



# Remarkable Rwanda, Gorillas of Uganda and Solidarity

*Solidarity, Cultural and Safari experiences*

## Encounter resilience, spot gorillas, monkeys, rare wildlife and volunteer, experience the beauty and culture of Rwanda and Uganda

Come face to face with heartbreaking history and incredible wildlife on a journey through Rwanda and Uganda. See somber reminders of Kigali's devastating past, watch local life play out on the streets and witness a beautiful country that is continuously striving to move forward. Enter the world of rare mountain gorillas in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and spend a day tracking and observing these creatures, overlooked by a rare silverback gorilla. See elephants drinking from the Kazinga channel on a boat trip through Queen Elizabeth National Park. Interact with the vibrant landscapes and people that call Africa home. Have an unforgettable lifetime experience doing volunteer work in the communities we support.

**START – Kigali, Rwanda – March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**END – Entebbe, Uganda – April 13<sup>th</sup>**



### March 30<sup>th</sup> - DAY 1. KIGALI

Murakaza neza! Welcome to Kigali, Rwanda's capital city. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. If you arrive in Kigali early, maybe start exploring at your own pace. Head to Nyamirambo, the Muslim quarter, to try some giant grilled tilapia or stop by a local café and discover why Rwandan coffee is considered some of the world's best.

#### ACCOMMODATION

- Eagle View Lodge

#### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Airport pickup at 6:55pm
- Drive to Eagle View Lodge (30 min)
- Eat dinner at lodge
- Trip orientation and itinerary review



# Remarkable Rwanda, Gorillas of Uganda and Solidarity

*Solidarity, Cultural and Safari experiences*

## April 1<sup>st</sup> - DAY 2. KIGALI

This morning, head out of the city for a sobering visit to the Ntarama Church. The local guide will explain how this memorial marks the spot where 5000 people were tragically slaughtered during the genocide. Reminders of lives lost remain in the church, including clothes and even bones. Continue to the Nyamata Genocide Memorial Centre – a former church where an incomprehensible 50,000 people were murdered. Your guide will discuss how the Tutsis sought refuge in churches, only for them to turn into death traps. Then, visit the Genocide Museum – a powerful yet confronting experience and important in understanding the tragedy and the resilience of the Rwandan people. This afternoon, reenergize with a local lunch and try traditional Rwandan dishes before taking a tour of the city and Kimironko market with your guide. This evening is then free for you to explore at your own pace.

### ACCOMMODATION

- Eagle View Lodge

### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Ntarama Church Guided Tour
- Genocide Memorial Centre
- Nyamata Genocide Memorial Centre
- Kimironko Market Visit
- Local Food Lunch

## April 2<sup>nd</sup> - DAY 3. BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST

After breakfast, depart Kigali and head across the border to the Bwindi National Park in Uganda (6 hr drive). Arrive at Bohoma sector of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. This evening, a field veterinarian from the Gorilla Doctors will join you at your lodge for a behind-the-scenes look at their work. This organization is dedicated to saving the mountain and eastern lowland (Grauer's) gorilla species using veterinary medicine and science. They provide medical interventions to protect the animals from human-induced or life-threatening trauma or disease. You will learn more about their fascinating work during this exclusive experience. We will be staying at an eco-lodge that is part of Ride 4 a Woman NGO.

Ride 4 a Woman is a Ugandan non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting women facing the challenges of poverty, HIV, domestic violence, single motherhood, widowhood and who never had the opportunity to attend school. Through a variety of impactful projects, Ride 4 a Woman empowers women socially and economically, and ignites positive change within the community of Bwindi, in south-western Uganda. Every initiative is a step forward to build brighter futures and foster resilience.



# Remarkable Rwanda, Gorillas of Uganda and Solidarity

*Solidarity, Cultural and Safari experiences*

## ACCOMMODATION

- Eco Lodge - Ride 4 a Woman NGO

## INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Bwindi – Gorilla Doctors Veterinarian Educational Talk
- Community entertainment (at the lodge)

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

Your travel time today will be approximately 6 hours.

