



Welcome



Travel has been my life for over 20 years. St Augustine's famous quote remains as true to me today as it was when I first set up 2by2 Holidays – "the world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page".

My first love was Africa, the place of my birth. Its remarkable wildlife and cultures continue to captivate me today.

A recent visit to the wildlife of the Serengeti has starkly reminded me just how fragile the survival of so many endangered species remains and reinforced my belief that travel must always have conservation at its heart.

In recent years I have discovered the joys of travel in the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. The iconic sites and cultures there are no less enthralling and everywhere wildlife adapts and survives, from harsh barren deserts to cool mountain cloud forests and tropical wetlands.

My enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever and I continue to be as involved in every aspect of the business as I always have been, backed up by our superb travel team. I'm particularly thrilled that so many of our customers return time after time.

I do hope you find our latest brochure inspiring and we all look forward to hearing from you.

Hambe Kahle – Travel Safely

Claire Farley

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About Us

We specialise in tailor-made holidays to Southern & East Africa, Latin America and the Indian subcontinent – regions that are often difficult to explore on your own.

The excitement of long haul travel starts in the early planning stages, as you browse through inspirational travel sites, speak to friends and gather information from magazines and brochures such as ours. At 2by2 Holidays we understand this anticipation, as we ourselves are passionate travellers. We love to listen to your ideas and supplement them with our own experiences to help you plan the best possible trip – tailored to your special interests and budget.

Our sales team regularly visit the countries we sell to ensure our specialist knowledge remains up-to-date. Through our extensive contacts in each destination, we are also happy to research unusual activities and excursions for you.

With our expert knowledge we can advise you on all the great wildlife reserves in the world and help you to explore iconic cultural highlights in countries that you never thought you

would be able to visit on your own, as our experiences of these destinations is truly second to none.

Our tradition of customer service has been a vital element of our success and many of our customers come back year after year. Be rest assured that you will be well looked after every step of the way as you explore these remarkable countries with their astonishing wildlife, colourful cultures and breathtaking landscapes.



Types of Holidays

We tailor make all our holidays so you can choose to travel by road, plane, luxury train, houseboat or expedition cruise. We can arrange a private driver/guide, you can self drive or join an escorted tour.

Browse through our brochure to see the wide range of destinations and types of holidays we offer. The example itineraries are intended to be a starting point, so ring us if you would like to talk with someone who has travelled to the country you are interested in. To see what travel options are possible, these symbols are shown under each example itinerary:

Our Values

Travel should be a force for good, especially where tourism is a crucial source of revenue for local people. We want you to experience the very best holiday and at the same time, where we can, help to contribute something back to the communities you visit.

Auriel Holidays

Our sister company, Auriel Holidays, is a retail travel agent that operates worldwide. Auriel Holidays is ABTA bonded (P8305) and can book bespoke holidays, luxury hotels and cruises anywhere in the world.

Financial Protection

2by2 Holidays holds an Air Travel Organisers Licence from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL 9025) which provides financial protection if you live in the UK, and we book some or all of your flights. Holidays that do not meet the above criteria are protected through our Client Trust Account, so your holiday is financially protected wherever in the world you live.



Land Transfers



Light Aircraft Transfers



Driver/Guide



Self Drive



Wheelchair Accessible



Escorted Tour



Train



On Water



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P8305

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or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk



Bwindi

Uganda

With the largest range of primates in all of Africa (20 different species), Uganda is a premier wildlife destination, with Murchison Falls offering some of the best game viewing on the continent. There are also over 1,000 bird species.

Dubbed the “Pearl of Africa” by Winston Churchill, Uganda is a lush and scenic country. Vast Lake Victoria, the largest in Africa, forms its southern border whilst Lake Albert and Lake Edward in the Great Rift Valley define its western limit. Uganda boasts the highest concentration of primates in the whole of Africa, including 50% of the world’s population of endangered Mountain gorillas. These are found in family groups living on the slopes of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and

in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park near the border with Rwanda, where you can also see endangered Golden monkeys.

Tracking a family of gorillas and their Silverback males is a life-changing experience, but you do need to be reasonably mobile to trek through these steep equatorial rainforests in search of them, as they are constantly moving. Expect to walk 1 to 4 hours each way, in steep and sometimes muddy conditions. Once you reach a gorilla family all the

effort of the trek will be forgotten, as the encounter is almost without fail a very moving one.

