Discovering Our Planet Together



The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari

A Rare Opportunity to Sit with Families of Endangered Mountain Gorillas

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Trip Details:

Days
10 Days / Jan–Feb, May–Oct

Price
From $15695 (+Air/permits)

The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari

A Rare Opportunity to Sit with Families of Endangered Mountain Gorillas

You push aside a tangled rope of vines, pressing through the maze of foliage, when at last you see them. Ten or 12 gorillas sit in a forest clearing, two more up in a tree. They stop munching for a moment to observe you, nonchalant. A few feet away, you spy the big silverback. Twice the size of the young females, he sits on massive haunches, stripping leaves from branches. He's close enough to hold your gaze with his liquid brown eyes. Something primal, inexplicable, connects the two of you in that moment. The rest of the world slips away outside this rare encounter. On this riveting wildlife expedition, meet mountain gorillas at close range and observe a host of other primates, too, including chimpanzees—plus a wide assortment of African plains game, predators, hippos, crocodiles, spectacular birdlife and more in Murchison Falls National Park.

Trip Highlights

An Extended Immersion with Wild Mountain Gorillas

Two separate treks through the rainforest of Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park offer captivating close encounters with endangered mountain gorillas

See Chimpanzees & Other Abundant Wildlife

Trek in search of chimpanzees in Kibale National Park and Budongo Forest, and look for abundant plains game, predators and birdlife in Murchison Falls National Park

Exclusive Features for a Premier Safari

Outstanding Expedition Leaders, the finest ecolodges close to wildlife, plus two chartered flights (avoiding long drives) set this Uganda primate safari above the rest!

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari Itinerary

A Rare Opportunity to Sit with Families of Endangered Mountain Gorillas

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Entebbe
Day 2	Murchison Falls National Park
Day 3	Murchison Falls National Park
Day 4	Budongo Forest Reserve / Murchison Falls
Days 5–6	Murchison Falls / Kibale National Park
Day 7	Kihihi / Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
Days 8–9	Bwindi Impenetrable Forest
Day 10	Entebbe



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Day 1

Entebbe

Gather on Lake Victoria before your Uganda wildlife adventure

- Settle into a boutique hotel amid Entebbe's lush tropical gardens
- Search for rare shoebills on an optional excursion to the Mabamba Bay wetlands
- Join your Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and preview of the safari ahead

Arrive in Entebbe, where you are met and transferred to our hotel. Guests who arrive by 12 PM may opt to join our Expedition Leader for an included tour this afternoon to Mabamba Bay swamp, a massive wetland on the edge of Lake Victoria that offers an excellent introduction to Uganda's rich biodiversity. The vast marsh is one of Uganda's top birdwatching hotspots and a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA). It's also one of the most reliable places in Africa for a prize sighting of the rare shoebill stork. Mabamba Bay is a major breeding site for this prehistoric species, found here in one of the highest concentrations in the world. Exploring the narrow, papyrus-lined channels by traditional wooden canoe, keep an eye out for other top draws among the marsh's 300 bird species, including papyrus gonolek, malachite kingfisher, and the brightly colored African swamphen. Later this evening, join your Expedition Leader and fellow adventurers for a welcome dinner and orientation.

Day 2

Murchison Falls National Park

Fly to Nat Hab's private Murchison Bush Camp for first access to the park

- Enter Uganda's largest national park, spanning nearly 1,500 square miles of the Albertine Rift Valley
- Stay in an eight-tent camp set seasonally in a remote wildlife-rich area
- Head into the park before guests staying at outlying lodges

Fly by chartered aircraft to Murchison Falls National Park, which covers almost 1,500 square miles of wild and varied terrain at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley. Diverse habitats—including savanna, acacia forest, Borassus palm forest, riverine woodlands and papyrus swamp—support a wide variety of wildlife. The park is bisected by the Victoria Nile, a turbulent stretch of whitewater forced through a narrow gap to plunge 140 feet over a sheer wall, creating a thunderous roar. While Murchison Falls is the most powerful waterfall in the world, the calm stretch of river below offers superb wildlife viewing, with elephant, giraffe, buffalo, hippo and Nile crocodile frequently in view. Launch trips to the base of the falls and Lake Albert Delta offer fine birdwatching, with a chance to see rare shoebill storks—a coveted sighting that draws birders to Uganda for this reason alone. The 1951 film *The African Queen*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, was filmed on Lake Albert and the Nile within the park. Other notable figures who have visited here include Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Ernest Hemingway.

