Gorilla Highlands
OUR REGION, YOUR ADVENTURE

For more info: www.gorillahighlands.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Kinyarwanda / Rufumbira</th>
<th>Rukiga (Kabale in Uganda)</th>
<th>Kiswahili</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Omeza / Uraho?</td>
<td>Umuzate / Urabo?</td>
<td>Habari yako?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m fine</td>
<td>Meze neza / Yego</td>
<td>Urabo neza / Yego</td>
<td>Niki salama / Habari njema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How was your night?</td>
<td>Waramutseho neza?</td>
<td>Waraye / Wramutseho neza?</td>
<td>Umeshinda je?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How’s your day been?</td>
<td>Wiriwe?</td>
<td>Wiriwe / Wirweho?</td>
<td>Umelala aje?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good day</td>
<td>Uninsi mwiza</td>
<td>Uninsi mwiza</td>
<td>Siku njema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good night</td>
<td>Uramuke</td>
<td>Uramuke</td>
<td>Siku salama / Usiku mwena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Umeza / Uraho?</td>
<td>Umuzate / Urabo?</td>
<td>Habari yako?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m fine</td>
<td>Meze neza / Yego</td>
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<td>Wiriwe / Wirweho?</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Good day</td>
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<td>Uninsi mwiza</td>
<td>Siku njema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good night</td>
<td>Uramuke</td>
<td>Uramuke</td>
<td>Siku salama / Usiku mwena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friend</th>
<th>Madam</th>
<th>Sir</th>
<th>OK</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Thank you (very much)</th>
<th>Goodbye</th>
<th>Good night</th>
<th>Good day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nshuti / Mugenzi</td>
<td>Mubyeyi / Mucyara</td>
<td>Mutware</td>
<td>Kare / Nibyo</td>
<td>Oya</td>
<td>Yeego / Yee</td>
<td>Wakoze / Urakoze (cane)</td>
<td>Ngaho / Uralho</td>
<td>Ura neza / Uramuke</td>
<td>Uninsi mwiza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munywani / Mugyenzi</td>
<td>Ndiyo</td>
<td>Yeego</td>
<td>Yebare (mumonga)</td>
<td>Ogumeho</td>
<td>Osibigye</td>
<td>Osibire gye?</td>
<td>Oraire gye?</td>
<td>Oraregye</td>
<td>Oraire gye?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafiki</td>
<td>Bibi</td>
<td>Bwana</td>
<td>Sawa</td>
<td>Ndiyo</td>
<td>Ndanto</td>
<td>Kwaleri:</td>
<td>Kwaheri:</td>
<td>Kwaheri:</td>
<td>Kwaheri:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sir</th>
<th>Mutware</th>
<th>Kare</th>
<th>Nibyo</th>
<th>Oya</th>
<th>Yeego / Yee</th>
<th>Wakoze / Urakoze (cane)</th>
<th>Ngaho / Uralho</th>
<th>Ura neza / Uramuke</th>
<th>Uninsi mwiza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mubyeyi / Mucyara</td>
<td>Mutware</td>
<td>Kare</td>
<td>Nibyo</td>
<td>Oya</td>
<td>Yeego / Yee</td>
<td>Wakoze / Urakoze (cane)</td>
<td>Ngaho / Uralho</td>
<td>Ura neza / Uramuke</td>
<td>Uninsi mwiza</td>
</tr>
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<td>Munywani / Mugyenzi</td>
<td>Ndiyo</td>
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<td>Ogumeho</td>
<td>Osibigye</td>
<td>Osibire gye?</td>
<td>Oraire gye?</td>
<td>Oraregye</td>
<td>Oraire gye?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Bibi</td>
<td>Bwana</td>
<td>Sawa</td>
<td>Ndiyo</td>
<td>Ndanto</td>
<td>Kwaleri:</td>
<td>Kwaheri:</td>
<td>Kwaheri:</td>
<td>Kwaheri:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
 Positioned in the heart of Africa, Rwanda is in many ways an exemplary country: orderly, clean and rapidly developing. Its northern neighbour Uganda has been dubbed the “Pearl of Africa” for good reason. The Democratic Republic of the Congo that borders both countries to the west is a land that simply evokes adventure. Together they make a destination like no other, the real essence of the continent, the Gorilla Highlands.

Yours,

in Musanze, Rwanda, May 2019
Our region is defined by the Virunga volcanoes (p26) — some of them still active — and the ancient rainforest of Bwindi (p29) that represent the last home of the mountain gorilla. From the countless islands of Lake Bunyonyi (p36) to the seaside feel of Lake Kivu (p43) water bodies are sprinkled all over the valleys, interrupted by beautifully terraced hills.

To reach the Gorilla Highlands, you can fly to Rwanda’s capital Kigali (p16), Uganda’s Entebbe near Kampala (p21) or Congo’s Goma (p42); for the distances please consult p24. Numerous attractions are lined up on the way but the savannahs of Queen Elizabeth (p32) with tree-climbing lions and Akagera (p30) with the Big 5 undoubtedly top the list.
Lake Mburo NP
zebras, giraffes, impalas, walking safaris and even horse riding

Lake Nabugabo
laid-back atmosphere and safe swimming in what was part of Lake Victoria 4,000 years ago

Uganda Martyrs University
a village campus so pretty you just have to see it

VISA INFORMATION: The East African Tourist visa covers Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya and costs USD 100. If you wish to include a visit to Congo, prepare for your East African Tourist visa to be voided — do it at the beginning or at the end of your journey, in combination with a single-entry Rwanda visa (USD 30).

gorillahighlands.com/visas
Rwanda, the central country of our region, offers quite a range of highlights and environments: volcanoes (Volcanoes NP, p27), savannah (Akagera NP, p30) and rainforest (Nyungwe NP, p34).

**Congo Nile Trail**
walk for 10 days or cycle for 5

**Singing Boats**
from the shore, listen to Kivu fishermen pass by

**King’s Palace**
traditional seat of monarchy

**Museum of Environment**
first in Africa

**Rusumo Falls**
Rwanda’s #1 waterfall

**Kakira Cooperative**
imigongo art, originally made of cow dung
Each colour marks a different route of all-inclusive guided hiking trips in Uganda and Rwanda. Trek directions can be reversed, adjusted and combined. Overnight stays at all levels of accommodation, from camping in villages to luxury lodges.

