

17-Day Ultimate Uganda Safari

A private cross-country safari through Uganda's primate forests, signature wildlife parks, cultural landscapes, and scenic lake regions, designed for travelers who want the country in full rather than in fragments.

DESIGN MY PRIVATE SAFARI

SAFARI OVERVIEW

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

ACCOMMODATION

SAFARI OVERVIEW

This 17-day Uganda safari combines gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, chimpanzee tracking in Kibale Forest, game drives in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Park, scenic lake regions, and meaningful cultural encounters. It is designed for travelers who want the full rhythm of Uganda: wildlife, landscapes, communities, and time to actually take it in.

SIGNATURE ROUTE

Why This Route Works

- Balances primate trekking with classic savannah safari days.
- Mixes adventure, wildlife viewing, and softer scenic stops.
- Includes both iconic highlights and more local cultural moments.
- Works well for budget, mid-range, or luxury accommodation planning.

Quick Day-by-Day

DAY	ROUTE / ACTIVITY	SLEEP
1	Arrival in Entebbe, Uganda	Entebbe
2	Jinja - Source of the Nile	Jinja
3	Transfer to Murchison Falls National Park / en route via Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary	Murchison
4-5	Explore Murchison Falls National Park	Murchison
6-7	Transfer to Fort Portal City / Fort Portal	Fort Portal
8	Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale National Park	Kibale / QENP corridor
9-11	Transfer & Explore Queen Elizabeth National Park	QENP
12	Game drive & transfer to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	Bwindi
13	Gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	Bwindi
14	Batwa cultural experience & transfer to Bunyonyi	Bunyonyi
15-16	Transfer to Lake Mburo National Park	Mburo
17	Transfer to Kampala or Entebbe for departure	Departure (Kampala/Entebbe)

Detailed Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrive in Entebbe, Settle Into Uganda



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** 0.5-1.5 hrs airport transfer (traffic dependent)
- **Meals:** As per arrival time
- **Included Activities:** Airport pickup and private transfer
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Entebbe (planned tier: Mid-range)

Arrive at Entebbe International Airport, where your private driver-guide meets you quietly and takes over the details. The first transfer is intentionally gentle: a short drive, time to exhale, and a first night near Lake Victoria so the journey begins without rush.

If arrival time allows, ease into Uganda with a visit to the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, a slow boat trip through Mabamba Bay in search of the shoebill, **or** a guided Kampala introduction shaped around your energy after the flight.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (ENTEBBE)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget ViaVia Entebbe

Mid-range 2 Friends Beach Hotel

Luxury Hotel No. 5

Day 2 - Jinja and the First Light of the Nile



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 2-3 hrs to Jinja
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Source of the Nile boat cruise
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Jinja (planned tier: Mid-range)

Travel east through roadside markets, sugarcane country, and small towns toward Jinja, where the Nile begins its long northward story.

The day is kept flexible. You may take a calm boat cruise to the Source of the Nile, linger by the river, or add white-water rafting, tubing, quad biking, or a sundowner cruise if you want the journey to open with more energy. The birdlife around some Nile islands is prolific, and monitor lizards are often seen basking in the sun.

- Private drive to Jinja through eastern Uganda
- Boat cruise at the Source of the Nile
- Optional rafting, tubing, or quad biking
- Unhurried evening by the river or in Jinja town

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (JINJA)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Nile River Explorers Camp

Mid-range 2 Friends Guest House

Luxury Wildwaters Lodge

Day 3 - Rhinos at Ziwa, Then North to Murchison



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 3-4 hrs total with en-route stops
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Ziwa rhino tracking, Top of the falls hike
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Murchison area (planned tier: Mid-range)

Leave Jinja after breakfast and turn north toward Murchison Falls, breaking the journey at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary for a guided walk with Uganda's only wild rhinos.

ZIWA RHINO SANCTUARY

Ziwa is one of Uganda's strongest conservation stories, created after poaching erased the country's rhinos in 1982. With a ranger, you walk quietly through open bushland and meet these heavy, watchful animals on foot, close enough to feel their scale without losing respect for the wildness of the encounter.

The tracking walk usually takes two to three hours, depending on where the rhinos are grazing or resting. Along the way, your guide may point out antelope, birds, fresh tracks, and the small signs that make a walking safari feel different from watching through a vehicle window.

After lunch, continue toward Murchison Falls National Park, watching the landscape open and grow warmer as the road moves north.

