

Following our Forebearers in Ethiopia

The word Ethiop means "sunburnt". Travellers in Ethiopia can find unparalleled cultural and linguistic diversity, historical and religious sites and celebrations in this East African country. For example, Sámuel Teleki visited Harar and he found the Lake Chew Bahir (formerly known as Lake Stefania) in April 1888. Around 1906-1907, Kálmán Kittenberger completed research in the Danakil Depression in his breakthrough scientific exploration. He described this region's land as lunar-like. Between 1924 and 1935, Kálmán Mészáros worked as a doctor in the former Ethiopian Empire, and he then became the chief physician of the Ethiopian army and Emperor Haile Selassie. Dr. László Sáska was the court physician of Haile Selassie's son-in-law and was considered by many to be the "Albert Schweitzer of Ethiopia". In 1934, he organized a 4,000-kilometer expedition to roam the vastness of the Ethiopian highlands and the region of the southern Ethiopian great lakes. You can get to Ethiopia from Budapest with one transfer in 8-10 hours or from Vienna with a direct flight. Vaccinations are not compulsory.

The following are most important sights and attractions recommended by the Utazz Afrikába Utazási Iroda (Travel to Africa Travel Agency):

Addis Ababa is the headquarters of the African Union, the capital located the highest above sea level at 2,500 meters, and home to 84 different language groups. Its name means "New Flower". Emperor Menelik II founded the city in 1887. His wife, Empress Taitu, chose the location for the new capital. Its main attractions are the Mercato (Market), the palace of Emperor Haile Selassie I and the National Museum, where the 3,2-million-year-old remains of Lucy can be found. The Menelik Mausoleum, the coronation site of Emperor Haile Selassie, St. George's Cathedral and the Holy Trinity (Selassie) Cathedral are other must-see attractions for any visitor.



Lake Tana area is the source of the Blue Nilea. The country's fourth-largest city, Bahir Dar lies at the banks of the Nile behind a large dam. There are 37 islands in the lake with monasteries on 19 of them. Both the rulers of ancient times and the church hid their treasures on these islands. Fun fact: the most well-known island is Tana Quirqos, which is claimed by some to be a possible secret location of the Lost Ark.

The Blue Nile Falls is near Bahir Dar. The nearly 1,600-kilometer Blue Nile, running through Ethiopia and Sudan, is the most crucial source of the Nile (they merges at Khartoum in Sudan) along with the White Nile. It got its name from the alluvium it carries, which often turns the water black. In the Sudanese dialect spoken in the region at the river's mouth, the same word was used for black and blue. The Blue Nile, emerging from the southern side of Lake Tana, carved a 400-kilometer fissure which is 1,500 meters deep at certain points. Here, you can find the 45-meter high Blue Nile Waterfall (Tis Isat, the "smoking water"), which is the most significant tourist attraction in the area.



Lalibela is known for its rock-hewn churches, which are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is an Ethiopian place of Christian pilgrimage, a holy city also known as New Jerusalem. It lies at an altitude of 2,500 meters and it is inhabited by members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Lalibela is famous for its 11 monolithic churches carved from red tuff rocks. They began to build the churches in the 12th century, during the reign of Emperor St. Lalibela and the heyday of Christian ideas. Constructions lasted for 100 years. The community's most famous celebration is Timket (Epiphany).



The Omo Valley. The Omo River in southern Ethiopia, which flows into Lake Turkana (Rudolf), is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 760-kilometer river originates in the Ethiopian Highlands and flows into Lake Turkana with a delta estuary. Due to its large waterfalls, it is a swift river characterized by many cascades and rapids as it flows through the Mago and Omo National Parks, famous for their wildlife. Its lower section is home to several nomadic peoples (e.g. the Mursi known for the plates in their lips, the Aari, the Hamar, the Karo, etc.).