gorillahighlands.com/trails
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Fisherman’s Fortune</strong></th>
<th>$40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>length</strong>: half a day; <strong>difficulty</strong>: 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>start</strong>: Cyanika/Cyuza Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hike from the border of Rwanda and Uganda to the shores of Lake Burera for a late evening session with local fishermen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Thriving Countryside</strong></th>
<th>$90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>length</strong>: 1 day; <strong>difficulty</strong>: 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>start</strong>: Cyanika/Kinigi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get a taste of Rwanda’s rural development while you trek along the Virunga volcanoes and admire Lake Burera views</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Valley of No Living</strong></th>
<th>$190</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>length</strong>: 2 days; <strong>difficulty</strong>: 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>start</strong>: Bunyonyi/Rushaga (Bwindi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk where no tourists walk and spend a night camping at a model mountain health centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Parks Reunited</strong></th>
<th>$250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>length</strong>: 3 days; <strong>difficulty</strong>: 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>start</strong>: Mgahinga/Bwindi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe through the raw beauty of Lake Mutanda as you connect two grand national parks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Volcano Quest</strong></th>
<th>$250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>length</strong>: 3 days; <strong>difficulty</strong>: 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>start</strong>: Bunyonyi/Mgahinga</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitute awe-inspiring trekking at the base of volcanoes for one of the Three Upland Lakes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Three Upland Lakes</strong></th>
<th>$340</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>length</strong>: 4 days; <strong>difficulty</strong>: 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>start</strong>: Bunyonyi/Rushaga (Bwindi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led by a Batwa “Pygmy” leader, cross timeless Echuya Forest and sleep at incredible lakes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ultimate Hike</strong></th>
<th>$550</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>length</strong>: 7 days; <strong>difficulty</strong>: 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>start</strong>: Bunyonyi/Buhoma (Bwindi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you strong enough to combine Volcano Quest, a day in Mgahinga, and Parks Reunited?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlighted title amounts refer to five participants or more, on a per person basis.
Batwa “Pygmies” are one of the oldest peoples in Africa. For centuries they roamed the forests looking for fruits and honey, and hunted with bows and trained dogs. As the woods were cut down by the Bantu, Batwa numbers dwindled. In the 1980s and 1990s they were evicted from national parks in Rwanda and Uganda without compensation; recently the authorities have shown more understanding and progress has been made.

Please be cautious when offered to “see the Pygmies” and avoid exploitation of the Batwa. We can recommend any of four quite similar activities showing their forest history through costumes and drama: Batwa Experience at Buhoma, Batwa Forest Experience at Rushaga, Buniga Forest Walk at Nkuringo and the Batwa Trail in Mgahinga. A different approach is offered through Batwa Today in Echuya Forest (p51).

The rest of the people of the region — the Bantu — are primarily mixed crop and livestock farmers. Their traditional settlement was a compound with separate houses for wives and their children; each wife had her own livestock and fields. Nowadays high population density and land fragmentation has led to heavy migrations.

gorillahighlands.com/batwa
4FRW/MB ON THE GO

Enjoy the best Data Roaming packs across 14 Airtel Africa operations

Dial *255*7#

2.8GB
MONTHLY FRW 12000
Mountain gorillas evolved with the rise of the volcanoes half a million years ago, adapting to the terrain by becoming larger than western gorillas and with thicker, darker fur. They are herbivores who sometimes eat ants and termites. Only about 1,000 mountain gorillas exist in the world but thankfully the number is increasing. They can be visited in four parks: Rwanda’s Volcanoes NP, Uganda’s Bwindi and Mgahinga NPs and Congo’s Virunga NP.

Eastern lowland gorillas (also known as Grauer’s) are even bigger than mountain gorillas. Today there are estimated to be 3,800 of them; Congo’s Kahuzi-Biega NP is the only place where they are habituated.

Golden monkeys share the same environment and are also endangered but are much less researched. They spend much of their time in the bamboo zone eating bamboo shoots. You can see them in Mgahinga, Volcanoes and Virunga NPs.

Also present in the area: elephants, buffalos, chimps, baboons, blue and red-tailed monkeys, zorillas (skunk-like creatures), otters and many other animals.

gorillahighlands.com/wildlife
On Planet Earth there are few destinations with over 600 bird species: Queen Elizabeth NP is one of them. Together with Akagera’s 490 species, Bwindi’s list of 350 species and 295 different birds recorded in Volcanoes NP, it makes our region among the richest birding areas in the world.

Bwindi with 24 Albertine Rift Endemics and Mgahinga NP with 13 are the most accessible sites for endemics such as Handsome Francolin, Rwenzori Turaco and the highly localised African Green Broadbill. Volcanoes NP is one of the best sites to see Ladgen’s Bush-Shrike, together with 16 more endemics.

Akagera has many birds reaching their northern limit here, such as Arnott’s Chat, Purple-crested Turaco and the Sousa’s Shrike. Also worthy of special mention is the Shoebill, which should be searched for in Queen Elizabeth and Akagera.
LET YOUR DESIRE TO DISCOVER TAKE WING, AND SOAR... IN LUXURY

End-to-end solutions for wildlife and cultural travel packages in Uganda and Rwanda, from the dynamic team that has created BirdNest Resort (see p56).
Kigali

Kigali is a sparkingly-clean and highly organised city that few international visitors expect to find in the centre of the African continent. Smooth tarmac with countdown traffic lights connects brand-new buildings here.

The must-see attraction is the beautiful memorial museum that bears witness to the genocide against the Tutsis that shook the country in 1994. While it also features similar crimes against humanity elsewhere in the world, its primary message is the power of Rwanda’s reconciliation, resilience and potential.
Biyem, a Kampala Hotel with an Eritrean Touch

Tucked away in a green oasis in Bulange Mengo, to the west of Namirembe Cathedral, Biyem Hotel is your ideal Kampala getaway; it is close to the northern bypass and the Entebbe highway.

Building on the Eritrean culinary and coffee traditions it delights with special touches like Thursday night guitar music and BBQ. Wine, cocktails and mocktails will add to your pleasure.

Self-contained rooms range from USD 30 to 100, there’s jacuzzi, gym and, of course, wifi. With Biyem Hotel, you just cannot miss!

+256 414 697 218, +256 704 329 608
biyemhotel@gmail.com
www.biyemhotel.net
The city also known as “crazy crazy” Kampala is the party capital of East Africa. An urban sprawl touching Lake Victoria, Kampala is a bustling, freedom-loving city.

Be it a weekend, a holiday or the middle of the night, enterprising Kampalans are ready to feed your stomach with cheap roadside food and your soul with bumping Afrobeat. Mushrooming shopping centres and second-hand markets are two dimensions of a place that sells anything from anywhere, at any price.

But not so far from the organised chaos of the Old Taxi Park — an actual attraction — there is serenity in Kampala’s green areas and religious sites. The only Baha’i temple in Africa, the Kampala Central Mosque and the Makerere University campus are three sites you should definitely consider visiting.

Uganda’s international airport lies 40km/26mi from Kampala, next to Entebbe.
### From Cities to National Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From Cities to National Parks</th>
<th>km</th>
<th>miles</th>
<th>hours by car</th>
<th>(mini)bus/truck departure</th>
<th>price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>from Kigali to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rwf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akagera NP</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musanze (Ruhengeri)</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>1,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gisenyi (Rubavu) / Goma</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusizi (Cyangugu) / Bukavu</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>hourly until 4pm</td>
<td>5,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabale</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisoro</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>border open till 6pm</td>
<td>2,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from Kampala to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabale</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisoro</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buhoma (via Rukungiri)</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>morning and night</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mweya (Queen Elizabeth NP)</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>40,000 to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Katunguru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from Bukavu to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahuzi-Biega NP</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lwiro</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>throughout the day, shared</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>car + bike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goma (by ferry)</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>morning and afternoon</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from Kabale to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buhoma (via Ruhija)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue, Fri; daily (minus Sun)</td>
<td>15-20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>to Kanyantorogo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buhoma (via Kanungu)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue, Sat</td>
<td>15-20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruhija</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mon–Sat</td>
<td>8-10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkuringo</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tue, Sat</td>
<td>12-20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from Kisoro to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushaga</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Mon, Thu</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubuguri</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Mon, Thu, Fri</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkuringo</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mon, Thu</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from Mweya (Queen Elizabeth NP) to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ishasha</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buhoma</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruhija</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bukavu

Population 900,000; elevation 1,498 m/ 4,915 ft

Unlike Kigali or Kampala, Bukavu is not really a capital city. In the minds of most people, it would even come after Goma (p42) as the most important city of Eastern Congo. It is, however, the intellectual and cultural capital. Architecture buffs can admire over 100 buildings of the Art Deco style here. Today, a different building style prevails, colourful and with elaborate soaring rooflines.

