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Murchison Falls National Park

Murchison Falls National Park lies at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley, where the sweeping Bunyoro escarpment tumbles into vast, palm-dotted savannah. First gazetted as a game reserve in 1926, it is Uganda's largest and oldest conservation area, hosting 76 species of mammals and 451 species of birds.

The park is bisected by the Victoria Nile, which plunges 45 metres over the remnant rift valley wall, creating the dramatic Murchison Falls, the centerpiece of the park and the final event in an 80 metre stretch of rapids. The mighty cascade drains the last of the river's energy, transforming it into a broad, placid stream that flows quietly across the rift valley floor into Lake Albert. This stretch of river provides one of Uganda's most remarkable wildlife spectacles. Regular visitors to the riverbanks include elephants, giraffes and buffaloes while hippos, Nile crocodiles and aquatic birds are permanent residents.

This is Uganda's largest national park, named for the dramatic Murchison Falls where the Nile, the world's longest river, explodes violently through a narrow cliff in the Rift Valley escarpment to plunge into a frothing pool 40 meters below. The Nile River is home to one of Africa's highest hippo and crocodile populations as well as a dazzling array of water birds, including the rare and elusive shoebill stork. The lush borassus grassland to the north of the river offers frequent sightings of elephants, buffalos, giraffes, a wide variety of antelopes and sometimes even an encounter with lions or leopard. Rabongo Forest in the southeast part of the park provides a lush tropical habitat for chimpanzees, monkeys and many other rainforest species.

Activities

Murchison Falls - Top of the Falls Walk.

Some of the most powerful moving water in the world, the top of Murchison Falls sees the entirety of the Nile River squeeze itself through a mere 7-meter gap; an epic display of nature's power. A trail runs down the side of the gorge, allowing the opportunity to view the main falls, and the second "Independence" falls. The views are spectacular and the spray of the falls really refreshing. The walk takes approximately 45 minutes and requires average fitness

Murchison Falls - Bottom of the Falls Cruise

Murchison Falls Bottom of the Falls Cruise is a three-hour scheduled and private cruise from park headquarters to the head of Fajao Gorge at the base of Murchison Falls. Passengers can witness the mighty force of the Nile River pushing through a narrow seven-metre gap, cascading down a forty-metre cliff to the vast gorge below. The power of the falls and the scenic views from their base are breathtaking. Large resident populations of hippo float in the water along the way, groups of crocodile bask on the shore, and herds of elephant, buffalo and antelope can be seen moving along the riverbanks. The river offers spectacular opportunities for bird watchers, with a wide range of water birds and vibrant Bee-eaters nesting in the cliffs along the river's bank.

Murchison Falls Delta Cruise

The Victoria Nile delta, a 20km voyage downstream from Paraa is home to rare wetland birds including the elusive shoebill and papyrus endemic species. This leisurely cruise aboard a Kingfisher/Alligator boat



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down to Lake Albert offers the opportunity to spot elephant, hippo and large Nile crocodiles. The trip lasts approximately 4-5 hours and departs at 7 am from a jetty at Paraa on the South Bank of the Nile River.

Murchison Falls National Park Game Drive

The Murchison Falls National Park Game Drive takes place in the Murchison Falls National Park. The main areas of the drive are the Delta, Buligi Peninsula and the southern section which is known as the heart of Murchison. The Delta allows visitors an opportunity to see Lions, while the triangle of grassland in the Buligi Peninsula provides an opportunity to see elephant, buffalo, antelopes, and giraffes. This grassland is bound by the Victoria Nile entering Lake Albert with the Albert Nile flowing out of it. Lions, leopard, and water birds along with hippos can also be spotted here. Much of the southern part is populated with dense bush and forest, where lions and giraffes can also be seen.

Kibale Forest National Park

Kibale National Park contains one of the loveliest and most varied tracts of tropical forest in Uganda. Forest cover, interspersed with patches of grassland and swamp, dominates the northern and central parts of the park on an elevated plateau.

The park is home to a total of 70 mammal species, most famously 13 species of primate including the chimpanzee. It also contains over 375 species of birds.