Before settling into the lodge, visit the Top of the Falls if timing allows. Here the Nile narrows into a seven-meter gap and drops with force into the gorge below, a dramatic first welcome to the park before dinner and a quiet night near the river.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (MURCHISON AREA)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Red Chilli Rest Camp

Mid-range Fort Murchison

Luxury Paraa Safari Lodge

Days 4-5 - Murchison Falls, River Drama and Safari Mornings



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Short game-drive sectors inside the park
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Game drives and Nile boat cruise
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Murchison Falls (planned tier: Mid-range)

Enjoy an early breakfast, set out early in a jeep safari, roof opened while the light is soft and the plains are waking. Elephants move through the grass, giraffes cross the horizon with surprising grace, and your guide works the tracks slowly for lions, buffalo, antelope, leopard, and the birdlife that fills the riverine woodland. The activity usually takes a 3-4 hours, then return to your lodge for mid-day lunch.

- Morning game drives on the northern bank
- Boat cruise toward the base of Murchison Falls
- Time at the lodge between safari activities
- Optional extra game drive or a slower rest morning on Day 5

SAFARI MORNINGS ON THE NORTHERN BANK

After lunch, Your driver guide shall drive you for the 2pm boat cruise on the Victoria Nile board a boat on the Victoria Nile and follow the river toward the base of the falls. Hippos surface beside the boat, crocodiles hold the banks, elephants come down to drink, and the sound of the falls grows steadily louder as the gorge draws near. this boat cruise usually takes 3 hours. On your return, you shall be transferred back to your lodge for an evening chill.

On this second day in Murchison falls national park, you and your guide may choose the pace at which you shall conduct this morning game drive, using different safari tacks while looking for more species you may have missed previously, visit the delta Nile until its time for you to go back and relax at your lodge, have lunch and either choose to chill in the evening at your lodge with beautiful African sunset of have that same view while on an evening game viewing.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (MURCHISON FALLS)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Red Chilli Rest Camp

Mid-range Pakuba Safari Lodge

Luxury Nile Safari Lodge

Days 6-7 - Fort Portal, Crater Country and Kibale Forest



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 6-7 hrs transfer from Murchison area
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Fort Portal highlights
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Fort Portal/Kibale (planned tier: Mid-range)

DAY 6 - INTO FORT PORTAL AND THE CRATER HIGHLANDS

After breakfast at your lodge, a calmer transfer towards fort portal awaits you! A greener, cooler part of western Uganda formed by crater lakes, tea plantation fields and view of the Rwenzori mountains. The day is less about rushing and more about feeling the country side, change under the wheels. you may choose to conduct a short fort portal city tour in the evening after checking in to your hotel, Or a relaxed evening refreshment in swimming pools or gym.

- Scenic drive to Fort Portal
- Optional visit to the Tooro Kingdom Palace
- Crater lake and tea plantation scenery
- Evening at a lodge near Fort Portal or Kibale

DAY 7 - KIBALE FOREST AND BIGODI WETLAND

In the morning, after breakfast, Kibale National Park awaits you! As it brings the safari into forest mood, this primate world is known for chimpanzee tracking and home to 13 recorded primate species. Before checking into your lodge, explore the Bigodi swamp wetland sanctuary with a local guide. This is a slower, more intimate experience of birds, monkey species, papyrus edges and conservation work that connects the forest with living people beside it. This activity usually takes 1-2 hours, then your driver guide shall drive you to your lodge for check-in and lunch. Later in the evening, prepare to indulge yourself in community activities. This sightseeing village tour showcases how life unfolds in a typical Ugandan village.

This cultural experience offers a closer look at daily life in rural Uganda, creating meaningful interactions with local communities across generations. The highlights of this cultural walk include a visit to traditional healers or medicine man. A visit to homes for a demonstration of a variety of food making skills such as how bananas are used to make various drinks both alcoholic and non- alcoholic.

- Rainforest atmosphere around Kibale
- Guided Bigodi Wetland walk
- Birding, monkeys, and community encounters
- Time to rest before chimpanzee tracking

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (FORT PORTAL / KIBALE)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Fort Motel / similar guest lodge

Mid-range Nyaika Hotel

Luxury Kyaninga Lodge

Day 8 - Chimpanzee Tracking, Then Toward Queen Elizabeth



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 2-3 hrs transfer toward QENP after tracking
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Chimpanzee tracking permit activity & community walks
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Kibale/QENP corridor (planned tier: Mid-range)

After early breakfast at your lodge, prepare for the chimpanzee tracking experience today. Your driver guide will drive you to Kanyanchu Gate, the visitor's information center, for cultural performances and briefing by the park guides. Begin together with the experienced trackers of the forest as you go deep in the forest looking for our lost cousins. The Uganda Wildlife Authority rangers and guides will also spot other wildlife species in this forest. Smaller than gorillas but no less charming, intelligent, or expressive, chimpanzee families can cover vast distances and the trek usually lasts 3-4 hours depending on the location of the chimpanzees. Once you finally find them, you shall spend 1 hour watching their social behaviors and life at close range. The guides will furthermore interpret special behaviors and share stories about them.

