



## **CRA- U 03: 13 Days Great Lakes & Primates Rwanda / Uganda**

**Highlights:** Birding, Chimpanzees, Exploring, Game Viewing, Gorillas, Mountains, Photography

**Location:** Rwanda, Uganda

### **Day 1: Kigali, Rwanda**

Visitors are met on arrival by our representative and transferred to one of Kigali's hotel. A City tour can be arranged with the option of visiting the Genocide Memorial Sites. This is a fascinating visit to an important statement about Rwanda's past but not for the fainthearted. The intention is to show Rwanda's commitment to such atrocities never happening again but the evidence of what happened can be distressing. Alternative tours can be arranged should visitors prefer.

Dinner and overnight stay at Kigali Serena Hotel

### **Days 2: Volcano National Park Rwanda**

We wake up early, at 5am for breakfast & then depart immediately for the road transfer (90 minutes) to Ruhengeri where we complete the formalities for our Gorilla trip at the National Park HQs. This is one of the most exhilarating and moving wildlife experiences you can have: You get so close to these giant primates, observing them watch you – their almost human movements, innate dignity and social interaction make a unique connection with each of us. These mountain gorillas excursions we made famous by Diane Fossey and immortalized in the film 'Gorillas in the Mist'. Dinner and overnight stay at Gorillas Nest Lodge

### **Day 3: Gisenyi – Lake Kivu**

After breakfast and the exciting not to mention a tiring mountain gorilla tracking, drive further to Lake Kivu. This picturesque border town provides the ideal place for rest and recuperation. For sunbathing, swimming and water sports, the Rwanda Riviera town of Gisenyi is the place to be. Dinner and overnight stay at Lake Kivu Serena Lodge

### **Day 4: Lake Kivu - Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda**

We arise early for breakfast and depart for the Cyanika border of Uganda. Picnic Lunch enroute as we continue further onto Queen Elizabeth National Park. Dinner and overnight stay at Ishasha Wilderness Camp

### **Days 5 & 6: Queen Elizabeth National Park**

We drive on via Ishasha in search of the famous tree climbing lions then on to the Queen Elizabeth National Park. This beautiful park is dominated on its northern border by the snowcapped peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains- the famous "Mountains of the Moon." 20 years ago the park had the highest density of wildlife of any park in Africa but these populations were severely depleted during Idi Amin's regime. Thankfully today they are well on their way toward recovery. Uganda Kob occurs in the thousands as well as numerous Defassa Waterbuck, Bushbuck, African Buffalo, Topi, Warthog, Elephant, Giant Forest Hogs as well as Lions and Leopard.

Our second day begins with an early morning trip on the freshwater Kasinga Channel which joins Lake Edward and Lake George and is home to the largest concentration of Nile Hippos in the world.

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The birding here is excellent, ranging in size from the tiny, brilliant Malachite Kingfisher to the giant Goliath Heron. Dinner and overnight stay at Mweya Lodge

#### **Day 7: Queen Elizabeth - Kibale Forest**

We spend the morning game driving in Queen Elizabeth National Park. After lunch, we set off for Kibale Forest traveling north through Ugandan villages and small traditional farms of millet, sorghum, beans and maize. The lush rolling hills of this region provide good photo opportunities as we look out for Black-headed Gonolek, Fan-tailed Widowbird, Double-toothed Barbet, Long-crested Eagle, and the numerous sunbirds and weavers that perch near the road. As we approach Fort Portal in the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains, we enter Uganda's famous tea plantation region. We arrive at Fort Portal then continue to the Kibale Forest arriving late afternoon. Dinner and overnight at Ndali Lodge

#### **Days 8 & 9: Kibale Forest**

Kibale Forest has well marked trails making the forest easily accessible. We spend these 2 days hiking into the rainforest in search of primates. Commonly seen species include Red-tailed Monkey, Grey-cheeked Mangabey, and both Red Colobus and Black-and-white Colobus Monkeys and the impressive, elusive Chimpanzees. Chimps are abundant here, and there is a high likelihood of observing them as they make their nomadic treks along forest trails and forage for fruit in the canopy above. Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Great Blue Turaco, Grey Parrot and Narina's Trogon are just a few of the many colorful central African birds we hope to find here. We explore a nearby-forested swamp that is excellent for viewing birds, primates and magnificent butterflies. On the way back to the lodge night game drives may yield glimpses of Greater and Needle-clawed Galago, Palm Civet, Mongoose, African Civet or Serval.Cats. Dinner and overnight at Ndali Lodge

#### **Day 10: Kibale - Murchinson Falls National Park**

We depart in the early morning for the famous Murchison Falls National Park via Hoima and Buitaba Escarpment. The Murchison Falls National Park is bisected by the vast and beautiful Nile River. This is Uganda's largest National park and is a scenic wonderland with rolling grasslands, river valleys, the meandering Victoria Nile and Lake Albert. Sir Winston Churchill described Murchison Falls National park as 'Kew Gardens and London Zoo' all rolled into one! Dinner and overnight Nile Safari Camp

#### **Day 11: Nile River & Murchison Falls**

We board our river boat for an excursion to the foot of Murchison Falls. The ten-mile journey to the foot of one of Africa's most powerful and dramatic waterfalls the Murchison Falls is a memory you will cherish forever. At this point, the mighty Victoria Nile is squeezed through a mere 15- foot-wide gorge and released over a sheer cliff in a cataclysm of thunderous white water. En route are large herds of Hippopotamus plus enormous Nile Crocodiles, African buffalo, Water buck, Elephants and Rothschild's Giraffes. For birding enthusiasts: Goliath and purple Heron, Rock Pratincoles, Red-throated Bee-eaters and the possibility of seeing the rare Shoebill Stork. Dinner and overnight at Nile Safari Camp

#### **Day 12: Budongo Forest Reserve**

A full day will be spent visiting the acclaimed Budongo Forest Reserve which lies at the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and to the south of Murchison Falls. It is the largest tract of natural forest in East Africa and boasts Uganda's largest population of Chimpanzees and over 350 bird species. In

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addition to Chimpanzees, there are Colobus and red- tailed Monkeys, tree Pangolins, African giant squirrels and over 250 butterfly species. Overnight at Nile Safari Camp

**Day 13: Depart**

We depart by road for Kampala and Entebbe to catch your flight to an onward destination

Price includes:

- Return transport as per the itinerary
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Park entry fees , Gorilla Tracking permit, Game drives as per the itinerary
- Accommodation on full board basis as per the itinerary
- Services of a professional driver guide
- Boat cruises & guided walks

Price excludes:

- All extras, drinks, laundry, telephones, tips
- Air fares into E.A, Visa and any related fees
- Medical & travel insurance covers
- Any deviation from the itinerary &Any other item not mentioned in the inclusive itinerary above

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