

Uganda: African Golden Cat quest - June 3-16, 2027 (Mountain Gorilla extension till June 19)

- This tour is initiated by Simon van der Meulen (Dutch citizen) and Karen Czekalski (US citizen). We travelled together as part of small group tours on three previous occasions (Sri Lanka, Sabah, and Madagascar). We share a passion for wildlife and mammals (in particular wild cats) and are keen wildlife photographers.
- Based on our specific requirements, the tour itself is organized by [Harrier Tours](#), the premier birdwatching and mammalwatching specialist in Uganda.
- This is a **not-for-profit tour**. I.e. you pay directly to Harrier Tours.
- Max. number of participants is 4 (Simon and Karen have already committed and the tour will go ahead regardless).
- The tour starts on June 3 and ends June 16, 2027. On the basis of **4 participants, costs are USD 4,250 p.p. (EUR equivalent: 3,790)** on a **single room** accommodation basis and **includes all road transportation, game drives, park fees, guiding, lodging, and food**, as well as a **1x permit for Chimpanzee tracking at Kibale. Beverages and tips/gratuities at own expense.**

Accommodation at Entebbe is also at own expense and needs to be arranged by yourself (most preferably at [Airport Link Guesthouse Entebbe](#), which is conveniently close to the airport and recommended by Harrier Tours).

- An **extension option for Mountain Gorillas at Bwindi** is an **extra USD 2,850 p.p. (EUR equivalent: 2,540)** on a single room basis. This extension pertains to **3 nights in Bwindi** and includes **1x Gorilla permit** (see further detailed itinerary below). Simon will join this extension.
- Transportation: extended 4WD Toyota Cruiser with open roof and 7 seats (each participant is therefore guaranteed a window seat with ample room to manoeuvre when standing).
- Guides: Sam (the top-spotter and guide) and likely also Harriet Kemigisha (owner/proprietress of Harrier Tours) herself for the Kibali leg.
- Focus of the tour is on finding the **African Golden Cat, hence the 8 nights at Kibali**. However, we'll see a lot of other interesting mammals, reptiles and birds.

- The tour is scheduled June 3-16 (or 19 if you opt for the extension as well) of 2027. This is the dry season with agreeable temperatures.
- Tour ends with drop-off at Entebbe Int'l Airport at a convenient time to allow for any evening/night departure to your home country.

Itinerary:

- Day 0 (June 1 or 2): international flight to Entebbe and overnight at hotel near airport (suggested: [Airport Link Guesthouse](#)). Hotel at own expense (USD 70 p.p.p.n.).

Many flights arrive at midnight, which implies you'll hardly have a night's rest because June 3 we depart at 06:30 AM! In such case, you may opt to arrive on June 1.

- Day 1 (June 3): early morning pick-up at hotel (06:30 AM) for visit to **Mabamba Swamp** (targets: *Shoebill* and *Spot-necked Otter*); continue driving with stop at **Ziwa** for *Pousargue's Mongoose* and then onwards to **Murchison Falls**. If time allows, late afternoon safari drive as well as night drive. Accommodation: [Pakuba Safari Lodge](#) (2 nights)
- Day 2 (June 4): early morning, late afternoon and night safari drives for all different possible species (in particular *Serval*, *Leopard*, *Crested Porcupine*, various *Genet*, *Civet*, and *Pangolin* species)
- Day 3 (June 5): early morning safari drive and then continue to **Kibali**. Night safari drive. Accommodation: [Guereza Canopy Lodge](#) (8 nights)
- Days 4-10 (June 6-12): at **Kibali**: *flexible itinerary as deemed fit based on recent African Golden Cat sightings by Sam/Harriet's local contacts*.

As for targeted species, these are not exclusively confined to the African Golden Cat. At Kibali we also hope to find the various diurnal and nocturnal (*Galago's*, etc.) primates (*Galago's*, etc., *Serval*, and others. We plugged-in one early morning *Chimps* tracking.

Daily itinerary could be something like:

05:30 – 08:00/09:00 – morning safari

15:00 – 17:00 – afternoon safari

19:00 – 24:00 – night safari

Whereby we may alternate by having 2 or 3 longer night safaris (till well after midnight) followed by a post-breakfast morning safari/walk, or something like that.

- Day 11 (June 13): final morning safari drive and then continue to **Queen Elizabeth N.P** (Mweya sector) with afternoon and post-dinner night drive. Accommodation: [Bush Lodge](#) (2 nights)
- Day 12 (June 14): morning, afternoon and night drives in Ishasha sector
- Day 13 (June 15): morning drive and then continue to **Lake Mburo** with afternoon drive (if time allows for that) and night drive. Accommodation: [Arcadia Lodge](#) (1 night).

Participants to the Gorilla-extension will depart to Bwindi after the morning drive.

- Day 14 (June 16): morning drive and continue to drop-off at Entebbe airport with *en route* stop at **Lake Nabugabo** for the Angola Colobus

Bwindi/Gorilla extension:

- Day 13 (June 15): morning drive at Queen Elizabeth N.P. and then continue to **Bwindi**. Accommodation: [Gorilla Mist Camp](#) (3 nights)
- Day 14 (June 16): Gorilla trekking (duration in-between 3 to 6 hrs, depending on where the Gorillas are located) and afternoon drive or walk for African Golden Cat, Duikers, Primates and Birds
- Day 15 (June 17): drives and walks for African Golden Cat, Duikers, Primates and Birds

Note: at *Bwindi* night drives are not allowed.

- Day 16 (June 18): to **Lake Mburo** with afternoon and night drive. Accommodation: [Arcadia Lodge](#) (1 night)
- Day 17 (June 19): morning drive and continue to **drop-off at Entebbe airport** with *en route* stop at **Lake Nabugabo** for the Angola Colobus.