



## **Pre Cruise Land Program: Bwindi Forest Gorilla Tracking Experience**

### ***6-night Extended Land Program***



This is a rare opportunity for a limited number of guests to track and closely observe the mountain gorilla, fascinating creatures that are on the brink of extinction. During two exciting days of forest exploration, you will join expert guides in locating the two families of gorillas that make their home in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, itself an amazing sight with deep valleys, impressive waterfalls and dramatic mountain ranges. You will find the park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to have earned its "impenetrable" name, as it is densely forested and teeming with wildlife.

This Overland Adventure involves possibly two days of potentially strenuous trekking, making it suitable only for guests who are physically fit. However, we have attended not only to the active side of our nature-loving guests, but also to their luxury-seeking side, as we have arranged for you to experience two exclusive accommodations. One is The Lake Victoria Serena Resort, styled to replicate the lines of a classically rustic Roman villa. The other is Sanctuary Gorilla Camp, a luxury tented camp situated deep in the forest, featuring private bathrooms, large wooden decks and an on-site spa.

### **Thursday, March 7, 2019**

Your memorable adventure begins when you arrive in Johannesburg at OR Tambo International Airport, you will be met and accompanied on a short walk to your overnight hotel, located within walking distance from the airport. This award-winning InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport Hotel is South Africa's only luxury airport hotel, offering travelers a luxurious and enjoyable stay upon arrival.

**Meals Included: Dinner**

**Hotel Accommodations: Intercontinental or Tambo Hotel**

**Friday, March 8, 2019**

Early morning transfer back to the airport for your business class flight to Entebbe, on arrival transfer to The Lake Victoria Serena Resort, located not far from the airport on the shores of Lake Victoria. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure, relaxing in this tranquil resort, outfitted with a sparkling pool, golf course, and nicely appointed rooms.

In the late afternoon, join a sunset cruise on Lake Victoria, one of the largest lakes in the world. Cruise out towards the equator line or local islands and watch the local fishermen cast their nets. Enjoy a selection of snacks and drinks, whilst watching the sun sink below the horizon. Following return to the resort.

Join your fellow guests for dinner before retiring for the night.

**Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner****Hotel Accommodations: Serena Lake Victoria Hotel****Saturday, March 9, 2019**

After breakfast at the Resort, transfer to the airport for your flight to Bwindi. Your travels continue with a one-hour-and-twenty-minute drive to Sanctuary Gorilla Camp, your base for the next two nights.

Located at the edge of the forest within Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Sanctuary Gorilla Camp affords access to the vast forest and its unique wildlife. Just over half the world's last surviving population of mountain gorillas, along with rare forest elephants, giant forest hogs, over 300 bird species and eleven kinds of primates, including baboons, chimpanzees and red tailed and blue monkeys, make their home here. It is our pleasure to arrange for you to observe some of these marvelous animals in their natural habitat.

It is also our pleasure to reserve for you classic, safari-style accommodations at Sanctuary Gorilla Camp, which offers eight large permanent tents, each with two queen-sized beds and an en-suite bathroom. Making your stay here all the more exceptional is the chance to soak in your private bathtub overlooking the forest. For additional views, each tent has a large wooden deck. The camp's main building overlooks the rainforest and features a raised natural platform for dining under the stars.

Indeed, you will find this exclusive camp to be one of the most remote and atmospheric in Africa, while offering the attentive service and luxury touches that make for a comfortable stay.

Time permitting, join your travel companions for lunch here at the camp and then visit the Batwa Cultural Center. This is a site created by the Batwa pigmies to educate their children and to share their heritage and traditions with the rest of the world.

The next two days of gorilla tracking maybe amongst the most exciting and challenging expeditions you have ever encountered.

Enjoy dinner and your overnight stay here at the camp.

**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**  
**Hotel Accommodations: Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp**

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**

After an early breakfast, depart for the park headquarters, from where you will launch your long day (up to nine hours) of gorilla tracking.

This is your opportunity to spot the famed mountain gorillas of Bwindi, part of a worldwide population of just 600 individuals. Though wild, the two family groups of gorillas that are tracked here at Bwindi have become accustomed to the presence of humans, allowing guests to observe the gorillas at an amazingly close distance. Experienced guides will accompany you on your forest trek, acquainting you with the gorillas' behavior and habitat and using information from the previous day to zero in on their whereabouts.

Because of this, the time taken to track the gorillas can vary greatly, taking as little as half an hour to as much as nine hours. You will be traversing dense forest with steep slopes; therefore, you should be physically fit before considering joining this Crystal Pre-Cruise Land Program Adventure.

Your lunch time and location will depend on the day's gorilla sightings.

Once the gorillas are located, you will be allowed a maximum of one hour to quietly observe them. Surely, this will prove to be one of your most memorable experiences as you look into the eyes of these magnificent creatures and closely witness their interactive behavior and see their individual personalities. Today's encounter will also bring home the poignant fact that the mountain gorilla is on the brink of extinction. Your trek participation contributes to ensuring their continued survival.

The hour with the gorillas is often over all too quickly. Slowly and reluctantly, withdraw from this forest scene and make your way back to camp, where you will recount the day's experiences over dinner and enjoy your overnight stay.

