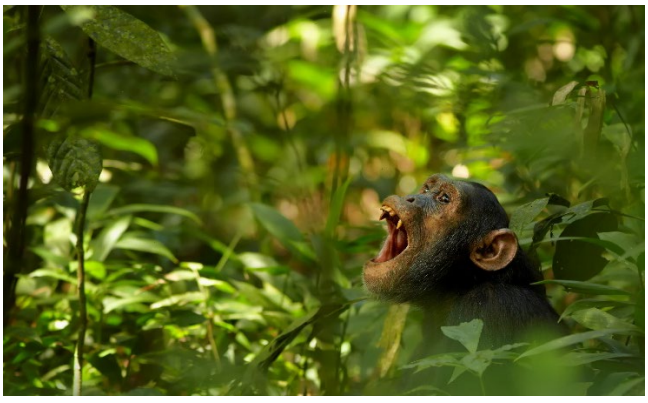
Bob Brind-Surch
Natures Photos

Gorillas and Chimp Trekking in Uganda

March 2022

A specialist photographic workshop and experience of a lifetime Gorilla and Chimp Trekking in Uganda.



Bob Brind-Surch in association with Safari Consultants

Gorillas and Chimps of Uganda

For many years I have run, as an extension to my Northern Tanzania Safari, an opportunity to trek gorillas in the Bwindi impenetrable forest of Uganda. This has been so successful that a couple of years ago I was asked to extend this to include chimps and other Ugandan specialties. This safari is just that – it can still be taken as an extension to the Northern Tanzania - Southern Serengeti, safari but also on its own. Taking both safaris together saves the international airfare of course and combines two amazing African safari experiences over an unforgettable 18 days in Africa.

I have arranged this special extension for a maximum of 4 guests to explore some of the special wildlife experiences in Uganda including 2 treks with Gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable forest and a chimp trekking excursion in Kibale.

Whilst travelling between Bwindi and Kibale we will take a fabulous boat trip along the Kazinga Channel where we can obtain excellent photographs of a wide range of birdlife including pied kingfishers, African skimmers, African darters as well as massive crocodiles, one of the largest population of hippos in Africa, elephants and buffalos on the shore.

In addition we will have an opportunity to explore the Bigodi Wetland looking for other rare primates and birds and go on a search of the rare an enigmatic shoe billed stork of the Mamba swamp.

All these are extras but no other wildlife encounter in Africa matches the astounding experience of spending time face-to-face with wild gorillas and wild chimps, our closest relatives, both on the brink of extinction.

I keep this trip to a minimum number of guests so that I can give everyone all the help and support they need to come home with some amazing shots of these incredible primates.

Gorilla Trekking in the Bwindi Inventible Forest.

Encountering our distant cousins in mist-draped forests of Bwindi's impenetrable forest is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I have taken many groups on just such a trek and all come away not only with amazing photos but having had a truly life changing experience. To look into the deep brown eyes of one of our closet cousins is a real privilege. The exchange, the recognition, the awareness of our shared lineage is obvious.

Mountain gorillas are highly endangered, but the good news is that due largely to income from tourism and the trekking industry, they are better protected and monitored. The funding has enabled the introduction of dedicated park guards, veterinary care, community support projects and regulated tourism. As a result, the numbers are rising from an all-time low of 254 in 1981 to about 1,000 in 2019. This is still perilously low but the area I use in Bwindi is home to half the world's population so despite being on the very edge they are doing reasonably well.

With many years' experience of the area I have chosen two different locations for our two trekking sessions. There are a number of options available in the forest but these are, in my experience, the best and provide us with an opportunity to see two totally different groups of gorillas in different situations. In both locations our professional guides and trackers will lead us into the forest's secret paths, looking for a habituated gorilla family. Once found, we will approach the gorillas quietly and settle down to observe them from the statutory distance of between 7 and 10m away. As no one has issued the gorillas with tape measures however they very often come much closer indeed.

The guides are extremely knowledgeable and as they spend all their time with these magnificent apes, they know them as individuals. They know their families, their relationships, and their individual characteristics. They know who has babies and the status of each individual in the family. Our guide will introduce each gorilla by name and their family history.

