

Gorilla and Game Trek

15 days | Starts/Ends: Nairobi



Trek through lush jungle in search of mountain gorillas. Experience the beauty of Uganda, visit Kenya's Great Rift Valley Lakes and spot game on the plains of the Masai Mara.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Lake Nakuru National Park and its lake. Meet local children at the East African Mission Organisation.
- The Masai Mara, one of Kenya's finest wildlife reserves and the Masai tribal lands
- The Equator crossing
- Kampala, Uganda's capital city
- Gorilla Trekking - optional. Bwindi or Mgahinga Gorilla park in Uganda.
- Lake Bunyoni, spectacular scenery.
- Jinja (famous for its Nile rafting)
- Great Rift Valley system of lakes
- Lake Naivasha, the highest of the Rift Valley lakes

What's Included

- Arrival transfer from Nairobi Airport on day 1
- 1st night dormitory accommodation at Kenya Comfort Hotel and 13 nights

- camping. Tents and sleeping mats provided
- A fully equipped overland truck for transportation and game drives
- Services of 3 person crew (leader, driver, cook)
- All camping fees and appropriate equipment
- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 13 dinners
- Park entry - Lake Naivasha NP. Park entry and game drives - Lake Nakuru NP, Masai Mara
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: Gorilla Permit + Transfer USD\$750-900pp, paid in USD
- Gorilla Permit and transfer fee: Please note that Gorillas often move across the border, between the national parks in Rwanda, Uganda and DRC, therefore itineraries often have to be changed at short notice in order to track the Gorillas in whichever National Park they have migrated to. For this reason the cost of the Gorilla Permit and relevant transfers varies, as do the applicable visa costs, dependent upon which country we need to travel into. Permits are subject to availability and need to be booked in advance.
- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Sleeping bag - please bring your own

- Optional activities

Local Payment

\$700pp, paid in USD.

The local payment is a cost per person which needs to be paid in US Dollars cash only. It is this payment which in part covers the park fees and other inclusions such as meals as detailed under 'what you get'. The local payment also covers your arrival transfer and 1st night's accommodation. Please note that due to exchange rate fluctuations in the US dollar, the local payment amount may be subject to changes. This payment will be collected by your tour leader at the Welcome Meeting on day 1.

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Nairobi

Saturday. Welcome to Nairobi! We'll be there to collect you at Nairobi Airport and transfer you to the Kenya Comfort Hotel. Tonight you will stay in shared dorms. There will be a pre departure meeting at 17.00. **Overnight - Nairobi**

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 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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Days 2-3 : Masai Mara



Nairobi - Masai Mara. Heading west from Nairobi on day 2, we reach possibly Kenya's most famous natural attraction - the Masai Mara National Reserve. The Kenyan section of the wildly beautiful Serengeti Plains teems with wildlife. The highlight of the Mara is no doubt the annual wildebeest migration, when literally millions of these beasts plus zebra and Thomson's gazelle stray north from the Serengeti in neighbouring Tanzania in search of lush grass on the savannah plains. Elephant, lion, cheetah, giraffe and a multitude of hooved herbivores also inhabit the reserve. A game drive through the Mara on day 3 gives us the chance to spot the Big Five. During our stay we can also opt to visit a local Masai tribe.

Overnight - Masai Mara (B:1, L:2, D:2)

Day 4 : Eldoret

Masai Mara - Eldoret. Leaving the Masai Mara early on day 4, we head out of Masai Land and pass through the scenic tea plantations of Kericho before descending the Rift Valley Plateau, on our way to Eldoret - our stop for the night of day 4. **Overnight - Eldoret** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Kampala

Eldoret - Kampala (Uganda). This morning we cross the border into Uganda where we overnight in the capital city, Kampala.

Overnight - Kampala (B, L, D)

Days 6-9 : Lake Bunyoni & Gorilla Trekking



Kampala - Lake Bunyoni. From Kampala we drive to Lake Bunyoni, the deepest Crater Lake in Africa and home to a large and varied number of beautiful birds, which is the base from which the optional Gorilla trek takes place. Dependant on where trekking permits are available, we trek in the Magahinga or Bwindi National Parks in Uganda.

We depart from our base in Bunyoni in small groups over 3-4 days, depending on the group size. We wind our way through arguably some of the most picturesque scenery in Africa en-route to the National Park. Dependant on where permits are available, we may spend a night in Kisoro en route. The following morning, after packing our picnic lunch, we are transferred to a ranger's station where the trek commences. Your rangers will lead you through the cultivated lands and then into the dense rain forest and on to a gorilla family. Trekking can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 8 hours and it can be quite strenuous. To ensure the gorillas do not get too used to the presence of humans and because they share many of our genes (and therefore able to catch our diseases), the maximum time permitted to spend with them is 1 hour. You will have plenty of time to watch their activity and to take photographs. The rangers will be able to provide you with a background to the family you are visiting. Once your hour is up, you trek back out of the rain forest to your meeting point where you will be transferred back to the Lake Bunyoni campsite. **Overnight - Lake Bunyoni** (B:4, L:4, D:4)

Day 10 : Kampala

Lake Bunyoni - Kampala. After marvelling at the experience of our gorilla encounters and enjoying the peaceful Lake Bunyoni, we begin our drive back to Kampala. We cross the Equator for the second time and stop for the classic "one foot in each hemisphere" photo opportunity. We overnight in Kampala and have the opportunity to sample its night life!

