# GORILLAS - UGANDA 2026: 08 Days | NPEG (Premium)

Validity: 2026



All information provided in this tour dossier is subject to change without prior notice. Changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better quality experience where possible. Overnight accommodation stops can change without prior notification, depending on road or weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the properties listed in this dossier, we will inform you, should a change occur.

### **Tour Style**

Hosted

#### **Countries Visited**

Uganda, Rwanda

#### **Starting Location**

Your journey begins at **Entebbe International Airport** where one of our representatives will be waiting to welcome you. From here, you will be transferred directly to your hotel to begin your experience in comfort and ease.

#### **Ending Location**

On your final day, you will be transferred to **Kigali International Airport**. To ensure you arrive comfortably and with ample time for your departure, we kindly ask that you share your flight details with us in advance.

#### After hours emergency contact

Our reservations staff are available to receive emergency calls. We would like to request that you respect this emergency number and use it only in the event of emergencies. Please only contact this number if, for example, you have missed your incoming flight, you cannot find your airport transfer or you are running late for your tour departure.

If calling from outside South Africa: 0027 82 578 2199 If calling within South Africa: 082 578 2199

#### What's included

Meals as outlined in the tour itinerary / accommodation / qualified guides / transport as specified in the itinerary / included highlights as per the itinerary

### What's excluded

Gorilla Trekking Permits (USD1,500 per person per trek (Rwanda) and USD865 per person per trek (Uganda)) and/or Golden Monkey Trekking Permits (USD140 per person per trek) / Items of a personal nature (snacks, premium alcohol) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities) / souvenirs / tips.

### **TOUR ITINERARY**

### Day 1 – Arrival in Entebbe (Uganda)

Entebbe, a relaxed lakeside town set on the shores of Lake Victoria, offers a gentle introduction to Uganda. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to take a stroll through the Botanical Gardens, browse the lively local markets for crafts and souvenirs, or enjoy a boat cruise on the lake. The town is easy to explore on foot or by boda boda (motorbike taxi), and you'll find an inviting selection of restaurants, bars, and cafés where you can sample local dishes, sip a Ugandan beer, or simply watch the world go by.

Accommodation Best Western Premier Garden Hotel Entebbe <a href="https://bestwesternghe.co.ug/">https://bestwesternghe.co.ug/</a>

**Facilities** Two Per Room, En-Suite

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

**Route** Entebbe International Airport to Hotel

Meals No Meals

### Day 2 – Queen Elizabeth National Park (Ishasha Sector)

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your short flight to Kihihi, the gateway to Queen Elizabeth National Park, your base for the next two nights. Stretching across the western arm of the Great Rift Valley, the park is one of Uganda's most biodiverse reserves, home to elephants, buffalo, hippos, leopards, Uganda kob, and an astonishing 600 species of bird. Your journey takes you into the remote Ishasha sector, a landscape of wide savannah plains and shady riverine forests. This area is particularly famous for its tree-climbing lions, often seen draped across the branches of sycamore fig or acacia trees.

Accommodation Ishasha Wilderness Camp https://ishasha.ugandaexclusivecamps.com/

**Facilities** Two Per Permanent Tent, En-Suite

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

**Route** Kigali to Queen Elizabeth National Park

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Flight to Queen Elizabeth National Park

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### Day 3 – Exploring the Ishasha Sector

Today is dedicated to exploring the wild beauty of Queen Elizabeth National Park's southern reaches. Head out on a game drive across the open savannah, keeping watch for vast herds of buffalo and elephant moving gracefully through the plains, while lions, famed for their unusual tree-climbing habit, may be spotted lounging in the branches of towering fig or acacia trees. The Ishasha sector's quiet, untamed atmosphere makes every sighting feel intimate and rewarding.

Accommodation Ishasha Wilderness Camp https://ishasha.ugandaexclusivecamps.com/

Facilities Two Per Permanent Tent, En-Suite

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Highlight Game Drive in Queen Elizabeth National Park

### Day 4 – Journey to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

This morning, continue your journey south with a scenic drive of around three hours to Bwindi. Along the way, pause at a local community project near Ishasha Village, a chance to gain insight into rural life and the positive initiatives supporting conservation and livelihoods in the area.

Arriving at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, you are welcomed into a world of mist-shrouded hills and ancient rainforest. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of Uganda's most biologically diverse ecosystems, home to nearly 400 plant species and an estimated 460 mountain gorillas, including several habituated families that can be visited on foot.

