



Uganda Community Trip

November 8-17, 2026

Optional extensions:
Kigali City Tour

November 16- 19, 2026

Rwanda Gorilla Trekking

November 16 - 22, 2026

Journey with Purpose: Uganda & Rwanda

This thoughtfully designed journey to Uganda and Rwanda weaves together deep human connection, Jewish life, and — for those who choose — one of the world’s most extraordinary wildlife experiences.

The heart of the journey unfolds in Uganda, where travelers move beyond observation into relationship. Time is spent in schools, homes, and community-run businesses, meeting the students, women entrepreneurs, and families whose lives are being shaped through education and economic opportunity. Celebrating Shabbat with the Abayudaya community offers a rare and deeply meaningful experience of faith and belonging.

The journey then continues to Rwanda, beginning with time in Kigali to explore daily life, markets, Rwanda’s history and the city’s contemporary culture. For those who opt in, the experience culminates with a luxury extension to the Virunga Mountains, home to mountain gorillas and golden monkeys — an unforgettable encounter in one of Africa’s most breathtaking landscapes.

Designed for travelers who value meaningful connection alongside comfort, this journey offers impact, culture, and beauty — thoughtfully balanced and expertly guided.

Journey with Purpose: Uganda & Rwanda



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 chief-tain 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 over 16 synagogues.

Journey with Purpose: Uganda & Rwanda



Trip Overview and Excursions:

Uganda Impact Journey (Base Program – All Travelers)

This portion of the trip is rooted in connection and purpose. Travelers spend meaningful time in schools, homes, and community-run businesses, meeting the people whose lives are being directly impacted through Global Village Connect's education and economic empowerment programs. Jewish life and Shabbat with the Abayudaya community offer a rare and deeply moving experience of faith, resilience, and belonging.

Rwanda Culture & History Extension

This extension offers insight into Rwanda's remarkable story of recovery and renewal. Through markets, city tours, and the Kigali Genocide Memorial, travelers gain perspective on reconciliation, leadership, and how a nation rebuilt itself with intention and vision.

Gorillas & Golden Monkeys Extension

This luxury wildlife extension brings travelers into the Virunga Mountains for two of Africa's most extraordinary primate encounters. Gorilla and Golden Monkey treks offer rare, intimate moments in protected forests — a powerful and unforgettable contrast to the human connections experienced earlier in the journey.

Uganda

Abayudaya Community Connection

2026



Day 1-2 | Sun-Mon, November 8-9

Depart U.S. Arrival in Entebbe Overnight stay

Depart the U.S. on an overnight international flight to East Africa, beginning a journey grounded in curiosity, humility, and connection

Arrive in Uganda, often called The Pearl of Africa. After meeting your local team, transfer to your hotel for a good night's sleep for the start of your journey.

Accommodation: Protea Hotel

Day 3 | Tue, November 10

Drive to Jinja

Travel east toward Jinja, following the Nile through lush countryside. Visit the legendary Source of the Nile and choose between a peaceful boat ride or an exhilarating white-water rafting experience before relaxing riverside.

Accommodation: Jinja

Meals: B,L

Day 4 | Wed, November 11

Jinja → Buyanga → Mbale

Visit Buyanga Primary School, where students and teachers welcome you with warmth and pride. Spend time with scholarship families and see firsthand how education transforms lives. Continue onward to Mbale at the foothills of Mount Elgon.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B, L



Boat ride on the Nile

Uganda

Abayudaya Community Connection

2026



Day 5 | Thur, November 12

Women's Empowerment & Entrepreneurship

Go to the local market to help shop for Shabbat meal. Then, meet women entrepreneurs who have launched businesses through Global Village Connect's training programs. From a community chicken farm to a women-owned salon, these visits highlight dignity through opportunity. Participate in a hands-on activity such as making mandazi or traditional bricks.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B

Day 6 | Fri, November 13

Shabbat Meal Prep & Abayudaya School Visit

In the morning, help prepare the meal for Shabbat alongside the Abayudaya community, visit nearby Hadassah Primary School and Semi Kakungulu High School, meeting students and educators. Dinner and Shabbat at the Stern Synagogue.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort or The Abayudaya Guest House

Meals: B, D

Day 7 | Sat, November 14

Shabbat with Community or Sipi Falls Hike

Observe Shabbat in Mbale with another Abayudaya community and synagogue. Share lunch with the community following services, then conclude the day with a Havdalah under the African stars. Option 2 for those not interested in services will be to hike the beautiful Sipi Falls.

Accommodation: Mbale Resort

Meals: B, L



Women's Business scholarship beneficiaries

Uganda to Rwanda

Optional Excursion

2026



Mountain Gorilla Bwindi National Park

Day 8 | Sun, November 15

Mbale → Entebbe / Kampala

Travel back toward Entebbe, stopping to visit the Mukono Synagogue and community leaders. In the evening, enjoy a vibrant cultural dinner and performance at the Ndere Cultural Centre.

Accommodation: Protea Marriott or similar, Kampala

Meals: B, L

Day 9 | Mon, November 16

Depart Uganda, Flight to Kigali or return to US

Depart Uganda and fly to Kigali, Rwanda's dynamic capital. This transition marks a shift from immersion and impact to reflection and perspective.