## April 3<sup>rd</sup> - DAY 4. BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST GORILLA TREKKING

Rise early and head to the park headquarters where you will be briefed on today's gorilla trek by the Uganda Wildlife Authorities. The trek can be strenuous, wet and uncomfortable at times but the incredible biodiversity of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and chance to see rare mountain gorillas makes it worthwhile. It's recommended that you invest in the help of local porters who can carry your pack and provide expert, local one-on-one assistance along the trek. Not only does it make for a more comfortable trek, but it also provides valuable employment opportunities to locals. Gorilla trekking is highly controlled. When you encounter a group of gorillas, you will be able to stay with them for one hour – watch them swing from trees, groom each other and play, all under the watchful eye of a giant silverback. Have a picnic lunch in the wilderness of the rainforest.

## ACCOMMODATION

- Eco Lodge - Ride 4 a Woman NGO

## INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Bwindi National Park – Mountain Gorilla Trek
- Optional activities at lodge: basket weaving, cooking classes, cycling tours, etc

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

Today's trek can be strenuous and may reach altitudes of almost 2000m above sea level. Depending on weather conditions, some of the paths can be slippery and can change depending on the location of the gorillas. Therefore, it's very hard to predict how long you will need to walk for, but a good level of fitness is recommended. It is also recommended to wear shoes with good traction. Rangers may allocate you to different trekking groups based on your fitness level and the group may be split.



# Remarkable Rwanda, Gorillas of Uganda and Solidarity

## *Solidarity, Cultural and Safari experiences*

You will be provided with a walking stick and the option to hire a porter who can carry your day pack and assist you on the trek. It costs 20 USD to hire a porter plus an optional tip, which must be paid for in cash. Some porters are ex-poachers who now recognize the value of gorilla conservation practices.

## April 4<sup>th</sup> - DAY 5. ISHASHA SECTOR

This morning, we make our way to Ishasha, the southern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Here you meet some local residents to learn more about rural life in Uganda. Visit a local organic farm, medicine garden and homestead and learn how its owner is tackling human-wildlife conflict with his anti-crop raiding techniques. You will also meet a local Mukiga woman who will share her story while showing you how to sort, pound and grind millet to make porridge and other Bakiga meals.

This part of the park is famous for its tree climbing lions, so be on the lookout as you make the game drive towards our ecolodge.

### ACCOMMODATION

- Ishasha Jungle Lodge

### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Ishasha – Community Tourism Project Visit
- Queen Elizabeth National Park – 4x4 Game Drive

### SPECIAL INFORMATION

Today's driving time is approximately 2 hours to reach the National Park and approx. 4 hours of game driving.

## April 5<sup>th</sup> - DAY 6. QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Today, we make our way to the north part of Queen Elizabeth National Park. This park is home to 618 bird species, 10 species of primates – including chimpanzees, and 95 different types of mammals. The route to your accommodation may feel like an unofficial safari. Keep a look out for African elephants, buffalo, hippos, warthogs, Nile crocodiles, leopards, spotted hyenas, lions and chimpanzees. Tonight, stay in a simple safari lodge within the park overlooking the Kazinga Channel.

### ACCOMMODATION

- Bush Lodge

### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Queen Elizabeth National Park – 4x4 Game Drive
- Relaxing at the safari lodge



# Remarkable Rwanda, Gorillas of Uganda and Solidarity

*Solidarity, Cultural and Safari experiences*

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

Stay in a simple safari lodge within the park overlooking the Kazinga Channel.

## April 6<sup>th</sup> - DAY 7. QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Wake up for another exciting day in Queen Elizabeth National Park with another 4x4 Game Drive. Be on the lookout for any sightings you may have missed yesterday, and if you are really lucky, you might be able to spot leopards or lions.

