have good chances to spot elephants, giraffe, baboons, warthogs, and of course, countless beautiful birds. Our journey includes a voyage to the base of Murchison Falls, with a view into the Devil's Cauldron, the foaming chaos created by the turbulent Nile River as it plummets over the cliff. We also pass the spot where Hemingway's plane crashed when the celebrated author visited Uganda in 1954.

Days 5 & 6: Murchison Falls Game Drive / Kibale National Park—Chimpanzee Trekking

After a last morning game drive in Murchison Falls National Park, transfer to the airstrip for a scenic flight over Uganda's verdant highlands to reach Kibale National Park. This equatorial rainforest reserve is home to one of the world's most important primate populations, including 1,300 chimpanzees. We go in search of them on a trek with local trackers who help us spot chimps and monkeys, with plenty of unhurried time to observe their entertaining antics. We may also see up to a hundred different bird species on a wetland sanctuary walk. An optional hike to one of the crater lakes near our lodge offers magnificent views from the rim. After a full and exhilarating day, settle into our thatched cottages at Ndali Lodge overlooking the ancient crater.

Day 7: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

Depart for the local airstrip this morning for our flight to Kihiki, gateway to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and our gorilla-trekking base in the rainforest. The park, whose name references the dense, tangled forests it encompasses, is home to roughly half the world's remaining mountain gorillas. Though best known for its outstanding gorilla viewing, it also provides refuge to chimpanzees, monkeys, elephants and various small antelope. Bwindi is also a top Uganda birding destination, with 23 of Uganda's 24 Albertine Rift endemics, including threatened species such as African green broadbill and Shelley's crimson wing.



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Days 8 & 9: Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi

Within the World Heritage Site that is Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, discover one of nature travel's peak experiences: a visit with wild gorillas in their natural habitat. Just over a thousand mountain gorillas remain in the world, and Bwindi is home to about 460—a population that is growing but still threatened by increasing human population and habitat loss in the surrounding area. Our safari includes two treks to spend time among the gorillas, often at very close range. Early in the morning, we head into the dense rainforest on a quest to locate one of the habituated family groups. Our local guides are expert trackers, reading signs of the gorillas' recent presence in the undergrowth. We can't predict how long it will take to locate them, but finally, we hear and see a gorilla family, watching enrapt as they sit among the trees, chewing leaves, babies clinging to mothers' backs, juveniles swinging from branches, and a big male silverback surveying it all. It's hard to tell who is more intrigued with the other, the gorillas or us! If time permits, we'll visit Conservation Coffee, a local co-op of farmers who grow, process and roast beans to sell at a premium to benefit gorilla conservation. We may have a chance to walk through the coffee fields, pick some beans, and see firsthand how this sustainable community enterprise unfolds.

Day 10: Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

Leaving Bwindi, we descend to the Rift Valley floor, watching scenes of local life unfold along the way as we drive past villages and coffee plantations. Entering Rwanda, continue to Parc National des Volcans—Volcanoes National Park—named for the string of jungle-draped volcanoes inside its borders. The park is rich mosaic of montane ecosystems, with thick forests and steep-sided mountains rising to nearly 15,000 feet above sea level. Within the Virunga Range, the park is one of three areas where mountain gorillas reside. Our destination, Five Volcanoes, is a deluxe boutique lodge that provides an ideal gorilla trekking base for the next three nights. Set seamlessly into its lush surroundings with panoramic vistas of the mountains beyond, the lodge is just a short drive from the national park headquarters, where all gorilla trekking expeditions depart.

Days 11 & 12: Gorilla Trekking in Volcanoes National Park

After breakfast, we drive to park headquarters for a briefing from our guides. This area is where Dian Fossey made her groundbreaking studies on mountain gorillas before she was killed in 1985, and her grave is nearby. Several habituated gorilla families live in the park, and we learn how important our ecotourism presence is to their survival before trekking in search of them. We set out early each morning along paths into the forest, eventually leaving trails behind as our trackers follow signs that lead them to the gorillas' current location. The altitude is above 8,200 feet, so while our pace is unhurried, the hike is tiring, lasting from 30 minutes to several hours. But what a reward: our goal is a chance to sit with a specific gorilla family that has become accustomed to visitors and is nonchalant about human contact—and we enjoy a full hour in their presence.



