

Big Five Unveils New East Africa Mountain Gorilla Program



By  [James Shillinglaw](#), Jan 13, 2021

Big Five Tours & Expeditions has unveiled a new East Africa program offering a tantalizing combo of migration and mountain gorillas. For nearly two decades, travelers have looked to the company for unique and remote adventures and distinctive combinations that push the envelope while at the same time preserve the habitats and cultures they encounter along the way.

“One of the things I love about travel is its ever-evolving possibilities,” says Ashish Sanghrajka, president of Big Five. “The newest President’s Pick is a perfect example. Going far off the beaten path here, we have stepped away from the traditional East Africa combination with a new mix of Kenya and Uganda.”

Big Five’s 16-day President’s Pick Wilds of Uganda and Kenya journey includes one of Kenya’s less visited conservancies, the Tana Delta Conservancy. This vast playground for hippo, crocodile and other wildlife includes some 270 bird species. Tana River Delta’s land-use plan, developed by villagers, local authorities and other partners, is a breakthrough for sustainable development and management ensuring that local communities such as the Pokomo and Orma tribes as well as the landscapes and habitats thrive.

The Pokomo are pastoralists, farmers and fisherman, traditionally found along the banks of the Tana, while the Orma are semi-nomadic pastoralists for whom the river delta represents a consistent source of water and grazing for their cattle.

Inside Kenya’s Tsavo National Park lies Mbulia Conservancy, protecting the resident communities and wildlife, especially elephant. Guests have an opportunity to meet a former poacher, now a guide, who explores how and why he once lived his life as a poacher and shows you how to track animals as his predecessors once did.

“A decade ago I proudly chronicled three former poachers and tracked their path from ivory to tourism,” said Sanghrajka. “It seems appropriate to start a new decade sharing with our guests how powerful that transformation is.”

Uganda’s transformation in sustainable tourism provides a force for good that can help bring a country back from the depths of instability. Traditionally gorilla trekking was the primary reason most travelers came to the country. While this is still a powerful draw, the complete safari experience including chimpanzee trekking is also attracting visitors.

“Uganda itself is a modern miracle,” says Sanghrajka. “Over the last few years, the definition of an East Africa safari has been frequently rewritten, and now includes a country like Uganda.”

The 16-day President’s Pick Wilds of Uganda and Kenya journey is priced from \$1,600 per person per day land only double, not including trekking permits. This includes stays in safari lodges and tented camps, wildlife treks to encounter chimpanzees and gorillas in their natural habitat, and a private game drive in a custom-built 4×4 vehicle in the famous Masai Mara with some of the most breathtaking views of this thriving wildlife haven.

Founded in Kenya in 1973 by Mahen Sanghrajka, Big Five is known for customized, luxury adventure travel to more than 45 destinations worldwide. The company is twice winner of the Virtuoso luxury travel network Sustainable Tourism Leadership Award in 2014 and in 2016, while Condé Nast Traveler magazine recognized Big Five with a World Savers Award in 2013. For more information, call 800-244-3483, email info@bigfive.com or visit www.bigfive.com.