Just like Goma, Bukavu has a sister city on the other side of the Rwandan border and a national park, Kahuzi-Biega, nearby (p35). The Lwiro primate sanctuary and scientific research centre (p41) is another highlight in the Bukavu neighbourhood.
Mgahinga NP

The smallest, but possibly greatest, of Uganda’s national parks boasts three Virunga volcanoes: Muhavura (4,127m/13,540ft) with a lake at the top, Mount Gahinga (3,474m/11,398ft) with a swamp-filled crater, and Sabinyo (3,669m/11,959ft) where three countries meet.

If you track mountain gorillas here you are a member of a special club. One habituated gorilla group means only eight visitors per day.

Other activities:

- tracking of endangered golden monkeys
- the Batwa Trail (p11)
- hiking into Sabinyo Gorge, to all volcanoes and more
Volcanoes National Park shares three volcanoes with Mgahinga and adds two more: Karisimbi (4,507m/14,787ft) and Biseoke (3,711m/12,175ft). It has 10 habituated mountain gorilla groups.

Additional things to do:
- golden monkey tracking
- climbing Karisimbi (2 days), Gahinga and Muhavura (can be combined into 2 days) or Biseoke
- trekking to the former Karisoke Research Centre to visit the grave of Dian Fossey, the famous researcher who popularised mountain gorilla tracking and died as a conservation martyr
Virunga NP

The oldest national park in Africa has staggering environmental variety: from the Virungas through the savannah up to the permanent snow on the Mountains of the Moon i.e. the Rwenzoris (5,109 metres/16,762 ft). It includes Sabinyo, Karisimbi, Bisoke, Mikeno (4,437m/14,560ft), Nyamuragira (3,058m/10,031) and Nyiragongo (3,470m/11,400ft). Tourists can visit six mountain gorilla groups here.

Other activities:

- climbing the active Nyiragongo volcano and spending a night there
- chimp habituation walk
- Tchegera Island overnight (Lake Kivu)
Bwindi NP

The steep valleys and high ridges of Africa’s oldest rainforest hide much more than just mountain gorillas. Some of the highlights of different Bwindi gates:

- **Buhoma**: most accessible gorillas, nature walk to three waterfalls, Batwa Experience (see p11), tour of the groundbreaking Bwindi Community Hospital

- **Nkuringo**: spectacular views of the Virunga volcanoes, Buniga Forest Walk (see p11)

- **Ruhija**: nature walk to the bamboo zone or the big swamp that gave Bwindi its name, best birding

- **Rushaga**: largest number of habituated gorilla groups, the longer gorilla habituation experience, Batwa Forest Experience (see p11), occasional visits of elephants
Akagera NP

The lake environment of Akagera National Park in northeastern Rwanda is magnificent and its campsites with electric fences are unique in central Africa.

The park’s specials in terms of fauna are the zebra, the giraffe and the rare roan antelope. Lions were introduced in 2015 and had their first offspring in 2016 while black rhinos returned in 2017 restoring the Akagera’s “Big Five” status. There are also elephants, leopards, hippos, buffalos, eleven species of antelope and almost 500 different bird species. Akagera’s wildlife is on the rise under the management of an international non-profit conservation organisation, African Parks, who are responsible for the total management of Akagera.

The park’s former reputation for “vegetarian safaris” is a matter of the past and it can surprise you in a most positive way. Along with the park’s successful conservation story, the diversity in wildlife and environments – a string of lakes to the east and rolling grassland hills to the west – make Akagera well worth visiting.
Other National Parks
Queen Elizabeth NP
This park is a wonderful addition to a Gorilla Highlands holiday, popular due to abundant wildlife thriving in its diverse ecosystem of sprawling savanna, humid forests and sparkling lakes. Rare tree-climbing lions live in the Ishasha sector, the part closest to our region, and there are many other species: antelopes, buffalos, crocodiles, elephants, hippos, leopards, primates and more.

Some of the attractions:

• Kazinga Channel launch trip with plentiful birds and other animals visible from the boat
• chimp tracking in Kyambura Gorge
• equator circles at the northern tip of the park
Chimp tracking (the chimpanzee population is over 500) and the 160m/525ft canopy walk are the two activities people most associate with Nyungwe, and birders count it as Rwanda’s top destination.

But there’s more:

- Black and white colobus monkey tracking
- Kamiranzovu Marsh Trail: a lovely waterfall plus huge diversity of fauna and flora around Nyungwe’s biggest swamp
- Congo-Nile Divide Trail: wilderness adventure of 3–5 days (not the same as the Congo Nile Trail from p6)
Kahuzi-Biega NP

Named after two dormant volcanoes, this park near Bukavu (p27) is known worldwide for Grauer’s or eastern lowland gorillas. Three habituated groups reside in the highland sector of the park that also protects over 1,100 plant species and 350 species of birds.

Other activities:
• trekking Mt Kahuzi (3,300 m/ 10,827ft)
• hiking to Tshibati Falls near Lwiro (p41)
• several nature trails
Lakes
Lake Bunyonyi was formed 10,000 years ago when a river was dammed by lava. This “place of many little birds” is one of the safest lakes in Africa and has a great number of islands: 29. Some of their histories:

- **Akampene (Punishment Island):** Until the 1940s, unmarried pregnant women were left here to starve to death or drown trying to swim to the shore; they were often saved by poor men or slaves who could not afford the regular bride price.

- **Bwama:** In 1914 it was an anti-colonial rebel base of a famous leader, Katuregye. In 1921, Dr. Leonard Sharp, a missionary, founded a leprosy hospital here. After anti-leprosy drugs were introduced in the 1980s, it became a boarding secondary school.

- **Njuyeera (Sharp’s Island):** Dr. Sharp’s family lived on this island when he was not on duty in Kabale Hospital and converted it into a gorgeous botanical garden with a tennis court, boat house, guest cottage and windmill.
**Bunyonyi in numbers:**
- Size: 25 km (15 mi) x 7 km (4 mi)
- Area: 61 km² (24 mi²)
- Altitude: 1,950 m (6,400 ft)
- Depth: 44 m (144 ft)
- Number of islands: 29
- Max. surface temp.: 25 ºC (77 ºF)

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**Touch of Bunyonyi**
- $15
- $20
- $25
- $35
- $55

Length: 2 hours; difficulty: 1
Slide in a dugout canoe over the lake surface to visit its lushest island Bushara

**Culture on the Crest**
- $40
- $50
- $60
- $80
- $140

Length: half a day; difficulty: 2
Get friendly with a traditional healer and a craftmaker as you admire superb views

**Islands of Miracles**
- $90
- $105
- $125
- $165
- $250

Length: 1 day; difficulty: 2
Add Bunyonyi’s most famous islands to the program of Culture on the Crest

**Mama Bena’s Bonus**
- $180
- $200
- $250
- $320
- $520

Length: 2 days; difficulty: 3
Get floored by Bakiga hospitality as you paddle and hike around the lake

**Mother of All Treks**
- $230
- $270
- $320
- $410
- $690

Length: 3 days; difficulty: 3
Add a tented island homestay and a craftmaker session to Mama Bena’s Bonus
To swim in the highest crater lake of the region, you will have to climb Mt Muhavura or Mt Bisoke, while the other six are more easily accessible.

