



JOURNEYS BY DESIGN  
— DISTINCTIVE AFRICAN TRAVEL —





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**Charity Auction April 13th 2017**

**Once Girl Can, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraiser**

**A beautiful tailor-made, private gorilla tracking adventure for two in Uganda combining:**

*Clouds Gorilla Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (2 nights)*

*Kyaninga Lodge, Kibale Forest (2 nights)*

*Semliki Lodge, Semliki National Park, Uganda (2 nights)*



*“Journeys by Design opened our eyes to a world of experiences we never could have imagined”*

**Ralph Lauren**

## Introduction

Congratulations! We are delighted that you are the winner of this wonderful gorilla tracking safari for two people. We combine three of the best lodges in Uganda, covering the stunning Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Kibale Forest and Semliki National Park.

The Gorilla trip we have personally crafted for you includes a seamless ground arrangement with VIP service throughout, from the moment that you land to the moment that you take off again for home. We will meet you off your international flight, arrange all transfers and accommodation and can be reached 24hours a day in the unlikely event of an emergency.

You will begin your Ugandan adventure in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Set on a forested ridge near the entrance to the park is **Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge** for two nights. This beautiful Lodge remains a firm favourite of ours here at Journeys by Design, as it is well located to ensure that you have prime access to the areas you have come to visit. After a hard day's tracking the mountain gorilla, you can soak in your bath or sit on your large veranda and enjoy the views. It is called Clouds Lodge for a reason; you will be simply in awe of your surroundings.





*View from Clouds Lodge*

From Clouds, we take you to Kibale Forest, where you will get to explore the wonders of this enchanted region with Chimpanzee trekking. Deep in the evergreen rainforest of Kibale, you will come face to face with man's closest living relative. Here you will stay at **Kyaninga Lodge** for two nights. Situated close to Kibale Forest, Kyaninga Lodge is the perfect place for you to explore this ancient wilderness.



*Aerial view of Kyaninga Lodge*

Next we take you to Semliki National Park, where you will step back in time to the old explorer's world. You will stay at **Semliki Lodge** for two nights. This lovely secluded and intimate camp has excellent service, fantastic bird sightings and is historically very important as it was the first protected area in Uganda. You can take a wonderful boat trip on Lake Albert or set off to see the almost-prehistoric looking Shoebill; a fascinating giant of a bird. It will be a lovely ending to your adventures in Uganda.



*Semliki Lodge at sunset*

Journeys by Design are finding that more and more people are looking for responsible travel, a fact that chimes with one of our core principles: the vital importance of sustainable tourism. In this respect, we maintain a high ethical stance. We design luxury safaris that support conservation and community initiatives. We ensure you enjoy the most superb safari experiences, in full knowledge you are also contributing to wildlife preservation and supporting local communities. We are selling a lifestyle choice, with values – not just a holiday.

**Will Jones – Journeys by Design**

**March 2017**

## Day One

### Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge, Bwindi Forest

Depending on timing of international flights (you may need to arrive the night before), you will be met upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport. You will then take your scheduled flight to Kisoro, where you will be met on landing, helped with your luggage and transferred by road to Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge. Here you will stay for two nights on a full board basis. In the afternoon you will visit the Community at Nkuringo village.



Set up in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation, and managed in part by the Ugandan Safari Company, Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge is a cross-community initiative of the highest order. Located in Southern Uganda, in Bwindi National Park, in forests habituated by the Nkuringo people, it is one of the first lodges in the region with both the means and wherewithal to follow through recommendations made by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme. As such, it has quickly garnered a reputation for providing a service that is caring, innovative and far-sighted.

A family run business, and keen to add something extra to an area that is known more for its flora and fauna than it is for the level of accommodation on offer, Clouds is a large stone construct situated on Nketo Ridge. Surrounded by miles upon miles of afro-montane forest, the views are incredible.

The main lodge consists of a reception, lounge, dining area and balcony. Modern, but with a country house feel to it, the shared areas are both spacious and comfortable. The windows - multi-paned and large - allow for a great deal of natural light, and make the most of the views.

