

RGSQ Traveller
GEOGRAPHY, GAME PARKS AND GORILLAS,
Overland through Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania

Departs Brisbane 22 June 2019 | 27 days | returning 18 Jul 19

Highlights: Murchison Falls, Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kataara Women's Group, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Nakuru National Park, Masai Mara National Reserve, Lake Victoria, Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Amboseli National Park, Tsavo East & West National Park, David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Giraffe Centre (A.F.E.W. Kenya) and the Karen Blixen Museum

ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart Brisbane, 22 Jun 19

Day 2: Arrival in Entebbe Uganda, 23 Jun 19

On arrival in Entebbe, the former seat of Uganda's government, we will meet our local escorts and drive to our overnight accommodation. The rest of the afternoon will be spend at leisure, enjoy the sparkling pool with stunning views of the great Lake Victoria.

Overnight: K Hotels Entebbe or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <https://khotels.ug/>
Meals: Dinner
Distance: 10km

Day 3: Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda, 24 Jun 19

We depart Entebbe after breakfast and drive to Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda's largest National Parks. We visit the world-famous Murchison Falls for a view from above and below the falls, before proceeding to the Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch, home to Uganda's only wild Rhinoceros, with as many as 19 southern white rhinos roaming the sanctuary.

Overnight: Paraa Safari lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://paraalodge.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 400km (approx. 6.5 hours estimate)

Day 4: Murchison Falls National Park to Fort Portal, Uganda, 25 Jun 19

After breakfast we embark on a Murchison Falls National Park game drive. The park is home to buffalo, elephants and Rothschild-Giraffes, and commonly spotted wildlife include: lions, antelope, waterbucks, hippos and crocodiles. Thereafter we proceed to Fort Portal for our overnight accommodation with wonderful views of the Rwenzori Mountains.

Overnight: Mountain of the Moon Hotel or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://www.mountainsofthemoonhotel.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 380km (approx. 5 hours estimate)

Day 5: Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda, 26 Jun 19

A morning transfer takes us to Queen Elizabeth National Park, which is characterised with volcanic craters, grassy plains, tropical forest and giant lakes connected by a channel groaning with hippos. In the afternoon we enjoy a boat ride before visiting the Kataara Women's Group. The Kataara Women's Poverty Alleviation Group is an innovative Community Based Organization which runs a small-scale enterprise selling handicrafts made with paper produced from elephant dung.

Overnight: Park View Safari Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <https://parkviewsafarilodge.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 160km (approx. 3.5 hours estimate)

Day 6: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda, 27 Jun 19

This morning is filled with a game drive in the Queen Elizabeth National Park. The park has approximately 100 types of mammal and 606 different bird species, including the peculiar shoebill, the Kasinga Channel alone is said to contain the world's largest concentration of hippos, and other wildlife includes buffalo, the rare aquatic sitatunga antelope, giant forest hog, Uganda kob, Defassa waterbuck and elephant. After game experience we proceed to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.

Overnight: Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://ichumbigorillalodge.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 260km (approx. 4 hours estimate)

Day 7: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda, 28 Jun 19

Today we wake up early for a hearty breakfast for the energy needed for gorilla trekking. Before 8:00am, we report to the ranger station for registration and a talk by one of the rangers. The guides will then take us through the bush, pushing our way through the undergrowth, to track the gorillas. (NB: this trek can take from 30 minutes to 5-6 hours). A reasonable degree of fitness is required, as well as a sturdy pair of walking shoes. Sit in the forest among the gorillas, listening to them 'talk' to one another, and marvel at the sheer

size of the dominant male, the Silverback. It is an extraordinary feeling sitting in the dense rainforest knowing we are with a few of the last remaining mountain gorillas, as there are only about 650 of these beautiful creatures left. In the afternoon/ evening embark on an optional community walk.

Overnight: Ichumbi Gorilla Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://ichumbigorillalodge.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: N/A (activities)

Day 8: Kampala, Uganda, 29 Jun 19

Early morning we take a long drive to Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. This bustling city serves as the commercial hub of the country boasting a blend of African markets, modern skyscrapers, international hotels, bars, and casinos. Our hotel has options of Ngeye and Kibs restaurant, which offers a variety of dishes. The coffee shop and live bakery provides enough ways to enjoy Uganda coffee beans along with cakes and breads.

Overnight: Hotel Africana or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://www.hotelafricana.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 490km (approx. 8 hours estimate)

Day 9: Kampala, Uganda to Nakuru National Park, Kenya via Busia Border, 30 Jun 19

We depart Kampala early morning and take a drive to Busia boarder for a farewell with our Uganda crew and meet up with our Kenyan crew. Thereafter we proceed to Nakuru National Park. Our lodge is located on a range of hills that form the western limits of Africa's Great Rift Valley, and offers spectacular views over the vastness of Africa.

