



*The Pearl
of Africa*

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www.larktours.com

The Lark Tours Difference

As you have probably already discovered, today's travel industry offers an overwhelming number of options. With so many to pick from, we know just how difficult it can be to select the right travel company. Here are some reasons why we think you should choose Lark Tours:

We are Unique. At Lark Tours we focus solely on offering private luxury vacations and safaris in Africa. Our concept is simple: your vacation in Africa should be just that - it should be **your** vacation.

Personalized & Tailor-Made Itineraries. While most companies present a number of set itineraries with scheduled departure dates, thus forcing you to fit within their framework, we take a very different approach. We offer private vacation itineraries that are personalized and tailor-made to perfectly fit your interests, preferences, and schedule. Whether you are traveling as a couple, a family, a group of friends, an organization, or some combination thereof, we will put together a trip that fits everybody's desires and departs when you want!

Private Groups. There is no denying that Africa is simply spectacular. To truly experience this enchanting continent on an intimate level, in a way that is sure to impact some part of your being, we firmly believe that private journeys are an absolute must. By delving into Africa in a manner that only private travel makes possible, you are able to interact with locals, learn about each region's history and culture at your own pace, and fully delight in all the beauty and wildlife that Africa has to offer. This ensures that you have an authentic experience in Africa and return home feeling enlightened, inspired, and above all else, satisfied.

Flexibility. The real beauty of private travel is having flexibility during your vacation. Because you have your own expert guides with private vehicles, you are free to make changes on a whim. When there are moments so captivating that you simply want to linger and soak in the experience, then you have the freedom to do so. There is no bus to catch, no rigid schedule to follow, and no large group with competing demands. This is your vacation with your own private guides who are there each step of the way to ensure you have the perfect experience.

Service is King. Private luxury travel is about receiving the best service available, which includes incredible attention to detail and help with every facet of your vacation. We deliver all this and more. Our staff and guides are some of the best in the industry and we all follow one simple rule: you are the most important priority. We will do absolutely whatever it takes to ensure you have the easiest, most satisfying vacation experience to date.

Expertise: We have delved deep into Africa and emerged with the extensive first-hand knowledge necessary to make sure your vacation is unforgettable. In addition to substantial training and ongoing education, everybody who works for us has extensive personal expertise from having lived and traveled in Africa. By targeting our focus exclusively on Africa, we are able to continually deepen our knowledge of this region and provide you with a plethora of magnificent experiences.

One Call Convenience. It seems like everything these days is becoming more and more convenient. Why should travel be any different? With one phone call we can take care of all your travel arrangements, including complimentary flight bookings, travel insurance, and much more.

We Like to Have Fun! Let's face it – much of the travel industry is far too serious. This is your vacation! This is your time off, your chance to explore a new region of the world and recharge your batteries. So what are you waiting for? Africa beckons!

The Pearl of Africa Itinerary

Embark on a 13-day journey from Kampala to Murchison Falls, then south to Queen Elizabeth National Park and Kibale Forest National Park, and finally to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home of the rare Mountain Gorillas

Day 1 - Depart from USA

Today we depart for Kampala, Uganda, located next to Lake Victoria.

Day 2 - Arrive in Kampala, Uganda

After arriving in Uganda's Entebbe International Airport, we are escorted to the stately and elegant Emin Pasha Hotel, which is named after a German born physician, explorer, and linguist who become the governor of Uganda in 1878. Situated in the heart of Kampala, which is Uganda's capital, the Emin Pasha Hotel evokes an era when exceptional service, ambiance, and personal comfort where the hallmarks of a great hotel. Bursting with character and a combination of old and new architecture, the hotel is set on two-acres of beautifully manicured tropical gardens, where mature trees, exotic flowers, and scented vines provide a tranquil respite from an otherwise-hectic city. This hotel consists of spacious rooms with modern amenities ranging from internet and satellite televi-



sion to air-conditioning, as well as the FEZ Bar & Restaurant, arguably the best place to eat and drink in Kampala. Amidst the elegance, we find ourselves swept up in the comfort and tranquility that the Emin Pasha and its world-class staff have to offer.

