

9 DAY TROOP TO THE GORILLAS (22TTG9) Adventure Camping Tour Dossier

Included Highlights

Queen Elizabeth NP, Chimpanzee Trekking
Mountain Gorilla Trekking

***Subject to purchasing gorilla & chimpanzee permits.**

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. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only. This is a participation tour.

Duration: 9 Days
Countries visited: Uganda

Day 1:

Kampala - Queen Elizabeth National Park

Distance travelled +/- 400 Km
Approx. driving time: 8 Hours

Departing early from Kampala, we travel west towards Queen Elizabeth National Park, across the Equator, through fertile green terraced hillsides, lush banana plantations, steep mountains and tangled forests with herds of Ankole cattle with their incredible long curving horns roaming the roads and paddocks. We camp a short distance from the Queen Elizabeth National Park. Here you will have the opportunity to relax and unwind, take a walk in the surrounding areas and mingle with the local community.

Accommodation: *Simba Camp (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Day 2:

Queen Elizabeth National Park

This morning we enter the Queen Elizabeth National Park and take in the magnificent views of the mountains that separate Uganda from central Africa as well as Lake Edwards and Lake George. Queen Elizabeth National Park has over 500 species of bird and 100 species of mammals making it one of the most biodiverse national parks in the world and if we are lucky, we may get to spot these animals en-route to Kyambura Gorge for the trek to see the chimpanzees. Unlike their larger cousins the mountain gorilla, chimps live mostly in the trees and so our viewing is usually peering high into the forest canopy. However, 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 groups of up to 8 people per group. 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: *Simba Camp (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities*

Meals included: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

WIFI: *Yes*

Optional Activities: *Nil*

Day 3:

Queen Elizabeth National Park - Lake Bunyonyi

Distance travelled +/- 240 Km
Approx. driving time: 5 Hours

We leave the picturesque hills of the national park and make our way to the lush and stunning 'Lake Bunyonyi' ('Place of many little birds'). This lake is 27 km long, 7km wide and at an elevation of 1950 metres above sea level 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.

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Over the next two days the group will be split with one group trekking to the mountain gorillas while the others relax 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, visit the local orphanage, bird watching and nature walks. Alternatively, just relax around camp, catch up on your travel diary or postcards to home.

Mountain Gorilla Trekking

This region of Africa is home to the world's remaining 700 mountain gorillas, many of which inhabit the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. [We may travel into neighbouring Rwanda to trek for the gorillas on rare occasion].

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 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: Lake Bunyonyi Overland Stop / Gorilla Trek area (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 4

Day 4:

Lake Bunyonyi Rest Days or Gorilla Trek Day

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 / Gorilla Trek area (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Island boat trips US\$25 - US\$80, Village Walk US\$10, Traditional Dance US\$100, Bird Watching US\$15, Canoe Hire US\$10

Day 5:

Lake Bunyonyi Rest Days or Gorilla Trek Day

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.

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Accommodation: Lake Bunyonyi Overland Stop / Gorilla Trek area (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 4

Day 6:

Lake Bunyonyi - Kampala

Distance travelled +/- 550 Km

Approx. driving time: 10 Hours

Leaving Lake Bunyonyi we make our way back across the Equator (stopping for a photo opportunity if we did not stop on route to Queen Elizabeth National Park) through lush pasture lands and the northern reaches of Lake Victoria (largest lake in Africa) to Kampala where the tour finishes upon arrival. Kampala is a hotspot for great food and entertainment. If time allows, take the night out and try the local cuisines and enjoy the hospitality and friendliness of the local Ugandan's.

Please note that some group members may be ending their tour in Kampala.

Accommodation: Red Chilli Camp (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Day 7:

Kampala - Jinja

Distance travelled +/- 80 Km

Approx. driving time: 1.5 Hours

Leaving Kampala, we drive the short distance to the town of Jinja on the banks of Lake Victoria and the Nile. It was in 1862 that the British explorer John Hanning Speke recognised Lake Victoria as the 'source of the Nile' settling a long running dispute about Africa's (and the world's) longest river. From this modest monument the Nile begins its 4132-mile course through Uganda, Sudan and eventually Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.