French doors open out onto the balcony, the furniture - cream, sumptuous and low - is warm and comfortable, the walls are white and adorned with paintings commissioned from Ugandan artists. The overall feel, with only the giant rafters overhead, is one of great space. The cuisine is international and excellent, and the floor is headed up by Sipi, a head waiter and personal assistant known throughout Uganda for providing the highest standards of service.



*Main lounge at Clouds*

There are 8 en-suite cottages at Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge - 2 of which have 2 bedrooms and would suit families or small groups. As with the main lodge, the cottages are beautifully positioned, and, in some of the rooms, the large double beds literally look out over the forested slopes. The bathrooms - double basins, European-style fittings and simple lines - are both functional and tasteful. The furniture is well-chosen, and the headboards are beautiful heavy pieces of what looks like reclaimed wood.



*Room detail*





*Your bathroom and beautiful breakfast views from Clouds*

### **Afternoon Community visit to Nkuringo Village on first day**

This community visit will take you through a journey of sustainable life in remote Uganda, showing the lifestyle and culture of the Bakiga people.



Interpreting life, one of the trained community guides will lead the walk through the Nkuringo Community, visiting the sites of brewing masters (for a taste of the local moonshine); traditional homesteads to see how women really do control everything in the family; a fascinating blacksmith to see the art of providing the locals with the tools that they use in their everyday life such as machetes, hoes and many other fascinating utensils; visiting the local school which gives you the opportunity to interact and see how children are taught in a poverty-stricken area and their humble respect for education; possibly being fortunate enough to hear the rehearsals of the neighbouring church choir; visiting the community projects that we have initiated with pig-farming, school vegetable gardens and chicken-laying; then take a walk to some of the most scenic views in Africa which provides exciting photo opportunities, not only of landscapes but also the warm smiles of the Bakiga.



*Image taken by on last trip*

## Day two

## Gorilla Tracking

It will be an early start this morning, as you head out with the trackers of Bwindi Forest National Park in search of the gorillas. It is wise to have a substantial breakfast before starting your tracking.

