



SANCTUARY
GORILLA FOREST CAMP

BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST



UGANDA 8 TENTS

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp is nestled deep inside Bwindi Impenetrable Forest,
a UNESCO World Heritage Site in southwest Uganda.



LUXURY, NATURALLY

Adventure, enchantment and 'Luxury, naturally' - all delivered with a quiet, understated charm and understanding of place – is the guiding philosophy of Sanctuary Retreats and one of our most secluded camps, Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp.

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp is nestled deep inside Bwindi Impenetrable Forest; a UNESCO World Heritage Site in southwest Uganda, home to almost half the world's last surviving mountain gorillas.

Located within Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp is the perfect base from which to track the park's most famous resident – the mountain gorilla. Due to its unique location, it's not unusual for the gorilla families to visit the camp itself. This luxury camp features 8 rooms and a bar, lounge and dining area overlooking the rainforest, as well as a raised natural platform for open-air dining.

USPS

- Located within the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home to almost half the world's remaining population of mountain gorillas
- Due to the camp's location, it is frequently visited by gorilla families
- Exclusive camp with only eight tents, the perfect base to track mountain gorillas
- Opportunity for Batwa Pygmy interaction
- Specially customised sedan chairs with support and harness allow less able guests to be carried into the rainforest to track the gorillas in their natural habitat
- Established philanthropy project at Bwindi Community Hospital which guests can visit
- Complimentary Wi-Fi available in the main area

ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

The eight tents at Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp are stylish and spacious – exactly what is needed after a day spent tracking gorillas. Each tent features two queen sized beds and an ensuite bathroom with a large bathtub that looks straight into the jungle canopy as well as an indoor shower. The rooms are also equipped with a hairdryer. Every tent has a personal attendant to attend to guests' every need.

In the main area, guests can sit around the cosy campfire at night and enjoy Bwindi's crystal clear mountain sky. There is a small gift shop at the camp offering a variety of local artefacts and practical supplies and a mini spa with a variety of treatments, offering the perfect way to end a day of tracking.

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the main areas of the camp. Electricity supply is a combination of silent packed generator and battery system.

LOCATION AND GETTING THERE

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp is nestled deep inside Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Kihihi airstrip is the closest airstrip which is 1 hour and 15 minutes from the camp. The camp can also be reached by vehicle from Kampala; and there is also the option of a scenic road transfer from Kigali, Rwanda.

Flying time:

- Scheduled flight from Entebbe to Kihihi airstrip – 1hr 45mins

Road transfer:

- Kampala to Bwindi – 10 hours
- Kigali (Rwanda) to Bwindi – 8 hours (weather dependent)

A maximum of 15 kg / 33lbs of luggage per person in soft-sided bags is allowed.



GAME VIEWING AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to the gorillas, Bwindi is also home to rare forest elephants, giant forest hogs and eleven kinds of primates, such as red tailed and blue monkeys, black and white colobus and baboons. You can also find forest duiker antelopes, bush buck antelopes and over 200 species of butterflies. Key wildlife include: gorilla, baboon, monkey, duiker, giant forest hog, warthog, civet, birds.

The following activities are included in your stay:

Community Walk: Bwindi is surrounded by the Bakiga community and Batwa people. The walk takes about two hours and begins with a stroll through a small tea farming project. Here you can stop to meet the tea pickers and perhaps even learn how to pluck tea leaves along the way. Then visit a local beer brewery and see how they mash bananas to make a fermented brew which is mixed and distilled to make banana beer - a popular local drink in the area. From here walk a short distance to the local hospital which Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp supports through various projects. Learn about how it started and the work they do for the community. Continue your walk to a nearby village and visit a traditional medicine man.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Gorilla tracking: Gorilla tracking is the main activity at Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp. The gorillas we track belong to one of the 'habituated' family groups in northern Bwindi. Experienced guides accompany the tracking, many of who have been involved in the habituation process themselves. Gorilla tracking is a year-round activity and tracking commences at 08.30am. There is a daily maximum of eight visitors able to meet each gorilla group. The terrain is testing in places but is fine if you are physically fit. Guides are always on hand to help and assist should you need it. Once the gorillas are located, the group can enjoy their company for one hour. Permits need to be bought in advance. Thanks to our unique sedan chair, guests who are unable to trek on foot can be carried into the rainforest by our porters.