Later, in the afternoon, you shall be transferred to Queen Elizabeth National Park. The transfer through rolling hills and greener tea and banana plantations is short enough to keep the day comfortable, about 3 hours with views around Kichwamba and the Equator area before you settle near one of Uganda's most varied wildlife landscapes. If the timing feels right, an evening drive can be added; otherwise, arrive slowly and let the lodge evening set up the next safari day.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (KIBALE / QENP TRANSFER)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Pumba Safari Cottages

Mid-range Isunga Lodge

Luxury Ndali Lodge

Days 9-II - Queen Elizabeth, Kazinga Channel and Ishasha



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Short to moderate drives between sectors
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Game drives, Kazinga boat cruise, Lake Katwe excursion
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** QENP/Ishasha (planned tier: Mid-range)

After an early breakfast, begin with a morning game drive within the trails of Queen Elizabeth National Park, where crater scenery, open plains, and wetland edges create a changing wildlife stage for a memorable Uganda safari experience. Your guide or ranger reads the tracks and light carefully, looking for elephants, buffalo, Uganda kob, lions, leopard, and the smaller details that make each drive different. After that amazing game drive, return to your lodge for hot lunch as you prepare for the 3-hour boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel which starts at 2pm.

you will cruise the Kazinga Channel, which flows between Lakes George and Edward, one of Uganda's richest wildlife waterways. Hippos crowd the shallows, crocodiles rest near the banks, buffalo come down to drink, and birds fill the channel with constant movement. After the cruise, depending on how you feel, you and your driver guide could plan for an evening jeep safari drive, keeps the experience, giving you another chance for sightings missed earlier and a different feeling of the park as the day changes with an African sunset. Overnight at your stay.

DAY 10 - THE ROAD TO ISHASHA

Morning cup of coffee, breakfast and conduct a short morning game drive, enabling you to catch the African sunrise, then later You'll proceed to the beautiful Ishasha plains that are part of Queen Elizabeth located at the base of the massive Rwenzori Mountains, adjacent to lakes Edward & George, covered by Savannah plains that provide an abundance of wildlife.

DAY 11

In the morning after breakfast, drive through the open savannah of Acacia on the edge of the Albertine Rift valley of Ishasha plains, be on the lookout for a pride of tree-climbing lions that have made an old fig their regular 'hangout' A game drive through the Ishasha Sector rewards you with real-life time experience with an encounter with Lions resting on trees, in addition to other animals. The fig trees the lions climb line the roads in the Ishasha sector of the park, giving you a chance to see the lions close to your safari vehicle, which offers a clear platform for photography. Several theories exist, including avoiding biting insects, escaping ground heat, and gaining a better vantage point over the surrounding plains

Slow evening at the lodge

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (QUEEN ELIZABETH / ISHASHA)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Tembo Safari Lodge

Mid-range Buffalo Safari Lodge

Luxury Mweya Safari Lodge

Day 12 - From Ishasha to the Forest Edge of Bwindi



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 3-5 hrs from Ishasha to Bwindi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Morning game drive and transfer
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Bwindi (planned tier: Mid-range)

- Morning game drive in Ishasha
- Scenic transfer toward Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
- Arrival at the forest edge
- Quiet evening before gorilla trekking

After a final look across Ishasha, continue toward Bwindi Impenetrable National Park for gorilla trekking encounters. The road climbs into cooler hills and forested ridges, bringing a clear shift in atmosphere. By the time you arrive, the savannah

has given way to one of Africa's oldest rainforests, home to mountain gorillas, birds, butterflies, and a deep green stillness that prepares you for the trek ahead.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (BWINDI)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Buhoma Community Rest Camp

Mid-range Broadbill Forest Camp

Luxury Buhoma Lodge

Day 13 - Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Local transfers only
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Gorilla trekking permit activity
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Bwindi (planned tier: Mid-range)

This is the day many travellers quietly wait for across Uganda safaris. You will be required to wake up early in the morning then be led by your driver guide to the visitor's reception, enjoy some cultural entertaining dances from the local communities and briefing about the park by the Guides and rangers.

