









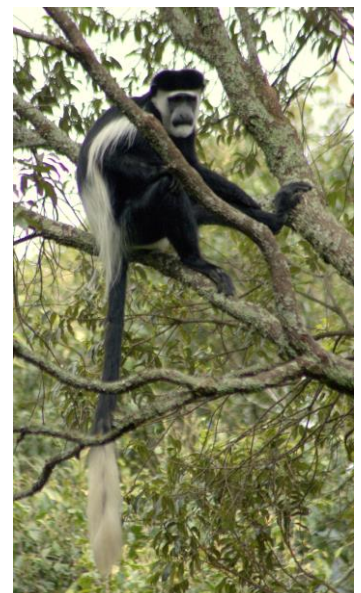
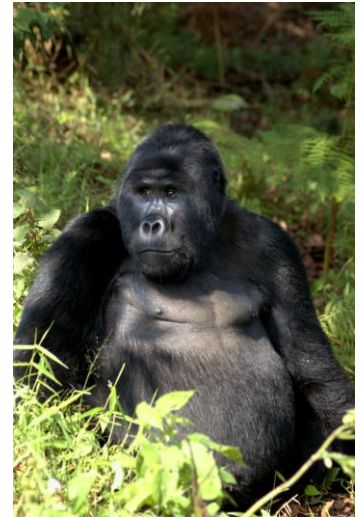
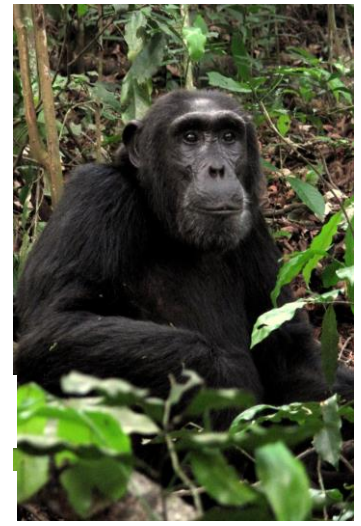


The Ultimate Primate Tour

Destination: Uganda & Rwanda **Duration:** 10 Days **Dates:** 3rd – 13th June

-  Seeing a total of 11 different species of primates throughout the tour
-  Tracking the 23 & 17 member strong Orouzogo & Hirwa groups of gorillas
-  Enjoying spectacular views out over the Congo Rainforest and Virugna Mountains
-  Spending a whole 12 hours in the company of chimpanzees in Kibale Forest
-  Spotting elephant, buffalo, Uganda kob, waterbuck and other mammals in QENP
-  Being completely accepted by Otaka a 9 year old black-back only 3-4m away
-  Becoming part of the Hirwa gorilla group in Rwanda as they travelled and fed
-  Observing over 160 different species of birds including stunning turacos
-  Being charged by a silverback and Anjali getting a friendly whack from a youngster
-  Watching a chimp at close quarters building a night nest before bedding down



Tour Leader / Guides

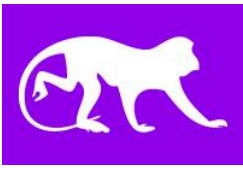
Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
 Ronnie (Local Guide & Driver)
 Alex (Kibale Forest NP Guide)
 Ivan (Bigodi Wetlands Community Forest Guide)
 Eric (Bwindi Nature Walk Guide)
 Ferguson & Rodgers (Volcanoes NP Gorilla Guides)
 Augustin & Francis (Volcanoes NP Golden Monkey Guides)

Participants

Mr. Robert Hinch
 Mrs. Anjali Hinch

Overview

Day 1:	Entebbe
Days 2-4:	Kibale NP
Days 5-7:	Bwindi NP
Days 8-10:	Volcans NP
Day 11:	Home



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

There are very groups of animals that capture the imagination and tug on our heart strings in the same way that primates do. From tiny, solitary and nocturnal bush-babies to the colourful and endemic lemurs of Madagascar the world of the primate is a varied and special one. But we can go a step further with primates and it maybe a step backwards, towards our very early ancestors and possibly to a time when humans and early hominids faced the same challenges as the present day great apes do in the forests of central Africa. It is a widely known and accepted fact that chimpanzees are our closest living cousins (depending on what book or article you read we share 90 – 99% of our DNA with them). But not many people realise just how human like their societies and personalities really are. It seems the more we find out about chimps and their 'darker' side the more we see ourselves as a species reflected in them. From tool use to make sponges, hammers, anvils, straws and even spears to their varied use of sound, facial expressions and body language; as well as from their strong friendship bonds and the forming of coalitions to the horrific acts of kidnapping, rape, murder, torture and cannibalism; chimps share not just the better sides of human nature but many of our more barbaric traits too. But living almost alongside this highly intelligent and complex social animal lives an even larger relative of ours. Albeit an older relative and one with their own strict social system and intricate system of sounds, body language and social rank. This huge primate (the largest of them all) in almost completely vegetarian (excluding the odd ant here and there) and they are often dubbed gentle giants. I am of course talking about the wonderful mountain gorillas. There are only 4 places in the world were this species can be seen and only 2 where sightings are assured and it is currently safe to visit. One of these national parks is the aptly named Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda and the second the very famous former home field station of primatologist Dian Fossey, Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. Around 80% of the mountain gorilla population resides in these two national parks; and it is two family harems of gorillas here that will make up the basis for this tour.

But it would not be a true primate tour without also spending some time with our closest relatives. Tracking and observing of chimpanzees can be done in Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Burundi but it is in a very special rainforest park in Uganda (Kibale Forest National Park), where you can extend the usual viewing time from one hour to a full day. This unique habituation experience is truly magical and will not just showcase the chimps but other primates that share their forest and also sometimes become food for the chimps. By sharing the forest with probably the loudest mammal in Africa and watching them find food, mate and interact together in their large community is one of the best wildlife encounters you can have anywhere in the world.

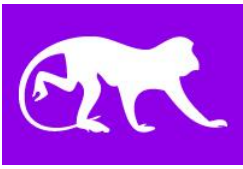
In addition to the gorillas and chimps we hope to find on this tour we will also be targeting a further 8 species of primates as well as trying our luck in Queen Elizabeth National Park as we transect the park to get from Kibale to Bwindi. By visiting both Uganda and then Rwanda we will be travelling through a great variety of ecosystems. From lowland tropical rainforest and Afro-montane forest to bamboo forest and open savannah. It is this range of habitats that will hopefully bring us into contact with one of the greatest diversities of primates anywhere in the world.



Day 1 **Entebbe**

Arrival & Sightseeing

This morning Robert and Anjali were collected at the airport by their zoologist escort (Martin Royle) and their local guide and driver (RonnieMuwamda). From here we travelled the short distance to the hotel for the night. The accommodation is the rather large and grand Imperial Beach Resort Hotel and with the grounds extending to the shores of Lake Victoria it seemed like an ideal place to start this primate adventure. In fact during lunch Martin spotted a male tantalus monkey walking through the car park at the front of the hotel. However that would be the only primate we would see today. It was not without trying; after a rest break on arrival and lunch we headed through Entebbe towards the Uganda Wildlife Authority Educational Centre. This former zoo has been subject to huge changes in recent years and the focus now is rehabilitation of injured or orphaned animals. In fact they do not have any animals that have not been injured or found in a sorry state throughout the country. The centre in also pioneering education of all levels to the local community and regularly conducts outreach programmes and educational displays. We decided on visiting this centre as there are a couple of wild troops of monkeys inhabiting the park. Firstly the very versatile vervet monkey (who seem very at home living around people) and the very



beautiful black and white colobus. However we arrived a little late in the day and the temperature was quite high and the monkeys were probably in the dense forest around the centre to escape the sun. But despite no wild monkeys we did enjoy the welcome and introduction to a lot of Ugandan wildlife and by watching the small troop of chimpanzees (all of whom have been orphaned or confiscated via the illegal pet trade) as they interacted with each other, we were able to put some of the chimpanzee behaviour theory into practise and observe the begging, mating, pant-hooting, dominance behaviours, coalitions, grooming and many more subtle behaviours at close quarters. Although ironically we would be closer to wild chimpanzees with any luck in Kibale. The reason for this is that wild chimps do not know their superior strength and speed and so are far less likely to cause a problem to humans than captive chimps that are fully aware of their power relative to us.