In addition to the gorilla trekking you will have the opportunity to visit local groups such as the Batwa (pygmies), the local hospital, tea and coffee plantations, the gorilla doctors and the inspiring and amazing community hospital. The co-operation between all parties is key to the success of the gorillas.

Kazinga Channel Boat Trip

The road journey between the Gorillas in Bwindi and the Chimps in Kibale skirts the Queen Elizabeth National Park. We won't be visiting the park as, in my experience, it's not anywhere near the same standard as other areas of East Africa. We will however visit the famous Kazinga channel on a boat trip. Little known but one of the most impressive features of the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

This narrow waterway links the small Lake George and to the larger Lake Edward. It is home to a massive concentration of birds including charismatic species such as the pied Kingfisher in truly large flocks, African Skimmers in great numbers, Africa darters, fish eagles, pelicans and many others. It's also home to significant numbers of crocodiles, hippopotamus and most of the major mammals in Queen Elizabeth National Park congregate on the shores of the channel to bathe, drink and feed making it a great place for animal viewing. The hippo population alone (1,600) in Queen Elizabeth National Park and the Kazinga Channel is one of the three largest in the world. Regardless of how many you have seen elsewhere, you will be deeply surprised by the sheer numbers here. Apart from hippos, Nile crocodiles, buffaloes, elephants, monitor lizards and many species of antelopes can easily be sighed near the shores of the Channel. The Kazinga Channel attracts almost every kind of animal you would think about during an Africa safari, it's even possible to see lions drinking on the water margin.

I have booked places on a public boat cruise and we will get amazing opportunities for photography. People I have taken in the past talk about this as one of the highlights of the trip.

Chimpanzee Trekking in Kibale

Kibale Forest National Park provides one of the best chimpanzee trekking opportunities available.

As one of the three – including Gorillas and Orangutans – species closely related to man chimps are another once in a lifetime opportunity. They live in family groups of 15 to 20 and each chimpanzee group has a unique personality of its own. Group life is crucial because chimpanzees are highly

sociable, intelligent, and communicative animals; their complex social relationships and hierarchies (groups are usually led by a dominant male chimpanzee).

After a pre-tracking briefing, you'll be guided on an amazing adventure into the forest in search of the chimpanzees. Once sighted, you will spend time with them observing and photographing their daily life – feeding, grooming, nursing their young, howling and screeching, all within their natural habitat. A truly thrilling experience. Tracking a noisy chimpanzee family is an unforgettable experience, and the wealth of wildlife in this magnificent forest will delight.

There are many other species of primates and other wildlife found in Kibale area including; black and white colobus, red colobus, L' Hoest's monkey and grey-cheeked mangabey. The birdlife is also outstanding including Toucans, African grey parrot, the beautiful and secretive black bee-eater, the great blue turaco, black-and-white flycatcher, black-necked, and yellow-mantled weavers are amongst the highlights. We will also have an opportunity, after the chimps, to take a short community led forest and swamp walk looking for these species.

Short excursion to Mabamba Swamp in search of the rare shoe billed stork.

Our flight home to the UK departs in the afternoon giving us time to take a short boat excursion on the Mabamba swamp. This is a bird watchers and photographers paradise but our quest will be the rare and enigmatic shoe billed stork. With their strange bills and prehistoric appearance these amazing and rare birds have even non birders intrigued. This area is one of the best to see this secretive bird. Whilst looking for it we will also have opportunities to shoot all the other water birds of the area.

Organization and planning of both safaris

I have over 50 years' experience of Africa and studied large carnivores in East Africa for a PhD in the 70's. I have a wide knowledge of the area and a love for it and its people. I use my experience to especially select the camps and route for all my African safaris and develop these itineraries working closely with the UK based company and experts in the region, Safari Consultants. Choosing the right company to arrange your African safari is vitally important and the complexity and remoteness of Africa means you need a company who have detailed knowledge and first-hand experience plus importantly the experience and contacts arranging trips in the region. Safari Consultants are just such a company and provide me with an unrivalled service. Having specialised in safaris to East and Southern Africa since 1983 they are a company which wants to take the time to understand guests' requirements and desires and have the ability to create the perfect itinerary to match. This is exactly what I want for you and we have worked very well together for many years. The essence of this safari is that you can enjoy luxury combined with a real wilderness experience in both privacy and comfort whilst concentrating on game viewing and photography.

