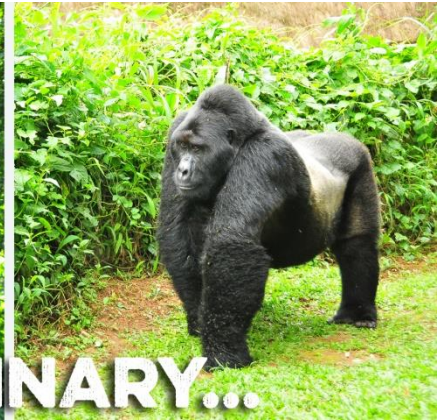




## Uganda

Gorilla and Chimpanzee Safari

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



**DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...**

## ITINERARY

## Uganda • Gorilla and Chimpanzee Safari

**12 DAYS • 11 NIGHTS**

Entebbe - Kampala – Murchison Falls National Park - Kibale National Park - Queen Elizabeth National Park - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - Lake Bunyonyi – Entebbe

This trip can be tailored to your interest.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- One of the most diverse wildlife experiences on the planet!
- Trek with Chimpanzees & Gorillas, vervet monkeys and numerous other primates.
- Spot lion, leopard, reedbeek and African Elephants at Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Parks.
- Stay in some of the best lodges and hotels in Uganda

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Wildlife Journey
Tour Start	Kampala
Tour End	Kampala
Accommodation	Hotels, Lodges and Guest House
Included Meals	11 Breakfasts, 10 Lunches, 11 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

## WILDLIFE ODYSSEY • UGANDA



This is a true wildlife odyssey - A fantastic opportunity to see some wonderful national parks and experience gorillas, chimpanzees, primates and numerous safari animals like no other. You'll be taken through a variety of habitats, trail through the tropical rainforest and even discover the beautiful Lake Bunyonyi.



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t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

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# UGANDA, *an overview*

Referred to as the 'Pearl of Africa', this small, yet tall African nation is transforming from its dark past and is now firmly considered as a true highlight of the continent. Towering majestic mountains, extreme biodiversity, a stunning merge of the East African savannah and central African rainforest and some extraordinary creatures are all what makes Uganda so fantastic. What's more, Uganda is home to Africa's tallest mountain range, the continent's biggest lake and is the base of Earth's longest river. Half of the planet's surviving mountain gorillas exist in Uganda and are known as the country's most famous inhabitants also residing in Uganda. Along with the famous Gorilla, other wildlife gems include the Chimpanzee as well as all 5 contenders of 'the big 5'. Often surpassed by the African giants, neighboring Tanzania and Kenya; the magnificence of unspoilt Uganda is finally shining through and is even considered to be one of the safest nations within Africa, (*apart from the odd hungry hippo*). Uganda has everything you could want from an extraordinary visit to Africa and so much more, you'll become besotted with its natural beauty and wildlife.

## WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel. Alternatively, our small group tours have a maximum of 8 people, making it a much more personal experience.

## ITINERARY



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## DAY 1: ENTBBEE – KAMPALA

We will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in Kampala. There is a possibility of a Kampala city tour depending on your arrival time.



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**D**



Distance:  
**Approx. 1hr drive**



Activity:  
**Travel**

Overnight Emin Pasha Hotel or similar

## DAY 2: KAMPALA- MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we depart by road for Murchison falls National Park. This scenic drive takes approximately 5-6 hours (excluding stops) giving you a good insight on Uganda's way of life with plenty of wildlife & birds en-route. You will have lunch in Masindi and on arrival to the park we have the option of driving to the top of the falls before reaching your lodge. This is a fantastic sight: Here the Nile is forced through a narrow gap in the rocks (only 7 meters wide) before ferociously plunging down 43 meters. We will then take the ferry to our lodge.



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Approx. 8 + hours  
(depending on lodge  
and excluding stops)**



Activity:  
**Transfer**

Overnight Paraa Safari Lodge or similar

## DAY 3: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK



After an early breakfast we will set off for our first game drive of the trip as we head further into Murchison Falls National Park.

The park includes wetland, savannah as well as tropical forest, and among the big mammals found on the savannah include Rothschild's Giraffe, Lions, Warthog, Cape Buffalo, Uganda Kob, Hartbeest and Elephants. It is also home to over 360 species of birds.

We will head back to the lodge in time for lunch and relaxation before heading out again, this time on a boat safari on the Nile.

Another fantastic wildlife experience where you will have the opportunity to see a large concentration of Nile crocodile, hippos and numerous water-birds including the rare shoebill stork.

The boat trip heads towards the bottom of the falls before returning back to the lodge, however for those wanting some activity the boat can drop you at the bottom of the falls and you can walk back to the top where your guide/vehicle will be waiting for you.





Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**

Activity:  
**Wildlife**

Overnight Paraa Safari Lodge or similar

#### DAY 4: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

Day at leisure. Our driver / guide will be on hand and you can choose to do another game safari, boat safari, or if you prefer to relax by the pool and watch the elephants along the waterside. It is not unknown for elephants and warthogs to visit the lodge grounds.



Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Day at Leisure**

Overnight Paraa Safari Lodge or similar

#### DAY 5: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK – KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



After breakfast we set off for our drive to Kibale National Park. Our packed lunch will be enjoyed en route. The trip takes us through a variety of habitats that includes forests, savannah, papyrus swamps, and vegetable gardens, that all result in beautiful sceneries. Add to this the wildlife (including numerous baboons) and villages we pass along the way and it makes for a truly interesting journey.



Overnight:  
**Camp**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Approx. 8-10 hrs driving**



Activity:  
**Transfer**

Overnight Kibale forest camp or similar

#### DAY 6: KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

We set off early this morning for a short drive to Kibale National Park. We meet at the ranger station for a briefing to track a habituated chimp group - These delightful apes, more closely related to humans than any other living creature, are tremendous fun to watch as they squabble and play in fruiting trees. The exciting activity begins in the morning and may take a whole day or a few hours. As the chimps warm up, they start to make their way down to the forest floor – and here we are able to trek with them for a while as they go about their daily business.

Besides our close cousins, the chimpanzees, there are other primates likely to be encountered. These include Red Colobus, Hoesti, Black-and-White Colobus, Red Tailed Monkeys, Grey-Cheeked Mangabey and other primate species.



We head back to our lodge for lunch before spending the afternoon at leisure (or and optional swamp walk at Bigodi wetland).





**Overnight:**  
**Camp**



**Meals:**  
**B, L, D**



**Distance:**  
**Varies**



**Activity:**  
**Wildlife**

*Overnight Kibale forest camp or similar*

## DAY 7: KIBALE – QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK



After breakfast, we check out and drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park (approx. 3 hours away). The drive passes through Fort Portal southwards along the Eastern length of the Ruwenzori Mountains. On a clear day you may see the glaciated peaks as you gently descend into the Great Rift Valley to the park. The Ruwenzori Peaks provide a magnificent backdrop to antelope-filled plains.

Queen Elizabeth National Park covers about 2,000 square kilometers and spreads along the eastern shore of the Rift Valley's Lake Edward.

We can expect to see teeming herds of impala-like Uganda Kob, as well as topi, elephant and lion, giant forest hog, Cape buffalo. There are also

several soda lakes filling ancient volcanic calderas where flamingos reside seasonally. Enjoy the evening game drive with the possibility of seeing leopards as the sun goes down.



**Overnight:**  
**Lodge**



**Meals:**  
**B, L, D**



**Distance:**  
**Approx. 3hrs driving**



**Activity:**  
**Transfer and Wildlife**

*Overnight Mweya Safari Lodge or similar*

## DAY 8: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

We set out early in the morning for a game drive (approx. 5 hours) in the northern part of the park on the Kasenyi Track in search of lions, elephants, solitary buffaloes. This is the best time for opportunities of viewing the cats in action owing to the vast population of Uganda Kobs. We have an excellent chance to view just about every animal here at very close range. In the afternoon we will go for a boat trip along the Kazinga Channel. This gives us the opportunity to view wildlife up close: hippo's huff and spray a mere foot away from the boat, buffalo linger in the shallows. The shores of the channel are also home to an array of birds including pink backed pelicans, pied and malachite kingfishers, saddle billed stork, fish eagles and many others.



**Overnight:**  
**Lodge**



**Meals:**  
**B, L, D**



**Distance:**  
**Approx. 5hrs driving**

**Activity:**  
**Wildlife**

*Overnight Mweya Safari Lodge or similar*

## DAY 9: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK – BWINDI NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. On the way we can choose to via Maramagambo Forest for a nature walk and visit the bat caves where you may observe thousands of bats within inches of their roosts and often pythons and monitor lizards poised to strike by the cave entrance, or to go to Ishasha for a game drive in search for tree climbing lions.



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Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**

Activity:  
**Wildlife**

Overnight Silver Back Lodge or similar

## DAY 10: BWINDI NATIONAL PARK (GORILLA TREKKING)

After an early breakfast we take a short drive to the park offices for briefing. After a briefing from the park's guides, we set out on our long-anticipated adventure – an amazing finale to the trip of a lifetime – gorilla trekking.

There are 3 habituated gorilla families and you will be allocated one of them. One of the families tends to live nearer to the outskirts of the forest, so the trek will



be shorter and easier. Your guides will discuss your fitness / medical levels with you before the morning and will try and allocate the right group for you. Your trek may last a few hours or the whole day.



Be prepared for a challenging trek through the forest and bamboo covered slopes accompanied by the guide and trackers. The trek can involve travelling deep into this dense jungle described by early explorers as “The Impenetrable Forest”. Expect to walk a long distance in steep and muddy conditions before you encounter any gorillas. Your reward for your trek is out of this world as you experience these majestic and calm apes. For conservation purposes, you are able to spend an hour observing and following the gorillas before heading back out of the jungle to find our guides.

