

Uganda

Gorillas & Chimpanzees of the Pearl of Africa

October 7 to 18, 2027



Mountain Gorilla

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Venture deep into Uganda's mountainous jungles, where elusive mountain gorillas and chimpanzee families thrive in their natural habitat. Follow in the footsteps of legendary primatologists Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey as you experience intimate wildlife encounters with these intelligent primates. Spend a full day tracking chimpanzees in Kibale National Park, observing as they groom, forage, and play, offering incredible wildlife photography opportunities. Then embark on a trekking adventure, spending three unforgettable days with the gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, watching as they navigate dense foliage, nurture their young, and interact within their family groups. Along the way, take in Uganda's breathtaking landscapes and spot some of the 13 primate species that call this diverse ecosystem home. This immersive safari promises awe-inspiring wildlife moments and a deeper appreciation for why Uganda is truly the Pearl of Africa.

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Intimate Gorilla Encounters:** Observe mountain gorillas up close during exclusive one-hour visits each day, immersing yourself in their world over three days in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- **Wild Chimpanzee Trekking:** Enjoy two full days in Kibale National Park, witnessing and photographing wild chimpanzees and their natural behaviors.
- **Small-Group Luxury Safari:** Limited to just seven travelers, ensuring exclusive wildlife experiences and personalized guidance.
- **Professional Photography Mentorship:** Elevate your wildlife photography skills with biologist-turned-photographer Scott Davis.

- **Rare Birdwatching Opportunity:** Canoe through Mabamba Swamp in search of the stately Shoebill Stork, one of Africa’s most sought-after birds.

LEADER: Scott Davis.

DAYS: 12, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 7.

COST: \$16,300 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight from Bwindi to Entebbe), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

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 7.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Oct 7	Travel to Entebbe, Uganda.		
Oct 8	Arrive in Entebbe. Relax after your journey and enjoy a welcome dinner with the group.	Protea Hotel, Entebbe	D
Oct 9	Shoebill Stork Day Trip. Boat across Lake Victoria to Mabamba Swamp to witness the famed Shoebill Storks and other wetland birds.		B, L, D
Oct 10–12	Chimpanzee Trekking in Kibale. Drive to Kibale National Park and spend two days tracking and observing wild chimpanzees in their natural habitat.	Ndali Lodge, Ndali	B, L, D
Oct 13	Kazinga Channel and Transfer to Bwindi. Enjoy a wildlife-rich boat safari along the Kazinga Channel before continuing to the misty forests of Bwindi National Park.	Buhoma Lodge, Bwindi	B, L, D
Oct 14–16	Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi. Spend three days trekking through Bwindi’s lush rainforest for unforgettable encounters with and photographic opportunities of mountain gorilla families.		B, L, D
Oct 17	Return to Entebbe and Depart. Fly back to Entebbe and relax before your flights home.	Protea Hotel, Entebbe (Dayroom)	B
Oct 18	Arrive home.		

LEADER

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. One leader with local assistant guides will provide a range of expertise for your trip.



Scott Davis

Scott is Cheesemans' Co-Owner and a professional photographer 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

Oct 7 ~ Travel to Entebbe, Uganda

Oct 8 ~ Arrive in Entebbe

Arrive in Entebbe, where our local agent will transfer you from the airport to the hotel to rest and prepare for your upcoming adventure. If you'd like to arrive earlier, we can arrange additional airport transfers and extra nights.

Oct 9 ~ Day trip to Mabamba Swamp

Set out across Lake Victoria to Mabamba Swamp for a canoe adventure in search of the famed Shoebill Stork. Instantly recognizable by its shoe-shaped bill, this striking bird stands 5 feet tall with a wingspan of roughly 8 feet, and hunts using a unique method known as "collapse hunting," lunging methodically to catch fish and other small prey with remarkable precision. With an estimated population of 10,000 or fewer in the wild, the Shoebill Stork is currently classified as vulnerable, and conservation efforts are underway to protect its shrinking habitat.



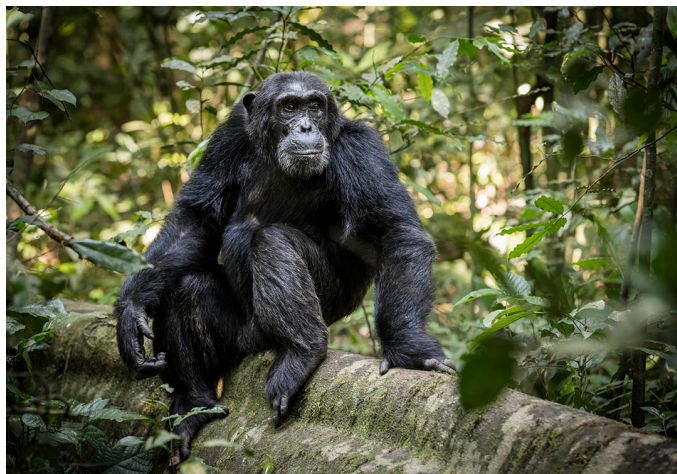
Shoe-billed Stork

Oct 10–12 ~ Track chimpanzees in Kibale National Park

Drive from Entebbe to Ndali Lodge, located on its own crater lake and near Kibale National Park, renowned for its rich diversity and density of primates, including vervets, L'Hoest's monkeys, red colobus, black-and-white colobus, chimpanzees, and olive baboons. Keep an eye out for forest elephants too, smaller and hairier than their savanna relatives.

Kibale is home to roughly 1,500 chimpanzees split among various troops and lone individuals. Several troops are habituated to humans, allowing extended observation without causing them distress. With special permits that maximize your time with the chimps, plan for a full day of activity: wake before dawn and hike into the forest to arrive just as your focal group stirs from its sleeping nests. Watch their daily rhythms unfold as they eat, groom, play, and care for their young, while your expert guide shares insight into their behavior and helps spot other forest residents, including additional primate species, bush pigs, duikers, amphibians, reptiles, and some of the more than 375 bird species found here.