You must be over 15 years to track gorillas and not have any colds or infections, as they have little immunity to human germs. It’s essential to wear good walking boots, long trousers and gloves for protection, as you scramble through the forest. Consider paying a porter to carry your backpack as you need to carry 2-litres of water, a packed lunch, rain gear



Coming face-to-face with the Mountain gorillas of Bwindi is an experience that is at the top of many people’s travel wish list. It doesn’t disappoint!

and light fleece, as early mornings in the rainforest can be chilly. A walking stick will be provided to help with the steep ascents, if you don’t bring your own.

The gorillas are habituated and are remarkably relaxed about the presence of humans. Important rules should be observed however, such as remaining 7 metres from any gorilla – although some of the younger ones may let their curiosity get the better of them! You will have strictly one hour to observe the behaviour of the gorillas, a rare privilege indeed.

Murchison Falls National Park is situated in the northwest of the country, on the shores of Lake Albert, and is divided into two sections by the mighty

Nile River that flows through it. This is the premier wildlife reserve in Uganda and one of the finest in the world. It is home to predators such as lion, hyena and leopard as well as huge herds of elephant, buffalo, Jackson’s hartebeest, warthog, baboon and waterbuck – all easily seen on the open terrain. Observing these rolling hills alive with the movement of thousands of Uganda kob (an antelope similar to an impala) is truly unforgettable.

A boat ride to the base of the Murchison Falls is a must, followed by an optional hike to the top of the falls. Here the upper Nile dramatically plunges 40 metres through a narrow gorge, before widening into a fast flowing river. Birdlife is abundant and you will see many Pied kingfisher fishing and nesting along the river banks, as well as numerous pods of hippo.

Murchison Falls is most easily accessed by light aircraft from Entebbe. However you can also travel overland with your own driver/guide, stopping along the way at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, which is home to the only wild rhino in Uganda.

Chimpanzees are our closest animal relatives, sharing 98% of our DNA, so observing their behaviour in the wild is another thrilling Ugandan primate experience. Chimps spend much of their time nesting high in the forest canopy, but as the day warms up they drop to the cool forest floor to feed and this is where the most exciting encounters occur – as chimps are more boisterous than their larger gorilla cousins.

Seeing the chimps is never guaranteed, but your best opportunity is in Kibale Rainforest, which has a success rate of over 90% and relatively easy terrain.



- DAY 1** Arrive in Entebbe
DAYS 2/3 Fly to game-rich Murchison Falls National Park, with land based game viewing & boat ride along the River Nile
DAYS 4/5 Fly to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to track endangered mountain gorillas – an experience of a lifetime!
DAYS 6/7 Fly back to Entebbe & relax on shores of Lake Victoria
DAY 8 Depart from Entebbe



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices call us on 01582 766122 or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk





Ishasha

Almost 1,500 chimps live in Kibale, as well as 12 other primate species including the Black-and-white colobus, Red colobus, Red-tailed monkey, Grey-cheeked mangabey, Blue monkey, Bush baby, Vervet monkey, L' Hoest's monkey and Olive baboon. The forest is rich in birdlife, with over 300 recorded species. Chimps can also be tracked in Budonga Forest, Kyambura Gorge and Semuliki National Park. Expect to walk up to 3 hours, as the chimps move very quickly through the trees.

Queen Elizabeth National Park is Uganda's most visited game reserve, due to its proximity to the gorillas and relatively easy access from the capital of Kampala. It is bordered by Lake Edward and the Ishasha River to the west, with the Kasinga Channel dividing the park as it flows from Lake George in the northeast. The highlight of any visit is a boat ride on the channel where you will see thousands of buffalo, hippo and elephant cooling off along its shores. The channel is also a magnet for great flocks of water birds which gather to fish – including a variety of pelican, eagle, vulture, kingfisher, stork, spoonbill, cormorant, ibis and many others.

Almost 100 mammals can be found here, including 20 predators and many antelope including the Uganda kob, bushbuck, topi and semi-aquatic sitatunga. During the dry season most of the wildlife migrates from the Kasenyi Plains to the lakes and rivers, but patience will be rewarded with sightings of lion, hyena and maybe even leopard. The Ishasha Plains in the southwest of the park are renowned for their tree-climbing lions.

A gorilla safari in Uganda is not complete without viewing the chimpanzees of Kibale Rainforest, the river-based wildlife of Queen Elizabeth National Park and the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha.



Queen Elizabeth National Park

Lake Mburo National Park is the usual stopover for those travelling from Ishasha or Bwindi with a driver/guide and offers excellent plains game viewing. It is the best place in the country to see eland, zebra, topi and impala. You can also enjoy horse riding and walking safaris here.

