

# 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 on this popular 15 day overland safari.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Masai Mara - search for all of Africa's iconic Big Five and other species in one of Kenya's finest wildlife reserves
- Lake Naivasha - search for the rare African Fish Eagle on the highest of the Rift Valley lakes and join optional excursions including a bike ride
- Great Rift Valley - gaze in awe at the spectacular scenery of the Great Rift Valley, home to incredible landscapes, shimmering lakes and wonderful wildlife
- Gorilla Trekking - spot endangered mountain gorillas on an optional guided trek into the dense jungle of Uganda
- Lake Nakuru - explore the biodiverse Lake Nakuru National Park, which is home to large population of both black and white rhinos
- Lake Bunyoni - relax on the shore of the deepest crater lake in Africa and see a

myriad of bird life whilst waiting for your gorilla trek

- The Equator Crossing - stop for a "one foot in each hemisphere" photo opportunity
- Kampala - discover the charismatic Ugandan capital independently

### What's Included

- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 13 dinners
- 1st night dormitory accommodation at Kenya Comfort Hotel and 13 nights camping. Tents and sleeping mats provided
- Arrival transfer from Nairobi Airport on day 1
- Park entry - Lake Naivasha NP. Park entry and game drives - Lake Nakuru NP, Masai Mara
- A fully equipped overland truck for transportation and game drives
- Services of 3 person crew (leader, driver, cook)
- All camping fees and appropriate equipment
- 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 and Uganda, 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

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pre departure meeting at 17.00. **Overnight - Nairobi**

## 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 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. **Overnight - Eldoret** (B, L, D)

## Day 5 : Kampala

Eldoret - Kampala (Uganda). This morning we cross the border into Uganda, a small country of striking beauty, with landscapes varying from the fertile green areas around the northern shores of Lake Victoria to the snow-capped Ruwenzori Mountains in the west and the semi-desert region in the north. We reach Kampala, the capital city, where we stop for the night. **Overnight - Kampala** (B, L, D)

## Days 6-9 : Lake Bunyoni & Gorilla Trekking



Kampala - Lake Bunyoni. After an early morning departure from Kampala we drive west into the depths of Uganda to our base at the tranquil 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.

**Please note:** Gorilla permits need to be purchased in advance, please ask your reservations consultant or visit our Gorilla trekking travel guide.

**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 - Lake 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

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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)

## Day 14 : Lake Naivasha

Lake Nakuru - 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.

**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 are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices are per person when there are 2 people sharing a tent. The 'Solo Room' price is applicable to all solo travellers, or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a tent. Solo travellers will be placed in their own tent or matched up with another solo traveller of the same sex, based upon the current health advice at time of travel.

### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
19 Jun	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
03 Jul	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149
17 Jul	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149
31 Jul	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149
14 Aug	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149
28 Aug	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149
11 Sep	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149
25 Sep	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
09 Oct	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
23 Oct	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
06 Nov	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
20 Nov	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
04 Dec	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
18 Dec	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149

### PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
15 Jan	GBP 1,026	GBP 1,026
12 Feb	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
12 Mar	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
09 Apr	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
07 May	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
04 Jun	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
18 Jun	GBP 1,083	GBP 2,109
02 Jul	GBP 1,123	GBP 2,149

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