**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**  
**Hotel Accommodations: Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp**

**Monday, March 11, 2019**

Another thrilling day unfolds as you depart the camp with your local guide into the Bwindi Forest. Do not miss this final opportunity to take priceless photographs of the forest and the magnificent mountain Gorillas.

Exhilarated from your days activities enjoy dinner and a good night's rest at the camp.

**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**  
**Hotel Accommodations: Sanctuary Gorilla Forest camp**

## Tuesday, March 12, 2019

After an early breakfast, check out and transfer to Kihihi airstrip for your flight to Entebbe.

On arrival transfer to The Lake Victoria Serena Resort for check-in and lunch.

This afternoon enjoy a visit to the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre. The center sits on 72 acres, boasts of a wide variety of indigenous wildlife numbering well into the thousands, and housed in natural settings which depict three of Uganda's ecosystems: The Wetland, The Savannah and The Forest.

Following your visit, return to the resort for dinner and your overnight stay.

**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**  
**Hotel Accommodations: Serena Lake Victoria Hotel**

## Wednesday, March 13, 2019

After breakfast at the Resort, transfer to the airport for your business class flight to Johannesburg with a connecting business class flight to Cape Town.

Arriving in Cape Town airport, join your motor coach for the transfer to your awaiting Crystal ship.

**Meals Included: Breakfast**

### **Important Air Information for Cruise-Only Guests:**

This pre-cruise program begins in **Johannesburg, Cape Town**. Please schedule flights to Tambo or Johannesburg International Airport anytime on March 7. Please enter your flight information to Crystal Cruises Land Programs Department <https://checkin.crystalcruises.com/> at least 30 days prior to departure.

**Visas:** Visitors can obtain Visas from the Ugandan Embassies/High Commissions in their home country prior to departing for Uganda. If there is no Ugandan Consulate in your vicinity, an entry visa can be obtained on arrival at the airport for USD 50.00 each. All passports must be valid for at least 6 months from date of entry into Uganda.

Anti-malarial medication is recommended by the CDC for all travelers to Uganda. Your doctor will prescribe the best choice based on your own health history and the specific destination(s) you will be visiting in Africa. Yellow Fever Certificates are required for guests travelling to Uganda.

### **Flight Information**

Class of Service: **Business Class**

Date	Carrier/Flight	From/To	Flight time	Departure	Arrival
8-MAR-19	<b>TBA</b>	JNB/EBB			
9-MAR-19	<b>TBA</b>	EBB/BWI			
12-MAR-19	<b>TBA</b>	KHI/EBB			
13-MAR-19	<b>TBA</b>	EBB/JNB/CPT			

All flight information **is tentative** and is subject to change.

### **MISSED SERVICES**

Should guests choose to miss any pre booked services during their stay, Akorn Destination Management cannot refund for any unused services although every, assistance will be offered to reclaim monies. This is subject to negotiation with the relevant suppliers and will be treated on a case by case only, and as such does not contain any guarantee.

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

We strongly recommends all guests take out comprehensive travel insurance prior to date of travel.

### **HEALTH PRECAUTIONS**

Anti-malaria precautions are strongly recommended for travel within Africa and Akorn Destination Management strongly recommend all guests contact their medical practitioners prior to travel for advice on the appropriate anti malaria precautions and/or any other inoculations, vaccinations etc. A Yellow Fever vaccine is required for guests travelling to Uganda.

### **PASSPORTS AND VISAS**

Onus is on the guest to ensure that they travel with the correct documentation i.e. valid passport and any visas required to enter the countries concerned. Akorn Destination Management cannot be held responsible for guests not in possession of the correct travel documentation.

Note: The program of sights visited will be flexible as due to many circumstances, it is not possible to schedule an exact itinerary. To fully appreciate these magnificent sites, substantial walking, sometimes over uneven and step surfaces, is unavoidable. Hotels and dining venues may change; however, alternative properties will be of an equal or better standard. The content and order of activities are subject to change due to prevailing weather conditions and movement of dangerous wildlife at Bwindi. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Price includes all accommodations, sightseeing, transportation (including business-class domestic air), meals as indicated, portage. Gratuities for drivers/guides, trackers and lodge staff are not included. See information concerning special cancellation conditions in the Crystal Cruises Atlas. Guests travelling through neighboring African countries are advised to obtain a yellow fever vaccination and to carry the vaccination certificate with passports at all times.

**Booking cancellations made after 90 days will be at 100% penalty. Inbound international airfare, optional excursions, excess baggage charges, personal and incidental expenses (telephone, fax, etc.) and visa charges are not included. A minimum number of guests are required for this program to operate. Please refer to the 2019 Crystal Cruises Atlas for a complete listing of terms and conditions. Age Appropriateness: 12 & Above**

**Any excess baggage may be safely stored at the Serena Lake Victoria Resort, until your return from Bwindi. This Crystal Pre-Cruise Land Program MUST be pre-reserved.**

### **Price:**

**Double Occupancy \$11,300 per person**

**Single Occupancy \$ 13400**