As well as an experienced zoologist, photographic guide and all round naturalist I am an experienced educationalist, qualified teacher and tutor. I qualified for a FRPS and have worked at a high level with many key camera manufacturers and am thus able to support everyone from the novice photographer to those who are considerably more experienced. My aim is to help you capture this unique location and especially its wildlife. I know the area well and, working with the drivers, trekkers and guides, I will be on hand at all times to help you master the field techniques required for competent safari photography. My goal is simple, to ensure you have a highly enjoyable holiday where you can concentrate on your photography with truly unique opportunities to view and capture images of the natural world. All this whilst soaking up the very best wilderness experience in a comfortable and magic environment.

The drivers and local guides for all my safaris are well versed in the requirements of photographers. They know when and where to stop, how best to position you for the available light and are prepared to wait in any location for as long as you require (for the gorillas we can only spend up to 1 hour with a group so as to provide as little disturbance as possible).

Unlike many other African safaris, it is never my aim so see as many species as possible but rather to spend time observing animals and birds behaving naturally and as a direct consequence take the very best photos.

This trip will be limited to just 4 guests and the total per person cost will be US$7,850 plus US$1,400 for two gorilla trekking permits and US$200 for one chimp trekking permit. International flights from the UK start at £850 unless taken as an extension to the Southern Serengeti trip when there is just an internal airfare to travel from Arusha to Entebbe.

At the time of writing these notes (late May 2020) this was approximately £6,440 for the land element plus the permits and airfare.

N.B. Due to the current volatility in the US Dollar and UK Pound exchange rates we have taken the decision to price the holiday in US Dollars and to the airfare separately in UK pounds.

Monies you pay as a deposit will be converted on the day of transfer at that day's exchange rate. If you require this rate can then be "pegged" as the rate to be used when the balance is paid thus ensuring you know the total price of your holiday in sterling in advance. Alternatively, you can take a risk on the exchange rates prevailing at the time your deposit is due.

Please see detailed itinerary for breakdown and detailed pricing. I strongly believe that the price I charge should include everything and therefore, unlike many other providers, this price includes all international flights. It also includes all ground transfers as specified, twin/double accommodation on full board basis, game-viewing activities, park/conservation fees as described and UK and airport departure taxes. For more information please refer to the itinerary details section below or contact me directly – contact details as follows.

