



East Africa - Ultimate Chimp Experience





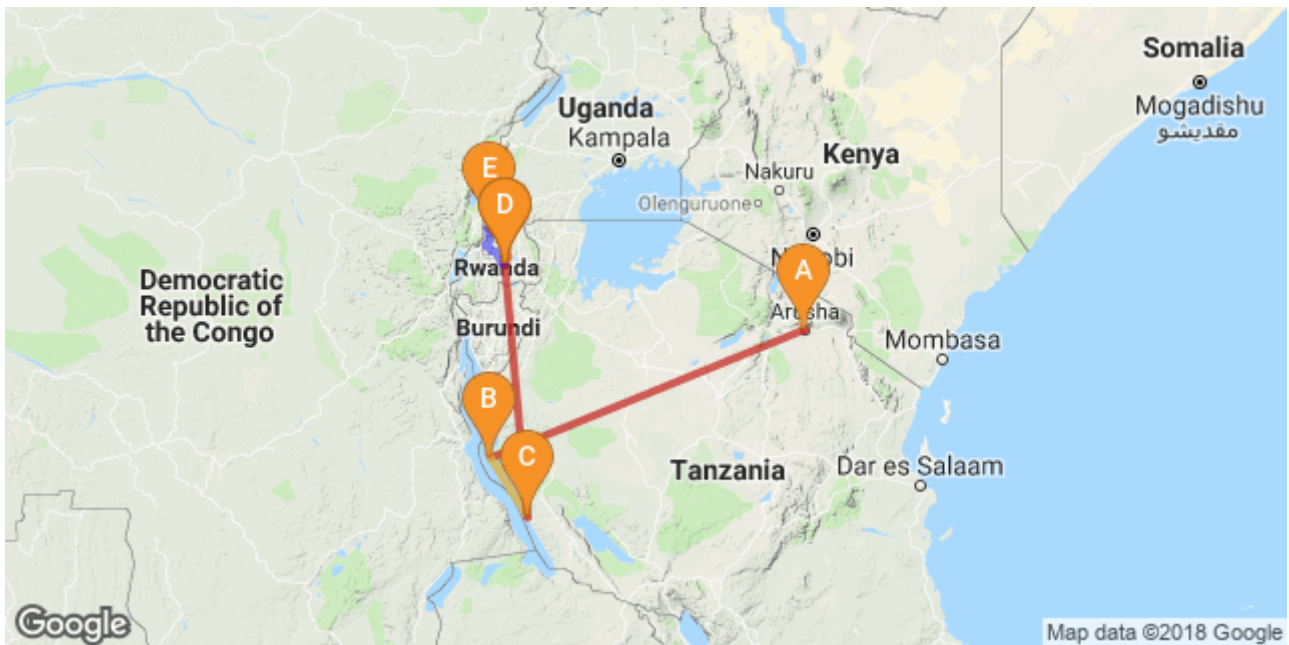
East Africa - Ultimate Chimp Experience

Arusha - Mahale Mountain National Park - Lake Tanganyika - Kigali - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

12 Days / 11 Nights

0 Persons

Date of Issue: 29 October 2018



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Duration
Elewana Arusha Coffee Lodge	Arusha			1 Night
Greystoke Mahale	Mahale Mountain National Park			3 Nights
Lupita Island	Lake Tanganyika			3 Nights
Hotel des Mille Collines	Kigali			1 Night
Rushaga Gorilla Camp	Bwindi Impenetrable Forest			2 Nights
Hotel des Mille Collines	Kigali			1 Night

Day 1 : Elewana Arusha Coffee Lodge, Arusha

Arusha

Resting at the foot of Mount Meru, the sprawling city of Arusha is known as the safari capital of northern Tanzania. It serves as an excellent base from which to explore the remarkably scenic surrounding area which includes majestic Mount Kilimanjaro, as well as the Manyara, Tarangire and Ngorongoro National Parks. Arusha is a good spot to take a day or two off from the safari circuit as it features a temperate climate and lush surrounds. Visitors can look forward to exploring the wildlife-abundant Serengeti National Park; the magnificent Arusha National Park; and taking on the challenge of climbing Mount Meru, Africa's fifth highest mountain.

Overnight: Elewana Arusha Coffee Lodge [View iBrochure](#)

Located in the middle of a verdant coffee plantation, Arusha Coffee Lodge is a sanctuary of aromatic tranquility and a welcome retreat after a long international flight, or the dust and excitement of a thrilling bush safari.

Take residence in one of 30 luxury wooden chalets - 12 Plantation Suites and 18 Plantation Rooms - nestled amongst the surrounding gardens and sea of coffee trees.

Turning off the road, a tree-lined drive guides you to the warm and inviting main area with its quiet understated aura of luxury. Vibrant gardens, a spa, and a swimming pool await, and a restaurant, Bacchus, and café bistro, 3° South, boast menus to satisfy the most discerning of palates, successfully fusing international culinary prowess with locally-sourced ingredients.

