

# PAUL McDOUGALL

wildlife photographer  photographic safaris

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## Magical Uganda

### Day 1: Arrival day

Arrive at Entebbe international airport; you will be met by one of our friendly staff who will transfer you to a Lake Victoria hotel in Entebbe. Relax in the luxurious surroundings, sample great food or enjoy a drink on the terrace overlooking Lake Victoria. There is also a gym and pool for the more active. Dinner and overnight at Laico Lake Victoria Hotel (or equivalent).

### Day 2: Tour to Mabamba for Shoebill Watching.

After breakfast, drive to the ferry and cross the lake to Buwaya. Drive to Mabamba swamp and search for Shoebill stork, African Jacana and other birds. Shoebill sightings although not guaranteed are very likely here and you have a reasonable chance of capturing great images of these birds at close quarters. Drive back to the hotel and arrive in time for a late lunch. Dinner and overnight at Laico Lake Victoria Hotel (or equivalent)

### Day 3: Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Drive from Entebbe in a South-West direction, have a stopover at the Equator for photos. After, continue driving to reach Mbarara town for lunch. After lunch, drive to Queen Elizabeth NP and arrive in time for boat launch along Kazinga Channel. African Skimmers, Fish Eagles, Goliath Herons and several kingfisher species are some of the birding highlights from the boat. Buffalo, Elephant and Hippo are regularly seen along the river banks. Dinner and overnight at Mweya Safari lodge (or equivalent).

#### **Day 4: Game drive and afternoon Chimp tracking**

Wake up for morning breakfast and go for game drive to look out for animals like Elephants, Lions, Hyenas, Leopards, Buffaloes, Ugandan Kobs, Waterbuck and much more including a variety of bird species. After game drive, stop for a picnic lunch. Relax here before going for Chimpanzee tracking in Kyambura gorge. Dinner and overnight at Mweya Safari lodge.

#### **Day 5: Game drive and optional afternoon boat Cruise.**

Wake up for morning breakfast and after go for a second game drive to look out for animals we may have missed on the first game drive. After game drive, drive to the lodge for lunch. Relax here after lunch or go for a second optional (additional charge) afternoon Boat Cruise. This is an excellent opportunity to capture images of any birds that may have been missed on the first boat trip, especially the African Skimmers. Dinner and overnight at Mweya Safari lodge

#### **Day 6: Game drive through Ishasha Sector.**

After breakfast, drive to Ishasha sector, the southern part of the park and go for a game drive in search of the tree climbing lions and various other species of animals and birds that we may not have seen. After a full morning, drive back to the lodge for lunch. There is the option to go for the evening game drive in the Kasenyi area. We will especially look out for carnivores as they become more active in the early evening. Dinner and overnight at Mweya Safari lodge.

#### **Day 7: Queen Elizabeth NP – Bwindi NP**

After breakfast, drive through Ishasha to Bwindi Impenetrable national park for gorilla trekking. We will have lunch en route. Arrive mid afternoon and relax at the lodge. Dinner and overnight at Mahogany Springs lodge (or equivalent).

#### **Day 8: Gorilla trekking day.**

Wake up for any early morning breakfast before going for briefing from the ranger guides. Remember to carry packed lunch and bottled water with you. Depending on where you find the gorillas in the forest, trekking can be estimated between 2-9hrs and the trekking success with experienced guides is at 99%. There are 3-4 separate gorilla groups available to trek dependent on location, and over the 4 days, if possible (dependent on permit demand) we will try to trek all of the available groups. After trekking, go back to the lodge and relax. Dinner and overnight at Mahogany Springs.

### **Day 9: Repeat Gorilla trekking.**

Wake up for any early morning breakfast before you go for briefing about gorilla trekking. Remember to carry packed lunch and bottled water with you. There are porters who can help to carry your luggage at for a small additional fee. Dinner and overnight at Mahogany Springs lodge.

### **Day 10: Relaxing Day:**

After 2 potentially tough gorilla treks you take the day off to simply spend relaxing at the lodge. The lodge gardens are beautiful and many different birds can be seen in the grounds, there is the opportunity to have a massage, download images, sit out on the balcony enjoying a drink. The lodge overlooks the valley and the mountains where you may have spent the previous 2 days trekking. It is possible to occasionally see the gorillas walking along the hillside from the lodge. They have even been known to visit the lodge gardens and the river that flows past. Dinner and overnight at Mahogany Springs lodge.

### **Day 11: Gorilla trekking.**

Wake up for any early morning breakfast before you go for briefing about gorilla trekking. Remember to carry packed lunch and bottled water with you. Dinner and overnight at Mahogany Springs lodge.

### **Day 12: Repeat Gorilla trekking.**

Wake up for any early morning breakfast before you go for briefing about gorilla trekking. Remember to carry packed lunch and bottled water with you. Dinner and overnight at Mahogany Springs lodge.

### **Day 13: Drive back to Entebbe.**

After a very early breakfast we drive back to Entebbe passing through Mbarara town for lunch and at the Equator for shopping. Arrive in Entebbe in the late afternoon (at about 6pm) for your flight back home. Dependent on flight times it is possible to add an extra night in Entebbe at an additional charge.

PRICES AND DATES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. THEY CAN VARY DEPENDENT ON CLIENT NUMBERS AND DEPARTURE DATES.

CONTACT ME DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Price includes:**

Transport by 4×4 vehicle throughout the whole trip. Accommodation and meals as per itinerary All park entrance fees and government taxes. One Boat cruise along Kazinga channel. (Queen Elizabeth) Mabamba Shoe Bill Boat Trip. Bottled water throughout the trip. Four (4) Gorilla permits and One (1) chimp tracking permit per person.

**Not Included:**

International flights Any alcoholic drinks Any tips or donations – tips usually given to rangers, trackers and porters for gorilla treks. Any optional trips as detailed above. All optional trips can be arranged through your guide or the accommodation. Personal insurance Laundry and other services of personal nature.

(Please Note accommodation options detailed above are subject to availability and may be changed)