At the end of the trek, we will head off to Lake Bunyoni.



Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**

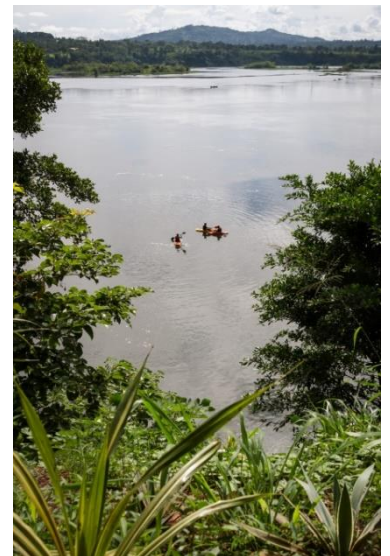
Activity:  
**Gorilla Trekking**

Overnight Birds Nest Lodge or similar

## DAY 11: LAKE BUNYONYI

After breakfast you will take tour of Lake Bunyonyi. The word “Bunyonyi”, in the local language means, ‘the place of very many little birds’. Lake Bunyonyi is the second deepest lake in Africa, Lake Tanganyika being the deepest. The lake is a flooded valley system, extending Northwards from Rwanda over a distance of 25km long and 7km wide. It is thought to have formed about 8000 years ago as a result of a lava flow from one of the Virunga Mountains. The lake has a total surface area of 60sq km and is surrounded with 20 small islands encircled by steep terraced hills. Its high-altitude location ensures a moderate climate, becoming chilly at night and relatively low incidence of malaria due to absence of mosquitoes. Bilharzia is absent from the lake as are crocodiles and hippos making it very safe to swim.

This afternoon is at leisure and you can choose to take a kayak out on the lake



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Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Approx. 2-3hrs driving**



Activity:  
**Exploring**

Overnight Birds Nest Lodge or similar

## DAY 12: LAKE BUNYONYI – KAMPALA/ENTEBBE

Today we will head back to Entebbe Airport in time for your flight home



Overnight:  
**N/A**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Approx. 9hrs driving**



Activity:  
**Travel**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### INCLUDED

- Gorilla permits
- Accommodation.
- Meals
- Full time driver/guides
- Park Entrance fees
- Boat cruises
- Game drives
- Ferry crossing fees
- Drinking water
- Transportation
- Chimpanzee permits
- Airport transfers

### NOT INCLUDED

- International Flights
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any additional/extra tours or park fees.
- Tips and Gratuities for Guide, Driver, local guides and service providers.
- Extras at hotels (telephone calls, room service, portorage, laundry, alcoholic drinks, etc.)
- Personal and/or medical expenses.

## WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE SAID

"I was lucky enough to go on a pioneer expedition to Uganda. From the booking to the trip, it was an unrivalled experience, incredibly professional and accommodating from the staff to the guides in Uganda. Nothing was too much trouble. Can't recommend them enough - will be using again and again and again."

P. Chinery

"All-in-all a great experience and I wouldn't hesitate to come back to Pioneer again. We leave the week feeling we know Uganda a little, and keen to return. It's a wonderful thing to see - the gorillas are a unique community to share a little time with and Uganda is a very welcoming, friendly place to travel in"

M. Bentley





# ACCOMMODATION, *at a glance*

Subject to availability

## Emin Pasha Hotel

Kampala

<https://www.eminpasha.com/>



## Paraa Safari Lodge

Murchison Falls National Park

<https://paraalodge.com/>



## Kibale Forest Camp

Kibale National Park



## Mweya Safari Lodge

Queen Elizabeth National Park

<https://mweyalodge.com/>



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### Silverback Lodge

Bwindi National Park

<https://silverbacklodge.com/>



### Birds Nest Lodge

Bwindi National Park

## WHEN TO GO

Our group departures take place during May and October in the shoulder months of the tourism season when there are a lot less tourists and you almost get the national parks to yourself. Though these are technically the rainy seasons, Uganda gets very little rain and these months will provide you with a very precious and private experience.

- The equator goes straight through Uganda, giving it a warm, hot climate throughout the year. Uganda is sunny most of the year and has an average temperature of 26°C.
- The rainy seasons are split into the long rains from September to November, and the short rains from April to May. The short rains create incredible thunderstorms that are not found anywhere else.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION	2 – 5 hours per day
SEASON	Trip open between January and December
BEST TIME TO GO	We prefer to travel during the low season (April, May, October and November), when you can expect some rain but also lots of sun. The advantages are you will hardly see any other tourists on the game drives and the permits cost less.
GROUP SIZE	2 upwards.
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	May 2019 and October 2019 We can run this as a private, tailor-made departure on dates to suit you
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2 – 5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.



# PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

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Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at [info@pioneerexpeditions.com](mailto:info@pioneerexpeditions.com) if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website [www.pioneerexpeditions.com](http://www.pioneerexpeditions.com) to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. **Contact us** - We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. **Leave everything to us** - Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. **Wait for your adventure to begin** - Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last-minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