Less visited, the rugged and semi-arid savanna of Kidepo Valley National Park in the far northeast of the country offers another big game fly-in experience.

Jinja is the place to go for adrenalin activities. Here the Nile River has its source and its thundering rapids, up to grade 5, offer some of the safest white water rafting in the whole world, as there are no

submerged rocks, hippos or crocodiles. Afterwards visit the Chimpanzee Sanctuary on Ngama Island and relax on the shores of Lake Victoria, with over 3,000 islands.



Pearl of Africa

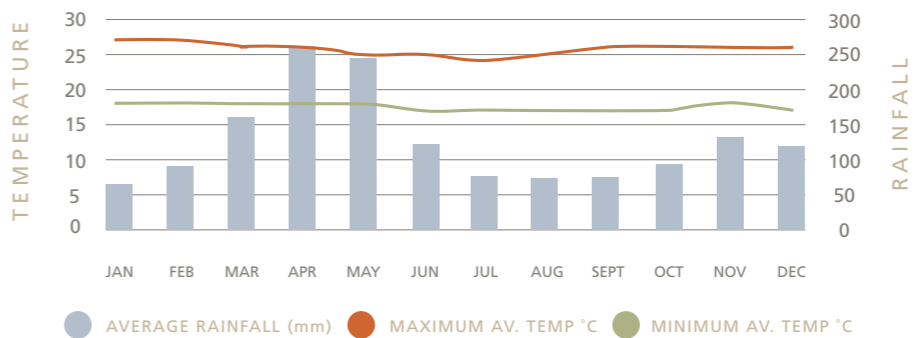
- DAY 1** Arrive in Entebbe
- DAYS 2/3** Fly to Murchison Falls, with game viewing & boat cruise on the Nile River
- DAYS 4/6** Fly to Kibale Rainforest, for exciting chimp tracking
- DAYS 7/8** Drive to Queen Elizabeth Park, with game viewing by boat & on land
- DAY 9** Visit Ishasha Plains to search for tree-climbing lions
- DAYS 10/12** Drive to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest for gorilla trekking – an unforgettable experience!
- DAYS 13/14** Travel to Kigali/Depart



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices call us on 01582 766122 or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk

When to go

Uganda straddles the equator and has a warm equatorial climate, with some rainfall all year round. The best time to visit is during one of the two drier seasons - June to October, which is peak season as it is cooler, or December to February when it is much hotter. March to May (the 'long rains') should be avoided. November and December (the 'short rains') can also be quite wet. Birding is good all year round, but best from June to October.



Special Interest Holidays

Travel offers a wonderful opportunity to do and see things that you have previously only dreamed of. We can introduce you to a wonderland of new experiences and if you have a particular passion or interest, we are the people to talk to. Known for our wildlife and cultural holidays, we also have expertise in many other specialisms. Unlike most travel companies, we take the time to research and book even the most unusual requests. Here we highlight some of the special interest holidays that other customers have loved.



Walking

If you enjoy hiking, we offer a thrilling range of walking safaris – ranging from a few hours in the early morning or late afternoon, accompanied by an armed ranger, to specialised walking camps in Botswana and South Africa where all game viewing is on foot. We also offer point-to-point trails in Zambia, where you can spend a week walking from one remote bush camp to another – a truly unforgettable experience!

You can trek to see mountain gorillas, and in most of our destinations we can incorporate a variety of walking and hiking trails into your itinerary, ranging from day hikes to waterfalls and volcanoes in Costa Rica, to Peru's iconic Inca Trail and Nepal's stunning Annapurna Trek.

If you are sufficiently fit, you can even combine a safari in East Africa with climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, accompanied by experienced mountain guides.

Birding

Many of our customers are avid birders who want to spot regional endemics, as well as increase their life list, whilst others are more casual birders who simply enjoy the pleasure of identifying known species and spotting new ones. Whichever category you fit into, we know how important it is to design an itinerary that visits the best birding regions, at the right time of year.

With our extensive network of

specialist birding guides, we can tailor make private tours to key destinations such as Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Galapagos, Brazil, Guyana, Madagascar, South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We can also help you track down iconic species, such as the Harpy eagle in Panama.

We offer cheaper lodge-based birding holidays too, using guides employed by

the various lodges – although the quality of guiding can vary – and a few scheduled departure tours in high demand countries such as Costa Rica.





Sports & Cultural Events

As we tailor make all our holidays, we cater to a wide range of special interests.