Later that evening we left the hotel and visited a nearby restaurant for dinner. The only other notable incident of the day was when we were leaving the hotel to go to the restaurant the air and ground was swarming with lake flies. They must breed on mass after emerging from the lake at the end of the wet season and literally millions of them littered the floor all over Entebbe as we left the restaurant and headed back to the hotel.

Day 2 **Kibale Forest NP**

Travelling & Rest Day

After breakfast we left the shores of Lake Victoria to begin our journey west and almost across the entire width of Uganda. Our destination is the very special lowland rainforest of Kibale. Made a national park 1993 after 60 years of some level of protection or another since it was first gazetted in 1933. This park is home to 13 different species of primates and has one of the highest densities of primates anywhere in the world. But there is one primate in particular that makes Kibale a stand out destination. This is the chimpanzee, our closest living relative and an animal that almost seems to hold a mirror up to us, they are so similar in social interactions with one another and many of their behaviours. There are around 1,450 living in the forest and one troop in particular the Kanyawara group (which means Lion's Hill group) is around 150 strong. This troop has been habituated since 1993 and from 2001 onwards people have been able to track the troop from the moment they wake up until they make their night nests as darkness sets in. This full day habituation experience will be the activity for us tomorrow. But for the majority of today we travelled to the closest town to Kibale, Fort Portal. Here we changed some dollars to local Ugandan Shillings and ate lunch; before continuing to the isolated Ndali Lodge. This beautiful and well run boutique lodge is located on a narrow hill overlooking a couple of stunning crater lakes. One of which (Bunyaruguru Crater Lake) was a short (if not steep) walk down through some pristine forest. Over the other side the view extended for miles over the Ugandan hills and agricultural plains. Rest and relaxation was the order of the day here at Ndali and after being very warmly welcomed by the staff and owners Aubrey and Claire, Anjali and Robert decided to take the small canoe out onto Bunyaruguru Crater Lake in the afternoon. Whilst gliding effortlessly through the perfectly still water they came across a group of tantalus monkeys feeding (this species is the Central African member of the vervet monkey species complex) on a fruiting fig tree over the water. Later describing how interested the monkeys were in them, they were able to get very close to them and even notice the mature males very colourful genitals. Once a dominant male in the troop the testicles develop a bright electric blue colour which is in stark contrast to the pink penis. This was the first of many indications throughout the trip about how important sexual maturity and dominance are in primate societies (most of which is mirrored in humans to some extent!). Other than the vervet monkeys the bird life around the lodge is exceptional. We spotted close to 50 different species in our three nights here and that number would certainly have been higher if we had been specifically looking out for birds. The other wildlife of note were the very colourful and engaging blue-headed agamas. The males of which have exceptionally blue heads which they bob up and down to attract mates and communicate with other lizards.

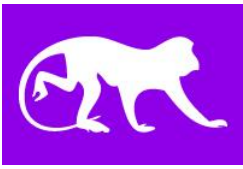
After Robert and Anjali had returned and we had freshened up we settled down for the wonderful 4 course meal with the other guests staying at Ndali Lodge. The friendly and open atmosphere offered by Aubrey and Claire at Ndali is so refreshing and really adds to the overall experience of the stay here. It feels like coming back to your own home as you relax on the veranda of your own cottage or the main lodge and enjoy the stunning views and a drink until dinner is ready. After the excellent meal we headed to our cottages to get a good nights sleep before the very early (05:00am we would be leaving the lodge and driving to the starting point of Kanyucha located deep into the Kibale Forest) start tomorrow as we had a morning date with the Kanyawara chimpanzees of Kibale Forest.



Day 3 **Kibale Forest NP**

Chimpanzee Tracking

Early this morning we left the Ndali Lodge and began the drive towards Kibale Forest NP. When we arrived we were welcomed by the local forest rangers before heading into the forest in search of the chimps. We were to be in the expert care of Alex as we tracked the primates through the rainforest. Our starting point would be the nesting point



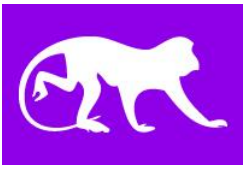
for last night, it is very unusual for chimps to awake in the night and move to another site to it's a good bet that where they were seen to bed down will be where they are the next morning at dawn. In fact we had seen our first chimps waking up and beginning to move around before Alex had finished briefing us on the forest.

The large community of chimps in this group spend the night close together but due to the size of the community their nests can be spread out over a couple of hundred square meters. Once they are awake they split up into much smaller groups and forage throughout the forest in search of fruiting trees. This reduces competition amongst the individuals and the chimps here spend a far larger percentage of their time on their own or in pairs as do some other communities. The females are much less social and more solitary than the males and as a rule they are more difficult to get close to when tracking them. Despite their food competition there is an interesting behaviour called the food call, that males make on finding a large body of fruit. Females hardly ever make this call and tend to keep the food for themselves. It is believed that the males benefit from sharing food as it shows the females that this individual is capable of finding food and would therefore make a good mate. It also solidifies male-male bonds, which are critical to the ambitions of individual chimps as they vie for top spot and the best mating rites. The females rarely make this call as the females are usually unrelated individuals and they are all competing with one another for the best males in the group as well as the most food so that they are in ideal breeding condition, or have enough food during lactation and for their young infants.

The complex socio-ecology of chimpanzees is far too deep for me to attempt to explain it now, but you can be sure that the individuals in the group display close friendships, form coalitions, lie to and cheat each other, females give out sexual favours to males they may want support from in the future and they even form close bonds with individual males and will go behind the back of the alpha male during oestrous to mate with the less dominate male. Their triadic friendships and coalitions are key in males gaining upper hands on others and challenging dominant chimps and they even seem to plan future possible interactions between other individuals and pick and choose sides based on these future social interactions. The knowledge chimps seem to possess of other individual's personalities and social rankings is incredible and some chimps have been known to accept being second or third in command for an interim period whilst knowing that the leader they support will not last long (maybe he is too forceful or not benevolent enough) and when the community makes moves against him the lower ranked chimp is in the perfect place to launch a coup and gain dominance. It sounds too far fetched for animals and more like a scene from *Planet of the Apes* I can assure you that long term studies both in the wild and captivity have shown events like this to be more common to be purely produced by random chance.

As we followed and watched the chimps all day they exhibited some of these behaviours (with many events being very subtle and hard to decipher over a short period of time) and many more behaviours we were fascinated by the many ways it is similar to watching human society. One of the only differences being that chimps do not make any bones about ambition and selfishness being anything else than a perfectly natural part of complex primate society. A great book explaining some of the complex intricacies of chimpanzee society and how closely it mirrors our own political systems is the 25 year old '*Chimpanzee Politics*' by Frans de Waal – this book is such a hit and draws upon the comparisons between human and chimp societies that it is recommended to first term congressman before taking office in the US.