After briefing, enter Bwindi forest with your trackers and follow its own pace: cold mornings and mist, muddy and steep slopes, filtered light, birdsong, entwined vines. Bushes, bamboo and the slow work of reading fresh signs. The mountain gorillas you will track belong to the habituated family group who can tolerate the presence of humans for a brief period every day.

When the gorilla family is found, spend one magical hour with them face to face in simple and powerful way, you watch, photograph, and then mostly become quiet. The afternoon is left open to rest at your private lodge and let the encounter settle in.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (BWINDI GORILLA TREK)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Ride 4 a Woman Guesthouse

Mid-range Rushaga Gorilla Camp

Luxury Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge

Day 14 - Batwa Story, Then Lake Bunyonyi



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 3-4 hrs to Lake Bunyonyi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Batwa cultural experience and transfer
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Lake Bunyonyi (planned tier: Mid-range)

BATWA PYGMIES IN BWINDI FOREST

The Batwa Trail is unique in a way that it show-cases authentic culture of the original inhabitants of Bwindi forest who's lives mainly depended on the natural habitat. While exploring the trail, you experience the naturally endowed forest through a rare view point of the local people. The experience comes along with different unique demonstrations on how the pygmies used to extract local herbs that were used for healing different diseases, traditional ways of fetching water using locally made bamboo mugs and construction of grass huts.

Later, a scenic transfer drive to Lake Bunyonyi, the Place of Many Little Birds. The mood changes again as terraced hills and island-dotted picturesque green tea plantations and beautiful landscapes. water replace the dense forest. The moody here is simply rest by the lake after the intensity of gorilla. Take a gentle boat ride, visit local islands, or simply rest by the lake after the intensity of gorilla trekking.

- Batwa cultural encounter near Bwindi
- Scenic drive to Lake Bunyonyi
- Optional boat ride among the islands
- Unhurried lakeside evening

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (LAKE BUNYONYI)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Bunyonyi Overland Resort

Mid-range Byoona Amagara Island Retreat

Luxury Arcadia Cottages Bunyonyi

Days 15-16 - Lake Mburo, Walking Safari and a Softer Finale



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 4-5 hrs transfer to Lake Mburo
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Included Activities:** Game viewing activities and walking safari
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Lake Mburo (planned tier: Mid-range)

After breakfast, drive toward Lake Mburo National Park, a compact savannah landscape that works beautifully at the end of a longer Uganda safari journey and open acacia country give the safari a lighter, more relaxed rhythm. Lake Mburo National Park is one of Uganda's most compact savannah parks, but certainly not to be underestimated. Lake Mburo is the only Ugandan national park, besides Kidepo Valley National Park, which is home to zebra, eland, impala, giraffe, buffalo and a wide variety of antelope and bird species. In the papyrus swampland, not to mention the lake itself, hippos and crocodiles are often part of the scene.

As the sun goes down, embark on a night Game drive. A night drive experience is completely different from a day safari - a whole new world of animal species (nocturnal) awaits you! It gives you a different perspective of the park and wildlife.

DAY 16 - WALKING SAFARI AND LAKE TIME

After breakfast your driver guide drives you to the park's entrance, after briefing, you are given a ranger guide and embark on the walking safari experience. Lake Mburo is one of the best places in Uganda to leave the vehicle and walk with a guide. On foot, the safari becomes quieter and more detailed: hoofprints in the dust, birds calling from acacia branches, zebra grazing nearby, and the scale of the landscape felt at human pace. A boat cruise or horseback and or cycling in the park can be added around the day's rhythm.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON:

Embark on a village cycling safari If you're looking for a great way to explore off the beaten village paths, this cycling excursion offers a rewarding way to explore the surrounding communities and country side. It takes place at village neighbouring the lodge. There is a wide selection of routes to choose from, some befitting for leisurely rides, others offer an adventurous way for one to explore a rugged African terrain. The two-hour activity unfolds at a slow but steady pace African road snaking through the village. You will have warm extensive chats with locals along the way.

- Drive to Lake Mburo National Park
- Optional night game drive
- Guided walking safari
- Optional cycling, horseback riding, or boat time
- Final relaxed lodge evening

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS (LAKE MBURO)

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Leopard Rest Camp

Mid-range Rwakobo Rock Lodge

Luxury Mihingo Lodge

Day 17 - A Slow Return to Entebbe



DAILY SNAPSHOT

- **Drive Time:** Approx. 4-6 hrs to Entebbe/Kampala
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch
- **Included Activities:** Equator stop and airport drop-off
- **Overnight (Planned Tier):** Departure day / optional final-night add-on

After breakfast, begin the return to Entebbe at an easy pace. Stop at the Equator for photos, lunch, or last craft shopping, then continue to the airport or a final hotel night depending on your flight schedule. The safari closes gently, with time to look back over the forests, rivers, plains, and quiet moments that shaped the journey.