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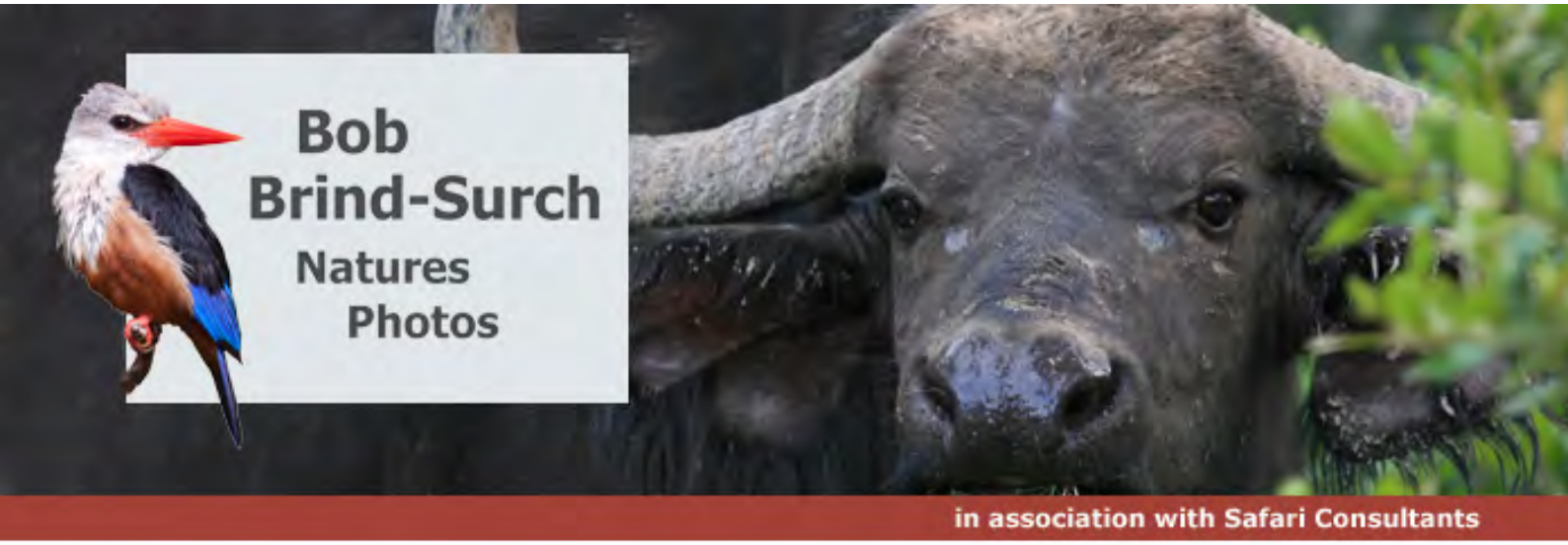
Tel 01536 373977 or mbl 07983 427202
e-mail bob@naturesphotos.co.uk

Before each trip I try to arrange a get together (guests locations permitting) and will issue you with full guidance on what you require regarding photographic equipment, pre-trip preparations e.g. clothing, medications etc. any local requirements, how to prepare and what to expect whilst in Africa.

Bob Brind-Surch



Ugandan Explorations (2022) with Bob Brind-Surch Natures Photos

a tailor-made itinerary to

Uganda

Duration: **8 Nights**
Designed for travel in **March 2022**

Brind-Surch Natures Photos
12 Stanion Road, Brigstock, KETTERING, Northamptonshire, NN14 3HW

This itinerary has been prepared for you by Safari Consultants Ltd.
specialists in travel to East & Southern Africa since 1983
Telephone: 01787 888590 web: safari-consultants.com

Itinerary in brief

Designed for travel in **March 2022**

Day	Region	Accommodation	No. of nights	Board basis
09 Mar	Entebbe	The Boma Hotel, Entebbe	3	Breakfast
10 Mar	Bwindi National Park	Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest	3	Full Board
13 Mar	Queen Elizabeth National Park	Mweya Safari Lodge, Queen Elizabeth National Park	1	Full Board
14 Mar	Kibale Forest National Park	Ndali Lodge, near Fort Portal	2	Full Board
16 Mar	Entebbe	The Boma Hotel, Entebbe	1	Breakfast
17 Mar		Return flight - private arrangements		

Costing in brief

Price Per person: USD 7,850

Price in total: USD 7,850

International flights available from: *£850.00*

Trekking permits please see details below

N.B. If taken as add on to the Tanzania Serengeti trip these are not relevant as they are charged on the Tanzania trip but the extra “intra Africa” (Tanzania to Uganda) airfare are available from: *£290*

Please see full itinerary for full costing details/inclusions and exclusions

A Proposed Outline Itinerary

Tuesday 09 March

Three nights

Twin/Double Room

Breakfast

The Boma Hotel, Entebbe

On arrival into Entebbe and having completed entrance formalities you are met and transferred to the Boma Hotel for an overnight stay in twin/double rooms.

The Boma Hotel is a small, family run guesthouse located in the suburbs of Entebbe just a few minutes' drive from the Airport. Created from a colonial homestead, recently restored to comfortable standards, the property consists of just 15 bedrooms (all contained within single storey blocks or semi-detached cottages as well as two bedrooms within the main house), each decorated in an African theme, and having its own private bathroom. The main area includes the reception lounge and dining room (veranda). There is a secluded swimming pool with restaurant and the gardens throughout the property attract a wide variety of birdlife.

