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GREAT APES EXPEDITION 2023

Last Chance Safaris is excited to announce the departure of its *Great Apes Expedition* to the ‘Pearl of Africa’, Uganda, in the summer of 2023 (15-27 August)!

Not only is Uganda home to the greatest diversity and density of primates in Africa, but it also has some of the smallest (Galagos weigh about 2oz.) and of course the largest (a silverback Mountain Gorilla comes in at upwards of 550lbs). It is a country of outstanding natural beauty with habitats ranging from the semi arid Kidepo Valley where elephant, buffalo and lions roam as they have done for millennia, to the verdant jungle of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest—home to the highly endangered Mountain Gorilla.

Last Chance Safaris has secured an August 2023 departure to search for Africa’s most celebrated primates and at the same time explore one of Africa’s best kept wilderness secrets. Grant Nel, a specialist guide with over three decades of guiding experience will lead the expedition, sharing his knowledge, and facilitating all aspects of the safari.



GREAT APES EXPEDITION 2023

Day 1 (14th August)

Depart from home - destination Entebbe, Uganda.

Day 2 (15th August)

On arrival at Entebbe International Airport, you will be met by Grant Nel and a personal driver who will transfer you to [The Boma](#) (15min) for an overnight stay that combines the right mix of comfort and hospitality to shake off the cobwebs of a long overseas flight. At breakfast the next morning, meet up with your fellow travellers and get fully briefed on the adventure ahead (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast).

Days 3-5 (16th-19th August)

After breakfast transfer back to the airport for a scheduled charter flight to Kidepo Valley National Park. This is a wilderness destination that flies under the normal safari radar, making it one of Africa's best kept secrets. An expansive savannah and swampland surrounded by rugged mountains, Kidepo Valley abounds with wildlife. Huge herds of buffalo are hunted by the resident lions whilst giraffe and elephant grace the plains with their haughty presence. [Apoka Safari Lodge](#) is your home for the next three nights—elegant and rustic merge into perfect hospitality with some of the best safari cuisine to be had anywhere in Africa! Days are spent on game viewing activities (walks, game drives and night drives) and a visit to a local Karamajong village. (Fully Inclusive).



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Days 6-8 (19th-22nd August)

A scheduled charter flight from Kidepo Valley takes you on to the next adventure. After landing at Kasese you will be met by a Ugandan guide and driven to Kibale Forest National Park (1.5hrs). As one of the last remaining expanses of lowland and montane forests in Africa, Kibale Forest National Park is home to the greatest diversity of primates on the continent. It also has the largest community of habituated wild chimpanzees to be found anywhere. [Primate Lodge](#), where you will be accommodated for the next 3 nights, is located inside the park and it is not unusual for the chimps to 'drop in' for a visit. Whilst at Kibale you will have two chances to track chimpanzees including a full day 'habituation' experience and enjoy an afternoon visit to the biodiverse Bigodi Swamp (Fully Inclusive).



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Day 9 (22nd August)

An early morning road trip back to Kasese airport (1.5hrs) precedes a charter flight to the little village of Kisoro in southern Uganda. Once again you will be welcomed by a local Ugandan guide and driven to the shores of Lake Mutanda—one of the many volcanic crater lakes that dot the Ugandan countryside—for a boating activity. After a picnic lunch you continue to climb the winding road towards the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and your luxury home for the next 3 nights — [Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge](#). The hospitality and cuisine at Clouds is legendary, so let your butler take care of your every whim whilst enjoying unrestricted views of the impressive volcanoes that are the Virunga Mountains (Fully Inclusive).

Days 10 & 11 (23rd & 24th August)

Over the next two days you have the opportunity to set out on the trail of two different gorilla families. With the help of the astute ranger teams and the strong legs and backs of your porters, you will explore the mountain kingdom of the world's largest primate. These critically endangered apes have been brought back from the edge of extinction through solid conservation efforts and the benefits of eco-tourism. With only one tourist group per day allowed to visit a family for one hour, it is a privilege and sobering experience to sit amongst these gentle giants.



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Days 12 & 13 (25th & 26th August)

Nestled in the extreme south west of Uganda is the impressively beautiful Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. Apart from being home to more mountain gorillas, Mgahinga is one of the last isolated refuges for one of Africa's rarest primates; the Golden Monkey. Today's drive heads to this remote corner with a detour to visit the NGO, [Gorilla Doctors](#), and learn about the important work that they do in monitoring and guarding the health of the mountain gorillas. The next day you head out on a Golden Monkey tracking experience to find this handsome primate; and who knows what else you may happen upon.

Your home from home is [Mount Gahinga Lodge](#) with its tastefully designed 'bandas' (cottages) and the now familiar butler service to spoil you completely (Fully Inclusive).

Day 14 (27th August)

On your final day in Africa you transfer by vehicle to the Rwandan capital of Kigali (4 hours). Here you will connect with your international flight home, or choose to spend another day or two exploring one of Africa's most fascinating cities.

GREAT APES EXPEDITION 2023

14-27 August departure—Max 6 sharing, Min 4 sharing, 1 single
Cost — US\$16,120 pp sharing (US\$17,880 single)

Includes:

- All accommodations in luxury lodges with full en-suite facilities;
- All activities unless otherwise specified;
- All meals unless otherwise specified;
- All refreshments, local spirits, house wines, beer & soft drinks (excl. The Boma, Entebbe)
- All local and regional air and land transfers;
- All taxes, permits and tourism related fees;
- Emergency evacuation insurance;
- The services of Grant Nel as specialist naturalist and tour leader.
- Gorilla, Chimpanzee and Golden Monkey permits are issued only on receipt of payment, are non-refundable and non-transferrable.
- A reasonable level of fitness is required to do gorilla treks, though porters and rangers make every effort to limit the strenuousness.
- Yellow fever vaccination is required for all visitors to Uganda.

Excludes:

- Visa entry fees
- Travel & medical insurance (highly recommended)
- Gratuities for local guides and lodge staff
- Costs of a personal nature
- Champagne, cellar wines & imported spirits
- International flights
- Unforeseen price increases for air travel and government taxes/levies