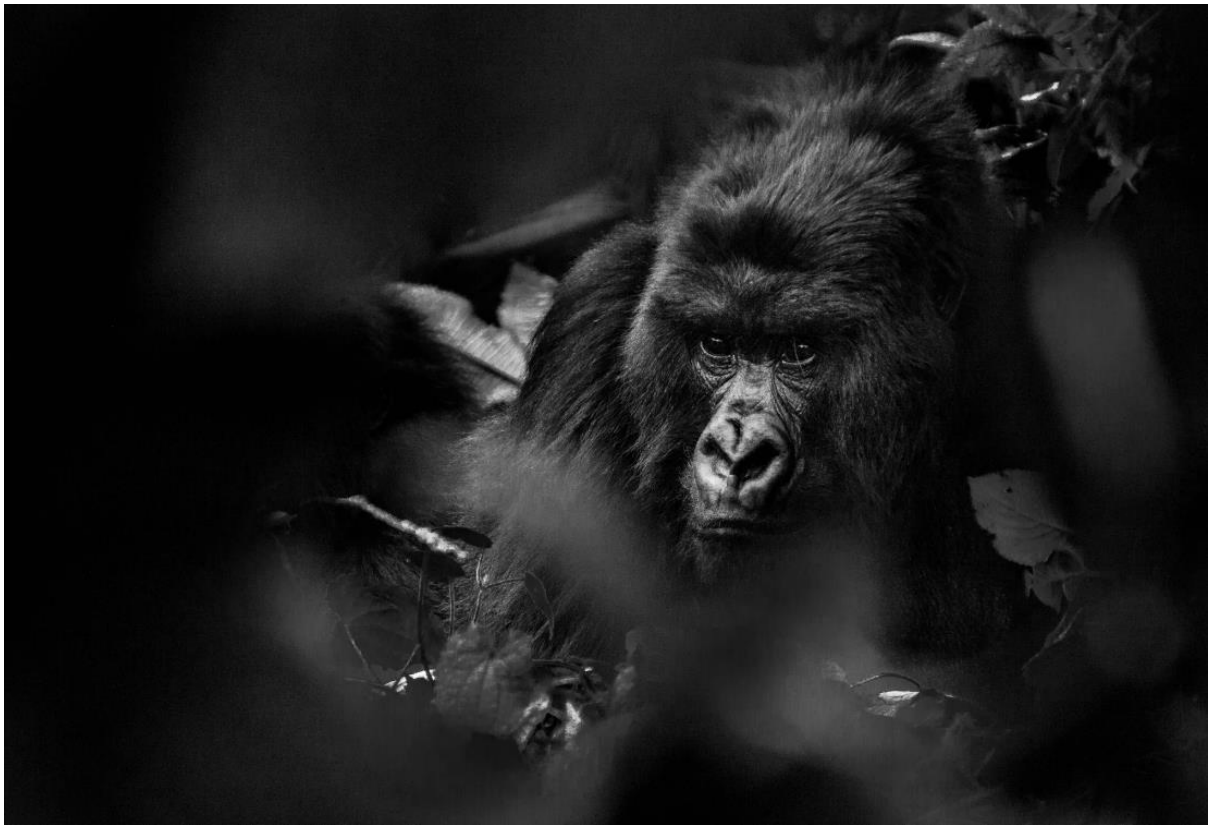


### **Hiking, trekking and gorilla tracking - the facts:**

How hard should one prepare for gorilla tracking in Uganda? The facts below will help you to answer this question.

- Tracking takes place at altitudes of 3000 metres - this means that moderate/ average physical fitness is required, not athletic fitness.

- Tracking gorillas is conducted by patient, qualified and knowledgeable ranger guides with wide experience in natural history with particular attention to gorilla behaviour.
- Trekking, hiking and tracking is conducted at a moderate pace with plenty of stops for resting, fielding questions, further briefs etc. Competitive hiking is discouraged as the aim of the guides, porters and rangers is for all the group members to make it to the gorillas and back to the base. Believe it or not, the slowest hiker/ trekker will determine the pace of the trek.



*Images taken on our last trip to Uganda*





### **An average day tracking**

You will be up relatively early for a hearty breakfast to give you the energy needed for your gorilla track. Just before 0800hrs, you will report to the ranger station for registration and a talk by one of the rangers; the guides will then take you through the bush pushing your way through the undergrowth, parting thick creepers, to track the gorillas. The trek can take from half an hour to 8 hours – a reasonable degree of fitness is required as well as a sturdy pair of walking shoes.

Once you are close to the group, the guides will ask you to leave behind your bags as no food items should be carried close to the gorillas. Just take your cameras with you as you are about to meet the gentle giants! Sit in the forest amongst the gorillas, listening to them grumble to each other and marvel at the sheer size of the dominant male; the silverback. It is an extraordinary feeling sitting in the dense rainforest knowing you are with a few of the last remaining mountain gorillas – sadly enough there are only about 650 of these beautiful creatures left. You are allowed exactly one hour with the gorillas before returning to the base station.

**Please note**

Please listen to the instructions of the local rangers at all times. It is forbidden to approach the gorillas closer than 5 meters, to feed them or to use flash photography. Likewise for your and their safety! You will be accompanied by armed guards which guarantee your safety in an area where wild buffaloes are sighted. While walking, please feel free to ask guides to slow down if they are going too fast and if you need a rest. There is the additional option to hire porters on site.

You are not allow to go trekking when you are sick as gorillas are very susceptible of human diseases. Should you feel sick the day of the trek we urgently advise you to abide this rule. In order to receive a 50% refund of the permit cost you MUST get a doctor's report that day (please ask your guide to arrange this for you).