Day 13: Golden Monkey Trek / Depart

While gorillas are the highlight, even without them Volcanoes National Park would be fascinating. Its varied ecosystems shelter elephant, buffalo, giant forest hog, bush pig, bushbuck, duiker and spotted hyena, as well as a habituated group of endemic and highly endangered golden monkeys, which are our focus today. We spend the morning on a quest for these agile entertainers that swing through the forest canopy and delight us with their antics. Our environs are also home to 178 bird species, including at least 29 endemics found only in the Rwenzori and Virunga mountains. This afternoon, depart for Rwanda's capital of Kigali. Visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial, a deeply moving tribute to the 800,000 people killed in Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Following a farewell lunch, our gorilla safari comes to a close as we transfer to the airport for departing flights.



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Accommodation Details:

Hotel No. 5

Murchison Bush Camp

Ndali Lodge

Buhoma Lodge

Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel

Kigali Serena Hotel

For detailed descriptions, visit
nathab.com/africa/uganda-rwanda-gorilla-safari/accommodations

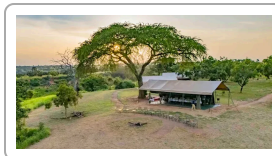
Ultimate Gorilla Safari Accommodations

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys



Hotel No. 5

This stylish boutique hotel tucked within Entebbe's leafy suburbs features luxurious accommodations surrounding a lush lawn, palm-studded gardens and shaded swimming pool.



Murchison Bush Camp

This exclusive mobile camp is private for Nat Hab guests, placed optimally for wildlife viewing and first entrance to Murchison Falls National Park, before visitors from outlying lodges arrive.

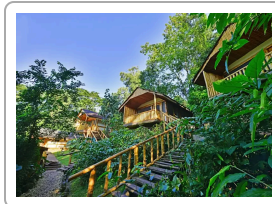


Ndali Lodge

Dramatically perched on the rim of an extinct volcano that has filled with water to become scenic Lake Nyinambuga, this thatched lodge enjoys panoramic views over the Rwenzori Mountains.



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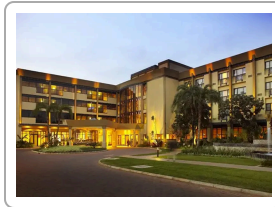
Buhoma Lodge

This inspiring ecolodge, with eight spacious chalets overlooking a rainforest panorama, provides an ideal location for gorilla treks into Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, which begin from the premises.



Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel

Surrounded by lush gardens with views of the volcanic Rwenzori range, this new lodge offers deluxe accommodations near Volcanoes National Park, home to Rwanda's endangered mountain gorillas.



Kigali Serena Hotel

On one of Kigali's most attractive boulevards, this relaxed, elegant 5-star hotel has air conditioning, a pool, multiple restaurants and a friendly atmosphere. Newly renovated rooms showcase pan-African style.



An Intimate Journey into the World of Mountain Gorillas

Few moments with wildlife are as riveting as those we experience on our Ultimate Gorilla Safari. To maximize our stirring interactions with gorillas and other primates, we've designed this wide-ranging safari to surpass what other companies typically offer. Take a look at all we've included to ensure the ultimate primate-viewing experience:

1

You Won't Find a More In-Depth Primate Itinerary

Many gorilla safaris give you just one day in the rainforest to track these reclusive animals. But we include *four separate gorilla tracking expeditions*—two days each in Uganda and Rwanda—to maximize your opportunities for incredible photos. Add wild chimpanzee tracking in Kibale and Budongo forests, plus a chance to see golden and colobus monkeys (and others), and you've got the most comprehensive primate safari Africa has to offer.