This afternoon, you have the opportunity to see the park from a different perspective with cruise down the Kazinga Channel. Linking Lake Edward to Lake George. You will be joined by local guides who will fill you in on everything you could want to know about the landscape and animals who live within it – be on the lookout for hippos basking on the shores as well as crocodiles, herds of elephants and abundant birdlife.

### ACCOMMODATION

- Bush Lodge

### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Queen Elizabeth National Park – 4x4 Game Drive
- Queen Elizabeth National Park – Kazinga Channel Boat cruise

## April 7<sup>th</sup> - DAY 8. KALINZU FOREST

Travel to Kalinzu Forest National Park today. Some of its inhabitants include chimpanzees, black and white colobuses, baboons, red-tailed monkeys, both blue and red duikers, bushbucks, waterbucks, giant forest hogs, buffalos and elephants. This morning, you will take an excursion to see the chimpanzees of Kalinzu Forest. More closely related to humans than any other living creature, the chimpanzees are delight to watch as they squabble and play in fruiting trees.

### ACCOMMODATION

- Bush Lodge

### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Kalinzu Forest - Chimpanzee Trekking
- Nature walk

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

Chimpanzee trekking is offered as a pre-booked service which will guarantee you a place, keep in mind that this is a popular activity, and places are limited.



# Remarkable Rwanda, Gorillas of Uganda and Solidarity

*Solidarity, Cultural and Safari experiences*

## April 8<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup> - DAY 9, 10, 11, 12. MASAKA

Today, drive out of the Queen Elizabeth National Park on your way to Masaka where WECO Uganda NGO is located. WECO Uganda NGO is a charity organization providing care to orphans, vulnerable children, young powerless mothers and broken families in rural Uganda. Located in Masaka district south of the Equator, they run a community school, a safe place for teenage girls, a foster home and a number of projects and programs that bring hope to communities. "A chance to play is a chance to heal" so come kick a soccer ball, read a book to a child or teach a class at our children's school. Work on a construction site project or gardening at our farm. Have a heart-to-heart conversation. Serve with us and you will learn to see yourself and others more deeply.

### Cultural Exchange

Here you will experience drumming and dancing, local food and handmade crafts. Deepen your compassion for humanity as you sit in Ugandan homes, walk Ugandan streets, and realize we're more alike than we are different.

### ACCOMMODATION

- Banda Lodge

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

- WECO Uganda NGO – Children's School
- WECO Uganda NGO – Community Outreach and Families Visits
- WECO Uganda NGO – Demonstration Farm

### SPECIAL INFORMATION

Driving time from Queen Elizabeth National Park to Masaka is approximately 5 hours.

Lunch may be taken at a local restaurant enroute (please discuss this with your drive/guide)

## April 12<sup>th</sup> - DAY 13. KAMPALA

After breakfast this morning, it's time to make the journey to Kampala. After driving to Kampala we will see some of the city sights. One optional activity is to experience traditional dances from across Uganda with the Ndere Dance Group. Their performances are highly entertaining cultural experiences and a highlight for many travelers.

### ACCOMMODATION

- Ndere Cultural Center or similar

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Stop at the equator monument for some photos and souvenir shopping
- City sights



# Remarkable Rwanda, Gorillas of Uganda and Solidarity

*Solidarity, Cultural and Safari experiences*

- Ndere Traditional Dance Performance @ 6pm

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

Driving time from Masaka to Entebbe International Airport is approximately 4 hours but may delay depending on traffic.

## April 13<sup>th</sup> - DAY 14. ENTEBBE

After breakfast this morning, it's time to soak in the city for a day before your departure. We will experience the chaos of Kampala and get a taste of what life is like in Uganda's capitol city.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Kampala City Walking Tour
- Chocolate Making Experience
- Kasubi Tombs
  
- Boda Boda Tour
- Entebbe Botanical Garden

## SPECIAL INFORMATION

Flight leaves at 11:25pm. We will be sure to arrive at the airport at least 2 hours before flight departure.