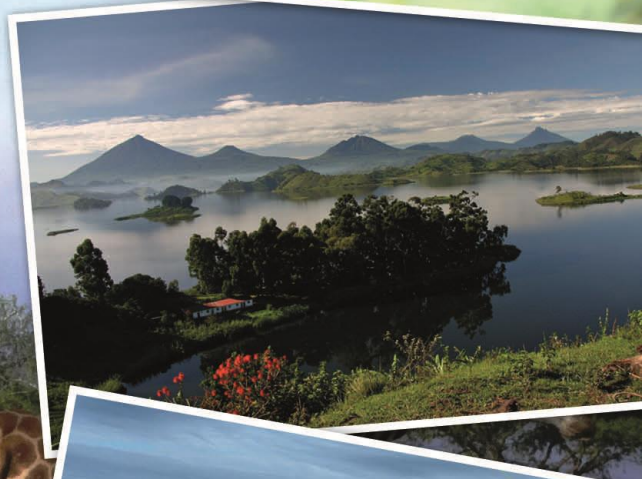




MATOKE TOURS

The Africa Experience!



10 days – Uganda Tour - Comfort

Why Matoke Tours?

- Winner [best tour operator](#) in Uganda 2015-2016-2017!
- Competitive prices
- Uganda's [most sustainable](#) tour operator
- Innovative and original
- Fast and personal service
- Tailor made options and extensions to each itinerary
- All lodges are selected by Matoke Tours, according to atmosphere, service and location



"The Matoke team focuses on the underserved mid range bracket. Besides excellent and enthusiastic service it also stands out as one of the few quality companies that will take you to Kidepo Valley National park overland. All budgets" **(From Lonely Planet's latest East Africa edition)**

Accommodation

When you travel with Matoke Tours, you can be sure you get the accommodation you prefer. Our sales team visits every lodge and can therefore offer you first-hand information and give you different options for all budgets. The lodges we choose are selected by location, atmosphere, service and view.

Sustainable tourism

Matoke Tours was voted among the 5 most sustainable tour operators in Uganda by UCOTA, US AID, AUTO, UWA, UTB and more.
For more information about this award [click here](#)

For more information about what we do and what you can do, go to the [Matoke Tours website](#).



Day by day itinerary

- Day 1: Arrival at the airport - To Queen Elizabeth
- Day 2: Game drive and boat safari Kazinga Channel Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Day 3: Game drive in the Ishasha Sector- To Bwindi NP
- Day 4: Gorilla Tracking in Bwindi impenetrable Forest National Park
- Day 5: To Kibale Forest National Park
- Day 6: Chimpanzee tracking – Bigodi Swamp walk
- Day 7: To Murchison Falls National Park
- Day 8: Safari by road, boat safari to the waterfalls
- Day 9: To Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, to Entebbe
- Day 10: Transfer to the Airport – Fly back home.

Day 1: Welcome in Uganda!

On Arrival at the airport, you be received by your guide who will brief you on your tour and start the journey to Queen Elizabeth N.P.

Scenic queen Elizabeth National Park is located in south western Uganda and is most often included in visitors' itineraries. It is the second largest park in the country and located at the base of the majestic Rwenzori Mountain range, next to Lake Edward and Lake George which are joined by the Kazinga channel. Few reserves in the world have such a high biodiversity with landscapes including savannah, bushland, wetlands and lush forests.

You will stop over for lunch(NOT INCLUSIVE) on way – Guide will communicate.

Marafiki Safari Lodge is set in a unique location and has been designed using local materials fitted by artisans from the local community. This lodge offers private safari tents on raised wooden floors with canvas walls, which can be rolled up. You can sit comfortably when watching the savannah plains with breath taking views across the park, the Rwenzori- and Virunga Mountains. With an en-suit open-air shower, you can experience an African sunrise properly or shower in the moonlight under the stars. Enjoy your delicious meals (made with fresh and local produce) on the restaurant veranda or next to the campfire. There is a new swimming pool which really invites for a refreshing dip in between game drives on a sunny day in this beautiful setting.

