






African Golden Cat Quest

Destination: Bwindi & Kibale, Uganda

Season: March - June

-  Spotlighting for nocturnal wildlife in Kibale and Queen Elizabeth National Parks
-  High previous success rate with local guides seeing the elusive African Golden Cat
-  The only dedicated group trip looking for the African Golden Cat
-  Expect local guides with experience and strategies to find African Golden Cats
-  Many other mammals species including several primates & many carnivores

Dates:

Next group tour: 22nd May – 1st Jun 2027

Private / Tailored Tour information:

This tour can be booked anytime of the year, but there are peaks in wildlife activity as well as better times of year for accessibility. So we recommend travelling within the period where most of the African golden cat sightings have been – which is March – June, however this is likely to be a sampling artifact as people have not looked for this species comprehensively at other times of year. During this period we have a relatively high chance of seeing golden cats (certainly higher than anyone had previously had for this elusive and little understood species) as well as many other species of rare and some rare mammals, birds and reptiles.

The plan is to run this group tour annually, however you can book private tours for any number of people you wish (up to 4) and we can provide prices for such private tour group sizes on request.

We also have flexibility for the duration of trip you would like to book.

Some of our clients prefer to book longer trips to Uganda and visit some of the other locations here for wildlife and or trekking or special interest such as birding or spending time with the chimpanzees and or mountain gorillas.

Trips for any group size and any duration are possible, please enquire further for more information on our tailored Ugandan wildlife tours.

For our tailored tours of longer durations or including other activities please contact us and we will prepare a tailored itinerary and quote for you at the soonest.

Prices (2027 season):

Group Tour (10 nights)
£3,850 per person
*single supplement £450

Overview

Day 1: Entebbe

Days 2-7: Kibale Forest National Park

Day 8: Queen Elizabeth National Park

Days 9-10: Bwindi National Park

Day 11: Entebbe / Home





Tour Information

Introduction

Uganda is the Pearl of East Africa, and this is a title that Ugandan people are rightly proud of. This small country nestled between larger countries to the east (Kenya & Ethiopia), north (South Sudan) and west (DRC) and Rwanda to the south holds the incredible natural abundance that comes from being in the transition zone between the savanna, Rainforest, Swamps and Lakes.

It has the greatest altitudinal range of any country on the continent of Africa, spanning the 5,109 meter heights of the Rwenzori Mountains –the Legendary Mountains of the moon- to the low shores of Lake Albert at just over 600 meters. This makes wildlife watching very exiting and quite unique!

There are over 1050 species of birds in this small country half of those found on the African continent, and about 400 species of mammals. The greatest stands of Endangered Mahogany in east Africa are in Uganda, as is the largest population of endangered mountain Gorillas and Chimpanzees. And to top it off, Uganda is filled with some of the friendliest people in the world who are quick to greet you with a broad smile and the phrase, you are most welcome!

In recent years Uganda has become a firm favourite among mammal watchers due to the abundance and diversity of primate species found in the various forests here as well as for being a country which allows late night spotlighting in and around protected areas (which is not easy to do in many African protected areas).

This tour is focused on one of the last charismatic African mammals to reveal it's secrets and become an easy to see species. This is the most elusive of all African cats, the wonderful and enigmatic African Golden Cat. Over the last few years people have been visiting looking specifically for this species and this has lead to local guides exploring every possibility for a way to find them. This hard work has paid off and there now appears to be a couple of locations which are offering repeated sightings. It is still a very hard animal to see, but we are proud to add the African Golden Cat to the growing list of rare and elusive mammals which Royle Safaris offers specific expedition style tours to see.

The tour will visit 3 of the most iconic locations for wildlife watching, firstly we will spend most of the time around Kibale Forest National Park. This park has the highest concentration of primates in Africa including the Chimpanzees and offers the best birding and only reliable for the Green- breasted Pitta and is also the location where many golden cat sightings have occurred in recent times.