Contact the editors for more details on travel arrangements at ildikoszilasi@yahoo.com



The Omo Valley

The Danakil Depression. The Danakil Depression is the driest and warmest region on Earth, often referred to as "Earth's cruellest place" or the "Gates of Hell". This area is located in north-eastern Ethiopia and southern Eritrea. It is a desert basin (a crypto depression) that is home to approximately 100,000 ethnic Afar people. Due to its stunning array of shade and the active volcanoes, hundreds of tourists visit the area every year. Several brightly coloured acidic lakes and geysers make it look like an alien planet. The landscape's unique feature is that the nearby coastline's seawater reacts with the magmatic rocks, resulting in salt residue. Its deepest point is 100 meters below sea level, and there are two active volcanoes in the area. Erta Ale has been continuously active since 1967, and the lava in it sometimes overflows the edge of the crater. The place is also notable for the archaeological remains of Lucy, our 3.2-million-year-old human ancestor.



The Danakil Depression

Following Our Forebearers in Kenya

Many will fall forever in love with Africa if they visit Kenya. The stunning volcanoes of the Great Rift Valley seem to come to life from our childhood stories. Kenya has everything to offer from our romantic dreams about Africa: curious monkeys follow us down the slopes as giraffes, zebras, ostriches and immense elephant herds graze across the savannahs. Today, following the paths of great hunters, scientists, and explorers such as Sámuel Teleki, Zsigmond Széchenyi, and Kálmán Kittenberger, we can also experience the distant, timeless wildlife and the buzzing city life that they experienced. We are proud of Sámuel Teleki, who has a volcano named after him. This is the only geographical site bearing a Hungarian's name in Africa. Visitors do not need a compulsory vaccination for travel to Kenya, and single-entry visas are available electronically and at airports for 50 dollars.

Day 1: Destination Kenya, the Ngong Forest

We arrive in Nairobi in the early morning. After a short rest and breakfast, we depart to the Maasai Mara National Park. On our way there, we take a short walk in the Ngong Forest. The forest was saved from sprawling constructions by Hungarian Dr. Imre Löffler, a brain surgeon and conservationist, who lived in Nairobi. The forest, now a nature reserve, is home to 35 mammals and hundreds of bird species.

Accommodation: AA Lodge Mara / <https://aalodges.com/aa-lodges/aa-mara/>

- Nairobi
- Maasai Mara National Park
- Lake Turkana and Teleki Volcano
- Naro Moru
- Kilimanjaro
- Tsavo West National Park
- Mombasa



Day 2: Safari in the Maasai Mara National Park

We go on a full day safari in Maasai Mara National Park. The park, located in the southwestern region of the country, is a vast, scenic African savannah covering 1,510 square kilometers. It borders the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. The Maasai Mara National Park is a unique wildlife refuge, famous for its natural diversity. It is one of the most popular safari sites in East Africa. Large numbers of lions, cheetahs, elephants, rhinos, African buffalos, wildebeests, giraffes, zebras and many more animals live here. Zsigmond Széchenyi visited the area on several occasions when it was still a hunting ground. On his 100th birthday, a trilingual brass plate was erected in the park at Keekorok Lodge. In honour of Zsigmond Széchenyi.

Accommodation: AA Lodge Mara

Day 3: Nairobi – The exciting capital of Kenya from a different perspective

We travel back to Nairobi in the morning. There, we visit some of the landmark buildings, including the post office and the mausoleum of one of Kenya's most important historical figures, Jomo Kenyatta. Both are the work of the Hungarian architect György Vámos.

Accommodation: Ibis Styles Westlands / <https://www.ibisstylesnairobi.com/>

Day 4: Lake Turkana – Eliye Springs

Flight to Lodwar with a domestic airline. Upon arrival, we will visit Eliye Springs village's surroundings, which is famous for the prehistoric artefacts discovered here.

Accommodation: Sanfields Lodwar Camp / <http://sandfieldslodwar.net/lodwar-camp>

Day 5: Teleki Volcano, then flight back to Nairobi

In the morning, we take a trip to the 646-meter volcano named after Teleki Sámuel. In 1887, the explorer discovered the unknown and active volcano. This discovery was of great significance as Teleki saw the volcano as it was erupting. At the time, geographers thought that volcanoes could only form on seashores. This theory was refuted by Teleki's discovery, but there were many sceptics for a long time. The Hungarian Scientific Africa Expedition organized for the discovery's 100th anniversary proved that the volcano was indeed active at the time Teleki discovered it.

