



## *Silverback Lodge*

The latest addition to the family of Marasa Africa properties in Uganda is Silverback Lodge, located in the Buhoma sector of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. Silverback Lodge is only a 5-minute walk to the Uganda Wildlife Authority headquarters and has sweeping views of the valley and forests that surround it.

The lodge boasts impressive views of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park a 124-square-mile UNESCO site home to approximately 350 mountain gorillas (half of the world's remaining population), non-habituated chimpanzees, more than 100 other species of mammals, 346 species of birds, and 163 species of trees.



Silverback Lodge is perched high above the valley overlooking beautiful flora and fauna. From the Summit Bar you can enjoy après-trekking cocktails with friends and family. Bird watching and primate viewing are possible right from the front door of your room. With 12 rooms, we are the largest lodge in the area and remain one of the best value properties in the region, whilst keeping the Marasa Africa standards of comfort and hospitality.



## Accommodation

There are twelve rooms in total at Silverback Lodge.

**1 single room**

**4 double rooms**

**7 twin rooms**

These were built and designed using local materials, such as forest vines, sisal rope and purple slate stone. Each room has an en-suite bathroom (with hot water showers) and comfortable chairs on the veranda for viewing the spectacular scenery that surrounds the lodge and the valley.

## Lodge Amenities

The restaurant has unique and creative menus that are prepared by our chef for your enjoyment and pleasure. The dishes vary from local to international, and the dining experience is as intimate as possible.

The Summit Bar is well stocked and in a comfortable setting which is perfect for sharing the day's adventures of gorilla trekking, primate watching and bird viewing with family and friends.

The lodge has beautiful gardens, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the magnificent landscape of the Bwindi forest after a long day's hike. A barbecue under the night skies can also be arranged upon request, and a bonfire is the perfect place to warm up on those cooler evenings.



# Activities

## Gorilla Tracking

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is Uganda's most popular and one of the most visited National Parks and is home to more than half of the remaining mountain gorillas in the world. Through the undergrowth and thick creepers of the dense Bwindi rainforest, track the famous mountain gorillas. Being in company with the most peaceful, rare and most endangered of all the apes, is both a fascinating and humbling experience.

## The Popular Waterfall Trail

This provides attractive forest features including a profusion of tree ferns, orchids, epiphytic ferns and Bwindi's colorful array of butterflies. The trail leads to 3 delightful crystal clear waterfalls, which typifies your expectations of a tropical rain forest.

## Nature Walks

There are 4 fantastic hiking trails where you will have an opportunity to see primates, different species of birds, butterflies, trees and other organisms. This usually starts at 9:00am in the morning after breakfast and 2:15pm in the afternoon after lunch.

## Buhoma Village Walk

The village walk is managed by the local community and takes up to three hours. This walk introduces you to different interesting sites such as a typical rural homestead, then a visit to the local traditional healer, banana beer brewing demonstrations and much more. There will be a cultural performance in the evening, which is presented by women and orphan groups - proceeds from these go directly to improve the welfare of the families around the park.

## Bird Watching

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest holds over 346 species of birds and contains 90% of all Albertine Rift endemics, difficult or impossible to see in any part of East Africa. For the ornithologist, close to 100 bird species can be identified in a day. You can visit Buhoma and Ruhija to achieve this dream. Bird species include; the African green broad bill (*Pseudocolaptes auratus*); dwarf honey guide (*Indicator pumilio*), kivu ground thrush (*Zosterornis a. Tanganjicak*), Lagden's bush shrike (*Mahaconotus lagdeni*), Chaplin's flycatcher (*Muscivora lend*), Oberhander's ground thrush, yellow eyed flycatchers, Montane double-collared sunbird (*Nectarinia ludoviciensis*), and dusky twinspot.

## The Munyaga River Trail

This trail provides short walks for visitors with very little time to spare. It gives you an opportunity to see birds and primates as well as other wildlife within the forest.

## The River Ivi Trail

This trail is the longest in the park and will occupy you for a full day. It is highly recommended for those with a soft spot for bird watching. The 5.2km Muzabajiro Loop Trail offers breath-taking views of the forest and the Virungas; on the way you witness hundreds of pre-historic tree ferns. The top of this trail is a great place for a picnic lunch.

## The Rushora Trail

The trail commands expansive views across the Park Nationale des Virungas. On clear days Lake Edward and the Rwenzori mountains are visible, with the forest providing a spectacular backdrop.

## Community Hospital Visit

Visit the Bwindi Hospital, a wonderful facility that provides access to medical care for the impoverished groups near the park, with special emphasis on the Batwa. Donations are encouraged as they go straight to the communities who in turn appreciate the value of Gorilla tourism in Bwindi.

