



Discovering Our Planet Together



Ultimate Gorilla Safari

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys



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Table of Contents:

Trip Overview	3
Trip Itinerary	4
Trip Accommodations	9
What Makes Nat Hab Different?	11
Make It Private	13
Dates & Pricing Information	14
Trip Extensions	19



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Trip Details:

Days

13 Days / Year-Round

Price

From \$17995
(+Air/permits)

Physical

Requirements

Moderate to
Difficult

Ultimate Gorilla Safari

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys

To trek into the rainforest and sit with a family of mountain gorillas, catching the gaze of a huge silverback at close range, seeing them devour leaves stripped from branches, watching babies cling to their mothers, laughing at animated youngsters playing in the trees...it's a profound experience for a wildlife lover. And to capture these rare moments in photographs lets you relive the wonder in enduring images. Our extended time with endangered gorillas is the centerpiece of this primate-focused safari that also includes the chimpanzees of Uganda's Kibale Forest and golden monkeys in Volcanoes National Park in neighboring Rwanda. Many of our guests say they are never the same after these encounters...and your visit may be a life-changing experience for these species as well, as conservation tourism is the main hope for protecting their future.

Trip Highlights

Four different gorilla-tracking expeditions—two each in Uganda and Rwanda—maximize your time with the last of the world's endangered mountain gorillas

Look for golden monkeys and complete the primate experience in Kibale National Park, home to wild chimpanzees and colobus monkeys

Explore Murchison Falls National Park, Lake Albert and the Victoria Nile, where plains game, predators, hippos, crocodiles and birds abound



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Entebbe, Uganda

Day 2

Murchison Falls National Park—
Private Bush Camp

Day 3

Murchison Falls National Park—
Private Delta Cruise & Game Drive

Day 4

Chimp Trekking in Budongo
Forest Reserve / Private Nile
Cruise

Days 5 & 6

Murchison Falls Game Drive /
Kibale National Park—
Chimpanzee Trekking

Day 7

Bwindi Impenetrable National
Park

Days 8 & 9

Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi

Ultimate Gorilla Safari Itinerary

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys

Day 1: Entebbe, Uganda

Arrive in Entebbe and transfer to our hotel. If time permits, you may wish to visit the famous Entebbe Botanical Gardens nearby. Established in 1902, the gardens contain a diverse plant collection from tropical, subtropical and temperate zones. Also home to a wide variety of birds, the gardens offer an excellent introduction to Uganda's avian species. Vervet and black-and-white colobus monkeys are commonly spotted here as well. Meet your Expedition Leader at a welcome dinner this evening, where we'll have a full orientation to our gorilla tour.





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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 10

Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

Days 11 & 12

Gorilla Trekking in Volcanoes National Park

Day 13

Golden Monkey Trek / Depart

Day 2: Murchison Falls National Park—Private Bush Camp

Today we make a scenic drive to Murchison Falls National Park, covering almost 1,500 square miles of wild and varied terrain at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley. Diverse habitats—including savanna, acacia forest, Borassus palm forest, riverine woodlands and papyrus swamp—support a wide variety of wildlife. The park is bisected by the Victoria Nile, a turbulent stretch of whitewater forced through a narrow gap to plunge 140 feet over a sheer wall, creating a thunderous roar. While Murchison Falls is the most powerful waterfall in the world, the calm stretch of river below offers superb wildlife viewing, with elephant, giraffe, buffalo, hippo and Nile crocodile frequently in view. Launch trips to the base of the falls and Lake Albert Delta offer fine birdwatching, with a chance to see rare shoebill storks—a coveted sighting that draws birders to Uganda for this reason alone. The 1951 film *The African Queen*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, was filmed on Lake Albert and the Nile within the park. Other notable figures who have visited here include Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Ernest Hemingway.

We spend the next three nights in peaceful seclusion at Nat Hab's private Murchison Bush Camp in the heart of this wildlife mecca. With just eight tents, the low-impact camp is set seasonally in a remote area with unsurpassed proximity for wildlife viewing—our location permits us to be first into the park each morning, far sooner than guests staying at outlying lodges. Enjoy total solitude and the safari ambience of a bygone era, with canvas tents and lantern-lit dining.