We spend the next three nights in peaceful seclusion at Nat Hab's private Murchison Bush Camp in the heart of this wildlife mecca. With just eight tents, the low-impact camp is set seasonally in a remote area with unsurpassed proximity for wildlife viewing—our location permits us to be first into the park each morning, far sooner than guests staying at outlying lodges. Enjoy total solitude and the safari ambience of a bygone era, with canvas tents and lantern-lit dining.

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Day 3

Murchison Falls National Park

Search for wildlife across savannas and papyrus wetlands

- Look for Rothschild's giraffes, elephants, lions and other wildlife on safari
- Cruise the Victoria Nile through the Lake Albert Delta
- Watch for African fish eagles, shoebills and abundant wetland birds

Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's richest wildlife enclave, with 144 mammal species including chimpanzees and Rothschild's giraffe, Uganda's largest population of Nile crocodiles among its 51 reptile species, and 550 bird species including shoebills, dwarf kingfisher, Goliath heron, great blue turaco and winged gray warbler. We scout for a wide variety of animals today, first on a morning game drive that could include sightings of buffalo, elephant, giraffe, Uganda kob, Jackson's hartebeest, oribi, lion, leopard and side-striped jackal, and more.

This afternoon, take a private cruise in the Lake Albert Delta, where the Victoria Nile enters this swampy wetland as a sluggish stream, threading its way among small islands in a series of tributaries. The alluvial marsh is a designated Important Bird Area and one of the best birding locations in Africa, especially for aquatic birds—keep an eye out for African fish eagles among the 75+ species of waterbirds found here. In the distance, the mountain ranges of the Congo rise in undulating forested ridges on the horizon.

Day 4

Budongo Forest Reserve / Murchison Falls

Track wild chimpanzees in Budongo's ancient mahogany forest

- Trek through the forest with expert local guides
- Learn about one of Africa's longest-running chimpanzee research sites
- Watch the Nile surge through a narrow gorge at Murchison Falls

This morning, we head into Budongo Forest Reserve to go chimpanzee trekking. Located on the escarpment east of Lake Albert, this semi-deciduous tropical rainforest is noted for its large chimp population of approximately 600 individuals, and its native mahogany trees, with some old-growth specimens as tall as 200 feet still standing. The forest is also home to 360 bird species, some of which are endemic to this localized region, including the yellow-footed flycatcher. Research on Budongo's chimpanzees began in the early 1960s, with the establishment of a forest reserve that later became the Budongo Conservation Field Station. Among a trio of pioneer researchers here in the 1960s was Jane Goodall.

This afternoon, we make an exciting visit to the top of Murchison Falls, where the Nile surges through a narrow cleft just 23 feet wide before plunging dramatically over the escarpment. From this vantage point, we witness the immense power of the river as it crashes into the gorge below, creating the thunderous spectacle that defines Murchison Falls.

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Days 5–6

Murchison Falls / Kibale National Park

Cruise beneath the falls and track Kibale's chimpanzees

- Approach the foaming Devil's Cauldron by boat
- Fly above Uganda's lush highlands to Kibale National Park
- Track chimpanzees and other primates with expert local guides

This morning, another private boat cruise takes us in search of wildlife along the river channels. In addition to the excitement of seeing scores of hippos and crocodiles, we also have good chances to spot elephants, giraffe, baboons, warthogs, and of course, countless beautiful birds. Our voyage includes a journey to the base of Murchison Falls with a view into the Devil's Cauldron, the foaming chaos created by the turbulent Nile River as it plummets over the cliff. We also pass the spot where Hemingway's plane crashed when the celebrated author visited Uganda in 1954.

After our cruise, transfer to the airstrip for a scenic flight over Uganda's verdant highlands to reach Kibale National Park. This equatorial rainforest reserve is home to one of the world's most important primate populations, including 1,300 chimpanzees. We go in search of them with local trackers who help us spot chimps and monkeys, with plenty of unhurried time to observe their entertaining antics. Beyond our chimpanzee trek, we explore more of Kibale's natural diversity, with the chance to see up to a hundred different bird species on a wetland sanctuary walk. We may also see up to a hundred different bird species on a wetland sanctuary walk. An optional hike to one of the crater lakes near our lodge offers magnificent views from the rim. After each full and exhilarating day, settle in to the comfort of our thatched cottages at Ndali Lodge overlooking the ancient crater.

