

THE GORILLA TREK

20 DAYS NAIROBI - KIGALI



Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya

Our safari starts with a visit to Sheldrick's Orphanage to enjoy time with the elephant and rhino calves during the play and feeding sessions. The orphanage is especially famous for perfecting the husbandry techniques to keep vulnerable orphaned elephants alive.

We also visit the Giraffe Park and have our Departure meeting. A fun evening out in one of Nairobi's famous restaurants follows. It's early to bed in preparation for an early start tomorrow.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage, night out at a restaurant.

Day 2: Nairobi to Masai Mara

Today the adventure truly begins as we head towards some of the best game parks East Africa has to offer. We travel via the Great Rift Valley where we get magnificent panoramic views of the Kenyan countryside. Approaching the Masai Mara all eyes start scanning the landscape for wildlife. The Mara rarely fails to please with lion, cheetah, hyena, zebra, giraffe, elephant, hippo, crocodile, gazelle and warthog all regulars. We camp tonight in the wild.

Distance: 300 kms
Est. Drive Time: 6 hours to the park gate, game drive throughout the afternoon
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Afternoon game drive in the Masai Mara

Days 3 – 4: Masai Mara to Naivasha

We rise early so we can enjoy further game drives. Some enjoy a dawn balloon safari as well. A visit to a Maasai village is also arranged where we can watch a traditional jumping dance before being shown around the village to learn a little about traditional ways.

We are then on our way to Lake Naivasha. Arriving at the Lake we can chill out with the black and white colobus monkeys and take high tea on the lawns at Elsamere, the home of Joy Adamson. We camp near the lakeshore. The grunts of hippos punctuate the night.

The following day a cycling safari in Hells Gate National Park is a great opportunity to stretch your legs and get some exercise in the wilds of Africa amidst zebra, gazelle, eland and impala and the clear evidence of past volcanic activity. A visit to the Maasai Cultural Centre deep in the Park also gives further insight into the Maasai people. Guided walks to the Crater Lake Game Sanctuary are an alternative for today, and a hippo cruise can also be arranged to really enjoy the wildlife of the lake.

Distance, Day 3: 258 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 3: Morning game drive, then 5 hours to Naivasha camp
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners



Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive in the Masai Mara

Optional excursions: Maasai village visit, balloon safari, Elsamere for afternoon tea, cycling in Hell's Gate National Park, guided walk to Green Crater Lake, hippo cruise.

Days 5 – 6: Naivasha to Nakuru

Today we head further up country to camp near Nakuru National Park. The following day is spent in the Park.

Game drives in Lake Nakuru National Park take us through acacia forests, grasslands and candelabra euphorbia stands. There is the chance to see both black and white rhino, zebra, giraffe, eland and, with a little luck, lion and leopard. The soda lake can be pink with greater and lesser flamingo.

Distance, Day 5: 70 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 5: 1.5 hours
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Full days game drives in Nakuru National Park

Days 7 – 8: Nakuru to Jinja, Uganda

In the morning we drop into Nakuru town to have a look around and do some shopping, then we drive on past Eldoret to Raj's campsite, which has the most amazing bar.

The next day we cross into Uganda and arrive into Jinja, where we camp for a few days by the White Nile, just downstream from the Source of the Nile.

Distance over two days: 420 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 3 hours
Est. Drive Time, Day 8: +/- 7 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Days 9 – 11: Jinja

After several days on the road we enjoy a welcome break from traveling.

Here you can enjoy the many activities on offer whilst getting to know your fellow travellers. Hit grade 3 to 5 rapids white water rafting amidst lush tropical vegetation in the equatorial sunshine. Kayak, bungee jump, quad bike, swim, fish, horse ride and take a village walk. Many people enjoy volunteering at one of the community projects in the local villages.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: none

Optional excursions: White water rafting, village walks, bungee jump, kayaking, voluntary work in a local school, quad biking, horse riding, boat trips, sunset cruise.

Days 12 – 13: Jinja to Kalinzu Forest

Leaving Jinja, we travel via Kampala to our campsite in Entebbe near Lake Victoria. We relax tonight around a campfire and can enjoy a visit to the local sports bar.

The next day we leave the shores of Lake Victoria and head into the lush countryside of Uganda. We stop off at a local drum and craft market. Roadside stalls sell fresh rotisserie meat such as 'chix on sticks', and at the Equator stop there is time for a photo shoot. We camp near the hillside forest of Kalinzu on the edge of the Rift Valley and Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Distance over two days: 440 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 12: 2 hours
Est. Drive Time, Day 13: 9 hours
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Day 14: Kalinzu to Queen Elizabeth National Park

The option of early morning chimpanzee trekking is scheduled for this morning. We head out into the Kalinzu Forest in search of these habituated Chimpanzees.

From there we drive on to Queen Elizabeth National Park for an afternoon game cruise on the Kazinga Channel to sit back and enjoy the company of hippo from the safety of a boat. There is also buffalo for company and the occasional Nile crocodile lying disarmingly motionless nearby, blending into the surroundings. Watch kingfishers diving behind us to catch small fish disorientated by the slowly passing boat. There are also elephant, lion, hyena and leopard in the park.

Distance: 120 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Game drive, and cruise on the Kazinga channel

Optional excursions: Chimpanzee trek, evening game drive.

Day 15: Queen Elizabeth National Park to Kisoro

This morning we head in again into the park for an early morning game drive where hopefully we find some surprises in amongst the bushes. The park is a haven for around 600 species of bird and the thousands of migratory Ugandan Kob.

Then we make our way to Kisoro, passing through Kabale to stock up.

Distance: 268 kms
Est. Drive Time: 8 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Morning game drive

Days 16 – 17: Kisoro

We are now in the land of the critically endangered mountain gorilla. A village tour to visit a Batwa or Pygmy village can also be organised in Kisoro. We spend the next few nights at our hostel in the border town of Kisoro which is surrounded by the Virunga Mountains.

At altitudes of up to 3,500 feet gorilla trekking through dense vegetation on the volcanic slopes of the Virungas, is one of the trip's high points. The gorillas are magic to visit. Herbivores, who munch the day away, when they are not playing or sleeping, they live in family groups under the charge of an older dominant male. Known as the silverback, this adult male can weigh up to 350 lbs. Despite their size, the gorillas are shy, gentle and sensitive creatures, in great danger of extinction.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Mountain gorilla Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (Uganda), golden monkey trek, Batwa (Pygmy) village visit, orphanage visit.

Day 18: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda

Today we leave the beautiful scenery of Uganda and into Rwanda, the land of a thousand hills. A country that has had a turbulent history but has now moved rapidly forward in an attempt to put their past behind them.

We spend the night just across the border. This afternoon there is the option to learn how to make banana beer and do basket weaving.

Distance: 37 kms
Est. Drive Time: +/- 2.5 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Banana beer making, basket weaving.

Day 19: Musanze to Kigali

We make our way to Kigali through the pretty scenery and honour Rwanda's past by visiting the Genocide Memorial in the capital Kigali. We spend our last night together in this very European style city.

Distance: 93 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Visit to the Genocide Museum.

Day 20: Kigali

This morning we say our good byes.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast

Please note safari itineraries are given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys in Africa unfold and are of an adventurous nature. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this.

Feel free to give us a call about your overland safari. We look forward to talking with you about your travel plans.



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