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UGANDA CROSS COUNTRY – 19 DAYS UGANDA EXPERIENCE

Welcome to the Pearl of Africa; Uganda!

During this 19-days Uganda wildlife cross country experience, you will experience all that Uganda has to offer. From the famous Sipi Falls at the foot of Mount Elgon, to the beautiful Kidepo Valley National Park with its rich cultural experience in the Eastern of Uganda. Next up is Murchison Falls National Park, chimpanzee tracking in Kibale National Forest followed by potentially seeing tree climbing lions in the magnificent Queen Elizabeth National Park and her famous boat ride in the Kazinga channel. A definite highlight is visiting the mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The last few days of the trip are more relaxing in Kisoro and Lake Mburo. This adventure gives you the best total experience of Uganda in 19 days!

This itinerary can be offered to you as a personal / private tour, but you can also sign up to join a group tour. This is a unique opportunity for like-minded people ready to explore Uganda and meet new people at the same time or want to travel in a more economic way.

Our 2023 group tours are available up to a maximum of 14 people. Private Tours are available at your convenience, we always have top notch cars, drivers and guides available! For the private tours we can adjust the itinerary to your needs, in case you like to adjust.

You can find details of the proposed trip in this itinerary, please enjoy the holiday planning! Are you interested? Email us at info@tourwithroots.com or send us a WhatsApp message!

the Roots Tours and Travel Team!

Summary Itinerary

Brief Summary		
Day 01	Arrival Day	Today the Roots team will pick you up from the airport and bring you to the Guesthouse so you can refresh from the flight!
Day 02	The Kampala Experience	A Kampala City Tour to show you how beautiful Kampala can be. We will visit the largest Kingdom of East Africa; Buganda, and enjoy various other sites and food experiences!
Day 03	To Sipi Falls	The beautiful Sipi Falls offer a great hike opportunity with beautiful views. At the lodge at the bottom of one of the falls you'll find amazing food and peace and quite time.
Day 04	Let's bow, and enter the Manyatta's	Keep in mind that Moroto is the capital "city" of Karamoja when you enter. Enjoy this unique culture of the Karamojong.
Day 05	The Plains of Kidepo	Today we move to Kidepo Valley , one of the least visited and most isolated parks of Uganda, where we will do our first sunset safari.
Day 06	Enter the Savannah	Our guide will pick the best location for a morning drive of 2-3 hours followed by a cultural Karamojong experience.
Day 07	On our way to one of the most powerful falls	Day 07 is a travel day, but at the location a swimming pool is waiting for us for some relaxing time and sun?!
Day 08	Game Day @ Murchison Falls NP	It is time to see game in Murchison Falls National Park followed by a boat cruise to the famous falls!
Day 09	On the Road Again...	After a drive through the park again, we are moving to Kibale Forest National Park .
Day 10	Quality time with the Chimpanzees	Today we are spending time with the Chimpanzee families! If your energy levels allow you can join the afternoon wetlands walk
Day 11	Sunset Game Drive @ Queen Elizabeth National Park	Easy day with a short drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park, after check-in and relaxing time we will go for a sunset game drive .
Day 12	Let's Spot Some Game at Queen Elizabeth National Park	Today is a full-on game, birding and nature day , an early morning game drive is followed by a boat cruise!
Day 13	Ishasha Home to the tree climbing lions	Our journey will bring us to Ishasha where the tree climbing lions live, after which we continue our drive to Bwindi National Park
Day 14	Finally, Gorilla Time!	The day we have been waiting for, a unique experience in which we will meet the Gorilla's from up-close.
Day 15	Time for more culture	A lazy morning and short drive later, we arrive in Kisoro where we get to explore the Batwa tribe traditions and drink local "beer"
Day 16	Up the Mountain	Today we are hiking Mount Muhabura , also known as Mount Muhavura, an inactive volcano. (Less physical options available)
Day 17	Fly like an Eagle!	We are moving to Lake Mburo National Park for a beautiful view from our lodge, you'll have free time this afternoon to enjoy it!
Day 18	Lake Mburo (Options)	An early morning game drive will fresh you up, in the afternoon we offer options, a nature walk, bicycle ride or horseback riding?
Day 19	From South to North...	Have you ever been on the Southern and Northern Hemisphere at the same time? We will visit the Uganda Equator .
	Departure Day / Optional Activities	Its departure day, there are optional day trips available for those on the late-night flights.

Day 01: Arrival Day

Accommodation: Airport Guesthouse Entebbe

Today you will arrive at your own schedule and Roots Tours and Travel team will be ready to welcome you at the airport and bring you to the hotel where you can take some rest, enjoy a walk and get ready for your unique experience in the next few weeks!

Day 02: The Kampala Experience

Accommodation: Airport Guesthouse Entebbe, **Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

After a relaxed morning recovering from your travel, we will pick you up to head towards Kampala to visit several sites.

Buganda is the largest of the traditional kingdoms in present-day East Africa and is located in the central region of Uganda which includes Kampala Capital City. The Buganda and its Baganda people, who cover the largest population in Uganda, has a long and extensive history that you will learn about during the visit.