Flight from Lodwar to Nairobi: 3:20 pm – 5 pm

Accommodation: Wildebeest Eco Camp / <http://www.wildebeestecocamp.com/>



Day 6: Nairobi Giraffe Centre – Travelling to the Equator

We visit the Giraffe Centre in the morning to feed the giraffes. Next, we head north to the Equator
Accommodation: Jaqanaz Resort / <https://jaqanazresortnaromoru.business.site/>

Day 7: A Trip on Mount Kenya

Mount Kenya is the highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest in Africa. It is a volcano that has been dormant for 2.6 – 3.1 million years. Its highest peaks are the Batian, Nelion and Lenana summits. Samuel Teleki was the first to reach the snow line at an altitude of 4,680 metres in October 1887. With this he proved that, contrary to the popular belief of the time, there could be permanent snow in the Equatorial region. We leave the accommodation at 8 am and head by car towards the Naro Moru trail at an altitude of 3,000 meters. From there, we climb to 3,600 meters and after a picnic lunch we continue our ascent to the top of the ridge at 4,000 meters. From here we can see the prominent peaks and the glacial valley on the west side of the mountain, also named after Teleki. Next, a quick descent to the Met Station, then back to the accommodation for dinner.

Accommodation: Jaqanaz Resort



Lion cubs by the lake

Day 8: Nairobi National Museum – Snake Park

We return to Nairobi, where we visit the Nairobi National Museum and Snake Park. The National Museum, built in 1929, showcases Kenya's history, natural features and culture. The Snake Park near the museum features some stunning snake species, including the puff adder, the black mamba, the Egyptian cobra, the African rock python and the Gabonese viper. The latter's exciting feature is that it has the longest (4 centimetres) fang in the world.

Accommodation: Ibis Styles Westlands



A ship about to reach the shore

Day 9: On to Kilimanjaro - Trip to the Amboseli National Park

We embark on a safari following Ernest Hemingway's and Robert Ruark's footsteps. They both drew inspiration for their adventurous hunting stories from Amboseli National Park and other places. Hemingway lived in Kenya and Tanzania in the 1930s, and Ruark made his dream come true when he participated in an African safari. Sámuel Teleki (the first to reach the snowline of Mount Kilimanjaro), Kálmán Kittenberger and Zsigmond Széchenyi also visited the mountain in the 1880s. Amboseli National Park is a real photographer's paradise. This park offers the most beautiful views of the highest peak in Africa, the legendary Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters), with elephants and giraffes walking on the savannas at the base of the mountain.

Accommodation: Kibo Lodge / <https://kibosafaricamp.com/>

Day 10: Safari in the Tsavo West National Park

Tsavo West National Park was famous in the 19th century for its man-eating lions and intensive poaching. We will have lunch at the Mzima spring, which rises from the lava rocks and produces 50 million gallons of crystal-clear drinking water a year for the locals. Part of the park is an active volcanic area. The locals once believed that the "fiery rage" erupting from the ground could only come from the devil. Lake Jipe is rich in birdlife: there are about 600 colourful bird species in the area.

Accommodation: Ngulia Safari Camp / <https://safari-hotels.com/ngulia-safari-lodge/>

Day 11: Visiting the Indian Ocean

After breakfast, we leave the park and then head to the Indian Ocean. These shores were dominated by the Omani court for centuries, followed by the Portuguese conquerors. We can witness an exciting mix of traditional African, Swahili-Arab and Portuguese culture here. On the white sandy shores of the Indian Ocean, beaches, palm trees, relaxation and water sports await us.

Szállás: Leopard Beach Resort & Spa (4-star, superior, half board) / <https://www.leopardbeachresort.com/>

Day 12: Relaxing by the Ocean

Free time without any planned activities.

Accommodation: Leopard Beach Resort & Spa (4-star, superior, half board)

Day 13: Relaxing by the Ocean

Free time without any planned activities.

Accommodation: Leopard Beach Resort & Spa (4-star, superior, half board)



An alert Zebra in the herd

Day 14: Sightseeing in Mombasa and visiting Fort Jesus

We say goodbye to Diani Beach and visit Mombasa in the morning. We visit the main sights of the city including Fort Jesus, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We also visit the old town, the spice market, the triumphal arch erected to celebrate Elisabeth II's coronation, and the busy harbour. We have lunch in the old town at the Swahili restaurant and taste local traditional dishes on a "Swahili plate". Lastly, we go souvenir shopping in the afternoon and get on the shuttle to the airport to travel home.