- Scenic return drive toward Entebbe

- Equator stop for photos and lunch
- Optional craft shopping
- Airport drop-off or final overnight arrangement
- End of safari transfers

SAFARI FAQ

Common questions before booking

A few practical answers before you commit to a long Uganda route with forests, wildlife parks, lakes, culture, and several moving parts.

Selected according to travel style and availability.

Budget Airport Guesthouse

Who is a 17-day Uganda safari best for?

Mid-range Papyrus Guest House

It suits travelers who want Uganda in full: Nile country, primate forests, savannah parks, cultural stops, lake time, and a slower sense of place.

Are gorilla and chimp permits included?

One gorilla permit and one chimpanzee permit are included where stated in the confirmed proposal, subject to availability for your dates.

Can we slow the itinerary down?

Yes. We can add rest nights, reduce one-night stops, or shift the order around permits, road conditions, and lodge space.

Can lodge style vary by region?

Yes. A mixed quote often works well, with stronger lodge investment in Bwindi, Queen Elizabeth, or lake sections and practical stays elsewhere.

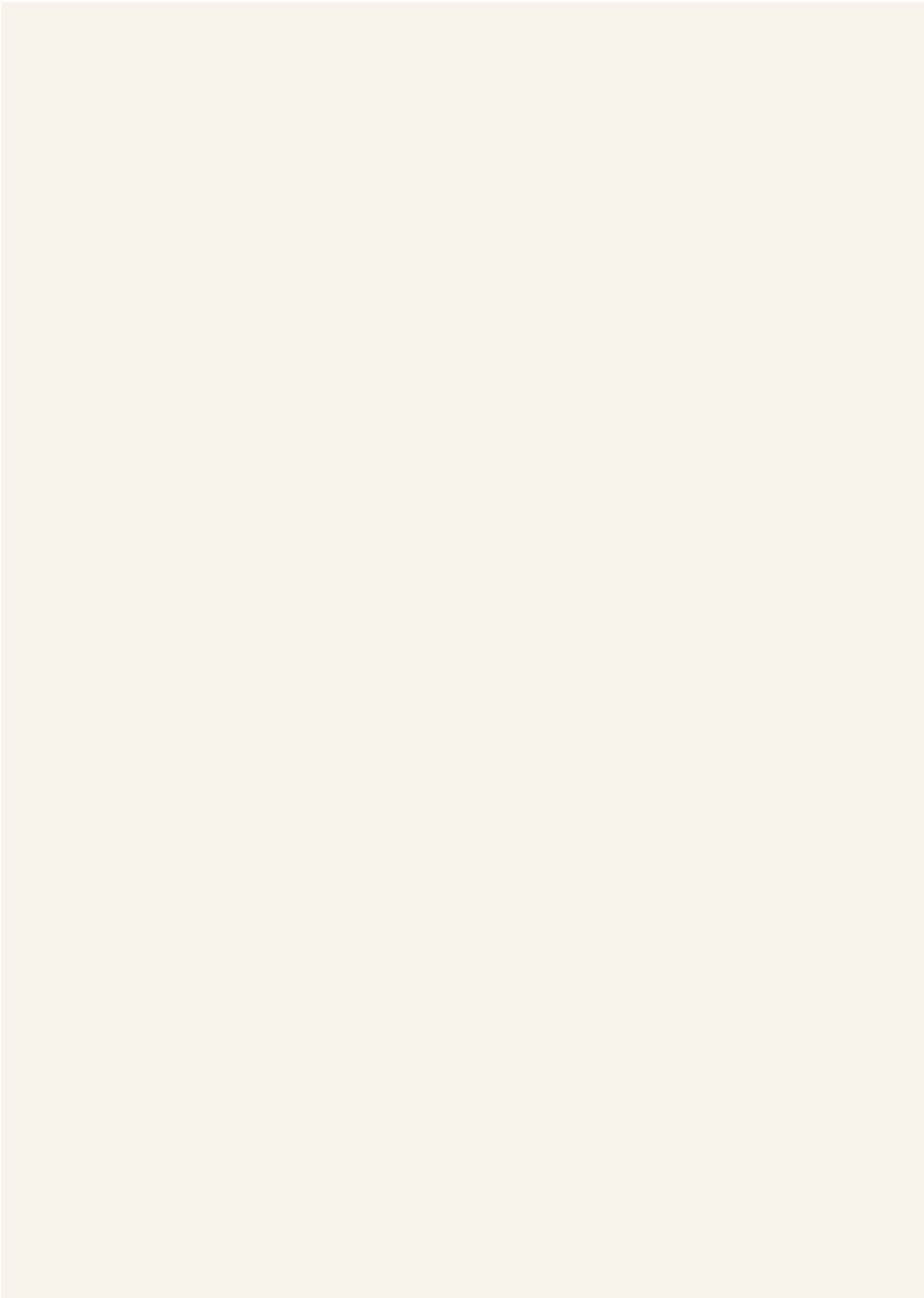
Is this route suitable for families?