On the Rwandan side, Lakes Burera and Ruhondo are separated only by a narrow band of land crated by lava that erupted from the Virungas. There is a primary school on the biggest of Burera’s six islands, happily welcoming visitors.

Lake Mutanda (on the photo) has six significant islands and one of them, Kyangushu, used to be a burial site to avoid bringing bad luck to the mainland - bones remain visible from the lake surface. Lake Murehe nearby is as long as Mutanda is wide, with two islands and many more fish.

The twin lakes of Chahafi and Kayumbu to the southeast have swamps with many bird species recorded and sport fishing opportunities. During WWI the Germans fought the Anglo-Belgian coalition at Lake Chahafi; trenches can still be seen.
Who would expect a grand natural science library, a cultural museum and high-tech enclosures in a Congolese village? Lwiro is a must stop on the way to Kahuzi-Biega and with a charming colonial guest house it also offers sleepovers.

The primate rehabilitation centre hosts 77 chimps and 95 monkeys of 11 different species. These are mostly victims of poachers who kill adult primates for bush meat and sell their babies as pets.
Map of Goma & Gisenyi
Lake Kivu, Goma & Gisenyi

Only the lack of salt in the water may hint that Kivu is a lake; the sandy beaches, tropical vegetation and relaxed vibe are all suggestive of the sea.

Goma and Gisenyi on its northern shore are practically one city, the former on the Congolese and the latter on the Rwandan side of the boundary. Beach life is more pronounced in Gisenyi (Rubavu) while Goma is louder, bigger and more expensive.
Musanze
If you are visiting Volcanoes National Park and prefer urban environments, Musanze (formerly known as Ruhengeri) is your choice. This is the capital city of the Gorilla Highlands region, a tidy town surrounded by volcanoes and blessed with Musanze Caves (on the photo).

It offers accommodation solutions for all budgets, good eating and international banks. Kinigi village (northwest of the town, 12km/7.5mi) features the park HQ, and many more lodges.
Kisoro

Kisoro, the region’s prettiest town, is in an idyllic setting below the Virunga volcanoes. It hosts colourful cross-border markets on Mondays and Thursdays and has a strong beekeeping community. It is a handy base for adventures in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (see p26) and has an airport with regular internal flights.
Kabale

The major town of Uganda’s Gorilla Highlands provides all you may expect, including an impressive selection of banks, a challenging 9-hole golf course and the Bakiga Museum, an amazing recreation of a traditional home with unique tools and inventions.

photo by Marcus Westberg
Located between Kabale and Kisoro, Echuya is a montane rainforest, the third remaining part of the extensive ancient woods that covered most of the region. A remarkable birding destination, it is also home to blue monkeys, colobus monkeys and a group of baboons you might run into on the tarmac.

On a hill overlooking the forest and Lake Bunyonyi on the other side lives the Batwa “Pygmy” community of Rwamahano. They prepare Batwa Today (p51), an activity that starts with a nature walk in Echuya and ends with a community visit that is unlike anything else offered in the Gorilla Highlands. It emphasises discussion between the Batwa and their guests. A special kids’ version of the walk is available, with children “hunting” using traditional Batwa bows and cardboard targets.

[Link to more information](gorillahighlands.com/echuyaforest)
Kisiizi Falls

This pretty waterfall has gory history: pregnant unmarried girls used to be thrown over the falls as a punishment (see p36 for a similar story from Lake Bunyonyi). Oral history says that the practice stopped after one of the victims pulled her father and brother down the cliff.

An impressive monument and a visitor centre have been erected. A suspension bridge takes travellers closer to the waterfall, and a 3-stage zip line ride entertains them. A couple of guesthouses are available.

The falls and the tourism proceeds power astonishing work by a nearby rural hospital: an extensive health insurance scheme, a rehab unit for children with cerebral palsy, a school of nursing and more.

gorillahighlands.com/kisiizi
This exclusive eco lodge situated adjacent to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, in the central sector of the park close to where gorilla tracking begins offers top quality services and accommodation. Spectacular, uninterrupted views of the pristine rainforest canopy from the ten beautifully appointed and spacious (including one honey-moon suite) individual natural wooded cottages with private verandas situated along the forested hillside.

Rates dependent upon season and resident status - doubles/twins from USD 170-350, singles from USD 200-460 on full board basis including house drinks. Meals are wholesome, multiple courses, freshly prepared with a variety of international dishes and local specialties also available.

Unlimited hot beverages are available all day on a self-serve basis and are delivered to your cottage with early morning wake up calls. Cosy fireplaces provide warmth and comfort in the cool evenings in the main area where guests can relax, dine and discuss the day’s events in this intimate and friendly lodge.

Packaged gorilla viewing tours including internal flights and road transfers combined with accommodation are also available for guests.

+256 772 721 155, +256 414 321 479
reservations@ugandaexclusivecamps.com
www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com
**Mahogany Springs Luxury Lodge**

A high-end lodge in Buhoma with stunning views of the Bwindi rainforest and surrounding areas, located in beautiful gardens set back on a stream. The perfect balance of luxury, privacy, location and top levels of service ensures our Paradise in the Mist has no equal - do your gorilla tracking in style! No.2 Worldwide Unforgettable Honey-moon Destination and recommended safari lodge as named by the Huffington Post. Prices start at USD 240 person per night, full board.

info@mahoganysprings.com
www.mahoganysprings.com

**Gorilla Friends Lodge**

Guest house primarily catering for budget travellers, researchers, and volunteers, located on the main road in Buhoma trading centre. Prices from USD 25 (single) to 80 (self-contained twin FB). Hot showers available.

+256 782 822 043, +256 752 600 960
gorillafriendslodge@yahoo.com

**Bukavu (p25)**

**Angel Hotel**

We are conveniently located in the centre of Bukavu City, only 3 km from the Rusizi border crossing between Congo and Rwanda. Find us opposite Alliance Francaise on Avenue P. Lumumba.

You can pick from 10 rooms (USD 50) or 3 apartments (USD 80) with 24-hour wifi connectivity and cable TV and get breathtaking views of the Bukavu peninsulas.

+243 997 134 037, +243 892 017 617
guymujabusa@gmail.com

**Echuya Forest (p48)**

How to make a visit to Batwa “Pygmies” a positive and enriching experience, for both Batwa and visitors? Edirisa has been answering this question for a decade. The resulting Batwa Today combines a nature walk in Echuya Forest and a visit to the Batwa of Rwamahano. A kids’ “hunting” version is offered too.