Lubiri, or Mengo Palace, a magnificent, historical piece of architectural art that peers out through the normally blue skies on top of Mengo hill – Mengo is the capital of Buganda. Customary every new king has a right to choose a hill on which to build his palace and rename it. However, the reigning King of Buganda, known as the Kabaka, chooses not to live here much because of the 1966 Battle of Mengo Hill in which many people lost their lives and there was an attack on his father.

The Gaddafi Mosque sits on 12 acres of land. Its interior and exterior can accommodate up to 35,000 worshipers. It is one of the five biggest mosques in Africa. Old Kampala, where the mosque is located, is where the city started. In the 1890s, Frederick Lugard, the chairperson of the Imperial British East Africa Company, built a fort on top of the hill. Mohammed Kiwanuka, a tour guide, said the fort was near the current minaret until it was removed in 2003 to another place on the same hill to accommodate the construction of the mosque. The mosque was given to Muslims of Uganda as a gift from the Libyan government, then under the leadership of the late Col. Muammar Gaddafi.

Day 03: To Sipi Falls

Accommodation: Sipi River Lodge, **Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

Today will be an early morning as Kampala has unfortunate traffic and we have ground to cover (around 320km, which is 6 hours in Uganda). We will leave around 7am and on our way to Sipi Falls we will stop for lunch (about an hour before our destination) in Mbale City where our guide will check with you what you want to do in the afternoon.

Sipi Falls is a number of waterfalls found at the foothills of Mountain Elgon just at the edge of Mount Elgon National Park. The falls are one of the most beautiful sights in Eastern Uganda. A combination of

three waterfalls separated by steep hillsides in Kapchorwa near the Kenya border. The highest and main waterfall drops from an altitude of 95 meters, offering a magnificent scenery.

There are several options for the afternoon program:

- **Waterfall-Nature-Cultural Walk** (3 hours) (included, additional small tip to the tour guide appreciated) winding trails lead hikers through local communities to roaring waterfalls, lush farms and forests, and magnificent views of the Karamoja plains. We use guides accredited by the Sipi Falls Tour Guides Association as this helps to overcome challenges in the community with school drop-out rates and unprofessional guiding practices.
- **Cultural Walk** (2 hours) (included, additional small tip to the tour guide appreciated) in which you can see a traditional circumcision ritual guided by live music, you can enjoy local brewed beer and visit some homesteads.
- **Coffee Tour** (3 hours) (included) Trace the story of coffee from seed to cup. Sipi Falls Arabica Coffee is some of the finest in the world. Meet local farmers, tour their plantation and learn about the lifecycle of the crop. Tour the local processing plant and learn the traditional art of roasting your own coffee and enjoy a cup of course! A percentage of proceeds goes towards locally driven initiatives.
- **Self-guided walk.** The Sipi River Lodge is at the bottom of one of the upper Sipi Falls. You can follow the path up the hill to visit the fall and enjoy its amazing view!
- **Sunset Walk** (see picture)
- **Abseiling** (additional costs involved), adventure lovers looking for a rush of adrenaline on their visit can abseil/rappel from the top of the 95meter high main fall or try climbing on the numerous high cliffs.
- **Running** (additional costs involved), this region has a very active community sports development and capacity building program. It promotes Kapchorwa as a leading destination for sports tourism in East Africa and gives you the opportunity to train or run with local athletes. This region is called “The Land of Champions”. See for more information: <https://www.runkapchorwa.com/about>
- **Massage** (additional costs involved) for those who just like to take it easy in the afternoon, you could consider using the massage services of the lodge!

Day 04: Lets Bow, and Enter the Manyatta's

Accommodation: Kara-tunga Safari Camp, Meals included: Breakfast

Today we start in a more relaxed manner as we only have 170km, so we will arrive before lunch at Kara Tunga Safari Camp. In the afternoon there will be the opportunity to visit the Karamojong's. It is a very short distance from Sipi to Moroto and you will have a relaxing lunch break at the lodge as you prepare for a late afternoon cultural visit.

The Karamojongs are traditionalists who take a lot of pride in their culture and customs. Today you will learn about their traditional lifestyle and their housing styles. They have an interesting communal lifestyle of extended families and they are cattle raiders. Pay attention to every detail about this culture because it is one of a kind in Uganda and East Africa.

This communities culture has been preserved and includes for example controversial facial and body scarification. Our guide takes you to a homestead known as the **Manyatta** to learn about the differences and similarities with other clans and tribes in Karamojaland.



Day 05: The Plains of Kidepo Valley

Accommodation: Kidepo Savannah lodge, **Meals included:** Breakfast, packed lunch

We proceed to Kidepo Valley National Park (1,442 km²) is Uganda's most isolated national park, with still the least number of tourists visiting the wild frontier region of Karamoja making it a unique experience especially as the parks has magnificent views, all the wildlife a tourist can wish for! The park has two rivers, Kidepo and Narus, that disappear in the dry season, leaving pools for the wildlife to gather around making it easier for the visitors to spot their favourite animals from elephants, giraffes, buffalo's and zebra's to ostriches, secretary birds, northern carmine bee eaters, little green bee eaters and Abyssinian scimitar bill.

Kidepo Savannah Lodge is one of the more relaxed lodges, and here you don't even have to leave your tent to hear the lions! Many of our visitors have seen game (animals) from the lodge, and heard the lions in the evenings.