Kibale adjoins Queen Elizabeth National Park to the south to create a 180 kilometer long corridor for wildlife between Ishasha, the remote southern sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park, and Sebitoli in the north of Kibale National Park.

The Kibale-Fort Portal area is one of Uganda's most rewarding destinations to explore. The park lies close to the tranquil Ndali-Kasenda crater area and within half a day's drive of Queen Elizabeth, Rwenzori Mountains and Semliki National Parks, as well as the Toro-Semliki Wildlife Reserve.

Activities

Kibale Forest Chimp Tracking

The most favorite of Kibale's walks embarks on from the Kanyanchu Visitor center in the morning and afternoon and normally lasts around 3 to 4 hours. Chimpanzee are the most sought after primate by visitors, but you should look out for the black & white colobus, red tailed monkey or the grey cheeked mangabeys. The forest is alive with noise - chimpanzees are very active and may move quickly through the treetops... or, if you are very lucky, you may find them resting or eating on the ground. The trek is primary on well-maintained trails and paths through the forest and it's an exhilarating walk, in beautiful scenery. Sightings of the chimps cannot be guaranteed even though the chimps are habituated to humans. Your guides will be able to show you different bird species and will give details of the plant species within the forest. The trek allows you to spend 1 hour observing the chimps once you have found them.



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Queen Elizabeth National Park

Queen Elizabeth National Park is understandably Uganda's most popular tourist destination. The park's diverse ecosystems, which include sprawling savannah, shady humid forests, sparkling lakes and fertile wetlands, make it the ideal habitat for classical big game, ten primate species including chimpanzees, and over 600 species of birds.

Set against the backdrop of the jagged Rwenzori Mountains, the park's magnificent vistas include dozens of enormous craters carved dramatically into rolling green hills, panoramic views of the Kazinga Channel with its banks lined with hippos, buffalo and elephants, and the endless Ishasha plains, whose fig trees hide lions ready to pounce on herds of unsuspecting Uganda kob.

Kyambura Gorge: The thick forest of Kyambura Gorge is the perfect primate environment with vines dangling down from the treetop canopies. The main attraction is the chimpanzee tracking where you can get close to a habituated troop but other primates include, red-tailed monkey, black-and-white colobus, baboons and vervet monkey.

As well as its outstanding wildlife attractions, Queen Elizabeth National Park has a fascinating cultural history. There are many opportunities for visitors to meet the local communities and enjoy storytelling, dance, music, and more. The gazettement of the park has ensured the conservation of its ecosystems, which in turn benefits the surrounding communities.

Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park is truly a Medley of Wonders.

Activities

Game Drive in Queen Elizabeth

The Game Drive in Queen Elizabeth takes place in the open grasslands of Kasenyi in the Queen Elizabeth National Park. The park is a primary game viewing area due to the variety of wildlife which includes antelopes, elephants, buffalos, and lions. Visitors will be accompanied by an experienced guide able to track down these animals.

Kazinga Channel Boat Cruise

Enjoy a leisurely boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel. Passengers may encounter herds of elephant, buffalo and antelope, families of warthog, large groups of hippo, and crocodiles basking on the shore. Kazinga's shores are a haven for numerous birds, including many migratory species as they make their way south to warmer climates. The cruise also provides a spectacular view of the beautiful Mweya Peninsula and life in local fishing villages set along the banks.

Lion (Predator) Tracking

Lion (Predator) Tracking allows visitors to head out into the grasslands with one of the lion researchers. There is an ongoing research group in Queen Elizabeth National Park that has put radio collars onto some members of one of the lion prides. This amazing opportunity allows you to track and follow the lions and have an awesome up close view of these mighty cats whilst learning about the conservation research that this team is doing. . Participant numbers are limited in order to reduce stress on the animals. Tours last between one and three hours. They usually take place in the early morning



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Kyambura Gorge Chimpanzee Trekking

Kyambura Gorge is often referred to as the Valley of the Apes and is located on the edge of the Queen Elizabeth National Park in South Western Uganda. Over the past two years a small group of Chimpanzees have been habituated to tolerate the presence of humans however sightings are not guaranteed and as such permits here are offered at considerably reduced rates compared to the more well-known Kibale Forest. This is however an opportunity to track the Chimpanzees in a remote and lesser known location. Kyambura is well known stunning scenery and a vast bio-diversity and should you miss the Chimps, your guide will still point out the Black & White Colobus, Red Tailed Monkey and the Grey Cheeked Mangabeys as well as Pittas & different bird species and provide details of the trait of the plant species within the forest.