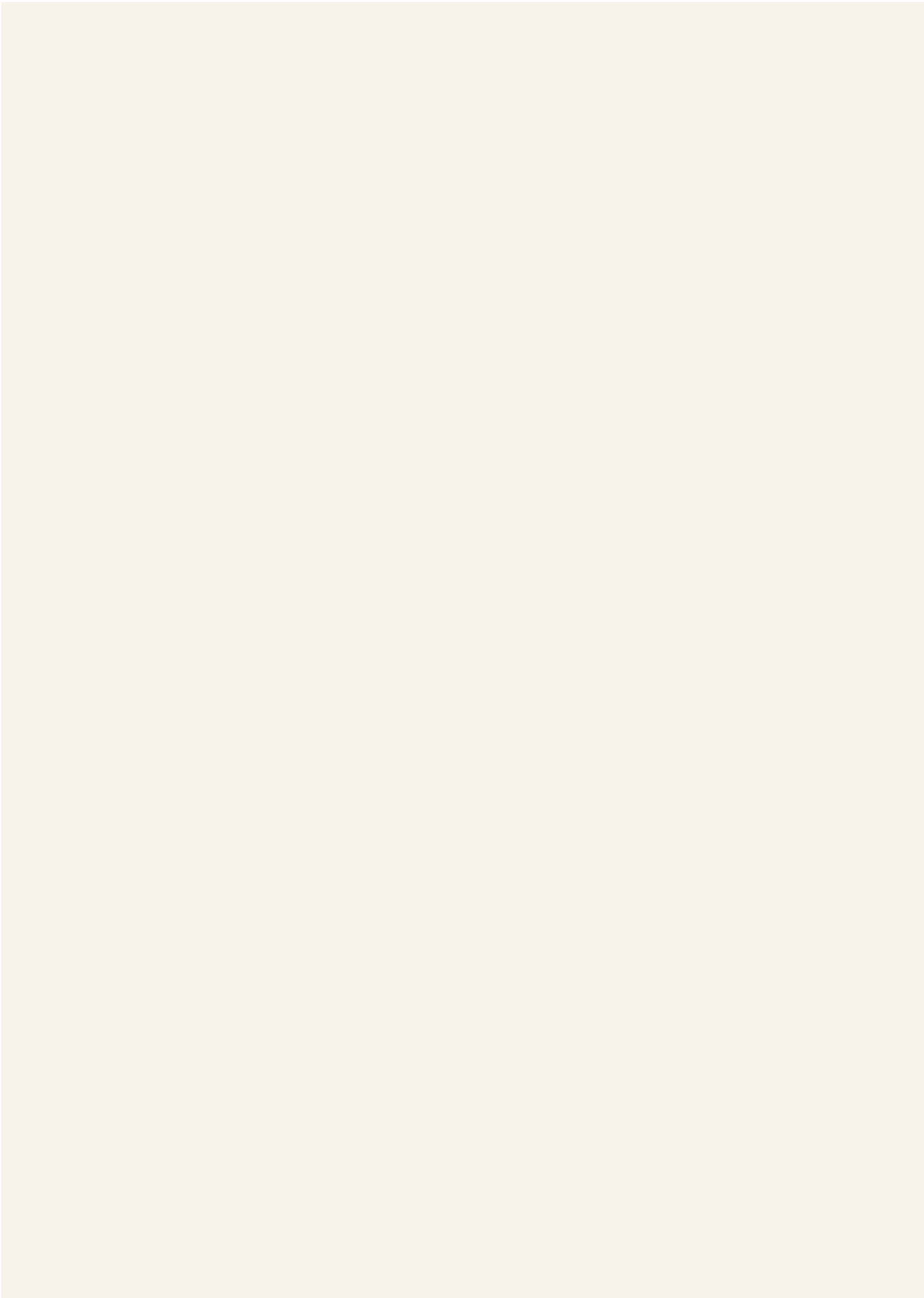
It can be, if the children are comfortable with long drives and the route is paced carefully. We adjust room setup, stops, and activity choices before quoting.

