

6 DAY

GORILLA ENCOUNTER (26TTG6/A)

Adventure Camping & Accommodated Tour Dossier

Included Highlights

Chimpanzee Trekking**

Mountain Gorilla Trekking**

****Subject to purchasing the Gorilla & Chimpanzee Trekking Permit**

Intended Itinerary

It is our intention to adhere to the route described below, but a certain amount of flexibility is built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary and/or accommodation at short notice. Driving times are approximate and may vary due to bad weather, traffic, border crossings, police check-points, road works or road conditions and do not include any stops en-route. **Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.** This is a participation tour. Our accommodated tour option travels together with the camping counterpart. Your tour may form part of a longer tour, which some of your fellow travellers may have joined already or continue afterwards.

Duration: 6 Days
Countries visited: Uganda

Day 1: Kampala - Chimpanzee Trekking Area

Distance travelled +/- 400 km

Approx. driving time: 9 - 10 hours (excluding stops)

From Kampala, we travel west crossing the Equator again, through fertile green terraced hillsides, lush banana plantations, steep mountains, and tangled forests. From the Acacia vehicle we should see herds of Ankole cattle with their incredible long curving horns roaming the roads and paddocks. Arriving at our accommodation you will have the opportunity to relax and unwind, take a walk in the surrounding areas, and mingle with the local community.

Accommodation: Craters Campsite & Country Lodge or Simba Safari Camp (or similar)

- **Camping Tour (TTG6):** Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities
- **Accommodated Tour (TTG6A):** Twin share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner

Wi-Fi: No (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 2: Kalinzu Forest or Kyambura Gorge

Distance travelled +/- 50 km (each way)

Approx. driving time: 1 - 2 Hours (each way / excluding stops and trekking)

This morning, we trek to see the chimpanzees. Unlike their larger cousins, the mountain gorilla, chimps live mostly in the trees and so our viewing consists mainly of peering high into the forest canopy. Predictably, the experience of seeing man's closest relative in the wild is a memorable one. Chimpanzee trek permits are issued by the wildlife authority in small groups. Depending on our group size, we may trek on the afternoon of Day 1, morning of Day 2 and afternoon of Day 2 or morning of Day 3.

Accommodation: Craters Campsite & Country Lodge or Simba Safari Camp (or similar)

- **Camping Tour (TTG6):** Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities
- **Accommodated Tour (TTG6A):** Twin share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wi-Fi: No (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 3: Chimpanzee Trekking Area - Lake Bunyonyi

Distance travelled +/- 200 km

Approx. driving time: 5 - 6 Hours (excluding stops)

We leave the picturesque hills and make our way to the lush and stunning Lake Bunyonyi ('Place of many little birds'). This lake is 27km long, 7km wide and at an elevation of 1950 metres above sea level, it is surrounded by undulating hills between 2200m to 2478m high. With a depth of nearly 900m in parts, this lake is the second deepest lake in Africa (the deepest being Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania).

With twenty-nine islands that can be visited by local boats, the lake is a great place to unwind, relax and explore on the days that we don't trek to see the mountain gorillas. Over the next two days the group will be split, with one group trekking to the mountain gorillas while the others stay at Lake Bunyonyi to enjoy the many activities on offer.

Lake Bunyonyi

There are many activities to do here such as hiring canoes to visit some of the lakes' islands, visit local tribes and villages, visiting the local orphanage, as well as bird watching and nature walks. Alternatively, just relax around camp, catch up on your travel diary or postcards to home, or sorting through your photos of your trip so far.

Mountain Gorilla Trekking

This region of Africa is home to the world's remaining 700 free-roaming mountain gorillas, many of which inhabit the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

On the day of our trek, we gather in the early morning to meet our local guide and tracker. Walking in small groups we trek into the thick rainforest. The trek can be demanding at times with uneven terrain and hilly rainforest but the privilege of spending time with a family of these gentle primates makes the effort well worthwhile. To many people the day's trek and time with the gorillas remains their most exciting wildlife encounter in Africa.

