

UGANDA

the land of gorillas



DAY 1 / Khartoum – Kampala

Departure from Khartoum airport towards Entebbe. Arrival at the airport and transfer to Kampala, capital city of Uganda, 30 km. far from Entebbe. Arrival at the hotel and free time to relax.

DAY 2 / Kampala – Queen Elizabeth Park

After breakfast you start your journey to reach the *Queen Elizabeth Park*

Accommodation in a nice lodge, dinner and overnight stay. (B.L.D.)

DAY 3 / Queen Elizabeth National Park

The day will be dedicated to *Queen Elizabeth National Park* in order to spot animals, specially chimpanzee. The Park is located along the Ugandan side of *Edward and George lakes* linked by the natural *Kazinga Channel*. It offers extraordinary forests and savannah landscapes.

In the morning (or in the afternoon, depending on boat availability) we will take a pleasant cruise along *Kazinga Channel* in order to observe a big quantity of animals in an unusual situation: large buffalos herds, sleeping hippopotamus and crocodiles in the river meanders, elephants families and a huge quantity of birds, all come together along the river banks to drink or refresh themselves.

Full board accommodation in the lodge. (B.L.D.)

Queen Elizabeth National Park

The Park, founded in 1945 and dedicated to Queen Elizabeth of England, spans over about 2000 kmq around the Kazinga channel which links Edward and George lakes. The Park borders North with Kibale National Park through a fauna corridor and, towards the Congo Democratic Republic, with the large Parc National des Virungas.

It fills the Rift Valley depression and it is characterised by open savannahs and equatorial forests. Its location makes it a cradle of biodiversity, not only for animals but also environmentally speaking. The presence of 95 different kinds of mammals and 600 birds species make it the richest Park of Uganda. Along the the banks of Kazinga channel there is the biggest hippopotamus concentration of the whole world (more than 6000).



DAY 4 / Queen Elizabeth car safari – Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (4hrs-185km)

After breakfast in the lodge, you will enjoy a car safari in the *George Lake* area, where in the vast prairies it is possible to spot Kob antelope herds, elephants, giraffes and predators.

Later you will drive southward to reach the region where the mountain gorillas live, crossing picturesque villages and lush bananas plantations.

The altitude is increasing, most of the Park is located at 2000 m., away from the savannah. Even the temperature cools down. Volcanic cones stand out: some of them are just on the border with the neighbouring countries, others are already in Rwanda or in Congo. (B.L.D.)

DAY 5 / Discovering the mountain gorilla

Early morning departure towards *Bwindi Impenetrable National Park*. You will proceed with registration and you will reach the entrance gate where the gorillas family tracking will start.

The *Virunga Mountains* chain, which marks the border among Uganda, Rwanda and the Congo Democratic Republic, is characterised by a deep forest. The encounter with these extraordinary animals will take place on foot, and participants will be divided in small groups (max 10-12 pax for each gorilla family which will be assigned by rangers).

After the interesting briefing in the visitor centre, we will start the gorilla tracking, accompanied by expert rangers, through this pristine and wild environment: 2-3 hours walking might be enough to find the gorillas, but sometimes it might need up to 5-6 hours. All the efforts are completely rewarded by the strong emotion of seeing these animals, which live in groups headed by a 'silver back', old gorilla so called for its silver back. These males can reach a weight of 250 kg and can be 170 cm tall. Females and babies play continuously. The walk is suitable for anyone. Rangers are very kind and willing to help.

Return to the lodge, lunch and afternoon at leisure.

Dinner and overnight stay. (B.L.D.)

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

The national Park is located in South-West Uganda. It was declared *World Heritage Site* by UNESCO in 1994, due to its extraordinary biodiversity and to the presence of important endangered species. It spans over 331 square km., in an area characterised by tropical forest and mountains. The 'impenetrable' forest is so called because it is so thick that most of its territory is hardly reachable and it is possible only on foot. The *Bwindi* ecosystem is one of the richest in whole Africa. It is the habitat for more than 120 mammals, 346 birds species, 202 butterflies, 163 kind of trees and then ferns, frogs, chameleons, geckos and other endangered species.

The gorillas of the Park are called *Bwindi gorillas* and live in families which can be formed by 10 up to 25 members. Not all the families can be visited by tourists, but only those that are accustomed to see tourists thanks to rangers' education.

DAY 6 / Bwindi – Lake Mburu

After Breakfast, departure towards one of the most beautiful landscape areas of this country, often compared to Switzerland because of its beauty.

Green and wavy hills, nice villages and herds in pasture, large papyrus grove of reeds.

Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 7 / Lake Mburu National Park – Kampala by land

In the morning departure to Kampala. Along the way we will take a small detour for our last safari in **Lake Mburu National Park**. The Park, which is smaller than the others, hosts many animals in a wonderful environment of savannah and umbrella acacia trees with swamps and small lakes protected by high grass and papyrus expanses. In this protected area it is possible to see most of the wild African animals such as antelopes, warthogs, zebras, baboons, eagles and more.

Lunch in a restaurant along the way near Masaka and then drive towards Kampala. Arrival at the capital city and visit of the interesting **African Craft Village**: a handicraft market with beautiful objects, specially wood sculptures, masks, jewels and fabrics.

Afternoon at leisure.

Dinner free and overnight stay. (B.L.D.)

DAY 8 / Kampala – Khartoum by flight

From Kampala transfer to Entebbe airport (30 km. far) and boarding your flight back to Khartoum.