Day 3: Murchison Falls National Park—Private Delta Cruise & Game Drive

Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's richest wildlife enclave, with 144 mammal species including chimpanzees and Rothschild's giraffe, Uganda's largest population of Nile crocodiles among its 51 reptile species, and 550 bird species including shoebills, dwarf kingfisher, Goliath heron, great blue turaco and winged gray warbler. We scout for a wide variety of animals today, first on a private cruise in the Lake Albert Delta, where the Victoria Nile enters this swampy wetland as a sluggish stream, threading its way among small islands in a series of tributaries. The alluvial marsh is a designated Important Bird Area and one of the best birding locations in Africa, especially for aquatic birds—keep an eye out for African fish eagles among the 75+ species of waterbirds found here. In the distance, the Congo mountain ranges rise in undulating forested ridges on the horizon. After our cruise, we're met by our safari vehicles for an afternoon game drive. We look for a great plethora of animals that could include buffalo, elephant, giraffe, Uganda kob, Jackson's hartebeest, oribi, lion, leopard and side-striped jackal.



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Day 4: Chimp Trekking in Budongo Forest Reserve / Private Nile Cruise

This morning we set off to go chimpanzee trekking in Budongo Forest Reserve. Located on the escarpment east of Lake Albert, this semi-deciduous tropical rainforest is noted for its large chimp population of approximately 600 individuals, and its native mahogany trees, with some old-growth specimens as tall as 200 feet still standing. The forest is also home to 360 bird species, some of which are endemic to this localized region, including the yellow-footed flycatcher. Research on Budongo's chimpanzees began in the early 1960s, with the establishment of a forest reserve that later became the Budongo Conservation Field Station. Among a trio of pioneer researchers in the 1960s was Jane Goodall. This afternoon, we take another private boat cruise in search of wildlife along the river channels. In addition to the excitement of seeing scores of hippos and crocodiles, we also have good chances to spot elephants, giraffe, baboons, warthogs, and of course, countless beautiful birds. Our journey includes a voyage to the base of Murchison Falls, with a view into the Devil's Cauldron, the foaming chaos created by the turbulent Nile River as it plummets over the cliff. We also pass the spot where Hemingway's plane crashed when the celebrated author visited Uganda in 1954.

Days 5 & 6: Murchison Falls Game Drive / Kibale National Park—Chimpanzee Trekking

After a last morning game drive in Murchison Falls National Park, transfer to the airstrip for a scenic flight over Uganda's verdant highlands to reach Kibale National Park. This equatorial rainforest reserve is home to one of the world's most important primate populations, including 1,300 chimpanzees. We go in search of them on a trek with local trackers who help us spot chimps and monkeys, with plenty of unhurried time to observe their entertaining antics. We may also see up to a hundred different bird species on a wetland sanctuary walk. An optional hike to one of the crater lakes near our lodge offers magnificent views from the rim. After a full and exhilarating day, settle into our thatched cottages at Ndali Lodge overlooking the ancient crater.

Day 7: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

Depart for the local airstrip this morning for our flight to Kihikihi, gateway to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and our gorilla-trekking base in the rainforest. The park, whose name references the dense, tangled forests it encompasses, is home to roughly half the world's remaining mountain gorillas. Though best known for its outstanding gorilla viewing, it also provides refuge to chimpanzees, monkeys, elephants and various small antelope. Bwindi is also a top Uganda birding destination, with 23 of Uganda's 24 Albertine Rift endemics, including threatened species such as African green broadbill and Shelley's crimson wing.



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Days 8 & 9: Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi

Within the World Heritage Site that is Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, discover one of nature travel's peak experiences: a visit with wild gorillas in their natural habitat. Just over a thousand mountain gorillas remain in the world, and Bwindi is home to about 460—a population that is growing but still threatened by increasing human population and habitat loss in the surrounding area. Our safari includes two treks to spend time among the gorillas, often at very close range. Early in the morning, we head into the dense rainforest on a quest to locate one of the habituated family groups. Our local guides are expert trackers, reading signs of the gorillas' recent presence in the undergrowth. We can't predict how long it will take to locate them, but finally, we hear and see a gorilla family, watching enrapt as they sit among the trees, chewing leaves, babies clinging to mothers' backs, juveniles swinging from branches, and a big male silverback surveying it all. It's hard to tell who is more intrigued with the other, the gorillas or us! If time permits, we'll visit Conservation Coffee, a local co-op of farmers who grow, process and roast beans to sell at a premium to benefit gorilla conservation. We may have a chance to walk through the coffee fields, pick some beans, and see firsthand how this sustainable community enterprise unfolds.

