



CHEESEMAN'S ECOLOGY SAFARIS

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Uganda

Primate Encounters

September 26 to October 6, 2023



Mountain Gorilla
© Scott Davis

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Submerge deep in the mountainous jungle lair of elusive mountain gorillas and chimpanzees to witness intimate behaviors of our closest ancestors. In the spirit of legendary primatologists Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, you'll get up-close and personal with these complex and social animals. Full-day access permits in Kibale National Park will allow you to revel in plentiful photography opportunities (most visitors have only two hours). You will track chimpanzee families, often just a few feet away, and behold tender moments while chimps wake up, groom, forage, interact, and play. Hike deep into Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and spend three days locating rare mountain gorillas and observe these gentle giants while they trudge among the trees to feed, socialize, and parent. In addition to the stars of the show, you may encounter up to 13 species of primates on this safari. You will leave Uganda with a rejuvenated sense of awe and wonder.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Up-close encounters with critically endangered mountain gorillas during the three one-hour visits in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- Two days in Kibale National Park with extended time to observe and photograph a full range of chimpanzee behaviors.
- Exclusive small group size keeps encounters private, and without interference by other visitors.
- Expand your photography skills with biologist-turned-professional-photographer Scott Davis.

LEADER: Scott Davis.

DAYS: 11, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 7.

COST: \$14,390 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight from Bwindi to Entebbe), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 4.

ACCOMMODATIONS: From a modern hotel to luxurious tented camps and cottages. Your tented camp near Bwindi is known for gorilla families visiting the grounds. See the *Accommodations* section on page 6.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Sep 26	Travel to Entebbe, Uganda.		
Sep 27	Arrive in Entebbe.	Protea Hotel, Entebbe	—
Sep 28–30	Drive to Kibale National Park and then spend the next two days tracking chimpanzees and observing their behaviors.	Ndali Lodge, Ndali	B, L, D
Oct 1–4	Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and spend the next three days tracking gorillas.	Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp, Bwindi	B, L, D
Oct 5	Fly to Entebbe for flights homeward.	Protea Hotel, Entebbe (dayroom)	B, D
Oct 6	Arrive home.		

LEADER



Scott Davis

Scott is a professional photographer (www.scottdavisimages.com/) specializing in wildlife, nature, and travel. Originally trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, his research and photo assignments took him to the far corners of the globe. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, and renowned magazines have used his photography. His patience for teaching and love of capturing the essence of his subjects make him one of our most popular tour leaders.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Sep 26 ~ Travel to Entebbe, Uganda

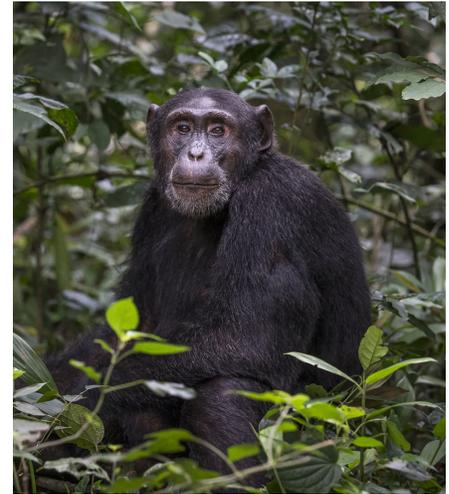
Sep 27 ~ Arrive in Entebbe

Arrive in Entebbe, where our local agent will transfer you from the airport to rest and prepare for your upcoming adventure.

Sep 28–30 ~ Track chimpanzees in Kibale National Park

Drive from Entebbe to Ndali Lodge in the popular Kibale National Park. Kibale National Park is known for its rich variety and concentration of primates, such as vervets, l'Hoest's monkeys, red colobus, black-and-white colobus, chimpanzees, and olive baboons. You may also encounter forest elephants, which are smaller and hairier than savanna elephants.

Kibale National Park is home to roughly 1,500 chimpanzees, all separated into various troops and some lone individuals. Several of the troops are habituated to humans, so you can observe them throughout the day without them getting anxious or upset. We have special permits that maximize time with the chimpanzees, so plan for a full day of activity. Wake up before dawn to hike into the forest, arriving at your focal chimp group just in time to see them stir and wake from their sleeping nests. Observe their daily routine while they interact in their natural habitat, and watch them eat, groom, play, and care for their young. Your expert guide will describe their behaviors and also help locate other animals that share the tropical forest, including other species of primates, bush pigs, dukiers, many amphibians and reptiles, and some of the more than 375 birds that inhabit this area.



