

An Adventurous East African Round Trip



A JOURNEY ACROSS UGANDA, RWANDA AND TANZANIA

Tour Map: East African Round Trip

Day 1: Arrival in Entebbe, transfer to hotel, shoebill excursion

We arrive at Entebbe International Airport in the morning and transfer to our hotel. Depending on our arrival time, we can have an optional lunch before heading out for a shoebill excursion in the surrounding wetlands. We spend the afternoon exploring the waterways in search of the elusive shoebill and other wetland species before returning to our hotel.

Accommodation: 2 Friends Hotel

Meals: Meals own arrangement

Day 2: Drive to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

After breakfast, we leave Entebbe and drive north towards Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, Uganda's only sanctuary where rhinos can be tracked on foot. We stop for lunch along the way before continuing to the sanctuary. The journey takes us through Uganda's countryside, with opportunities to see local villages and agricultural landscapes.

Accommodation: Amuka Lodge

Meal Plan: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 3: Rhino Tracking, lunch, drive to Murchison Falls National Park

We start the morning with a guided rhino tracking experience on foot. Accompanied by experienced rangers, we walk through the sanctuary in search of the resident rhinos while learning about their conservation and the work being done to protect them. After lunch, we drive towards Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda's largest national park. We arrive in the afternoon and settle into our lodge.

Accommodation: Amuka Lodge

Meal Plan: breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 4: Morning game drives, boat to the bottom of Nile Falls

We head out early for a morning game drive, exploring the northern sector of Murchison Falls National Park. We look out for elephants, giraffes, lions, buffaloes, antelopes and, with luck, leopards. After lunch, we take a boat excursion along the Victoria Nile towards the base of the magnificent Murchison Falls. The cruise offers excellent opportunities to see hippos, crocodiles and abundant birdlife along the riverbanks.

Accommodation: Pakuba Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 5: Drive to Fort Portal

We leave Murchison Falls after breakfast and begin our scenic drive south-west towards Fort Portal. This is one of the longer driving days of the itinerary, so we carry a packed lunch and make stops along the way. We arrive in the Fort Portal area later in the afternoon and settle into our lodge, surrounded by the beautiful landscapes of western Uganda.

Accommodation: Isunga Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 6: Kibale chimpanzee tracking, lunch, drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park

After breakfast, we head into the forest for our chimpanzee tracking experience. We follow the sounds and movements of the chimpanzees while learning about the forest ecosystem and its other inhabitants. Chimpanzees are not the only attraction; the forest also provides opportunities to see other primates and forest bird species. After lunch, we drive towards Queen Elizabeth National Park, arriving in time to settle into our lodge and enjoy the surroundings.

Accommodation: Buffalo Safari Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 7: Morning game drives, afternoon Kazinga Channel boat

We spend the morning exploring the Kaseny/Queen Elizabeth game-viewing areas, driving across open grasslands and woodland in search of wildlife.

We can expect to encounter Uganda kobs, buffaloes, elephants, warthogs, waterbucks and other antelope, while keeping an eye out for the park's predators particularly lions and leopards. Hyenas are also present.

After lunch at Mweya Safari Lodge, we take one of the highlights of the park: a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel. The channel connects Lakes Edward and George and attracts enormous numbers of animals to its shoreline. From the boat, we often get close views of hippos and crocodiles, while buffaloes and elephants gather along the water's edge. The channel is also exceptional for birding, with hundreds of species recorded in the park.

Accommodation: Buffalo Safari Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 8: Drive via Ishasha to Ruhija sector Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

We leave Queen Elizabeth and travel south towards the Ishasha sector, famous for its unusual tree-climbing lions. If conditions and timing allow, we will look for these lions resting in the branches of large fig and acacia trees.

We then continue towards the Ruhija sector of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, carrying a packed lunch for the journey.





As we climb into the highlands, the open savannah gives way to thick montane forest. Ruhija sits at around 2,300 metres and is particularly beautiful, with views across forested ridges and towards the Virunga volcanoes. It is also an excellent area for forest birding and primates.

Accommodation: Bakiga Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 9: Gorilla tracking, lunch, drive to Lake Mutanda

Today we experience one of Africa's most extraordinary wildlife encounters: mountain gorilla trekking. After an early breakfast, we head to the park headquarters for our briefing before entering Bwindi's ancient rainforest. We hike through dense vegetation and steep forested terrain in search of our allocated gorilla family. Once we find them, we have the opportunity to observe their social interactions, feeding and movements from a respectful distance. The trek itself can take several hours depending on where the gorillas have moved. After the trek, we have lunch before driving to Lake Mutanda, where we spend the evening overlooking its spectacular volcanic landscape.

Accommodation: Lake Mutanda Resort
Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 10: Lake Mutanda day at leisure

After the intensity of gorilla trekking, we take a slower day at Lake Mutanda. We can relax at the resort and enjoy views across the lake towards the volcanic peaks, or choose an optional activity such as a boat excursion or fishing. The lake's setting makes this a perfect opportunity to simply enjoy the scenery and recover from the previous day's trek.

