For this tour we meet up late afternoon the day prior at Red Chilli Hideaway in Kampala for our predeparture meeting and to enjoy a meal together, as well as get to know the other travellers in the group. You can camp with the truck, or alternatively we can arrange a dorm bed or room in this hostel.

**Day 1: Kampala to Kalinzu, Uganda**

After meeting up the evening before, we leave early for Mbarara making stops at curio markets and the equator for a photo shoot during the journey.

Our journey can route past papyrus swamps and rice fields as we head up along the Albertine Rift.

We spend our night on the edge of the Kalinzu Forest, home to many primates and also habituated chimpanzee.

- **Distance:** 355 km
- **Est. Drive Time:** +/- 8 hours incl. stops at highlights such as the Equator, for shopping and lunch
- **Meals:** X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

**Day 2: Kalinzu to Queen Elizabeth National Park**

There is the option to trek habituated chimpanzees in Kalinzu Forest this morning. In this beautiful evergreen forest six different species of primate can be identified, including blue monkeys, vervet monkeys, black and white colobus monkeys and, of course, the chimpanzees.

From here we visit the adjacent Queen Elizabeth National Park for an afternoon cruise on the Kazinga Channel.

The cruise along the 40 metre-long Channel allows us to see numbers of hippo pods, as well as Cape buffalo and crocodile. The birdlife in this park is also wonderful and the park also has elephant, waterbuck, Ugandan kob, lion, giant forest hog and leopard.

Time also is spent game driving in the truck to further explore this wildlife haven.

- **Distance:** 40 km
- **Est. Drive Time:** 1 hour
- **Meals:** X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Game cruise on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth National Park. Conducted in an open cruise vessel.

Slow transit afternoon drive, Queen Elizabeth

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

Optional excursion: Chimpanzee trek in Kalinzu Forest.

**Days 3 - 4: Queen Elizabeth National Park to Kisoro**

We are up early for a morning game drive in the park in our overland vehicle.

Across savanna grasslands we watch for herds of Ugandan kob, waterbuck and elephant, the height and large windows allowing great viewing. The Rwenzori Mountains also offer a stunning backdrop.

From here, we head over to the town of Kabale and then onto Kisoro where we have a briefing as to the next two to three days whilst near the gorilla parks. A visit to Lake Bunyoni can be arranged on the way to enjoy time on the lake.

- **Distance, Day 3:** 218 km
- **Distance, Day 4:** 75 km
- **Est. Drive Time, Day 3:** 7 hours incl. lunch stop
- **Est. Drive Time, Day 4:** 3 hours
- **Meals:** X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive, Queen Elizabeth National Park

Vehicle for game drive: Overland truck

**Day 5: Kisoro**

Here we are based in a simple local guest house surrounded by the beautiful misty mountainous world of the gorillas.

From the very latest count as at November 2018 there are approximately 1,000 mountain gorillas left on the planet. On the gorilla trek we head out early morning across flower farms with local trackers to spend an hour with the gentle mountain gorillas in their natural forest habitat, a special and magical once in a lifetime experience.

Gorillas spend approximately 25% of their day eating, and usually rest during the middle of the day, whilst the young ones spend much of their time playing with each other, and even with the adults in their family.

The trackers know the various gorilla families well and are expert at locating the habituated groups usually within a few hours. To protect the gorillas we are allowed an hour to observe the gorillas once they are found as they continue with their daily activities playing, eating and relaxing in their forest home.
Whilst in Kisoro there are other activities on offer as well. You can visit a local children’s orphanage if you wish to spend some time with the children here. Other experiences on offer are a trek to see the golden monkeys in the lower reaches of the forest, or a tour to an indigenous group of Batwa or Pygmy can be organised, this group of local peoples sadly having being relocated away from their traditional life in the forest.

Alternatively, a Pygmy dance troupe are invited to our camp to entertain with some traditional drumming.

Distance: 0 kms
Est. Drive Time: 0 hours
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Gorilla trek, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda

Optional excursions: Golden monkeys trek or orphanage visit, Batwa (Pygmy) village visit or coffee tour, Lake Mutande.

NB: Please also let us know well ahead of time if you wish to gorilla trek in Rwanda, as distinct from Uganda.

Day 6: Kisoro to Musanze, Rwanda
We cross the border today entering Rwanda, the “Land of a Thousand Hills”, to stay at a small town near the border.

Here you can try your hand at banana beer making and basket weaving at camp where they have established a very simple cultural centre where you can get involved in traditional activities. Alternatively a cycle tour in the local area can be arranged.

Distance: 51 kms
Est. Drive Time: 3 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Optional excursions: Golden monkey trek, banana beer making, basket weaving, bike tour.

Days 7 - 8: Musanze to Kigali
Those wishing to head out on the steep trek to see Dian Fossey’s grave spend time today in the Rwandan forest.

Dian is a widely known researcher who worked for many years studying the gorillas. She was murdered tragically at her research centre in the gorilla park in 1985. The movie “Gorillas in the Mist” immortalised Dian’s story with the gorillas. The steep hike can provide some further understanding and appreciation for what this inspirational woman devoted her life to, and the legacy she has left behind. Her work and those that followed on after her have brought the species back from near-extinction.

If you are not trekking, we head off early towards the capital Kigali, a very European style city. For those trekking a transfer to Kigali is arranged for later in the day.

Rwanda is a country with a quite recent turbulent history culminating in the 1994 genocide during which ethnic differences between Hutu and Tutsis exploded in an unparalleled level of hatred and bloody violence. We visit the Genocide Memorial in the capital Kigali to honour and reflect on this horrific past. The exhibition is a profoundly moving memorial to those killed in the horrifying maelstrom that descended on Rwanda in April 1994, following the death of president Habyarimana on the 6th April. In our last couple of days spent here in the capital, some also like to take the time to visit the Nyamata Church Memorial, a Women’s Centre, Hotel des Mille Collines (well known from the movie Hotel Rwanda) or simply wander in the local markets.

Our tour ends on day 8 and that night is included. You are free to make onward travel plans any time the following day.

Distance, Day 7: 115 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 7: 3 hours
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Optional excursions: Trek to Dian Fossey’s grave, Visit to the Genocide museum and memorial, Nyamata Church Memorial.

Please note safari itineraries are given as a guide only.
A safari is a journey and true journeys in Africa unfold and are of an adventurous nature. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this.