Day 10: Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

Leaving Bwindi, we descend to the Rift Valley floor, watching scenes of local life unfold along the way as we drive past villages and coffee plantations. Entering Rwanda, continue to Parc National des Volcans—Volcanoes National Park—named for the string of jungle-draped volcanoes inside its borders. The park is rich mosaic of montane ecosystems, with thick forests and steep-sided mountains rising to nearly 15,000 feet above sea level. Within the Virunga Range, the park is one of three areas where mountain gorillas reside. Our destination, Five Volcanoes, is a deluxe boutique lodge that provides an ideal gorilla trekking base for the next three nights. Set seamlessly into its lush surroundings with panoramic vistas of the mountains beyond, the lodge is just a short drive from the national park headquarters, where all gorilla trekking expeditions depart.

Days 11 & 12: Gorilla Trekking in Volcanoes National Park

After breakfast, we drive to park headquarters for a briefing from our guides. This area is where Dian Fossey made her groundbreaking studies on mountain gorillas before she was killed in 1985, and her grave is nearby. Several habituated gorilla families live in the park, and we learn how important our ecotourism presence is to their survival before trekking in search of them. We set out early each morning along paths into the forest, eventually leaving trails behind as our trackers follow signs that lead them to the gorillas' current location. The altitude is above 8,200 feet, so while our pace is unhurried, the hike is tiring, lasting from 30 minutes to several hours. But what a reward: our goal is a chance to sit with a specific gorilla family that has become accustomed to visitors and is nonchalant about human contact—and we enjoy a full hour in their presence.



Day 13: Golden Monkey Trek / Depart

While gorillas are the highlight, even without them Volcanoes National Park would be fascinating. Its varied ecosystems shelter elephant, buffalo, giant forest hog, bush pig, bushbuck, duiker and spotted hyena, as well as a habituated group of endemic and highly endangered golden monkeys, which are our focus today. We spend the morning on a quest for these agile entertainers that swing through the forest canopy and delight us with their antics. Our environs are also home to 178 bird species, including at least 29 endemics found only in the Rwenzori and Virunga mountains. This afternoon, depart for Rwanda's capital of Kigali. Visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial, a deeply moving tribute to the 800,000 people killed in Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Following a farewell lunch, our gorilla safari comes to a close as we transfer to the airport for departing flights.



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Accommodation Details:

Hotel No. 5

Murchison Bush Camp

Ndali Lodge

Buhoma Lodge

Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel

Kigali Serena Hotel

For detailed descriptions, visit
nathab.com/africa/uganda-rwanda-gorilla-safari/accommodations

Ultimate Gorilla Safari Accommodations

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys



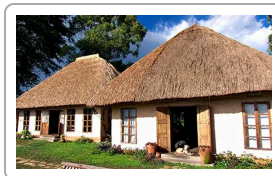
Hotel No. 5

This stylish boutique hotel tucked within Entebbe's leafy suburbs features luxurious accommodations surrounding a lush lawn, palm-studded gardens and shaded swimming pool.



Murchison Bush Camp

This exclusive mobile camp is private for Nat Hab guests, placed optimally for wildlife viewing and first entrance to Murchison Falls National Park, before visitors from outlying lodges arrive.

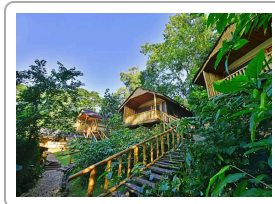


Ndali Lodge

Dramatically perched on the rim of an extinct volcano that has filled with water to become scenic Lake Nyinambuga, this thatched lodge enjoys panoramic views over the Rwenzori Mountains.