What follows is a summary of some of the encounters and behaviours we saw throughout the day, the first close sighting we got was around 30 mins in when Magezi, the alpha male, (recognisable from his constantly bristling hair standing on end, giving the impression of being far larger and more powerful than other males, even though it is not always the largest and strongest chimps that gain dominance). He was sat at the base of a tree with another male in a tree close by and a female in oestrous and her nearly independent offspring. We sat and watched as the male signalled to the female his willingness to mate by showing his erect penis in her direction and she climbed down and made herself receptive in front of him. Whilst this was occurring the infant was occupied in making a small nest around 10m off the ground. This small group then moved off and we followed, it wasn't long before the same female mated with another adult male, a male known to be in the top 3-4 males in the whole community. This mating was done without the alpha seeing as the alphas try to keep all mating of females in oestrous to himself. Mating occurs throughout the year and between all individuals, but for the few days a month when the females are receptive the alpha male tries to guard them so only he produces the infants in the community. However this rarely happens but the confusion of who has sired the infants means that each of the adult males protects all the infants in the community. Following the pant-hoots and loud wrags of the chimps we arrived at a large fig tree with impressive buttress roots, which the alpha male used to drum his feet powerfully against and produce a very loud deep sound. We watched as a couple of younger chimps came down (around 10-14 years old) and gave respect calls to the alpha before continuing onwards. The use of respect calls and physical contact is very important in chimp community as a means of establishing and reinforcing bonds between individuals. We also saw another male called Totti buttress drumming before heading to an area of the forest where a fallen tree had created a small clearing in the canopy. This bright little clearing was a great way of seeing a couple of males sat on the fallen trunk of the tree in the sun. They groomed for a while before heading off into the forest. Shortly after another male (presumably younger due to his pinker skin and smaller size) moved onto the log and moved towards us and showed his eagerness to mate. This enticed the same female we saw mate earlier come down from the trees and mate with him. Once these two chimps had moved away we settled down for some breakfast. Eating breakfast in the forest, surrounded by chimps is very special.



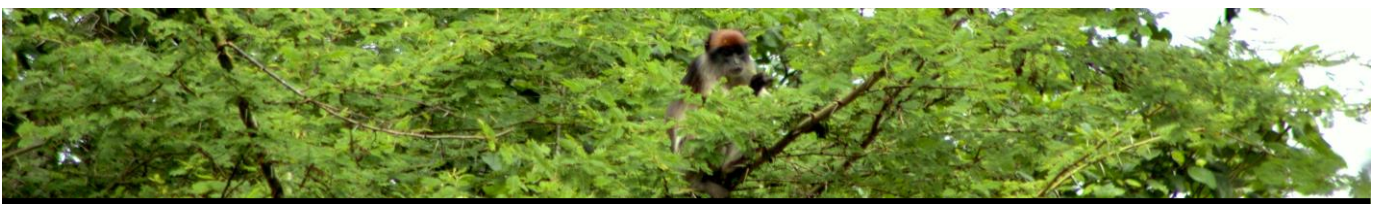
After breakfast we continued onwards and loosely followed a group of 3 males and 2 females as they moved purposely towards a fruiting fig tree. Whilst we were close to this group of 5 individuals there were numerous other chimps walking on the ground and in the trees around us and around 12-15 chimps ascended into the tree and began to gorge on the ripe figs. After around 30 mins of watching the group in the tree they began to move off, it was then we got close up views of Totti as he sat with a handful of figs and fed to his hearts content; they have an unusual method of eating figs. They squeeze the figs in their flexible lips and push the fruit against their teeth to get the juice out and then discard the skin of the fig. They can often fit numerous figs into one mouthful and have very enlarged cheeks and lower lips. We also saw a couple of chimps actively collecting a small green fruit off the floor as we moved through the forest, we tried this fruit and were shocked by the heat inside this fruit. It was particularly spicy and given the relish that the chimps enjoyed this fruit they obviously have a high tolerance for spicy food.

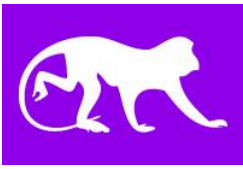
The next individual that we got a good close up view of was Taboo, this male has an injured left hand from it once being caught in a poachers snare. Alex told us that whilst poaching still exists in the forest it is declining. Shortly after this we were treated to a very intimate behaviour of two males (Kosa and Gurarni) grooming each other intently and tenderly for around 45 mins. Watching from only around 5m away we were amazed to see the thoroughness of the grooming. There was then a flurry of vocalisations in the distance, the extent of the calling and excitement shown in all the individuals signified that it was probably a nearby community that was calling and caused such alarm. This was particularly evident when Kosa and Gurarni embraced each other and kissed before heading out towards the commotion. This contact is a way of ensuring that if there is a violent interaction coming up that they will both have each other's back in the conflict. As it happened we didn't see any intergroup interactions and instead lost the group. They moved very quickly and as we spent so much time with Kosa and Gurarni we had lost the rest of the group. We then spent the next hour or so wandering and trying to pick up any distant pant-hoots or warghs. However the chimps chose now to remain completely silent; we settled down and lunched before continuing the search. A further 20 mins or so of searching after lunch found a large group feeding in another fruiting fig tree, it was thanks to their loud pant-hoots that we found them. Close by the feeding chimps we saw a small group of olive baboons feeding in a neighbouring tree. As we sat and watched for a little while the chimps began to move off and very quickly. For the next couple of hours we followed 2 or 3 males on and off as they quickly moved through dense undergrowth. On a couple of occasions we lost them for a while and decided to head back to the likely nesting site. Whilst chimps nest in different places each night, they tend to nest in the same rough part of their home range. In fact in a community of this size some members of the community stay around the nesting area all day; so we were confident of finding some other chimps around here. We were not disappointed with many chimps moving around here and others coming back from a day foraging in the forest.

Then as the light was beginning to fade and we were about to leave and head back to Ndali Lodge that Robert noticed a chimp beginning to build his night nest. He had chosen a smallish tree around 10m high in perfect visibility and we watched with great interest as he folded down branch after branch into a crude woven basket of sorts and lay down in it. But he wasn't happy with this and continued to amend the nest until maximum comfort was achieved. This was an amazing highlight and a behaviour that few none researchers see, a fact exemplified by Aubrey around the dinner table that night when he said that we were first group to participate in the full day habituation programme whilst staying at Ndali Lodge who actually put the chimps to bed. It was now that the visibility in the forest was getting quite bad and we decided to leave. Ronnie came to meet us and we headed back towards Ndali Lodge.

Other than the chimps we were also treated to good views of grey-cheeked mangabeys (which as of 2007 were split into 5 different species by the primate taxonomist Colin Groves; including the endemic Ugandan mangabey; which is the species we saw), red-tailed monkeys, olive baboons and also Martin spotted two blue monkeys very briefly high in the canopy. Other than the primates there was not too much else seen in the forest, we spotted some elephant and duiker dung along some of the commonly used trails as well as huge variety and number of butterflies. The birdlife is particularly hard in the lower levels of a tropical rainforest and barring Alex spotting the endemic green-breasted pitta we didn't have any bird sightings of note.

On arrival back at the lodge we freshened up before enjoying a well deserved cold drink and another wonderful meal with Aubrey, Claire, another holidaying couple and 3 archaeologists who were planning to unearth some of the earliest inhabitants of this part of Africa. They have recently found evidence of communities inhabiting the crater lakes from 3,000 years ago. It was all in all a very fascinating day albeit a long one which included a full 12 hours of tracking the chimps through the forest. Tomorrow would be a more leisurely start as we would head to Bigodi Wetlands, a community project set up by the local people to help conserve the wetlands for primates, birds and vegetation as well as contributing towards the incomes of the local people.