Wednesday 10 March

Three nights

Twin/Double Chalet

Full-Board

Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

After breakfast you are transferred back to the airport where you connect with the scheduled AeroLink air transfer service, departing at 12h45, to Kihihi in western Uganda. On arrival, you will be met by your private driver guide from Wild Frontiers and are transferred (90-120 minutes) through to the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest where you arrive at Buhoma Lodge for three nights in a twin/double rooms. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax after your extensive travels and prepare for your first gorilla trek in the morning.

On the 11th and 12th, transfer through to the park for your gorilla trekking excursions. After each trek, transfer back to Bwindi. The rest of each day is at leisure to relax at the lodge or explore the village.

A community walk through the local villages surrounding Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is included in your stay.

Buhoma Lodge commands a wonderful view over the valley into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. The property is located on a hillside just inside Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, only a 5 minute walk from the park gate. Each of the ten comfortable cottages (made from timber with gauze windows and thatch roofs) have en suite facilities with hot/cold running water and flush loos. They also have a private verandah with views over the forest. Lighting and power is provided by solar and available between 5pm and 8am, although they may be going onto mains electricity in mid-2018. One of the cottages is a family room with an extra sitting area which can be used for extra beds. The central building is raised off the ground and open fronted with views towards the forest and includes a cosy lounge with fire place, and a bar/dining room where meals are taken and hot drinks are available all day. There is a central charging facility in the main area as well as USB charging in the rooms. Wi-Fi is available in the central area (please note the Wi-Fi is very slow and unreliable). There is also a small spa where they offer a complimentary massage.

Bwindi National Park - Introduction

Bwindi covers an area of around 32000 hectares and is located in the south-west of the country, part of the eastern ridge of the Albertine Rift Valley. The rainforest, known as one of the most ecologically diverse in Africa, is spread over a series of steep ridges and valleys which vary in altitude from around 1160m to over 2600m. In the south-east sector of the park lies the Mubwindi Swamp, after which it was named.

It is home to the endangered mountain gorilla, as well as a further 11 species of primates. Incidentally, it harbours more species of mammal than any other park in Uganda, although most of them are rarely seen.

The birdlife, as with the rest of Uganda, is superb with over 350 species recorded, including the 23 species endemic to the Albertine Rift Valley and a further number found nowhere else in the country including special such as the African green broadbill and white-tailed blue flycatcher. The butterfly count is equally spectacular.

For those keen on gorilla trekking, a visit to Bwindi is essential - there are currently seventeen habituated groups which can be visited in various areas of the park. However, please bear in mind that the high rainfall and terrain make trekking very difficult and you need to be well prepared.

To trek for gorillas, a good level of fitness is required as the terrain over which tracking takes place is extremely difficult. Treks can last anything from an hour to well over five, traversing steep-sided mountains and ravines, often clambering over nothing but suspended vegetation. You will require the use of your hands, so do not carry anything that does not have a long strap. The inclement weather doesn't help either. Temperatures can range from being fairly warm and humid to being very cold, and rain can fall at any time. Children under 15 years of age are not allowed to trek.

Using the proper clothing will help a great deal. Long trousers, good walking boots with good ankle support and a tread which does not suck in mud (your local guides will probably wear Wellington boots!), a long-sleeve shirt and a sun hat (preferably a floppy hat, but not white) are essential. Tough, preferably leather, gardening gloves will protect your hands from nettles and provide extra grip on the wet vegetation. A lightweight sweater can also be useful. If you want to carry a small pack, make sure it fits you well and is not cumbersome. Carry extra water (lunch is usually carried by a tracker/porter) and some lightweight wet weather gear. If you wear glasses, carry a de-mister/anti fog and make sure they cannot fall off. It is worthwhile taking a camera, a pair of binoculars and a couple of plastic bags to keep them dry if it rains.

N.B. You will not be allowed to track if you are suffering from any illness including a cold or flu which can be transmitted to the apes. You will be ask to declare this before you start off. We would ask your co-operation in not endangering the lives of the already endangered great apes - if you are sick, do not track. Unfortunately, the downside is that permits may not be refundable.