Accommodation: Hotels Des Milles Collins,
Meals: B



Kigali Genocide Memorial

Begin Optional Excursion: KIGALI CULTURE & HISTORY

Day 10 | Tue, November 17

Kigali: Markets & Modern Rwanda

Explore Kigali through visits to Kimironko Market and a guided city tour focused on reconciliation, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship. Visit Nyamirambo Women's Centre and experience a cooking class with local Rwandan dishes or learn how to make local handcrafts.

Accommodation: Hotels Des Milles Collins,
Meals: B

Day 11 | Wed, November 18

Kigali Genocide Memorial & Departure

Visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial, a powerful and essential experience honoring the past while illuminating Rwanda's path forward. Travelers on this extension depart for home following the visit.

Meals: B

Uganda to Rwanda

Optional Excursion

2026



Optional Excursion: GORILLAS & GOLDEN MONKEYS

Day 11 | Wed, November 18

Kigali → Volcanoes National Park

After the Genocide Memorial, continue north to Volcanoes National Park. Arrive at your lodge nestled in the Virunga Mountains.

Accommodation: Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel

Meals: B, D

Day 13 | Fri, November 20

Golden Monkey Trek → Return to Kigali

Enjoy a Golden Monkey trek through bamboo forests before returning to Kigali for evening departure.

Meals: B

Day 12 | Thu, November 19

Kigali → Mountain Gorilla Trek

Set out early for a guided mountain gorilla trek, one of the most extraordinary wildlife encounters in the world. Return to the lodge for lunch and rest.

Accommodation: Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel

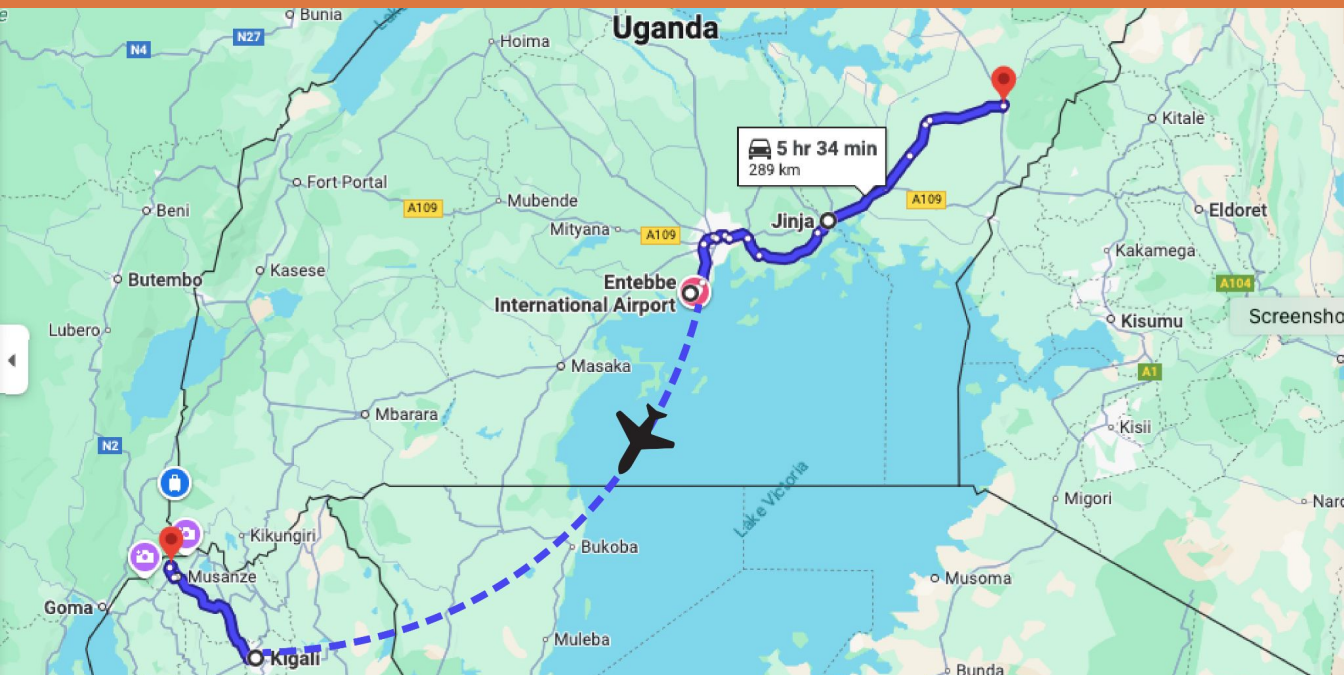
Meals: B, L D

Day 14 | Sat, November 21

Arrive Home



Trip Details and Costs



Trip Costs:

Base Trip Cost - per person

10+ persons \$3,862

Single supplement: \$931

Kigali Tour Only:

4+ persons: \$1,390

Single Supplement: \$355

Approx \$386 Airfare from Uganda to Rwanda

Kigali Tour & Gorilla Trek Combo:

2 persons: \$5,758

3 Persons: \$5303

4+ Persons: \$5074

Single Supplement: \$883

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

A portion of your cost will be donated for community meals.

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 (\$1500)
- Transport to and from Kigali airport and Volcanoes National Park
- AMREF Evacuation Insurance coverage
- Meals as indicated, see under the daily itinerary

What's not included in the excursion

- **Airfare from Uganda to Kigali (\$386)**
- Airfare to and from Uganda
- Gratuities
- Visa
- Emergency medical evacuation insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic and other drinks and snacks between meals

In partnership with Global Village Connect



Select**TREKS**
--- FOR THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED ---

Selecttreks.com
info@selecttreks.com
+1-612-432-4473