



### **8 Day South Walking Adventure**

**8 Days START KIGALI RWANDA END KIGALI, RWANDA**

This amazing adventure takes us to 'Bwindi Impenetrable Forest' in Uganda's mountainous far southwestern tip where you will have the opportunity to track Mountain Gorillas.

This superb trekking itinerary is located in the Ugandan highlands and takes us from the Virunga volcanoes to 'The Impenetrable Forest' of Bwindi, home to Uganda's mountain gorilla population which numbers around 320, approximately half the total number remaining in the world. Our final destination is the village of Nkuringo located on a hill-top and enjoying spectacular views over Bwindi's forest canopy and affords visitors magnificent 360 degree unconstrained views of the surrounding volcanoes.

#### **Highlights:**

- Discover the southern region of the Pearl of Africa
- Unforgettable encounter with the Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park
- Meet, explore and learn from the local communities
- Support sustainable tourism initiatives

#### **Specially created for:**

- Nature lovers
- Primates lovers
- Walking enthusiasts
- Adventure travellers

#### **Your Safari at a Glance.**

<b>Days</b>	<b>Routes/activities</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Meal Plan</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Arrival in Kigali. City Tour	Heaven Boutique	Bed & Breakfast
<b>Day 2</b>	Transfer Kigali to Mgahinga Community walk/ Batwa	Gahinga Lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 3</b>	Golden Monkey trekking	Gahinga Lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 4</b>	Hike Mgahinga to Lake Mutanda	Lake Mutanda Resort	Full Board
<b>Day 5</b>	Hike to Nkuringo through Rubuguri	Nkuringo Bwindi gorilla lodge	Full Board



<b>Day 6</b>	Gorilla Tracking	Nkuringo Bwindi gorilla lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 7</b>	Circular Walk	Nkuringo Bwindi gorilla lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 8</b>	Transfer to Kigali- Outbound flight		

### **Detailed Safari Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Arrival in Kigali**

Arrival in Kigali International Airport and transfer to your accommodation, depending on time of arrival possible city tour.

- Accommodation: Heaven Boutique Hotel
- Meal Plan: Bed and Breakfast

#### **Day 2: Kigali to Mgahinga National Park**

Enjoy an early breakfast, transfer to Cyaika border and cross to Uganda. You will settle at the start point for our trek at Gahinga Lodge nestled at the base of the Virunga Volcano National Park. After dinner we will meet our local guides who will brief us on the adventure that awaits us.

You can then enjoy a community walk and batwa experience.

- Accommodation: Gahinga Lodge
- Meal Plan: Full Board

#### **Day 3: Golden Monkey Tracking**

This morning, after breakfast, you will head to the park headquarters where you will be briefed by the park guide. You will then start the golden monkey trekking activity. You will also expect to see various forest birds that live in the forest. Accompanied by Uganda Wildlife Authority guides we will trek onto the lower slopes of the dormant volcano Mgahinga, which translates as pile of volcanic stones. After around two hours we will reach the bamboo zone where we hope to find the Golden Monkeys, an endangered species that is only found in this remote part of Africa. Our permits will allow us to spend an hour in the company of these fascinating animals as they play and eat in the branches above us.

- Accommodation: Gahinga Lodge
- Meal Plan: Full Board

#### **Day 4: Mgahinga to Lake Mutanda**



This morning after an early breakfast, break camp and begin our trek north towards Kisoro. The trek of 18km takes us through an area of volcanic craters some of the slopes of which are being cultivated by the indigenous Bakiga farmers and home also to the Batwa pygmies. As we walk we will gain a fascinating insight into the daily lives of local people. We will be greeted by lots of children and local people as they tend their fields and livestock and collect water from local springs. You will head to Sheebas camp located at shores of the beautiful Lake Mutanda.

A 1 hr ride in dug-out canoes, piloted by local tribesmen. You may see fishermen checking their nets, farmers taking produce to market by canoe and people tending to their lands. We disembark on the lakes' northern shore at Rwanjenje.

- Accommodation: Lake Mutanda Resort
- Meal Plan: Full Board

#### **Day 5: Lake Mutanda to Nkuringo.**

This morning, after breakfast, You will then start a six hour trek to the Nteko ridge, above the forest canopy of Bwindi and settle in the village of Nkuringo at 2161m. The route takes us over and around many of the volcanic calderas that form this millennia old landscape. You will marvel at the agricultural terraces that cover these steep hillsides. Our expert guides will take great pleasure in pointing out a wide variety of flora and fauna.

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge
- Meal Plan: Full Board

#### **Day 6: Gorilla Tracking**

After breakfast, at around 7:45 am, with packed lunch and drinking water you will be transferred to the National Park Head Quarters for the briefing on the dos and the don'ts while with the gorillas. You then continue to the forest for the start of the actual **gorilla tracking**.

The beauty of this rain forest is spectacular. The area offers a dramatic, steeply forested landscape and is incredibly dense, but crisscrossed by numerous animal trails allowing access to tourists. The time taken and the terrain vary as per the movements of these great primates. The thrill of spending time observing these gentle and endangered giants is an awesome, exciting experience to be long savoured. Many find it to be a rare and moving opportunity. The tracking can take place at Nkuringo or at Rushaga (1 hr drive from Nkuringo), as per the gorilla permits obtained.

Upon return, relax at the lodge and, for those who like, at 5.00 pm either stroll through the community center or drive up to the **"Top of the World"** - the name given to the football field, high up in the village which offers amazing views over the peaks and forests around Nkuringo. A great way to stretch your legs after the gorilla tracking and to enjoy a sundowner.



- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Garden Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

### **Day 7: Community tour, Nombe and Buniga Forests (encounter with the Batwa)**

This morning after a hearty breakfast, enjoy birding in **Nombe Pocket Forest** – it was part of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and it is still quite impenetrable, however it was cut off from it as people needed more land to live on and cultivate. It can be reached on foot (approx. 1 hour to go and 2 hours to come back) or by vehicle and the visit lasts approx. 2 hours, depending on the interest of guests.

Lunch at the lodge and at 2.00 pm departure to Buniga Forest Trail Walk, an informative project run by USAID and the **local Batwa community**. The Batwa tribe was forced to leave their home in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park in 1991 when it was declared a UNESCO Heritage site for gorillas only. They had been living in the forest as nomadic hunter-gatherers for millennia, in perfect balance with the flora and fauna around. Moving out and suddenly living in communities with a completely different way of life has proven to be a huge challenge. They now survive as best as they can and earn a living explaining their previous life in the forest and their rich heritage.

Continuation of the walk through the **community** to visit the traditional herbalist and the black smith.

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Private Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

### **Day 8: Hike across Bwindi Impenetrable Forest**

After an early breakfast, start your unforgettable hike (19km - 7-9 hours) directly from Nkuringo Lodge, following the **Kashasha River Trail**. This is a full day walk where there would also be the opportunity to visit the Munyaga River Falls, hidden in the forest. However, if clients prefer, they can also opt for the shorter trek and in this case they will be taken by vehicle along the Nteko Ridge till the junction of the **Ivy River Trail** with the forest (7 km) and they then start their hike from here (13km - 4-5 hours).

**Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park** is a vast unique natural reserve - monkeys, duikers, bush pigs and some of Bwindi's world renowned bird species plus many butterflies can be sighted. If you are very lucky you may even encounter gorillas! Once part of a much larger forest that included the Virunga Volcanoes in neighboring Rwanda, the park is nowadays an ecological island within a sea of villages and farmland, its conservation importance is immense. The emphasis of this activity is for your walking guide to share his knowledge of the forest with you, it is not simply an A to B hike. The trail is also an important footpath for local people, particularly on market days, travelling from Nkuringo and Nteko to Buhoma, on the northern



boundary of the park. There is no road through Bwindi so vehicles driving between the two locations have an incredible 170 km bone jarring journey taking 6 to 8 hours. Upon arrival at the park headquarters in **Buhoma**, continue to your lodge in the outskirts of the national park for some relax and to enjoy the “other” side of Bwindi. If interested possibility to arrange a community walk directly with the guide for later in the evening (optional and to be paid locally).

- Accommodation: Mahogany Springs Lodge (Standard Room)
- Meal Plan: Full Board (lunch box)

### **Day 9: Transfer to Kihihi and AeroLink flight to Entebbe**

After a leisurely breakfast, departure to **Kihihi Airstrip** (60km - 1 hour) for your morning AeroLink flight to **Entebbe**. You will then be transferred to your guest house for day use room as you wait for your outbound flight.

- Accommodation: Papyrus Guest House
- Meal Plan: Day use room

### **END OF SERVICES WITH NKURINGO WALKING SAFARI**

#### **Rates Includes:**

PRICE IN USD PP	<b><i>8 NIGHTS/9DAYS</i></b>
2 Pax	<b>\$ 6216 per person</b>
4 Pax	<b>\$ 5341 per person</b>
6 Pax	<b>\$ 5050 per person</b>
Single Room Supplement	<b>\$ 823</b>

#### **Includes**

- Airport transfers where applicable.
- English speaking Guide throughout your Safari
- 1 day Volcano trekking
- 1 gorilla tracking permit in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- 1 golden monkey permit in Mgahinga National Park
- 1 Aerolink Flight from Kihihi to Entebbe.
- All accommodations and Meals as per the itinerary
- All activity fees as listed in the itinerary.



- Support of a private 4x4 vehicle with experienced English-speaking driver-guide, from the morning of day 2. (7 seater)
- AMREF Evacuation Insurance cover
- Government taxes

**Excludes;**

- All drinks, including the drinks for the sundowner on Day 1 and 6
- International air flights
- Any optional activity not indicated in above program
- Laundry Services
- Gratuities and Tips
- East Africa Visa fees
- Drinks
- Personal Items and Tips

**TOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A 30% deposit of the total tour price will be required to secure a booking, the balance being due 45 days before the tour departure date.

Bookings not secured by the appropriate deposit will be released.

Cancellation between 90 and 45 days of tour departure will incur a 30% of tour price penalty charge. Confirmed bookings cancelled within 45 days of the tour departure date or no show will incur 100% of tour price penalty charge.

Availability of accommodation and activities is not guaranteed; reservations will be made after receiving confirmation of the final itinerary and the payment of the requested deposit. Should any of the quoted accommodations not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative suitable option, which might affect the final quoted price.

All clients who participate in this tour must be adequately covered by **medical insurance** as well as **travel insurance** to protect them in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Rates specified for this tour are subject to change without notice, however every effort will be made to maintain them. In the event of any change of Government taxes or operating conditions that affect the rates we reserve the right to pass on these charges.

**\* UGANDA GORILLA PERMIT CANCELLATION POLICY  
(different and separate from the tour cancellation policy)**



Gorilla Permits will be guaranteed ONLY upon receipt of the deposit (**US\$700** for permits in 2020) since we need to immediately pay Uganda Wildlife Authority Offices in order to secure the permits.

Cancellations received on full payment:

- More than 90 days before the tracking date, 25% cancellation fee
  - 89 to 46 days before the tracking date, 50% cancellation fee
  - 45 to 9 days before the tracking date, 75% cancellation fee
- 8 to 0 days before the tracking date, 100% cancellation