Saturday 13 March

One night

Twin/Double Deluxe Tent
Full Board

Mweya Safari Lodge, Queen Elizabeth National Park

After breakfast you will depart from Bwindi and drive northwards to and through Queen Elizabeth National Park en route to Mweya Safari Lodge where you arrive in time for lunch. The afternoon will include a shared boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel. One night is spent at Mweya Safari Lodge, staying in twin/double deluxe safari tents.

Built on top of a peninsula overlooking both Lake Edward and the Kazinga Channel (which links Lake Edward to Lake George), Mweya Safari Lodge accommodates around 100 guests in a variety or standard and deluxe rooms (two of which have disabled access), standard and deluxe tents, two suites and various luxurious cottages

(Queen's, Royal, Presidential and Ruwenzori). The deluxe rooms, deluxe tents, suites and cottages all have air-conditioning and the suites and cottages have an additional living area. The cottages some of which have two or three bedrooms, are ideal for families or those clients wanting a greater level of comfort. The accommodation stretches out in various blocks from either side of the public areas which house the main reception, restaurant, bar, curio shop and TV lounge. There is a health club, business centre and a swimming pool. In general, from its elevated position, the views from Mweya Safari Lodge are spectacular. In particular, the newer tents and cottages all have lovely views out over the Kazinga Channel. There is Wi-Fi available in the main area, although please note Ugandan Wi-Fi can be slow and unreliable.

Queen Elizabeth National Park - Introduction

The Queen Elizabeth National Park has a wide range of habitats - in the north, crater lakes, undulating hills and tropical forest (the wonderfully named 'Maramagambo'), whilst toward the south, its flatter with more savannah bush and open grassland bordering the lake and swamps. Over 500 species of birds exist within the park, including eleven species of kingfisher. Flamingos are found in the many crater lakes.

The Kazinga channel runs laterally through the park, joining Lake Edward to Lake George. Below Mweya Lodge, the Parks Department run a number of boats for excursions up and down the channel. Knifing into the Channel from the south, the Kyambura Gorge appears suddenly through hills of rolling savannah to reveal a ravine of thick tropical rainforest containing a wealth of primate species, including a group of chimps which are currently being habituated. Other animals to be seen within the park include elephant, buffalo, Uganda kob, hippo, crocodile, leopard and the tree-climbing lions prominent in the Ishasha region in the south.

Sunday 14 March

Two nights

Twin/Double Cottage
Full Board

Ndali Lodge, near Fort Portal

Morning game drive after which you depart from Mweya, travelling north-eastwards towards the town of Fort Portal (approx. 4 hours' drive). Spend two nights at Ndali Lodge staying in twin/double cottages.

Your full day (15th March) includes a morning trek in the Kibale Forest, going in search of chimpanzees. This afternoon you will have the opportunity to visit the Bigodi swamp, considered one of Uganda's best bird watching locations. The two to three hour walk will be tailored to your individual schedule and interests.

Ndali is built high on the edge of a crater lake with commanding views over the surrounding countryside. The property accommodates up to 16 guests in comfortable individual thatched cottages, each with en suite facilities and views westward over rolling countryside to the Ruwenzori's, the fabled 'Mountains of the Moon'. The cottages are comfortable but fairly simply furnished with en suite bathrooms. Lighting is provided by solar with lanterns as back up. The central 'house' includes a cosy bar, lounge and dining area. There is USB charging provided in the rooms and a central charging station for larger items in the main house. The main area has Wi-Fi, but please note that Ugandan Wi-Fi can be slow and unreliable. The lodge also has a pool with gorgeous views, sauna, yoga pagoda and offers massages.

Lovely walks around the 1000 acres property are available and excellent for bird watching. There is also the opportunity to visit their local coffee and vanilla plantations, both of which are grown locally (seasonal). Below the lodge, on the lake itself, is a sturdy jetty, set in the most tranquil and secluded spot and frequented by five different species of Kingfisher. From where you can swim in the lake or simply relax and enjoy the nature. The lodge has a two-man inflatable kayak that can be used for spotting birds and other wildlife by the lakeshore. The key attraction in this area is Kibale Forest and chimp tracking which is approx. a 45 minute drive. You can also visit

the Bigodi Swamp community reserve (also a 45 minute drive) which provides excellent birdlife.