This evening we will do our first sunset safari! When it gets cooler in the evening the animals come out again to hunt, drink or move to new locations. It will be a unique experience!

Day 06: Enter the Savannah

Accommodation: Kidepo Savannah lodge, **Meals included:** Breakfast

After an evening of good food, good company and a real sky full of stars the morning will bring us another opportunity to explore the National Park. Its likely we visit the **Narus Valley** which contains the only permanent water points in Kidepo Valley National Park. This makes it the perfect location for scouting big game congregating for most of the year, you'll find buffalo, elephants, warthogs, giraffes, lions, and zebras. If we're lucky, we may even spot a cheetah!

Our guides will know what is best to do during your visit as Kidepo is stretched and there are many options. **Kidepo Valley** does not have as much big game as Narus Valley, but it makes up for it with the scenery. While making the drive to Kidepo Valley, the road intersects with the **Kidepo River**. During the dry season, white sand and a Borassus palm forest are the only remnants of the once flowing Kidepo River. If in Kidepo Valley we can keep an eye out for ostriches and secretary birds. A visit to **Kanangorok Hot Springs** is another possibility, the hot springs are located on the South Sudan border of Uganda and provide magnificent views of the mountain ranges.

After a relaxed lunch "with a view" back at the lodge there is the option to join us for another cultural visit. This is still part of Karamoja and if you were interested by the visits in Moroto this is an opportunity to explore further!

The afternoon cultural visit will provide a unique insight into the warrior tribe's way of life. The name Karamojong is derived from a phrase meaning 'the old men can walk no further'. Originally from Ethiopia, this tribe settled in the north east of Uganda. Related to the Maasai, this is a warrior nomad tribe for who, for generations, pride and status were cattle and for who cattle raids were the rule of the day. Since the disarmament however, things have calmed down. Cattle is still king, but subsistence farming has become a lot more common. This cultural visit will give you an insight into this fascinating community, its culture and tradition.

Day 07: On Our Way to One of the Most Powerful Falls

Accommodation: Fort Murchison, **Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

We will be moving to our next destination in the morning as it will be a long driving day today (7-8 hours).

The next lodge is just outside of Murchison Falls National Park. Murchison Falls National Park (3,840km²) which is where the Nile squeezes through an 8m wide gorge and plunges with a thunderous roar into the "Devil's Cauldron", creating a trademark rainbow. An unbelievable view if you do the hike to the top and bottom of the falls, and it can be visited up-close and personal with a boat cruise. The park offers great game drives including night drives, nature walks and community visits. However you'll have to wait to Day 4 before you can enjoy the actual views.

When we arrive at the Fort Murchison lodge you'll have time to relax, enjoy the swimming pool (see picture) and if you are lucky you can even see some of the wildlife around the lodge – they have elephants visiting the lodge at times! We will enjoy dinner at the lodge. This location also has a budget option if you prefer.



Day 08: Game Day @ Murchison Falls NP

Accommodation: Fort Murchison, **Meals included:** Breakfast

Today is going to be such an experience! After early breakfast we head into the Murchison Falls National Park. Even the drive into the park already exposes you to the beautiful nature and wildlife of the park. We will do a 2-3 hours morning game drive, where you have the chance to see four of "the big five", the lion, leopard, elephants and buffaloes are easy to spot throughout the park and as Roots Tours and Travel makes use of local UWA Rangers we will increase the chances to see both the bigger and the smaller gems of the park. We will return to the lodge for a lunch break and some swimming & relaxing.



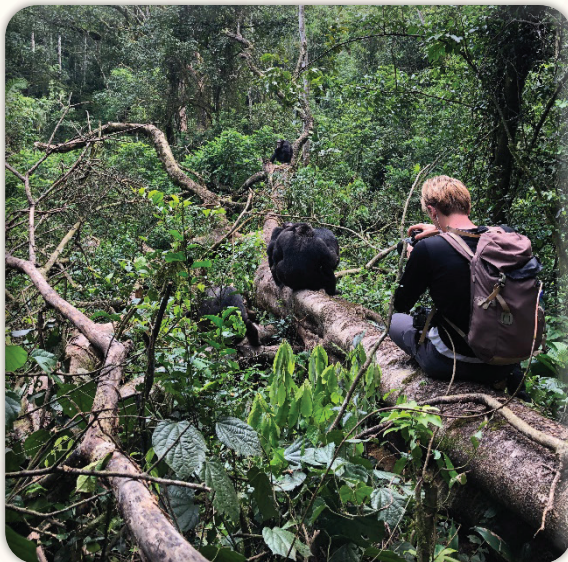
In the afternoon we return to the park where we will go for a spectacular waterfall cruise! The Paraa – Murchison Falls tour takes about 3 hours. This is the park's most popular attraction! The mighty Nile, the longest river in the world, flows through the heart of the park for 120km, on its 6500km journey from Lake Victoria to Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. The park's centrepiece is the explosive, 40m high Murchison Falls where the Nile is forced through an 8-meter gap in the rift valley escarpment. The falls separate two very different rivers. Upstream, the river races down a turbulent 80km channel punctuated with rapids. Downstream, the Nile flows quietly towards Lake Albert through a large papyrus delta.

