

## "Access all areas" safari to Uganda



with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

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## Summary of Arrangements

Date	Activity
Saturday, 26 September	Arrive into Entebbe
	Fly Entebbe to Kihihi
	Road transfer Kihihi to Bwindi
	Bwindi Volcanoes Lodge - 3 nights
Tuesday, 29 September	Road transfer Bwindi Volcanoes Lodge to Kyambura Gorge Lodge
	Kyambura Gorge Lodge - 3 nights
Friday, 02 October	Fly Mweya Airstrip to Bugungu Airstrip
	Road transfer Bugungu Airstrip to Budongo
	Budongo Forest - 3 nights
Monday, 05 October	Road transfer Budongo to Entebbe
	Depart Entebbe

### Saturday, 26 September 2015

#### Arrive into Entebbe

Today you arrive into Entebbe (flights booked under your own arrangements).

#### Fly Entebbe to Kihihi

On arrival into Entebbe you make your way through immigrations and collect your baggage. You then meet a pilot who will show you to the scheduled light aircraft and fly to Kihihi. There are two flights leaving Entebbe (depending on your arrival time), either at 0745 or 1230.

#### Bwindi Volcanoes Lodge - 3 nights - Full Board

From Kihihi you are met by your expert guide who will help you with your baggage and drive you to Bwindi Volcanoes Lodge.

Your three night stay here is on a full board basis. This includes; all accommodation, meals and drinks and one gorilla tracking permit per person. During your stay here, you spend a day trekking through the steep, densely forested hills and then finally coming across the gorillas camouflaged in the vegetation is an inspiring and privileged moment. Tracking in the Bwindi forest requires stamina and can often take most of the day. You can then either opt to trek on a second day, or alternatively there are other activities and excursions on offer in and around the national park:

- Take a guided walk in the rainforest, home to several endemic bird species, clouds of butterflies and rare plant life. This walk offers excellent photographic opportunities and the knowledgeable guide will provide a great insight into this globally important habitat.
- Walk through the local village, and learn about community life and Bwindi Community Hospital that started as a health clinic under a tree and now provides vital medical and educational services to over 60,000 people. Also take a tour of the local tea processing operation at the lodge which enables guests to see the various different methods for tea growing and at the end of the tour taste some of their own grown tea. The Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust supports both projects.
- Discover the traditions of the Batwa Pygmies, and learn about the native tribal inhabitants of the forest. The indigenous people of Bwindi forest, though no longer resident in the forest, still practice many of their traditional hunter-gatherer skills.

*Please note that only one gorilla tracking permit per person is included. Additional permits can be arranged*

on request (subject to availability) - the permits are \$600 per person per day.



Volcanoes Lodge at Bwindi is adjacent to the small village of Bwindi on the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in the far west of Uganda. The lodge is set on a hillside above a river, overlooking lush rainforest opposite. It is the perfect base for visits to the national park and as a starting point for gorilla tracking.

The lodge's accommodation is in eight large beautifully constructed en-suite thatched cottages with running water, shower and a flush toilet. Each of the cottages has its own verandah which, like the bar and dining room, looks across to the forested hillside on the opposite bank.

More than half the world's wild mountain gorilla population is resident in Bwindi, and it is possible to visit a number of habituated family groups under the national park's regulated tracking programme. Although this is the reason most guests come to Bwindi the park is home to 93 mammal species, including 11 types of primate, as well as almost 350 bird species. These animals and birds can be viewed on nature walks alongside a knowledgeable national park guide.



## Tuesday, 29 September 2015

### Kyambura Gorge Lodge - 3 nights - Full Board

Today you are met by your guide and taken to the Queen Elizabeth National Park (approximately a drive of four hours), here you can observe the unusual behaviour of the tree-climbing lions. On arrival into Kyambura you have the rest of the day to relax and enjoy sundowners by the pool.

Your three night stay here is on a full board basis, this includes; all accommodation, meals and drinks, morning and evening game drives, one day chimp tracking, visits to the community projects - Women's Coffee Cooperative Tour, Reclaimed Wetland Tour, Bee-keeping Fence Visit, Omumushaka Dance Group Performance and Empundu Playground Visit.

*Please note that we have included one chimp tracking permit per person, another trek can be organised on request.*



Kyambura Gorge Lodge is an eco-lodge perched above the Kyambura Gorge at the edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda. The lodge has stunning views over the Gorge and the lush savannahs of the Park, with peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains in the distance.

Kyambura Gorge Lodge has eight en-suite grass roofed bandas, each with panoramic views. There is a central lounge and dining area made out of local materials and decorated using local fabrics.

Activities include boat trips on the Kazinga Channel, game drives, visits to the Maramagambo Forest Bat Cave and crater lakes as well as community walks. The lodge and the land surrounding it form a protected area between the chimpanzee population and local farmers.



## Friday, 02 October 2015

### Fly Mweya Airstrip to Bugungu Airstrip

Today, at a time to be confirmed, you are driven to the Mweya Airstrip to meet your private charter flight to Bugungu (flying time is approximately one and a half hours).

### Budongo Forest - 3 nights - Full Board

On arrival at the Bugungu Airstrip you are met by a driver from the Budongo Research Centre who will take you to your accommodation, which is simple and based at the field centre near the Budongo Forest.

You stay here for three nights under the arrangements of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). Your stay here is on a full board basis. Pack lunches will be provided when you are tracking in the forest.



Budongo Conservation Field Station (BCFS), located in the northwest corner of Uganda, is an area of outstanding beauty teeming with wildlife. The surrounding forest is home to around 600 wild chimpanzees, as well as blue monkeys, colobus monkeys, forest baboons, duiker antelopes, bush pigs, and over 350 bird species. But it is not simply a wildlife haven. It is an important conservation research station in its own right.