## Mountain Bike Rides

Mountain bikes are available for rent with prior notice. You will have escorted rides around the forest and villages on well-maintained bikes.

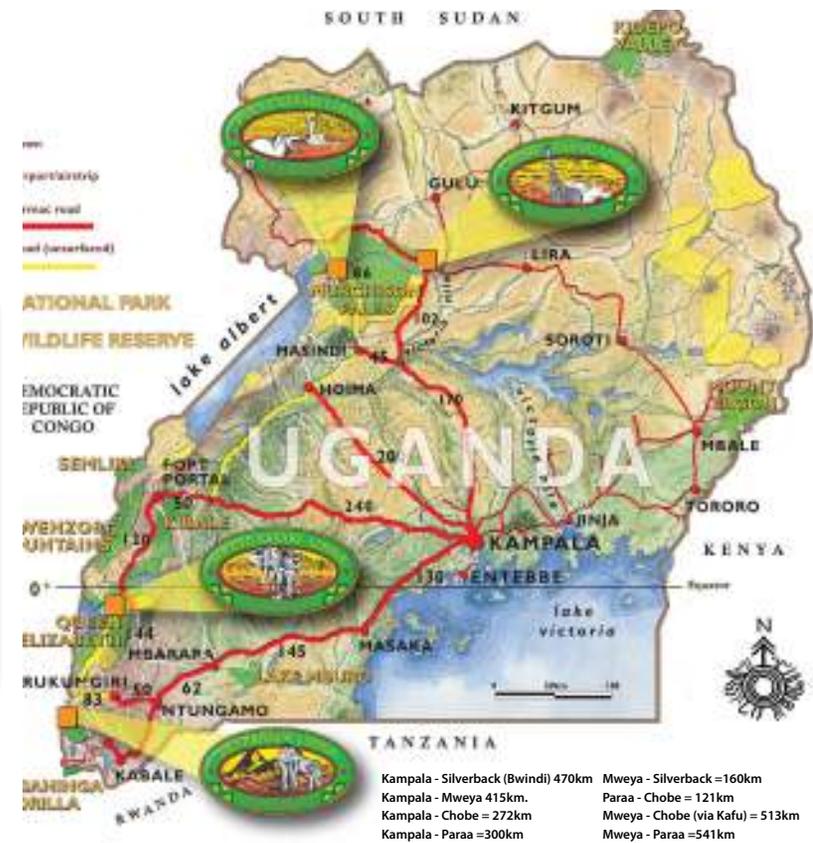
## The Bwindi Batwa Trail

A new project that helps to support the local Pygmy Batwa community. Tourist activities of the Bwindi Batwa Trail include:

- Hike through the forest past stunning vistas and the serenity of this ancient rain forest. Along the way, you will watch demonstrations of how the Batwa used to live in the forest, how they use medicinal plants, and how they hunt and gather.
- You will also find out about the delicate fare on offer in the forest, including wild honey, yams and mushrooms.
- Visit traditional dwellings and try out the dancing!
- Also buy crafts and souvenirs from the locally made crafts shop, owned by the Batwa community.
- Enjoy coffee at the Batwa Community's own coffee shop.
- Finally, why not try shooting with a bow and arrow and joining a mock hunting party!

This hands-on experience will open your eyes to another world - that of one of Uganda's longest surviving forest tribes. It will also show you what other wonders Bwindi Impenetrable Forest has to offer, in the heart of gorilla land. All these tours are led by Batwa leaders of about 70 and 80 years of age.





## Getting there

**By road: Mbarara – Bwindi via Kabale (4-5 hrs drive)** Mbarara to Kabale is about 140 km; proceed via Kisoro road and turn right after 26 km following Bwindi National Park signposts. Use the road through to Ruhija and drive 40 km to a T-junction turning left, then follow signage for Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and drive 10 km to Silverback Lodge.

**Mbarara – Bwindi via Ishasha route (3 – 4 hrs drive.** Mbarara to Katunguru bridge (about 110 km); drive in the park for about 100 km where you will find a Y-junction, take the left road following signposts to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and proceed to Kihiki Y-junction. Here turn right and drive for about 14 km to Kanyantorogo T-junction, turn right and proceed to Butogota. After 2 km you will find a T-junction, turn right and proceed for about 18 km to Silverback Lodge.

**By Air: Average 1.5 to 2 hrs flight.** Morning private charter or scheduled flights can be arranged from Entebbe Airport or Kajjansi Airstrip (about 25 km from the airport). For small groups/families of 1 – 5 persons, Kayonza airstrip is ideal which is 25 km to Silverback Lodge. This would strictly be on private charter basis as scheduled flights do not use this airstrip.

Larger groups can use Kihiki or Ishaha airstrips, which are about 60 km from Silverback Lodge. Transfers to and from the airstrip can be arranged by the lodge.

Contact us

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