Overnight - Kampala (B, L, D)

Day 11 : Jinja

Kampala - Jinja. Today we have the option of visiting the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary or heading to Jinja for a selection of adventure activities including white water rafting at the source of the White Nile, quad biking or visiting a volunteer and community project. Spend the afternoon relaxing on the banks of the river, or ticking off the wide variety of water birds in this area. **Overnight - Jinja** (B, L, D)

Days 12-13 : Lake Nakuru



Jinja - Nakuru (Kenya). Departing early, we head back to Kenya and spend the night outside Nakuru at a lovely campsite on a local farm. Nakuru is Kenya's 4th largest town and capital of the Rift Valley Province and lies adjacent to the small but wildlife rich Lake Nakuru National Park.

Lake Nakuru National Park is home to a veritable array of wildlife. The park supports a population of black rhino, lion, leopard, zebra, antelope and giraffe not to mention millions of pink flamingos. The lake itself is a shallow soda lake. The following morning we begin our exploration of the national park and after our game drive, we head back to camp.

Overnight - Lake Nakuru (B:2, L:2, D:2)

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Day 14 : Lake Naivasha

Lake Naivasha, is home to a multitude of bird life, the most magnificent being the African Fish Eagle with his regal cry. At 1880 m, this is the highest of the Rift Valley lakes. We spend the day enjoying optional excursions like Elsamere (former home to Joy & George Adamson of Born Free fame), a boat ride to the Crescent Island Game Sanctuary or a bike ride around Hell's Gate National Park.

Overnight - Lake Naivasha (B, L, D)

Day 15 : Nairobi

Saturday. Naivasha - Nairobi. After breakfast today, we head back to Nairobi. On arrival we bid farewell to members of the group.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard. If you require a complete list of the confirmed hotels for your tour please request this from your reservations consultant two weeks prior to your departure. **Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

Kenya Comfort Hotel

Comfortable dormitory accommodation in central Nairobi (upgrades available on request). The Kenya Comfort Hotel also features an outdoor pool, restaurant serving a good array of local and international dishes as well as a fully stocked bar - perfect for relaxing before or after your epic overland adventure.



Naiberi River Campsite & Resort

Camp by the river Naiberi at this vintage resort 16km from Eldoret, which also offers spacious dorms, log cabins, and executive rooms built into the valley slopes. During

the day, admire the wildlife, with a variety of local nature trails offering the chance to encounter over 250 bird species. At night, venture down to the famous cave restaurant and enjoy a meal within the stone walls, believed to have once housed members of the ancient Sirikwa tribe. Other amenities include an outdoor pool and extensive bar selection.



Red Chilli Hideaway

Located on a purpose-built, 5-acre site in a peaceful suburb, the Red Chilli Hideaway offers affordable accommodation ranging from a campsite which we use for our overland safaris to private ensuite rooms for upgrades. Settle down for the day at the Hideaway's saltwater pool, self-catering kitchen, or restaurant & bar. The camp supports sustainable tourism and operates the Steve Willis Memorial Fund, whose proceeds go to providing clean drinking water in the Murchison Falls region.



East Africa Mission Organisation (EAMO)

Established in 1997 by Australian couple Ralph & May Spinks, EAMO is a registered charitable institution which houses hundreds of orphaned Kenyan children. Their goal is to provide these children with dedicated care, nutrition, and education. EAMO has been rapidly expanding over the last two decades, and relies entirely on the generosity of volunteers and sponsors to support its growth.

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. Single travellers will be paired up in tents with another person of the same gender.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
17 Aug	USD 1,395	USD 1,395
31 Aug	USD 1,395	USD 1,395
14 Sep	USD 1,395	USD 1,395
28 Sep	USD 1,295	USD 1,295
12 Oct	USD 1,295	USD 1,295
26 Oct	USD 1,295	USD 1,295
09 Nov	USD 1,295	USD 1,295
23 Nov	USD 1,295	USD 1,295
07 Dec	USD 1,295	USD 1,295
21 Dec	USD 1,395	USD 1,395

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Jan	USD 1,395	USD 2,590
01 Feb	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
29 Feb	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
28 Mar	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
25 Apr	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
23 May	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
06 Jun	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
20 Jun	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
04 Jul	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
18 Jul	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
01 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
15 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
29 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
12 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
26 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
10 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
24 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
07 Nov	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
21 Nov	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
05 Dec	USD 1,545	USD 2,740
19 Dec	USD 1,545	USD 2,740

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