You will experience their forest knowledge and their present life, and meet the Bakiga, the majority ethnic group. Due to our long-term relations with the Batwa, they consider Edirisa their friends and don’t mind photography or any other disturbance by anybody coming with us.

Your donation to the Batwa is included in the activity fee; nobody will harass you for anything else. If you still decide for an extra donation, it will be fully passed on to the Batwa.

Prices per person: 5+ participants USD 30, 4 people USD 35, 3 people USD 45, 2 people USD 60, 1 participant USD 95.

+256 782 779 599
info@edirisa.org
www.edirisa.org/batwa
Entebbe

Airport Guesthouse

Airport Guesthouse Entebbe is the ideal solution for people arriving late in the evening or departing early in the morning. And if you stay at our guesthouse we will provide transfers to and from the airport free of charge, at any time of the day or night. USD 60-82.

+256 392 177 992, +256 777 820 071 reservations@gorillatours.com
www.naturelodges.biz

Gisenyi/Rubavu (p43)

Nirvana Heights Spa Hotel

Situated on the colourful Rubona peninsula 7km from Gisenyi, our lakefront resort presents 18 en-suite rooms with balconies overlooking Lake Kivu and an infinity swimming pool. Rates from USD 80 to USD 159.

+250 788 203 015, +250 788 980 176 nirvanaheightshotel@gmail.com

Discover Rwanda Gisenyi Beach Hostel

Few hostels in the world have such a prime location: Discover Rwanda Gisenyi Beach is set in a colonial building with unique architectural touches merely 20 m away from the sandy beaches. Dorm USD 17, rooms USD 38-60.

+250 781 586 272
hostelgisenyi@discoverrwanda.org
www.discoverrwanda.net

Kabale (p47)

Cepha’s Inn

Situated on top of Makanga Hill just minutes from the centre of Kabale Town, our newly expanded hotel boasts the finest amenities around. Relax and enjoy our swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, game room, bouncing castle, fully stocked bar, DSTV, and continental cuisine. Accommodation from USD 30 to 250 with breakfast included; camping USD 7 ppn. Free wifi for residents.

+256 392 821 667, +256 773 240 946
info@cephasinn.com
www.cephasinn.com

Victoria Guest House

A peaceful, green place away from the hustle and bustle of Kabale but within the walking distance of its centre. Camping USD 3, single room USD 7, double USD 12 (all self-contained).

+256 772 389 030, +256 702 236 407
skylinehotelkabale@yahoo.com

Huye/Butare

Wisdom Village Isangano

Popularly known as Convention, a social place appreciated for tasty and inexpensive meals, Wisdom Village Isangano is more than that; a stand-alone house has been converted into an accommodation facility. Prices range from USD 9 to 28.

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Kabale Backpackers

Lillian Kamusiime, a lady tourist guide/driver, welcomes you to her affordable, clean and safe home right in the centre of Kabale.

Turn left behind the DFCU Bank, onto Muhumuza Road, until your eyes meet the green hedge in front of an orange-blue building.

The hostel has everything a weary traveller may need, including excellent home cooked meals, a library with a great reading place, the fastest wifi of Kabale and ample safe parking space.

You can opt for a dorm (18 beds in 8 rooms; USD 10), self-contained rooms (USD 15 single, USD 30 double or twin) or camping in your tent (USD 5).

+256 777 408 098
lkamusiieme39@gmail.com
www.kigezibiotasafaris.com

Skyline Hotel

An affordable hotel very close to the bus and taxi park, on the roundabout connecting Kigali, Kisoro and Kampala. USD 6 for self-contained rooms.

Whole-day buffet at up to USD 6.

+256 772 389 030, +256 702 236 407
skylinehotelandkabale@yahoo.com

Kampala (p21)

Biyem Hotel: see ad on p20

Bushpig Backpackers

Eat, drink and sleep in the heart of Kampala - the city’s finest budget accommodation, with beds starting at USD 15. We also serve draught beer, wood-fire pizza and gourmet burgers.

+256 772 285 234
bookings@bushpigkampala.com
www.bushpigkampala.com

Namirembe Guest House

An ideal home away from home located atop Namirembe Hill, with gorgeous million dollar views of Kampala. This historic guest house has quiet relaxing private balconies accompanying each room as well as warm and friendly service, conference facilities, executive accommodation with hot showers, wifi and DSTV. Delicious meals, teas and coffee. Room rates start at USD 40.

+256 312 109 937, +256 759 717 889
mail@namirembe-guesthouse.com
www.namirembe-guesthouse.com

Red Chilli Hideaway

We have run budget lodges and tours in Uganda since 1999. Our 5-acre camp in Kampala sleeps 100+ in tents, dorms and rooms with shared/private bathrooms. Facilities: 16m pool, bars and restaurants, TV room, self-catering laundry/kitchen, free wifi with communal computers. A free shuttle service to town runs 3 times daily. Prices USD 8-50.

+256 772 509 150, +256 772 709 151
reservations@redchillihideaway.com
www.redchillihideaway.com
CasaKeza's relaxed-chic design, hispanic flair and beautiful bamboo garden, delicious coffee, breakfasts, lunches, tapas, sangria and cocktails, fast internet, a children's play room, curated gift shop and on site tailor make this the place to relax in Kigali's Kacyiru (KG573). Open all day every day, live music from Thu to Fri!

+250 788 382 581
hello@casakeza.com
www.casakeza.com

Go Kigali Tours

The best way to get an intimate view of the city so that you can experience Kigali to the fullest! Stops include a local milk bar, a market, Rwandese lunch, the Genocide Memorial and more. Our tours were recently featured in the New York Times & are 5-star rated on TripAdvisor.

Please book on www.gokigalitours.com

Does your body ache for some relaxation? Disappear into a Moroccan-style oasis at Kigali Serena Hotel, where contemporary science blends with ancient therapies... A landscaped pool in tropical gardens, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, cardio, yoga, aerobics, body toning and stretch and sculpture complete the picture — for as little as USD 40, and that includes steam and sauna!

+250 788 184 500, +250 252 597 100
maisha@serena.co.rw
www.serenahotels.com

Preet Fast Food

The only purely vegetarian restaurant in Rwanda, quickly preparing delicious fresh Indian food at very reasonable prices (from 50 cents). Full meals (thali) and fast food (samosa, dabeli, vada pav). Photo Musa Compound behind Bank of Kigali HQ. Open 8am-8:30pm, Sun 8am-2pm.

+250 783 115 997
**Kigali (p16)**

CasaKeza’s relaxed-chic design, hispanic flair and beautiful bamboo garden, delicious coffee, breakfasts, lunches, tapas, sangria and cocktails, fast internet, a children’s play room, curated gift shop and on site tailor make this the place to relax in Kigali’s Kacyiru (KG573). Open all day every day, live music from Thu to Fri!

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hello@casakeza.com  
www.casakeza.com

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The best way to get an intimate view of the city so that you can experience Kigali to the fullest! Stops include a local milk bar, a market, Rwandese lunch, the Genocide Memorial and more. Our tours were recently featured in the New York Times & are 5-star rated on TripAdvisor. Please book on www.gokigalitours.com

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**Maisha Mind Body & Spirit Spa**

Does your body ache for some relaxation? Disappear into a Moroccan-style oasis at Kigali Serena Hotel, where contemporary science blends with ancient therapies... A landscaped pool in tropical gardens, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, cardio, yoga, sculpture complete the picture — for as little as USD 40, and that includes steam and sauna!

