



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



UGANDA: GORILLA CONSERVATION ADVENTURE

Get Up Close with Great Apes on this Incredible East African Adventure



MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Come face-to-face with gorillas and trek with a veterinarian to help gather data and assess their health at the lab after the trek
- Track tree-climbing lions, a rare breed only found in two parts of the world, with a conservationist
- Stay in stunning luxury lodges near the three Ugandan National Parks
- Visit an organization supporting women & learn traditional crafts
- Walk alongside chimps in the jungle and observe them in their family group just feet away



TRIP AT A GLANCE

ENTEBBE

Day 1 - Arrive in Entebbe and enjoy a welcome dinner at the luxury Boma Hotel

KIBALE

Day 2 - Travel to Kibale National Park and enjoy mountain views from your veranda

Day 3 - Track chimps in the park and watch these families from feet away

Day 4 - Visit a community school and explore the lodge's coffee plantations

QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Day 5 - Travel to the park then spot elephants, leopards and buffalo on a game drive

Day 6 - Track amazing tree-climbing lions then see crocs and hippos on a river cruise

BWINDI NATIONAL PARK

Day 7 - Travel to Bwindi and relax in your luxury bungalow

Day 8 - Meet gorillas in the wild then collect stool samples to check on their health

Day 9 - Visit a local women's charity project and experience local life

ENTEBBE

Day 10 - Fly back to Entebbe before connecting to your flight home



**SIGNATURE
JOURNEY**

UGANDA: GORILLA CONSERVATION ADVENTURE

OUR PURPOSE

Journey into the heart of the East African wilderness by exploring three of Uganda's famed national parks. Not only will we experience a series of captivating wildlife encounters, but we'll also make an invaluable contribution to the protection of these animals. Discover Corps offers this completely unique experience where you trek with a veterinarian and assist in the collection and lab analysis of gorilla data from stool samples, and learn more about the vital preservation work being done by the Gorilla Conservation Camp.

Over the course of 10 days, we will immerse ourselves in the natural world, with overnight stays in stunning safari lodges combined with excursions into a series of Ugandan wildlife reserves. Animal encounters will include tracking and observing chimpanzee families in their natural habitat, spotting elephants, leopards and buffalo on game drives, and coming face-to-face with rare tree-climbing lions - a rare breed of lion only found in two places in the world - as you track them with a local conservationist.

In addition to safari experiences, we'll also enjoy a host of authentic cultural experiences, from visiting the children at a rural community school to learning basket-weaving from women involved in a local charity project.



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HIGHLIGHTS



HELP PROTECT GORILLAS & COLLECT DATA WITH A VET

In Bwindi National Park, the Gorilla Conservation Camp is working hard to ensure a brighter future for Uganda's endangered mountain gorillas. On your visit to the park, you'll not only have the chance to see the amazing apes up close but will also help to secure their future. After gorilla trekking, you will be led to gorilla nests from the previous night to collect samples, and then convene at a research clinic to assist with analyzing the samples to monitor the health of the troop.



TRACK TREE-CLIMBING LIONS WITH THE EXPERTS

Queen Elizabeth National Park is home to all sorts of amazing African animals, from hippos to leopards, elephants to hyenas. But for an incredible wildlife encounter you have to see to believe, nothing beats the tree-climbing lions. A member of each lion pride has been tagged so they can be monitored and tracked by rangers. You'll be led to a pride who are as likely to be lounging in the lower branches of a tree as they are to be roaming on the savanna.



SUPPORT A LOCAL CHARITY PROJECT

Ride 4 a Woman is a charitable organization set up to support and empower women who struggle with poverty, HIV and domestic violence. You can lend your support while engaging in a series of authentic cultural experiences, from learning to weave baskets to pedal sewing yourself a souvenir, from a purse to a sunglasses case. There will also be a traditional dance performance, as well as an opportunity to join in.



CHIMP SPOTTING IN KIBALE

Kibale National Park is home to around 1,200 East African Chimpanzees, one of our closest relatives. After a briefing by park rangers, set off on a guided hike in search of one of four chimp communities that are habituated to humans. Once a chimp family (usually consisting of 15 to 30 members) is discovered, you will watch from up close as they swing through the trees, forage for food and communicate with other chimp communities across the canopy.





ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Entebbe

Arrive in Entebbe International Airport, about 45 minutes outside the capital Kampala, and transfer to our accommodation. Relax at the hotel and enjoy the swimming pool, restaurant and bar. After a delicious welcome dinner, you can spend your first evening relaxing before the adventure begins tomorrow. (D)

DAY 2: Venture to Kibale National Park

After breakfast, we'll travel to Kibale National Park and check into Ndali Lodge, the stunning hilltop boutique hotel we will call home for the next three nights. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy as you wish – relax on your mountain-view veranda, take a walk around the lake or cool off in the swimming pool – before we gather for a homecooked, candlelit dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Track Chimps in Kibale

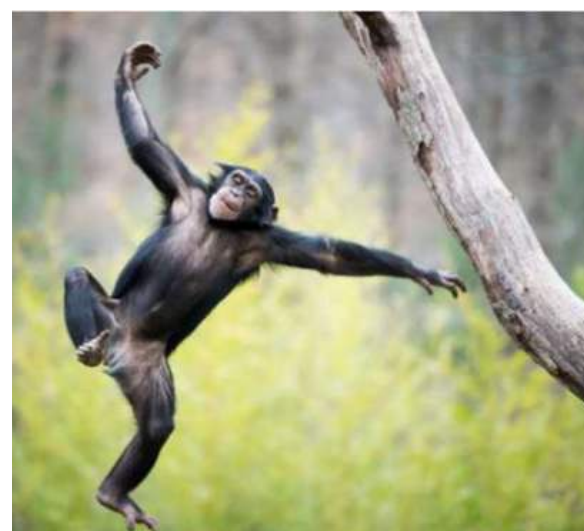
It's an early start as we head into the park for a day of chimp tracking. There are more than 1,200 chimpanzees in the park, and an expert guide will lead you to a chimp family, whom you can observe up close. See them forage on the ground for food, swing across the trees and call out across the canopy. Afterwards, it's back to the hotel for lunch and a free afternoon. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: A Visit to Kibale Village

Today's all about getting to know the locals. In the morning, we will visit a local community school to see how Ndali Lodge is supporting local children's education, and in the afternoon, we'll explore the surrounding coffee plantations and meet the farmers who grow the crop. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Onwards to Queen Elizabeth National Park

We say goodbye to Ndali Lodge this morning and take a drive south alongside the stunning Rwenzori Mountains. We'll arrive at the Mazike Valley Lodge just in time for lunch, then head into Queen Elizabeth National Park for a game drive. It is Uganda's largest safari park, home to lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo and hyena, so there is sure to be plenty to see. (B,L,D)





DAY 6: Track and Scout for Rare Tree-Climbing Lions

You won't believe your eyes this morning as we track tree-climbing lions and cubs. See them lounging lazily on tree branches high above the ground. With sophisticated tracking devices, you're all-but-guaranteed to see a pride of these majestic animals in the wild. Later, we take an open-air boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel to spot crocodiles, hippos and birds along the shoreline. (B,L,D)



DAY 7: Continue to Bwindi National Park

After breakfast at Mazike Valley Lodge, we're back on the road. In the afternoon, we arrive at Mahogany Springs Lodge, a luxury hillside complex of thatched bungalows that sits just inside Bwindi National Park. After dinner, it's early to bed in preparation for the big day tomorrow. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Bwindi Gorilla Tracking Day

It's the big one: gorilla day! We'll start early and set off on a (moderate*) hiking trail to track down some of the gorillas living in these forests - home to nearly half of the world's mountain gorillas. Along with a guide, we will be joined by a vet, who will collect stool samples as we're getting up close and personal with the gorillas. That evening, we'll help analyze these in the lab to check on the troop's health. (B,L,D)



DAY 9: A Community Visit in Bwindi

This morning, we visit a community-run charity project that supports women struggling with poverty, HIV and domestic violence. You'll learn to weave baskets and pedal sew your own souvenirs - anything from a purse to a bandana - as well as enjoy a traditional dance (don't worry, participation is optional!) We end today with a farewell dinner at Mahogany Springs. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Fly to Entebbe and back Home