Kibale Forest National Park - Introduction

The Kibale Forest is situated about 40 kms. south-east of Fort Portal and boasts eleven different primate species including chimps, red colobus, and black and white colobus.

The chimpanzee trekking is the most rewarding in Uganda and there is an excellent chance of seeing these exceptional apes - trekking permits should be purchased in advance to avoid disappointment.

Bird walks are guided through the forest and along the edge of the Bigodi Wetland on which it borders, and perhaps you'll be lucky enough to see the black bee-eater or shy white spotted crake. Great blue turaco and blue-breasted kingfisher are also amongst the other highlights.

Tuesday 16 March

One night

Twin/Double Room

Breakfast

Boma Guest House, Entebbe

Morning departure from Ndali and transfer by road back to Entebbe where you arrive at the Boma Hotel for a further overnight stay in twin/double rooms.

Wednesday 17 March

Return flight

After breakfast you are transferred to Entebbe pier where you board a private speedboat transfer to Mabamba swamp for a morning excursion.

Mabamba Swamp is a large wetland area on the shores of Lake Victoria, west of Entebbe, and is a favourable habitat for 260 recorded bird species. It’s a great location for birding enthusiasts who may just spot the intriguing Shoebill - a rare sight indeed.

The speedboat takes 30 mins from Entebbe pier to the swamp. On arrival, transfer to a small dugout canoe in which to navigate your way through the swamps. The tour takes approximately 3-4hours in total.

Later, you return to Entebbe pier and transfer back to the Boma Guest House for day room use till 21h00 (meals are at own account).

Later you are transferred out to Entebbe Airport where you check in for your homebound flight.

The unique reference for this itinerary is 0014739

FULL COSTING DETAILS:

Price Per person USD7,850

Price in total USD7,850
Approx. GBP £6,440 (May 2020)

Included

- twin/double accommodation on board basis mentioned
- internal air transfer flights in Uganda
- ground transport as required in Uganda
- photographic services of Bob Brind-Surch

Not Included

- international flights on KLM - from £850.00 per person including airport taxes N.B. if booked as an "add on" to Tanzanian trip air fare is covered in the booking for Tanzania trip
- regional inter Africa flights - from £300.00 per person including airport taxes
- visa fees for Uganda (US$50.00 per person obtainable online)
- travel insurance
- personal items and gratuities
- optional tours and excursions
- drinks and laundry
- gorilla permits which are payable on booking - US$700.00 per person per day (US$1,400 for the two planned treks)
- chimp trekking permits which are payable on booking – US$200 per person per day (US$200 for the one planned trek)

Deposit required to confirm arrangements: US$1,570 – approx. GBP £1310 (May 2020)

Please note that this itinerary makes use of light aircraft air transfers which have strict baggage restrictions. Maximum weight is 15 kgs including hand luggage. All bags should be of the soft 'hold-all' variety. **We have booked an extra seat which allows for a further 10kgs per person.**

All our holidays are fully bonded for your financial protection under the CAA ATOL scheme or through our membership of ABTOT. We would strongly advise against booking through non-bonded organisations where you money is not protected. Our ATOL membership number is 3783 and our ABTOT membership number is 5246.

At Safari Consultants we know how important safari tourism is for the future of African wildlife. Without it, the wildlife of Africa will diminish rapidly. However, we are also acutely aware that air travel is a major contributor to global climate change, and we believe that we should all travel as responsibly as possible. To this end, we have partnered with climate and development experts ClimateCare to offset carbon emissions from your travels. ClimateCare ensure the projects selected not only cut carbon but alleviate poverty and improve lives. Find out more at www.climatecare.org.
Your holiday price includes a contribution towards our carbon-offsetting program (£15.00 per person in economy/premium economy class or if you are arranging your own flights, and £35.00 per person in business/first class). More information about our Carbon Offsetting and all our efforts towards conservation and responsible travel can be found on the Responsible Tourism page of our website.

