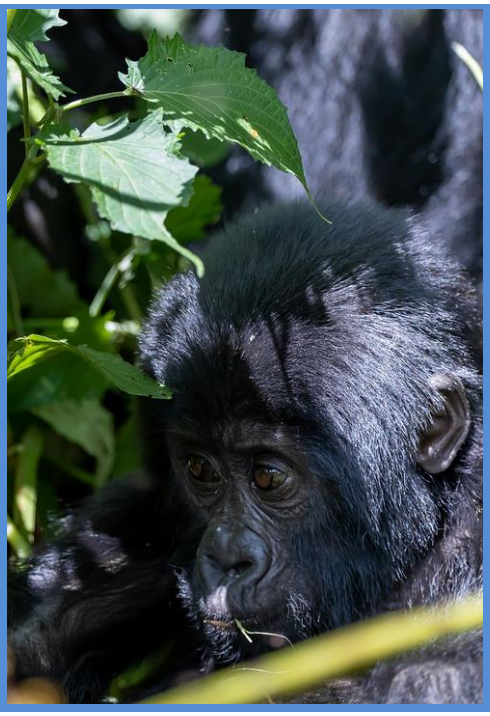
JOURNEY OF PURPOSE & DISCOVERY



Journey of Purpose & Discovery – Uganda

11 days / 8 nights

July 31-August 9, 2024 ***arrival back in US on Aug 10**

$7,999 – land only, shared occupancy

$499 – Single Supplement

Come join us on an incredible Uganda journey where you will experience the outstanding African wildlife up close, including the endangered mountain gorilla with a chance to learn about the sustainable community projects you are directly supporting by participating in this unique and exclusive social tourism itinerary.

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

Cultural Exploration

- Tick a bucket list item off your list with a special opportunity to trek into the Bwindi impenetrable forest in Southern Uganda to find the protected and rare **mountain gorillas**. They live in one of the richest ecosystems in Africa with some 120 species of mammals, hundreds of bird types along with butterflies, frogs and other reptiles like geckos and chameleons.
- Strap on your hiking boots and head into Kibale Forest to look for the local **Chimpanzee**. Your wildlife ranger will help you navigate the forest to find the troop that have inhabited the area dating back to 1993. There are thirteen species of primate in the area that you may also see as you trek.

Community Focus

- Gain authentic cultural insight during a day spent in the **Kahangi Village near Fort Portal**. Lean about their authentic lifestyles through interaction with villagers including visiting a small farm or tea plantation, stroll through the village, picking tea, basket weaving, cooking local dishes and visiting the nearby waterfall.
- Volunteer alongside local villagers on an **environmental conservation initiative**. Help with construction of tree beds at a tree nursery or transplanting trees in a degraded forest site as a way of supporting their climate change and conservation efforts.
- Learn about the lives of **rural women**, the custodians of traditions and indigenous knowledge. Their resilience and commitment to extended family and community have kept the African family intact through centuries of adversity.
- Spend a couple of nights in an immersive cultural storytelling experience with an **Indigenous community near Kibale National Park**. Connect with the locals and explore the rich traditions, history, and culture of a marginalized communities to gain the perspective of true village life.

What's Included:

- Superior accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Internal flights in Uganda
- Local English-speaking driver guides and
- Meals as mentioned

Not Included:

- Personal expenses at the hotels
- Meals not specified
- Tips for driver guides, porters, rangers
- Passport renewal or issuance
- International flights and departure taxes if applicable



New York, JFK

DAY 1, Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Depart for Uganda Today

Make your way to Uganda today. *Flights are not included. Quotes can be provided in October 2023 when the airlines publish their fares. Estimated cost $1700-$2000 from NYC area.*

Entebbe

DAY 2, Thursday, August 1

Arrival in Entebbe

Arrive in **Uganda** at the Entebbe International Airport. After arrival, you will be greeted by a Justic Tourism Foundation representative who will connect you with your driver guides to transfer to your nearby hotel.

K Hotel is a newer boutique hotel in the heart of Entebbe offering view of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest "Great" lake. Guest rooms are comfortable and offer every needed amenity for your stay including air conditioning. The hotel has onsite dining, meeting space, a bar, gym, swimming pool, spa and is located close to the business district.

All travelers will gather this evening with your national guides and receive further information on the program.

Dinner will be provided this evening at the hotel.

