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BIEO Activities

Join us to support the indigenous Batwa people of Uganda! Talk to your tour guide for more information

Batwa cultural museum experience – a living museum

Unlike other museums worldwide, BIEO offers to you a living museum where the Batwa of Rushaga-Bwindi present live artifacts of how they could culturally conduct themselves while in the forest. This is done from the preserved cultural sites with samples like special trees for fire making, caves, the tree house, simple grass-thatched house, materials for hunting (snares, hunting spears, bows and arrows) and medicinal plants, as well as the special places for honey storage and burying the dead. They will also tell of their ancestral god Nyabingi Nyagasani. The more actionable experience derives the name – a living museum.



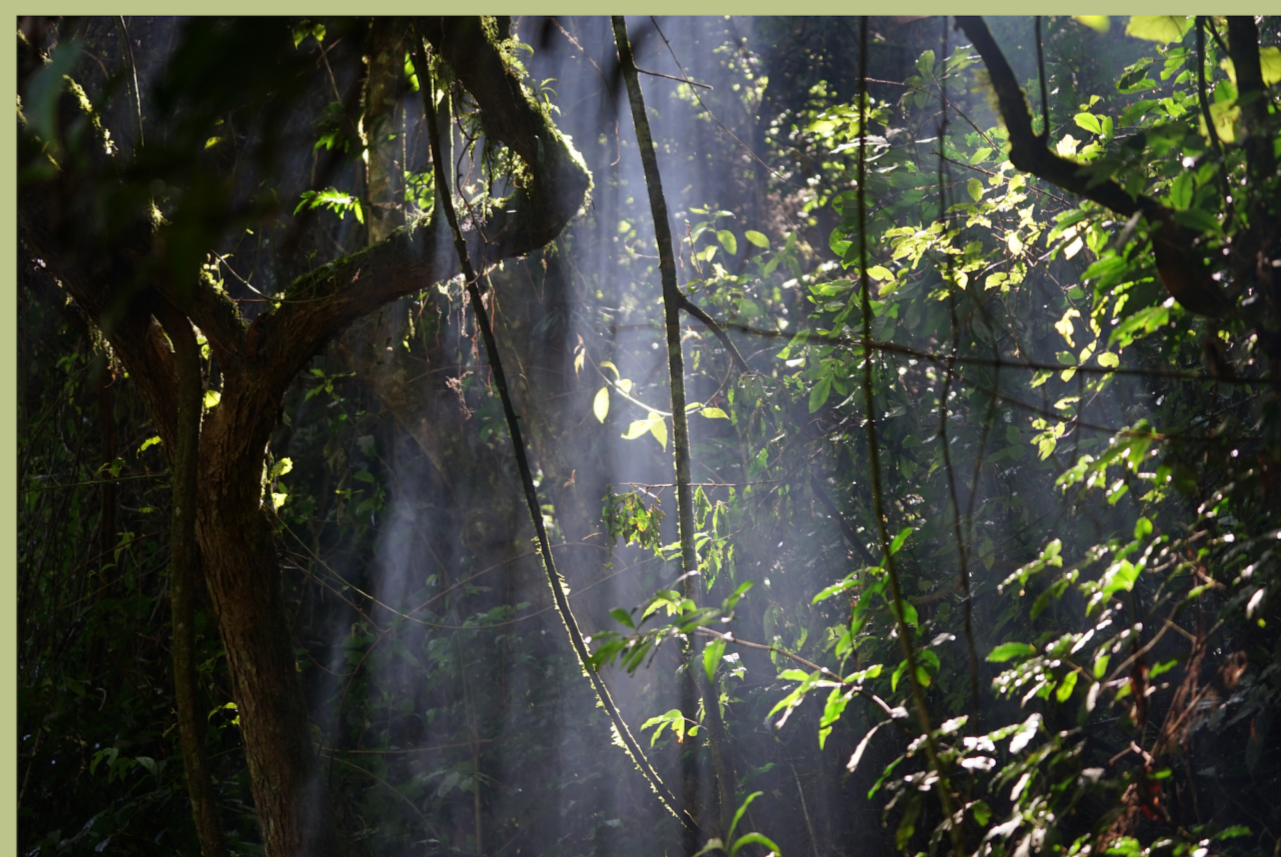
Community walk

This gives an opportunity to visit a school where Batwa children study from on the way through the neighbouring community to the Batwa settlements, to discover how the Batwa used to live in the forest and how they are currently living with other neighboring communities.