Emin Pasha Hotel (dinner included)

Day 3 - Transfer to Nile Safari Lodge

Today we make the five hour drive north to Nile Safari Lodge for our visit to Murchison Falls. Nestled peacefully among the rich papyrus forest on the southern banks of the Nile River, the Nile Safari Lodge offers some of the most luxurious accommodations in Murchison Falls National Park. The Lodge has ten rooms, which includes five Wooden Chalets and five Luxury Tents, all with en-suite bathrooms. Each room also has a private balcony suspended over the Nile River where we can enjoy an evening sundowner or early morning tea and coffee served while soaking in the incredible views. The rooms are strategically positioned to maximize stunning views of the area and to capture the true sense of wild Africa. Watch as giant Nile Crocodiles bask on the sand banks, hippos snort from their watery homes, and elephant herds wade through the papyrus islands in search of food.

After we settle into our Luxury Tents, we spend the evening relaxing.

Nile Safari Lodge (breakfast, lunch, dinner included)



Day 4 - Murchison Falls National Park

Today we explore Murchison Falls National Park by visiting the falls, boating on the Nile, and setting off on safaris. Located in the north-west corner of Uganda, Murchison Falls National Park is the country's largest protected area and home to an abundant wildlife population. The park, which covers approximately 1,485 square miles, is bisected by the Nile River as it runs from its source at Lake Victoria to Lake Albert. Normally almost 120 feet wide, the Nile River is suddenly forced through a narrow gap only 24 feet wide at Murchison Falls. As the

mighty Nile comes roaring through this small opening, frothing, angry and venting its full force, it corkscrews through yet another gap where it cascades to form the beautiful Murchison Falls. Though the Falls are not particularly high, the sheer strength and power of the water is very impressive, causing the earth to rumble. Once in a while we might catch a glimpse of a Nile Perch being spat from the river. These fish are strong enough to withstand the pressure the river exerts and can grow to be over 220 pounds.

Along this stretch of the Nile we also find incredibly large Nile Crocodiles, many of which are over 15 feet in length, bathing lazily on the banks of the river. The park is home to elephants, hippos, buffalo, giraffe, oribi, hartebeest, waterbuck, and lions, though predators are not as common here as they are in other parts of Africa. This region is also a bird-watcher's paradise, home to many bird species including the unique Shoebill or Whale-Headed Stork. Standing just over 3 feet tall, these monstrous birds have huge beaks capable of crushing small crocodiles. We experience all this magnificent wildlife from our boat on the Nile River and from game drives conducted in open, 4x4 vehicles along the park's extensive network of roads.

Nile Safari Lodge (breakfast, lunch, dinner)



Day 5 - Transfer to Ndali Lodge in Kibale National Park

Today we board our charter flight from Murchison Falls to Fort Portal. Upon arrival we transfer to Ndali Lodge, located in the Bunyaruguru Crater Lake region near Kibale National Park. Nestled in the center of 1000 acres of privately owned farmland, Ndali Lodge is perched on the rim of an extinct volcano overlooking Lake Nyinambuga. Ndali offers eight spacious, comfortable cottages, which were all built using local materials. Each cottage has en suite bathrooms, with hot and cold water, showers, and flush toilets, as well as private verandas where we can enjoy gorgeous views of the Rwenzori Mountains. The lodge has no

electricity or generators, though there are plenty of candles and lanterns, making for a romantic, "out of Africa" atmosphere at nights. For an intimate experience in the African bush, Ndali Lodge is truly a jewel.

Ndali Lodge (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6 - In Pursuit of Chimpanzees

Today we spend time in Kibale Forest National Park in search of its famous chimpanzees and other primates. Covering an area of approximately 296 square-miles, Kibale is home to some of the most spectacular flora and fauna that Africa has to offer, including 351 recorded species of trees, 335 bird species, and 13 primate species. A



variety of altitudes within the park offer us vegetation ranging from moist evergreen forests and tropical deciduous forest to areas of woodland, marshes and savannah along the Rift Valley floor. In the tropical deciduous forests, the trees tend to grow much taller and large in circumference than elsewhere, with a canopy that reaches up more than 180 feet.

Of greatest interest, though, is the fact that Kibale contains the densest and most diverse population of primates in the world, including chimpanzees,

Red Colobus, Angolan Colobus, L'Hoest's Monkey, and nine other species. In addition, if we are very lucky, we might also catch a glimpse of the elusive forest elephants, which are much smaller than their cousins on the savannah. This park is also home to forest buffalo and many species of antelope.