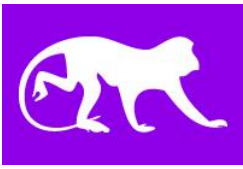
This morning we headed back towards Kibale Forest and actually through the forest to the western side of the park and the community of Bigodi. Here an initiative was set up whereby the local people started to plant native plants and trees around a wetland area and leaving fruit and seeds out in the new forest. This established a thriving plant community as well as attracting many species of birds and several primate species to this new protected area. A great benefit of this is that the local people now generate an income from the sanctuary; either through direct employment as guides, trail maintenance, snare patrols and administration to indirectly through souvenir and food concessions and by receiving some of the revenue generated by tourism.

On the way to the sanctuary we took a road that dissected some of the largest tea plantations in Africa; the views out across the vast tea plantations were spectacular and as we continued the journey it wasn't long before we encountered the first primate of the day. A large troop (probably approaching 60 in number) of olive baboons were seen moving along the roadside towards us. The large troop was fragmented and foraging for seeds and vegetation along the side of the road. There were numerous females and youngsters from yearlings to adolescents, we also saw 4-5 large males including the dominate alpha. His massive size and power was impressive, they are incredibly sexual dimorphic and in baboon society there are numerous subgroups inside the whole troop. The overlord has rank above all other baboons but there are other males that hold a rank over other males and all females. These subordinate males may control a small group of 5-10 inside the overall troop although mating opportunities are less for these subordinate males as the overlord usually mates with all females when they are in oestrous. But the females in baboon society have a further level of ranking, all the females hold an overall rank with each other and this rank is passed onto their female offspring. This means that it is not uncommon for an infant of a high ranking female to displace an adult female (of a lower rank to the infant's mother) during feeding or grooming. These ranks then stay with the individual for life. There is far less movement in ranking in female baboons as there is in males and in other primates such as chimps. This means that there is less social intelligence in baboons but they do show exceptional awareness of their own and other individuals rankings.

Once we arrived in the wetland we met our local guide called Ivan and we headed around the short walking trail. This small area of wetland has a prolific amount of birdlife with some excellent sightings of great blue turaco and Ross's turaco. These are beautiful large blue birds which are endemic to Africa, other nice bird sightings include numerous weavers, flycatchers and of course lots of exquisitely coloured sunbirds. Other noticeable birds were many black and white casqued hornbills. These huge birds were very noisy birds throughout most of the walk. They flew with loud wing beats between fruiting trees and then proceeded to feed loudly as they crashed through the branches and called to each other. They made an interesting contrast to the near silent and much smaller sunbirds as they briefly fluttered in front of flowers and perched precariously over flowers to collect the sweet nectar. These birds are the African equivalent of American hummingbirds, however not as specialist as some of the hummingbird species they are similarly coloured with iridescent feathers and bold colours. With over 60 different species of birds seen today we really did get a good overview Ugandan birdlife. But it was not just the birds that make this forest an excellent place to visit. Even before we entered the wetlands proper we spotted a mixed foraging group of red-tailed monkeys and Ugandan mangabeys close to the trail. But it wasn't until we got to a main pathway in the wetland that we got great views of primates, we first noticed a larger species low down in a tree over the pathway. This red and greyish monkey has a distinct red fringe above a mostly greyish face. This is chimpanzee's preferred prey the Ugandan red colobus. The red colobus genus *procolobus* was recently split into 11 distinct species and this particular species; *Procolobus tephrosceles*; is confined to western Tanzania and Uganda and is only known from 5 different locations. The population around Kibale being the largest in the world. One of the reasons why chimps love to prey on this primates is that they are the most aggressive species in the forests here. This means that they will actively approach chimps to try and fight them off, this enables the chimps to get closer to them before starting a hunt. Close to this individual was a small group of red-tailed monkeys feeding close to the red colobus. These smaller guenons (or true monkeys) like the added protection they receive from the red colobus and are often found feeding close together. As we got closer to the two species the differences in size, colouration and facial patterns were evident. The most important difference between colobuses (of colobine monkeys) and guenons is not so noticeable; this is the fact that colobines only have 4 fingers on their hands. In fact these specific folivores name colobus means 'without thumbs'. The exact reason for this adaptation is not fully understood. As we got closer to the red colobus we saw more in a group spread out across a few trees. Ivan then spotted a lone L'Hoest's monkey feeding on his own on the other side of the pathway. This species is also a guenon and has a distinct white 'beard' and black face which makes this species recognisable.

We continued onwards and spotted many more species of birds, however it was an unexpected species than made up the next noticeable sighting. Just as we were walking along Martin happened to look down and noticed what at first looked like Robert's shoelace until it moved and the form of an olive-house snake came into view and slithered off into the dense vegetation at the side of the path. We also spotted another mammal close to the end of the walk. This time it wasn't a primate but it was another arboreal species. The very loud Boehm's squirrel. This small squirrel was very defensive of its small territory in the bamboo and made its dislike of us being there very obvious.

We finished the walk in a few hours and after so many great birds and stunning primates we sat down to lunch at the starting point before heading back towards Ndali Lodge. Not long after we set off the heavens opened and a heavy rainstorm ensued. This rain was a real bonus as we spotted two species on the drive back with would almost certainly remained hidden without the rainstorm. The first was a small reddish-brown deer-like animal with a pattern of white spots and blotches on the flanks and back. Being not much bigger than a hare in size the animal showed



an unusual defensive response to the large and loud vehicle and stopped still and hid in long grass, with only its back visible. This behaviour along with the distinctive white markings and deer-like (as opposed to antelope like) movement was indicative of a water chevrotain. This widely distributed and abundant species is just very difficult to see and in Kibale is seldom ever seen. As we continued onwards Martin spotted arguably the most dangerous animal in Africa. Not the hippopotamus or crocodile but the snake responsible for more bites and fatalities than any other species. This elusive and beautifully marked puff adder. They are strictly nocturnal and only make occasional forays in daylight during or just after rainstorms.

This topped off an excellent day of wildlife watching and after another relaxing evening and great meal in Ndali Lodge we were ready to head to the Afro-montane forests of the Bwindi Impenetrable forest tomorrow morning.



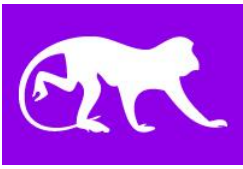
Day 5 Queen Elizabeth & Bwindi NP *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

Our proposed route through the far western Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park and the more direct approach to Bwindi was unavailable to us. This was due to a major bridge along the way being down. There is a large mine in this area and the huge trucks transporting the valuable ore to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Tanzania are often unchecked and as a result the heavily overloaded trucks had collapsed the bridge and the roads were effectively closed to this part of the park.

Our new route would involve a de-tour of some 4-5 extra hours and unfortunately would mean next to no chance of spotting any lions on the way through QENP. The main reason that Ishasha is such a good place to spot lions (even when you don't have lots of time) is that they climb trees in this part of Africa very often and this unusual behaviour makes spotting them pretty easy. This setback is not to say that we wouldn't have the chance of spotting some wildlife, the major highway through the park often has a wealth of wildlife close to the road. After crossing the equator shortly after entering the park we quickly began to spot wildlife. Including numerous black-headed weaver colonies with the males busy making nests for the females to destroy if they are not completely happy with his efforts, only for him to start all over again. Some of these colonies close to the road are a couple of hundred strong and watching them flying to and from carrying pieces of grass and weaving their intricate nests.