<u>Journey time:</u>	7 hours
<u>Accommodation:</u>	Marafiki Safari Lodge
<u>Website:</u>	http://www.marafikisafaris.com/
<u>Meal plan:</u>	Dinner (Marafiki)



Day 2: Lion Tracking – Boat safari(Kazinga Channel)

After an early breakfast, you go for up close to wild African fauna, and a research trip is a rewarding adventure. This unique experience allows visitors to actively participate in monitoring some of lions in the park, using locator devices. The morning is the best time for a game drive as the African animal kingdom tends to be most active when during the golden hours of the first sunlight touching the savannah. You will continue the search for all the wildlife; elephant, buffalo, lion, waterbuck, leopard, Uganda kob, warthog and do not forget about the birds and the primates.



After lunch, you will take a boat safari along the Kazinga Channel. Here, you will see a lot of hippos (more than you can possibly imagine), as well as a variety of other animals which come to the waterhole to drink or bathe. You can expect to see: Buffalo, Crocodile, bathing Elephant, and a range of beautiful birds. This will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your tour. After the boat-safari you game drive back to the lodge.



Accommodation: Marafiki Safari Lodge
Website: <http://www.marafikisafaris.com/>
Meal plan: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3: Tree climbing lions in Ishasha – To Bwindi N.P

After breakfast you will drive in about 2,5 hours to the southern part of Queen Elizabeth National Park. This part is famous for its' tree-climbing lions. While lion cubs around the world frequently climb trees for fun, adults rarely do. However, these lionesses enjoy spending the hot afternoons snoozing in fig trees to get away from the tsetse flies and to enjoy a cool breeze. This is the most memorable sight in the park as you have never seen such photogenic lions posing for your camera before. During a game drive you will try your luck! Meanwhile don't miss the stunning scenery and superb birdlife in this southern remote section of the park either.



Ruhija Gorilla Safari Lodge welcomes you to enjoy the scenic, beautiful, calm and natural environment with forest-fresh air, while experiencing the luxury and serenity of our lodge. It welcomes you with a breath taking scenery of the forest, peace and tranquility – a home away from home! Come enjoy the great melodies of insects, birds and butterflies plus the surprise visits of monkeys or even gorillas. 'We assemble your dreams to create the perfect safari in Africa.'

Set in the heart of the jungle of Gorilla land -Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Ruhija Gorilla Safari Lodge is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful, hospitable and comfortable lodges to stay before visiting one of Uganda's premier safari attractions- THE GORILLAS. The lodge has carefully designed rooms to blend the natural environment which provides luxury and hospitality.

<u>Journey time:</u>	5 hours
<u>Accommodation:</u>	Ruhija Gorilla Lodge
<u>Website:</u>	http://bwindigorillasafari.com/
<u>Meal plan:</u>	Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest – Gorilla Tracking

Today is the big day... Prepare yourself for an encounter with one of Bwindi's gentle giants: the rare Mountain Gorilla. For most people this is the absolute highlight of their tour in Uganda.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is a highlight for many visitors as this is where they will be visiting the home of the gentle giants. The park lies in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Rift Valley. Uganda's oldest and most biologically diverse rainforests lies on the mist-covered hillsides. This magnificent forest dates back over 25,000 years, even surviving the last Ice Age (most forests disappeared). Bwindi forest has an incredible diversity of flora and fauna and is the only forest in Africa which can make claim to host both mountain gorillas and chimpanzees. In fact, half the world's population of gorillas live here divided over nine habituated family groups. Also 5 other primate species, 120 species of mammal, over 220 butterflies and 360 birds species call Bwindi home. This is THE place to see the critically endangered mountain gorillas up close for your very own 'Gorillas in the Mist' moment.



The gorillas you will trek belong to one of nine family groups who can tolerate the presence of humans for a brief period every day. Your trek will be an exciting (for some also challenging) journey along forested (sometimes slippery) slopes, entwined vines, bushes and bamboo before you eventually reach the gentle giants. En-route, your guide will point out signs of previous gorilla activity. Think of dung, nests and chewed bamboo shoots. The time to complete the gorilla trekking can be as little as 2 hours to as much as 7 hours! Once the family of gorillas has been located, you will be allowed a maximum of one hour observing them. Coming face-to-face with the mountain gorillas is a truly humbling and emotional experience. This is a fantastic part of your tour you will definitely remember for the rest of your life.

