



PROJECT DOSSIER

MOUNTAIN GORILLA SAFARI

KAMPALA to KAMPALA

7 days

1160 kms by road (and foot)

Uganda

Itinerary Guideline

- Day 1:** Depart Kampala by Encounter truck to drive south west along the shores of Lake Victoria before heading inland via Mbarara to camp overnight.
- Day 2:** We drive south via Kabale and into the Virunga Mountains. From here we will visit the gorilla projects at either Bwindi or Mgahinga.
- Day 3-5:** Supported by well trained local guides, we hike in small groups (4-6 persons) up into forested mountain sides to track the gorillas.
- Day 6-7:** We drive via Mbarara returning to Kampala, the arrangements end on arrival.

PLEASE NOTE

At the time of updating this schedule (February 2000) we are not entering either Rwanda or the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to on-going political instability.

The following is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and it's highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, it's activities and timings.



HIGHLIGHTS & ROUTE

The Mountain Gorillas are an endangered species whose home in the mountains bordering Uganda, Rwanda and the Congo is threatened by the advances of mankind. During the late 1970s various protection groups set up projects to habituate gorilla groups to accept "human visitors" onto their patch - by doing so the funds raised would go back into both local communities and the National Parks that are working to safeguard these creatures.

Regrettably political conflicts and pressures have dealt a blow to a number of projects over recent years and today we can never be sure as to which particular project and in which country we will visit the gorillas. But wherever we do, it will be an experience not forgotten. Despite their great size, (male gorillas can grow to 1.8 to 2 metres and weigh up to 205 kgs), these shy and gentle creatures are in grave danger of becoming extinct. Our observation of the gorillas involves going in small parties, with a guide, to the area where a gorilla's family is likely to be. (This can involve up to 5 hours of difficult trekking through thick jungle). They live in family groups which range from 5 to 20 members. We will find ourselves literally crawling on hands and knees through the undergrowth, with our guide imitating the different sounds made by the gorillas to put them at ease.

Should we not locate them on our initial trek, then the permits allow another attempt the next day and thus we allow three days for the whole group to see the gorillas.

PARKS & RESERVES

Entrance costs to the park or reserve in which we visit the gorillas are included in the project cost (but not the Gorilla Trek Permit).

GROUP SIZE

21 max including Encounter staff. Plus local guides for the Gorilla Trek.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

This project requires above average physical conditions as the Gorilla trek can be quite demanding. We also have a basic camp lifestyle.

THE LOCAL PAYMENT (as in the brochure)

This is the payment made to the Project Leader at the point of departure. This payment must be made paid in US\$ dollars, either in cash notes or recognised Travellers Cheques. This payment completes the total inclusive price of the project.

This amount will be utilised by the Project Leader to cover a proportion but not all of the 'on the ground' running costs of this project. There are no hidden extra payments.

INCLUDED IN PROJECT COST

All transport, food, camping equipment & supplies, local guides, camping fees, & activities as detailed from published starting date of project until arrival in Kampala on Day 7. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds, other than the Gorillas Trek permit (allow US \$175 to \$250).

PROJECT COST DOES NOT COVER

Flights to/from Kampala, transfers to/from airport & airport taxes, vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. The cost of the Gorilla Trek permit US \$175 to \$250. Accommodation and meals in Kampala before/after the project.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Standard Encounter truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit etc.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

A sleeping bag (non specialised), a medium sized bag or backpack or a daypack. Personal clothing, strong footwear, water bottle, personal medicines & toiletries etc. No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary and you probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information. Most airlines flying in and out of Africa impose a 20kg baggage limit.

TRANSPORT

Encounter 4WD expedition truck. By foot on the Gorilla Trek.

ACCOMMODATION

Camping throughout. Basic campground facilities in main centres, usually extending to simple washing/showering and toilet arrangements only. Otherwise open 'bush' camping with no facilities other than standard Encounter truck equipment. Your involvement is needed in camp set-up, domestic & day to day routines etc. (Accommodation on night 7 in Kampala is not included.)

MEALS, COOKING & FOOD

Camp cooked breakfast & evening meals, picnic lunches. Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cereals, preserves etc, occasionally supplemented by local & imported canned & dried goods if no fresh supplies available. Project members will be involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. Vegetarians should experience no difficulty maintaining an adequate diet, but please inform Encounter in advance. (Evening meals on Day 7 in Kampala are not included).

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the project, and which contains not less than **4 blank pages**. Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and are constantly subject to change. You should check at the time of booking with Encounter or your agent who can advise you of all the up to date visa requirements applicable to you, and their costs. We can also help you in obtaining any visas you may require before departure.

INSURANCE

You must have personal Travel Insurance to cover Adventure Travel and it must cover all the aspects described on page 60 of the brochure. Please bring a copy of your policy with you to the pre-departure meeting. If your policy does not cover this minimum level then Encounter will not accept responsibility for the consequences.

MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS

All vaccination requirements and medical recommendations are detailed in the pre-departure information pack at the time of booking.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

As a guideline you should budget approx US\$75 for this week to cover personal day to day expenditure en route - drinks, snacks, occasional lunches & individual sightseeing, ethnic crafts and souvenirs. You should budget approx \$50 per day that you spend in Kampala before and after the project to cover hotel, meals & incidentals. Credit cards are not accepted outside Kampala. Other than the above, there are no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in Africa.

ARRIVING AT START OF THE PROJECT

You will need to arrive in Kampala a day before departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental flights.

There will be a pre-departure meeting at our Kampala hotel at 1900 hrs on the evening before Day 1. This meeting is also your latest arrival time.

LEAVING AT END OF PROJECT

Arrangements end on arrival in Kampala hotel on the afternoon/evening of Day 7. You should **not** make any homeward flight arrangements for this same day. Any flight connections could be made the following day. Accommodation can be arranged through Encounter or your Project Leader should you wish to stay in Kampala for this or subsequent nights.

INTERESTING READING

Gorillas in the Mist by Dian Fossey. A full list of recommended reading & titles - in novels, guidebooks, animal field guides, history and maps is given in our pre-departure information.

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

- Local Payment
- Gorilla Trek Permit.....
- Return flights.....
- Visas.....
- Vaccinations.....
- Insurance.....
- Personal Spending Money.....

- Total** _____

The information in this dossier has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However, it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and Encounter Overland Ltd.