We then travel south towards Bwindi and on the way will overnight and explore the savanna ecosystem of Queen Elizabeth National Park. This park hosts the highest number of biodiversity rating than any other Natural reserve in Africa and famous for its tree climbing Lions.

We then end the trip in Bwindi impenetrable Forest National Park; famous for world's endangered mountain Gorillas and high number of Albertine rift endemics, Galagos's Eastern Potto and of course a population of golden cats.

In general the tour will cover a multitude of habitats from lush rainforests, wild Savannah, dry acacia, wetlands some with papyrus reed beds and other with open Water, the Mammal experience will be great enough.

Itinerary

Day 1 Entebbe

Arrival

Accommodation:

Airport Link Guest House (3* Hotel)

Food:

No meals included today.

Transportation:

Private vehicle.

On your arrival into Entebbe airport you will be met at the airport by your local guide & driver and take to your hotel for the night. The rest of the day is free for you to rest. We do not know the arrival times for the group and many flights arrive quite late, so we don't have anything planned for today, if you arrive early and wish we can look to arrange a visit to the botanical gardens for you (at extra cost).

Day 2 Kibale National Park

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Kibale Forest Lodge (Eco Lodge)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel with lunch at a local restaurant and dinner served at the lodge.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.



This morning we will leave Entebbe and travel west across the country to Kibale Forest National Park. Kibale National Park is a tropical rainforest known for its high concentration of primates and the only reliable place to see the habituated Chimpanzees in Africa. Other primate species in this rainforest are; Olive Baboons, Uganda Crested Mangabey, Red-tailed Monkey, Localized Ashy Colobus Monkey, Mantled Guereza Colobus, Velvet, L'hoest, Blue Monkey, Forest Elephant among many other species.

We will arrive and spend the rest of the day looking for African golden cats in some areas which have had recent sightings.

After dark we will then have some spotlighting looking for a wide range of nocturnal mammals including White Bellied Pangolin, Large spotted and Small Spotted Genet, Palm Civet, Side striped Jackal, Mash Mongoose, Eastern Potto, Demiddof's Galago, Spectacled Galago, Thomas's Galago, Alexander's Cusimanse, Giant Rat, Serval Cat, Lord Derby's Anomalure.

Days 3-7 **Kibale National Park**

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Kibale Forest Lodge (Eco Lodge)

Food:

All of your meals will be served at the lodge in between wildlife excursions.

Transportation:

Private vehicle and walking.

Over the course of these next 5 full days we will focus on golden cats, we have a few strategies including diving, walking and staking out areas with hides which we will bring with us. We focus our efforts in areas which have good camera trap records of golden cats, we have camera traps out and recording this species in several locations and so we can narrow down our search to more reliable locations.

We will most likely be out from around 19:00 until midnight and then again from 05:00-08:00 as these seem to be the peak activity hours of the cats according to sightings and camera trap data.

Day 8 **Queen Elizabeth National Park**

Wildlife Watching, Travelling

Accommodation:

Bush Lodge (Eco Lodge)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the Kibale lodge, with lunch at a local restaurant and dinner in the bush camp.

Transportation:

Private vehicle.

We will leave Kibale this morning and drive south to Queen Elizabeth National park, and to after arriving at our accommodation and checking in we will have a game drive to look for wildlife.

This evening / night game drive can be very productive and we will target servals as well as many other nocturnal Mammals.

Queen Elizabeth is yet another area with some of the highest biodiversity ratings than any other national game reserve in the world. Its varied habitats of open Savannah, acacia woodlands, tropical rain forest, dense papyrus swamps, and Lakes, makes it one of the richest park in Africa. Game in the park include Elephants, Buffalo, Waterbuck, Bushbuck, a profusion of Hippos, the elusive Giant forest Hogs, Red-River Hogs, Lion and Leopard and the Beautiful Uganda Kob.

It is a great way of breaking up the journey between the two forests of Kibale and Bwindi and also adding some savanna species to our trip which would be impossible to see in the forests.