Our camp is situated on the grassy banks overlooking the Nile River. It is here that we usually have the option to try river rafting - an exciting day out for those enjoying the thrill of 'white-water'. There is also the opportunity to make some difference to local children at a local school project: 'Softpower' is a locally run voluntary programme aimed at building and improving schools in the Jinja area to which your contribution of a few hours of painting or plastering is always most welcome. Other activities at Jinja include mountain biking, quad biking, village walks and even bungee jumping!

Accommodation: Nile River Explorers (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Quad Biking US\$85, White-water Rafting US\$160, Community School Project US\$50, Nile Cruise from US\$25, Nile SUP from US\$20, Kayak from US\$20, Fishing Trips from US\$80, Mountain Biking from US\$30

Day 8:

Jinja

Enjoy a free day in this magical place and the many optional activities on offer. Adrenaline lovers can head to the world class rapids and try rafting - an exciting day out for those enjoying the thrill of 'white-water'. Those seeking a more relaxing day can visit the local community or simply just relax at camp.

Accommodation: Nile River Explorers (or similar) - Camping in twin share tents with shared facilities

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: See day 7

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Day 9:

Jinja

Enjoy a last day on the banks of the Nile exploring the surrounding community, the town of Jinja and discover the beauty of the river Nile as you relax on its banks or indulge in the many optional activities on offer.

After our refreshing stop at Jinja, we retrace our steps back to Kampala in the late afternoon where our tour ends.

Accommodation: Nil

Meals included: Breakfast

WIFI: Yes

Optional Activities: Nil

Tour Information

TOUR STYLE:

Adventure Camping 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!

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

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

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

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:

We use 2-person dome tents with fly sheets, sewn-in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and foam mattresses. 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.

TRANSPORT:

24-seater, self-contained, custom-built vehicle with on-board tables, plug sockets, freezer, water tank, library, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers. Travel times indicated are approximate and do not include stops en-route.

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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, you will be sent the tour 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 and your 'ticket' for the tour and must be given to the tour leader at the beginning of the tour. Kampala (Entebbe - EBB) is well served by several airlines and your travel agent can advise on flights to the start of the 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. The Gorilla and Chimpanzee permit currently (2022) cost US\$800.00 per person. 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 9.**

Meeting point in Kampala: Address: Red Chilli Hideaway Plot 17, Gangaram Road Mbuya, Kampala Contact details: Tel. +256 (0)414 223 903 Tel: +256 772 509 150 E-mail: chilli@infocom.co.ug Tour start time: 05:00 on Day 1	Tour end point in Kampala: Address: Red Chilli Hideaway Plot 17, Gangaram Road Mbuya, Kampala Contact details: Tel. +256 (0)414 223 903 Tel: +256 772 509 150 E-mail: chilli@infocom.co.ug Tour end time: Late afternoon / early evening on Day 9
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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 jet-lag and to acclimatise to Africa. We would be happy to book pre-tour accommodation and transfers for you - please call or email us (or speak to your agent) with your arrival details and accommodation requirements. 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. Your Tour Leader can help with post tour accommodation if required and there are a variety of activities and excursions in the Kampala area that you can arrange locally. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can pre book your accommodation at the time of booking your tour.

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.

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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 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 several travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

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

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 - Shilling.

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.

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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		Jinja	
Lake Bunyonyi		Mountain Biking	From \$30
Boating on the Lake (islands)	\$25 - \$80	Quad Biking	From \$85
Village Walk/Nature Walk	\$10	Nile SUP	From \$20
Traditional Dance	\$100	Fishing Trips	From \$80
Bird Watching	\$15	White-water Rafting	\$160
Canoe Hire	\$10	Community Schools Project	\$50
		Kayak	From \$20

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.

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

WIFI ON TOUR:

While WIFI is becoming more common in some areas of Africa we cannot guarantee the speed, cost or reliability during your tour.

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.

TWITTER:

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Or tag us at #AcaciaAfrica.

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

ACACIA LIVE:

Upload your travel stories to Acacia Live: www.acacialive.com

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