Overnight: K Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Dinner

Entebbe to Fort Portal

DAY 3, Friday, August 2

Drive to Western Uganda

After breakfast, check out and make your way to **Kahangi Village** which is near the town of **Fort Portal** and the nearby Kibale National Park. Your driver guides will share information with you about the country as you make the 3–4-hour drive (*stopping in route as needed to stretch your legs and use the restroom*).

After a provided lunch, you will have a guided tour of Fort Portal including a visit to the **Tooro Kingdom Palace** where you might get a chance to meet the youngest King in the world. The current Omukama of Toro is *King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV*. He took the throne in 1995 at the age of just three after the death of his father. After a visit to the palace head to the local markets to interact with the vendors and learn about Ugandan foods and spices.

Later check into the **Home Bliss Hotel** is just outside Fort Portal, a tourist city known as the *Pearl of Uganda* as it is situated at the base of the Rwenzori Mountains in Western Uganda. It is the gateway to Uganda's many adventures due to its proximity to various national parks in the region. The hotel has onsite dining, a terrace bar, 24-hour front desk, and a terrace in a delightful garden setting. Guest rooms have free wi-fi, bathroom amenities, room service, kettle and tv. Breakfast is available every morning and includes full English/Irish options.

Time permitting this afternoon stop to visit some local markets.

Enjoy a special welcoming dinner at the hotel this evening.

Overnight: Home Bliss Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Village Immersion & Volunteering

This program will provide the chance to participate in sustainable community initiatives and learn about critical environmental conservation issues from the local people. Participate in some community projects such as planting of trees in deforested areas, wastepaper recycling, construction of Biogas digesters, construction of safe clean water sources for the local communities in rural Uganda in support of many United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

These initiatives are incentive for local people to conserve culture and traditions, as well as wildlife and the natural environment.





Gorilla and Chimpanzee Tracking

This immersive program will take you to two National Parks – **Bwindi National Park** for gorilla trekking and **Kibale National Park** for Chimpanzee tracking.

Bwindi is famous for the rare **mountain gorillas** that call it home. The drive to the park is incredibly scenic, passing through various local villages and the lush green countryside & hills which characterize so much of southwestern Uganda. This forest has one of the richest ecosystems in Africa and the diversity of species and plants is incredible. It provides habitat for 120 species of mammals, 348 species of birds, 220 species of butterflies, 27 species of frogs, chameleons, geckos, and many other.

Chimpanzee trekking in Uganda's Kibale National Park will provide a small group experience with expert guides. Chimps are of course the highlight of the trek but keep an eye out for other monkey species like the black and white colobus. Your guides will be able to educate you on the flora and fauna in the region.



Fort Portal

Day 4, Saturday, August 3

Kahangi Village Volunteer Day One

After breakfast at the hotel, you will head to the village to **volunteer** alongside local villagers working on an environmental conservation initiative to construct nurseries tree beds or help transplanting trees to a degraded forest site.

Your participation will ensure support toward climate change adaptation and management and will plant native and productive tree species to increase farm incomes, restore degraded soils, protect water sources, and increase habitat for biodiversity ecosystems.



After lunch in the village, you will visit the **local markets** to taste some of the best juicy Ugandan purely organic fruits such as the mangoes, guavas, pineapples and much more.

Overnight: Home Bliss Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Fort Portal

Day 5, Sunday, August 4

Kahangi Village Volunteer Day Two

After breakfast, you will join a **village women's cooperative** to take a journey into the heart of the rural village to experience authentic Uganda villages lifestyle. Take part in their daily activities including time to visit small farms, learn about their indigenous crops, visit the local tea plantation, and to try picking tea with the local villagers.

You will have time today to participate in **cultural activities** such as basket weaving, local textile crafting and preparing of local dishes, participate in banana wine making and traditional coffee processing and at the end of it all you will taste some of the banana wine, carry some of the produced coffee with you and have a chance to purchase some of the crafts made by the women cooperative.

After lunch in the village you will wind up your day by being entertained to the **traditional music and dances** by the women cooperative groups. This will highlight the lives of these rural women, the custodians of traditions and indigenous knowledge. Their resilience and commitment to extended family and community have kept the African family intact through centuries of adversity.

Dinner will be provided at a local restaurant this evening.