Accommodation: Lake Mutanda Resort
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 11: Drive to Ruhengeri, Ellen de Generes Gorilla Campus, River Rafting Mukungwa

We leave Lake Mutanda at around 9:00 am and drive towards the Cyanika border, where we complete immigration formalities before crossing into Rwanda. We continue to Musanze, the gateway to Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, with the dramatic Virunga volcanoes forming the backdrop. We stop for lunch at the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, a purpose-built conservation, research and education centre dedicated to continuing Dian Fossey's legacy and advancing mountain gorilla conservation. The campus includes research facilities and the Cindy Broder Conservation Gallery, where we can learn more about the history of gorilla research, Dian Fossey's work and the ongoing efforts to protect mountain gorillas. After lunch, we continue with an exciting river rafting experience on the Mukungwa River before heading to our accommodation in Musanze.

Accommodation: La Locanda Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 12: Drive to Rushel Lodge for lunch, Lake Kivu boat to Comoran

After breakfast, we leave Musanze and drive towards Rushel, enjoying the beautiful Rwandan countryside along the way. We stop for lunch before taking a boat excursion to Comoran, offering another opportunity to experience Rwanda's landscapes and waterways.

Accommodation: Comoran Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 13: Drive to Kigali, city tour proceed to Lake Muhazi

We have an early breakfast before driving to Kigali, Rwanda's clean and vibrant capital. We enjoy a city tour before visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial, followed by a visit to Inema Arts Center to experience Rwanda's contemporary art scene. After an optional lunch, we leave Kigali and drive towards Lake Muhazi, where we spend the evening relaxing at our accommodation.

Accommodation: Vintage Cottages Muhazi
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 14: Drive via Rusumo border to Bukoba, overnight Ferry across L.Victoria to Mwanza

We depart early after breakfast and drive towards the Rusumo border, where we cross from Rwanda into Tanzania. We continue towards Bukoba with a packed lunch for the journey. In the evening, we board the MV Victoria for our overnight journey across Lake Victoria towards Mwanza. The overnight crossing offers a completely different experience from the safari days, giving us time to relax on board and enjoy the vastness of Lake Victoria as we travel across one of Africa's Great Lakes.

Accommodation: Overnight MV Victoria Ferry
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner





Day 15: Drive to Serengeti National Park

We arrive in Mwanza and have the option of breakfast at Serenity before collecting our packed lunches and beginning our journey towards the Serengeti. As we enter the park, our safari begins immediately, with game viewing along the way to our camp. The Serengeti is one of Africa's greatest wildlife ecosystems and is particularly famous for its enormous populations of wildebeest, zebra and gazelles, and exceptional predator population lions, cheetahs and leopards, as well as elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, hippos and numerous antelope species. We continue with game viewing as we make our way to camp, arriving later in the afternoon.

Accommodation: Serengeti Wildlands Camp

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 16: Full day Serengeti game drives

We spend the entire day exploring the Serengeti National Park on game drives. We start early when wildlife is generally most active. The cooler morning hours can be particularly rewarding for predator sightings, and we keep our eyes open for lions beginning or finishing a hunt, cheetahs scanning the open plains and leopards resting in trees or moving through the woodland. The Serengeti is not only about predators. We can encounter huge herds of wildebeest and zebra, Thomson's and Grant's gazelles, giraffes, elephants, buffaloes, warthogs and numerous smaller mammals. Large flocks of birds also add another dimension to the game drives. We carry a packed lunch, allowing us to maximise our time in the wilderness rather than returning to camp during the middle of the day.

Accommodation: Serengeti Wildlands Camp

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 17: Drive to Ngorongoro, Crater tour with packed lunch, drive to Karatu

After breakfast, we leave the Serengeti with a packed lunch and continue towards the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. We descend into the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater for a game drive. The crater's enclosed ecosystem supports an exceptional concentration of wildlife, including wildebeest, zebra, buffaloes, elephants, gazelles, hippos, lions and hyenas. With luck, we may also spot the endangered black rhino. We explore the crater's varied habitats, including open grasslands, woodland and the crater lakes, which can attract large numbers of flamingos and other waterbirds. After the crater tour, we ascend and continue to Karatu for our final night in Tanzania.

Accommodation: Endoro Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 18: Drive to Arusha, for evening international departure

We enjoy breakfast before beginning our final drive towards Kilimanjaro International Airport for our evening departure. Our 18-day adventure comes to an end after an incredible journey through Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania.



Meals: Breakfast

Includes

- Meal plan as specified in the itinerary
- Airport transfers and safari on 4x4 vehicles
- 18 days transport
- English speaking driver guides and unlimited game drives
- Park Fees
- Mabamba Shoebill tracking
- Rhino tracking
- Murchison Falls boat ride
- Chimpanzee tracking
- Kazinga Chanel Cruise
- Gorilla tracking
- Ellen de Generes Gorilla Campus
- River Mukungwa river rafting
- Lake Victoria Ferry
- Ngorongoro Crater tour

Excludes

- International flight arrival and departure
- Meals not mentioned
- Personal expenses and tips
- Telephone
- Visa fees

Kibo Slopes Safaris Ltd

P. O. BOX 58064-0200
Watermark Business Park, Ndege Road, Nairobi
Kenya.
Mobile: +254 721 983 950 | +254 719 381 519



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your adventure tour specialist
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Email us on: sales@kiboslopes.com