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maisha@serena.co.rw  
www.serenahotels.com

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**Kisiizi Falls Guest House**

Two self-contained round-houses (USD 35/30 each; max 4 & 3 people) overlooking waterfall. Six single, one large double (super-king-size bed), two twin and one triple Guest House rooms (USD 7 pppn). Includes free entrance to the falls (SkyTrail zipline extra). Meals USD 1.5-2.5. Part of the remarkable Kisiizi Hospital.

+256 392 700 806  
kisiizifalls@gmail.com  
www.kisiizifalls.com

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**Travellers Rest Hotel**

The founder of Gorilla tourism, Dian Fossey’s second home and still a home away from home. We offer 11 rooms, USD 90 for a single B&B or USD 110 for a double B&B. Relax in the gardens, enjoy our food and wide range of drinks, sit at the fireplace, or treat yourself to massage.

+256 392 177 992, +256 777 820 071  
www.naturelodges.biz  
postmaster@gorillatours.com

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**Sawasawa Guest House**

The friendliest accommodation in Kisoro town, a great place for backpackers and budget travellers. Self-contained and non-self-contained rooms from USD 15 to 35 BB. Hot water and great cooking!

+256 785 642 114, +256 774 472 926  
sawasawahotel@gmail.com  
www.sawasawaguesthouse.com

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**Coffee Pot Cafe**

A place of coffee, snacks and meals so good that it can be your reason to visit Kisoro! Our blend of German and local cuisine is served at a superb location with a craft shop and wifi available. Sun closed.

+256 772 625 493  
w.ndagijimana@yahoo.com  
www.coffee-pot-cafe.com

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**Coffee Tours**

A community-based travel agency that practices responsible tourism and provides: coffee safaris, homestays, nature walks, school visits, Batwa visits, general tours to Uganda and Rwanda.

+256 777 412 288, +256 706 783 311  
coffeetoursltd@gmail.com  
mountaingorillacoffeetours.com

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**Arise Bookshop**

Hungry for mental nourishment? We are a bookshop on Kimironko Road with all kinds of books — novels, kids pleasures, university materials, Cambridge books & other textbooks. Proceeds support young writers through www.giraigitabo.rw

+250 783 945 964  
ariseducation2012@gmail.com  
www.arisenest.com

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**Kisoro Supermarket**

Your best option for when you want to stock up before you head for the gorilla national parks of both Uganda & Rwanda. Everything from flash cards to post cards, friendly customer service and long hours of operation - this is the shop you need!

+256 752 058 271 (call/WhatsApp)
Bunyonyi Overland Resort

A place beyond comparison in terms of facilities, accessibility, accommodation options and size. The best base to explore the lake. It is ecologically built, with local materials, locally owned and provides important employment opportunities for the people around the lake.

Some of the services: free wifi, satellite TV, hot showers, flushing toilets, secure car park, fireplaces, picnic sites. Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted. Camping from USD 12; dorm bed USD 25; furnished tents from USD 60 B&B; rooms from USD 60 B&B; cottages from USD 90 B&B; family cottage (2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen) USD 180 B&B.

+256 793 930 006, +256 772 409 510 resort@bunyonyioverland.com www.bunyonyioverland.com

BirdNest Resort

BirdNest Resort is a luxury boutique hotel designed to render a special kind of heaven. Known for spacious lakeshore rooms (from USD 140), its mouth-watering meals are the culinary pride of the area. There’s a solution for budget travellers too: the beautiful cottages of Eco Overseas (USD 100). For BirdNest Tour & Travel company see p15.

+256 754 252 560 reservations@birdnestresort.com www.birdnestatbunyonyi.com

Lake Bunyonyi Rock Resort

Professional tour guide Robert Basiima and his wife Jessica would like to invite you to their eco-resort on the banks of Lake Bunyonyi. Next to a noteworthy rock formation they have prepared beautiful accommodation for you, from spacious luxury cottages to a family bungalow (USD 80 per person). Away from the hustle and bustle of the busiest parts of Bunyonyi, Rock Resort will impress you with stunning views and quality cooking.

Robert’s Engagi Safaris can also take you to meet gorillas, see Uganda, or experience East Africa. He will find solutions compatible with any budget.

+256 782 421 519, +256 702 421 519 engagisafaris@gmail.com www.lakebunyonyirockresort.net

Edirisa Canoe Trekking

Hiking and canoeing cultural trips. Tented accommodation is upgradable.

+256 782 779 599 (WhatsApp too) www.canoetrekking.com

Itambira Island

Tranquil, characterful island retreat. Restaurant overlooking Lake Bunyonyi - local, international food, wood-fired pizza. Colourful en-suite treehouses or round-houses; cottage or budget accommodation. Conference facilities available. Registered charity - profit supports our local community projects. Prices from USD15 pppn.

+256 778 785 624, +256 754 942 699 itambira.seedsofhope@gmail.com www.bunyonyilake.com

Lake Chahafi Resort

We offer eight en-suite luxury cabins with both warm and cold showers; cabins are appointed on stilts with wooden floors giving outstanding views of Mt. Muhavura and Lake Chahafi. Comfy in your cabin you can slide the curtains and enjoy the vistas, or sit on the veranda and relax as you enjoy the sun setting over the Virungas.

There is a cosy bar and restaurant with a fireplace, serving drinks, local and continental dishes. The cabins come with free wifi. Rates from USD 70, including breakfast. Dinner USD 17 pp.

+256 777 391 511, +256 782 754 496 info@lakechahafiresort.com www.lakechahafiresort.com

Gahiza Island Retreat

What once was Mutanda’s Punishment Island has become an island of rewards instead. Spend your night on Gahiza and you will feel completely special; the island is small and far away from anything, the food is superb, the views of Virunga volcanoes are pretty spectacular.

Camping goes for USD 20, luxury cabins and stone houses USD 70 single and USD 140 (all BB). Free boat transport.

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Bunyonyi Overland Resort

A place beyond comparison in terms of facilities, accessibility, accommodation options and size. The best base to explore the lake. It is ecologically built, with local materials, locally owned and provides important employment opportunities for the people around the lake.

Some of the services: free wifi, satellite TV, hot showers, flushing toilets, secure car park, fireplaces, picnic sites. Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted. Camping from USD 12; dorm bed USD 25; furnished tents from USD 60 B&B; rooms from USD 60 B&B; cottages from USD 90 B&B; family cottage (2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen) USD 180 B&B.

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resort@bunyonyioverland.com
www.bunyonyioverland.com

BirdNest Resort

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www.birdnestatbunyonyi.com

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engagisafaris@gmail.com
www.lakebunyonyirockresort.net

Edirisa Canoe Trekking

Hiking and canoeing cultural trips. Tented accommodation is upgradable.

+256 782 779 599 (WhatsApp too)
www.canoetrekking.com

Lake Chahafi Resort

We offer eight en-suite luxury cabins with both warm and cold showers; cabins are appointed on stilts with wooden floors giving outstanding views of Mt. Muhavura and Lake Chahafi. Comfy in your cabin you can slide the curtains and enjoy the vistas, or sit on the veranda and relax as you enjoy the sun setting over the Virungas.