Ndali Lodge (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 7 - Transfer to Ishasha Wilderness Camp in Queen Elizabeth National Park

Today we drive to Ishasha Wilderness Camp located in the remote southern region of Queen Elizabeth National Park, along the banks of the Ntungwe River. Ishasha is the only upscale accommodation in the area, offering luxury tents in an exclusive location. Ishasha can accommodate up to twenty guests in ten large Meru-style tents. Each tent has en suite bathrooms, a dressing area, hot water bush showers, and eco-friendly toilets. Ishasha Camp is managed by a friendly and knowledgeable staff that provides excellent service throughout our stay.



That afternoon we relax and soak in our surroundings.

Ishasha Camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 8 - Outstanding Safaris

Today we embark on game drives in Queen Elizabeth National Park, which boasts one of the highest biodiversity ratings of any game reserve in the world. With approximately 100 mammal species such as elephants, hippos and giant forest hogs, and over 600 bird species, this region offers excellent game viewing. The Kazinga Channel has one of the largest concentrations of hippos in the world and the area around the Mweya Peninsula is well known for sightings of the Ugandan Kob, a small and handsome antelope that is found on the Ugandan Coat of Arms. In this region we also have the chance to spot the Africa's famous tree-climbing lions, which have developed the ability to climb Acacia and Fig trees in order to escape the heat of the day. In addition, the park has chimpanzees in the Kyambura Gorge, forest monkeys and birds in the Maramagambo Forest, and Flamingos on the crater lakes. Not only does this region contain incredible biodiversity, but it is also an especially scenic equatorial area with rainforests, crater lakes, dense papyrus swamps, open savannahs, and the vast Lake Edward, all with the majestic



Rwenzori Mountains in the background. All in all, this region offers fascinating game viewing in a gorgeous setting.

Ishasha Camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 9 - Transfer to Gorilla Forest Camp in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Today we make the scenic drive to Gorilla Forest Camp, located in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, home to the rare and elusive Mountain Gorillas. As one of only a handful of

camps located in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Gorilla Forest Camp provides the perfect base from which to track Mountain Gorillas.

Situated within the national park, less than a five minutes from the start of the gorilla trekking point, Gorilla Forest Camp is a permanent luxury tented camp nestled in the mist-swathed rainforest and has been designed to blend seamlessly into the surrounding environment. Each of the camp's eight double tents is built on wooden platforms, with private verandas facing out over the valley. Here we can relax, enjoy a private meal, and soak in the magnificent views. Each tent has luxurious en suite facilities, including a private bathtub with views of the forest. All meals are served in the camp's raised, open-air dining cottage, around a traditional



campfire. As we enjoy our meals, we can discuss our day's adventures or simply sit and absorb the exotic mystery of the surrounding rainforest.

Gorilla Forest Camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 10 & 11 - Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is situated on Uganda's western border, near the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. This region is very close to the geographical heart of Africa where the Rift Valley and Africa's Great Lakes converge to create an eco-system that is considered by many to be the very essence of the African continent, as depicted in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Fittingly, Bwindi is one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth, recognized by UNESCO as a World



Heritage Site. The fertile 125 square miles of the park contain 113 species of mammals (including a herd of the rare forest elephants), 200 species of butterflies, over 360 species of birds, and 324 tree varieties (ten of which are endemic to the park). In addition to this incredible diversity, Bwindi is home to seven species of primates, of which the most endangered is the Mountain Gorilla, attracting the attention of international conservation efforts. It is estimated that only 600 of these peaceful giants remain worldwide, and these mountains alone are home to approximately 300 gorillas. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is an enduring pocket of primeval forest offering an enthralling Africa experience.

Over the next two days we forge into the surrounding rainforest-covered mountains with our guides in pursuit of the renowned Mountain Gorillas. Our guides use their knowledge of the gorilla's living habits and patterns, along with an understanding of the surrounding mountains, to track down the gorilla families. On an average day, gorillas spend 30% of their time moving about, which means tracking them is highly unpredictable. Sometimes we are able to find gorillas within a half hour and other times it takes a day or longer. Be prepared to hike long distances, up and down steep mountains, through muddy, tangled conditions, where

it is often raining. This is a difficult outing but well worth the effort and perhaps one of the most rewarding experiences in Africa.