We were not long into the park when we spotted a large herd of African buffalo as well as the endemic and beautiful Ugandan kob. This antelope superficially resembles the impala but are not closely related. They were seen in large numbers along with buffalo in small groups of 5-6 to herds of a few dozen. Interspersed with the kob were the larger and very impressive waterbuck. This subspecies is the Defassa waterbuck, the difference being the large white rump patch instead of a white circle around the tail and rump. We also had a far glimpse of an African elephant, the large solitary male was feeding on a tree close to a large buffalo herd, we also spotted a family group of warthogs including some very small juveniles barely visible above the long grass. As far as birds went we spotted very colourful red bishops and the common hammerkops and marabou storks before coming across a small fishing village located on the channel linking Lake George and Lake Edward. Just before we headed over the bridge we spotted the tell tale nostrils and ears of a couple of hippos. They were very close to the shore and the local fishing boats, this is quite unusual for the usually aggressive hippo in African waterways. But this small population around the village is very used to people and do not pose the usual threat to human life. Once over the channel and into the southern section of the park we spotted fewer animals and a large troop of olive baboons on either side of the road was the most notable sighting. So we continued on and after a short dinner break and more driving through rural Uganda we began the gradual climb towards the mountains of the Albertine Rift (where Bwindi is located). We also got very nice views of the Rwenzori Mountains, these very high mountains have a permanent snow and ice covered summits. As we climbed higher and higher we didn't notice any change from agriculture to forest, the reason for this is that the pressure for land is so high in this small country with a burgeoning population there is no room for a buffer zone for the park and in fact the demarcation line at the boundary is stark. The fields and plantations extend right up to the border of the park. This really highlights some of the plights facing mountain gorillas and some other wildlife in Uganda as human encroachment continues.

As we entered the forest we quickly encountered a large foraging group of female and infant L'Hoest's monkeys crossing the road in front of the vehicle. We also spotted a small group of black and white colobus monkeys in a distance tree. But as the light was fading and this species is very common here we decided against a prolonged view and headed on to the lodge. Ruhija is a relatively new destination for tourists in Bwindi. There are two groups of gorillas that live around this part of the park (as opposed to the more commonly visited Buhoma section) and so it tends to be much quieter and more relaxing as a destination. In fact we had the entire lodge and their very good staff to ourselves. Another highlight here was the amazing views out over the mountains. The row after row of rolling forested hills fading into the mist is an awesome sight as you look at over the Congo River basin and rainforest. After a great meal we got an early night in preparation of our first gorilla trek tomorrow.



Day 6 **Bwindi Impenetrable NP**

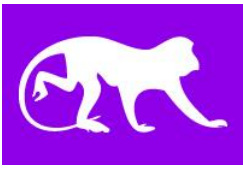
Gorilla Tracking

After breakfast we left for the Ruhija section headquarters and met the rest of our party. Each gorilla group in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC are allowed a maximum of 8 tourists to visit them for 1 hour per day. So we had a briefing with the Ugandan Wildlife Authority rangers and guides with the other 5 tourists; a mixed bunch of American and Australians. We were told about the different individuals of the Ourzogo group. This group contains 1 silverback (Bakwate), 3 blackbacks (Otaka, Muntu and Busungu), 9 adult females (Bwoba, Musi, Karwani, Ntamurungi, Birungi, Kaganga, Nyakina, Kakobe and Mutesi), 8 infants and adolescents (Kajoka, Kirombe, Bukyura, Karimi, Kanywani, Wasiwasi, Toto and Kashura) and 2 young babies without names yet. The babies belonging to Musi and Ntamurungi. This makes a total of 23 individuals in this group. After this briefing and getting thoroughly excited about the prospects of tracking such a large group we set off for a short drive to the place where the trackers had spotted the group. Each morning the trackers set off to the place where the group made their night nests and then track the group from there. As it happened today the group had not moved very far and after a 20 minute descent down the steep hill into the forest we were told to leave our bags and walking sticks with the porters and carry on the next 10-20m downhill towards the group. At first we couldn't see or notice anything different, but then a few cracking branches were heard and the vines leading up to a nearby tree were being pulled down from a large black shape underneath.

As we got closer the silverback, Bakwate, gave the UWA guide a small charge as a welcoming to the group. After this little stunt we were able to get close to the majority of the group. Toto was climbing a tree and plucking leaves from the vines around him. The first few minutes involved watching Toto close up as he climbed the tree close to us and Bakwate as he ate and moved around us in a slow and steady fashion. We also got views of Ntamurungi and her baby at a distance as they sat in the thick vegetation and fed, Musi and her baby and in particular the baby as it climbed high in a tree around 50m from our vantage point. The baby showing great upper body strength and composure in climbing the vines to a height of around 20m above the watchful Musi. Also in this group at the bottom of the valley we saw Karimi, Kanywani, Wasiwasi and Kaganga as they fed in various positions around the feeding Bakwate. The lives of gorillas is heavily centred around the dominant silverback and even in group with more than one silverback (an uncommon event in mountain gorillas and never seen in lowland gorillas) there is always one dominant individual. It is the silverback that decides where to move, when to stop and eat, when to rest and sleep etc. He is also the perfect protector and will often fight to the death to protect his family from natural and unnatural predators (leopards being natural and human poachers being unnatural). This level of importance is exemplified when watching the feeding and playing positions that the other gorillas take up around the silverback. He plays a particular role in the lives of his infants. He often plays with them and if one of their mothers dies he will even take special care of the infant and let them share his night nest. The females also like to spend time close to the silverback and as they are all unrelated females they compete heavily with each other for the silverback's attention and protection. In fact through various studies scientists have found that each individual spends more time with the silverback than they do with any other gorilla (barring mother and baby relationships).

We spent around a further 30 mins in the midst of the feeding group, but the views were largely obscured by thick vegetation, so the guides decided to try and move further up the hillside to see if we can find one of the blackbacks. It is the blackbacks (aged between 8-12 years old and not yet completely fully grown and mature) that tend to interact with people more as they are beginning to explore their boundaries. In the Ourzogo group the 'friendliest' individual is a blackback named Muntu. It was Muntu that we encountered next as he sat and fed on the slope just above the silverback. Unfortunately we were not able to get into a suitable position to observe the 'friendly' Muntu very closely for long and we continued as the trackers had located a second blackback, Otaka a little further up the slope. As we approached Otaka he was sitting in a little clearing with excellent sunlight. This allowed for get close up shots and as the impressive male got up and walked past us to lie down and have a little snooze in a flowered section of the clearing, making for some very nice photograph compositions. We stayed around Otaka for a further 15-20 mins before heading back to the road (via a steep climb of around 20 mins) up the opposite slope we had descended. On meeting Ronnie again we thanked the trackers, rangers and guides and headed back to the headquarters to receive the tracking certificate. On the way we spotted a couple of troops of black and white colobus monkeys, one crossing the road and the other in a tree close to the road. We watched this magnificent primate with its crisp black and white markings and almost frilly cape trailing from their shoulders down their flanks as they fed and jumped from tree to tree. What a great way to cap off a fantastic morning.

When we arrived back at the lodge we ate our lunch and took the rest of the day off to relax and explore the nearby village and see what walks we could do tomorrow as well as reliving the incredible experience of spending some of



the morning in the presence of one of the most magical species in the entire world. In the evening after dinner we went for a short spotlighting walk just past Ruhija in search of galagos (bushbabies) but with no luck.