Golf

Our golf holidays in South Africa are particularly popular, allowing golfers to escape the northern winter and combine championship golf with wine tasting and a luxury safari or beach break. You can select the courses you wish to play, varying from social to world class.

Riding

Our riding holidays vary from thrilling mobile horseback safaris in Big Five territory for experienced riders, to family-friendly lodge-based riding holidays suitable for all levels.

Diving

The Indian Ocean offers outstanding diving in warm water, from Kenya all the way down to Zanzibar, Mozambique and South Africa, as well as the islands of the Maldives, Andamans, Mauritius, Seychelles

and Madagascar. Galapagos offers live-aboard dive ships, whilst Mexico and Belize offer superb Caribbean diving.

Fishing

These same regions offer some of the best deep-sea fishing in the world. To this must be added the renowned fishing waters of the Baja Peninsula in Mexico.

Sports Events

Sports events are often the catalyst for a special holiday. We can source tickets to rugby internationals in South Africa and Argentina, as well as cricket tests in India, Sri Lanka and South Africa. We can also arrange Grand Prix packages.

Cultural Events

We can also build a holiday around special events such as the Rio Carnival, Holi in India or the Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico



Cruises & Houseboats

Expedition cruises explore regions that are difficult to reach in other ways, whilst relaxing houseboats provide a different perspective from the water.

Expedition Cruises

Expedition cruises to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador are the best way to explore the unique wildlife of this stunning archipelago. Itineraries vary in length from several days to a week or more, with a wide choice of boats varying in size, design and cost.

Patagonia expedition cruises sail from southern Argentina to Chile, and vice versa, navigating via Glacier Alley and Cape Horn.

Expedition cruises to the Falkland Islands and Antarctica use much larger vessels capable of handling the polar ice.

You need to be relatively mobile to enjoy an expedition cruise, as you will disembark twice a day for excursions, making your way down a gangplank into a zodiac-type inflatable.



Houseboats

Houseboats are a relaxing way to watch the world go by. They are the perfect way to explore the mighty Amazon River, the largest in South America, whether boarding from Manaus in Brazil, Coca in Ecuador or Iquitos in Peru.

You can also explore Brazil's southern Pantanal by houseboat or sail down the Magdalena River in Colombia.

India has houseboats that sail down the Brahmaputra and Ganges Rivers and are wonderful for observing local life. You can also spend a night on a traditional rice houseboat gliding through the Kerala backwaters.

In Africa, Botswana has houseboats on the Chobe River, superb for both wildlife viewing and tiger fishing, whilst Zimbabwe has houseboats on Lake Kariba. Lake Jozini in South Africa also offers tiger fishing by houseboat.

Houseboat facilities will be en suite, but expect the cabins on many boats to be relatively small and simple.

Ocean Cruises

Through our sister company, Auriel Holidays, we can source a wide variety of ocean cruises that can tie in with tailor-made land arrangements, either before or after your cruise.



Quark Expeditions



Rovos Rail

Luxury Trains

If you love train travel, there is no better way of leisurely exploring a country than aboard one of the world’s iconic luxury trains, travelling in the utmost comfort with superb dining.

Southern Africa

Rovos Rail

The nostalgic Rovos Rail train journeys across Southern Africa at a leisurely pace, pulling along its historic reconditioned carriages. The traditional observation car provides a delightful way of viewing the unfolding landscape, whilst enjoying superb service and delicious food and wine – everything from mouth-watering afternoon teas to cocktails and formal dinners. All off-train excursions are included. Dress code is smart casual, but a little more formal in the evening.

A selection of short journeys is available in both directions (two to four nights), with three cabin styles – Pullman, Deluxe or Royal:

- Pretoria to Cape Town
- Pretoria to Victoria Falls
- Pretoria to Durban

Longer journeys are also available in both directions:

- South Africa Collage (Pretoria to Cape Town)
- South Africa to Namibia
- Dar Es Salaam to South Africa
- Dar Es Salaam to Angola

A few specialist golf journeys are also available in both directions:

- Golf Collage (Pretoria to Cape Town)
- Golf Safari (Sun City, Durban and Kruger)

Blue Train

The modern Blue Train also travels regularly between Pretoria and Cape Town.



Rovos Rail - Deluxe Suite

India

India is well served by a range of luxury trains that offer superb service and dining reminiscent of the opulent Maharaja era.