The Budongo Conservation Field Station is funded by RZSS, one of the UK's leading wildlife conservation organisations. BCFS is engaged in the long-term study and conservation of a group of around 60 chimpanzees located in the Budongo Forest. The project involves the study of this endangered species in their natural habitat and the relationship between biodiversity and the local community. Field station workers liaise closely with local hunters, encouraging them through grants and other means, to take up alternative livelihoods to support their families and to preserve the community of chimpanzees and other wildlife.

Staying within the Field Station will give you an experience that you won't find elsewhere and will leave you with an impression for years to come. You will be able to accompany the field station assistants as they monitor local wildlife and work on their many community projects. Your stay will go towards supporting this vital work and will give you the opportunity to experience a part of Africa that not many others are able to

witness.



## **Monday, 05 October 2015**

### **Depart Entebbe**

This morning, at a time to be confirmed, you are met by a driver and driven back to Entebbe in time to meet your international flight home (flight booked under your own arrangements).

## Pricing Details

**Please note that this itinerary is based on ten people travelling in high season, with two people sharing each room. If you would like us to include any single rooms please let us know and we will advise the single supplement cost.**

### The itinerary includes:

Internal flights (**note: strict 15kg baggage allowance per person including hand luggage Soft bags only - no wheels or rigid frames allowed**)

*Please be aware that scheduled light aircraft flights may make a couple of stops before reaching your destination; please let us know if you would like to know the cost of upgrading to a direct private flight.*

Private charter flight Mweya to Bugungu

Passenger and airport taxes

Airport transfers

Other transfers

Accommodation and meals as stated

Drinks as stated

Laundry as stated

Activities as stated

National Park and concession fees

One day Gorilla tracking Bwindi

One day chimp tracking Kyambura

### The itinerary excludes:

International flights

Regional flights

Visas

Travel insurance

Tips and gratuities

Other personal spending

If you weigh over 16 stone or 100 kg then you may be charged for a second seat on light aircraft flights, please let us know if this is likely to affect you.

### Aardvark Holiday Prices

Unlike many other companies, we forward buy the foreign currency needed to pay for a booking at the time a trip is confirmed. We will not therefore surcharge you because of exchange rate fluctuations after receipt of your deposit.

**Please check in online for your international and regional flights 24 hours before your return.**

*The below price is only valid for the following seven days*

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**Total price for your travel arrangements: £45,963**

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**Price per person: £4,596**

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## Why Choose Aardvark Safaris?

### **Honest independent advice from knowledgeable and experienced Africa experts.**

We've all lived and worked in Africa and tailor make high quality holidays in areas we know and love. We use camps and lodges we've tried and tested, and understand the importance of working with some of Africa's best guides and hosts. We listen to your wishes and use our experience to tailor a safari that suits you perfectly. We will provide hassle free arrangements including full itinerary planning, providing the most effective routings and avoiding unnecessary (and costly) stopovers. We are completely impartial in our advice (no-one at Aardvark works on commission).

### **Holidays with 100% financial protection.**

These bonds protect you should either we, or our suppliers, cease trading. Please remember that if you do decide to book direct with companies in Africa, or through a non-bonded company here in the UK, your money is at risk.

### **Avoid the pitfalls of booking direct with an African operator.**

Booking direct you have zero financial protection. Can you pay with a credit card? If so what are the hidden charges? If you cannot pay by credit card then you will have to arrange a money transfer at your expense. When you get there what happens if nobody is there to meet you? If you have any complaints with the quality of your holiday how do you try and arrange compensation, you have very limited rights. Our registration number is 3800138 and our status can be checked at Companies House.

### **You pay no more booking through Aardvark than if you arranged the holiday yourselves.**

Typically there are no additional costs to you for having the benefit of our advice. Our suppliers pay us a commission for each booking which is how we make our profit. In some instances we are able to plan trips more cheaply than you would yourselves. If you think that we are charging you more for accommodation or services than you can find direct, we are happy to look at the difference and see if we can remedy the situation. If you would like a breakdown of the quote, we will happily provide this.

We can't guarantee to be competitive with flight prices as sales and special offers released on airline websites sometimes undercut the rates we are given direct by the airlines. If you can find cheaper flights than us you are welcome to book these independently of our travel arrangements.

### **Once a trip is confirmed we will not charge you for any currency fluctuations.**

The price of your holiday stays the same even if there are currency movements before you travel. We buy in our currency when you pay your deposit covering you against fluctuations.

### **There if you need us - 24 hours 7 days a week emergency phone cover.**

We provide a full emergency back up service, both from ourselves and through local representatives on the ground, in case you have any difficulties whilst you are away.

### **Service doesn't stop when you leave the UK, you get great service in Africa too.**

We've worked with the majority of our suppliers for years and by visiting regularly we know we're still working with the best. By speaking to clients after they've travelled we feed back their thanks and occasionally niggles too which helps to keep standards high.

### **Committed to looking after the environment.**

Our holidays allow you to enjoy wildlife, local communities and remote areas of Africa, and conservation is important to us. We work hard to ensure that the benefits tourism can bring to an area are not offset by negative impacts. We offer our clients the chance to offset the carbon emission caused by their long-haul flights with a scheme in Zambia which not only absorbs carbon dioxide but which also provides food and employment. We have also supported the Koiyaki Guide School in the Masai Mara since its inception, giving local people the chance to take a part in the future of their area.

### **Recommendations are at the heart of our business and we are able to supply you with a reference.**

Over 70% of our clients come to us through recommendation and several of our clients are on their second or third trip with us. Although we are now fifteen years old, we are a small company and have retained our personal touch with the owners still involved with sales on a day to day basis. See the testimonials page of our website to see what clients say about us. Let us know if you would like to speak to a past client.