Contact the editors for more details on travel arrangements at ildikoszilasi@yahoo.com

Elephant cow with its calf



Following Our Forebearers in Tanzania with a Safari in Zanzibar

The East African country, with an area ten times larger than Hungary and a population of 60 million, also played an essential role in the lives of many of our forebearers, including Sámuel Teleki, Zsigmond Széchenyi, Kálmán Kittenberger and Dr. László Sáska. Tanzania is an unparalleled travel destination for wildlife lovers. Nowhere else on Earth are there as many wildebeests, zebras and antelopes as Tanzania. It is a great destination for family trips with its well-established and well-equipped infrastructure. There is no compulsory vaccination required for entry and a single-entry visa is 50 dollars.

This trip package is recommended to be booked with the Utazz Afrikába Utazási Iroda (Travel to Africa Travel Agency).

Day 1: Arriving in Tanzania and sightseeing in Arusha

We arrive in the morning. After a short rest and breakfast, we go on a sightseeing tour in Arusha. We visit the city's main attractions, such as the Clock Tower that marks the halfway point between Cairo and Cape Town. The hotel where Zsigmond Széchenyi once lived during his hunting trip still stands. At the Arusha Cultural Heritage Centre, we can learn about the past and present of Tanzania's 120 different ethnicities in one place. We visit the tomb of Dr. László Sáska, a famous Hungarian doctor who moved to Arusha in 1937 and spent almost half a century here. Finally, after seeing a local market and the Maasai Bazaar, we head to Lake Manyara, a two-hour drive away. Our trip leads through local villages and the savannah. The accommodation is located where the Great Rift Valley and Lake Manyara meet. Accommodation: Twiga Lodge / <http://www.twigalodgecampsite.com/>

Day 2: Meeting with the Maasai – Mto wa Mbu

We visit a Maasai village on bike or by dala dala, which are minibus share taxis in Tanzania. Due to its good yielding fields, many different kinds of people have settled in this region. Many ethnic groups live together in a relatively small area, respecting each other's traditions. In the small town where we have lunch at a local restaurant, the Chagas make banana beer and the Makonde make wood carvings. Many Maasai families live in traditional huts in the region, and Maasai men herd their flocks. We return to the accommodation in the evening.

Accommodation: Twiga Lodge

- Arusha
- Mto wa Mbu
- Serengeti National Park
- Ngorongoro
- Lake Manyara
- Kilimanjaro
- Pangani
- Zanzibar



Day 3: Travelling to the Infinite Land, the Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti National Park is one of the world's largest wildlife reserves, and it is also the first national park in Africa. The area, which is now strictly controlled, was a popular hunting location before the 1950s. For example, Kálmán Kittenberger spent a lot of time here. The 15,000-square-meter national park is situated along the Kenyan border next to Lake Victoria and stretches about 150 kilometers to the east. The word "Serengeti" comes from the Maasai language, meaning "infinite land". The vast plain is full of wildebeests, Thomson gazelles and Grant's gazelles, African buffalos, giraffes, impalas and elephants. The lion herds are magnificent, and we can see leopards and cheetahs too. The Serengeti is home to more than 500 species of birds, such as giant bustards, ostriches and vultures.

Accommodation: Serengeti Heritage Luxury Camp / <http://serengetiheritagecamp.com/>



Serengeti

Day 4: Safari and a trip to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

We eat breakfast and take a short trip again to the Serengeti National Park, followed by a trip to the crater in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Accommodation: Rhino Lodge / <https://rhino.co.tz/>

Day 5: “Big Five” safari in the volcanic crater of Ngorongoro

Ngorongoro Crater is one of the greatest natural wonders on Earth. The crater was formed after the eruption and collapse of a colossal volcano about 2-3 million years ago. The caldera is 610 meters deep, about 20 kilometers in diameter, and 260 square kilometer in area. It is currently the most immense volcanic cauldron on Earth with an intact rim, home to more than 25,000 mammals. We descend the crater to the savannah formed inside, where we have an excellent chance to see the famous “Big Five” (i.e. the leopard, the lion, the African elephant, the African buffalo and the endangered black rhinoceros).

