

Primate and Plains Safari to Uganda and Rwanda

Greetings,

This primate tour has been on my bucket list the longest, and was probably the most expensive trip I've taken - and it was totally worth it!!!

Throughout it our guide, Male was extremely prompt, very helpful and informative, handled the varying roads well, got us through all the security checks and took very good care of us. Even when he was sometimes told he didn't have to come back to check on us after dinner, or pick me up after a theatre performance within walking distance of the lodge, or wait around for us to do something or just drop me at the airport, he always showed up and insisted on this personal "door to door" service!

My flight from Entebbe to Kasese left awfully early and I avoided a really long drive, got to spend some time with the host of the Ndali Lodge on the transfer and had time for a lovely walk around their Crater lake.

Ndali Lodge was a cute, scenic lodge, with daily happy hour & a variety of other guests and expat friends of the hosts who seemed to be around a lot. There were lots of opportunities for good conversations.

The meals here were superb, and they paid attention to our food preferences. They also packed the best box lunch I've ever had!! They seem very supportive and interested in their community and are to be commended on their plan to start an International school, with lots of scholarship local students expected to attend.

Queen Elizabeth National Park was an opportunity to have the more traditional game drives, and it was fun to see what wildlife you might encounter as you drove around, even to and from the lodges. Mweya Lodge had a great setting above the Channel, a nice outdoor dining deck, banded mongoose wandering around in the morning. The Kazinga Channel boat trip was amazing - so much wildlife to see, and such great close-up viewing. The bonus was our private boat so we had every angle covered on all sides - a very nice touch!



Ishasha Wilderness Camp was a more rustic, natural experience...During our later afternoon game drive, we had a wonderful encounter by the river of a huge group of hippos & baboons - definitely my highlight that day. We'd not seen the tree climbing lions on our previous drives, but our last morning, with little expectations cause they "didn't climb" in the early morning, we went over to take photos of the "lion trees" and to our amazement found a few on 2 different trees so felt majorly lucky. Seemed like our wildlife viewing was super successful

Gorilla Forest Camp came with high expectations on my part, having seen a Sanctuary Lodges presentation at a travel show before. It met those, and I loved having 3 days here. It was not busy, so we had very personalized service, lots of chats with the staff who seemed interested in our excitement after our gorilla trek and looked at more photos we shared.



I think we really lucked out on especially our 2 gorilla treks. I'm sure it helped that Male passed on our wishes to visit the closest group, with the easiest trek expected, but considering they continually move, it was fortuitous that they didn't stray too far. In addition, both groups ended up in nice open areas that made viewing very easy, relaxed & incredibly close for photos. Even the morning rain in Rwanda didn't spoil things & made their hair fluffy. Bwindi was definitely more difficult trekking, but not the super challenging, long struggle it could have been, for which we were very grateful.

I certainly wanted you to know how much I enjoyed these experiences.

Cheers!

Jane Craig, July 2016