

# ACACIA AFRICA

Updated Oct 2011  
FOR ALL 2012  
DEPARTURES

## GORILLA TREK EXPRESS - TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code GTE3

KAMPALA - KAMPALA

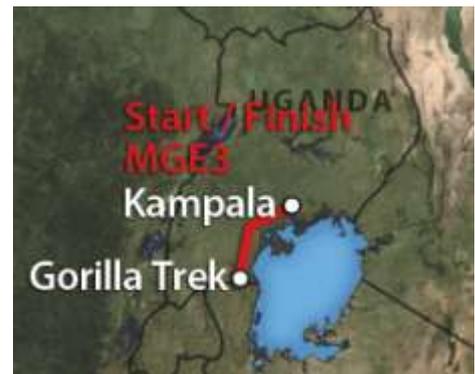
3 DAYS

Tour Starts – 06:30 pick up from your Kampala hotel on day one

### HIGHLIGHTS

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park  
Gorilla Trekking

An exhilarating short break through some of Uganda's most beautiful scenery, into the deep rainforests of the south, for the ultimate wildlife encounter with mountain gorillas.



### INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility 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.

Please note that this is an EXPRESS tour and there are two long driving days. If you want a more relaxed paced tour please consider our 5 or 6 day options.

This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.

Duration: 3 Days  
Countries visited: Uganda

**DAY 1**  
**Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**  
Lx1 Dx1  
Lodge

After being picked up from our Kampala hotel we travel south-west from the capital, following the shore of Lake Victoria on a day's drive down to the Kigezi Highlands. We pass marshes and small towns before reaching unsealed road and making our way through remote villages and deep valleys of banana plantations to the heavily forested slopes of Bwindi. Tonight we stay in community-run bandas (cabins) in the village close to the park gates from where we'll begin our exciting trek tomorrow morning.

**DAY 2**  
**Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**  
Bx1 Lx1 Dx1  
Lodge

After an early breakfast we head to the park gates for a briefing with our ranger, when we meet our guide and trackers. We can also check we have the correct clothing and footwear for the excursion. Our trek begins and we make our way into the forest. The beauty of the forest is spectacular - steeply forested and incredibly dense - but is criss-crossed with numerous animal trail, allowing access to trekkers. The time taken and the terrain we cross vary with the movements of these great primates but the chance of seeing the family at the end of your endeavours is incredibly high. Once having located the gorilla 'family', we sit and watch them for one hour – the

time regulated by the Uganda Wildlife Authority. Gorillas are extremely sociable and interactive primates, and groups normally number 12-20 individuals led by an 'alpha male', sometimes known as the 'silverback' (on account of the silver hair on his back which is attained on maturity). Although not the closest related primate to Man, at close quarters the gorilla is remarkably human-like – particularly in the social interaction between family members and in the 'play' activity in which the young engage. Photography is permitted although not with a flash, and there are restrictions in regard to video cameras. After the effort of finding the animals the privilege of spending time with these gentle apes makes it all worthwhile and is without doubt one of Africa's greatest wildlife encounters.

After spending time with the gorillas we head back to the base camp for a late lunch and a relaxing afternoon. You may like to re-enter the park for a guided forest hike with a park ranger or take a community tour of the local village to visit the local school and 'banana brewery' where the local tippie 'banana gin' is made!

**DAY 3**  
**Kampala**  
Bx1 Lx1

We leave early this morning for our day's drive back to the capital. The return journey to Kampala takes you back through the Ugandan countryside one last time with wonderful memories of your brief encounter with the mountain gorillas. There will be a stop for lunch en route and expect to arrive in the city early evening.

**TOUR INFORMATION**

***A fantastic journey through some of Uganda's most scenic landscape and a must for animal lovers. The trip requires moderate fitness for the gorilla trek.***

**TOUR STYLE**

Short Safaris & Treks

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, services of a tour guide & driver.

**WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport taxes and transfers, tips, drinks, laundry, optional activities & items of a personal nature.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Lodge with twin shared en-suite rooms.

**TRANSPORT**

Minibus or 4x4

**MEALS**

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x2, Lunch (L) x3, Dinner (D) x2. Most dietary requirements can be catered for. Please ensure you inform Acacia of any special requirements when you book or at your earliest convenience.

**GORILLA 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 permits currently (June 2011) cost US\$510 per person. Please ask your agent or Acacia for the equivalent amount in your own currency.

**OPERATOR**

As this tour is run by a respected local tour operator, you will benefit from their extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm as well as helping Acacia support local businesses in Africa.

**TOUR PREPARATION**

**BOOKING INFORMATION**

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Entebbe is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

## JOINING INFORMATION

Entebbe airport is approx 40km outside Kampala and taxi transfers are widely available between airport and the city. The tour begins with a pick up from your city hotel at **06:30 on day one** and a drop off at your hotel at approximately **18:00 on day three**. Please ensure Acacia has your hotel details in advance of the tour.

## EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you stay in Kampala the night prior to departure as the tour leaves early the following morning, and the night of day three as final day travel delays may interfere with evening flight times. Any additional accommodation in Kampala can be booked with Acacia. Please contact us to check current rates.

## WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack are ideal. On this tour you should bring a mixture of lightweight, cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e. fleece, long trousers and hat) for evenings and early mornings. For the gorilla trek it is recommended you bring a water bottle, light, loose, long clothing and light rain jacket. It is essential you bring boots or walking trainers with a good grip and ankle support for the rough terrain. A money belt/pouch, worn under the clothing is also a good idea. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safes wherever possible, to store your cash, passport and airline tickets.

## 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.

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

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

## 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](http://www.fco.gov.uk) for other nationalities a number of 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																

## MONEY MATTERS

### PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-20 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, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into the local currency on arrival. In East Africa especially, it is best to bring US dollars, but make sure they are **clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Older or dirty notes may not be accepted.
- **Currency:** Ugandan Shilling (UG)
- **ATM machines** can be found in Kampala city and Entebbe airport.
- **Credit cards** have limited use except to pay for extra accommodation in hotels or in larger shops. Please be mindful that charges for using them can be high by western standards.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

It is recommended to bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

## TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it is customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your guide and drivers, at the end of a tour or day excursion, for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

### **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 contact Acacia for more information.

### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Bwindi Community Walk	\$20		

## **ACACIA ON THE ROAD**



### **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.

### **GET CONNECTED**

Join our Facebook group [www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica](http://www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica) and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blogs from the road <http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/> and <http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/> get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers [www.acacia-africa.com](http://www.acacia-africa.com)

**For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit [www.acacia-africa.com](http://www.acacia-africa.com)**



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