Day 7

Kihihi / Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

Enter Bwindi, rainforest realm of the mountain gorillas

- Fly to Kihihi, gateway to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
- Enter the forest that shelters nearly half the world's mountain gorillas
- Settle into a rainforest lodge with direct access to the gorilla trekking trails

Depart for the local airstrip this morning for our flight to Kihihi, gateway to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and our gorilla-trekking base in the rainforest. The park, whose name references the dense, tangled forests it encompasses, is home to roughly half the world's remaining mountain gorillas. Though best known for its outstanding gorilla viewing, it also provides refuge to chimpanzees, monkeys, elephants and various small antelope. Bwindi is also a top Uganda birding destination, with 23 of Uganda's 24 Albertine Rift endemics, including threatened species such as African green broadbill and Shelley's crimson wing.

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Days 8–9

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Come face to face with wild mountain gorillas

- Follow expert trackers through Bwindi's UNESCO-listed rainforest
- Spend time observing habituated mountain gorilla families
- Learn how conservation and community partnerships are helping gorilla populations recover

Within the World Heritage Site that is Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, discover one of nature travel's peak experiences: a visit with wild gorillas in their natural habitat. Just over a thousand mountain gorillas remain in the world, and Bwindi is home to about 460—a population that is growing but still threatened by increasing human population and habitat loss in the surrounding area. Our safari includes two treks to spend time among the gorillas, often at very close range. Early in the morning, we head into the dense rainforest on a quest to locate one of the habituated family groups. Our local guides are expert trackers, reading signs of the gorillas' recent presence in the undergrowth. We can't predict how long it will take to locate them, but finally, we hear and see a gorilla family, watching enrapt as they sit among the trees, chewing leaves, babies clinging to mothers' backs, juveniles swinging from branches, and a big male silverback surveying it all. It's hard to tell who is more intrigued with the other, the gorillas or us!

If time permits later today, we may have an opportunity to visit a local community initiative, nonprofit or small business enterprise in the Bwindi area. These connections offer a glimpse into people's daily lives and the ways local communities are helping to further conservation in the region.

Day 10

Entebbe

Return to Lake Victoria after your Uganda primate adventure

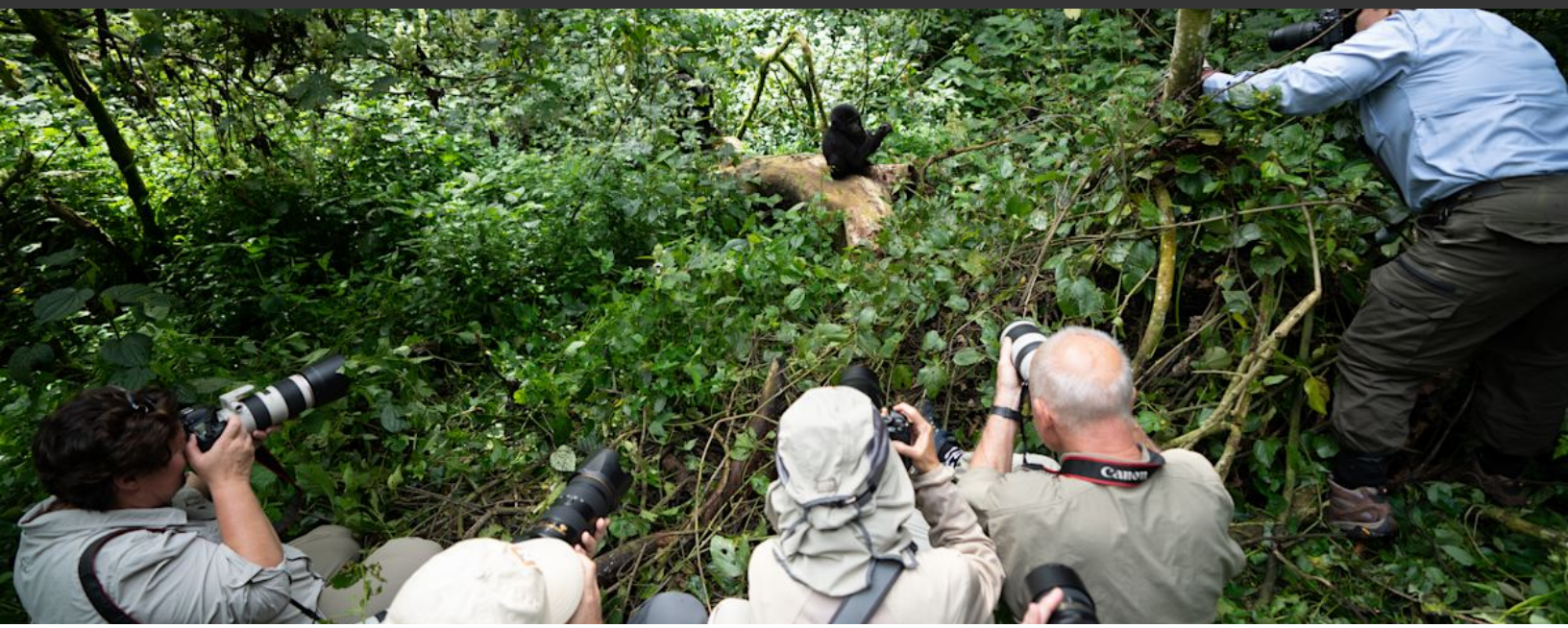
- Fly by private charter to Entebbe and relax in a day room
- Share a farewell meal before your international departure