There is a cosy bar and restaurant with a fireplace, serving drinks, local and continental dishes. The cabins come with free wifi. Rates from USD 70, including breakfast. Dinner USD 17 pp.

+256 777 391 511, +256 782 754 496
info@lakechahafiresort.com
www.lakechahafiresort.com

Gahiza Island Retreat

What once was Mutanda’s Punishment Island has become an island of rewards instead. Spend your night on Gahiza and you will feel completely special; the island is small and far away from anything, the food is superb, the views of Virunga volcanoes are pretty spectacular.

Camping goes for USD 20, luxury cabins and stone houses USD 70 single and USD 140 (all BB). Free boat transport.

+256 775 235 579
davidkris2000@yahoo.com

Edirisa on Lake Bunyonyi

Come for a snack or a meal at perhaps the most unusual establishment of the lake shore! We have a firewood oven, do many Mexican-style dishes and are always ready with crayfish specialties.

You can reach us by foot, car or boat — or let our team pick you up and bring you back with a dugout canoe for USD 20, your meal and drinks inclusive.

We have accommodation too: a colourful family house (USD 40 for twin/double or USD 70 for the whole building), a double cottage (USD 24) and a small dorm for four people (USD 8 pp). Camping in your own tent is USD 4, in ours USD 6. Free canoe usage for overnight guests.

+256 782 779 599 (WhatsApp too)
www.edirisa.org/ourbase

Itambira Island

Tranquil, characterful island retreat. Restaurant overlooking Lake Bunyonyi - local, international food, wood-fired pizza. Colourful en-suite treehouses or round-houses; cottage or budget accommodation. Conference facilities available. Registered charity - profit supports our local community projects. Prices from USD15 pppn.

+256 778 785 624, +256 754 942 699
itambira.seedsofhope@gmail.com
www.bunyonyilake.com

Lake Mutanda (p40)

Gahiza Island Retreat

What once was Mutanda’s Punishment Island has become an island of rewards instead. Spend your night on Gahiza and you will feel completely special; the island is small and far away from anything, the food is superb, the views of Virunga volcanoes are pretty spectacular.

Camping goes for USD 20, luxury cabins and stone houses USD 70 single and USD 140 (all BB). Free boat transport.

+256 775 235 579
davidkris2000@yahoo.com
Lake Mburo NP

Eagle’s Nest Camp
Built on a high hill, bordering Lake Mburo National Park, Eagle’s Nest offers accommodation with a view. Almost the whole park is visible from this tented camp. Prices from USD 55 to USD 80 B&B
+256 392 177 992, +256 777 820 071 reservations@gorillatours.com
www.naturelodges.biz

Lake Nabugabo

Nabugabo Holiday Centre
Acres of unspoiled tropical vegetation frequented by vervet monkeys, best access to water for young swimmers, and multi-room cottages (from USD 14 per person) with TVs make Nabugabo Holiday Centre a top family destination. A campsite for up to 100 people and a conference hall are ideal for group retreats. Restaurant serves fish and a variety of other dishes.
+256 752 539 300, +256 772 433 332
info@nabugabo.com
www.nabugabo.com

Mgahinga NP (p26)

Amajambere Iwacu Community Camp
Right at the national park entrance, Amajambere is an outstanding base to explore Mgahinga. Our restaurant has a central fireplace while cottages offer dorms (USD 10), singles (USD 25), twins (USD 40) or doubles (USD 40). Camping from USD 6.
+256 774 954 956, +256 782 306 973
info@amajamberecamp.com
www.amajamberecamp.com

Musanze (p44)

Tourist Rest House
An inexpensive guest house with tasty food and camping facilities in the very centre of Musanze Town. Self-contained rooms with hot water at USD 14, camping at USD 7.
+250 788 890 967, +250 785 227 990
touristresth@gmail.com

Crema
A specialty coffee shop in the heart of Musanze offering the best coffee in Rwanda (Question Coffee), fresh bagels and baked goods, soups, salads and more in a cozy atmosphere. Located at the junction of the Uganda/Kigali/Gisenyi road, open 11am-6pm on Sunday and 6am-6 pm every other day. Burger Nights till 8pm on Wednesdays!
+250 786 399 471
crema250@gmail.com
www.cremarwanda.com

Musanze/Lake Burera Hiking
Begining in July 2019, you will be able to experience all dimensions of Musanze and Lake Burera on foot like never before. Join us on pleasant walking trips from a couple of hours to a couple of days!
+250 783 118 421
trails@gorillahighlands.com
www.gorillahighlands.com/trails
Nabugabo Holiday Centre
Lake Nabugabo
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+256 752 539 300, +256 772 433 332
info@nabugabo.com
www.nabugabo.com

Eagle’s Nest Camp
Lake Mburo NP
Built on a high hill, bordering Lake Mburo National Park, Eagle’s Nest offers accommodation with a view. Almost the whole park is visible from this tented camp. Prices from USD 55 to USD 80 B&B

+256 392 177 992, +256 777 820 071
reservations@gorillatours.com
www.naturelodges.biz

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+256 774 954 956, +256 782 306 973
info@amajamberecamp.com
www.amajamberecamp.com

Tourist Rest House
Musanze (p44)
An inexpensive guest house with tasty food and camping facilities in the very centre of Musanze Town. Self-contained rooms with hot water at USD 14, camping at USD 7.

+250 788 890 967, +250 785 227 990
touristresth@gmail.com

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+250 786 399 471
cremacafe250@gmail.com
www.cremarwanda.com

In central Musanze Fatima Hotel boasts 65 spacious rooms, extensive views of the Virungas, swimming till 8pm in a beautifully lit pool, conference rooms for up to 200 persons, a bakery and a gym. Rates from USD 70.

+250 252 546 650, +250 252 546 651
info@fatimahotel.rw
www.fatimahotel.rw

Looking for a leisurely or slightly intimidating bike tour? Our Musanze-based eco tour company helps you explore Rwanda for one to seven days, guided or by yourself, from USD 40.

+250 788 991 619, +250 786 067 159
lavabiketours@gmail.com
www.lavabiketours.com

Located in the heart of Nkuringo Trading Centre yet sheltered and private, our brand-new guest house overlooks the impenetrable forest of Bwindi and Virunga Volcanoes on the other side. We have 12 en-suite rooms (USD 35 HB/USD 50 FB) and serve delicious meals. A standby generator is at your disposal. Quality service is our prestige!

+256 782 193 135, +256 787 484 466
goftn@yahoo.com

Nkuringo, Bwindi NP (p26)
Nkuringo Guest House

A green, peaceful and friendly hotel, with great food and self-contained cottages (USD 30) or camping in your tent (USD 3). Located 300m from the main road; branch off opposite Total.

+256 754 943 196, +256 701 840 387
treksavannahhotel@gmail.com
www.treksavannah-hotel.com

Nyungwe NP (p34)
Gisakura Guest House

On the western edge of Nyungwe, Gisakura Guest House offers pleasant rooms for USD 30-45. We offer a variety of hot meals, salads, sandwiches, coffee and desserts; many of those options also vegetarian or gluten free.