Day 7 **Bwindi Impenetrable NP**

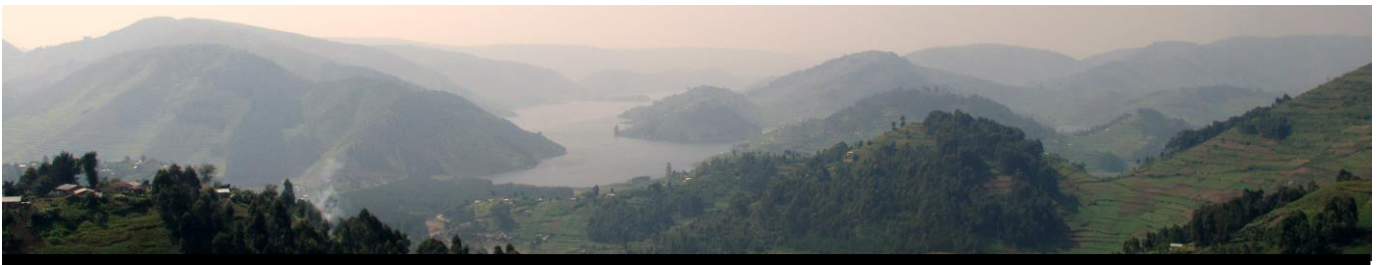
Wildlife Watching

Today we took advantage of another community ecotourism initiative and headed out through a section of the forest and onto some agricultural land with the expert help of a local naturalist guide named Eric. His knowledge of the once again prolific birdlife was exceptional. Even before leaving the village of Ruhija we spotted a male L'Hoest's monkey. The males are usually solitary whilst the females and youngsters live in larger communities between 10-17 strong on average. Then we headed into the forest and immediately were struck by a vast array of birdlife. We stood and watched as flycatchers and sunbirds fluttered in and around the trees catching insects and collecting nectar respectively. We also had good views of black and white colobus as well as two species of squirrel. The first a Carruther's mountain squirrel and the second a pair of very active red-legged sun squirrels.

As we continued we were racking up the bird species including a very nice sighting of the black and white Rwenzori batis (endemic to the Rwenzori mountains and the few Afro-montane forests around them). As we continued past the forest and along one of the abrupt borders of the park we spotted a smallish troop of blue monkeys. They were mostly obscured from vision but we could make out the distinct face shape and white brow marking and white nose.

As we continued we saw more and more bird species including the long tailed bronze sunbird, speckled canaries, juvenile grey cuckooshrikes and black saw-wings. Following the path down hill towards a small agricultural village we were heading to the source of the Ishasha River. Just before we arrived at the spring where the river emerges from the ground and cascades down a couple of waterfalls and runs into the distance we had an eye-level view of three grey crowned cranes. Uganda's national bird is an ancient, beautiful and impressive bird to see flying only around 30m away from us in the valley. We also saw hadeda ibis, Angolan swallows and the red, blue and white mosque swallows at close quarters as we arrived close to where the river springs from the ground. Just over the small stream at the source of the river on the underside of a large rock was the clay structure of a mosque swallow nest, we waiting for the male or female to come back but they were too fast for any kind of picture as they came and went from the nest.

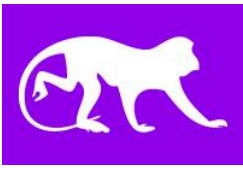
On the way back we saw more birds as well as getting even better views of a few blue monkeys as we approached the main road and the awaiting Ronnie. We had not been back at the lodge for 15 minutes before another rainstorm hit and it seemed like the perfect time to light the fires in our cottages and enjoy relax for the rest of the afternoon to the sound of a crackling fire and rain pounding the roof. This was our last full day in Uganda and tomorrow we knew that Rwanda and the famous Virunga mountains and the iconic Parc National des Volcans lay ahead of us.



Day 8 **Volcanoes NP**

Travelling

After breakfast this morning we set off towards the town of Kisoro close to the border with Rwanda. On the way we past the view point dubbed the 'Switzerland of Africa' the rolling hills and lake crater lakes do have a look of central Europe but there is something typically African as well. As we continued we got our first views of the Virungas. The first three peaks we saw were Mt. Muhabura, Mt. Sabyinyo and Mt. Gahinga. We stopped a couple of times to take in these views before carrying on to Kisoro. Here is the famous Traveller's Rest Hotel. A hotel that was founded by Walter Baumgartel the place was the closest port of call and link to the western world for the first two primatologists who studied the mountain gorillas; George Schaller and Dian Fossey. This quaint place is a really nice retreat and the gardens were a perfect place for lunch before heading on to the border. Kisoro is also home to a large UN Congolese refugee camp and the Congo artwork is prevalent around the town, especially in the bar of the Traveller's Rest Hotel where it is all original, unique and for sale. The standard of the wood carving from the Congo is incredible and many pieces offer a glimpse into a traditional life of communities that few Europeans will ever get to experience due to the turmoil in the DRC and the fact that many of these communities will be destroyed when the conflict dies down and logging companies enter to take advantage. The border crossing was very straightforward



and we continued on towards the imposing silhouettes of Mt. Karisimbi, Mt. Sabyinyo and Mt. Visoke and our lodge lying close to Mt. Sabyinyo. Shortly after arriving we were treated to a traditional local welcoming dance from some children and teenagers. The vigorous and enthusiastic dancing was infectious and if it wasn't for a long day in the vehicle to get here we probably would have joined in. As it was the excitement of a second gorilla trek tomorrow prompted dinner and rest instead.

Day 9 Volcanoes NP

Gorilla Tracking

Accommodation:

Mountain View
Gorilla Lodge
(safari lodge)

Food:

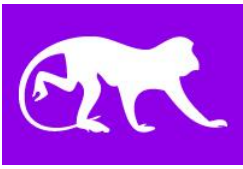
Breakfast and dinner were served at the lodge and as we were back early from the gorilla tracking we had our packed lunch at the lodge too.

Transportation:

Private 4x4
vehicle & walking.

Today turned out to be one of the absolute highlights, we were treated to such a fantastic encounter with the mountain gorillas it is hard to know where to begin. Well firstly the groups that each person will track are not decided in advance, unlike Uganda. This means that everyone meets up at the park headquarters and then the gorilla groups are allocated to people depending on their physical fitness. This is because some of the groups such as Susa and Sabyinyo often require a hard 3-4 hour uphill walk to reach them and so only the fitter tourists are given these groups. As it turned out we were given one of the larger groups called Hirwa (which means lucky). This group was composed of 17 individuals including 1 silverback (Munyinya), 5 adult females (Kabatwa, Ntamuhezo, Mararo, Ikirezi and Magayane), 6 juveniles and adolescents (Rwunguko, Uburanga, Inyenyeri, Icyamamare, Agasaro and Impundu) as well as 4 babies (Aheza and Twitabwero and the twins Isango Gakuru and Isango Gato). Twins are very rare in gorillas and to have the chance of seeing a pair of 15 month old twins was very exciting. So fully excited by this possibility we were briefed by our two guides today Ferguson and Rodgers before driving a few miles away to get to the closest road point to where the gorillas were known to bed down last night. As in Uganda the gorillas were tracked earlier this morning and so their position was known. Or so we thought, but around 30mins into the walk one of our group asked Ferguson if we knew how long the trek would be. He said that the rangers had yet to find the group. This news did not fill us with confidence as the rangers will move much quicker through the forest and bamboo than us and with a 2-3 hour head start on us we thought we were going to be in for a long day. Then as we reached the border of the national park and we traversed the small wall and deep ditch (used to keep elephants and buffalo in the park and out of the plantations) the question of the gorilla's location was asked again and Ferguson responded with '3 hours away'. Well at least now we knew what was in store, or did we? We after 5 minutes or so of walking in the pouring rain through the bamboo we had just come across some elephant dung and a footprint from last night before we Martin began to see some tell tale signs of freshly eaten bamboo shoots. These had all the hallmarks of gorilla feeding and it looked minutes as opposed to hours or days old. It was then we saw the rangers and were told in a very refreshing manner 'surprise' The gorillas were skirting close to the edge of the park. So it was that we moved a short distance through the bamboo to a small clearing and in through the rain and mist the shapes of numerous black figures all sat with huge arms wrapped around pot-bellies just waiting for the rain to stop. It was the imposing figure of Munyinya who sat in the open in the middle of the group, his eyes watching us from under his frowned brow. We manoeuvred into various positions for around 40mins as everyone got views of the different females and their babies. However the babies, including the twins, were hidden mostly from view as the mothers tried to protect them from the worst of the rain. We counted 15 of the 17 individuals in this area but were a little concerned that if the rain didn't stop within our allotted hour we would not see the gorillas move. But just as these thoughts were setting in the rain began to die down and the soon to be very curious, mischievous and playful Uburanga began to stir from his slumber.

