**17 Days Uganda Rwanda Safari**

**Day 1:** Upon arrival at Entebbe Airport**,** meet our representative, greet and transfer to your hotel for overnight and refreshment.

Overnight: Cassia Lodge (Budget) and Prestige Hotels & Suites(Mid-range)

**Day 2**: Today, you will make your way to the second largest town and the colonial manufacturing hub, Jinja. In [Jinja](http://www.matoketours.com/highlights-parks/uganda/jinja/) the Nile River begins its journey from [Lake Victoria](http://www.matoketours.com/country-info/uganda/lake-victoria/) all the way up to the Mediterranean Sea. En-route, you will stop at the Sezibwa Falls a cultural site well known for its terrific falls. As stated by the local convictions this river is believed to have been born by a human being.Proceed to Jinja and visit the source of the Nile. Get to see the spot at which the world’s longest river makes its way to the Mediterranean Sea.

Overnight: Source of the smile Guest House (Budget) and 2 Friends Guest House (Mid-range)

**Day 3: On this day, you head back to Kampala for a city tour. Kampala the capital of Uganda** is an amazing city seated on 7hills and located in the central region. It is not going on and Kampala’s main tourist attractions are majorly pre-colonial and colonial sites that have a lot historical attachment to Ugandans. You will explore some of the seven hills of Kampala and visit several places among which include: **Namugongo Martyr’s Shrine, Kabaka’s Palace & Parliament,** Gadaffi Mosque. Make sure to climb the 308 steps of the minaret to get the most amazing view of Kampala and its surroundings- It is unforgettable!!

Overnight: Cassia Lodge (Budget) and Prestige Hotels & Suites (Mid-range)

**Day 4:** Transfer to Murchison Falls N.P. En route, trek rhinos at the Ziwa rhino sanctuary. This Rhino reserve is a true success story of the revival of rhinoceros after the extreme poaching that killed the last rhino in Uganda in 1982. Doing this guided trek gets you “up close and personal” to these special animals that are among “Africa’s Big five.”Proceed to Murchison Falls National Park which is the largest national park and Uganda's flagship with exceptional wildlife. The meandering Victoria Nile and the dramatic Murchison Falls neatly bisecting Uganda's largest park, here you'd expect a wide range of animals and you'd be right. It's a stunning habitat for wildlife and it’s where to go in Uganda for classic big game species.

Overnight: Red Chilli Camp (Budget) and Murchinson River Lodge (Mid-range)

**Day 5:** After an early breakfast, you head out on an early game drive while the animals are the most active since it’s not yet so bright and temperatures are cooler. This is the best time to spot wild animals. A drive through the park brings you eye-to-eye with the African animal kingdom: elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, lions, leopards, different species of antelope and many tropical birds. They are all there in Murchison Falls National Park! In the afternoon, a 3hour Boat Cruise along the Victoria Nile will lead you to the base of the Murchison Falls. Along the way, you will be able to view a wide variety of birds and wildlife; numerous hippos, elephants and crocodiles, as well as breathtaking scenery.

Overnight: Red Chilli Camp (Budget) and Murchinson River Lodge (Mid-range)

##### **Day 6:** In the morning you embark on a Safari route to Western Uganda covered in small villages, picturesque green tea plantations and beautiful landscapes of numerous crater lakes of volcanic origin to Kibale forest- home of great apes! Kibale Forest boasts of the highest number of primate species in the world, including our delightful cousins- the Chimpanzees. At this moment, in Uganda, there are approximately 4,950 Chimps left in the wild, which makes this forest a perfect and best place to spot chimpanzees in Africa!

Overnight: Chimpanzee Guest House (Budget) and Kibale Forest Camp (Mid-range)

**Day 7:** Depart at 8:00am your chimpanzee tracking excursion will commence***.*** During the excursion, your ranger will point out the other species living in the forest, including birds, flora and fauna Of course; the stars of the show are chimpanzees and nine other species of primate. Smaller than their gorilla cousins but no less charming, intelligent or expressive, chimp families can cover vast distances and the trek in Kibale forest to find them will be filled with all sorts of enchanting encounters. In the afternoon, you’ll embark on a nature excursion. Your swamp walk (1- 2 hours) will take you through grassland and some beautiful scenery. It is usual to spot 3 or 4 different primate species during this walk through the highlight is catching a glimpse of the Great Blue Turaco bird!

