

# PIONEER Expeditions





### ITINERARY

### 13 DAYS • 12 NIGHTS

### Uganda • Gorilla and Chimpanzee Safari

Entebbe - Kampala – Murchison Falls National Park - Kibale National Park - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - Lake Bunyonyi – Lake Mburu National Park - 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, reedbuck and African Elephants at Murchison Falls and Lake Mburu National Parks.
- Fully guided trip

### 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.



#### TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Wildlife Journey
Tour Start	Kampala
Tour End	Kampala
Accommodation	Hotels, Lodges
Included Meals	12 Breakfasts, 11 Lunches, 12 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

# 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

#### 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.









Distance: **Approx. 1hr drive**  Activity: **Travel** 



#### DAY 2: KAMPALA – ZIWA RHINO SANCTUARY, NIGHT WALK

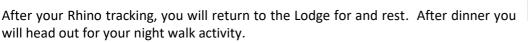
You will wake up to an early breakfast and then embark on your journey to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary where you will have your Rhino Trekking activity this afternoon (which takes about 2 -3 hours). Enter the territory of the southern white rhinos on foot. Well-trained rangers will guide you through the bush to where the rhinos are on the day of your visit.

Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch located in Nakasongola district is the proud home of the only wild rhinos in Uganda. The

Rhino reintroduction project was a project of Rhino Fund Uganda and Uganda Wildlife Authority. We are conveniently located 176km (100 miles) north of Kampala on the Gulu highway towards Murchison Falls (branch off at Nakitoma Trading center).

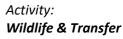
You will get the opportunity to watch these endangered, magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. As these rhinos are free to move around on 7 000 hectares of land, it is often necessary to drive to the areas where the rhinos.

While at the sanctuary you may also encounter a range of other wildlife species including Uganda kobs, oribis, bush bucks, water bucks among others and a number of other bird species









#### DAY 3: ZIWA- MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

At first glance, shoebill storks have a goofy charm due to their Dutch Clog-esque foot-long bill.

Despite first impressions, this stork is an unassuming predator known to feast on baby crocodiles, big fish like tilapia and Nile monitor lizards.

Head out on an early morning canoe ride in the adjacent swamp, to see this prehistoric looking bird and enjoy a beautiful sunrise over the Lugogo Swamp. Ziwa is one of the few places in Uganda where you are almost guaranteed to see this endangered bird. After your Shoe Bill Canoe your embark on your Journey to Murchison Falls National Park

We will then depart by road for Murchison falls National Park. This scenic drive takes approximately 4 hours (excluding stops) giving you a good insight on Uganda's way of life with plenty of wildlife & birds en-route. 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. After we proceed to the lodge.





Overnight:

Hotel



Distance: Approx. 4 + hours (depending on lodge and excluding stops)



Activity: **Wildlife &Transfer** 



#### **DAY 4: 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, Hartebeest 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 waterbirds including the rare shoebill stork.

The boat trip heads towards the bottom of the falls before returning back to the lodge.



Activity: **Wildlife** 



#### **DAY 5: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK**

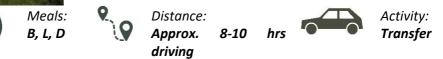
Day at leisure. Our driver / guide will be on hand and you can choose to do another game safari, boat safari, or if you prefer to relax by the pool and watch the elephants along the waterside. It is not unknown for elephants and warthogs to visit the lodge grounds.



#### DAY 6: MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK - KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



After breakfast we set off for our drive to Kibale National Park. 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.





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#### **DAY 7: KIBALE NATIONAL PARK**

We set off early this morning for a short drive to Kibale National Park. Today, in Uganda, there are approximately 5,000 chimpanzees left in the wild. The Chimpanzee Trekking experience here is done on several well-maintained walking trails. There is also a wonderfully diverse concentration of other primates, more than any other forest in East Africa, in fact. Besides our delightful cousins, the chimpanzees, you can find red colobus, red-tailed guenon, white-nosed monkey, graycheeked mangabey, blue monkey, L'Hoest's monkey, and the black and white colobus monkey. In addition, you may see olive baboons, bush babies and nocturnal pottos.



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 tends to last for a couple of 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.

In the afternoon we will go for a walk in Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary which features 8 primate species, over 200 bird species and many reptiles. During the walk – which takes 2 to 3 hours – you have a chance to see many animals but the highlight is catching a glimpse of a famous bird; the Great Blue Turaco.

There is also prolific birdlife in the park with over 325 sited bird species like the Ground Thrush that is endemic to Kibale National Park, the Western Tinker bird, the African Grey parrot and the Olive long-tailed Cuckoo among others. Also present in the park are elephants.



#### DAY 8: KIBALE – BWINDI NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we have a full drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. On the way you will have a glimpse of the beautiful kigezi hills and landscape, countryside farmlands and settlements and on arrival in Bwindi you will have dinner relax and prepare for the morning activities.















#### **DAY 9: 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.





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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

Distance:

Distance:

Approx. 2-3hrs driving

Varies



Overnight:

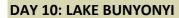
Overnight:

Lodge

Lodge

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 your guide / driver again and will heading back to your lodge



After breakfast you will head to Lake Bunyonyi. The word Bunyonyi in the local Language means the place of very 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 surrounded with 20 small islands encircled by steep terraced hills.

Meals:

B, L, D

This afternoon is at Leisure and you can choose to take Kayak out on the Lake

Meals:

B, L, D



Activity:

Gorilla Trekking



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#### DAY 11: LAKE BUNYONYI – LAKE MBURU NATIONAL PARK

Meals:

Overnight:

After your breakfast you will embark on your journey to Lake Mburo National Park. You will have lunch en-route. Afternoon / Evening at leisure

Distance:



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













Activity: **Transfer** 

Activity:



# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

ICLUDED	NOT INCLUDED	
<ul> <li>Gorilla permits</li> <li>Accommodation.</li> <li>Meals</li> <li>Full time driver/guides</li> <li>Park Entrance fees</li> <li>Boat cruises</li> <li>Game drives</li> <li>Ferry crossing fees</li> <li>Drinking water</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Chimpanzee permits</li> <li>Airport transfers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>International Flights</li> <li>Meals not mentioned in the itinerary</li> <li>Any additional/extra tours or park fees.</li> <li>Tips and Gratuities for Guide, Driver, local guides and service providers.</li> <li>Extras at hotels (telephone calls, room service, porterage, laundry, alcoholic drinks, etc.)</li> <li>Personal and/or medical expenses.</li> </ul>	

# 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." "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"

P. Chinery

M. Bentley

## **ACCOMMODATION,** at a glance

#### Subject to availability

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Night <b>1</b>	Kampala	Hotel	Lattitude
Night <b>2</b>	Ziwa	Hotel	Amuka lodge
Night <b>3 -5</b>	Murchinson Falls	Hotel	Paraa Safari Lodge
Night <b>6-7</b>	Kibale	Hotel	Mountains of the Moon
Night <b>8-9</b>	Bwindi	Bungalow	Four Gorillas Lodge
Night <b>10</b>	Lake Bunyoni	Hotel	Bird Nest Bunyonyi
Night <b>11,12</b>	Lake Mburu	Hotel	Rwakobo Rock Lodge



# WHEN TO GO

Our group departures tend to 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	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

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at 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 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.