It is this peaceful 40km stretch of river which provides the park's prime wildlife spectacle and which the boat will explore! The service on the boat will give you the opportunity to enjoy a refreshing drink while exploring nature.

After the cruise we will visit the top of the falls and its amazing view (see picture) and return to the lodge.

Day 09: On The Road Again....

Accommodation: Kibale Forest Camp, **Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch



Today we have a bit of a drive ahead of us, however lucky for us the drive brings us through Murchison Falls National Park again! After an early breakfast, we drive Southway's in the direction of Hoima and Fort Portal where we will stop for lunch after which we continue to Kibale Forest Camp.

Our accommodation is a special one this time! We are going glamping, or luxury camping, when we arrive at Kibale Forest Camp there will be safari tents waiting for us with comfortable twin/double beds and other furniture to ensure a pleasant camping experience. At the camp you can capture the thrill of a

howling black and white colobus and listen to the wood owl calling its partner from the comfort of your tent! Each tent has its own balcony or veranda from which you can also observe all this wildlife and you can get absorbed by forest smells and sounds, spot primates swinging through the trees and observe rare birds and beautiful butterflies fluttering around. Don't worry, each tent is self-contained and has a high end toilet, shower and washbasin so it is really luxury camping! However budget options are available with shared sanitation (see pricing).

Kibale Forest National Park (321km²) is most popular for its population of chimpanzees and is considered the best place to track wild chimpanzees on earth according to the UWA. The chance of seeing them has risen to over 95%! Two tracks are offered daily and can last anywhere from 2 to 5 hours depending on where the animals are on that particular day. A maximum of 6 tourists per group is permitted to spend a full hour with a community of chimpanzees. The park furthermore hosts the threatened red colobus monkey, the rare L'Hoesti monkey and 375 species of birds including one of Uganda's most sought-after birds, the Green-breasted pitta.

For all nights during this trip mentioning tents, a low-budget option is available with shared sanitation instead of private sanitation.

Day 10: Quality Time With the Chimpanzees

Accommodation: Kibale Forest Camp, Meals included: Breakfast

Despite encompassing primarily moist evergreen forest, it contains a diverse array of landscapes. Kibale is one of the last remaining expanses to contain both lowland and montane forests. In eastern Africa, it sustains the last significant expanse of pre-montane forest. It also has one of the highest diversity and concentration of primates in Africa. There are 13 species of primates in Kibale National Park. The park protects several well-studied habituated communities of common chimpanzee, as well as several species of Central African monkey. bird life is also prolific. The park boasts 325 species of birds, including the olive long-tailed cuckoo, western tinkerbird, two species of pittas (African and green-breasted) and the grey parrot. The ground thrush is endemic to Kibale National Park.

Optional tours today:

- For those of you with special interest in the Chimpanzee we can offer you a once in a lifetime experience to do the “**Chimpanzee Habituation Full Day Experience**” which means you will join the habituation research team as they carry out their daily assignment of making a community of chimpanzees accustomed to human visits. This is a great experience for researchers as well as photographers who would love to spend a bit more time with the chimps. This activity is for early risers as you need to be at the park headquarters at 6.30 am to be briefed and head out. You won't be back on time to participate in the afternoon wetlands walk. Additional costs: 50 USD
- For those in need of a day off, or on a budget, you could opt-out of the chimpanzee trekking and we can give you a 200 USD discount. This needs to be indicated at time of booking as the permits needs to be arranged weeks in advance.

After the enjoying your time with the chimpanzees, we will return to the accommodation for lunch. After lunch there is the option to visit the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, there are no extra costs involved for this optional tour (although a small tip to the community would be appreciated). We do like to encourage our tourist to participate in this wetlands and community walk and event, not only because the walk is beautiful and a chance to explore the Ugandan nature by foot, but also as all fees and contributions to the Bigodi Swamp & Community Tours Association (BISCOTA) will be invested in the local community. Their main objectives are conservation of natural cultural resources, increased households income and standards of living, less soil water contamination, improved conservation awareness in the community, developed community projects like schools and health centres.

Day 11: Sunset Game Drive @ Queen Elizabeth National Park

Accommodation: The Bush Lodge, Meals included: Breakfast

Today is an easy day, after breakfast we will drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park - a medley of wonders! Queen Elizabeth National Park (1,978km²) is one of Uganda's most popular tourist destinations. The park's diverse ecosystems, which include sprawling savanna, shady, humid forests, sparkling lakes, and fertile wetlands, make it the ideal habitat for a classic big game, ten primate species and over 600 species of birds.



We will check in the lodge before lunch so there will be plenty of time to relax, eat lunch if your hungry and explore the site. This lodge has the **low impact safari concept**, so they have chosen for a large dining tent as a restaurant, from the restaurant you can overlook the Kazinga Channel and you'll have the Rwenzori Mountain range as a backdrop while enjoying our excellent food – a real unique experience. In the evenings, if weather allows, the tables are taken outside for a starlit dinner setting with paraffin lights and a campfire.

Late afternoon we will leave for a 2-hour sunset game drive, during which you not only have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful scenery, animals and birds in the national park, but there is also time to enjoy a beautiful sunset over the park and river.

