

MASAI MARA & GORILLAS: 15 Days | DTN(A)MG (Camping / Accommodated)

Validity: 2024



All information provided in this tour dossier is subject to change without prior notice. Changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better quality experience where possible. Overnight accommodation stops can change without prior notification, depending on road or weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the properties listed in this dossier, these are to be used as a guideline only. We recommend that you download the most up to date version of this tour dossier one week prior to your tour departure date, however, changes are possible within 7 days prior to your tour departure.

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometres and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time during these drives to talk to your fellow travellers, have a drink and take note of the world passing by your window. Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometre. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average day could take anything from 5 to 14 hours, it all depends on the day... and that's only an "average"!

Tour departure point

Please ensure you arrive at the departure point at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time

7.00am Hotel Boulevard, Harry Thuku Rd,

Kenya, Nairobi

Tel: +254 722 200 755 <https://www.hotelboulevard.co.ke/>

Tour ending point

Hotel Boulevard, Harry Thuku Rd,

Kenya, Nairobi

Tel: +254 722 200 755 <https://www.hotelboulevard.co.ke/>

Gorilla Permit – USD730 – USD830

The cost of a permit to visit the gorillas is currently as above. Please check actual amount with us closer to departure. You will be pre-invoiced for this non-refundable amount.

Maximum Number of Passengers

20

After hours emergency contact

Our reservations staff are available to receive emergency calls. We would like to request that you respect this emergency number and use it only in the event of emergencies. Please only contact this number if, for example, you have missed your incoming flight, you cannot find your airport transfer or you are running late for your tour departure.

If calling from outside South Africa: 0027 82 578 2199

If calling within South Africa: 082 578 2199

Arrival / Departure

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems. We also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart the day after the tour officially ends to allow for delays and changes.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent to make these bookings.

What's included

All meals which are prepared and served at the overland truck / accommodation / qualified crew / filtered water / transport in the overland truck / included highlights as per the itinerary / entrance fees to National Parks.

What's excluded

Items of a personal nature (snacks, alcohol, soft drinks) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities) / souvenirs / tips.

Countries Visited

Kenya, Uganda

Onward Travel

This tour can be linked with a number of our other routes and offers you the opportunity to add on a visit to Zanzibar, explore the plains of the Serengeti and even venture further south towards Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. If you are interested to enhance your tour further, please contact us to receive a list of all the available options to suite your time frame and budget.

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TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – Masai Mara National Reserve

We leave the capital of Nairobi and travel to the Masai Mara, world renowned for its endless plains of wild animals and spectacular beauty. The visit to the Masai Mara is operated in safari type vehicles and not the overland truck. For this reason, you are asked to pack a small overnight bag to travel with. You will need your towel, clothes, toiletries and camping essentials.

Accommodation	Masai Mara Excursion http://www.keniatours.com
Facilities	Accommodated: Permanent tent with shared ablutions Camping: Permanent tent with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Nairobi to Masai Mara
Meals	Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Masai Mara Excursion

Day 2 - Masai Mara National Reserve

The rolling grasslands of the Masai Mara offer ideal game viewing and photographic opportunities. Some of the animals that could be found here include elephant, black rhino, buffalo, leopard, cheetah, wildebeest, zebra and gazelle. Hippo and crocodile abound in the muddy brown waters of the rivers, which traverse this reserve. Today we will spend the entire day game driving through the Mara in search of all the animals.

Accommodation	Masai Mara Excursion http://www.keniatours.com
Facilities	Accommodated: Permanent tent with shared ablutions Camping: Permanent tent with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Masai Mara Excursion

Day 3 - Lake Nakuru National Park

This morning we bid the Mara farewell before heading to Lake Nakuru National Park where we will enjoy an afternoon game drive through the park. Lake Nakuru is home to large flocks of flamingos and pelicans as well as black & white rhino, leopard, lion and numerous buck. Originally created as a bird sanctuary, Lake Nakuru was upgraded to National Park status in 1968.

Accommodation	Waterbuck Hotel https://www.waterbuck.co.ke
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite Camping: Two per room with en-suite <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Masai Mara Reserve to Lake Nakuru National Park
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Lake Nakuru NP Game Drive

Day 4 - Jinja

This morning we cross the border into Uganda and make our way to Jinja. Jinja is Uganda's second largest city and most famous as the point where the Nile (officially the Victoria Nile) flows out of Lake Victoria and begins the 6695 kilometre journey to Egypt and the Mediterranean.

Accommodation	Kalagala Falls Tented and Overland Camp http://adrift.ug/kalagala-falls-overland-camp
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with shared ablutions Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Lake Nakuru to Jinja
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Border Post	Kenya: Busia +254 20 2649524; Open 24 hours Uganda: Busia; +256 414 423 2645; Open 24 hours

Day 5 - Masindi – Murchison Falls National Park

After a quick stop in the city of Kampala, we head in the direction of The Murchison Falls National Park. Also referred to as the Kabaraga Falls, Murchison Falls is a waterfall found on the course of the great Nile and is located within the Murchison National Park. The park is recognized as one of the best National Parks in Uganda. After settling into our accommodation in Masindi, your guide will brief you on the activities for the following day.

Accommodation	Kabalega Resort http://www.kabalegaresort.com/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite ablutions Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Jinja to Masindi
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Optional Activity

Ziwa Rhino Walk

Day 6 - Masindi – Budongo Central Forest Reserve

Budongo Forest is the biggest Mahogany forest found in the whole of East Africa and is home to the largest number of chimpanzees throughout Uganda. It is believed that there are between 600 – 700 chimpanzees in Budongo and this morning we will meet up with our chimp guide who will take us on our trek through the forest in search of the chimps. We will also enjoy a boat cruise in the park. Note: As the Chimp trekking is limited to 12 guests per trek, should there be more than 12 guests on a tour the trekking will be split between the morning and the afternoon. Therefore you may find that you will first do the game drive activity followed by the Chimp trekking or vice versa. Please allow for flexibility.