Accommodation: Twiga Lodge

Day 6: Safari at Lake Manyara National Park

The park is located between Lake Manyara’s shores and the steep wall of the East African Rift Valley. Its unique feature is the tree-climbing lions that rest on the branches of the umbrella thorns. The grassy lakeshore is home to a large number of buffalos and elephant herds, flamingos and hippos. In the afternoon, we return to the area of Arusha, where we stay at the fabulous estate of an adventurous Hungarian hunter, Dr. Endre Nagy.

Accommodation: Mt. Meru Game Lodge / <http://www.mtmerugamelodge.co.tz/>

Day 7: Excursion to the lower section of Kilimanjaro

We can watch the tranquil lives of zebras, peacocks and marabouts a few meters from our table during breakfast, while black-and-white colobuses gaze at us curiously. The walls are lined with photographs of celebrities. The furniture and other memories evoke the wonderful world of a by-gone age. We depart to the village of Marangu at the foot of Kilimanjaro. Along the way, at the foot of Meru Hill, we cross the route of the expedition led by Samuel Teleki in 1887 and 1888, as well as the town of Moshi, where Kálmán Kittenberger was treated in 1904 after a lion attack.

Our all-day trip starts from Marangu to the Mandara hut at 2,700 meters, which is located along the Marangu trail leading to the summit of Kilimanjaro. We have lunch on the hiking trail. From here, we have a steep climb to reach the Maundi Crater at 2,760 meters. The view from the peak is breath-taking. Although we do not ascend all the way to 5,310 meters, which was first reached by Samuel Teleki in 1887, we will still have a great adventure.

Accommodation: Babylon Lodge / <https://babylonlodge.com/home>

Day 8: The Swahili Coast and a night in Pangani

A long drive takes us to Pangani, the starting point of Samuel Teleki's expedition on 4 February 1887. Along the way we will have the opportunity to see the Usambara Mountains with their unique ecosystem, just as Samuel Teleki saw them many years ago.

Accommodation: Pangani Cliffs Lodge / <http://panganicliffs.com/>

Day 9: Historical tour in Pangani and a boat trip

We take a guided walk in Pangani in the morning, where we can see buildings with slightly worn patina boasting Arabic, Swahili and colonial-style features. The tour begins in the western part of the city. The British Overseas Management Administration (BOMA) building was built in 1810 by the Arabs, who according to a myth buried living people in the columns so that it would have a strong foundation. Our tour continues with the slave market, Muslim and German tombs, ancient mosques, and traditional houses. We learn about the history and culture of Pangani city in the 15th and 16th centuries. We take a three-hour boat trip on the Pangani River in the afternoon, which has its source at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. We can see colourful birds and colobuses along the river. We pass by coconut plantations and mangroves, and with a little luck, crocodiles or hippopotamuses.

The trip ends with a beautiful sunset over the river, and we can enjoy the romantic sight while sipping fresh coconut juice.

Accommodation: Pangani Cliffs Lodge

Maasai women
chatting in the market



Day 10: Crossing to Zanzibar

In the morning, we travel to Zanzibar. We check-in to our beachside accommodation, designed by the famous Hungarian architect Tibor Gaál. Optional program in the afternoon: relaxing on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

Accommodation: BlueBay Beach Resort & Spa***** / <https://www.bluebayzanzibar.com/>



Stone Town, Zanzibar
Saint Joseph's Cathedral



The seaside in
Stone Town

linda
x
2000

Post
la post
a Kores

honor

1875

Mademoiselle Camille H...

Mademoiselle H...

Mademoiselle H...

Mademoiselle H...

Mademoiselle H...

CARTE POSTALE

1875

Day 11: Zanzibar Island Tour – Spice Tasting, Prison Island and Stone Town

In the morning, we visit Prison Island with a 30-minute boat trip from Stone Town. The island is named after a 100-year-old prison, and it is known for the abundance of Aldabra giant tortoises. We test our senses with the smell and taste of different spices, from vanilla to refreshingly juicy coconut. Our local lunch consists of vegetables, fruits and spices grown here. In the afternoon, we go sightseeing in the historical part of Zanzibar called Stone Town. In the wind-blown narrow alleys, we stumble upon shops selling local folk art products, antiques, textiles and fragrant spices. We visit the district's historical sights, the constantly bustling market of the city, the artfully carved gates of the alleys, and two cathedrals. We also visit Freddy Mercury's birthplace.