Visitors are also welcome to enjoy convenient gift shopping at the Traders Walk Boutiques, located on site. Browse through a collection of five boutiques offering arts and crafts, jewellery, clothing, gourmet coffee and cakes and traditional Swahili food.



Activities

The 'Bean-to-Cup' Coffee Estate Tour

Take a guided walk around the workings of the coffee plantation to see how the coffee is grown, harvested, dried, and produced into the aromatic coffee that we drink every day, culminating in that all-important coffee tasting!

Tours are an additional cost to accommodation.



Trader's Walk

The Trader's Walk is a collection of 5 boutique shops and gourmet food places within the ground of Arusha Coffee Lodge showcasing some of the best creativity and ingenuity of Tanzania.

Shanga - A workshop creating gift arts and crafts.

Watch beautiful jewellery, arts and crafts being created out of recycled materials.

Soko - The gift shop

From safari clothing to wonderful keepsakes and gifts.

Jikoni - The authentic African kitchen

An open-to-air restaurant with traditional Swahili food on offer.

The Tanzanite Experience - The jewellery store

Tanzanite Experience specialises in authentic, ethically-mined Tanzanite gemstones and jewellery. Tanzanite, a beautiful blue stone, is said to be a 1000 times rarer than diamonds.

Kahawa - The cafe

A delightful gourmet cafe selling freshly ground coffee and fresh-baked cakes either 'to go' or served on Kahawa's shaded terrace.



Peaberries Spa

Indulge in a pampering and relaxing treatment at Peaberries. Select from bouquet of treatments, including massages, pedicures, manicures, waxes and facials.

Spa treatments are not included in accommodation price.

Garden Luncheon

Every day an extravagant buffet luncheon is served in the cool, manicured gardens.

Day 2 : Greystoke Mahale, Mahale Mountain National Park

Mahale Mountain National Park

Spreading out from the shores of beautiful Lake Tanganyika, the mountainous terrain of the Mahale Mountain National Park is home to some of Africa's last surviving wild chimps, and trekking in search of these endearing primates is one of the main attractions of the reserve. Other highlights include on-foot game safaris that take in the park's diverse wildlife, hiking up the 2460-metre Mount Nkungwe – the highest of the Mahale mountain range's six peaks – and fishing and snorkelling in Lake Tanganyika on the park's western border. While the park is home to over 900 chimpanzees, it is also home to a variety of other wildlife including: leopards, blue duikers, red colobus monkeys, giant pangolins, lions, elephants, buffaloes, giraffes, hippos, crocodiles, otters and a variety of bird species.

Overnight: Greystoke Mahale [View iBrochure](#)

It's no exaggeration to say there is nowhere in the world like Greystoke Mahale. Greystoke Mahale sits on a pristine, white sandy beach overlooking the turquoise water of Lake Tanganyika, with the forested slopes of the 8000 ft Mahale Mountains rising behind.

Greystoke affects people in a way that no other place does; perhaps it's because of its remoteness, and because of the mountains rising from the beach at your backs, the wide lake with its many different moods and the feeling that you are the only ones here. With just six wood and thatch bandas set on the edge of the forest line at the base of the mountains your days can start there, eating breakfast whilst waiting to hear news of the chimps and deciding what to do with your day. Evenings end with sundowners on the rocks of the headland, where drinks are served around the lamp-lit bar whilst the mountains, rising behind camp, disappear into the darkness.



Day 3 & 4 : Greystoke Mahale, Mahale Mountain National Park

Activities

Chimping

Nomad share the mountains and the lake with so many animals, but it's the chimps that inspire; it's hard not to compare their daily lives, their movements, feeding, squabbling, foraging and grooming, with our own. Time spent with them is time away from everything else that is ordinary. The Greystoke guides have watched, over the years, as families have grown, alpha males have come and gone, bonds and friendships have been created and then broken, and then created again. They are not so different from us.

After tracking them, for an hour or two, maybe more, only aware of the sounds they are making ahead of you, you find them; suddenly they are everywhere. You sit quietly on the forest floor and take a deep breath, this is what it's all about. For the next hour it's as if you scarcely breathe, so wrapped up are you in watching them go about their daily life. You become aware of the subtleties of different relationships, through gesture, sound and expression. One dictating the pace, another courting favour, yet another perhaps plotting a coup. There is humour too as the young chimps fall about the floor and play remarkably human games.

It's all acted out on this natural chimpanzee stage, and witnessing it is a true privilege.

Day 5, 6 & 7 : Lupita Island, Lake Tanganyika

Lake Tanganyika

Situated in Tanzania, within the Albertine Rift, Lake Tanganyika is the second oldest freshwater lake in the world as well as the second most voluminous freshwater lake on the planet. Tanganyika's crystal clear waters are said to be among the world's cleanest and provide a haven for a myriad of fish, including many colourful cichlid species. The lake is almost entirely surrounded by the mountains of the Great Rift Valley and bordered by two stunningly scenic nature reserves: the Mahale Mountains National Park and the Gombe Stream National Park, famous for its chimpanzees.

