

### **Great Apes: A Uganda Adventure 2025**

## Last Chance Safaris is excited to announce the departure of its *Great Apes: A Uganda Adventure* for the summer of 2025 (22 July-7 August)

Not only is Uganda home to the greatest diversity and density of primates in Africa, but it also has some of the smallest (Galagos weigh about 2oz.) and of course the largest (a silverback Mountain Gorilla comes in at upwards of 550lbs). It is a country of outstanding natural beauty with habitats ranging from endless savannah, where elephant, buffalo and lions roam as they have done for millennia, to the verdant jungle of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest—home to the highly endangered Mountain Gorilla.

Highlights include the spectacular Murchison Falls, the game rich savannah of Queen Elizabeth NP, the chimps of Kyambura, the Gorillas of Bwindi and the rare Golden Monkey of Mgahinga.

Grant Nel, a specialist guide with over three decades of guiding experience will lead this adventure, sharing his knowledge and passion, whilst facilitating all aspects of the safari.

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<u>Day 1 (22nd July)</u> Depart from home - destination Entebbe, Uganda. Day 2 & 3 (23-25 July)

On arrival at Entebbe International Airport, you will be met by Grant Nel and a personal driver who will transfer you to Hotel Number 5 (15min) a boutique hotel in the quiet leafy suburbs of Entebbe. It combines the right mix of comfort and hospitality to shake off the cobwebs of a long overseas flight. At breakfast the next morning, meet up with your fellow travellers and get fully briefed on the adventure ahead. After the briefing there is a boat excursion to the Magamba Swamps of Lake Victoria—home of the idiosyncratic Shoebill Stork and myriad other water birds (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast).

#### Days 4, 5 & 6 (25-28 July)

After breakfast transfer back to the airport for a scheduled charter flight to Murchison Falls National Park. There, on the banks of the Nile, you will find Papa's Camp—named after the flamboyant Ernest 'Papa' Hemingway. Intimate and exclusive, this camp is situated upstream of the famous falls and has access to private wildlife viewing and experiences. Activities centre around game drives and a boat cruise along the river to the base of the falls. A hike to the top of the falls takes in all the superb views. Game viewing in Murchison is very rewarding-elephant, hippo, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, lion and a host of antelope complement an explosion of birdlife (Fully Inclusive).





Days 7, 8 & 9 (28-31 July)

After a morning game activity, there is a flight from Murchison Falls to the little town of Kasese—gateway to Uganda's flagship Queen Elizabeth National Park. Situated alongside the park is Kyambura Game Reserve. Kyambura is a less trammelled wilderness with access to all the best wildlife viewing of the area, but, most importantly, it is also the home of the Kyambura Gorge Chimpanzee community! Overlooking the wildlife rich Kazinga Channel, Honey Bear Bush Camp epitomises the safari of a bygone era and is the only camp in the game reserve! With hippos grunting their nightly serenade and elephants slaking their thirsts along the shoreline, this camp delivers a special safari experience. Activities are centred around chimpanzee tracking in the Kyambura Gorge, and the many varied wildlife viewing opportunities—boat cruises, game drives, night drives and nature walks. (Fully Inclusive).





Days 10, 11 & 12 (31 July—3 August)

Road trip! Today the adventure explores the picturesque southern Uganda countryside. A road transfer takes a detour through the Ishasha region of QE park in the hope of finding the tree climbing lions of this area. Then its onto the mystical Bwindi Impenetrable Forest! After lunch there is a ranger-guided hike to experience this exceptional montane equatorial forest with the final destination being the warm welcome of Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge.

As one of the highest safari lodges in Africa 'Clouds' offers incredible views of the surrounding Virunga Mountains and volcanoes. This community owned lodge is a testament to the deep passion that the people have for gorillas. With its understated luxury, fine dining and the 'butler' services of its staff it sets a very high bar as a safari lodge.

Activities concentrate on two gorilla treks—one to seek out the Nkuringo families and another that concentrates on the Rushaga families. These treks average around five hours, but it all depends on the terrain and where the assigned family is located. Irrespective, the time spent with these remarkable creatures will plant indelible memories—and possibly well up a tear or two. (Fully Inclusive).







Days 13 & 14 (3-5 August)

Nestled in the extreme south west of Uganda is the impressively beautiful Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. Apart from being home to more mountain gorillas, Mgahinga is one of the last isolated refuges for one of Africa's rarest primates; the Golden Monkey. A road transfer past the crater lakes of southern Uganda brings you to Mount Gahainga Lodge in the shadow of the extinct volcano after which it is named. The warm, cosy bandas (cottages), butler service and five star kitchen ensure that your every wish is taken care of. In the afternoon one of the veterinarians from the NGO Gorilla Doctors will do a presentation on the work that they do in caring for the fragile population of Mountain Gorillas across the three countries where they occur. The next day you head out on a Golden Monkey tracking experience to find this handsome primate; and who knows what else you may happen upon (Fully Inclusive).

Day 15 & 16 (6 & 7 August)

The final destination on the adventure is the bustling, modern and cosmopolitan city of Kigali—the capital of Rwanda. After checking in to <a href="The Retreat by Heaven">The Retreat by Heaven</a> the day is at leisure with a farewell dinner in the evening. The next day is a tour of the city with the emphasis on the sobering Genocide Museum and a reminder of the troubles this tiny country has endured, but with the positive caveat of what can be achieved with the national spirit of 'Ubuntu' - humanity. In the evening a transfer will take you to the airport to connect with your flight home. (Bed & Breakfast with farewell dinner and tour lunch).



## 22 July-7 August - Max of 6 participants Cost — US\$20,430 pp sharing (US\$23,800 single)

- Gorilla, Chimpanzee and Golden Monkey permits are issued only on receipt of payment, are non-refundable and non-transferrable.
- A reasonable level of fitness is required to do gorilla treks, though porters and rangers make every effort to limit the strenuousness.
- Yellow fever vaccination is required for all visitors to Uganda.

#### Includes:

- All accommodations in luxury lodges and safari camps with full en-suite facilities;
- All activities unless otherwise specified;
- All meals unless otherwise specified;
- All refreshments, local spirits, house wines, beer & soft drinks (excl. Hotel Number 5 & The Retreat)
- All local and regional air and land transfers;
- All taxes, permits and tourism related fees;
- Gratuities for lodge staff, porters and drivers.
- Emergency evacuation insurance;
- The services of Grant Nel as specialist naturalist and tour leader.

#### **Excludes:**

- Visa entry fees
- Travel & medical insurance (highly recommended)
- Additional optional gratuities for guides and local staff
- Costs of a personal nature
- Champagne, cellar wines & imported spirits
- International flights
- Unforeseen price increases for air travel and government taxes/levies

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