This location also has a budget option if you prefer.

Day 12: Let's Spot Some Game at Queen Elizabeth National Park

Accommodation: The Bush Lodge, Meals included: Breakfast

After an early morning cup of coffee, you will drive back to Kasenyi plains for a game drive. It's this time of the morning that the big cats are usually out to hunt for their prey. There will be high chances of spotting lions or leopards on a hunt or feasting on their kill. We can almost guarantee that you will see buffaloes, hippos, several species of antelopes and so much more.



We work closely together with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) rangers, either by having them with us or through constant communication with our trusted experts to point us in the direction of, for example, the lions or leopards. The UWA rangers keep constant track of the animals that are a bit harder to spot, to optimize the tourists experience while visiting Queen Elizabeth. We will return to the lodge for lunch and some relaxing.

Then it is time to leave for another boat cruise! This time the boat trip will take place on the Kazinga Chanel in-between Lake George and Lake Albert is a unique experience, while you enjoy a nice cold soda or beer on your private or shared boat. Its highly likely that you will see Nile crocodiles, hippos, elephants, buffalo, storks, pelicans, bee-eaters, weaverbirds, various antelope species, and even possibly, a Nile monitor lizard.

Day 13: Ishasha. Home to the Tree Climbing Lions

Accommodation: Enjojo lodge, **Meals included:** Breakfast

Today we have a drive of about 200km ahead of us, but we are lucky – this drive brings us from North to South Queen Elizabeth NP through the wonderful glittering Savannah vegetation.



The drive also allows us to visit the Ishasha sector of QENP, which is well known for the tree climbing lions. There are few places where you can see the tree climbing lions, and in East Africa it is either Ishasha or Lake Manyara (Tanzania). A unique opportunity, but of course siting them is not guaranteed unfortunately, but we – with help from the UWA rangers – will do our utmost best to spot them for you! Research has shown that the lions climb the trees to run away from the hot ground during the dry season, but apparently it is also their own personal way to relax from a day of hunting! The candelabra trees act as a spying site for the lions, to spot their food like kobs or other antelopes.

We will lunch on the way, and will move towards the home of Uganda's pride, the mountain gorilla at Bwindi National Park.

Day 14: Finally, Gorilla Time!

Accommodation: Gorilla Valley Lodge, **Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch (packed)

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park (321 km²) is an UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This “impenetrable forest” protects an estimated 450+ mountain gorillas – roughly half of the world's population, including several habituated groups, which are the ones that can be visited. This park is biologically diverse and provides shelter to a further 120 mammals, including several primate species such as baboons and chimpanzees, as well as elephants and antelopes. There are around 350 species of birds and over 200 butterfly species! Bwindi is the only park in east and central Africa where chimpanzees and mountain gorillas co-exist in the same environment.

Gorilla treks can take between 1 to 8 hours through the beautiful flora and fauna of the park, depending on where the gorillas are that day. We will have to be ready for a briefing by the rangers at 8 AM. When the gorillas are reached you will spend a full hour with these beautiful animals! Visiting the gorilla's is such a unique experience that there will actually be a certificate waiting for you at the headquarters in recognition of your effort in contributing to the conservation of these endangered mountain gorillas.

Optional tours today:

- For the real gorilla lovers, there is an option! Consider the “**Gorilla Habituation Experience**” Unlike gorilla trekking, the habituation experience follows one of the families that are in the process of being accustomed to tourist visits. Habituation is important in ensuring that the families are made relatively used to tourist visits both for their safety as well as to reduce their shyness. A maximum of 4 tourists will spend up to 4 hours with the family of gorillas as the team of UWA rangers and researchers perform their daily tasks of grooming the family. Additional costs: 800 USD
- For those in need of a day off, or on a budget, you could opt-out of the chimpanzee trekking and we can give you a 700 USD discount. This needs to be indicated at time of booking as the permits need to be arranged weeks in advance.

Please note there is “Gorilla Guarantee” if, for whatever reason, no gorillas are spotted on the day of your visit, UWA will allow a second visit on the next day free of charge.

Day 15: Time For More Culture

Accommodation: Travellers Rest Hotel, Meals included: Breakfast

Today is another easy day, after a lazy morning we'll leave for 2-3 hour drive to our hotel for the night. This hotel is situated just outside of Kisoro and has an amazing view onto the Virunga volcanoes which will be in your memory forever.

In the afternoon, after you have enjoyed your lunch or some personal time, we will go for a cultural walk with a local guide through the gardens and villages of the Bufumbira and Bachiga tribes. It is interesting to see how the people live and work here, and they might be offering you some local delicacies. Make sure you don't miss the local beer that is brewed from banana's in this region!

Day 16: Up the Mountain

Accommodation: Travellers Rest Hotel, Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch

Today a day-long walk to Muhavura Volcano is on the program. The name Muhavura means “The Guide” in the local language, Kinyarwanda. It can be seen from many parts of Uganda and Rwanda because of its slope.