Chimpanzee walks embark morning and afternoon and usually lasts 2 to 3 hours with approximately 4-6 people in a group each led by a Ugandan Wildlife Authority specialist guide.

Ishasha Game Drives

Enjoy exploring this savannah wilderness in your safari vehicle, looking for the huge herds of buffalo, elephant, and Uganda kob and of course, the famous tree-climbing lions. Seeing these mighty predators fast asleep up a fig tree, with their bellies hanging over the branches is a truly magnificent sight!

Ishasha Sundowner Drinks

Guests can enjoy late afternoon sundowners beside the Ntungwe River, or from a scenic viewing point along the ridge overlooking Ishasha. The activity includes local drinks and snacks, and also invites guests to drink in the vast vistas and atmosphere of this beautiful area of the park

Ishasha Bush Breakfast

Guest can savor a delicious bush breakfast combined with an early-morning game drive. A personal chef will set up an intimate dining experience, in a secluded wilderness spot, where the food promises to be as memorable as the setting.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park lies in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Rift Valley. Its mist-covered hillsides are blanketed by one of Uganda's oldest and most biologically diverse rainforest, which dates back over 25,000 years and contains almost 400 species of plants. More famously, this "impenetrable forest" also protects an estimated 1,000 mountain gorillas - including several habituated families.

This biologically diverse region also provides shelter to a further 120 species of mammal, including several primate species such as baboons and chimpanzees, as well as elephants and antelopes. There are around 350 species of birds hosted in this forest, including 23 Albertine Rift endemics.

It is also considered the most diverse forest in Uganda. The area, one of the few large expanses of forest in East Africa, where lowland and mountain habitats meet, contains a dense ground cover of herbs, vines, and shrubs. Home to over 120 mammals, 345 species of birds, 200 species of butterflies, and 160



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species of trees, Bwindi is one of the richest ecosystems in East Africa. The park contains almost one half of the world's population of the endangered Mountain Gorilla, making it an extremely valuable conservation site. Bwindi is also home to several endangered bird species with very limited ranges, and acts as an important catchment area for many rivers, supplying water for agriculture in the surrounding region.

Activities

Gorilla Trekking Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Coming up close to endangered Mountain Gorillas in the forests of Uganda is a thrilling lifetime experience that surely ranks on most people's travel bucket list. Trekking at high altitude (should we say between 1400 – 1900metres) which is much lower than Rwanda....through dense forests and up steep terrain can be challenging, especially in the African heat, but the hour you get to spend with these gentle giants is worth every step.

Only 8 guests may trek one gorilla family, at a time. One trek per day/per family.

Batwa Cultural Experience

The Batwa Pygmies have lived in the Bwindi forest for over five thousand years. They are renowned storytellers and dancers and were honored in the courts of the Ancient Egyptians. They believe in a legend passed down generations that their god Nagasan charged them with the responsibility of being the "Caretakers of the Forest". Visitors will learn from them how their ancestors survived in the forest as hunter-gatherers - what they ate, how they hunted, the plants and herbs they used, how they dance, sing and socialize. Guests also listen to their fascinating stories and legends; test their bow and arrow skills; participate in a mock hunting party and bask in the singing and dancing of the tribe upon returning as successful hunters.

Community Village Walk

This walk provides guests with an opportunity to support the local community whilst enjoying visiting various interesting places as you follow a walking trail through the village. Highlights include the Ride 4 a Woman project, traditional healer, banana brewery and Mukono Primary school where you may interact with the children.