

RUBONDO CHIMPANZEE HABITUATION EXPERIENCE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)



- 1. HOW MUCH DOES THE PERMIT COST?**
US\$159.30 (incl VAT) per person, permit is valid for 24 hours.
- 2. ARE MY GUESTS GUARANTEED TO SEE THE CHIMPANZEE?**
No, we cannot guarantee a chimpanzee sighting though we do now feel that after five years of habituation we are in the position to offer your guests a good chance of seeing the chimpanzee. Furthermore, this is a unique opportunity for your clients to be part of the habituation process.
- 3. WHO CAN JOIN THE CHIMPANZEE HABITUATION EXPERIENCE?**
The activity can accommodate four adult guests. We cannot accommodate children under the age of 16.

4. WHAT WILL GUESTS EXPERIENCE DURING A THREE NIGHT STAY ON RUBONDO ISLAND?

Day 1: On arrival, once guests are checked in, they can enjoy the wide range of activities on offer. They can take a boat out and try their hand at catch-and-release fishing for some of the largest freshwater fish in Africa, enjoy a boat trip past Bird Island and spot some of Rubondo's giant crocodile, or simply relax by the pool.

Enjoy a sundowner and a briefing on the lodge and the chimpanzee habituation experience.



Day 2: Guests will venture into the forest after an early breakfast to join the trekking team. Depending on where they are starting from, this may be by car or boat. They will then track the chimpanzee with the habituation team in the hope of seeing them. Rubondo's forest is full of life – sitatunga, bushbuck, and even elephant call the island home. This is typically a full day experience, of active walking.



Day 3: If the team were unable to locate the chimpanzee the previous day, guests can decide to go out for chimpanzee trekking again. It is an early start to join the habituation team and then they will commence on another day of trekking, with the hope of spotting these fascinating, yet shy creatures. Please note another permit needs to be purchased for a second day, but this can be arranged through the camp.

For those that saw the chimpanzee or don't wish to go out again, they have the day to enjoy the other activities offered at the camp, such as birdwatching, forest walks or visiting local villages and fishing communities. However, they may prefer just to relax with a good book on the beach.

Day 4: Today will be at the guest's leisure until they check out and then board the plane for their onward safari adventure!

5. WHAT SHOULD GUESTS PACK?

- Good, comfortable walking shoes
- Gaiters when wearing shorts, or trousers
- A light waterproof jacket
- Neutral coloured light layers
- Camera (with a zoom lens, preferably up 300mm)
- Binoculars
- Sunglasses
- A small 'daypack' for gadgets and snacks
- Hat

6. HOW HARD IS THE WALKING?

Rubondo is a forest ecosystem with very limited paths, so much of the walking will be on uneven ground and guests should expect the hike to find the chimpanzees to be steep in parts. Your clients should be comfortable going up and down hills.

Like visiting the gorillas in Uganda or Rwanda, the length of time spent walking can vary depending on the location of the chimpanzee, if guests are lucky they may find the chimpanzee within one and four hours but it is not unusual to be in the forest for the whole day (guides carry extra water, snacks and packed lunches can also be arranged).

The ideal scenario would be that the trackers find the chimpanzee during one of their rest phases and your clients are able to observe them while they stay in one particular area. However, this is not always the case and you should prepare clients by explaining that chimpanzee can move at quite a pace and keeping up with them as they move through the forest is not always possible.



7. DO GUESTS NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

No, guests do not need to wear a mask for the Chimpanzee Habituation Experience.

8. WHO GUIDES THIS EXPERIENCE?

This experience will be led by a team of two, a TANAPA ranger and an Asilia resident guide. The TANAPA ranger leads the team to the Chimpanzee Trackers (habituation team) and while this is in progress the Asilia guide interprets the forest habitat of the chimpanzee.

9. WHAT SHOULD THIS EXPERIENCE BE COMBINED WITH?

We think Rubondo fits perfectly in the middle of a Serengeti – gorilla itinerary. Coastal Aviation flies daily (in high season) from the Serengeti airstrips to Rubondo. After the three-day chimpanzee habituation experience your guests can fly on easily and efficiently to Kigali with Coastal and from there experience the gorillas.



Please have a look at the logistics sheet on the agent zone or contact your Agent Relationship Manager to help put your itinerary together.

THANK YOU

Asilia
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