Overnight: Home Bliss Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Fort Portal

DAY 6, Monday, August 5

Chimpanzee Trek & Village Banquet

After an early breakfast head out for Kibale Forest to meet with a wildlife ranger who will share the rules and process for going on your 2 to 3-hour **Chimpanzee trek**. Beside the estimated 1500 chimps that call this area home, there are twelve other species of primates like red tailed monkey and a plethora of birds that will be encountered. You will have an hour to watch the chimps before making your way back to the visitor center. *A special permit will be obtained on your behalf for this activity as access to the chimps is limited.* Your guides will share a plethora of information about the flora and fauna of the region.

Lunch will be provided in the park this afternoon.

Later today you will have a chance to visit the **crater-lake** area to view the magnificent scenery of Kibale National Park.

Join the locals for a **traditional village banquet** including helping with the cooking, making of traditional banana wine, coffee roasting and get into the traditional cultural music and dancing!

Overnight: Home Bliss Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Fort Portal to Bwindi

DAY 7, Tuesday, August 6

Fly to Bwindi in Southwest Uganda

After an early breakfast check out and depart this morning for the domestic airport in Kasese for your flight to the Rift Valley.

Upon arrival you will be met and make the drive to the **Bwindi National Park** where your accommodations are located for the next two days. This park is famous for the rare mountain gorillas and the drive to the park is incredibly scenic, passing through various local villages and the lush green countryside & hills which characterize so much of southwestern Uganda. Once there, the forest park is one of the richest ecosystems in Africa and the diversity of species is a feature of the park. It provides habitat for some 120 species of mammals, 348 species of birds, 220 species of butterflies, and much more.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

Mahogany Springs is set in exotic gardens overlooking the Munyanga River, this is the perfect place to relax and discover the beauty of the plants and birds that make Bwindi such a remarkable place. The lodge has onsite dining, a bar, gift shop and spa services. The main lodge is perched on a hillside, offering spectacular views of Bwindi from its panoramic terrace where you can dine or grab a drink and relax.

Dinner will be provided this evening at the lodge.

Overnight: Mahogany Springs (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Bwindi

DAY 8, Wednesday, August 7

Mountain Gorillas!

After breakfast at the hotel your guide will drive you to Bwindi National Park headquarters for your briefing on the gorillas from *Uganda Wildlife Authority* guides.

An advance party of guides will have gone ahead into the forest to locate where the gorillas slept the previous night and will have begun to track their movements. These guides will communicate with their team via a walkie talkie and the trek into the forest will begin. Locating the Gorillas can take a few hours or the whole day depending on how far they have moved from the place they spent the previous night. *For conservation purposes, time allowed to view the Gorillas is one hour.*

As you trek in the forest, you will appreciate why the forest is called impenetrable. There are also a multitude of other animal that you might encounter including antelopes and rare monkeys not to mention the beauty of the forest itself. Once you have completed the trek you will return to the lodge for a well-earned rest and time to reflect a truly magical experience.

A packed lunch and dinner at the lodge are included.

Overnight: Mahogany Springs (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Bwindi

DAY 9, Thursday, August 8

Fly Back to Entebbe

After breakfast check out and head to Kihihi Airfield for your short flight back to Entebbe International Airport.

You will be met and transferred to your hotel for check-in and lunch.

Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

Overnight: K Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Entebbe

DAY 10, Friday, August 9

Depart for the U.S.

After breakfast say farewell to Uganda and fly back to the U.S., with arrival the next morning (flights not included). One group transfer will be provided today based on group member flight times.

New York, JFK

DAY 11, Saturday, August 10

Arrival in U.S.

YOUR IMPACT:

- ✓ Nanda Journeys collaborates with the non-profit Justice Tourism Organization (JTF).
- ✓ JTF helps the villagers to plan their own development and enterprise priorities.
- ✓ JTF donations support building classrooms; sponsoring student school fees; developing micro-enterprise initiatives for women's groups; encouraging financial savings culture through the introduction of Village Banks (also known as Village Saving and Loans Associations) now operating in four villages.



Entebbe, Uganda

K Hotel

Plot 32, Hill Road; Entebbe, Uganda

Telephone: +256-777-846-000
https://www.khotels.ug/



Fort Portal, Uganda

Home Bliss Hotel

Plot 8 Muhoti Access Road; Fort Portal, Uganda

Telephone: +256-393-255-476
https://homeblisshotel.com/



Bwindi, Uganda

Mahogany Springs Lodge

Bwindi National Park, Uganda

Telephone: +256-772-721-155
https://www.mahoganysprings.com/