<u>Accommodation:</u>	Ruhija Gorilla Lodge
<u>Website:</u>	http://bwindigorillasafari.com/
<u>Meal plan:</u>	Breakfast Packed lunch & Dinner

Day 5: To Kibale Forest

Today, you will undertake the journey to green Kibale Forest. The drive is incredibly scenic, passing through tea plantations and the lush green countryside which characterizes so much of Uganda. On arrival at the forest, you will enter a completely different world... some serious monkey business!

Kibale Forest National Park lies just outside the colonial town of Fort Portal and is made up of dense tropical rainforest. This park is considered one of the big highlights of Uganda due to some serious monkey business going on here. A big number of primates residing can be found here and particularly a visit to one of the habituated chimpanzee groups is a very memorable experience. The rare red colobus as well as the black and white colobus, red tailed monkey, olive baboon, the blue Monkey and l'hoest's monkeys are also regularly seen here. Where would you find a better spot to experience encounters with nature; smelling the forest and listening to the many sounds. Your safari tent or cottage is surrounded by lush green diversity filled with countless bird species and butterflies.

This brand new Lodge offers you a unique jungle experience at the border of Kibale Forest National Park with the most stunning view over the forest canopy and the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains. You will stay at a modern and comfortable cottage at quiet locations in the forest. This lodge is all about a relaxing atmosphere, family friendly and with a refreshing swimming pool. In the restaurant and lounge areas you'll be welcome to try tasty meals meanwhile you have high chances of spotting the Red Colobus and Grey Cheeked Mangabey monkeys on the premises.

<u>Journey time:</u>	7 hours
<u>Accommodation:</u>	Turacco Treetops
<u>Website:</u>	http://www.turacotreetops.com/
<u>Meal plan:</u>	Breakfast and Dinner



Day 6: Chimpanzee Tracking and Bigodi Swamp walk

Chimpanzees share 98% of human genes making them our closest living relatives. They are found in 21 countries throughout Africa, but are most easily sighted in Uganda due to their dense populations. Today, in Uganda, there are approximately 5,000 chimpanzees left in the wild. The Chimpanzee Trekking experience here is done on several well maintained walking trails. There is also a wonderfully diverse concentration of other primates, more than any other forest in East Africa, in fact. Besides our delightful cousins, the chimpanzees, you can find red colobus, red-tailed guenon, white-nosed monkey, gray-cheeked mangabey, blue monkey, L'Hoest's monkey, and the black and white colobus monkey. In addition, you may see olive baboons, bush babies and nocturnal pottos.

The aim for your trekking through the jungle under the care of professional guide, it 1 hour of eye to eye contact with the chimpanzees. We can however cannot guarantee 100% for you to see them as they are still wild animals, nevertheless your chances are very good.



Your next activity will take you to the Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary which features 8 primate species, over 200 bird species and many reptiles. During the walk – which takes 2 to 3 hours - you have a chance to many animals but the highlight is catching a glimpse of a famous bird; the Great Blue Turacco. The sanctuary is operated by KAFRED, a registered community based organization. The income from the walk is used for community development projects such as schools and hospitals.



Accommodation: Turacco Treetops
Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner

Day 7: To Murchison Falls N.P.

Today you continue your journey to Murchison Falls National Park one of the oldest conservation areas in Uganda. This is a long but rewarding journey through various landscapes of Northern Uganda.

Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's best-known and biggest nature reserve. With the impressive and powerful Murchison waterfall and its remarkable animal populations, this is a must visit in the Pearl of Africa. There are superb activities on offer such as a boat safari or Delta safari on the Nile. The river divides the park between a Northern and Southern section as it makes its way through multiple rapids and waterfalls to Lake Albert. Unfortunately, during the war years poachers and troops wiped out the majority of wildlife. Except for the park's rhino population, fortunately all other wildlife has recovered fast since. A game drive in the park allows you to be eye-to-eye with the African animal kingdom and you will be amazed by the amount of elephants. Also giraffes, lions, antelope, waterbucks, buffaloes, hippos and crocodiles can all be spotted. Game drives take place on the tracks in the northern section which you reach by taking a ferry across the river. This park guarantees adventure!