We must also stress that, while you have a very good chance of seeing gorillas, success is NOT guaranteed. They are wild creatures with no fixed routine and finding them requires the skills and experience of your tracker and guides, as well as luck. The trackers and guides have helped to habituate the gorilla groups and know them intimately. They will take you to the area where they left the gorillas the day before. Before leaving they may be able to suggest how long the hike might be.







## **The Area: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park**

Just three hundred and thirty-one square kilometres of pristine forest, and one of the oldest, rarest and most diverse ecosystems in Africa, the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is real jungle.

Established in 1991, situated along the western border, and sanctuary to the endangered mountain gorilla, to at least nine other species of primate, to a multitude of birds, to the giant forest hog, to antelope, fish and hundreds of species of butterfly, it represents a sizable chunk of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest proper, and is possibly Uganda's most valuable natural asset.

Best known for the fact that it houses a high proportion of the world's population of mountain gorilla, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park - for those keen to study, see and be among a species of mammal which, in terms of behaviour, is more like us than not - is something of a holy grail.

The gorillas themselves are granted great freedom of movement, their contact with humans is carefully monitored, and trekkers are encouraged to observe codes designed to protect the primates from contracting human diseases. Treks are highly organised, scientifically sanctioned and strictly guided. The reward is an experience almost impossible to describe: it is rare that a wild animal, particularly one so large, and one generally surrounded by its young, allows even fleeting access to the workings of its inner world - rarer still that it seems to positively enjoy the close proximity of humans.

Serviced by people (from the local community as well as from the rest of Uganda and abroad) intent on preserving and developing its unique habitat, the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is East Africa's most beautiful forest. Aesthetically, ethically, it deserves our attention.



## Day three

### Kyaninga Lodge, Kibale Forest

Today, you will be transferred by road back to Kisoro airstrip for a scheduled flight to Kasese airstrip, departing at 0825hrs and arriving at 1005hrs. On landing you will be met, helped with your luggage and transferred by vehicle to Fort Portal. Here you will stay for two nights at the lovely Kyaninga Lodge, on a full board basis.

In the afternoon you can take a guided walk. On your second day here you will have the chance to go Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale National Park, as well as enjoy the Bigodi swamp walk as well.

Located near Fort Portal in Kibale, and set against a stunning backdrop of Lake Kyaninga and the legendary Mountains of the Moon beyond, Kyaninga Lodge is a spectacular property with breath-taking views.

The exceptional design and sheer scale of the main lodge is immediately apparent from the moment one crests the hill and Kyaninga Lodge comes into view. Once inside, the lodge offers comfortable seating areas set around an imposing double-sided open fireplace, where one can enjoy a cosy evening over a good book, a board game or a drink from the bar.



The main building also houses the restaurant, where delicious meals compete with stunning views on both sides. Two raised galleries offer intimate spaces for those wishing to absorb the panorama in a more private setting. On the lake side, the main lodge leads to two decks furnished with comfortable loungers, while steps hewn from local volcanic rock lead down to the swimming pool and on to two-lawned terraces overlooking the deep blue water and primeval forest of Lake Kyaninga itself.

Kyaninga Lodge's eight cottages are built on platforms and set apart to offer privacy and tranquillity. Access to the cottages from the main lodge is via a raised wooden walkway.

Each spacious cottage is beautifully appointed with a choice of twin or double beds made up with soft linens and feather pillows. An indoor sitting area leads out to a private deck where one can enjoy morning tea or coffee and views over the lake and the Mountains of the Moon beyond.