Uburanga is the second oldest male in the group and at 7 years old he is still very much a youngster and only interested in play. After stretching and rolling on his back he grabbed a piece of bamboo and ran past Munyinya and gave him a little tap on the leg as if to say 'its stopped raining now so its time to move on'. It wasn't long until he was on the move. Munyinya first rolled on to his back to rid some of the rain from his shaggy fur and have a good old stretch. He then got up and charged towards Robert, Anjali and a couple of other tourists on the other side of a stand of bamboo that Martin was behind. This charge was very impressive and as he stood all rigid and imposing exactly where everyone had been standing only a couple of second earlier it was clear to see why he is defiantly the boss of the harem. It was only afterwards once we assessed the situation that we realised the probable reason for his charge. It seemed like a couple of the tourists had inadvertently gotten themselves between a mother and her baby. If the mother showed any subtle signs of anxiety Munyinya would have certainly picked up on it and acted. Well after this show of strength and power the rest of the gorillas all began to stir, we where then able to get great views of pretty much the entire group. It was really surreal as there seemed to be youngsters everywhere, Martin for example was walking down a little slope and felt something on his leg. Looking down and expecting to see his trouser snagged on some bamboo it was little Impundo as he struggled to push past me to get to a small stream where the older Rwunguko was waiting and splashing around. But throughout all the commotion of 15 gorillas beginning to move around, feed and play amongst us it was Uburanga who stole the show. The guides were telling



us that one of his favourite pastimes was to climb above us on flimsy bamboo and wait for it to break under his weight so that he falls on us. Apparently all he wants to do is touch us and play with us, it was great to watch as he carefully scanned the group and in particular looking at Munyinya and waiting for the silverback to look away before he would run over and touch one of us when no one was looking. He also like to stand all stiff and imposing, like his 27 year old father, in front of us and block our pathway. He will then grab a big piece of bamboo and run past us or try and hit us with it. Whilst watching the youngsters run around and play we noticed that Kabatwa and her twins were beginning to stir. Kabatwa rolled over to dry her back from rain and exposed the young babies for the first time. They then left the security of their mother and rolled around on the ground together before one of the twins spots Kabatwa moving on and rushes to gain top position on her back, we then watched as the other twin struggled to get a grip on the fur and pull himself up. Of course he was not left behind and made it in the end, but his instant panic at not being able to climb aboard was very evident.

After around 15mins of watching them in this area it was time to move on and we followed them down a slope, over a small stream and through more bamboo. As we followed the group they became more spread out along the well defined trails (probably made by elephants). At one point our passage was blocked by the ever present Uburanga and we were forced to stay in single file along the narrow pathway, Martin had found himself in the direct line of Munyinya as he sat and fed on a mixture of vegetation (mixing the bamboo, pith and leaves of several species into one mouthful) only 3m away. In front of him the two other juveniles Icyamamare and Rwunguko moved along and picked their way through left over bamboo shoots. Once the infants had moved long Munyinya thought we would check Martin out and proceeded to move towards him. Martin duly sat down and remained calm, Munyinya was just passing by but at around 30cm away from each other, his true size became very real, but away he turned and continued down the path. We once again followed. It was nearing the end of our allotted time (we had been given a little longer as the first 40mins or so was uneventful and the group seemed completely unstressed by our intrusion. Another potential problem was that the gorillas were also heading in the same direction as he we were using to leave the site and head back. In between being fended off by Uburanga and blocked by feeding females at every turn we did find a route we could take; but just before we headed back to the boundary of the park the last female and baby (Ikirezi and Aheza) strolled slowly in between all of us and stopped in front of Martin and Robert and posed for a picture perfect moment with little Aheza looking up from underneath the mothers chin.

But even as he moved off for the final time our encounter was not over, far from it. Anjali was walking ahead of Martin, Robert and the rest of the group (just behind the tracker) and low and behold the figure of Uburanga came running past Martin and a Canadian member of the group and right up to Anjali and gave her a friendly (albeit hard) whack on the back, before running off. Anjali looking behind her as Uburanga ran off in the other direction, at first she had not realised it was a gorilla! Well that is a story to tell the grandchildren and an aboslutely amazing way to end the second gorilla tracking of the tour.

When we got back to the lodge we realised it was only around 11:30am! All of that before lunch. The rest of the day was very much set aside of relaxing and taking in what we had just experienced this morning. Robert and Anjali took a walk around the grounds of the lodge and got very good sightings a monogamous pair of grey crowned cranes as they took advantage of the short lawns around the lodge gardens.

Then at dinner our thoughts turned towards what would be our final species of primate for the tour, the colourful golden monkeys.

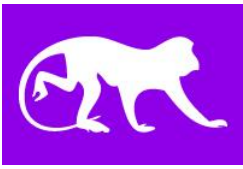


Day 10 Volcanoes NP

Golden Monkey Tracking

Today is our last full day on the tour and our last trip into the Volcanoes National Park, today it was not to be a great ape that we would be tracking but instead a very special and rare monkey. The golden monkey used to belong to the species complex of blue monkeys. However recent genetic evidence has suggested a split and the golden monkey (*Cercopithecus kandti*) is now distinct from the more widespread blue monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*). This recent reclassification of the golden monkey has been great for the species as they are now afforded special protection as they number fewer than 5,000 globally and are only known from a couple of locations. Most of them located in Volcanoes National Park, they are specialist folivores and love the fresh bamboo shoots. In Volcanoes National Park two of the troops here have been habituated so that you are able to get a lot closer than usual to this usually very skittish monkey.

Once again we started at the park headquarters and were allocated a group and our guides Augustine and Francis; before heading along the road again to the starting point. It is a similar section of the park to where we tracked the Hirwa group yesterday and the walk through the plantations and agricultural land was pretty short before entering



the park (via another stone wall and ditch) and the thick bamboo forest. The group we would be tracking is called the Kabatwa group (yes this is the same name as one of the females in the Hirwa group) and they had been habituated since 2000 and they have been having tourists since 2003. This meant that they are well versed to humans and completely ignore us as we walk amongst them and watch them feed and interact with each other.