Overnight: Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://www.sopalodges.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 530km (approx. 8.5 hours estimate)

Day 10. Nakuru National Park, Kenya, 01 Jul 19

Today we explore Nakuru National Park, which was created to protect the Lake and its flocks of Lesser Flamingo which are drawn to the algae that flourishes in the saline waters of the soda lake. The national park is home to hippos, black and white rhino, Rothschild giraffe, buffalo and eland.

Overnight: Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://www.sopalodges.com/>

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: N/A (activities)

Day 11. Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya, 02 Jul 19

We depart Lake Nakuru National Park and head for Masai Mara National Reserve. The Masai Mara together with Tanzania's Serengeti form Africa's most famous wildlife park. We game drive to our lodge, which is located inside the Masai Mara and offers great opportunities to view wildlife from the comfort of our verandas.

Overnight: Mara Eden Safari Camp or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <https://www.maraedensafaricamp.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 290km (approx. 6.5 hours estimate)

Day 12. Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya, 03 Jul 19

We spend the day exploring Masai Mara National Reserve on game drives. The endless grass plain which dominates the Masai Mara vegetation gives optimum game viewing and photo opportunities. The game drives also provides chances to encounter Masai warrior with their cattle. Time allowing aside from traditional vehicle safaris, hot-air ballooning over the Mara plains has become almost essential and you can even do a horseback safari.

Overnight: Mara Eden Safari Camp or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <https://www.maraedensafaricamp.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: N/A (activities)

Day 13. Lake Victoria, Tanzania, 04 Jul 19

Transiting via Isibania border we leave Kenya and meet up with our local Tanzanian crew. After crossing the border we proceed to Lake Victoria, a massive water body, three times the size of Wales and is shared by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It is both Africa's biggest lake and the source of its biggest river, the Nile. Its waters are rich in fish life with shimmering shoals of colourful cichlids and large Nile Perch.

Overnight: Serenity on the Lake or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <https://www.serenitycoresort.net/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 300km (approx. 6 hours estimate)

Day 14. Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, 05 Jul 19

Departing Lake Victoria, we enter the Serengeti National Park and game drive to our overnight accommodation located in the Seronera region. The region is in the central Serengeti, set directly on the Great Migration route, and offers excellent viewing of this incredible annual phenomenon, when countless wildebeest flood across the plains. While migratory game populations fluctuate seasonally, Seronera is still a wildlife hotspot at other times of the year, sheltering the Big Five, among many other species. Optional hot air balloon trips and walking safaris are available, if time permits.

Overnight: Kisura Tented Camp or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <https://www.kenzanluxurycamp.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 250km (approx. 5 hours estimate)

Day 15. Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, 06 Jul 19

We fill the day on safari in Serengeti National Park, with luck we may spot large prides of lions, elephants and giraffes, gazelles and eland. Our game drives are in the world-famous Seronera Valley which is known for its prime wildlife-viewing opportunities and picture-perfect landscape characterised by endless stretches of savannah-covered open plains, interspersed by rocky outcrops of granite, scattered with acacia woodlands and covered in a network of rivers and streams.

Overnight: Kisura Tented Camp or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <https://www.kenzanluxurycamp.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: N/A (activities)

Day 16. & Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania, 07 Jul 19

We depart Serengeti National Park on game drives headed for a stop at the Ol Duvai Gorge. Our destination for tonight is the Ngorongoro Crater, which is home to vast herds of wildlife. The lodge is situated on the eastern rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, in the volcanic highlands of Tanzania. Accommodations are designed thematically to match traditionally circular African houses with conical roofs. Guest rooms are spacious and include an ensuite bathroom, a private lounge and balcony.

Overnight: Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website <http://www.sopalodges.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 200km (No estimate due to game driving to next the lodge)

Day 17. Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania, 08 Jul 19

Early morning we aim for the crater descent into the Ngorongoro Crater, a game viewing paradise and major tourist drawcards. Within the crater rim a daily wildlife drama is played

out as large herds of zebra and wildebeest graze nearby lions, leopards, elephants and black rhinos. In the afternoon we proceed to Karatu which borders the Ngorongoro Conservancy.

Overnight: Karatu Simba Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <http://www.simbaportfolio.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner
Distance: 250km (No estimate - game driving to next the lodge)

Day 18: Arusha, Tanzania

After breakfast we drive to Arusha in preparation to our return journey to other Kenyan national parks. The town was built by the Germans as a centre of colonial administration because of the temperate climate, it is a good spot to take a day off from safari. We spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

Overnight: The African Tulip or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <http://theafricantulip.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Distance: 200km (approx. 4 hours estimate)

Day 19. Amboseli National Park, Kenya, 10 Jul 19

Leaving Tanzania, our next destination for 2 nights is Amboseli National Park in Kenya, renowned for its excellent variety of wildlife such as Masai giraffe, elephant, lion and cheetah. Its landscape is dominated by the majestic snow cap of Mount Kilimanjaro, as well as open plains, acacia woodland, swamps and the massif of Ol Doinyo Orok. In addition to game activities, we have an opportunity to meet and interact with Masai people, as we game drive to our lodge.

