



CHIMPANZEE HABITUATION EXPERIENCE

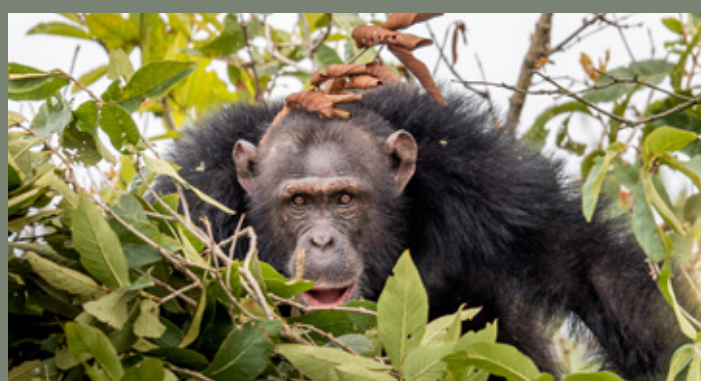
 RUBONDO ISLAND CAMP

 LAKE VICTORIA,
NORTHERN TANZANIA

*TANAPA fee:
US\$159.30 (incl VAT) per person per 24 hour tracking
permit. Pre-booking required*

Professor Bernhard Grzimek of the Frankfurt Zoological Society established Rubondo Island as a haven for endangered species as a passion project in the 1960s. Over a four-year period (1966-69), he released 16 West African chimpanzees rescued from European zoos in four cohorts onto the island. The animals had no rehabilitation or pre-release training but due to being wild-born after just one year on Rubondo, they were able to find and eat wild foods and construct nests for sleeping. They successfully reverted to an unhabituated state characteristic of wild chimpanzees and remained secretive. From 16 founding chimps,

the population has now grown to over 40 individuals. This is the only reintroduction of wild chimpanzees from west Africa populations to eastern Africa and is viewed by many conservationists as a possible future for some species of chimpanzees where habitats have been encroached upon in west Africa. With the help of the Honeyguide Foundation — a key organisation working to involve local community members and training them as guides and trackers — habituation has been successful, enabling researchers to study and get closer to the chimpanzees. Studying and understanding these chimpanzees is important for the future of other chimpanzees that might need to be rescued and reintroduced into the wild.



Asilia is the only camp on the island and the only revenue source to keep the park protected and chimpanzees safe, while also buying locally and hiring locally to support the nearby communities. You can help the chimpanzees too; your visits continue to habituate these chimpanzees and enable us to understand them more. Rubondo Island Camp offers a base for guests to experience Grzimek's Noah's Ark project first-hand with the guided trek into the pristine sub-tropical forest

to track the primates. Chimpanzees are renowned for not sitting still, so guests should come prepared with a spirit of adventure and a good level of fitness. Chimp sightings are not guaranteed, however visiting during the dry season from July through October offers guests the best chance to spend time with our chimps. Please note: guests must be over 16 years of age and the group is a maximum of four per trek.

