



Uganda Abayudaya Community Connection

12 day

November 10-24, 2024

Community Visits, Hands-on project, Shabbat, African-style,

Hike Sipi Falls, Safari and Optional Gorilla Trekking

Uganda

Abayudaya Community Connection

2024

The Pearl of Africa

Explore Uganda on a 12-day journey to the Pearl of Africa. Engage with Ugandan Jewish community (the Abayudaya), witness breathtaking natural wonders, do a game drive and river boat ride to see some amazing wildlife and there's an optional add-on to encounter mountain gorillas up close. We'll be staying in the eastern part of Uganda, where you'll have a real connection with our partner communities. You'll visit Global Village Connect projects, schools and synagogues. You'll hike beautiful Sipi Falls, and you'll spend Shabbat with the Abayudaya community.

You can add on a 3-day gorilla trek in Bwindi Impenetrable National Forest. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings and an average summertime temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

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About The Abayudaya

The Abayudaya (the name means “people of Judah” in Luganda). Most of the community keep kosher, celebrate Jewish holidays, and welcome people from around the world to come and pray.

In 1919, people began converting to Judaism after the founder, the African chieftain and military leader Semei Kakungulu, read the Torah and decided to adopt Jewish customs and laws. Kakungulu circumcised his sons and himself, and his community in Eastern Uganda began to practice Judaism. By the 1960s, the Abayudaya had around 1,500 followers, but they suffered intense religious persecution under dictator Idi Amin's regime throughout the 1970s. Synagogues were destroyed, the government prohibited Jewish observance, and many Abayudaya felt forced to convert to Christianity or Islam. By the time Idi Amin left power, there were about 300 Jews left in the community. But the younger generation rebuilt the community and it continues to grow.

Today, there are over 2600 Jews spread out across 14 villages with 16 synagogues.

Itinerary

Uganda



Day 1-2 | November 10-11, 2024

Depart U.S. Arrival in Entebbe Overnight stay

Welcome to Uganda! Your official trip begins upon your arrival in Entebbe where a representative will be waiting for you at the airport. Most flights arrive late night, overnight in Entebbe.

Accommodation: Protea Hotel

Day 3 | November 12, 2024

Drive to Mbale, stop en route to visit an Abayudaya community

Drive to Mbale, where we'll be staying for the next few days. We'll cross the Nile, have lunch in Jinja, stop en route to visit the Buseta Abayudaya community, meet some of our business training graduates, see their successes and then onto to Mbale for the night.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B

Day 4 | November 13, 2024

Buyanga Primary School Visit: a hands-on project

A day at Buyanga Primary School, where we have been partnering for the past 8 years. Visit goat beneficiaries, see our 13 acre farm and meet the students. Spend a few hours working side by side with students doing a hands-on project.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B, L



Itinerary

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Day 5 | November 14, 2024

Visit GVC project beneficiaries

Meet with the Namatumba Women's Chicken farm group and visit some of our program beneficiaries. Stop at Tikkun Olam Primary School, a Jewish Primary School, grades K-7. In the afternoon, we'll meet the students at Putti Primary School and help with a hands-on school project.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B

Day 7 | November 16, 2024

Saturday morning services at synagogue

Saturday morning services. Visit another nearby synagogue for services. Shabbat lunch with the community.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B, L

Day 6 | November 15, 2024

Coffee farm visit and hike at Sipi Falls.

Shabbat at Stern synagogue

Hike the Falls or if you're not into hiking, relax at the bottom of the falls and meet the group for lunch and then visit a local coffee farmer, roast some coffee and have a cup. Friday night Shabbat at The Stern Synagogue in Nabagoye.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B, L, D



Hike to Sipi Falls

Itinerary

Uganda



Day 8 | November 17, 2024

Drive to Kwania

Arrive in Lira at 4 or 5pm. Have a relaxing evening at the hotel.

Accommodation: Latitude 0

Meals: B

Day 9 | November 18, 2024

Visit the Ben David Primary School and the Kwania Goat Farm

Spend the day with the Kwania Abayudaya Community. Learn how to goat farm and volunteer at the school, nursery - 4th grade.

Accommodation: Latitude 0

Meals: B, L



Day 10 | November 19, 2024

Murchison Falls National Park,

Drive to Murchison Falls National Park, arrive in time for a river boat ride to see the animals come drink in the river. You'll see monkeys, baboons, lions, water buffalo and elephants, to name a few.

Accommodation: Paara Lodge in Murchison Falls National Park

Meals: B, D

Day 11 | November 20, 2024

Morning Game Drive, back to Kampala for a late night departure back to the states or stay over in Entebbe for 3 day gorilla excursion

Morning game drive to see the lions, elephants, giraffes and so much more wildlife and then head back to Kampala for a late night departure back to the states. Optional afternoon day room at the hotel to freshen up before your flight or stay another 3 days to see the majestic mountain gorillas.

Accommodation: Papyrus Guest House

Meals: B

Itinerary

Uganda



Mountain Gorilla Bwindi National Park

Begin Optional Gorilla Trek

Day 12 | November 21, 2024

Flight to Bwindi for gorilla trekking or arrive back in the U.S.

Fly to Bwindi Impenetrable National Forest, with its 350 square kilometers of pristine rainforest. It's a sanctuary for approximately 400 mountain gorillas (almost half of the world's total population) and is also the only forest on the continent where mountain gorillas and chimpanzees coexist. You can spend the afternoon relaxing, taking a canoe ride on Lake Mutanda or walk to the nearby village.

Accommodation: Nkuringo Mountain Lodge, Bwindi

Meals: B

Day 13 | November 22, 2024

Gorilla trekking or arrive back in the U.S.

Stare into the eyes of a silverback. An amazing and heart-pounding adventure through tangled vines, bush and bamboo. Depending on the length of your trek, you may have time to visit the nearby village or sit and relax as you enjoy the view.

Accommodation: Nkuringo Mountain Lodge, Bwindi

Meals: B,L,D

Day 14-15 | November 23-24, 2024

Fly back to Entebbe to depart Uganda, arrive back in the U.S.

Fly back to Entebbe for departure back to the U.S. Arrive in the United States the following day.

Meals: B

Trip Details



Trip Costs:

Base Trip Cost - per person

10+ persons \$3,905

Single supplement: \$560

3-Day Gorilla Trek Add-on:

2+ persons: \$3,960

Single supplement: \$395

Add-ons include local RT flights, a \$800 gorilla permit, accommodation and meals as indicated

All costs are based on double or triple occupancy and a minimum of 10 total participants

What's included in the cost?

- Accommodations.
- Transportation with our own local guide.
- Transport for emergencies is available at all times.
- An experienced American guide
- Bottled water at hotels and in the vehicle
- Meals as indicated, see under the daily itinerary
- Pre-departure information session

Additional Gorilla Trek Inclusions

- 1 gorilla trekking permit per person (\$800)
- Round trip flights from Entebbe to Bwindi
- Transport to and from airports in Bwindi and Entebbe
- Canoeing, hiking and trekking, as indicated in the itinerary under the supervision of an experienced English-speaking walking guide
- AMREF Evacuation Insurance coverage

What's not included in the cost?

- Airfare to and from Uganda
- Gratuities
- Visa
- Health and travel cancellation insurance (medical evacuation and cancellation insurance required)
- All items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic and other drinks and snacks between meals
- Laundry



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