Day 9 **Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP**

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

Accommodation:

Traveller's Tavern (Boutique Hotel)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the bush camp with lunch at a local restaurant and dinner served at the Tavern.

Transportation:

Private vehicle.

This morning we will leave Queen Elizabeth National Park and continue our drive south along the Albertine Rift and onto the famous Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. We will stay in the Ruhija part of Bwindi which is where golden cats have been seen often in the past.

On the way out of Queen Elizabeth National Park we will make many stops including visiting the southern part of Queen Elizabeth looking for wildlife on the way and then visiting Ishasha section to look for its famous tree climbing Lions.



When we arrive into Bwindi we will check in and then if allowed have a night walk, this is not always possible here due to the presence of gorillas and the park authorities do not like people entering the forest after dark and possibly disturbing the gorillas.

Day 10 **Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP**

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Traveller's Tavern
(Boutique Hotel)

Food:

All of your meals will be served at the tavern in between wildlife excursions.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

Today will be a full day (our last in Uganda) looking for golden cats in Ruhija. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is exceptionally rich in forest species restricted to the Albertine Rift covering Uganda. Our journey takes us through Kanungu and over highlands reaching almost 2500 meters.

Other species of primates and Mammals such as Ruwenzori and Yellow-backed Duikers, Guereza Colobus Monkey, Blue Monkey, and L, Hoest monkey, Squirrels, Galagos, Potto.

Day 11 **Entebbe / Home**

Departure

Accommodation:

NA

Food:

Breakfast at the hotel is the only meal included today.

Transportation:

Private Vehicle & International flight.

Today you will leave Ruhija and be driven back to Entebbe in time to catch your return flight home, however as the drive is a long one and traffic can occur at any time we recommend not booking a flight that departs before the evening.

Your tour and all Royle Safaris services end upon transfer to the airport

Please note that the itinerary stated above is correct as our planned intentions for the tour. However adverse weather conditions and other local considerations can necessitate some modifications of the itinerary during the course of the tour; any changes will be made to make the best of the time, weather conditions and other constraints forced upon us and all changes will be made in conjunction with our terms and conditions.

Tour Inclusions

Absolutely everything mentioned in the above itinerary is included (except where it is expressly mentioned as an optional extra).

- All accommodation as mentioned above or of a similar standard as mentioned.
- All meals as mentioned above, these will be breakfast, lunch and dinner (**some meals may not be included in this itinerary**).
- Bottled mineral or purified (boiled) water will be provided throughout and on request.
- Private vehicles for all transfers and safari drives.
- English speaking local driver and guide with years of experience in working in the areas we are travelling.
- All fuel, tolls, taxes and other expenses relating to driving.
- Local expert guide with experience looking for African golden cats.
- Entry permits for all trips into the private reserves and national parks.
- All wildlife watching activities as mentioned.
- A selection of field guides of the local areas will be available on request.
- Thermal imaging scope and other specialist mammal watching equipment.



Tour Exclusions

Nearly everything you will need is included in the price you have already paid for the tour. However there are some things not included.

- International flights to and from the tour start and end points.
- Travel insurance including any fees that result from emergency medical or evacuation needs.
- Visa fees for entering the country(s).
- Vaccinations and any medication (such as anti-malarial tablets) are not included.
- Any food other than the meals provided and mentioned in the above itinerary (**some meals may not be included on this itinerary**).
- Some meals will include a drink (tea & coffee at breakfast) but most soft drinks and alcohol are an extra expense.
- Any items of a personal nature are not included, such as souvenirs, medication, toiletries, laundry and phone calls.
- Tips are also not included.
- Any departure taxes which may be due when leaving are not included (but may be included in the cost of your flights).

Please refer to our Terms & Conditions (<http://www.royle-safaris.co.uk/terms-conditions/>) before booking any trips – email or paper copies of Terms & Conditions can be provided if needed