Accommodation: BlueBay Beach Resort & Spa*****



The African buffalo

Day 12: Relaxing in Zanzibar with optional programmes

Accommodation: BlueBay Beach Resort & Spa*****

Day 13: Relaxing in Zanzibar with optional programmes

Accommodation: BlueBay Beach Resort & Spa*****

Day 14: Farewell to Zanzibar and return home

We take the airport shuttle in the morning to Zanzibar Airport for our flight home.

*Contact the editors for more details on travel arrangements.
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Cheerful cheetahs



Following Our Forebearers in Uganda, the Land of the Mountain Gorillas

This East African country twice the size of Hungary with a population of 46 million people is undoubtedly famous for its incredible national parks, mountain gorillas and chimpanzees. However, Hungarian travellers may also be interested in some historical connections, such as the story of Flóra Sass and Samuel Baker discussed earlier in this book. On 4 March 2019, the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, László Kövér, inaugurated a plaque in memory of Flóra Sass, called the "Morning Star" by the locals at the initiative of the African-Hungarian Union. Kálmán Kittenberger visited the country three times (in 1912–14, 1925–26, and 1928–29). His trips included hunting expeditions in the forests around the Ruwenzori Mountains to collect items for the Hungarian National Museum. Zsigmond Széchenyi led several hunting expeditions to the area between 1932 and 1934. We can learn about his adventures in Uganda from his book, "Elephant Country". At the Mihingo Lodge at Lake Mburo, we can find the memorial plaque of architect Tibor Gaál and the Lodge's co-owner, Suni Magyar.

We can reach Uganda in 10-12 hours by plane from Budapest, with one transfer. Its national parks provide a pleasant climate all year round for wildlife and bird watching, yet the best time to travel is either January-February or June-August. A single-entry visa is \$ 50, the yellow fever vaccination is mandatory, and a malaria prevention medication is recommended. It is advisable to purchase limited gorilla and chimpanzee permits at least half a year before the trip.

This trip package is recommended to be booked with the Utazz Afrikába Utazási Iroda (Travel to Africa Travel Agency)

- Entebbe
- Murchison Falls
- Hoima
- Kibale National Park
- Queen Elisabeth National Park
- Bwindi National Park
- Lake Mburo
- Entebbe



Day 1: Arrival in Uganda, Ziwa Rhinoceros Shelter, Murchison Falls National Park

We arrive at Entebbe Airport around dawn.

We take a shuttle to 2 Friends Resort Hotel / <https://www.2friendshotel.com/>

After breakfast, we depart to Murchison Falls National Park. Along the way, we will visit the Ziwa Rhinoceros Shelter, established in 1998. Its special feature is that it is the only place where we can see free rhinos in Uganda. There are 20 to 30 specimens of the endangered southern wide-mouthed rhinoceros living on a protected area of 7,000 acres. The southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium Simum Simum*) is the largest rhino in the world. The males can weigh up to 2,300 kilograms and the females up to 1,700 kilograms.

Accommodation: Pakuba Safari Lodge / <http://www.pakubasafarilodge.com/>

Day 2: Animals watching at Murchison Falls National Park and a boat trip on the Nile

In the morning, we will watch animals in Uganda's largest national park, founded in 1952. It is a habitat of many species: buffalos, giraffes, elephants, lions, leopards, hyenas, red hartebeests, bush antelopes, marsh antelopes and waterbucks. We go on a boat trip on the Nile in the afternoon to the bottom of the 7-meter-wide and 43-meter-high Murchison Falls, named after geologist Sir Roderick Murchison by Samuel Baker and Flóra Sass. Hippos and Nile crocodiles can often be seen on the river, and we can witness entire herds of elephants on its banks.

Accommodation: Pakuba Safari Lodge

Day 3: Excursion to the Albert Lake Delta and a night in Hoima

We go on a boat trip on the Nile to the delta region of Lake Albert, in the footsteps of Flora Sass and Samuel Baker. This region is a paradise for birdwatchers, with 460 different bird species living here, including egrets, cormorants, bee-eaters, ospreys, kingfishers and the extremely rare flippered stork. We travel to Hoima.