The walk being at the forest edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park provides an opportunity to meet wildlife species like Rwenzori three horned chameleon, birds like regal sunbird, blue-headed sunbird, green-headed sunbird, black crane, snakes like green mamba and black mamba among others.

Nature walk

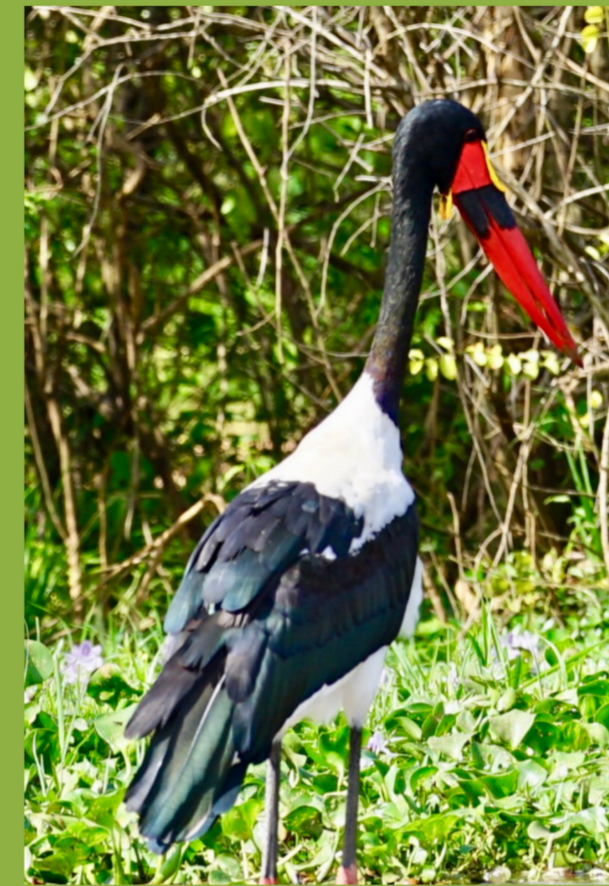
A special guided walk and hike along Bwindi Forest and a forest walk from Buhoma to Nkuringo gorilla tracking sectors provide an opportunity to view different animals like monkeys and birds, as well as special photography of overview of the Bwindi Forest including the waterfalls around.



Birdwatching

This is a guided walk with wildlife managers like Demus and his group who are specialists in birdwatching and snake catching. This provides an opportunity to meet Albertine endemics and rare birds present in and around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park like blue-headed sunbird, dusky crimsonwing, Shelly's crimsonwing, regal sunbird, yellow-eyed black flycatcher, African hill babbler, black-faced rufous warbler, Chubb's cisticola, Levillant's cuckoo, African green broadbill, black and white casqued hornbill, Holub's golden weaver and black crane. You can see shore birds at the bird conservation project swamp and Nyamuliro Swamp, and other forest birds around Bwindi.

Special birdwatching experiences can be arranged in other Important Birding Areas (IBAs) in Uganda like Echuya Forest, Nyamuliro Swamp, Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Semuliki National Park, Kibale National Park, Murchison Falls National Park among others. Other wildlife encounters are also offered.



Hiking

Special 5 hour hiking provides an opportunity to get up to the Kiezi hills around Bwindi Forest to view Lake Mutanda, Virunga, the volcanic mountains of Kisoro (Gahinga Muhavura and Sabinyo) and a panoramic view and photography of Bwindi Forest.

Black Smithing

Join blacksmiths of the Abaheesi Bakiga clan as they make tools and weapons for the community. Discover how they use their traditional bellows made out of wood and cow hides to stoke an open fire until it is hot enough to work iron and steel. Called omojuba, these bellows are passed down from generation to generation and reputed to have ancestral powers. Located on steep hills overlooking Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, you can enjoy roasted sweet potatoes while watching spears and axes come into existence from scrap metal.



Boat Cruise

Enjoy a scenic cruise on Lake Mutanda at the foot of the Virunga mountain ranges. Visit the famed "Skeleton Islands", where the Abajesera clan embalmed their honored elders after death. Stop for lunch on Kaboko peninsula and learn about local culture. This is also a great trip to see otters and water bird throughout the cruise and to float past fishermen in dugout canoes.