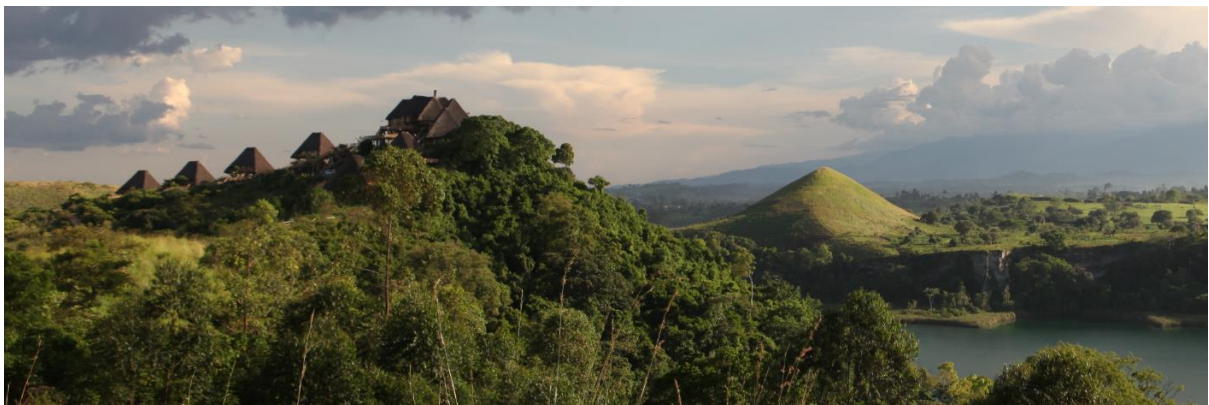
The en suite bathrooms boast marble countertop basins set atop beautifully crafted Elgon Olive pedestals, claw footed freestanding baths, glass-walled showers and plenty of hot water from solar water heaters. Lighting in the cottages is also solar powered, and each cottage features an electrical socket for the charging of laptops and other appliances, providing the comforts of home in an extraordinary setting.





*Lodge pool area and dining area, below*





*The views from Kyaninga Lodge are magnificent*



### **Kibale National Park**

Composed largely of evergreen and semi-deciduous forest, this ex logging reserve achieved park status in 1993. Along with Rwanda's Nyungwe National Park, Kibale National Park is Africa's most important primate sanctuary.

Situated in western Uganda, south of the Rwenzori mountains, and bordering Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kibale National Park rises in the rift valley as a largely savannah habitat. Unaffected by human habitation, the forest's borders begin here, and by central Kibale the cover is excellent. Climbing the Fort Portal plateau, the forest continues to thicken the further north one goes, and at around 1500m the country is wet, humid and fully covered.

With an average rainfall of 1700mm and over 350 species of tree (some of which achieve heights of over 50m), Kibale is home to 13 species of primate, 300 species of bird, and to forest elephant, duiker, bush pig, buffalo and leopard. Bird-wise, the forest is often punctuated by the cries of hornbills, and warblers, starlings, thrushes, flycatchers and parrots are to be found in their hundreds.

Though endangered, its large population of chimpanzee has flourished. Habituated, and numbering around 1500, the park's chimpanzees are used to being seen, and provide visitors with rare access to wild primate behaviour. Other species of primate include red colobus, black and white colobus red colobus, L'Hoest's monkey, olive baboon, manabey, red-tailed monkey, pottos and Guerza colobus.

Best visited during its two dry seasons (November-April and June-September), Kibale's forest, combined with its migratory routes running between forest and plains, is a highly accessible and rewarding destination.







## Day five

### Semliki Lodge, Semliki National Park, Uganda

Today, you will be transferred by road to Semliki National Park, approximately a 2 hour journey, where you will arrive at Semliki Lodge. In the afternoon you will be able to go out on a game drive or a walk activity through this lovely area. You will stay at Semliki Lodge for two nights on a full board basis. During your stay you will also be able to have a boat ride on Lake Albert in search of the whale headed stork and endangered Shoebill.



A member of the exclusive Classic Safari Camps of Africa group, located in western Uganda, on the Semliki Valley Wildlife Reserve, Semliki Safari Lodge is a luxury lodge with a reputation for providing guests with a real Ugandan bush experience.

A stone, wood and thatch build, the lodge consists of a mess area and 8 sleeping tents. Set in a beautifully landscaped garden, the shared areas include a lounge, bar, verandah, dining area, library and swimming pool. Spacious, welcoming and comfortable, the main lodge is characterised by hand carved tables, polished wooden floors, curved low seating, canvas dining chairs, white and beige cushions, open sides, well-chosen artefacts and an open fire. The food is great, as is the service.