Batwa Tribe Experience: Learn about and interact with the local Batwa People. This full day activity involves a three hour walk followed by about an hour spent with the Batwa. The walk back to camp is two hours. The visit includes a music performance, visitation by the goddess, hunting and gathering demonstration and an opportunity to see how they live. The Twa tribe who are also known as the Batwa are the oldest inhabitants of the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. Like most of the tribes in Africa, they have moved from place to place and are now found in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and eastern portions of the DRC. Statistics show that by the year 2000 their numbers were approximately 80,000 people, making them a significant minority group in these countries.

Birding walks: Bwindi boasts over 350 bird species, including 24 that are endemic to these highlands straddling Uganda, Rwanda and the Congo - the so-called the "Albertine Rift Endemics". For keen birders, we can arrange for a local expert to guide you on a fascinating 2-3 hour walk through the park.

Forest walks: We can offer a guided forest walk on the Munyaga waterfall trail. This trail starts from the Park office and ends at the magnificent Munyaga waterfall. The walk to and from the waterfall takes about three hours and is a good way to practice or cool down a day before or after the gorilla tracking.

Game drives: Game drives are done in the Queen Elizabeth National Park on request and at an additional charge.

Spa Treatments: Our mini spa at Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp offers the perfect way to end a long day of gorilla tracking. Treatments include a deep herbal massage, hydrating facial, foot massage, manicures and pedicures.

Additional activities are at an additional cost and can be pre-booked or while guests are in camp.

DINING

Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinners are all included in your stay. Breakfast is served before the morning game activity. Lunch is enjoyed back at the camps or packed during gorilla treks. Afternoon tea is served before the afternoon activity and offers a selection of cakes, sweet and savoury treats, tea, and coffee and fresh fruit juices. Once back at the camp, pre-dinner drinks and a three course dinner will be served. Romantic private dinners can be arranged upon request. With prior notice, our camps are able to arrange halaal meals, however, please note our kitchens aren't strictly halaal and our chefs are not trained in halaal food preparation. Unfortunately, we are unable to arrange kosher meals.

Meals typically consist of the following:

- **Breakfast:** Continental and full English Breakfast
- **Lunch:** Table d'Hote, 3 course meal with 2 choices, one being a vegetarian
- **Dinner:** Table d'Hote, 3 course meal with 2 to 3 choices, one being a vegetarian



HONEYMOONS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Guests celebrating their honeymoon will receive special surprises during their stay. All attempts are made to keep honeymooners separate from other guests.

Our honeymoon services include:

- Private dinner by the spa with a private bonfire
- Bubble bath with flower petals and sparkling wine - after gorilla tracking activity
- Spa Treatments

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We welcome all children of all ages at Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp.

Children aged 15 and younger are required to share with an adult. All eight rooms can convert to triples. Babysitting is available upon request (not a registered child minder) and is charged at a nominal fee which is paid to the child minder.

The minimum age for gorilla trekking is 15 years. Children aged 5-11 may go on these game drives, at the discretion of the Camp Manager.

CLIMATE

The majority of the country has a tropical climate which varies according to altitude. The hottest months are from December to February when the temperature reaches 29 degrees Celsius. Rainy seasons are from April to May and October to November, with the wettest month being April. The best times to visit are December to March and June to September. It can get very cool at night. The year-round weather stays within this range.

CLOTHING

Clothing should be cool and comfortable. Greens, browns and khaki coloured clothing are advisable for safaris especially when doing a walking safari. We suggest long sleeves and long trousers and for morning and evenings due to mosquitoes and a fleece jacket as it could be cold early mornings. Sturdy and comfortable shoes are essential. Evening dress is 'smart casual', there is no formal wear required. We advise guests to dress in a way they feel most comfortable. The altitude at Bwindi is just over a mile high. Evenings can get chilly, so it is advisable to carry a sweater.