Accommodation	Kabalega Resort http://www.kabalegaresort.com/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with en-suite ablutions Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Chimp trekking (half day) / Nile River Cruise

Day 7 – Lake Kikorongo

This morning we depart Masindi and transfer towards the edges of the Queen Elizabeth National Park. Our accommodation for the night is nestled atop a hill overlooking Lake Kikorongo.

Accommodation	Simba Safari Camp https://ugandalodges.com/simba/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Masindi to Lake Kikorongo
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 - Gorillas (Lake Bunyonyi)

Crossing the Equator once more we travel south to the beautiful scenery of Lake Bunyonyi. With eager anticipation we prepare for the upcoming Gorilla trekking excursion and tonight we will receive a briefing on what to expect.

Accommodation	Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort https://mbzgroup.africa/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Lake Kikorongo to Lake Bunyonyi
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 - Gorillas (Lake Bunyonyi)

The mountain gorilla is extremely endangered and while exact numbers vary it is widely assumed that there are only around 650 left. Visiting the gorillas is a great way to support their future on earth as the money spent on permits is used for their protection. An extremely important part of the future conservation of the remaining gorillas rests in the community development work – as local communities change their attitudes towards wildlife and start to protect rather than poach, the future of the mountain gorilla is assured.

As permits granting permission to visit the gorillas are extremely limited we require flexibility in both the tour itinerary and where we actually visit them. The home of the mountain gorillas is completely at odds with man-made borders and so their range encompasses Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Whenever possible we choose to make use of the National Park in Uganda, but this depends on the availability of permits. Should we not obtain permits to visit the mountain gorillas in Uganda then we will inform all passengers beforehand that the tour will travel to Rwanda or DRC.

On your free day in Bunyonyi you will have the opportunity to participate in certain optional activities. You can also go hiking or explore the area on a mountain bike.

Accommodation	Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort https://mbzgroup.africa/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Lake Bunyonyi National Park to the starting point of the gorilla trek (in safari or smaller vehicles)
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Optional Activity	Gorilla Trekking, Pygmy visit, Rwanda day tour

Day 10 - Gorillas (Lake Bunyonyi)

Although there are 2 days allocated to Gorilla Trekking you will only spend one day on the trek. The other days are there to provide a large enough window in which to obtain permits and to allow the entire group to trek if there are more than 6 of you on the tour.

Accommodation	Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort https://mbzgroup.africa/
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Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Optional Activity	Gorilla Trekking, Pygmy visit, Rwanda day tour

Day 11 - Lake Mburo

We depart the beautiful Lake Bunyonyi for another of Uganda's beautiful water bodies – Lake Mburo. Lake Mburo is situated in the Ankole sub-region of Uganda, near the town of Mbarara, and spans an area of approximately 260 square kilometers and is surrounded by rolling hills, open grasslands, and patches of woodland. With over 350 recorded bird species, Lake Mburo National Park is a paradise for birdwatchers. The park's diverse ecosystems, which include acacia woodlands, savannahs, and wetlands, provide optimal habitats for numerous bird species, including the rare and odd looking shoebill stork.

Accommodation	Leopard Rest http://www.leopardrestcamp.com/
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with En-suite bathroom Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Lake Bunyonyi to Mburo
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 - Jinja

This morning we leave the Ankole region and set off on our return journey to Jinja. Jinja offers many exciting optional activities which are focussed around the waters of the Nile and these include rafting, kayaking and a variety of cruises on Africa's largest river. While those who may be less inclined to water sports can enjoy horse riding or a quadbike adventure on dry land.

Accommodation	Kalagala Falls Tented and Overland Camp http://adrift.ug/kalagala-falls-overland-camp
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with shared ablutions Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Mburo to Jinja
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Highlight	Crossing of the Equator
Optional Activity	Quad biking, kayaking, rafting (time dependent, could happen the following day)

Day 13 - Jinja

Jinja offers many optional activities for the adventurous and for the not so adventurous. Today you'll have at your leisure, and your guide will assist you to plan for this day.

Accommodation	Kalagala Falls Tented and Overland Camp http://adrift.ug/kalagala-falls-overland-camp
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with shared ablutions Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Optional Activity	Quad biking, kayaking, river rafting, source of the Nile Cruise

Day 14 - Kenya – Eldoret

Returning to Kenya we visit Eldoret, the country's 5th largest city. The Great Rift Valley is still the dominant geographical feature of this region and the altitude at Eldoret is 2100 metres above sea level.

Accommodation	Naiberi River Camp http://www.naiberi.com
Facilities	Accommodated: Two per room with shared ablutions Camping: Campsite with shared ablutions <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Jinja to Eldoret
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Border Post	Kenya: Malaba +254 20 2649524; Open 24 hours Uganda: Malaba; +256 779 201 347; Open 24 hours

Day 15 - Nairobi

Returning to Nairobi this afternoon we reflect on many memories that we have gathered together and brace ourselves for a return to the busy streets of Nairobi. Your tour ends upon arrival in Nairobi.

Accommodation	Own Arrangements / Post tour accommodation can be booked through your agent
Route	Eldoret to Nairobi
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch

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The Itinerary is flexible and can be changed without notice in order to accommodate the best possible viewing of the Mountain Gorillas. The Permit price to visit the Gorillas can also change without notice.