The usual procedure, once we have located the gorilla 'family', is to squat or sit down and simply observe them for around an hour - the time set by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (the national body charged with controlling and maintaining the gorillas in Uganda). Gorillas are sociable creatures, living in groups between 12 and 20 individuals, usually led by an 'alpha male' (the 'silverback' - so called because of the silver hair on his back which grows once the male gorilla attains maturity). Most people find that the gorillas are remarkably human-like at close quarters - particularly in the social interaction between family members and in 'play' activity in which the young engage. Photography is permitted (although not with a flash and there are restrictions for those who wish to use a video camera.)

Your permit allows you one trek and gorilla viewing (time limited to one hour). However, because the authorities maintain strict limits on the number of visitors allowed to view the gorillas each day, we may spend several days in the area while all passengers in our group complete the trek and viewing.

NB: Depending on the availability of the gorilla permits the tour itinerary may vary in day to day running order in relation to the brochure itinerary. From time to time, we may have to trek on different days. Please take the itinerary as a guideline only. **This applies to day 6 - 8 of this tour.**

Accommodation: Lake Bunyonyi Overland Stop (or similar)

- **Camping Tour (TTG6):** Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities
- **Accommodated Tour (TTG6A):** Twin share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wi-Fi: Yes (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: See day 4

Day 4: Lake Bunyonyi or Gorilla Trekking

Distance travelled +/- 80 km (each way)

Approx. driving time: 2 - 3 Hours (each way / excluding stops and trekking)

If not trekking, today is free to explore the surrounding area, discover the Islands by boat on Lake Bunyonyi or relax back at camp catching up on some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Accommodation: Lake Bunyonyi Overland Stop (or similar)

- **Camping Tour (TTG6):** Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities
- **Accommodated Tour (TTG6A):** Twin share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wi-Fi: Yes (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: Island Boat Trips, Village Walk, Traditional Dance, Bird Watching, Canoe Hire

Day 5: Lake Bunyonyi or Gorilla Trekking

Distance travelled +/- 80 km (each way)

Approx. driving time: 2 - 3 Hours (each way / excluding stops and trekking)

6 DAY

GORILLA ENCOUNTER (26TTG6/A)

Adventure Camping & Accommodated Tour Dossier

Today is a trek day or a day at leisure to enjoy the many optional activities in Lake Bunyonyi. Whether relaxing on the shores of this deep crater lake with a good book or heading out to the village and orphanage to gain an insight into the everyday life of Ugandans in this area - you'll no doubt wish you could stay in this beautiful part of Africa for longer.

Accommodation: Lake Bunyonyi Overland Stop (or similar)

- **Camping Tour (TTG6):** Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities
- **Accommodated Tour (TTG6A):** Twin share rooms with en-suite facilities

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wi-Fi: Yes (availability may change without notice)

Optional Activities: See day 4

Day 6: Lake Bunyonyi - Kampala

Distance travelled +/- 550 km

Approx. driving time: 11 - 12 Hours (excluding stops)

From Lake Bunyonyi we make our way back across the Equator (stopping for a photo if we have not done so previously) through lush pasture lands and the northern reaches of Lake Victoria (Africa's largest lake) to Kampala where the tour finishes upon arrival. Kampala is a hotspot for great food and entertainment. If time allows, go out to enjoy the nightlife, try the local cuisines and enjoy the hospitality and friendliness of the local Ugandans.

Accommodation: Nil

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Wi-Fi: N/A

Optional Activities: Nil

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Adventure Tour

Travelling on an adventure tour is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a *participation* tour, and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking, and keeping the Acacia vehicle and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip. Our accommodated tour option travels together with the camping counterpart.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to 'expect the unexpected' in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife, and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes-rough travel and long driving days worthwhile. Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your African adventure across this amazing continent.

Africa provides an ever-changing environment, power failures, water and fuel shortages, temperature fluctuations, and other uncontrollable / unplanned situations do occur. You will need to remain flexible, understanding, and good-humoured. "African time" can be difficult and frustrating for those who are used to a very structured life, so this is something to keep in mind!

