



Gorillas and Batwa in Bwindi

OVERVIEW:

Walking with the Gorillas and Batwa of Bwindi, is the shortest visit to the endangered great apes and the world's oldest tribe commonly known as Pygmies.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is home to over 50% of the remaining Mountain Gorillas on earth. You will get immersed in the culture and traditions of the people living around Bwindi. Visit the Conservation center and Gorilla Lab for an introduction on how wildlife and humans can co-exist.

Itinerary at a glance

Day 1: Bush flight from Entebbe to Bwindi. Afternoon community experience.

Day 2: Gorilla tracking. Afternoon Batwa experience.

Day 3: Fly back to Entebbe.

Detailed Itinerary.

Day 1: Entebbe to Bwindi by Air (flight takes about one hour, twenty-five minutes)

Meet at the hotel and transfer to the airport in time for your flight to Kihihi airstrip. You will be assisted by Adventure Consults representative, check-in and connect for your Bush-flight to Kihihi airstrip (There are 2 flights everyday out of Entebbe, @ 7:00 AM & 1245, Check in time - one hour in advance). Note that flight schedules are subject to change.

Baggage restrictions on domestic flights: *Maximum luggage weight is 15 kgs /33lbs in soft-sided bags. Standard luggage should have the three dimensions of 24 inches (60cm) height, 18 inches (45cm) length, and 13 inches (33cm) width. Any excess luggage can be paid for at 3\$ per Kg depending on space availability or can make advance reservation. Alternatively, any extra baggage can be kept in Entebbe at the hotel, to be returned to you at the end of the trip.*

On arrival at Kihihi airstrip, meet your guide and start one hour and thirty minutes' drive to Buhoma, arriving early afternoon.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park has got almost 400 species of plants, providing habitat for over 120 mammal species (including 11 primates), 346 species of birds (including 23 highly localised Albertine Rift endemics), 202 species of butterflies, 100 species of ferns, 27 species of frogs, chameleons, geckos and many other endangered species. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is notable for being home to over 50% of the approximately 1,060 Mountain Gorillas still living on earth.

In the afternoon, go for a **tea plantation walk**. Bwindi has got the best soils that favors growth and flourishing of tea farms. You don't have to be a 'tea-person' to learn more about tea! After lunch, you will head out for a tea tour and get to know how tea is grown, picked and traditionally processed. The tour also shows how 'black', 'green' and 'white' teas are produced and differentiated. You have an opportunity to sample the fine teas at the end of the tour whilst looking over the impressive forests. We call it the tea ceremony.

Time permitting, go for a visit to **Ride for a woman project**: This is a charitable organization set up to support women struggling with poverty, HIV and domestic violence. Your visit indirectly supports the project work and while here, you may participate in basketry, weaving, and have an opportunity for craft shopping. You can as well place your order for African designed cautions, dresses, wrappers, table mats and all that has got an African touch on it! The ladies will ensure your orders are ready for collection within 24 hours or earlier.

Meals and Overnight at Mahogany springs lodge or similar.

Inclusions: All Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).

Exclusions: All drinks.

Day 2: Gorilla tracking – Afternoon Batwa experience.

Today is dedicated to visiting the Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.

While in Buhoma, you can access Gorilla families of Buhoma or Ruhija sectors. Depending on the sector/family booked to track gorillas, you may leave the lodge either at 0600hrs for Ruhija or 07:00hrs for Buhoma area. Breakfast is always ready by 05:00 hours or can opt to have a packed breakfast if leaving at 06:00hrs.

This beautiful park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to over 50% of the world's remaining Gorillas. The rainforest is spectacular, heavily vegetated, and dense landscape crisscrossed by numerous animal trails, allowing access for trekkers. The time taken to find the Gorillas depends on Gorilla movements and in most cases, they are either looking for food or simply taking time to walk in their territory.

When you finally find them, you are allowed to spend 60 minutes while watching and following their movements. The thrill of spending time with and observing these gentle giants is a rare and moving adventure that will leave you with long-lasting memories of a truly unique experience.

Mountain gorillas are generally shy and peaceful creatures, and it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to watch and photograph them as they interact with each other.

In the afternoon, visit the **Pygmy/Batwa community**. This is cultural tourism activity at its best! It's a hands-on, mind-opening adventure you will never forget as you go for an incredible hike in the rain forest with the elderly Batwa (pygmy) guides.