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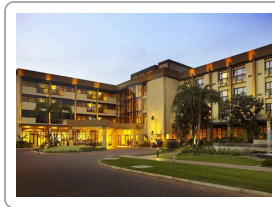
Buhoma Lodge

This inspiring ecolodge, with eight spacious chalets overlooking a rainforest panorama, provides an ideal location for gorilla treks into Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, which begin from the premises.



Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel

Surrounded by lush gardens with views of the volcanic Rwenzori range, this new lodge offers deluxe accommodations near Volcanoes National Park, home to Rwanda's endangered mountain gorillas.



Kigali Serena Hotel

On one of Kigali's most attractive boulevards, this relaxed, elegant 5-star hotel has air conditioning, a pool, multiple restaurants and a friendly atmosphere. Newly renovated rooms showcase pan-African style.



What Makes Our Ultimate Gorilla Safari Stand Out from Others?

Few moments with wildlife are as riveting as those we experience on our Ultimate Gorilla Safari. To maximize our stirring interactions with gorillas and other primates, we've designed this wide-ranging safari to surpass what other companies typically offer. Take a look at all we've included to ensure the ultimate primate-viewing experience:

1

You Won't Find a More In-Depth Primate Itinerary Many gorilla safaris give you just one day in the rainforest to track these reclusive animals. But we include *four separate gorilla tracking expeditions*—two days each in Uganda and Rwanda—to maximize your opportunities for incredible photos. Add wild chimpanzee tracking in Kibale and Budongo forests, plus a chance to see golden and colobus monkeys (and others), and you've got the most comprehensive primate safari Africa has to offer.

2

Experience the Full Diversity of Africa's Wildlife While primates are our focus, we include other wildlife viewing as well, including a chance to see elephant, buffalo, zebra, giraffe, lion, leopard, crocodile, hippo and more. Our diverse itinerary features the best of both: primates *plus* general wildlife viewing on forest treks, 4x4 drives over the savanna, and private boat cruises.

3

In-Depth Exploration of Murchison Falls National Park

Witness the thunder of the Victoria Nile plunging over a sheer cliff at Murchison Falls, and make multiple safaris in the park to look for abundant wildlife, including some of the best birdwatching in Africa. What's more, our private bush camp offers immediate proximity to the park—we get there well before groups from the outlying lodges, where most other visitors stay.

4

Two Private Boat Safaris

Cruise the Victoria Nile and Lake Albert Delta by private boat, searching for abundant wildlife on the banks and in the water, and see the base of Murchison Falls where it creates a turbulent boil in the Devil's Cauldron.

5

Comfortable Vehicles with a Window Seat for Every Traveler Get the best possible photos with a guaranteed window seat on board the highest-quality safari trucks. Our state-of-the-art vehicles have features such as multiple roof hatches to enhance viewing. There's no way around it—East Africa's mountainous regions have some pretty rough roads—so full 4-wheel-drive capacity with a top-quality suspension system is a key feature of our vehicles.



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6

Unique Accommodations Offer Character & Seclusion Where you stay on safari makes a big difference to your overall experience. That's our focus is small, intimate camps and lodges in nature. We choose our locations for their scenic settings and proximity to wildlife—in contrast to large lodges in busier areas where hundreds of tourists congregate.

7

Our Nat Hab Expedition Leader Accompanies You Throughout Your Safari We take pride in hiring the finest naturalist guides in Africa. In addition to their exceptional warmth and hospitality, our Expedition Leaders' in-depth training also includes resources and direction from WWF's premier scientists. Check out our **Expedition Leader bios** and traveler comments.