Our Uganda safari comes to a close today with a chartered flight back to Entebbe. A day room is provided on arrival so you can relax and refresh before your departure. We share a farewell meal before transferring to the airport to meet departing flights.

Add Rwanda Gorilla Trekking

We also offer a 13-day Ultimate Gorilla Photo Safari that includes four full days of gorilla photography, with two treks in Uganda and two in Rwanda. Or you may add a custom Rwanda gorilla-trekking extension to this Uganda safari. Please call us for details.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari Accommodations

A Rare Opportunity to Sit with Families of Endangered Mountain Gorillas



Hotel No. 5

This stylish boutique hotel tucked within Entebbe's leafy suburbs features luxurious accommodations surrounding a lush lawn, palm-studded gardens and shaded swimming pool.



Murchison Bush Camp

This exclusive mobile camp is private for Nat Hab guests, placed optimally for wildlife viewing and first entrance to Murchison Falls National Park, before visitors from outlying lodges arrive.



Ndali Lodge

Dramatically perched on the rim of an extinct volcano that has filled with water to become scenic Lake Nyinambuga, this thatched lodge enjoys panoramic views over the Rwenzori Mountains.



Buhoma Lodge

This inspiring ecolodge, with eight spacious chalets overlooking a rainforest panorama, provides an ideal location for gorilla treks into Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, which begin from the premises.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/africa/the-great-african-primate-expedition/accommodations.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Choose Nat Hab for the Most In-Depth Encounter with Uganda's Wildlife

The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari

A trek to see Uganda's mountain gorillas offers wildlife lovers a rare, transformative travel experience. While tracking gorillas is our main focus, Uganda offers much more, and this comprehensive safari highlights a variety of wildlife encounters, including chimpanzees and colobus monkeys, plus classic big game and some of Africa's best birding in three national parks. Read more about why our Uganda safari is your most rewarding option:

1 **See Uganda's Primates—and So Much More!**

While most safari-goers come to Uganda to see endangered mountain gorillas, many may not realize that Uganda is a microcosm of East Africa—this small country is home not just to rainforest primates but a host of classic African safari animals. Our comprehensive and diverse itinerary is designed to take it *all* in.

2 **Internal Flights for Extra Time & Comfort**

Many safari companies drive both ways between Entebbe and western Uganda by mini bus or safari truck, an arduous journey over bumpy dirt roads in sub-par vehicles. We, on the other hand, provide a level of comfort rarely offered by other operators. Our round-trip chartered flights allow us extra time on safari rather than spending time in transit over rough roads—and generous baggage limits allow ample weight and space for camera gear.

3 **Boutique Lodges Offer Secluded Respites & Maximum Wildlife Viewing**

While most visitors to Uganda stay in large hotels in the national parks, sharing the experience with hundreds of others in pop-top mini vans, we choose distinctive accommodations away from crowds. Of course, location is critical, and each of our accommodations has been chosen above all for its outstanding proximity to wildlife. Stay at a luxury boutique lodge atop the rim of a volcanic crater lake, an intimate tented camp in Murchison Falls National Park, and secluded forest chalets on the edge of Bwindi.

4 **A Window Seat For Each Traveler**

Uganda is a visually spectacular country, with terrain ranging from lush, rolling tea plantations and steeply terraced farmland to the snowy summits of the Rwenzoris and open savannas of the east. Against this backdrop, wildlife drives reveal elephants, lions, plains game, colorful birdlife (Uganda is a birder's paradise) and more—not to mention Uganda's beautiful people. You will definitely appreciate your guaranteed window seat!

5 **The World's Finest Safari Guides**

Natural Habitat Adventures is well known for employing the finest naturalist guides on the planet! In Uganda, rather than using a mix of local guides at each lodge or camp, or inexperienced driver-guides to escort our trips, NHA flies in our own Safari Expedition Leaders to accompany guests from start to finish, ensuring quality and safety throughout. Our Africa Expedition Leaders average 15 years' experience, with additional training from WWF scientists. Please consult our **guide section** for bios and traveler comments about our Expedition Leaders.