Mount Muhavura, also known as Mount Muhavura, is an inactive volcano in the Virunga Mountains on the border between Rwanda and Uganda. At 4,127 metres Muhavura is the third highest of the eight major mountains of the mountain range, which is a part of the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the East African Rift. Its summit contains a small crater lake, seeing the lake is a reward for a 5 hour trek that rises 1700m to over 4100m. The mountain slopes are characterized by marvellous alpine vegetation. Muhavura is partly in the Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda and partly in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda.

The 5-hour trek is our basic offer, however for those who really want to there is a 8-hour option (12km round trip) to walk the Muhavura trail, which provides a view including the five other Virunga volcanoes, the rift valley, Lake Edward and (in clear weather) the Rwenzori mountains.

For those of you who are in need of a day of rest or don't feel like (or can't) climbing a mountain, other options will be available or shorter walks can be organised.

If you prefer some time on your own there are also options:

- An easy 30min (1km) walk from our hotel is the Ntebeko Gate through which we enter the Magahinga National Park. Just next to this gate is a small platform (10USD) offering a magnificent view of the park and the surrounding area. You will see a gorgeous view of the three volcanoes on the south side and miles of small gardens, Lake Mutanda and the hills of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest on the Northern side. We can see the Western Rift Valley in DR Congo when looking in the western direction.
- If you let us know on time (we need to know before we leave the Gorilla Valley Lodge that morning) you can do a late afternoon one-hour birding walk with a guide on the edge of the park. The guides are very happy to take you and see for example the ibis, whydah, speckled moosebird, fire finch, stonechat, grey capped warbler, waxbills and yellow-vented bulbul (a small additional payment directly to the guide is appreciated).

For those who are really keen on seeing more gorilla's we could even plan a second visit to see the Gorilla's in Mgahinga National Park (permit is not included in the tour price as presented, please indicate this at time of booking as permits quickly run out).

Day 17: Fly Like An Eagle!

Accommodation: Mburo Eagles Nest, Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Our journey continues to Lake Mburo National Park, but for we reach there (it's a 5-6 hour drive) we will eat lunch at Igongo Cultural Center just outside the City of Mbarara.



Before, after or during lunch you can chose to visit the Cultural Village, the Museum (Eriijukiro) or the craft shop and learn more about the Ankole Tribe of Uganda. We can also visit the Eclipse Monument situated atop the hill directly across the center, you can choose to walk up there are we can drive you there. The hill ensures you will have an amazing view of the surrounding areas!

After this stop it is only 15min to our destination where we will check in and take in another amazing view. There is a reason this lodge is called "eagles nest" on top of a hill overlooking Lake Mburo National Park.

Day 18: Lake Mburo (Options)

Accommodation: Mburo Eagles Nest, Meals included: Breakfast

For those who have energy left, we will go for an early safari drive. After arranging our entry into the park, you'll see very different nature and landscapes in this park. Lake Mburo National Park (370km²) is a small yet pleasant park and the only park in Western Uganda with impalas, elands, buffalos, warthog, bushpig, hippopotami and zebras. Together with 13 other lakes in the area, Lake Mburo forms part of a 50km-long wetland system linked by a swamp. 20% of the park's surface are wetland habitats, as five of the 13 lakes are located within the park.



What is special in Lake Mburo is that 20% of the park's entrance fee is used to fund local community projects such as building clinics and schools.

We will return for lunch at the lodge, after which there are options in the afternoon:

Free options:

- Why not try a bicycle safari???? Unique offer in Lake Mburo and very exciting to be so close to the animals (with a ranger).
- The whole park is open to walkers as long as they are accompanied by a ranger. Locations include the salt lick at Rwonyo, the lake's banks, Rubanga Forest and a hilltop with gorgeous lake views.
- For the bird enthusiast among us, you can scope out plenty of species on foot, if this has your preference we can organise a ranger for you to do a sunset birding walk.
- A last sunset drive through the park is an option!

Options with additional costs:

- A boat trip on Lake Mburo, a really great way to see birds, crocodiles and hippo's, if not spotted yet or for water lovers. Actually an afternoon boat cruise on the lake is one of the most sought after activities in this National Park. Extra costs involved depending on the number of passengers but is around 30 USD.
- Horseback safari
The Mihingo Lodge offers horseback safaris which is a totally different and exciting way to see wildlife in the park (and the only place in Uganda where horseback safari's is an option!). The horses actually attract some of the animals to come closer out of curiosity!
Horseback safari prices depend on the duration and go from 50 – 250 USD from 30min to 4hours including food. Please ask us in advance for the prices.

Day 19: From South to North...

Accommodation: Airport Guesthouse Entebbe, **Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

We leave Eagles Nest early morning and have our last game drive of this holiday through Lake Mburo National Park after which we will exit the park on the Northern side and continue our trip back to Entebbe. But the fun is not over yet!

How often do you have the chance to stand with one leg in the northern hemisphere and one leg in the southern hemisphere? This is your day! We will stop for lunch at the Uganda equator where there will be plenty of time to take pictures and experience this “imaginary line”.



For those interested in more souvenir shopping we can make a stop on the way to our hotel at the Entebbe Craft Market or we can continue to check in directly. If time allows there are many options for you to engage in (as per the next page) or we can organise a night of diner and drinks in Kampala.

Departure Day / Optional Activities

Today is your day, depending on your flight time you can have a relaxing morning at the lodge, take a walk around Entebbe or we are happy to organise optional day activities for you!