+250 788 675 051, +250 788 530 716
ghnyungwe@yahoo.com
www.gisakuraguesthouse.rw

Musanze/Lake Burera Hiking
Beginning in July 2019, you will be able to experience all dimensions of Musanze and Lake Burera on foot like never before. Joining us on pleasant walking trips from a couple of hours to a couple of days!

+250 783 118 421
trails@gorillahighlands.com
www.gorillahighlands.com/trails
Katara Lodge

A perfect base to explore Queen Elizabeth NP. Perched on the Kichwamba escarpment, it offers uninterrupted views of the savannah, Lake Edward, and the Virunga and Rwenzori mountains. Discover serenity at this luxury eco-lodge that has 8 hand-crafted cottages and offers you a perfect way to unwind after a thrilling day on safari!

Prices from USD 200 per person per night sharing a double/twin cottage. Discounts for EAC Residents.

+256 773 011 648
info@kataralodge.com
www.kataralodge.com

Ishasha Wilderness Camp

Situated besides the Ntungwe river within the Ishasha sector this eco friendly wilderness camp offers the ideal combination of luxury in a bush environment. Renowned for its excellent game viewing opportunities including the lions in the trees, elephants, buffalos, leopards, hyenas and many antelope varieties, there is much to offer at this location for bird enthusiasts too. Ten spacious en suite framed, canvas safari styled rooms under the shady riverine trees overlook the river where animals can often be seen enjoying the cooling water. Rates dependent upon season and resident status - doubles/twins from USD 170-360, singles from USD 200-470 on FB basis with house drinks included. Meals are top quality and special arrangements for intimate dinners, bush breakfasts and sundowners can be made. Unlimited hot beverages are available all day on a self-serve basis and are delivered to your room with early morning wake up calls upon request. An open fire area is provided in the evenings where guests can relax and enjoy the "safari" environment.

+256 772 721 155, +256 414 321 479
reservations@ugandaexclusivecamps.com
www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com

Enjojo Lodge

Set amongst a lovely acacia forest in the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park, just a five minute drive from the park gate, our lodge impresses. We can arrange for you game drives, walking safaris, and bicycle rentals to a nearby local community. Gorgeous accommodation to serve all budgets, from own tent camping USD 10 pp to FB thatched cottages USD 140 pp.

+256 772 067 070, +256 758 880 521
info@enjojolodge.com
enjojolodge.com
@The River Ishasha Lodge

This rustic yet tranquil lodge spanning over 50 acres of land is right on the Ntungwe River and 10 min drive away from the park. The amazingly spacious tree house — big enough for 4 adults and 4 kids — goes for USD 300 FB, 4 gorgeous en-suite rooms are the perfect size for couples (USD 150 FB per room), there are 2 large en-suite family rooms (200 FB) while lazy camping rooms (USD 50 FB pppn) are ideal for taking in the view and a good night’s sleep. We’ve been open for 7 years and already won 4 TripAdvisor certificates of Excellence.

+256 772 722 688
bookings@attheriverishasha.com
www.attheriverishasha.com

Bush Lodge

An excellent base for your safari activities in Queen Elizabeth National Park, built along ecological principles. Its bandas are designed and spaced to maximise privacy and enhance the wildlife aspect of the lodge. Bordering the Kazinga channel in the northern part of the park, the lodge has animals literally roam over the camp and its surroundings, and the sounds of hippos and hyenas complement your star lit dinners. Finally, the Bush Lodge offers a safari experience that is affordable, with excellent food and friendly service. Rates range from USD 35 to USD 140 B&B.

+256 312 294 894
booking@naturelodges.biz
www.naturelodges.biz

Ruhija, Bwindi NP (p28)

Agandi Uganda

We are a social enterprise founded by people passionate for Uganda who share the vision of inclusive eco- tourism; we invite you to check out both our tailor-made safaris and the forest-edge lodge!

The Agandi Eco-lodge is found on the hills of Ruhija, with a 180° view over the chain of volcanoes and the primary forest, only a few minutes from the gorilla tracking point. All our types of accommodation are made with local materials and with the know-how of Ruhija people: 3 family cottages, 2 tree nests, 2 traditional Ugandan huts and 1 large camping platform with grass roofs. Also available: campfire, barbecue and dining, relaxing area, hammocks, yoga, massage and free wifi. Prices of cottages start at USD 150 and of camping at USD 20 (tents and sleeping bags available).

+256 393 241 250
info@agandiuganda.com
www.agandiuganda.com

Rushaga & Regional Hiking

Gorilla Highlands Trails

The Gorilla Highlands Trails are a prime example of prosperity that comes from work that carries dignity, far away from the usual tourism loop. This system of guided trips, started in 2005, connects the biggest regional attractions and allows visitors to meet and stay with locals who proudly share their cultures.

www.gorillahighlands.com/trails
Rushaga, Bwindi NP (p28)

Gorilla Valley Lodge

Hidden in a beautiful valley close to Rushaga, with fantastic panoramic views of Bwindi, this is a lodge to fall in love with. Our place from which you can trek any of the Gorilla groups in the southern sector of the park is also reasonably priced: a double on a full-board basis starts at USD 170.

+256 392 177 992, +256 777 820 071
postmaster@gorillatours.com
www.naturelodges.biz

Nshongi Camp

Ideally situated just 5 minutes walking distance from the UWA meeting point, this environmentally friendly accommodation is the perfect base for visiting the many gorilla groups in Rushaga.

Guests stay in cosy and clean traditional bandas right at the boundary of the forest, in a nice garden full of flowers. Perfect place for birdwatching. The kitchen serves delicious local food. The generator operates from 7-10pm.

Camping USD 4, dorm USD 8, bandas from USD 16.

+256 774 231 913
nshongicamp@gmail.com
nshongicamp.altervista.org

Rushaga Gorilla Camp

Built on 6 acres of land bordering Bwindi, Rushaga Gorilla Camp is providing great accomodation with all rooms having a private deck and ensuite bathrooms, fireplace and 24-hr service. Massage available. Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted.

The lodge is 10 minutes’ walk away from the gorilla tracking starting point. Its location on a mountain slope guarantees nice vistas of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and of a spring where elephants occasionally come down for a drink. Camping with own gear from USD 15; Standard Rooms from USD 80 B&B; Luxury tents from USD 110B&B.

+256 774 633 331, +256 752 409 510
info@rushaga.com
www.rushaga.com

The Gorilla Highlands Pocket Guide is a quarterly booklet printed in 10,000 copies. It is part of a transboundary initiative for economic and cultural transformation through branding and promotion, multimedia products and cultural tourism development.

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pocketguide@gorillahighlands.com
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+256 774 231 913
nshongicamp@gmail.com
nshongicamp.altervista.org

Allow yourself a treat...

Upgrade your gorilla rendezvous or volcano expedition with a couple of nights at Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel in Musanze...

Choose your perfect refuge, to relax and rejuvenate, among 11 bedrooms, a family suite or a private manor. Full-board prices start at USD 400.

www.fivevolcanoesrwanda.com
bookings@fivevolcanoesrwanda.com
+250 789 924 969
Wow... If you love the region as much as we do, your next action should be...

www.gorillahighlands.com

Learn more about this incredible area and book treks, tours and mountain gorilla tracking in the simplest way possible.