Accommodation: Hoima Cultural Lodge / <http://www.hoimaculturalsafarilodge.com/>

Giraffes and the Murchison falls



Day 4: Bigodi Swamp, the “Top of the World” and a night in Kibale National Park

After breakfast, we depart to the 766-square-meter Kibale National Park, located at an altitude of 1,100-1,600 meters above sea level, and famous for its 351 tree species and 70 mammal and 13 primate species. It is also home to common chimpanzees, red colobuses and the rare guenons. The Bigodi Swamp is home to about 200 bird species, such as the great blue turaco. We can also see grey-cheeked mangabey if we're lucky. The high point, known as the “Top of the World,” offers lovely views of the area.

Accommodation: Turaco Tree Tops / <https://www.turacotreetops.com/>

Day 5: In search of chimpanzees in Kibale National Park and a trip to Queen Elizabeth National Park

In the past, more than a million of chimpanzees lived in 25 countries in Africa, but today the number in the 15 countries comprising southern Africa is somewhere between 170,000 and 300,000. The largest population lives in the Kibale National Park in Uganda. After getting up early, we can follow the chimpanzees from leaving their resting place in the morning. These chimpanzees live in communities of 30-200 members. In the afternoon, we will travel to Queen Elizabeth National Park, which is one of Earth's most diverse ecosystems together with the Kyambura and Kigezi Wildlife Reserves. During our trip, we take an awe-inspiring look at the peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains, which Zsigmond Széchenyi and Kálmán Kittenberger visited too.

Accommodation: Park View Safari Lodge / <https://parkviewsafarilodge.com/>

Day 6: Animal watching in Queen Elizabeth National Park and sailing on the Kazinga Canal

Early in the morning, we can observe animals living in the park in a 200-kilometer area. Visitors may often see hunting lions, forest pigs, ringwaterbuck herds and elephant herds. In the afternoon, we sail on the Kazinga Canal teeming with hippos.

Accommodation: Park View Safari Lodge

Day 7: Animal watching in the Inshasa sector and trip to Bwindi National Park

We take our last animal watching tour in Queen Elizabeth National Park in the Ishasa sector, where we search for tree-climbing lions. Next, we head for Bwindi National Park, located in southwestern Uganda, on the edge of the Western Rift Valley (Albertine Rift), which is home to nearly half of the total mountain gorilla population. There are also 346 species of birds and more than 200 species of butterflies in the area.

Accommodation: Mahogany Springs Lodge / <http://www.mahoganysprings.com/>

Day 8: Observing with mountain gorillas

This day will be an unforgettable experience and highlight of this expedition. We can observe a group of endangered mountain gorillas from a few meters away, and if we are lucky, we can also see a silver-backed male gorilla. Half of the species, estimated at 880 gorillas, live in Uganda while the other half are located in Rwanda and Congo's eastern forests. As families change their settlements daily, we have to walk for 2-7 hours until we find them, accompanied by an armed gamekeeper. We can stay near the gorillas for 60 minutes, and we are required to follow several rules that we will be informed about the day before the tour.

Accommodation: Mahogany Springs Lodge

Gorilla in Bwindi National Park



Day 9: A cruise with herds of hippos and elephants at Lake Mburo

After breakfast, we depart to Uganda's smallest national park, which is only 370 square kilometers. We stop and take photos at the equator on the way. We reach Ankole Plateau through swamps and tropical rainforests, and continue to Lake Mburo National Park. In the afternoon, we go on a cruise on the lake, where we can see crocodiles, hippopotamuses, pelicans, black cranes and African fish eagles. Our accommodation is the Mihingo Lodge, designed by architect Tibor Gaál and co-owned by Suni Magyar. A plaque commemorating the two renowned individuals is located in the Lodge.

Accommodation: Mihingo Lodge / <https://mihingo-lodge.com/>



An African buffalo and a hippo in Lake Mburo

Day 10: A walk in the footsteps of impalas and zebras in Lake Mbuoro National Park, return to Entebbe, travel home

Early in the morning, we go on our last animal watching tour in the Lake Mbuoro National Park, which is brimming with impalas, water buffalos, warthogs, common tsessebes and zebras. After lunch, we return to Entebbe for the evening. The next morning, we take a shuttle to the airport and return home.

*Contact the editors for more details on travel arrangements.
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A rhinoceros



A gorilla