2

Experience the Full Diversity of Africa's Wildlife

While primates are our focus, we include other wildlife viewing as well, including a chance to see elephant, buffalo, zebra, giraffe, lion, leopard, crocodile, hippo and more. Our diverse itinerary features the best of both: primates *plus* general wildlife viewing on forest treks, 4x4 drives over the savanna, and private boat cruises.

3

In-Depth Exploration of Murchison Falls National Park

Witness the thunder of the Victoria Nile plunging over a sheer cliff at Murchison Falls, and make multiple safaris in the park to look for abundant wildlife, including some of the best birdwatching in Africa. What's more, our private bush camp offers immediate proximity to the park—we get there well before groups from the outlying lodges, where most other visitors stay.

4

Two Private Boat Safaris

Cruise the Victoria Nile and Lake Albert Delta by private boat, searching for abundant wildlife on the banks and in the water, and see the base of Murchison Falls where it creates a turbulent boil in the Devil's Cauldron.

5

Comfortable Vehicles with a Window Seat for Every Traveler

Get the best possible photos with a guaranteed window seat on board the highest-quality safari trucks. Our state-of-the-art vehicles have features such as multiple roof hatches to enhance viewing. There's no way around it—East Africa's mountainous regions have some pretty rough roads—so full 4-wheel-drive capacity with a top-quality suspension system is a key feature of our vehicles.



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6

Unique Accommodations Offer Character & Seclusion

Where you stay on safari makes a big difference to your overall experience. That's our focus is small, intimate camps and lodges in nature. We choose our locations for their scenic settings and proximity to wildlife—in contrast to large lodges in busier areas where hundreds of tourists congregate.

7

Our Nat Hab Expedition Leader Accompanies You Throughout Your Safari

We take pride in hiring the finest naturalist guides in Africa. In addition to their exceptional warmth and hospitality, our Expedition Leaders' in-depth training also includes resources and direction from WWF's premier scientists. Check out our **Expedition Leader bios** and traveler comments.

8

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures an Outstanding Safari

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

9

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10

Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$18795
(+Air/permits)