6 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior Safari Experience**

Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise for yourself!**

7 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

8 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $15695 (+Air/permits)

Group Size
Limited to 12 Travelers

The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari Dates, Pricing & Info

A Rare Opportunity to Sit with Families of Endangered Mountain Gorillas

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jan 31 - Feb 9, 2027	**$15995** +internal air/permits	
Feb 16 - Feb 25, 2027	**$15995** +internal air/permits	
May 22 - May 31, 2027	**$15695** +internal air/permits	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Jun 25 - Jul 4, 2027	**$15995** +internal air/permits	
Jul 7 - Jul 16, 2027	**$15995** +internal air/permits	
Aug 5 - Aug 14, 2027	**$15695** +internal air/permits	
Aug 25 - Sep 3, 2027	**$15695** +internal air/permits	
Oct 22 - Oct 31, 2027	**$15695** +internal air/permits	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices not confirmed for 2028		
Jan 31 - Feb 9, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Feb 16 - Feb 25, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
May 22 - May 31, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Jun 8 - Jun 17, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Jun 25 - Jul 4, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Jul 7 - Jul 16, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Aug 5 - Aug 14, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Aug 25 - Sep 3, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Sep 13 - Sep 22, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	
Oct 22 - Oct 31, 2028	**From $15695** +internal air/permits	

See https://www.nathab.com/africa/the-great-african-primate-expedition/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides, camp staff, gorilla trackers and porter, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrances fees, all taxes and service fees.
- **Permit fee includes:** Two mountain gorilla and two chimpanzee treks.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Internal air: All flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Important Information About This Trip

This trip is designed for those seeking exposure to the range of habitats where mountain gorillas live. NHA has been visiting gorillas in Africa since 1989, and this immersive itinerary, which features two separate gorilla treks, is the pinnacle of our primate trips. We ask our guests to understand that accommodations in this region are not, collectively, of the standard found in other more established safari countries. Some lodges are very luxurious, while others are plain but clean and comfortable; all offer valuable proximity to and access to wildlife.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Entebbe, Uganda. Because this is a long international journey, **we recommend that you arrive at least one night prior to Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

You must arrive in Entebbe by 5 pm on Day 1 in order to attend the 7 pm welcome dinner. Guests arriving by 12 pm will be able to join the optional Mabamba Swamp Tour.

You may depart Entebbe anytime after 4 pm on the final day.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



The Great Uganda Gorilla Safari Extensions

A Rare Opportunity to Sit with Families of Endangered Mountain Gorillas



Madagascar Explorer

Look for rare and endemic flora and fauna on a compact itinerary revealing a mix of contrasting ecosystems—primary rainforest, pristine beaches, ancient baobabs and coastal mangroves

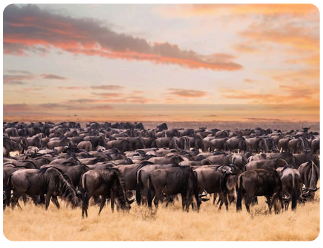
$13895 (+air)



Secluded Botswana Safari

Our flagship Botswana safari—for just seven guests! A truly exclusive wilderness immersion in the Okavango Delta's best private wildlife reserves and beyond, plus Victoria Falls.

$19995 (+air)



The Great Kenya Migration Safari

Experience one of the world's most incredible wildlife events in Africa's most classic safari destination—Kenya, home to the massive movement of creatures that is the Great Migration!

$11995 (+air)



Tanzania's Great Migration & Ngorongoro Crater

Witness one of nature's most exhilarating spectacles: thousands of wildebeest and zebra making their annual trek across the Serengeti! Itineraries custom-designed to follow the herds.

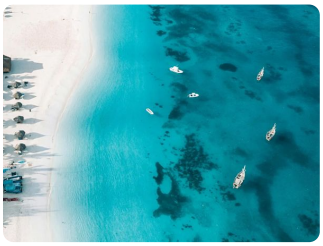
$16295 (+air)



Rwanda Mountain Gorilla Extension

Track endangered mountain gorillas, hike through the rainforest with expert guides and spend rare moments with a habituated family troop.

$4995 (+permits)



Zanzibar Extension

Discover a serene oasis with white sand beaches and clear waters in this Indian Ocean archipelago celebrated for natural beauty, history and culture.

$2095



Maasai Mara Extension

Experience wild Africa in Kenya's Maasai Mara, a vast mosaic of savannas and acacia-dotted plains on an exclusive Big Five safari from private mobile camps far from crowds.

$5995

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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