

THE GRAND SAVANNAH & RAINFOREST JOURNEY

The Highlight: A premier wilderness circuit tracking the unique tree-climbing lions of Ishasha and the mountain gorillas of Bwindi, concluding with a private air transfer back to Entebbe.

Your safari at a glance:

Day	Destination / Activity	Accommodation	Meal plan
1	Drive to Queen Elizabeth NP	Elephant Plains Lodge	L-D
2	Game Drive & Boat Cruise	Elephant Plains Lodge	B-L-D
3	Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable NP	Mahogany Springs Lodge	B-L-D
4	Gorilla tracking	Mahogany Springs Lodge	B-L-D
5	Return Flight to Entebbe		B

B = Breakfast	L = Lunch	D = Dinner
----------------------	------------------	-------------------

Day 1: Kampala to the Equator & Queen Elizabeth National Park

Today, your professional guide will pick you up from your hotel or residence in Kampala in a private 4x4 safari vehicle. You will drive southwest out of the city, watching the urban landscape fade into the countryside of central Uganda.

Journey Beyond the wild...!

After about two hours, you will make a stop at the **Kayabwe Equator Crossing**. Here, you can stand in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres at the same time, take photos, and watch a quick demonstration showing how water drains differently on either side of the line. Afterward, continue the drive through the rolling green hills of Mbarara town, where you will stop for a hot lunch.

Drive past vast banana plantations and tea estates as you drop down into the scenic **Great Rift Valley**. As you enter Queen Elizabeth National Park, you will immediately start scanning the roadside for wild elephants and olive baboons. You will arrive at the ridge of Elephant Plains Lodge in the late afternoon to check in, unpack, and enjoy a cold drink while watching the sunset over the savannah.

Dinner and Overnight at **Elephant Plains Lodge – Luxury cottage (L-D)**



Elephant Plains Lodge is situated on the edge of the Queen Elizabeth National Park, one of Africa's finest national parks, Uganda Lodges newest lodge, Elephant plains, has stunning views over Kasenyi plains, Lakes George and Kikorongo and the lush savannah of the park. The lodge offers spacious luxurious en-suite rooms with large windows for breath-taking views of the extensive Queen Elizabeth National Park from the comfort of your bed – complete with large luxury bathrooms with his and hers sinks, shower and bath combination. The lodge will also have a swimming pool for guests to relax after a day of game viewing.



Queen Elizabeth National Park is Uganda's most popular, accessible and most scenic park. Primarily associated with open savannah, it has the largest recorded mammal species in comparison to other parks in the country. The park stretches to the west by the remote Ishasha River and along the shores of Lake Edward, to the north by Kasese and the crater- dotted foothills of the Rwenzori to the east by Lake George, the Kyambura Gorge and to the south the Kigezi Wildlife Reserve.

Journey Beyond the wild...!

Day 2: Savannah Wildlife Drive & Kazinga Channel Boat Safari

An early start with a cup of coffee before heading out into the **Kasenyi Plains**. This open savannah is the primary mating ground for the Uganda Kob (a native antelope), which naturally attracts large predators. With the help of your guide, you will search for lions, leopards, massive savannah elephants, cape buffaloes, and elegant waterbucks before the sun gets too hot.

Return to the lodge around 11:00 AM to rest, enjoy a fresh multi-course lunch, and relax by the infinity pool overlooking the park below.

In the afternoon, drive down to the Mweya jetty for a **2-hour boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel**. This natural 32-kilometer waterway connects Lake Edward and Lake George and is a major highlight of the park. You will cruise safely just meters away from giant pods of hippos, massive Nile crocodiles, and countless colorful water birds. Elephants and buffaloes frequently walk down to the banks to drink and swim right next to the boat. Return to the lodge for a quiet, relaxed dinner.

Dinner and Overnight at **Elephant Plains Lodge – Luxury cottage** (L-D)

Day 3: Tree-Climbing Lions of Ishasha to Bwindi Forest

After breakfast, check out and drive south toward the remote **Ishasha Sector** of the park. This area is world-famous for its unique population of "tree-climbing lions." You will go on a game drive along the tracks lined with large fig trees. Look closely into the lower branches, where the lions rest during the day to escape the heat and ground insects. You will stop for a picnic lunch or a hot meal at a local lodge in Ishasha.

Afterwards you will leave the savannah behind and begin climbing up into the high-altitude Kigezi highlands. The roads wind through steep, terraced green hills until you reach the misty edge of **Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**. Check into Mahogany Springs Lodge, relax by the river, and enjoy a warm dinner.

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



Journey Beyond the wild...!

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

Day 4: 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)

Journey Beyond the wild...!

Day 5: 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	US \$ 3,200
Based on 3 adults travelling	US \$ 2,820
Based on 4 adults travelling	US \$ 2,630
Based on 5 adults travelling	US \$ 2,515
Single Room Supplement	US \$ 685

Additional surcharges to be added to the package (non-commissionable)	
Price per person in US dollars	Price Per Person
Gorilla Permit	US \$ 800
One-way flight Kihikihi Airstrip - Entebbe	US \$ 612

Included in the price:

- Ground transport in a customized 4X4 Safari Land Cruiser
- 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

Journey Beyond the wild...!

- 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 an alternative suitable accommodation, which might affect the final quoted price. For more clarity please consult our website www.greatlakessafaris.com for the more detailed Terms & Conditions.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS 24/7:

Mobile Number: +256 772 426368 – Tour Sales Department

Mobile Number: +250 788 521866 – Rwanda Operations Manager

Mobile Number: +256 780 259360 – General Manager

COMPANY FULL CONTACT DETAILS:

Great Lakes Safaris Ltd

Mutungo Hill Plot 1001 Block 243 Biina/Tank Hill Road

P.O. Box 33024 Kampala

Tel/Fax: +256 (0) 414 267 153 / +256 (0) 393 267 153

E: journey@greatlakessafaris.com W: www.greatlakessafaris.com

Great Lakes Safaris Rwanda

Irembo House, 1st Floor - RM B 204 Remera, Kisementi

Journey Beyond the wild...!

P. O. Box 5546, Kigali, Rwanda

Tel/Fax: +250 (0) 738 521 866 / +250 (0) 280 550 055

E: journey@greatlakessafaris.com W: www.greatlakessafaris.com