Group Size:
Limited to 12
Travelers

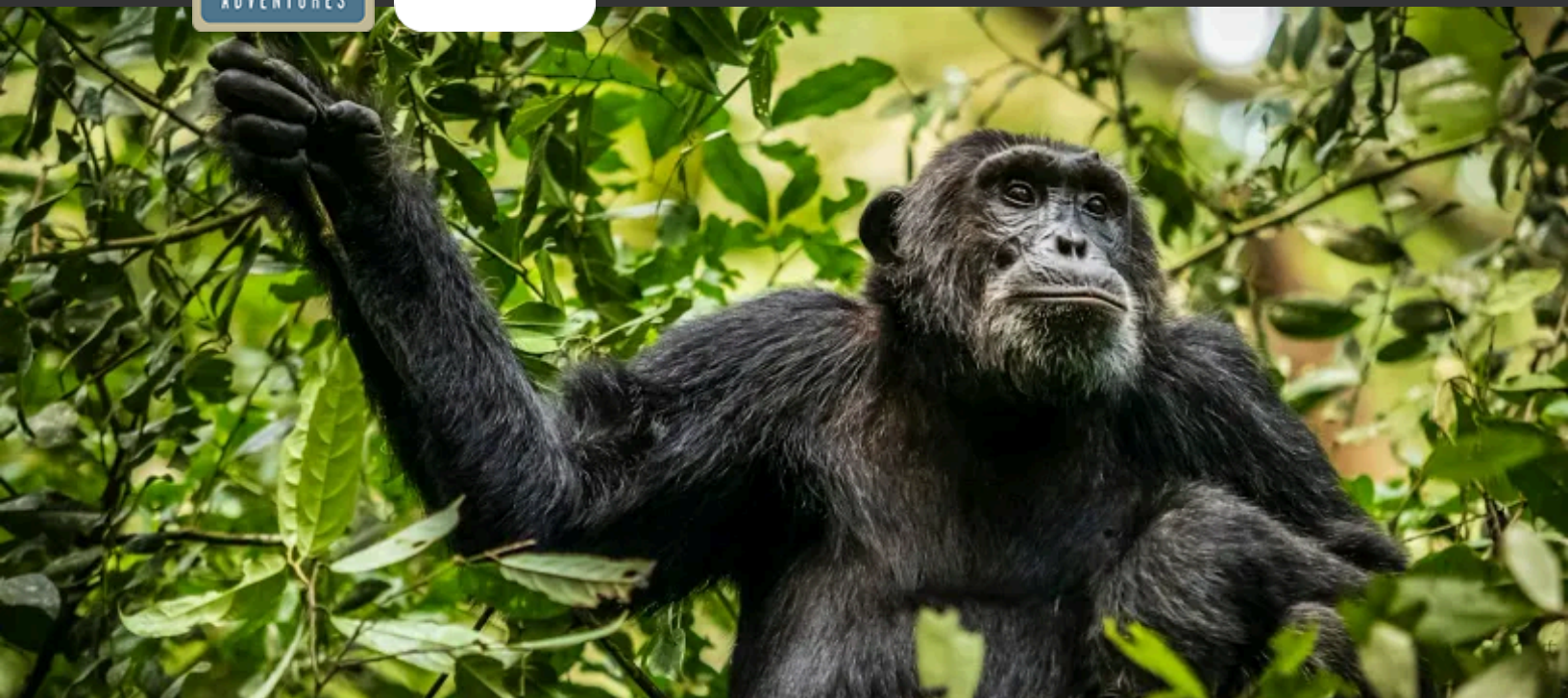
Ultimate Gorilla Safari Dates, Pricing & Info

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys

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Extension Details:

Madagascar Explorer
\$11995

Tanzania's Great Migration & Ngorongoro Crater
\$14995

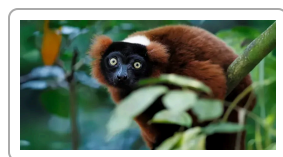
Secluded Botswana Safari
\$18995

The Great Kenya Migration Safari
\$11995

Akagera National Park Extension
\$4995

Ultimate Gorilla Safari Extensions

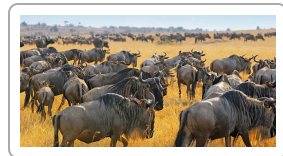
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Madagascar Explorer

Look for rare and endemic flora and fauna on a compact itinerary revealing a mix of contrasting ecosystems—primary rainforest, pristine beaches, ancient baobabs and coastal mangroves

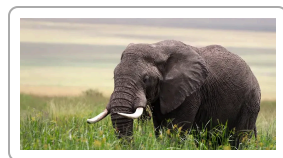
\$11995 (+air)



Tanzania's Great Migration & Ngorongoro Crater

Witness one of nature's most exhilarating spectacles: thousands of wildebeest and zebra making their annual trek across the Serengeti! Itineraries custom-designed to follow the herds.

\$14995 (+air)



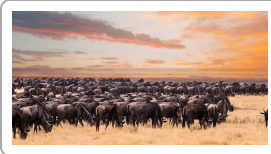
Secluded Botswana Safari

Our flagship Botswana safari—for just seven guests! A truly exclusive wilderness immersion in the Okavango Delta's best private wildlife reserves and beyond, plus Victoria Falls.

\$18995 (+air)



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The Great Kenya Migration Safari

Experience one of the world's most incredible wildlife events in Africa's most classic safari destination—Kenya, home to the massive movement of creatures that is the Great Migration!

\$11995 (+air)



Akagera National Park Extension

An exclusive Big Five safari experience in Rwanda's restored Akagera National Park, where reintroduced species thrive—stay in a luxury safari camp on a lake with fishing and boat rides.

\$4995