YOUR FELLOW TRAVELLERS:

Group Size: Maximum 18

Group Age: 16 - 75

Adventure Tours' travellers come from all over the world and from all walks of life.

NB: Sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds must be accompanied by at least one parent / legal guardian for the duration of their tour.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

All tour highlights, 2-person dome tents / accommodation as indicated, fully equipped adventure vehicle, camping and cooking equipment, service of two crew, all road and vehicle taxes, all ground transportation, meals as indicated.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: Visas, travel insurance, flight departure taxes, airport transfers, optional activities, tips, drinks, sleeping bag (camping tour) and items of personal nature.

6 DAY

GORILLA ENCOUNTER (26TTG6/A)

Adventure Camping & Accommodated Tour Dossier

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS:

These are optional activities that are booked during your holiday and paid directly to the provider while on tour. These options offer a variety of experiences and allow you the freedom to decide what activities you would like to do.

GORILLA & CHIMPANZEE TREK

Depending on the availability of the chimpanzee and gorilla permits the tour itinerary may vary in day to day running order which is based on the brochure itinerary. From time to time, we may have to trek on different days. If at any chance our Gorilla trek should be in another neighbouring country, e.g., Rwanda (instead of Uganda) this may entail extra visa fees although we shall endeavour to advise you before departure of any significant changes to the tour itinerary. Please take the above itinerary as a guideline only. **This applies to Day 3 - 5 of this tour.**

ACCOMMODATION:

Camping Tour (TTG6): 2-person dome tents with fly sheets, sewn-in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and foam mattresses. Sleeping bags and pillows are not provided. Accommodation and facilities as indicated.

Accommodated Tour (TTG6A): Accommodation and facilities as indicated.

We mainly use campsites / accommodation, which usually have reasonable wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop, bar, or swimming pool.

WI-FI ON TOUR:

While Wi-Fi is becoming more common in some areas of Africa, we cannot guarantee the availability, coverage, speed, cost, or reliability during your tour.

TRANSPORT:

24-seater, self-contained, custom-built vehicle with on-board tables, USB charging station, drinks cooler box, freezer for food, external water tank, small library, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers (700mm deep x 330mm height x 540mm wide). Acacia vehicle changes may occur on this route. Travel times indicated are approximate and do not include stops en-route.

GAME PARK VISITS

To maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience using local guides and smaller vehicles it also allows us to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies from which local people benefit.

Tour Preparation

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent the booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Kampala (Entebbe - EBB) is well served by several airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start / finish of your tour.

GORILLA AND CHIMPANZEE PERMITS

The Uganda Wildlife Authority imposes strict regulations regarding the gorilla trekking permits. One of these is that permits must be booked and paid in advance. In order for us to do this we must collect your permit money, in addition to your normal deposit, at the time of booking. Like your deposit, the permit money is not refundable if you cancel your tour. Please ask your agent or Acacia for the equivalent amount in your own currency. Please note: To ensure we obtain gorilla permits we may have to adjust the itinerary slightly from the published route. Any such adjustment will be explained to you where-ever possible before you leave for Africa. Our focus at all times will be to ensure everyone has the opportunity to do the treks and enjoy the very Africa experience.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in **Kampala**. The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00 on the evening prior to departure. The tour departs at 05:00 on Day 1 and ends in Kampala in the late afternoon/early evening on Day 6.

6 DAY

GORILLA ENCOUNTER (26TTG6/A)

Adventure Camping & Accommodated Tour Dossier

Meeting point in Kampala : Address: Red Chilli Hideaway 13-23 Bukasa Hill View Road Butabika Contact details: +256 772 709 151 +256 393 202 903 reservations@redchillihideaway.com Tour start time: 05:00 on Day 1	Tour end point in Kampala : Address: Red Chilli Hideaway 13-23 Bukasa Hill View Road Butabika Contact details: +256 772 709 151 +256 393 202 903 reservations@redchillihideaway.com Tour end time: Late afternoon/early evening on Day 6
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PRE TOUR ACCOMMODATION

This tour departs Kampala early on Day 1; we strongly recommend therefore that you plan to arrive at least the day before departure to overcome any jetlag and to acclimatise to Africa. We suggest you book pre-tour accommodation and transfers directly with Red Chilli Hideaway. However please book early to avoid disappointment and the risk of having to find more expensive (or less convenient) lodgings. If time allows, we also suggest planning a night or two extra (after your tour) to make the most of this part of Africa. Accommodation is usually available locally on arrival, but you can pre-book this directly with Red Chilli Hideaway.