8

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures an Outstanding Safari With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

9

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10

Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



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Design Your Own Custom Safari

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. Our in-house safari experts can help you design your own custom Africa itinerary—their expertise is second to none! **Click here** to request more info.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$17995
(+Air/permits)

Group Size:
Limited to 12
Travelers

Physical Requirements:
Moderate to
Difficult

Ultimate Gorilla Safari Dates, Pricing & Info

Our Premier Primate Trip to Uganda & Rwanda for Gorillas, Chimpanzees & Golden Monkeys

2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 9, 2025	Jun 21, 2025	
Jun 22, 2025	Jul 4, 2025	
Jul 10, 2025	Jul 22, 2025	
Sep 11, 2025	Sep 23, 2025	
Oct 20, 2025	Nov 1, 2025	
Nov 3, 2025	Nov 15, 2025	
Dec 1, 2025	Dec 13, 2025	

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 5, 2026	Feb 17, 2026	
Mar 9, 2026	Mar 21, 2026	



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Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 22, 2026	Jul 4, 2026	
Jul 10, 2026	Jul 22, 2026	
Jul 22, 2026	Aug 3, 2026	
Sep 7, 2026	Sep 19, 2026	
Sep 22, 2026	Oct 4, 2026	
Oct 19, 2026	Oct 31, 2026	
Nov 10, 2026	Nov 22, 2026	
Dec 1, 2026	Dec 13, 2026	



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Pricing

2025 Prices

➤ Trip Price

\$17995 to \$18495 (+permits)



Permit Fees: Gorilla and chimp permits are an additional \$5200 per person. Rarely, due to factors outside our control, trekking permit fees sometimes increase prior to departure.

Internal Air: \$1146

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$2995. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Deposit: \$1500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.

2026 Prices

Mouse over or tap dates above to view prices for specific departure dates.

➤ Trip Price

\$18795 to \$19295 (+permits)

Permit Fees: Gorilla and chimp permits are an additional \$5200 per person. Rarely, due to factors outside our control, trekking permit fees sometimes increase prior to departure.

Internal Air: \$1162

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$3295. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Deposit: \$1500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. **Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.**

Included

➤ **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides, camp staff, gorilla trackers and porter, all meals from dinner on Day 1 to lunch on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes and service fees.

➤ **Permit fee includes:** Four mountain gorilla treks, two chimpanzee treks and a golden monkey trek.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.



Physical Requirements

Moderate to Difficult

Trekking in search of mountain gorillas is a strenuous activity. This challenging hike through the rainforest to locate the gorillas usually takes between two and five hours, but it can be as short as 15 minutes or as long as eight hours (on infrequent occasions, we've had a few treks take even longer than that). Travelers must be prepared for a full day outdoors in humid or occasionally rainy conditions, as the exact distance to locate the gorillas is impossible to determine ahead of time. The terrain is often uneven as we traverse the forest floor and usually involves a gradual ascent, but we will travel at a pace to accommodate all hikers with a designated porter to assist each traveler. Travelers are not required to participate in all activities and are welcome to forego any portion of the program, but in order to take full advantage of the itinerary, and in order to view the primates, guests must be able to participate in the hikes. Travelers should be aware that if they turn around due to fatigue, illness or any other reason, the remainder of the group, including the Expedition Leader, will go on. The returning traveler will be escorted by a local guide.

Additionally, wildlife and nature drives pose a particular type of physical demand on the body, as they require long hours of sitting and take place over terrain that is often very rough and bumpy, including dirt roads with many ruts and potholes. Travelers with back or neck problems, or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions, should take this into consideration. Days spent on safari are often long, as mornings typically start before daybreak and evening meals are served after sundown. Safari accommodations and vehicles are not climate-controlled and, depending on the season, temperatures can range from quite cold to extremely humid or hot, so it is critical that travelers come prepared.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

Important Information About This Trip

This trip is designed for those seeking exposure to the range of habitats of the mountain gorilla. NHA has been visiting gorillas in Africa since 1989, and this immersive itinerary, which features four separate gorilla treks, is the pinnacle of our primate trips. We ask our guests to understand that accommodations in this region are not, collectively, of the standard found in other more established safari countries. Some lodges are very luxurious while others are plain but clean and comfortable, yet all offer important proximity and access to wildlife.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.



