

Nile Explorer, Uganda

Itinerary

This outlines the 7 night Nile Explorer ride.

Day 1

Transfer to Jinja from Entebbe airport. The journey can take anything between 3 and 4 hours depending on the traffic.

You will be taken first to the stables, which are about 20 minutes' drive outside of Jinja, to meet the horses. Then, if all transfers have gone to plan, you will go on a cruise on the Nile for lunch, which will give you an opportunity to get to know one another and for the guide to do the safety briefings.

After lunch check-in to your accommodation at Holland Park, which is near to the stables.



Later you have a short ride of about 1.5 hours to try out the horses. Ride around Naminya village and along the banks of the River Nile.

Dinner and overnight at Holland Park.

Please note that the following is the proposed itinerary but it is always possible that local conditions will mean a change is necessary. If it is raining a ride might be shortened and a longer ride take place on a day with better weather. It is also possible that the order in which you stay at the lodges will be different. Over the week you stay at all the lodges and do the different rides.

On some days the horses are trucked to the starting point (and you meet them by vehicle) and/or they are collected by truck at the end of the day. This is so you avoid riding in areas which are highly populated or just not offering great riding. Horses may also be replaced during the week by fresh horses from the stables.

Day 2 - Ride to Tea & Sugar Plantations

Your first day's ride is for approximately four hours through various tea and sugar plantations and villages,

over some hills with stunning vistas of the country side. Picnic lunch.

Today offers fabulous views and long canters for those who wish them (the ride can split for those who prefer to go slower).



Return to Holland Park for dinner and overnight.

Day 3 - Lake Victoria shore ride

The ride today is five to six hours' riding around an enormous peninsula that lies into Lake Victoria. The horses are trucked to the starting point so that you have maximum riding in the more interesting places. While the horses are being moved this might be an opportunity to visit the local school. Feel free to bring any primary age books you wish to donate to the library.

You stop for a picnic lunch in the hills overlooking Lake Victoria and Jinja town.



Throughout the day you have fabulous views of the lake, sugar plantations, and traditional villages. There are possibilities for good canters.

Later transfer to Rain Forest Lodge for dinner and overnight.

Day 4 - Forest explorer ride

Ride for between three and four hours exploring Mabira forest and the surroundings with a morning tea stop on the way in the thick jungle.



You will be looking for rare forest primates, a sub species of Grey Cheeked Mangabeys, that are only found in Mabira forest. There is also lots of spectacular birdlife.

Late lunch back at the Rain Forest Lodge and you have the rest of the afternoon to relax, get a massage or swim or wander the forest.

Overnight at Rain Forest Lodge.

Day 5 - Ride to The Haven

Today you normally swap onto fresh horses.

The ride is for about four to five hours through the Mabira forest and then into the tea plantations where you stop for lunch.

After another couple of hours riding in and out of the forest you arrive at the Haven Lodge which is a great spot for a swim in the river or at the swimming pool while overlooking some stunning white water rapids.



Overnight at The Haven

Day 6 - Rafting/adventure sports or rest day and swimming the horses

Today you may head out to experience some of the most beautiful white water rafting in the world (warm water thrills and spills).



Please note that the white water rafting is an optional extra (payable locally) and you may prefer to rest or do some of the other activities in the area.

Overnight at The Haven.

Day 7 - Ride to Wild Waters Lodge

First thing this morning it may be possible to swim with your horse in the Nile. This is an optional part of the ride. You swim the horses in the river where there is a sandy bottom and no crocodiles or hippos.



Then back for breakfast at the Haven.

For your final ride you will be riding up to a lookout for a bird's eye view of the Nile before stopping for a drink at another stunning vista overlooking the Nile. (approximately three to four hours riding).

Finish at Kalagala Falls, say goodbye to your horse and board a boat to arrive at one of the most breath taking lodges you will ever see.



Wild Waters Lodge is located on an island in the middle of the Nile with massive white water all around the lodge.

Overnight at Wild Waters Lodge.

Day 8

Breakfast at Wild Waters Lodge.

Departure from Wild Waters Lodge is normally around 10am but will depend on anticipated journey times and your check-in time at Entebbe. You are provided with a packed lunch to have during the journey to Entebbe.

Accommodation

The accommodation on the trip is a highlight and you stay in some beautiful lodges in stunning settings. Please note that if you are booked into a twin room

then it is possible that this might be one double bed and one single bed.

A single supplement is payable if you are in a room on your own but please note that there is no charge for a single room at Holland Park where the single rooms are further back from the river.

Holland Park

Holland Park is next to the horse stables, a few miles north of Jinja. The guest cottages are set in gardens on the west bank of the Nile, overlooking the river. The hotel has a small swimming pool. There is abundant birdlife as well as vervet monkeys in the surrounding trees. www.hollandparkuganda.com



Rain Forest Lodge

Rain Forest Lodge is set on a hill in the Mabira Forest Reserve. There are twelve individual en-suite cabins, a central dining lodge and swimming pool. www.geolodgesafrica.com



The Haven

The Haven is on the banks of the Nile and from the bungalows there are wonderful views down over the Nile and towards the rapids.



There is a bar/restaurant area and swimming pool.
www.thehaven-uganda.com

Wild Waters Lodge

Of all the lodges we stay at on this ride Wild Waters has the most impressive location - on an island in the middle of the Nile.



There are ten en-suite canvas and thatch rooms each with their own private view of the Nile. The rooms are linked by wooden walkways to the central dining area.
www.wildwaterslodge.com



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