LUGGAGE

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. It should be brought in a soft backpack or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings and early morning game drives. You also need a sleeping bag (and small pillow if preferred). We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that can be easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets. A power bank is useful for recharging electronic devices. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet**, issued when you book.

NB: UGANDA PLASTIC BAG BAN - Uganda has a ban on single-use plastic. Prohibited items include single-use plastic carrier bags, shopping bags/packing plastic carrier bags. Ziplock bags and storage compartment bags (e.g., toiletries) will be permitted as they are expected to remain in possession of traveller. We do however suggest that you leave these items behind in your country of origin.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure. Please be aware that some of the areas visited on this tour are **malarial**. We strongly recommend you seek professional medical advice for the appropriate anti-malarial tablets.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Uganda	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	C	R

C = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

NB: To be used as a guide only. Please see your GP or travel clinic for up-to-date medical advice. Alternatively, contact Acacia for any queries or advice regarding vaccination requirements.

COVID-19: International requirements are constantly changing; please contact Acacia for the latest information as it relates to your tour.

VISA AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk. For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

NB: Please ensure you check the tour itinerary to determine whether you require a Multiple or Single-Entry visa for the relevant country prior to applying for your visas.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Uganda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

UGANDA E-VISA

All nationalities must apply for an e-visa online in advance of arrival. **NB:** Online applications can take up to 7 days to process, please allow sufficient time as delays may occur. Please see <https://visas.immigration.go.ug> for more information.

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please refer to: <https://acacia-africa.com/travel-info> for more details. In the UK the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (www.fco.gov.uk) issues free up to date travel advice for all countries visited on tour. Most other governments offer a similar service to citizens. We recommend you review this information before you book your tour. Naturally we welcome any questions you may have about security and safety on tour.

Money Matters

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for Activities and Excursions, snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips, and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-30 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

Spending money is best carried as cash in US dollars (US Dollars in clean, un-torn, **post 2008** edition notes), Sterling or Euro which you then exchange into local currency on arrival and as you go. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.

Currencies are as follows: Uganda - Uganda Schilling.

ATM machines are found in Kampala. Please note they are sometimes unreliable (and therefore should not be relied upon).

Credit cards can be used to pay for optional activities although charges may be high by western standards (+/- 5%).

We recommend you bring your spending money in several different ways (some cash and some cards); your guide can best advise on what to use where.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your own individual discretion but as in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader and driver, at the end of a tour if services rendered have been to your satisfaction.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer several optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. All prices subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (USD)	Activity	Price (USD)
UGANDA		Traditional Dance	\$60
Lake Bunyonyi		Bird Watching	\$20
Boating on the Lake (islands)	\$25 - \$80	Canoe Hire	\$10
Village Walk/Nature Walk	\$10		

Responsible Travel

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

6 DAY

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Contact Us

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QUALITY & PROTECTION

As a member of ABTA (W4093), we are fully bonded for your financial protection and adhere to the highest standards set by the organisation for quality and service.

Get Connected

FACEBOOK:

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica and connect with other Acacia travellers and people booked on your tour. Tag us in your amazing travel posts / stories to be featured.

INSTAGRAM:

Find us on Instagram @acaciaafrica and tag us in your amazing travel posts / stories to be featured.

BLOG:

Follow our blog at <http://acacia-africa.com/blog> and get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers.

NEWSLETTER:

Sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers www.acacia-africa.com

For information on our Adventure Camping and Accommodated Tours, Small Group Safaris, Signature Tours & Safaris, Short Safaris & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays and our Tailor-Made Travel, please visit www.acacia-africa.com