*Lodge communal area and tented room below*



Raised on wooden platforms, and protected by heavily thatched roofs, the sleeping tents of Semliki Safari Lodge are just as comfortable as the shared areas. Each tent possesses a separate bathroom, its own verandah, a double or twin bed, space to change in and a small seating area (easy chairs and small side table). Simply designed, tastefully decorated - Persian carpet, sensible furniture, polished floors, muslin curtains - and beautifully lit, the tents are comfortable and typically safari.



*Tent interior and alfresco dining, below*



The activities at Semliki Safari Lodge include a boat trip on Lake Albert, nature walks and game drives.





## Semliki National Park

Remote, home to over three hundred species of tree, and East Africa's only low level forested ecosystem, Semliki National Park marks a section of the eastern border of the largely Congolese Ituri forest.

Known for its chimpanzee treks, and for its good range of small mammals, birds and insects, Semliki is still the only place in Uganda that it is possible to commission spot lit night drives. Surprisingly (given its tree density), the park covers a remarkably varied habitat. Hot springs, swamps, grassy woodlands and small plains jostle for space, making for a wonderfully vibrant habitat.

As well as adventure treks, activities in Semliki include fishing along one of the park's many waterways, bird viewing and visiting the Batwa, a hunter-gatherer tribe that has, thus far, managed to resist three (Hutu, Tutsi and modern Ugandan) cultural invasions.



## **Day seven**

## **Depart**

This morning you will be transferred to Semliki airstrip for your scheduled flight to Entebbe International airport, departing at 1020hrs and arriving at 1125hrs. Here you will be met and transferred through to your international flight home.

### ***-End of Services-***

#### **Your itinerary includes:**

*A seamless and private ground handling service*

*VIP airport handling services*

*All Safari accommodation on a full board basis*

*All transfers by road as stipulated in the itinerary*

*All activities as stipulated in the itinerary, including gorilla tracking and chimp tracking*

*Shared game drives in a 4x4 vehicle*

*Scheduled flights as stipulated on safari*

*Park and conservation fees*

*All drinks on safari (except champagnes and premium brands)*

*Laundry*

#### **This excludes:**

*International flights to Entebbe*

*Visas*

*Overnight accommodation in Entebbe, if required*

*Travel Insurance*

*Laundry in Kampala/Entebbe*

*Items of a personal nature and tips*

*Gratuities for guides / drivers / hotel staff*

*Any new changes to government taxes or levies that are beyond our control*

#### **Terms and Conditions for Gorilla and Chimpanzee permits:**

- Gorilla and Chimpanzee tracking is subject to availability of permits, which are limited to 8 per Gorilla family per day and 6 per Chimpanzee family per ½ day.
- There is a minimum age limit for gorilla tracking of 15 years (no exceptions).

#### **Terms of offer**

*The safari is subject to accommodation and gorilla permit availability. Offer is valid for one year from date of auction. Cannot be transferred or taken in exchange for cash.*

## Why travel with Journeys by Design

Journeys by Design is a small and highly skilled company, started by Will Jones in 1999 as a specialist frontier operator. Will was raised in 6 different Africa countries, leading him to study environmental science, the foundation for Journeys by Design today. His passion for conservation is as strong as ever and naturally inspires and filters down to all in the team.

Our team has over 50 years of on the ground experience, we tailor-make distinctive African journeys for only a select handful of clients and families each year. Our success rests upon the unique and distinctive style of our journeys and the personal attention paid to each safari. Not only do we use the finest camps, parks and wildlife guides in east and southern Africa, but we also explore and promote the lesser-known frontiers of this vast safari continent.

Journeys by Design only sell Africa. Africa is our sole focus and passion, our area of expertise, hence our ability to design extraordinary experiences. Our repeat and referral clients are around 70% which we hope underscores the quality we provide.



“Journeys by Design’s modus operandi is always the same:  
make it original, unfailingly well-organised, fun, caring and life changing”

**Conde Nast Traveller, *The Experts***