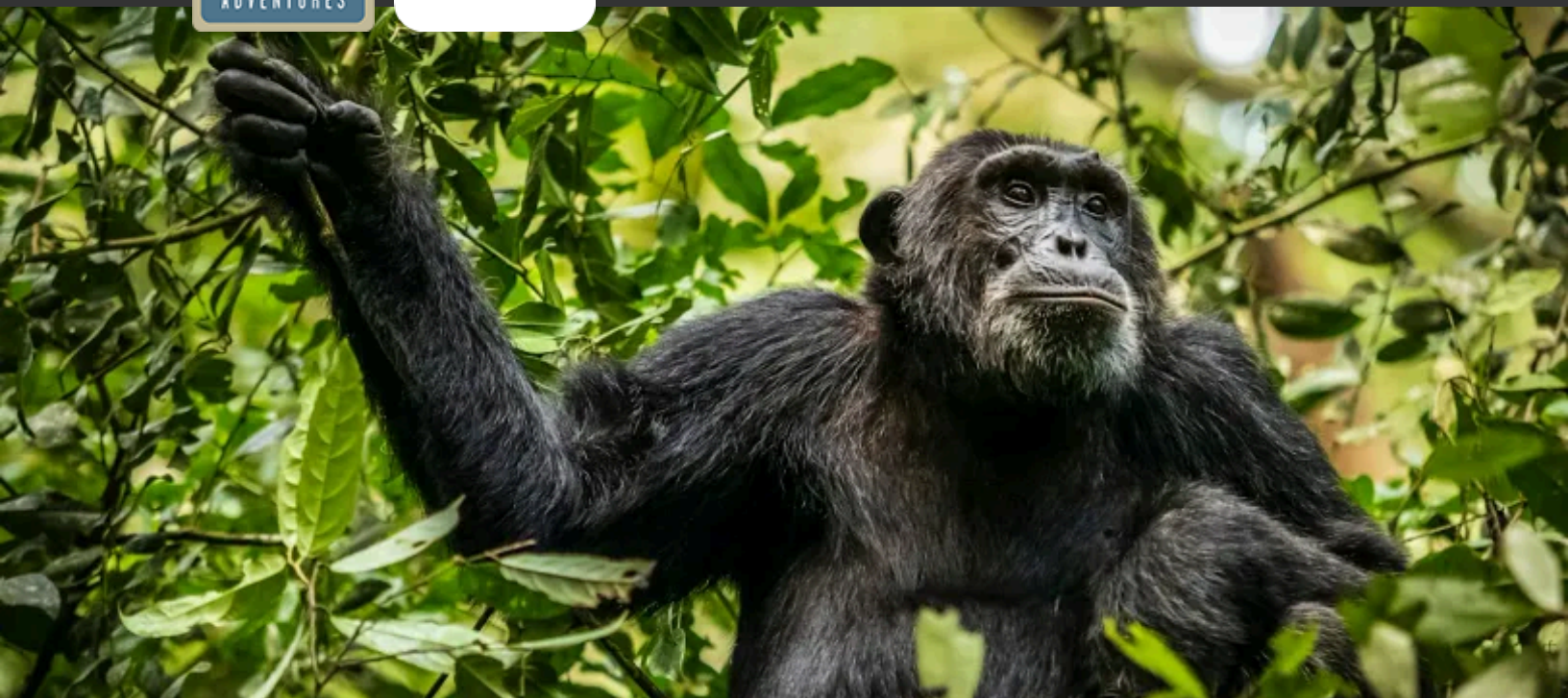
Getting There & Getting Home

We ask that you arrive Entebbe, Uganda by 5 pm on Day 1 in order to attend a 7 pm welcome dinner. For those who would like to visit the botanical gardens on Day 1, please arrive by 1 pm and inform your Expedition Leader upon arrival that you would like to participate in the guided group excursion to the gardens beginning at 3 pm. We encourage travelers to arrive a day or more early to rest from their plane trip. You are free to depart from Kigali, Rwanda after 7 pm on the final day.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



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Extension Details:

Akagera National Park Extension
\$4995

Madagascar Explorer
\$11995

Ultimate Gorilla Safari Extensions

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Akagera National Park Extension

An exclusive Big Five safari experience in Rwanda's restored Akagera National Park, where reintroduced species thrive—stay in a luxury safari camp on a lake with fishing and boat rides.
\$4995



Madagascar Explorer

Our compact yet diverse itinerary reveals a mix of contrasting ecosystems—primary rainforest, pristine beaches, ancient baobabs and coastal mangroves—as we go in search of rare and endemic flora and fauna.
\$11995