In fact we had not even entered the park before a few individuals were spotted climbing and jumping around in the trees and bamboo. We were quite lucky as the rain (which is very frequent here) postpones all golden monkey activity and they retreat to dense vegetation and in affect disappear, so as long as the rain held off we should get good sightings. They did not disappoint. For the next 50mins or so they ate, jumped, foraged, fought and played around us. This group is around 120 strong and it seemed like the entire bamboo forest was alive with monkeys at times. There are 4 adult males in this group and the social structure of golden monkeys is similar to baboons; where one overlord uses several related males to help protect sections of the group. The majority of the individuals are females and their offspring of various ages. We saw all four of the males including the overlord, who was significantly larger than all the others. Like baboons the dominate male secretes a pheromone which suppresses the development of other males second sexual characteristics (such as large size, enormous testes and enlarged canines) and means that there is usually just one fully mature male in a society. Once this male dies or leaves the group for an extended amount of time the pheromone is no longer produced and the other males develop. The first male to develop then starts to produce the pheromone and suppresses the other males development.

As we followed the group they crossed a very depth man-made ditch which we traversed using a make shift bamboo bridge. Once over the ditch we followed the group further and continued to watch them feed, it was surprising how much time they spent on the ground, finding the freshest bamboo shoots to feed on. Then the rain started, almost on queue the monkeys began disappearing into the dense deep bamboo and trees. So we decided to head back and get out of the rain. However the walk back was around 30mins of walking through the open fields and plantations, so we all god well and truly soaked on the walk back to the vehicle. Once we got back to the hotel we relaxed for the rest of the day and took in the Virungas for one last time.

Day 11 **Kigali - Home**

Travelling & Departure

This morning was to be the last in Rwanda and after breakfast we went into our rooms to finish off packing, but on the way through the gardens to the room we spotted what looked liked a huge earth worm. Around 20-25cm long and an inch in circumference the pale and segmented body certainly looked like a giant worm. However it was a caecilian. This strange group of amphibians are rarely seen and even less taken seriously as they resemble worms or snakes which are two species that are either ignored or killed as a general rule. This means that scientifically their distributions and taxonomy is very unclear. This particular species resembles *Boulengerula fischeri* but not perfectly. But as we do not have any further information and there is nearly as much chance of it being a new species to science as it is to one we already have information on. Martin is therefore hesitant to say it is defiantly *B. fischeri* but without anything else to go off, this is the name we will give this sighting for the time being.

After this sighting we packed up the vehicle and Ronnie transported east through Rwanda towards the very clean and historically emotional city of Kigali. On arrival we had a little time to spare and so paid a visit to the Rwanda Genocide Memorial Centre. Here a very good and hard-hitting museum explains the atrocities which occurred during the Rwandan genocide in full as well as being a place where photographs of the known victims and some survivors are displayed and probably most important of all. The gardens around the museum and memorial are the final resting places for over 250,000 genocide victims. Whilst very difficult to comprehend and very emotional to see it is a very important place to visit, especially when you consider that this acts as a reminder to the brutality that humans are capable of and then we should learn from our past and not allow this to repeat itself. What is probably most amazing is how quickly the country and population have recovered, all this happened in 1994 and the speed of recovery is awe-inspiring. Rwanda is now on the up and along with Uganda shares a bright future in terms of conservation, tourism and economic growth. There are still lots of problems, HIV, malaria, a fast growing population and relatively high levels of illiteracy and unemployment all still hinder these countries full development. However with the recent reestablishment of the East Africa Community between Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi the idea is to strengthen as one and there are even plans for a single currency (the East African Shilling) to be introduced in 2015. So the future may indeed be very bright for these two pearls of the African continent.

Birds (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Great sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
2	Grosbeak weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
3	African openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
4	Slender-billed greenbul	<i>Andropadus gracilirostris</i>
5	Yellow whiskered greenbul	<i>Andropadus latirostris</i>
6	Yellow-throated greenbul	<i>Andropadus nigriceps</i>
7	Little greenbul	<i>Andropadus virens</i>
8	Little swift	<i>Apus affinus</i>
9	Common swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
10	African black swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
11	White-rumped swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
12	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
13	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
14	Black-headed heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
15	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
16	Grey-crowned crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
17	Rwenzori batis	<i>Batis diops</i>
18	Black-headed batis	<i>Batis minor</i>
19	Black and white shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
20	Hadedda ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
21	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
22	Augur buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
23	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
24	Mountain buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>
25	Black and white casqued hornbill	<i>Bycanistes subcylindricus</i>
26	Grey-backed camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
27	Red-shouldered cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
28	Lesser striped swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
29	Red-rumped swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
30	Rufous-chested swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
31	Mosque swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
32	Black coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>
33	White-browed coucal	<i>Centropus supercilliosus</i>

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72	Lizard buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
73	Ruppell's long-tailed starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuropterus</i>
74	Black-headed gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>
75	Long-tailed fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>
76	Common fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
77	Mackinnon's shrike	<i>Lanius mackinnoni</i>
78	Lesser grey shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
79	Marabou stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>
80	Black-headed munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>
81	Black and white mannikin	<i>Lonchura bicolor</i>
82	Bronze mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
83	Long-crested eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
84	Double-toothed barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>
85	Crested malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbiscus</i>
86	White-eyed slaty flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>
87	Cinnamon-chested bee-eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>
88	Little bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
89	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
90	Rufous-naped lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
91	Flappet lark	<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>
92	African pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
93	Cape wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
94	African dusky flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
95	Ashy flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
96	Dusky-blue flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa comitata</i>
97	Ross's turaco	<i>Musophaga rossae</i>
98	Lead-coloured flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
99	White-headed black chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnoti</i>
100	Sooty chat	<i>Myrmecocichla nigra</i>
101	Hooded vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
102	Malachite sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
103	Bronze sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>
104	Regal sunbird	<i>Nectarinia regia</i>
105	Green-throated sunbird	<i>Nectarinia rubescens</i>
106	Scarlet-chested sunbird	<i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i>
107	Green-headed sunbird	<i>Nectarinia verticalis</i>
108	Western nicator	<i>Nicator chloris</i>
109	Yellow-throated nicator	<i>Nicator vireo</i>

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148	Laughing dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
149	Speckled fronted weaver	<i>Sporopipies frontalis</i>
150	Ring-necked dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
151	African mourning dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
152	Dusky-turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>
153	Vinaceous dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
154	Brown-crowned tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
155	Black-crowned tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>
156	Mottled spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>
157	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
158	Red-bellied paradise flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>
159	Sacred ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
160	Crowned hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>
161	African pied hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>
162	African green pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
163	Brown babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>
164	Olive thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
165	African thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
166	Blue-spotted wood dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
167	African hoopoe	<i>Upupua epops</i>
168	Blue-naped mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>
169	White-rumped spinetail	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>
170	Yellow white-eye	<i>Zosterops luteus</i>

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Reptiles (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Southern tree agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>
2	Sparse-scaled forest lizard	<i>Adolfus vauereselli</i>
3	Puff adder	<i>Bitis arietans</i>
4	Common house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
5	Tropical house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
6	Olive house snake	<i>Lamprophis olivaceus</i>
7	Speckled-lipped skink	<i>Trachylepis maculilabris</i>
8	African striped skink	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>

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Amphibians (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Angolan river frog	<i>Amietia angolensis</i>
2	Pink spagetthi caecilian	<i>Boulengerula fischeri</i>
3	Mascarene rocket frog	<i>Ptychadena mascareniensis</i>

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