Overnight: Chimpanzee Guest House (Budget) and Kibale Forest Camp (Mid-range)

**Day 8:** Head out to Queen Elizabeth National Park - the oldest & second largest National Park in Uganda, located at the base of the massive *Rwenzori Mountains*, adjacent to lakes Edward& George. The park is covered by Savannah plains that provide an abundance of Game viewing like; Elephants that trumpet when you get too close, lazy Leopards laying in the sun, abundant Gazelle and buck, Lions, Buffaloes, Hippos and others. In the afternoon, take a boat safari along the Kazinga Channel- a natural channel which connects *Lake Edward to Lake George*. View Buffaloes, Elephants, Waterbucks, Crocodiles and the highest concentration of Hippos plus a variety of colourful species of *Water birds* like Crested Eagles, Pelicans and Cormorants – an Amazing diverse collection of the African animal Kingdom which comes to the waterhole to drink or bathe. This will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your tour.

Overnight: Bush Lodge(Budget) and Buffallo Safari Lodge(Mid-range)

**Day 9:** Go in for a game drive in time to see the sun rise. You will search for all the wildlife in the park; Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Waterbuck, Leopard, Uganda Kob, Warthog, etc. In the afternoon, you will indulge in a nature walk in Queen Elizabeth N.P, one of the parks in Uganda where it’s possible to go for a [walking safari](http://www.matoketours.com/country-info/uganda/lake-mburo-national-park#lake-mburo-walking-safari) with an experienced ranger. This opportunity should not be missed. From footprints and animal droppings, the ranger will be able to tell you which animal has left and how long ago. It is exciting to approach wildlife at such close range.

Overnight: Bush Lodge(Budget) and Buffallo Safari Lodge(Mid-range)

**Day 10:** Today you transfer to Bwindi National Park the home of Mountain Gorillas. You’ll proceed through the breath taking; ever green mountain country - deep to the south-western part of Uganda; close to the borders of Rwanda. You will see a great country-side of bamboo forest and have great views of landscape. You later check into your hotel for relaxation.We recommend an early night in-order to be ready for your big day tomorrow.

Overnight: Bwindi Backpackers (Budget) and Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge (Mid-range)

**Day 11:** Today is the big day… Prepare yourself for an encounter with one of Bwindi’s gentle giants: the rare Mountain Gorilla. For most people this is the absolute highlight of their tour in Uganda. You will be required to wake up early in the morning then be led to the visitor’s reception center for a briefing about the park. You are allocated guides before heading into the forest in search of Mountain Gorillas. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest boasts of both Mountain Gorillas and Chimpanzees - the only forest in Africa which can make this claim in fact. It also hosts five other species of primate, 113 species of mammal, over 200 butterflies and 360 birds. The Gorillas you will track belong to one of the habituated family groups who can tolerate the presence of humans for a brief period every day. Your trek will be an exciting journey along forested slopes, entwined vines, bushes and bamboo before you eventually reach the Gorillas’ habitat. En-route, your guide will point out signs of previous Gorilla activity, including dung, nests and chewed bamboo shoots.

The time taken to track the Gorillas can take as little as 2 hours or more! Once the Gorillas have been located, your group will be allowed a maximum of one hour with them. Coming face-to-face with a Mountain Gorilla is a truly humbling and emotional experience. This is a fantastic and privileged opportunity to get up close and personal with Uganda’s very own ‘Gorillas in the Mist’.

Overnight: Bwindi Backpackers (Budget) and Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge (Mid-range)

**Day 12:** On this day, you’ll bid farewell to the beautiful ‘Pearl of Africa’, thereafter drive to the border of Uganda and Rwanda then enter Rwanda, proceed to Musanze town. Stops en-route to photograph scenic areas.

Overnight: Urugano Virunga Palace (Budget) Classic Lodge Musanze(Mid-range)

**Day 13:** This day, you will either go for golden monkey tracking in the forest, where you will encounter other primates’ species along the track. **or,** you will hike up to karisoke research centre, established by an American primatologist, Dian Fossey who dedicated her years in conserving the live of the mountain gorillas until she was killed as is buried there at the centre, next to Digit, a grave to a mountain gorilla she treasured. On return, you will take a nature walk to the lakes Ruhondo and Burela, or go for community walk, where you will learn about the Banyarwanda culture, and be entertained in their traditional dances.

Overnight: Urugano Virunga Palace(Budget) Classic Lodge Musanze(Mid-range)

**Day 14:** After a relaxed breakfast, you will set off to Nyungwe forest national park, with en route stopovers for scenic photography and lunch.  Reach Nyungwe in the afternoon for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Family hostel (Budget) Top view lodge (Mid-range)

**Day 15:** In the morning, you will enjoy a breathtaking canopy walk, which will give you a clear top view of the Nyungwe forest, view waterfalls and a variety of birds at eye-level contact. In the afternoon, embark on colobus monkey tracking where you will encounter other 12 primate species along the track.

Overnight: Family hostel (Budget) Top view lodge (Mid-range)

**Day 16**: In the morning, you will set off for a drive to Kigali, with en route visit to the museums, Nyanza king’s palace, among others. Reach Kigali in the afternoon for a city tour. Then proceed to the airport to catch flight back home.

End of Services