Roots Tours and Travel could offer optional activities in either Entebbe or Kampala:

- Half day canoe tour & birding in Mabamba Swamp with the opportunity to spot the unique and rare shoebill (return before lunch)
- Sunset (or day) cruise at Lake Victory (leaving at Entebbe harbour)
- Visit to Owino Market, sprawling around Nakivubo Stadium, Owino has everything from traditional medicines to televisions. Depending on your interests it is possible to spend hours here, not least because it's so hard to find your way out!
- Boda-Boda City Tours including eating traditional food
- A half day of local cooking classes
- A visit to Uganda Wildlife Education Center and/or the Botanical Gardens and/or the Reptile Village
- Lake Victoria harbours different fresh-water fish like tilapia but also monster Nile perch. Fishing trips with some specialised operators can be arranged.
- The Bahá'í House of Worship or Bahá'í temple is a place of worship of the Bahá'í Faith. There are only 13 such temples in the world and there is only one in the African continent. The temple in Kampala is situated on top of a hill, also allowing a beautiful view of the city!
- Tell us your interest and we can find you an activity!

Roots will pick you at the prior agreed time to bring you to the airport and say goodbye. We are guaranteeing you that you will leave Uganda with renewed energy, unforgettable memories, new friends and so many stories to tell!

Thank you for choosing Roots Tours and Travel!

Planning

The program as presented in this brochure is offered five times in 2023-2024, at the following dates. Please note a per the optional activities as mentioned at the departure date, if you want to add more days at the end of your trip to stretch for example your stay until Saturday or Sunday, Roots can support with additional activities and hotel nights based on your wishes.

Tour Name and Duration	Arrival Date (Day 1) (Always Saturday)	Departure date
Uganda Cross Country (19 Days)	15 July 2023	Thursday 3 August 2023
Uganda Cross Country (19 Days)	2 September 2023	Thursday 21 Sept 2023
Uganda Cross Country (19 Days)	2 December 2023	Thursday 21 Dec 2023
Uganda Cross Country (19 Days)	3 February 2024	Thursday 22 February 2024

Prices:

4,650 USD - Costs per person **excluding permits**: Gorilla (700USD) & Chimp. (200USD)

3,750 USD - Costs per person **including permits**: Gorilla (700USD) & Chimp. (200USD)

+640 USD – **Single Supplement** in case a single traveller prefers a single room

-290 USD – **Budget Option**, if you choose the budget option (non-self-contained tents at selected lodges) we can lower the price of the trip

Therefore, as an example, a single traveller who prefers a private room, including all permits would pay 4,650 + 640 – 290 USD is 5,000 USD.

The prices for parks and permits are cheaper for people with an East African Nationality, please request us for a special quote at info@tourwithroots.com.

Other group tours Roots Tours and Travel offers this season are:

Tour Name and Duration	Arrival Date (Day 1) (Always Saturday)	Departure date
Uganda Dream Destination (13 Days)	3 June 2023	Friday 16 June 2023
Karibu Uganda (16 Days)	1 July 2023	Monday 17 July 2023
Uganda Dream Destination (13 Days)	29 July 2023	Friday 11 August 2023
Karibu Uganda (16 Days)	12 August 2023	Monday 28 August 2023
Uganda Dream Destination (13 Days)	30 September 2023	Friday 13 October 2023
Karibu Uganda (16 Days)	28 October 2023	Monday 13 November 2023
Uganda Dream Destination (13 Days)	23 December 2023	Friday 5 January 2024
Karibu Uganda (16 Days)	13 January 2024	Monday 29 January 2024
Uganda Dream Destination (13 Days)	2 March 2024	Friday 13 March 2024

Why Roots Tours and Travel?

Don't believe us, believe our clients, all the happy tourists and corporate users that we have serviced since 2017! Check out our TripAdvisor for example: <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Profile/TourWithRoots>

From the feedback we have received we are proud to say that we differentiate ourselves from other agencies due to our personal approach, and the time and effort we take to get to know our clients and ensure they have the best holiday possible!

For example upon your arrival we will provide you with an additional list of optional activities and fun local experiences (from unique dinner opportunities, exclusive birding opportunities, to a night out in a local bar and more).

We are a Ugandan company but with western standards when it comes to transparency, communication and timekeeping while offering local company prices! Roots Tours and Travel is not only a travel agency but also provides travel and logistical services to corporates in Uganda including various diplomatic missions. This also means we have a fleet of high quality cars, that are regularly serviced, have first aid kits, spare parts and so on. For some of our corporate clients our cars and drivers go through official safety checks at regular time intervals. In summary our team can be trusted and will keep time!

We have been partnering with the Dutch company UG Motobike (<https://ug-motobike.com/en/home-eng/>) for several years now, supporting unique adventurous motorbike tours through Uganda. Are these preorganised group tours not your piece of cake? Check out the motorbike options for even more adventure!

Last, but not least, Roots Tours and Travel has all documents in place to operate as a tour agency in Uganda. Proof and certification can be shared upon request. Roots Tours and Travel is also a member of the various regulatory boards and associations including being a member of the

- Uganda Tourism Board (UTB)
- Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO)
- Exclusive Sustainable Tour Operators Association (ESTOA)

We are looking forward to welcome you in the Pearl of Africa; Uganda!