Accommodation Buhoma Lodge <a href="https://buhoma.ugandaexclusivecamps.com/">https://buhoma.ugandaexclusivecamps.com/</a>

Facilities Two Per Room, En-Suite

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Route Queen Elizabeth National Park to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 5 - Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi

Today brings one of Africa's most extraordinary wildlife experiences, tracking the endangered mountain gorilla. After an early breakfast, you will set off from your lodge with experienced guides and trackers, who will lead you deep into the forest's misty slopes in search of a habituated gorilla family. The trek itself is an adventure, winding along steep trails beneath the dense canopy, with the sounds of the rainforest all around. Depending on the gorillas' location, the hike can take from 45 minutes to several hours and involves uneven terrain at high altitude. Hiring a local porter is highly recommended, not only to ease your trek but also to support community livelihoods.

Although mountain gorillas are wild animals and sightings cannot be guaranteed, viewing success rates are over 95%. When you finally come face to face with the gorillas, you'll watch them go about their daily lives. It is a humbling, unforgettable experience, and one to savour beyond the camera lens. Returning to your lodge, relax with a complimentary massage to soothe tired muscles, or simply unwind on your verandah, reflecting on the day's encounter. Please note: The gorilla trekking experience requires a pre-purchased permit, subject to availability at the time of booking, at a cost of USD 865 per person, per trek. This permit fee is not included in your tour price and must be secured at the time of booking your safari. Minimum age: 15 years.

Accommodation Buhoma Lodge https://buhoma.ugandaexclusivecamps.com/

**Facilities** Two Per Room, En-Suite

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Pre Bookable Optionals** Gorilla Trekking – Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

#### Day 6 – Journey to Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

You will depart Bwindi this morning and travel south through Uganda's lush highlands, a landscape often referred to as the "Little Switzerland of Africa." The drive winds through terraced hillsides, patchwork farmland, and bustling rural villages, with children waving as you pass. On clear days, the majestic Virunga Volcanoes rise on the horizon, their forested peaks standing like silent sentries along the border. It is a scenic but full day on the road, taking around 7–8 hours including the border crossing into Rwanda (approximately one hour). The journey is part of the journey, offering a vivid glimpse of life in the highlands before arriving at your destination.

Straddling the Rwandan border with the DRC, Volcanoes National Park is a haven for endangered mountain gorillas. The park's mist-draped slopes also offer opportunities to track golden monkeys, visit Dian Fossey's tomb and the Karisoke Research Centre, or even hike Mount Bisoke to its spectacular crater lake.

Accommodation Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge <a href="https://tiloreza.com/">https://tiloreza.com/</a>

**Facilities** Two Per Room, En-Suite

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

**Route** Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to Volcanoes National Park Area

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 - Volcanoes National Park

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This morning begins early with coffee and a briefing before setting out for your second chance to encounter the mountain gorillas, this time in Volcanoes National Park. At the park headquarters, you'll be grouped according to fitness level before heading into the forest with experienced guides and scouts. The trek itself is an adventure in its own right, passing through stands of bamboo and climbing into dense, jungle-clad slopes. Depending on the gorilla family's movements, the hike may be as short as half an hour or extend into a full day of exploration. Whichever the case, the reward is incomparable. For those who choose not to trek, alternative activities can be arranged. Embark on a golden monkey walk to see these playful primates darting through the trees, or hike to Dian Fossey's grave and the site of her legendary Karisoke Research Centre, a poignant journey that sheds light on her tireless conservation work. Please note: The gorilla trekking experience requires a pre-purchased permit, subject to availability at the time of booking, at a cost of USD 1,500 per person, per trek. This permit fee is not included in your tour price and must be secured at the time of booking your safari. Minimum age: 15 years. The Dian Fossey Grave Hike (USD80 per person) and the Golden Monkey Trek (USD140 per person) must be prebooked and begin in the morning.

Accommodation Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge <a href="https://tiloreza.com/">https://tiloreza.com/</a>

Facilities Two Per Room, En-Suite

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Pre Bookable Optionals Gorilla Trekking – Volcanoes National Park, Dian Fossey Grave Hike, Golden Monkey Trek

### Day 8 - Return to Kigali & Departure

After breakfast, we bid farewell to the Virunga Volcanoes and journey south to Rwanda's capital, Kigali. The drive takes you through rolling hills and vibrant countryside, offering a last glimpse of the landscapes that have shaped your adventure. In Kigali, you will visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial, a place of remembrance and reflection dedicated to the victims of the 1994 genocide. It is a powerful and moving experience, honouring those who lost their lives while also sharing stories of resilience and hope. The memorial also connects Rwanda's story to other global tragedies, making it both deeply personal and universally significant. Later, you will be transferred to Kigali International Airport in time for your onward flight. As your safari comes to an end, you leave with unforgettable memories of Uganda and Rwanda's wild places, their extraordinary wildlife, and the warmth of their people.

Accommodation Own Arrangements

Route Volcanoes National Park area to Kigali and onto Kigali International Airport

Meals Breakfast

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