Please note that should the UK Government issue an FCO advisory against travel to a country you are visiting within 21 days of your departure, your money is protected. You would have the option to postpone your safari or cancel with a full refund. However, please note that if you decide to postpone or cancel your trip when there is no FCO advisory in place, cancellation charges will apply.

Please click here to see our current terms

Statement of Rights (Package Travel Regulations) - please click here to read

Why Safari Consultants?

We are the oldest specialist Africa-only tour operator in the UK, having been in business since 1983. Over that time, our reputation for providing top quality safari holidays is unsurpassed, and we continue to strive to offer four key elements for all our customers:

The best advice possible. Really good advice is the cornerstone requirement for any 'specialist' safari holiday, and will turn your experience of Africa from a 'good' holiday to an 'exceptional' holiday. We only specialise in Africa (and the Indian Ocean Islands) and our team of safari specialists are continually travelling to check up on places, visit new destinations and learn about the practicalities of travelling around the African continent.

A friendly, personal and caring service. Planning and booking a specialist safari holiday should be a fun and energising experience. We have always been a small company offering a very personal service. All of our customers are extremely important to us and treated as such, and we meet many of them in person, either when planning their holidays (where practical), at travel shows or at social functions we arrange. We are passionate about Africa and genuinely care about the success of every holiday we arrange.

A totally professional service at all times. We endeavour to provide prompt responses to all enquiries and questions, clear and correct information at all times, flexibility throughout and attention to detail with your preferences and requirements. When you travel with us, you always have our full support and back up, as our management team are on hand 24/7 in case of any difficulties or emergencies.

Good value for money. All our customers require good value for money and fair pricing every time they travel. On a more subtle note, our specialist knowledge is crucial in ensuring you really make the most of your holiday budget.

In addition, we provide 100% financial guarantees through our ATOL licence (No. 3783) and our membership of ABTOT (No. 5246).

Your Specialist Consultant

Mary Grimwood, Sales Consultant

Mary grew up in Surrey with (very!) Scottish ancestry (neé Mackenzie). Having studied modern languages at university she leapt head first into the travel industry and built up a wealth of experience with visits to around 35 different countries worldwide. Her career has included leading tour groups in Europe, working for a worldwide tour operator and more recently working for and managing an independent travel agency in London. Mary joined Safari Consultants in 2006 having spent a season working in a bush camp in Kenya's Masai Mara, where she really cemented her love of Africa. In 'safari' Africa, she has visited Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Madagascar, Uganda and Rwanda. Throughout her extensive travels, she has many favourite spots, such as the Namibia's Namib Desert and Mozambique's Bazaruto Archipelago, but due to her time living and working there, Kenya and its people hold a very special place in her heart. Mary enjoys dealing with people and really getting to know her clients, a key part of tailoring the perfect holiday. She claims her spare time is spent trying to understand the laws of rugby to be able to support her referee husband.

Additional Information/Useful Links

About Safari Consultants

General Information

Terms and Conditions

Testimonials

AITO

Uganda

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Uganda is a country with wonderful natural scenery and very friendly people, and as most safaris tour through the country by road, you are really able to take in the atmosphere and beauty of this land.

As a safari destination, Uganda is known primarily for its birdlife and primates. As a birding destination, the country lies between the great equatorial forests of the west, and the savannah plains of the east, and this varied habitat results in well over 1000 species being recorded including the rare shoebill and many Albertine Rift endemics.

However, for many the highlight of embarking on a safari to Uganda is usually in seeing the incredible mountain gorillas which are found in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and in Mgahinga National Park on the northern slopes of the Virunga Volcanoes (bordering Rwanda). In addition, a further 19 species of primates are recorded including chimpanzee which are found in numerous areas such as the Kibale and Budongo forests and the Kyambura Gorge in Queen Elizabeth National Park. Ngamba Island off Entebbe offers the chance to see rescued chimps close up.

Big game viewing is very good in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth, Kidepo and Lake Mburo national parks, whilst the Ruwenzori 'Mountains of the Moon', and Mount Elgon provide some spectacular mountain trekking.

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