



***Betchart Expeditions, Inc.***

**17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

**Tel: (800) 252-4910**

**MOUNTAIN GORILLAS**

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## **New Born Baby Gorillas**

2016 has been a great year for Uganda, we have continuously been blessed by births of the Mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National park, which was declared a UNESCO Natural world heritage site in 1994.

**Gorilla Families in Uganda are getting bigger each passing year!!!**

### **11<sup>th</sup>/NOVEMBER/16**

9 days ago on 11<sup>th</sup>/November, Businza the adult female gorilla from the Rushegura gorilla family gave birth to its second born. She first gave birth on the 14th April 2011 to her first baby. Businza the female Gorilla went to the Rushegura group in 2000 after splitting from Habinyanja Gorilla group under the leadership of Mwirima the silverback. With the birth of the new baby, the Rushegura gorilla group has now increased in number to 17 family members led by Kabokojo the current silverback of this group.

### **26<sup>th</sup>/SEPTEMBER/2016**

Baby Masiko the new born baby was born in the habinyanja gorilla family in buhoma sector in bwindi Impenetrable National Park which is one of the oldest Gorilla groups. The baby was born in the late September this year Some clients saw the baby still having its umbilical cord after 6 days of its birth.

### **11<sup>th</sup> /SEPTEMBER/2016**

A new born was discovered by the trackers who had gone to track the Bikyingi gorilla group in the southern side of Bwindi. Habituation of this group in Rushaga started in 2013. The baby was believed to have been born the previous day of 10/September/2016. The birth brought the number of gorilla individuals in Bikyingi group to 22 members. The family now comprises of 1 silver back, 9 adult females 2 sub adults and 10 infants. At the moment Bikyingi group is where the famous Gorilla Habituation Experience (GHE) is conducted and this started in 2015.

### **21<sup>st</sup>/AUGUST/2016**

On 21<sup>st</sup>/August/2016, Bushaho gorilla family one of the gorilla groups in Nkuringo the southern part of Bwindi welcomed a new born baby gorilla. This new born baby was born to Bunyindo-one of the four adult females in the group and discovered in the Bushaho area on day of 22<sup>nd</sup>/August/2016. Bushaho gorilla group has been under habituation since 2013 and the habituation is to end in 2017. After the habituation, clients will start tracking this group.

The group is now comprising of 9 members; 1 silver back (called Bahati), 1 black back, 4 adult females, 1 juvenile and 2 infants

## **GORILLA HABITUATION EXPERIENCE**

Gorilla Habituation Experience is now possible in the southern side of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. This experience allows the clients to be with Gorillas all day long in their natural setting Bwindi. The clients meet the guide for a briefing then set off to where the gorillas built nests the night before. Dawn is just breaking and the gorilla group the clients are going to be with the rest of the day is rising from their sleep. The clients will have packed breakfast and lunch in the forest.

Gorilla Habituation Experience is the process where gorillas get used to the presence of humans hence removing the fear of humans from the group. This process of habituation takes up to two years and on this day of gorilla habituation the clients can be part of that process all day in the forest. The day ends as the gorillas go to their newly built nests for the evening.

Gorilla habituation is only done in the southern side of Bwindi in the Bikyingi gorilla group/Family which has 9 adult females with each having babies, an amazing group to visit for the Gorilla Habituation Experience.

This experience is different from gorilla tracking because will gorilla tracking you will track till when you get to the gorillas. When you get to the gorillas you will spend 1 hour with them and it's the normal one that clients do.

## **COSTS FOR PERMITS**

Gorilla tracking - \$600 during the high season and \$450 during the low season (April, May and November)

Gorilla Habituation Experience - \$1500 per permit

## **RATES FOR GORILLA PERMITS**

The rates for the Gorilla permits for tracking the Gorillas 2017 will remain the same as for 2016. The rates will still be \$600 during the high season and \$450 during the low season (April, May and November)

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