Overnight: Lupita Island

The shimmering waters and sandy beaches make Lupita Island the perfect complement to an adventurous African safari. As a guest, you may enjoy a variety of water sports and excursions to tiny, virtually undiscovered local villages or simply soak in the tranquil beauty of the island from the privacy of your open-air room. Fun and relaxation are the rule here, and it is the ideal way to end a vacation before heading back to the real world.

The thirteen villas at Lupita Island are spacious and exquisitely appointed. The smallest is 1800 square feet and the two-bedroom, two-bath suites are 2400 square feet. The resort design features undulating roofs thatched from local grasses, and the lakeside of each room is completely open-air, so you can enjoy the lake breeze and soak in your natural surroundings. As you relax under our powerful waterfall showers, with bathroom walls open to nature, life's stresses simply melt away. Each villa includes bathtubs or plunge pools on either the deck or terrace, as well as a bar and large living area, ideal for relaxation or entertaining.



Day 8 : Hotel des Mille Collines, Kigali

Kigali

Rwanda's capital and biggest city stretches across undulating lush hills surrounded by towering mountains, the largest of which is Mount Kigali, rising 1850 metres above sea level. Kigali is the country's financial, commercial and cultural hub, served by an international airport and featuring a wide range of accommodation options, restaurants and points of interest, including the Kigali Genocide Centre, an atmospheric market and numerous craft shops. With its interesting architecture, busy streets, meandering boulevards, and green hillsides, Kigali is said to be one of the most attractive cities in Africa and is definitely worth a visit.

Overnight: Hotel des Mille Collines

This Sabena owned hotel offers a total of 113 rooms including eight suites with a bathtub, balcony, cable TV, phone, mini-bar, Internet access, toiletries, work desk area, wake up service, and voicemail. Some rooms offer a bathrobe, ceiling fan, connecting rooms, hairdryer, trouser press, and a kitchenette. Non smoking rooms are also available. The hotel was built in 1972, opened in 1974, and was renovated in 1987 as the leading hotel in Rwanda with large meeting facilities.

Facilities included: Business center, Tennis court, Golf, Swimming pool, Wheel chair access, Fitness facility, Dining, Meeting room, First class, Car rental desk



Day 9 & 10 : Rushaga Gorilla Camp , Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Located in southwestern Uganda, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is said to be Africa's oldest rainforest. It is world-renowned for its excellent gorilla-sighting opportunities. The rugged landscape features dense jungle, cascading waterfalls, sparkling mountain streams, deep valleys and steep ridges. This untouched forest has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its breathtaking natural beauty and unique ecological significance. Aside from the amazing gorilla interactions, there are other drawcards such as a network of forest walks, over 340 species of bird to spot and a variety of butterflies. Don't miss the opportunity to explore the spectacular Virunga Volcanoes.

Overnight: Rushaga Gorilla Camp

Rushaga Gorilla Camp is haven for trekking within the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, a highlight of all visits done in Uganda and a reason why you should visit Uganda.



Day 11: Hotel des Mille Collines, Kigali

Overnight: Hotel des Mille Collines

This Sabena owned hotel offers a total of 113 rooms including eight suites with a bathtub, balcony, cable TV, phone, mini-bar, Internet access, toiletries, work desk area, wake up service, and voicemail. Some rooms offer a bathrobe, ceiling fan, connecting rooms, hairdryer, trouser press, and a kitchenette. Non smoking rooms are also available. The hotel was built in 1972, opened in 1974, and was renovated in 1987 as the leading hotel in Rwanda with large meeting facilities.

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Day 12
End of Itinerary

Travel Information



Tanzania is one of Africa's most iconic safari destinations. The name Tanzania conjures up images of wildebeest stampeding across vast savannas, great plains brimming with legions of game, rain forests teeming with monkeys and birdlife as well as white sandy beaches gleaming along the coast of Zanzibar. All of these natural wonders and more are on offer in this exceptionally diverse African nation. With all of this diversity on offer, the most difficult part of your Tanzanian holiday experience is likely to be deciding where to go!



Rwanda is a mountainous country home to lush valleys, towering mountain peaks, and beautiful lakes. One of the most notable activities offered in Rwanda is tracking the endangered mountain gorillas high up in the country's mountainous region which is one of Africa's most memorable wildlife experiences. Along with the famous mountain gorillas, Rwanda is home to game-rich national parks, ancient forests and bustling cities. The country has emerged from a turbulent history and, nowadays, is an incredible wildlife destination attracting visitors from across the world.



Uganda was famously dubbed the 'Pearl of Africa' by Winston Churchill - this East African country lives up to this name. Uganda is characterised by relatively dry and flat savanna in the north, with verdant mountains in the West, and vast dense and remarkably lush forests in the central region. The nation is home to an astonishingly diverse range of African wildlife including the Big 5 and the highly endangered mountain gorilla with a gorilla trek being a highlight of a visit. Add to this the friendly locals and a capital city full of lively bars, clubs and restaurants; it is easy to see why Uganda is a great destination.