



## **Ultimate Safaris**

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### **UT- 3: WILDLIFE, CHIMPS AND BIRDS IN KIBALE AND QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK (5 Days)**

This safari starts and finishes in Kampala/Entebbe.

Kibale Forest has the highest number of primates in Africa - thirteen species in all, including red, black and white colobus, blue monkeys and baboons and a large number of chimpanzees. A forest walk provides a high possibility of seeing and hearing and seeing chimps, birds and other primates playing around through the forest. An excursion to Bigodi wetland gives the opportunity of seeing the unusual birds and other primates, which live, around the swamp.

Continue to Queen Elizabeth National Park (QE), below the famous Rwenzori mountains, an African savannah park, consisting of plain surroundings. The launch trip along the Kazinga Channel is especially rewarding for viewing hippo, buffalo, elephant and a large host of birds amounting to over 500 species! The beautiful steeply forested Kyambura Gorge nearby is home not only to chimpanzees but also the red-tailed monkey, black and white colobus and many bird species.

## **ITINERARY**

### **DAY 1**

Arrive Entebbe airport. Meet, greet and start for Fort Portal via the pretty little town of Mubende set in rolling hills. Choice of a brief stop at Nakayima Shrine, a splendid tree known to be 400 years old, worshipped by local people and thought to be holding the spirit of an ancient king. Lunch en route and continue to Kibale. Arrive late afternoon. Relax at lodge or explore nearby Crater Lake. [Approximate driving time: 6 hours]

Overnight: Ndali Lodge

Meal Plan: Lunch, Dinner

## **DAY 2**

A guided nature walk in Kibale Forest, which has the highest number of primates in Africa - including red, black and white colobus, blue monkeys and baboons and a large number of chimpanzees. A forest walk provides a high possibility of seeing and hearing the noisy chimps and other primates playing around through the forest. Birdlife is also fabulous, with over 300 species recorded in the forest. An afternoon walk in Bigodi wetland gives the opportunity of seeing the unusual birds, baboons, chimps and other primates, which live, around the swamp.

Overnight: Ndali Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **DAY 3**

Start for Queen Elizabeth National Park. Set in the western branch of the Great Rift Valley, the park is incredibly diverse in the type of terrain it encompasses. Prehistoric volcanic explosion craters now serve as huge amphitheatres across the floor of which troop herds of Elephant and Buffalo. Some of these craters have formed salt lakes in which Flamingo from as far away as Kenya are scattered like delicate pink dust. Wide-open plains support fair numbers of game, both prey and predator. The two large lakes that bound the park - Edward and George, together with the connecting Kazinga Channel are home to large numbers of Hippo, and numerous Crocodile. Arrive at Mweya Lodge, dramatically located on a peninsula that juts out into Lake Edward and provides excellent views of the Kazinga Channel. Enjoy the first game drive in the evening. [Approximate driving time: 4 hours]

Overnight: Mweya Safari Lodge/Jacana Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

## **DAY 4**

Drive to the Kyambura Gorge, a deep natural ravine in the surrounding plains. Descend into the floor of the gorge, track the fast moving and elusive chimpanzees, one of man's closest relations. The chimp population is quite mobile and viewing is unpredictable but the walk is enchanting. Alternatively go for a nature walk in Maramagambo Forest to see other primates and to visit the bat cave and the blue lake. In the afternoon take a boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel where the wildlife and a vast array of birds come to drink

Overnight: Mweya Safari Lodge/Jacana Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

## **DAY 5**

An early morning game drive, time permitting. Return to Kampala, past captivating attractions en route: look at royal drum makers, brief stop at the Equator and be in both hemispheres at once, drive past the roadside markets aerated with fruit and vegetables. Lunch en route, arriving late afternoon. Transfer to the airport for your flight.

[Approximate driving time: 6 hours]

**Tour Ends.**