After breakfast, hop on a flight back to Entebbe. For those with longer waits for their connecting flights, you can opt to book an extra stay at the Boma Hotel to relax before your flight home. (B)



**Travelers must be comfortable with moderate to difficult physical activity. Please read more on the "Trekking with Gorillas in Uganda" page*





PREMIER LODGING

Queen Elizabeth National Park

In Queen Elizabeth National Park, we will stay at one of two properties - Ishasha Wilderness Camp or Mweya Safari Lodge - where you can see elephants and other wildlife roaming free from these high-end properties.



Kibale National Park

In Kibale National Park, we stay at Ndali Lodge, a collection of luxury colonial-style thatched-roof villas set on top of an extinct volcano, with views of the Rwenzori Mountains and Lake Nyinambuga. A perfect place to relax by the pool, enjoy the spa, and marvel at the beauty of Uganda

Bwindi National Park

In Bwindi National Park, we stay at Mahogany Springs, a complex of beautiful individual villas overlooking the park - and occasionally visited by curious gorillas.

This lodge also prides itself on giving back to the community by using funds from travelers to support a local environmental project as well as Sascu, an orphanage nearby.

Please note all lodges are subject to change.





Trekking with Gorillas in Uganda: Everything You Need To Know

You wake up and have breakfast with the sun rising over the equatorial jungle in the distance. The landcruisers arrive signaling the start of a once-in-a-lifetime experience - trekking next to gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Venture along the dirt roads to the starting point of the trek, a thatched roof visitor's center in the interior of the jungle. Meet your guide and get assigned a personal porter for the journey ahead. Then the drumroll...the guide unveils the gorilla family that you will be meeting today.

Nearly all of the world's remaining mountain gorillas live in the shared border forests of Uganda, Rwanda and the Congo. About half of these gorillas, around 400 live in and around Bwindi National Park. Each gorilla family that receive visitors have been habituated meaning that they can safely be around humans. There are a maximum of 8 people allowed to visit each gorilla family each day - thus this visit will be a special one.



The trek takes anywhere between an hour to 4 hours each way depending on how deep the gorillas are in the jungle. But the work is well worth it - as the gorilla trackers (who have been sent out prior to the group to look for the family) radio in that the family has been found, the excitement begins to build. Stand still as the gorillas come down from the trees and begin to walk right next to you. Some families have babies, others juveniles, but all families have an elusive silverback. The experience is truly visceral - watch from feet away as the gorillas forage, care for their young, and swing through the trees. You'll have one hour to observe these magnificent creatures before returning to their nest and collecting samples. These will be used later in the day to understand the family's health back at the lab - an exclusive experience for Discover Corps participants.

Gorilla trekking is an experience that only few lucky people get to have. However, there are some very important things to take into consideration:

- **Gorilla Permits** - Discover Corps obtains your gorilla (and chimpanzee) permits as part of the trip fee. These permits are issued by the Ugandan Government and are strictly non-refundable. Therefore, you will be required to pay for these permits as part of a non-refundable deposit. The permits allow you to enter Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and spend one hour with the gorilla family. The funds from the permits are used to preserve and protect the gorillas.
- **Planning** - We highly recommend you book your trip 6 to 8 months in advance to ensure that we can obtain the gorilla permits. They are in extremely high demand and a set amount are released each day for tourists. High season runs from June-September and again from December-February. During these months, gorilla permits are difficult to get.
- **Age Restrictions** - Although habituated to be around humans, gorillas are still wild animals and the Ugandan Wildlife Authority has placed a strict minimum age of 15 years old when visiting the gorillas. There are no exceptions.
- **Physical Capabilities** - Gorilla trekking is, by its nature, a highly physical experience. The trek itself can last anywhere from an hour to four hours each way depending on how deep the gorillas are in the jungle. This equates to walking a mile to several miles each way in dense equatorial jungle. You will have a guide and porter with you who will help you throughout the experience. There is no maximum age, but we do recommend that you feel comfortable with walking long distances in the heat (and likely rain) along uneven trails. Please contact a Travel Specialist if you would like to discuss this in more depth.
- **Safety** - Tracking gorillas in the middle of Africa may sound like a hairy experience, but don't worry, gorilla trekking is extremely safe. You will be accompanied by an expert tracking guide, a set of porters (optional) and an armed ranger (for protection against wild elephants). The gorillas themselves have been habituated meaning they will not be aggressive or harm humans. You just have to always be aware and abide by all rules that are stated prior to the trek including keeping a safe distance.