Overnight: Kibo Safari Camp or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <https://kibosafaricamp.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Distance: 250km (approx. 6 hours estimate)

Day 20. Amboseli National Park, Kenya, 11 Jul 19

Today we embark on game drives in Amboseli, with great chances of viewing a variety of big game. The birding in Amboseli is also excellent, especially closer to the lakes and swamps. The park is famous for being the best place in Africa to get close to large herds of elephants among other wildlife species. At our lodge we soak up with spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

Overnight: Kibo Safari Camp or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <https://kibosafaricamp.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Distance: N/A (activities)

Day 21. Tsavo West National Park, Kenya, 12 Jul 19

We give a farewell to Amboseli and game drive Tsavo West, which is covered in fairly thick bush, yet with a spectacular natural scenery which includes volcanic cones, swamps, rocky outcrops and lava flows, mountains, river forest, plains, lakes, natural springs and wooded grassland. Our overnight lodge is stone-built and overlooks its own water hole, which is visited daily by elephants, buffalos and a wide variety of plains game.

Overnight: Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <https://www.serenahotels.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Distance: 200km (approx. 3 hours estimate)

Day 22. Tsavo East National Park, Kenya, 13 Jul 19

Today we game drive to Tsavo East National Park, which is home to some of the largest elephant and buffalo herds in Kenya. The afternoon is filled with game activities and a visit to the Elephant orphanage release centre (donations are welcome). Our lodge for the next two nights is located in Tsavo East National Park on top of a rocky hill, offering spectacular views.

Overnight: Voi Safari Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <https://www.voiwildlifelodge.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Distance: 210km (approx. 3 hours estimate)

Day 23. Tsavo East National Park, Kenya, 14 Jul 19

Today we explore Tsavo East National Park on game drives. The arid environment with its unique red earth creates spectacular photo opportunities. Tsavo East boasts a rich biodiversity and is said to be one of the last remaining wildernesses. With chance depending on time, we may visit wonderful attractions including: Galana River; and Mudanda Rock, a natural viewpoint which overlooks a much visited and photographed drinking hole.

Overnight: Voi Safari Lodge or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <https://www.voiwildlifelodge.com/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Distance: N/A (activities)

Day 24. Nairobi, Kenya, 15 Jul 19

Leaving Tsavo East, we drive to the Kenyan capital Nairobi. The rest of the afternoon will be spend at leisure or on optional excursions.

Overnight: The Boma or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <http://www.theboma.co.ke/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Distance: 280km (approx. 5 hours estimate)

Day 25. Nairobi, Kenya, 16 Jul 19

Today we visit The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Giraffe Centre (A.F.E.W. Kenya) and The Karen Blixen Museum. The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was founded in 1977 by Dr Dame Daphne Sheldrick D.B.E, in honour of the memory of her late husband, famous naturalist and founding Warden of Tsavo East National Park, David Leslie William Sheldrick MBE. The Trust is today the most successful orphan-elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in the world and one of the pioneering conservation organisations for wildlife and habitat protection in East Africa. To date it has successfully hand-raised over 150 infant elephants and has accomplished its long-term conservation priority by effectively reintegrating orphans back into the wild herds of Tsavo, claiming many healthy wild-born calves from former-orphaned elephants raised in care.

The African Fund for Endangered Wildlife Kenya (A.F.E.W. Kenya) also known as the Giraffe Centre is a non-governmental, non-profit making organization, which was founded by Betty and Jock Leslie-Melville in 1979. This was in a bid to save the endangered Rothschild Giraffe, which had lost its natural habitat in Western Kenya to agriculture and there were only 130 left in the wild. Funds were raised and four herds of the Rothschild giraffes were moved to four parks namely Lake Nakuru National Park, Mwea Game Reserve, Ruma National Park and Nasalot Game Reserve.

The Karen Blixen Museum was once the home of the Danish author Karen Blixen. The renowned author made famous by the release of the Oscar winning movie 'Out of Africa', based on Karen's autobiography of the same title. The museum displays many pieces of the author's furniture and has a splendid view of the Ngong Hills, immortalized in Karen Blixen's opening line, and "I had a farm in Africa at the foot of the Ngong Hills."

Overnight: The Boma or similar
1 x night(s)
Website: <http://www.theboma.co.ke/>
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Distance: N/A (activities)

Day 26. Airport transfers, 17 Jul 19

Distance: 20km (approx. 0.5 hours estimate)

Day 27. Arrive Brisbane, 18 Jul 19

Note: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information at the time of publication, RGSQ cannot accept responsibility for the errors, changes, omissions or for descriptions which have been supplied by third party providers.