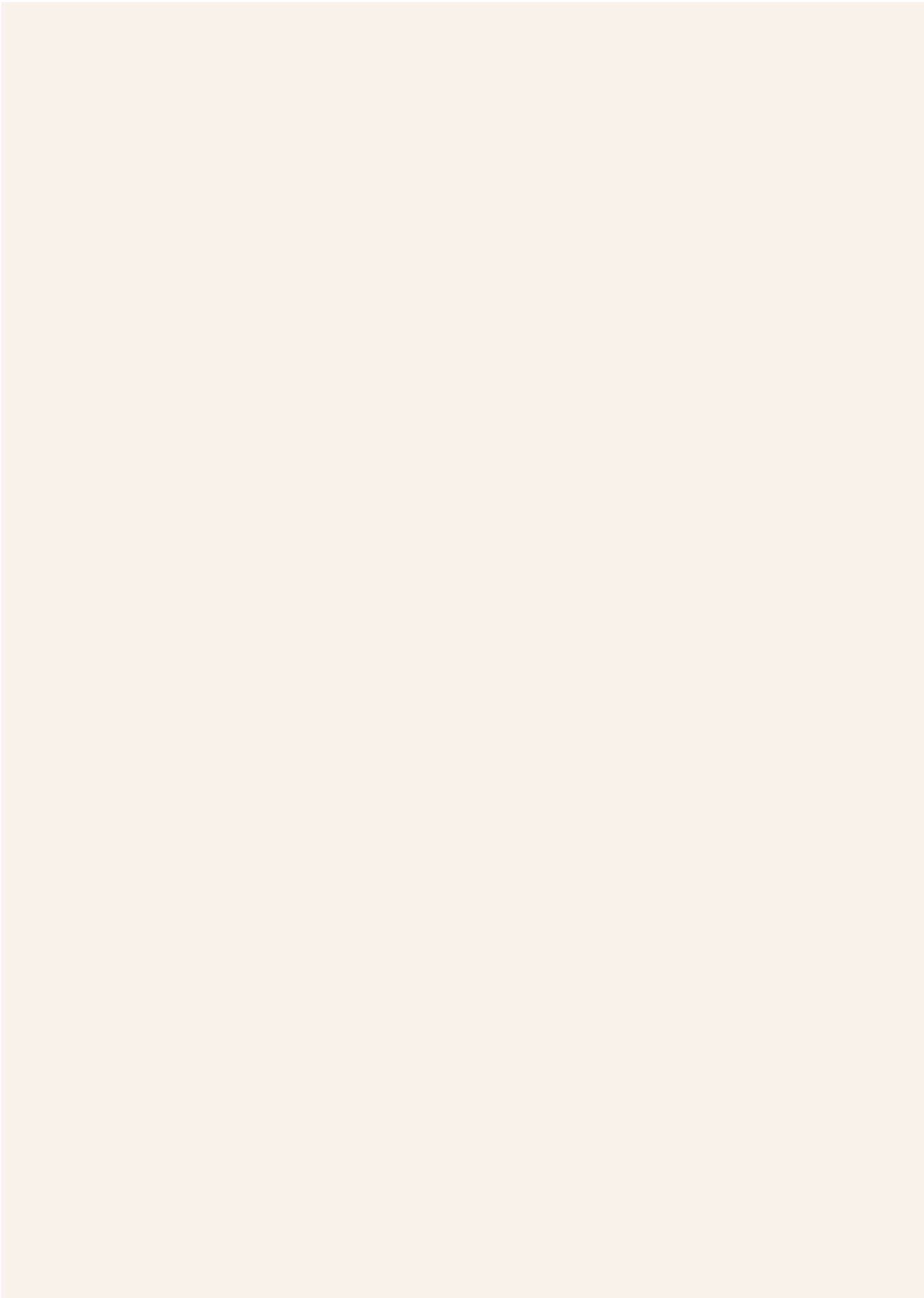
How does payment work?