Chimpanzee
© Scott Davis

Begin the last morning at adjacent Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, recognized for its extensive biodiversity and affectionately called "the paradise of birds," to view numerous bird species, primates, and other mammals including mongoose, warthogs, and otters. This wetland boasts a rich habitat and great conservation success story. The area, once known for poaching, is now managed by the locals who directly benefit from tourism. After touring Bigodi, you will return to follow your chimpanzee troop for the remainder of the day.



Silverback Mountain Gorilla
© Scott Davis

Oct 1–4 ~ Track gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Embark on a scenic drive south to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home of the critically endangered mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*). This forest is part of a national park that lies on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley in southwestern Uganda, with a wide altitude range between 1,160m and 2,600m (peaking over 8,500ft above sea level). The forest dates back to the ice ages and is one of Uganda's oldest and most ecologically diverse regions. It is home to almost 400 plant species, 350 bird species, including 23 Albertine

Rift endemics, and 120 mammal species including rodents, bats, mountain gorillas, olive baboons, chimpanzees, elephants, and antelopes.

Your knowledgeable guide from the lodge will lead you on your venture to track mountain gorillas each day. Following a morning briefing by your gorilla guide, who will tell you about your assigned gorilla family and appropriate safety precautions, you will drive to the trailhead for the start of your thrilling quest. Expect a full day of hiking long distances in steep and sometimes muddy conditions, taking anywhere from two to eight hours to find the elusive mountain gorillas.

Once you arrive at your gorilla family, you will spend one hour with them as they engage in their daily life. You will witness movement and behaviors such as feeding, playing, and tending to their young. Experience breathtaking and face-to-face encounters with giant mountain gorillas on an awe-inspiring adventure that few are lucky to know.

Oct 5 ~ Fly back to Entebbe

Take private charter flight to Entebbe. You can refresh in your dayroom before catching your flights home.

Oct 6 ~ Arrive home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$14,390
Single Supplement	\$1,820

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight from Bwindi to Entebbe), singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$3,000
Final	April 20, 2023	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$2,750 per person (\$2,600 per person is for the pre-purchased, **non-refundable** and **non-transferable** gorilla and chimpanzee permits); \$150 per person of the cancellation fee can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six

months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- All leaders, transport, and park entry fees for all activities unless described as optional.
- Permits for two full days of tracking chimpanzees in Kibale National Park (**non-refundable and non-transferable**).
- Permits for three one-hour gorilla visits in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (**non-refundable and non-transferable**).
- One-way flight from Bwindi to Entebbe.
- Accommodations for the nights of September 27 through October 4, and a dayroom on October 5.
- Meals from breakfast on September 28 through breakfast on October 5.
- Bottled water while trekking and in game drive vehicles.
- Transfers between Entebbe International Airport and Protea Hotel, regardless of arrival or departure day.
- English-speaking drivers, park rangers, and trackers.
- Short Term AMREF Flying Doctor medical emergency evacuation insurance. This does not include hospital or treatment costs. For more information, see www.flydoc.org.
- Trip Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- All airfare (except flight listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Round-trip airfare is approximately \$1,200 between the US and Entebbe, Uganda.
- Passport and visa fees.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$525 per participant for our local drivers/guides, trackers, rangers, and optional porters.
- Optional hiring of local porters to carry your gear during hikes to find chimpanzees and gorillas.
- Trip cancellation insurance. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

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Website: www.cheesemans.com

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330 | Skype: CheesemansEcologySafaris

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate

Uganda's temperatures generally stay the same year-round. Daytime temperatures range from 65 to 85°F and nighttime temperatures in the mid-50s°F, but with climate change weather is more variable, so prepare for varying climate conditions. September through November are the transitional months between the rainy and dry seasons in Uganda, so expect some rain. The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is rainy and fairly damp year-round.

Fitness Level

You may hike to search for gorillas and chimpanzees for two to six miles per day (typically spending more than four to eight hours) in steep, uneven, and muddy terrain. You'll hike regardless of the weather conditions. Plan to hire a local porter to carry your gear during the hikes so that you can focus on photography and the rugged terrain. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Accommodations

In Entebbe, you will overnight at a modern hotel. While elsewhere, your lodging is at luxurious cottages and tented camps. All rooms have private baths. After a long day of hiking to find the apes, you will appreciate the niceties of a warm shower, sunset views at the bar, good food, and a comfortable bed.

Flights

Unless listed as included, airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you. Please let us know if you are arriving earlier or staying later as we are happy to assist you with any extra overnights that you might want to arrange.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Entebbe, Uganda (EBB) anytime on September 27. Depart Entebbe, Uganda (EBB) in the evening on October 5.

Flights we book for you: The one-way flight from Bwindi to Entebbe is included in the trip cost.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current Terms and Conditions at <https://cheesemans.com/terms-and-conditions>.

Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife.

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Rio Bravo Reserve in Belize, a Nature Conservancy project (www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/).