Gorilla Forest Camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 12 - Back to Kampala and then homeward bound

After one final breakfast overlooking the magnificent rainforest, we board our charter flight to Entebbe. Upon arrival, we board our international flight home.

(breakfast)

Day 13 - Return Home

En route to home. As we fly back home, we relish in our new memories and look forward to telling friends and family about our splendid travels in Africa.

Trip Details

2010 Departure Dates and Pricing

• *The Pearl of Africa* departs daily

• **High Season** (January 11 - December 14):

From \$9,995 per person sharing; Please enquire about single supplement costs

• **Peak Season** (December 15 - January 10):

Please contact us for pricing and availability

NOTE: Necessary flights to/from Africa are an additional fee and are not included in the above rates.

*** The single supplement is an additional charge added to the trip price for travelers requesting single occupancy accommodations.

What's Included With the Cost?

- A Lark Tours welcome packet containing all necessary pre- and post-departure trip planning information
- Full pre-and post-vacation Lark Tours customer support, available to answer all your questions during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST) and available to answer emergency calls from trip participants and/or from family/friends of trip participants at any hour during your vacation
- Guides for all activities, sightseeing, etc as outlined in the itinerary
- All meals
- All lodgings and accommodations
- All entry and participation costs for all activities, sightseeing, etc. as outlined in the itinerary
- All ground transportation as outlined above
- Charter flights from Nile Safari Lodge to Fort Portal and from Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to Entebbe International Airport
- Fully comprehensive travel insurance
- All game drives in off-road vehicles
- All game walks in Kibali Forest and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest led by experienced guides
- Permit for Chimpanzee Tracking
- Permit for Gorilla Tracking
- All conservation and park fees
- Upon request, complimentary international flight arrangements

What's NOT Included?

- International flights
- Alcohol, except where specified in the itinerary
- Personal purchases
- Gratuities
- Passport/visa fees
- Required and/or recommended immunizations
- Any other items of a personal nature

There are absolutely no hidden costs, fees, or extra expenses.

Trip Reservations

All bookings and activities are subject to change and availability.

Complimentary Flight Arrangements

Lark Tours is pleased to offer you our complimentary flight arrangement services, at no additional charge, when you book one of our vacations. With the help of our flight specialists, we are able to find the flights you need, usually for less than you can find as an individual. Also, when we book your flights we can schedule all your arrival and departure times to fit perfectly with your vacation itinerary. But best of all, taking advantage of our complimentary flight arrangements is convenient and means you can make all your vacation plans with a single phone call.

If you decide to handle flight arrangements on your own then we ask that you check with us to coordinate all flights. This is very important since there are flights where arrival and departure times must be coordinated properly to ensure that your trip flows smoothly. Once your flight is booked, please send us a copy of your ticket so we have a copy on file.

Welcome Packet

Once you book a vacation with us, we will send you a detailed packet of information on how to prepare for your upcoming trip, which includes topics such as necessary visas, important vaccinations, safety tips, clothing suggestions, recommended reading, and more.

Payment Schedule

At the time of reservation: 50% of trip cost due
90 days prior to trip departure: Full balance due

Cancellation & Refund Policy

All cancellations are to be made by speaking with a Lark Tours representative followed by a written notification mailed to our office. At the time of cancellation, the following fees will apply:

91 days or more prior to departure we charge: 25% of total trip price
46 to 90 prior days to departure we retain: 50% of total trip price
45 days or less prior to departure we retain: 100% of total trip price

About Lark Tours

Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A., Lark Tours is a full-service tour operator that focuses exclusively on offering private luxury vacations and safaris in Africa. Founded in 2005, Lark Tours was developed based on the knowledge that in order to truly experience Africa on an intimate level, private journeys are an absolute must. Since then, Lark Tours has been bringing fresh energy to the world of travel with its innovative approach, and in the process, it has redefined what it means to have an unforgettable vacation experience in Africa.

At Lark Tours, our hope is that you will consider sharing this journey with us, and in the process, grow to love this enchanting continent as much as we do.

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Questions? Comments? To speak with a Lark Tours representative call us toll-free at 1-877-LarkTours (527-5868)

If you prefer, email any of you questions or comments to info@larktours.com



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