A complimentary overnight laundry service is offered in the camp.

What to wear for Gorilla Tracking:

- It often rains heavily, even in the dry season, so a light raincoat will be useful.
- Sturdy walking boots with good ankle support and grip are also recommended.
- A light shoulder bag or small rucksack is useful to carry your packed lunch, water bottles, raincoat, camera and other essentials.
- Local porters are also available.
- Strong gloves are of enormous help, as you will be hauling yourself uphill by grabbing the bushes, and often sliding downhill on the seat of your pants.
- During the track, wearing a pair of walking trousers or gaiters will prevent cuts and scratches.
- Carry a water-proof plastic bag to wrap your camera and film or memory cards in.
- Flash photography is strictly prohibited as this may upset the gorillas. Make sure you bring ample supplies of high-speed film (400 ASA minimum or 800 ASA recommended) or memory cards to counter this. Also make sure you are completely familiar with the workings of your camera before you observe the gorillas.
- **Accessories:** Sunscreen, sunglasses and hats are essential. Binoculars and good cameras are an absolute must. The camp provides a torch as well as complimentary mosquito repellent and toiletries.



HEALTH

Please should discuss health precautions for your travel itinerary with a qualified health professional at least six weeks before you depart. We advise all travellers to take precautions against malaria and we recommend speaking to your GP or personal physician four to six weeks before departure. Yellow fever vaccination is required for guests travelling to Uganda.

MONEY AND CREDIT CARDS

All extras can be paid for with Visa, MasterCard, American Express and traveller's cheques. US dollars, Pounds, Euros and Ugandan Shillings are also accepted however change will be given in the local currency. Diners Cards are not accepted.

TIPPING GUIDELINE

Tipping is not obligatory but generally accepted rates are \$15 per guest per day for the guide and \$10 per guest per day for the rest of the staff.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp prides itself on its personalised services. Please let us know if you have any special requests, interests, dietary requirements, allergies or medical conditions.

PHILANTHROPY PROJECTS

Bwindi Community Hospital

Founded in 2003 by U.S. missionaries as a weekly clinic under a tree, Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH), located on the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, now provides healthcare to the 100,000 locals in the area. With 112 beds for patients and a healthcare outreach programme, the hospital provides clinics and care for a wide range of conditions including diabetes, high blood pressure, dental treatments, HIV and malaria. Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp is working with Bwindi Community Hospital on an on-going basis to continue to develop its resources and offer further support to the community, especially in vital areas of children's health services, maternity care and delivery, as well as an innovative insurance scheme. In addition, new initiatives that are being introduced thanks to the support of Sanctuary Retreats and our guests include:

- A nursing school to train nursing students for the longevity of the hospital
- A new adult ward with room for 60 patients
- Provision of two new ambulances

Pack for a Purpose: We are proud members of Pack for a Purpose, an initiative that allows travellers like you to make a lasting impact in the community at your travel destination. If you save just a few kilos of space in your suitcase and bring supplies for area schools or medical clinics in need, you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of our local children and families. Please visit <http://www.packforapurpose.org/> to see what supplies are needed for our projects.

Victory School: Victory Nursery and Primary School is located in the South Western region of Uganda in Kanungu district, right on the peripherals of the famous Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. The community nursery and primary school was solely founded by Mr. Victor Bahati.

Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp and its guests are working with the Victory School on an on-going basis to continue to develop its resource and class rooms and improve the quality of education for these children.



SANCTUARY GORILLA FOREST CAMP



LUXURY, NATURALLY

Sanctuary Retreats was born in Africa with the launch of our first luxury safari camp, Sanctuary Olonana, in Kenya, in 1999. Today, the Sanctuary Retreats portfolio of luxury safari lodges and expedition ships brings a much wider choice of our boutique adventure than ever before – but our standards remain the same. We promise adventure, enchantment and ‘Luxury, naturally’, all delivered with a quiet, understated charm and understanding of place.

RESERVATIONS AND ENQUIRIES

For more information and for your next booking, please contact us:

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