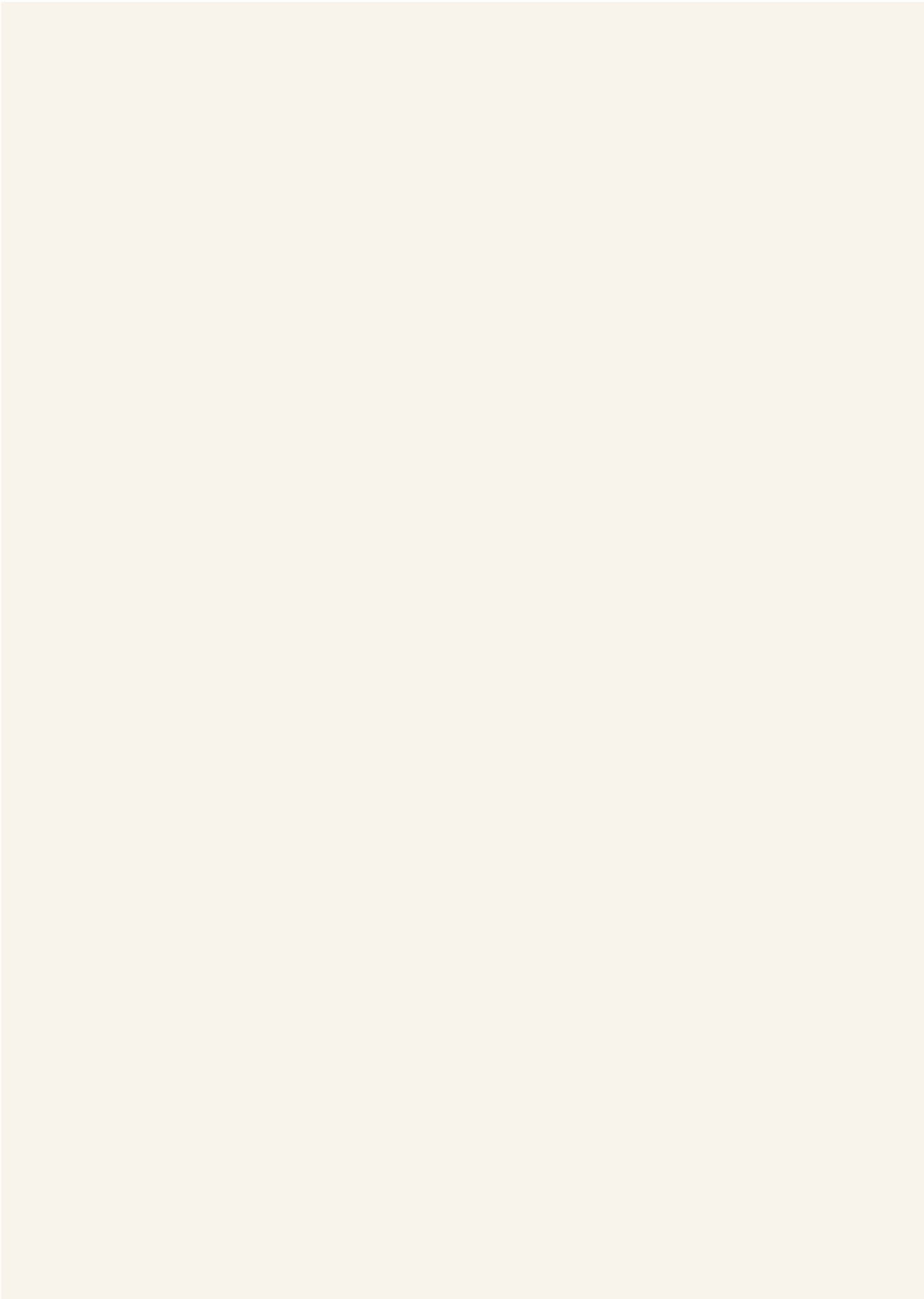
We first confirm route fit, permits, lodges, and the final quote. Payment is requested only after you approve the written proposal or invoice.











SAFARI INQUIRY

Start Planning My Safari

Share your dates, preferred stay style, and pace. A safari specialist will reply personally with route guidance, lodge direction, permit support, and the next clear step.

Package: 17-Day Ultimate Uganda Safari

Duration: 17 days

Planning: Private safari support

Lead Traveler Name

How you would like us to address you

Best Email Address

Where should we send your safari proposal

Country of Residence

Select country



Phone / WhatsApp

+256 700 000 000

Adult Guests

2

Young Travelers

0

Safari Style

Luxury Safari



Trip Notes

Preferred travel month, safari interests, pacing, or anything special you would like us to plan around.

You will hear back with a thoughtful trip outline, realistic pacing advice, and clear guidance before any deposit is discussed.

START PLANNING MY SAFARI