UGANDA: GORILLA CONSERVATION ADVENTURE

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: \$6,895

CHILD: \$6,595

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements (SRS) are \$1,200 per person. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Please see next page for Uganda-specific terms and conditions. Pricing can be a bit confusing due to trekking permits, so don't hesitate to reach out to info@discovercorps.com with any questions!

**SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF
DEPARTURE DATES**

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 15+
- Travelers who are comfortable with MODERATE - DIFFICULT physical activity

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

CUSTOM / PRIVATE GROUPS

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 9 nights in premier level lodging
- All meals throughout the trip
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Reliable in-country landcruiser transportation with experienced drivers
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sites and other scheduled events throughout the trip
- Behind-the-scenes experiences with lion researchers and a gorilla veterinarian
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- All gratuities for hotels, meals, baggage, and transportation
- One-way domestic flight from Bwindi to Entebbe
- Discover Corps digital pre-departure booklet
- Turnkey customer support before and after your trip

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for the Discover Corps Guide
- Uganda Visa (or e-visa)
- International airfare
- \$1,400/person mandatory supplement for gorilla permit*, chimp permit, and bush flight
- Alcoholic beverages

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

PAYMENT PLANS

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.



UGANDA-SPECIFIC: TERMS & CONDITIONS

It takes \$880 per person to register for the program. This consists of a \$30 registration fee and an \$850 deposit. The deposit covers a portion of the gorilla and chimp permits, which are immediately obtained and are, thus, non-refundable. Single room supplements are mandatory on this trip for all solo travelers. If a roommate is found of the same gender prior to departure, we will refund you the supplement in advance.

The due date of the remaining balance is based off the proximity of the trip departure date:

- If you register more than 5 months prior to the trip, the remaining balance will be due 30 days after registering for the program or 150 days prior to departure, whichever comes first.
- If you register less than 5 months prior to the trip, the remaining balance will be due one week after the deposit is placed.

Certain portions of the program fee are refundable, depending on the date of the refund request. If a participant chooses to withdraw for any reason prior to the departure, Discover Corps must be notified in writing. The refund will be calculated according to the date in which Discover Corps receives this notification.

Refund Policy

The amount of your refund is based on how far in advance from the start date of the trip you notify us of your cancellation.

- More than five months prior, everything is refundable with the exception of the Gorilla and Chimp Permits. It is therefore a \$850 fee per person to change trip destination or start date (for your new gorilla permit).
- Less than five months prior, 50% of program fee is refundable, except non-refundable \$30 registration fee and the Gorilla & Chimp Permits. It is therefore a \$850 fee per person to change trip destination or start date (for your new gorilla permit).
- At four months prior, the program fee is non-refundable. Changes to trip destination or start date are not possible and will be subject to refund policy.

If the balance has not been paid in full, the above percentages apply to all monies paid at the date of cancellation.

Transfers will be charged the applicable fee to change trips. Additionally, your refund policy tier will carry over to your new trip (eg – for transfers less than three months prior to the trip, your new trip program fee will remain 25% refundable regardless of the new date).

Any questions at all, please don't hesitate to let us know. For more information before you depart, including packing lists, visit our travel portal at travel.discovercorps.com. We can't wait to travel with you!

The Discover Corps staff
Call/text: 619-758-3030
Email: info@discovercorps.com



Our Mission

Discover Corps' mission is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.



OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAMAICA
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
BALI	KENYA
BAJA	MOROCCO
BHUTAN	OAXACA
CHILE	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA
GREECE	VIETNAM
GUATEMALA	



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Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a \$395 deposit to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.



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