



Experience the Soul of Acholi

WESTERN UGANDA CIRCUIT

6 days / 5 nights

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1. Edge Of Kibale Forest
2. Chimp Tracking
3. Hot Springs Of Semuliki
4. Untamed Queen Elizabeth
5. Lake Bunyonyi
6. Return To Kampala



Highlights:

This 6-day journey is designed for those who want to experience the best of Western Uganda without feeling like they are constantly on the move. By spending two nights in the same lodge at the start and keeping the drive times manageable, you'll have plenty of time to breathe in the mountain air and actually enjoy the scenery.



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We'll start our journey early in the morning, heading west on a 310 KM drive toward Fort Portal. The route takes us through vibrant trading centers and eventually into the rolling green tea estates that signal our arrival in the primate capital. After lunch in Fort Portal, we'll move to the edge of Kibale Forest. We'll spend the afternoon on a gentle walk through the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, a community-run project where the boardwalks take you over swampy forest floors, perfect for spotting primates like the Red Colobus and the Great Blue Turaco bird. We'll settle into the lodge early so you can enjoy the sounds of the rainforest.



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Today is focused on the forest and its surroundings, covering only about 40 KM in local drives. After breakfast, the morning is dedicated to chimpanzee tracking; you'll follow the calls of the chimps through the undergrowth to spend an hour watching them socialise. In the afternoon, we'll take a short, scenic drive through the "top of the world" crater lakes area. You can take a relaxed walk to a viewpoint overlooking three different volcanic lakes with the Rwenzori Mountains in the background, then return to the lodge for dinner and an overnight stay.



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Today we take a 160 KM round trip down the winding rift valley escarpment to Semuliki. This park is a piece of the great Ituri forest from the Congo, and it feels truly wild. Often called a "birders' haven," it hosts over 400 bird species including the Nkulengu Rail and Congo Serpent Eagle and boasts of 53 mammal species. After Lunch, We'll walk to the Sempaya Hot Springs to see the water bubbling up from the earth and spend time with the local Batwa community. It's a fascinating, off-the-beaten-path day. We'll drive back up the escarpment to Fort Portal in the late afternoon for a relaxed dinner and overnight stay at your accommodation.



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After a relaxed breakfast, we head south for approximately 120 KM. It's a short drive of about two hours, so there's no rush. We'll cross the Equator and enter Queen Elizabeth National Park in time for lunch. In the afternoon, we'll board the boat for the Kazinga Channel cruise. Since we aren't rushing from a long drive, you'll be fresh and ready to enjoy the hippos, elephants, and crocodiles along the banks. We'll head to the lodge early for a sundowner overlooking the park.



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We'll start with a morning game drive across the Kasenya plains to look for lions and buffaloes while the air is still cool. Mid-morning, we begin the climb into the Kigezi highlands, a scenic journey of about 180 KM. The road winds upward, offering incredible views of the terraced hills. We'll reach Lake Bunyonyi by mid-afternoon. Instead of just arriving and sleeping, you'll have the whole evening to sit by the water, take a swim in the bilharzia-free lake, or enjoy a drink as the mist settles over the 29 islands.



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Since the final leg back to Kampala is about 420 KM, we'll keep the morning very simple. You can enjoy a late breakfast on the terrace or take a 30-minute dugout canoe ride to see the nearby islands then We'll begin the journey back. We'll stop for a local lunch in Mbarara and a final coffee break at the Equator, arriving back in Kampala by early evening.