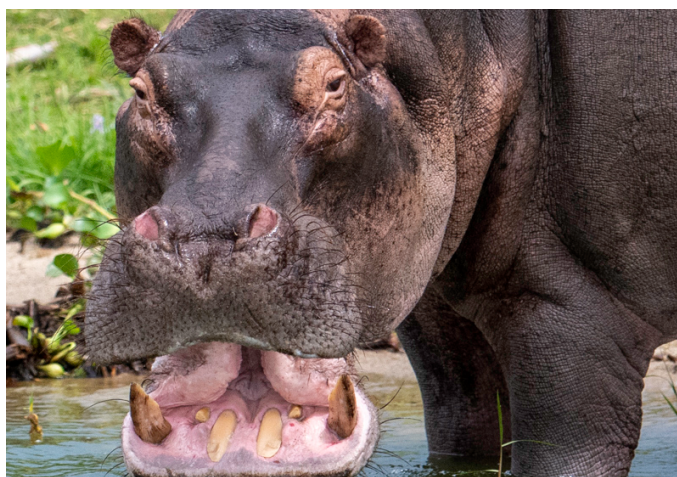
On your final morning, visit the adjacent Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, affectionately known as "the paradise of birds" for its remarkable biodiversity. Look for numerous bird species, primates, and mammals including mongoose, warthogs, and otters. Once known for poaching, this wetland is now a conservation success story, managed by locals who directly benefit from tourism. Afterward, return to follow your chimpanzee troop for the remainder of the day.



Chimpanzee
© Scott Davis

Oct 13 ~ Drive to Bwindi

Set off on a scenic drive south to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home to the critically endangered mountain gorilla. Along the way, stop in Queen Elizabeth National Park for a boat cruise down the Kazinga Channel, one of the park's premier wildlife-viewing spots. Connecting Lake George and Lake Edward, the channel serves as a vital water source for local wildlife. From the boat, look for sitatunga antelope, waterbuck, buffalo, crocodile, the world's largest population of hippos, and even elephants, alongside a wealth of birdlife including Marabou Storks, Saddle-billed Storks, Great and Little Egrets, White-bellied Cormorants, African Skimmers, Common Ringed Plovers, Kittlitz's Plovers, and Marsh Sandpipers. Arrive and relax that evening at your beautiful lodge, strategically located in the national park.



Hippo
© Brian Shepard

Oct 14–16 ~ Track gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Spend three days tracking mountain gorillas through Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, part of a national park perched on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley in southwestern Uganda, with elevations ranging from 1,160m to 2,600m (over 8,500ft at its peak). One of Uganda's oldest and most ecologically diverse forests, dating back to the ice ages, Bwindi harbors nearly 400 plant species, 350 bird species (including 23 Albertine

Rift endemics), and 120 mammal species, from rodents and bats to mountain gorillas, olive baboons, chimpanzees, elephants, and antelope.

Each day begins with a briefing from your gorilla guide, covering your assigned gorilla family and essential safety precautions, before driving to the trailhead to begin your trek. Expect a full day of hiking through steep and sometimes muddy terrain, with search times ranging from two to eight hours depending on where the gorillas are found.

Once you locate your gorilla family, you'll spend a full hour in their presence, observing their daily life up close, from feeding and playing to tending their young. It's a breathtaking, face-to-face encounter with these gentle giants, and an experience few are ever lucky enough to have.



Mountain Gorilla
© Scott Davis

Your evenings are spent relaxing at your mountain lodge, discussing the day’s activities around the fireplaces.

Oct 17 ~ Fly back to Entebbe and depart home

Board a private charter flight back to Entebbe, where you can freshen up in your dayroom before catching your flight home.

Oct 18 ~ Arrive home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$16,300
Single Supplement	\$2,200

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 try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with a roommate, we will 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	\$5,000
Final	April 30, 2027	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, payments are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$3,350 per person (\$3,200 for the pre-purchased, **non-refundable** and **non-transferable** chimpanzee and gorilla trekking permits); \$150 per person of the cancellation fee can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the canceled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, and park entry fees for all activities unless listed 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 October 8 through October 16 and a dayroom on October 17.
- Meals from dinner on October 8 through breakfast on October 17.
- Bottled mineral water while trekking and in vehicles.
- Transfers between Entebbe International Airport and Protea Hotel, regardless of arrival or departure day.
- English-speaking drivers, park rangers, and trackers.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.
- Short-term [AMREF Flying Doctor emergency evacuation](#) insurance. This does not include hospital or treatment costs.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Extra hotel nights (we can arrange for an extra cost).
- Gratuities.
- Optional hiring of local porters to carry your gear during chimpanzee and gorilla treks.
- Optional, additional [emergency evacuation insurance](#).
- Optional [trip cancellation 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 Traveler Form.

SIGN UP

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

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

Email: info@cheesemans.com

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

OTHER DETAILS

Climate

Uganda's temperatures generally stay the same year-round. Daytime temperatures range from 65 to 85°F, and nighttime temperatures are 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 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 in luxurious cottages. 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. If you are concerned about the standard of accommodations being below your expectations, please ask us before booking.

Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Entebbe, Uganda (EBB) by 11:59pm on October 8.
- Depart from Entebbe, Uganda (EBB) after 8:00pm on October 17.

Flights we book

- The one-way flight from Bwindi to Entebbe is included in the trip cost.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Ecotourism and Conservation for [Uganda](#).**
- **Cheesemans' Trips are [Carbon Neutral](#).**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.