The Batwa are known to be one of the oldest surviving indigenous people on earth. A very special and unique group of people, lived in the bush and entire lifestyle depended on the forests. Just like the well-known 'hunters and gatherers', the Batwa gathered plants and fruits for food, hunted any animals within their reach, caves were their homes with the main big caves reserved for Kings.

A hike to the Batwa community, will enrich you with the history of these historical people. You will enjoy demonstrations and storytelling sessions of how the Batwa lived before they left the forest in favor of conservation programs. They will make fire using very simple tools (sticks and stones) and take you back to the old stone age period. You may participate in the mock hunting exercise, learn how to use a bow and arrow, and can taste the local meals and drinks, and participate in traditional dances.

Meals and Overnight at Mahogany springs lodge or similar.
Inclusions: All Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).
Exclusions: All drinks.

Day 3: Fly to Entebbe and connect to your international flight.

After breakfast, transfer to Kihiki airstrip in time for your morning flight to Entebbe Airport. The morning flight departs Kihiki airstrip at 9:45 am (flight schedule can change and sometimes at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances, but in most cases would be for safety reasons).

Baggage restrictions on domestic flights: Maximum luggage weight is 15 kgs /33lbs in soft-sided bags. Standard luggage should have the three dimensions of 24 inches (60cm) height, 18 inches (45cm) length, and 13 inches (33cm) width. Any excess luggage can be paid for at 3\$ per Kg depending on space availability or can make advance reservation. The drive from Buhoma to Kihiki airstrip takes about 2 hours. The approximate flight duration is one hour and forty-five minutes. It can be shorter than that, but the actual duration depends on the routing of the day.

You will arrive Entebbe airport by 11:25hrs (sometimes earlier). If you have a connecting international/regional flight today, ensure it's scheduled to depart Entebbe not earlier than 13:45hrs.

On arrival at Entebbe airport, you will be assisted through customs and connect to your international/regional flight.

Per person cost (depending on number of participants).

2 pax: US\$. 3,001 3 pax: US\$. 2,793 4 pax: US\$. 2,689
5 pax: US\$. 2,627 6 pax US\$. 2,585 SRS: US\$. 180

SRS is Single room supplement, applicable to any traveler not sharing a room.

Per person price is determined by number of guests sharing a vehicle/safari package. We strictly consider window seats.

Quoted price is based on a specific property as mentioned in the itinerary. If budget is an issue, we can always offer a less costly facility to suite your ideal/planned budget.

Quoted price is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances like change of government taxes or tariff revision by service providers. When a trip is confirmed with a deposit before any changes are published, the given price shall be honored.

Safari price inclusions: Accommodation with meals as indicated in the itinerary, Ground transport in a custom-built safari Land cruiser/s with fuel and English-speaking driver/guides, all activities as mentioned in the itinerary (unless specified as extras), and Government taxes.

Safari price EXCLUDES: International flights, Visas where applicable, airport departure taxes, insurance, costs related to itinerary changes after confirmation any services, activities not included in itinerary, any costs incurred due to canceled or delayed flights, acts of nature, insecurity or other circumstances beyond our control, any related costs of personal nature like gratuities, drinks (other than those included at particular properties) telephone calls, internet services and laundry.

Payment schedule: You are required to make a deposit payment of 20% of the safari price plus cost of Gorilla & Chimp permits (where applicable) to consider the safari confirmed. Final payment to be paid 60 days prior to safari start date. Note that this schedule is based on service providers' booking terms and conditions.

Payment mode: We accept payments by Telegraphic Transfers, cheques or Cash. Please get in touch with accounts@adventureconsults.com for more details or if you have any queries.

We recommend that you read and understand our **booking terms and conditions** together with our cancellation policy. Please request for these terms if you do not have them or ask for further clarification if not clear before making any form of payment.

Insurance: We strongly recommend the purchase of comprehensive travel insurance in case of any unforeseen eventualities.

Air fares: We do not arrange or book international flights but we can recommend reliable travel agencies or carriers. Feel free to get in contact for advice on recommended flight schedules suitable for different packages or a particular safari of your interest.

Change of itinerary: Additional charges or fees may apply in cases where you want to change a confirmed booking.

Please get in contact for your safari arrangements. Advance reservations are highly recommended.