Have we triggered your interest please reach out at info@tourwithroots.com

INCLUDED

- ✓ Airport pick-up and drop-off
- ✓ Car (4WD) and fuel
- ✓ English speaking driver/guide
- ✓ Bed and breakfast, lunch where indicated.
- ✓ Drinking water
- ✓ Park entrance fees and ranger fees
- ✓ Game drives as indicated in the program
- ✓ Gorilla trekking (worth 700 USD/person)
- ✓ Chimpanzee trekking (worth 200 USD/person)
- ✓ Boat cruises
- ✓ Cultural / community visits
- ✓ Guides and rangers in the national parks
- ✓ Small first aid kit

EXCLUDED

- ✓ Personal Medical and Travel Insurance
- ✓ Flight ticket to/from Uganda
- ✓ Visa (see below)
- ✓ Lunch (where not indicated)
- ✓ Diner & personal snacks
- ✓ Drinks (except drinking water)
- ✓ Porters for trekking
- ✓ Personal expenses, souvenirs
- ✓ Tips and gratuities
- ✓ Optional activities

DON'T FORGET TO PACK!

- ✓ Vaccinations – especially yellow fever
- ✓ Your visa, it needs to be applied for at least two weeks prior to the travel (50USD): <https://visas.immigration.go.ug/>
- ✓ Insect repellent and long sleeves for the evenings
- ✓ Sunblock or suncream
- ✓ Hand sanitizer or wet wipes - nooo not for COVID19 reasons but it can get quite dusty on game drives!
- ✓ Electricity adapter, Uganda uses type G outlets:



- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ ATMs are available in Entebbe, Kampala, Hoima, Fort Portal. Many of the lodges accept USD. You can also easily change USD/EUR at the airport or in Kampala during the city tour.
- ✓ Rain jacket / clothing (you never know in the mountains!)

GOOD TO KNOW!

- ✓ Accommodation is budgeted based on a shared twin/double room.
- ✓ Gorilla trekking minimum age is 15yrs
- ✓ You can opt out of the gorilla or chimpanzee trekking. We would not charge you for the tickets (G:700USD / C:200USD). This does need to be indicated at time of booking, as permits need to be booked weeks in advance.
- ✓ The COVID=19 regulations keep on changing, we will give you updated information a week prior to your trip.
- ✓ Mosquito nets will be available at all locations were deemed necessary.
- ✓ Only brand-new looking USD notes are accepted in Uganda, and the notes need to be printed after 2003.
- ✓ A lot of the lodges are solar powered as the grid electricity doesn't reach everywhere in Uganda. This also means no sun, no hot water....
- ✓ A recommended animal guidebook is the "Wildlife of East Africa" from Dave Richards (**Amazon**) (no commercial link)

Payment conditions

- To secure the booking we request a 70% deposit of the total value, this includes the gorilla permits (US\$ 700 per permit) and the chimpanzee permits (US\$ 200) for each person in the group. Please note that the gorilla permits, and chimpanzee permits are non-refundable.
- The full amount, the other 30%, owed by the client to Roots Tours and Travel shall be payable not less than four weeks prior to the date of departure of the agreed upon tour. If the full amount is not paid in due time, the company reserves the right to treat the booking as cancelled. The company will not be held responsible for price changes or over-bookings in the time between booking and receiving the deposit. Bookings made within six weeks of the departure date must be paid in full immediately. Payments can be made by bank transfer to the company bank account in Uganda.
- Payments have to be done in USD. All bank costs (transfer costs) are to be paid by the client(s). Payments with credit or debit card are not yet possible.

Cancellation Policy

It is not economical for Roots Tours and Travel if there is only one booking for a group. At least 3 months before the travel Roots Tours and Travel will reach out if there are not yet more participants and together, we will find a solution.

When the client wants to cancel the booking, this needs to be done in writing, from the email address that confirmed the booking. The cancellation fee is calculated according to the date on which Roots Tours and Travel receives the written cancellation notice:

- If cancellation happens 90 days before the departure date, Roots Tours and travel will refund the client 90% of the advance payment (70% of the total costs of the booking) - the Gorilla & Chimpanzee tickets can still be cancelled.
- Any cancellation between 30 and 90 days means we will charge 10% of the advance payment plus the full costs of the gorilla permits, chimpanzee permits.
- Any cancellation 15 - 30 days before the departure date (which is also the date for the second payment) we will refund your second payment (30% of the total amount).
- For any cancellation 15 days or less before the departure date, Roots Tours and Travel will remain with the full amount.
- Cancellation before the deposit has been made will not incur any fees.

Gorilla and Chimpanzee permits are scarce, as there are a limited number of people that can visit on a day. The only way to secure the tickets is through payment at the UWA office, we cannot reserve the tickets without payment. Once the tickets are paid, they are non-refundable for Roots Tours and Travel (or any other tour agency in Uganda) hence the strict guidelines around cancellation. We hope you understand.

We strongly encourage the client(s) to have a travel, cancellation, medical and repatriation insurance, it is the client's responsibility to arrange such insurance to minimize the client(s) financial risk.