Your accommodation for the coming three nights is at Murchison River Lodge. This lodge has been built on the edge of the mighty River Nile overlooking pods of hippos and stunning Murchison Falls National Park. Here you can expect ultimate comfort and relaxation in en-suite safari tents in a beautiful bush-location. Enjoy the swimming pool and the great hospitality! If you have binoculars, bring them! The bird life is incredible. The main lodge area provides a bar and restaurant and sits on a raised bank providing magical panoramic views of the magical River Nile as well as the park. You know that you are really in the bush having a guide leading you back to your safari tent after dinner because of the active wildlife at night!

<u>Journey time:</u>	7 to 8 hours
<u>Accommodation:</u>	Murchison River lodge
<u>Website:</u>	http://murchisonriverlodge.com/
<u>Meal plan:</u>	Breakfast & Dinner



Day 8: Wildlife in Murchison Falls

After an early breakfast, it is time to explore the park. On your Game Drives you of course need a fair share of luck and very good eyes to try and spot as many animals as possible. While driving through the park you can come eye-to-eye with the African animal kingdom. Hopefully you see them all; elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, lions, leopards, different species of antelope and many tropical birds. They are all there! A professional ranger with extensive knowledge on the park and its inhabitants will join you in your car. The park is especially known for its massive elephant population, huge array of bird species and big herds of buffalo. You will discover some of the parks ecosystems and different scenery with dense woodland, extensive savannahs and rolling grasslands. As this is a private game drive you can ask your guide to tailor your trip towards specific birdlife and/or wildlife if you like.



The afternoon boat safari towards the Murchison Falls is a very special activity, it takes approximately 3 hours and goes along the Victoria Nile to the base of the Falls. You can imagine; this boat safari will show you breathtaking scenery. Cold drinks are for sale on board for when you get thirsty for a local beer or a soda. Carefully watched by crocodiles, hundreds of hippos, buffaloes, water birds, monkeys and all the other (also thirsty) wildlife that the Nile attracts you go to the bottom of the powerful Murchison Falls. If you like hiking, the boat can drop you near the waterfalls and you can hike up to the top (this takes around 1 or 1,5 hours). The views are amazing!



Accommodation: Murchison River lodge
Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 9: Bus walk – Rhinos, To Entebbe.

At the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary you will go for a safari hike to the rhinos together with an experienced range. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the endangered rhinos from up close! These magnificent creatures are hard to find in their natural habitat nowadays. This sanctuary provides the rhinos with 7000 hectares of land. Both Kidepo Valley and Murchison Falls National Parks once had both black and white rhinos. However widespread poaching during the Idi Amin era resulted in the disappearance of rhinos in Uganda. Rhino Fund Uganda works to reintroduce black and white rhinos into the wild in Uganda and therefore they run a breeding program. Besides this, this also work to educate communities on endangered rhinos. While at the sanctuary you may also encounter a range of other wildlife species including Uganda kobs, oribis, bush bucks, water bucks among others and a number of other bird species.



You will stay at 2 Friends Beach Hotel a small hotel with a great ambiance. The hotel has a nice swimming pool and is just 20 meters away from Lake Victoria. All rooms are smoke free and contain a private bathroom, fan, flat screen TV and free wireless Internet. Your room has a private terrace overlooking Lake Victoria.

<u>Journey time:</u>	5 hours
<u>Accommodation:</u>	2 Friends Hotel
<u>Website:</u>	www.2friendshotel.com/
<u>Meal plan:</u>	Breakfast



Day 10: Transfer to the airport – end tour

After breakfast, a representative of 2 friends Hotel will take you the airport in time for your flight back home.

Journey time: 15 min
Meal plan: Late breakfast

This is the end of a fabulous trip!

webale Nyo! (Thank you!)

