

## THE MOUNTAIN GORILLA FLY-IN SAFARI



**The Highlight:** *An elegant, time-conscious expedition to the edge of the ancient Bwindi forest, featuring a scenic domestic flight and an intimate encounter with a wild family of mountain gorillas.*

**Your safari at a glance:**

| Day | Destination / Activity       | Accommodation          | Meal plan |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1   | Flight to Bwindi NP (Buhoma) | Mahogany Springs Lodge | L-D       |
| 2   | Gorilla tracking             | Mahogany Springs Lodge | B-L-D     |
| 3   | Return Flight to Entebbe     |                        | B         |

|                      |                  |                   |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>B = Breakfast</b> | <b>L = Lunch</b> | <b>D = Dinner</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|

### Day 1: Domestic Flight from Entebbe to Bwindi (Kihikihi)

Your guide picks you up from your hotel in Kampala and transfers you to the Entebbe International Airport domestic terminal. You will board a scheduled morning flight (typically departing around 7:00 AM) operated by a local airline like AeroLink.

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The 1-hour flight is highly scenic, taking you over Lake Victoria, the flat farmlands of central Uganda, and finally dropping over the steep, emerald-green terraced hills of the Kigezi highlands. You will land at the **Kihihi Airstrip**.

At Kihikihi, your private 4x4 safari vehicle and guide will be waiting for you at the tarmac. You will enjoy a smooth 1-hour road transfer through rural villages and tea plantations, arriving at Mahogany Springs Lodge just in time for a warm welcome and a fresh lunch.

Spend the afternoon settling into your cottage. You can opt for a guided community walk to visit a local village, meet a traditional healer, and see how the local batwa people brew banana beer, or simply sit on your deck and watch the mist roll over the ancient forest tree line.

Dinner and Overnight at **Mahogany Springs Lodge – Deluxe cottage** (L-D)



*Mahogany Springs is located a two minutes' drive from the headquarters in Buhoma. It offers eight individual bandas with 2 double beds, en-suite bathroom and a private terrace with panoramic views of the forest and surrounding land. The main building includes a craft shop, large bar area, relaxing lounge area with fireplace, restaurant and a large veranda. Mahogany Springs offers privacy and serenity blended with optimal comfort in a spectacular setting. With some of the most luxurious accommodation in East Africa the feeling that you will experience when staying here is beyond compare. At Mahogany Springs it is the little touches that make the big difference, from the tiny details in the design of the lodge through to the unrivalled service levels.*



*Of the over 800 mountain gorillas worldwide, **Bwindi National Park** is home to almost half of the gorilla population. There is no better place for observing these gentle giants from a close distance! Thanks to the wildlife conservation program, the number of gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest only has increased from 300 to 400 in the recent years, which include nine different families that are habituated for tourism purposes. Apart from the famous residents, the dense forest hosts 9 other primates. There are different*

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*trails in the park, including the Munyanga River Trail and Waterfall Trail, leading through the pristine rainforest to three sparkling waterfalls.*

### Day 2: Gorilla Tracking in Bwindi Forest

Wake up early to the sound of forest birds. After a hearty breakfast, your guide will drive you a few minutes down to the park headquarters. Here, you will join other travellers for a briefing by the Uganda Wildlife Authority rangers. You will be assigned to a specific habituated gorilla family based on your fitness level.

Equipped with a walking stick (and a porter to carry your daypack if you wish), you enter the dense, tangled undergrowth of the forest. The walk can take anywhere from **3 to 8 hours** as you climb slopes and cross small streams following the fresh tracks left by the gorillas.

Once you locate the family, you put your walking sticks down and spend exactly **one quiet hour** observing them from a safe distance of several meters. Watching a massive silverback protect his family, mothers cradling infants, and juveniles playing in the vines is an unforgettable experience.

After trek back out of the forest, receive your tracking certificate, and return to the lodge. The lodge team will be waiting to clean your muddy boots and offer you a complimentary foot massage to soothe your tired muscles. Enjoy a cozy evening by the main lounge fireplace.

Dinner and Overnight at **Mahogany Springs Lodge – Deluxe cottage** (L-D)

### Day 3: Fly Back to Entebbe / Kampala

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast on the main terrace looking out at the forest views. Pack your bags and bid farewell to the lodge team. Your guide will transfer you back to the Kihikihi Airstrip for your scheduled return flight to Entebbe.

Upon landing in Entebbe, a driver will be waiting to transfer you back to your hotel in Kampala, marking the end of your journey.

#### **\*\* END OF YOUR SAFARI WITH GREAT LAKES SAFARIS \*\***

| Tour price in US Dollars / per person      |                    |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Nett & Non-Commissionable – Valid for 2027 |                    |
| Per person sharing in a double/ Twin       | Price Per Person   |
| Based on 2 adults travelling               | <b>US \$ 1,540</b> |

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|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Based on 3 adults travelling | <b>US \$ 1,360</b> |
| Based on 4 adults travelling | <b>US \$ 1,265</b> |
| Based on 5 adults travelling | <b>US \$ 1,210</b> |
| Single Room Supplement       | <b>US \$ 250</b>   |

| <b>Additional surcharges to be added to the package<br/>(non-commissionable)</b> |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Price per person in US dollars</b>                                            | <b>Price Per Person</b> |
| Gorilla Permit                                                                   | US \$ 800               |
| Return flight Entebbe - Kihhi Airstrip                                           | US \$ 612               |

### Included in the price:

- Airport transfer to/from Kihhi Airstrip
- Accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as described in the itinerary
- Transport to/from the starting point for gorilla tracking in Buhoma
- AMREF Flying Doctors Insurance
- VAT for hotels and lodges outside Kampala

### Exclusions:

- International flight
- Visa (USD \$50, available online)
- Domestic flight by Aerolink per 11-seater Caravan (max. weight allowed 15kg in soft luggage)
- Gorilla permit
- Optional activities
- Meals and drinks not mentioned above
- Items of personal nature
- Tips

### TERMS & CONDITIONS:

*Prices are subject to change. Availability of accommodations and activities is not guaranteed; reservations will be made after receiving confirmation of the final itinerary and the requested deposit. Should any of the included accommodations not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with*

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*an alternative suitable accommodation, which might affect the final quoted price. For more clarity please consult our website [www.greatlakessafaris.com](http://www.greatlakessafaris.com) for the more detailed Terms & Conditions.*

#### **EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS 24/7:**

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