Rates 2019

	Price per person	Rooming
2 persons	US\$ 4.000	1 double

The bookings with the accommodation mentioned in the itinerary depend on availability. Reservations will only be made after your booking. In case the mentioned accommodations are not available during the requested period, we will do our utmost best to book one for you in the same class for you (of course we will only do this after consulting you).

It is not possible to 'reserve' gorilla permits. Therefore we can only buy them after your booking and down-payment and also here it all depends on availability.

Included

- ✓ Transport in a 4wd Small Land cruiser with A/C and pop-up roof for excellent safari view
- ✓ All fuel for the tour;
- ✓ English speaking Ugandan driver/guide;
- ✓ Accommodation as listed in the itinerary;
- ✓ Breakfasts and dinners included + lunches in Murchison falls and Bwindi;
- ✓ Packed Lunch for the gorilla tracking;
- ✓ Park-entrance fees according to the itinerary;
- ✓ All activities described in the itinerary;
- ✓ **1 Chimpanzee permit per person (à USD 150);**
- ✓ **1 Gorilla permit per person (à USD 600).**

Excluded

- ✓ International air fares;
- ✓ Entry visa Uganda;
- ✓ Meals that are not part of your accommodation;
- ✓ A porter for during the gorilla tracking (someone who carries your daypack);
- ✓ Personal (medical/travel) insurance;
- ✓ Tips and gratuities to rangers, driver/guide, porter, hotel staff, etc;
- ✓ All expenses of personal nature (e.g. drinks, laundry, optional activities, souvenirs etc.).

Transport





Accommodation

Accommodation is based on standard double/twin or single rooms in mid-range lodges. All lodges have nice self-contained rooms and are selected by their location and service standards.

We retain the right to substitute the accommodations shown above with suitable accommodations if there is no availability, and we retain the right to run aspects of the itinerary in a reverse direction if necessary.

Journey Times

All journey times are close approximations, as you can never quite guarantee what will happen on the African roads... We could be in for a bumpy ride on parts of the route (which adds to the excitement of being on safari!); we may encounter road-works and of course, there are the photo stops. Either way, you can be certain that although you may be seated for long periods at times during the trip, you will be passing some spectacular countryside and there will always be something of interest to see along the way!

Visa Uganda

You can apply for your Ugandan visa online, through the Ugandan E-visa System via the following link: www.visas.immigration.go.ug/

If your visa is approved, you will pay the visa fee of USD 50 for a single Uganda Entry visa (or USD 100 for an East Africa Visa) on arrival at your issued location.

With your booking you will receive more information and the necessary documents from Matoke Tours for your online application. Please always check with your embassy if any different rules apply for your country of residence.

Rates & Payments

- All rates are quoted in USD. If you like to be quoted in Uganda Shillings, Euros or any other currency, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- Cash US dollars given out at 2006 or before are not accepted in Uganda!

Driver/Guide

Your guide will be a professional and experienced English speaking Ugandan.

Omutti

When you book your trip with Matoke Tours – to any of our destinations – Matoke Tours will donate US\$ 5 per person to the Omutti project.

With this donation, you will fly climate neutral to your destination in Africa regardless of the airline you are flying with.

The 'Omutti' project adopts trees to preserve the rainforest and to support the local farmers in this area affected by the ever changing climate. 'Omutti' means 'Tree' in Luganda; the most common local language in Uganda.



Omutti

Matoke Tours keeps
Uganda green

Together with Matoke Tours you contribute on the preservation the rainforest in Africa!
Click here for more information.

AMREF air evacuation insurance

AMREF Flying Doctors has an air ambulance scheme aimed at providing quality and affordable medical evacuation services throughout the Eastern Africa region including: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zanzibar, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The Maisha tourism scheme is valid for 30 days and is an excellent add-on insurance to your current medial insurance abroad.

AMREF offers three different level of cover:

- A. Maisha Tourist Silver – Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar: US\$ 20 per person
- B. Maisha Tourist Gold – Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi: US\$ 30 per person
- C. Maisha Tourist Platinum – Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Ethiopia: US\$ 125 per person



For all our tours we recommend the Gold scheme to cover the whole of East Africa at US\$ 30 per person. **Please sign up for this when making your booking.**