Maharaja’s Express

The famous Maharaja’s Express is India’s most luxurious train and offers a wonderful way to explore the treasures of the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan, starting from Delhi. A short three-night journey visits the stunning Taj Mahal in Agra, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Jaipur in Rajasthan. A longer trip includes Orchha Fort, the magnificent temples of Khajuraho and the sacred city of Varanasi. There is also a journey that combines the Golden Triangle with more of Rajasthan - including Bikaner, Jodhpur and beautiful Udaipur - before continuing all the way to Mumbai. This trip is available in both directions. There are four different cabins – Deluxe, Junior Suite, Suite or Presidential Suite.

Palace on Wheels

The opulent Palace on Wheels, India’s original luxury train, also starts in Delhi and explores the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan including a longer route to Jaipur, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Chittorgarh Fort, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Agra before returning to Delhi. The train has two different cabins - Deluxe or Super Deluxe.

Deccan Odyssey

The blue Deccan Odyssey explores the state of Maharashtra in style, including the holy city of Nashik, the incredible Ellora and Ajanta Caves with their magnificent sculptures and paintings, the temples of Kolhapur and the beaches of Goa. Another route links Mumbai with Delhi, travelling via Udaipur, Jaipur, Agra and Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. There are two cabin styles – Deluxe or Presidential Suite.

Golden Chariot

The luxurious Golden Chariot train explores South India. Starting from Bengaluru, the Karnataka route visits Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Mysuru Palace, the temples of Halebid, the hill station of Chikkamagaluru, the spectacular ruined city of Hampi and the beaches of Goa. The Tamil Nadu and Kerala route explores the temples and palaces of Mysuru, the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram,

the Great Chola temples at Thanjavur, Chettinad Palace and Kochi, including a cruise in a traditional rice houseboat on the Kerala backwaters. This train has one adapted cabin.

Peru

Belmond Train

The luxurious Belmond Train journeys through Peru, travelling from Arequipa to Lake Titicaca and Cusco – gateway to the stunning Inca citadel at Machu Picchu. The train runs in both directions. Be sure to visit Machu Picchu aboard the famous Hiram Bingham train.

Mexico

El Chepe

Although not a luxury train, another iconic train journey is aboard El Chepe, which travels through the stunning Copper Canyon.



Maharaja Express, Dining Car



Deccan Odyssey



Springbok Atlas

Accessible Travel



If you are a wheelchair user or have limited mobility, long-haul travel poses a unique set of challenges, but as the UK market leader in accessible safari holidays we have considerable expertise in this field. Our greatest experience is in Southern and East Africa, but we have been expanding our knowledge in recent years and we now also offer accessible holidays to India, Sri Lanka and Latin America.

Whether you are simply unsure about travelling without assistance, walk with sticks or use a wheelchair permanently, we can design a holiday appropriate to your needs. We know which hotels and lodges are accessible (i.e. ramps, roll-in showers and grab rails) and which are not, and your private guide can travel with a shower chair if needed. However if you use a power chair, we will need to get the approval of the airline before we can confirm your holiday.

In South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia we have access to a small number of accessible vehicles, with ramps for wheelchairs. If you have upper body strength and can transfer into a regular vehicle, you will have more destination choices.

In India we also have a few accessible vehicles on the famous Golden Triangle route. In Latin America accessible vehicles are found mostly in the larger cities, but if you use a manual wheelchair we can take you to places such as Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands.

The accessible section of our website

showcases the many destinations we offer, but as you will have many questions please call us to discuss your specific needs or visit us in person and we will be happy to go through all the details with you.

As accessible hotels, guides and vehicles are always in short supply, you should book your holiday well in advance.



Small Group Tours

We offer a range of sociable small group tours in many of our key destinations, if you don't want to travel independently or self drive.

Southern Africa

South Africa offers a range of small group tours, travelling from beautiful Cape Town along the scenic Garden Route to Port Elizabeth. Afterwards you can add on a Big Five safari in the Eastern Cape. Alternatively, you can combine the wildlife of the famous Kruger National Park with Eswatini (Swaziland), Zululand and the beaches of Durban.

Namibia tours take in this country's dramatic landscapes, from the Fish River Canyon to Etosha, with longer tours

travelling through the lush Caprivi to Victoria Falls.

Botswana wildlife tours are generally done under canvas, exploring the wildlife of the Okavango Delta and Chobe.

East Africa

Kenya small group tours visit the famous Masai Mara, the elephants of Samburu and Amboseli in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, with shorter tours from Mombasa.

Tanzania tours explore the northern circuit of Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater and the vast open plains of the wildlife-rich Serengeti.

Uganda tours focus on chimp and gorilla trekking. Ethiopia tours explore its ancient history.

Latin America

Peru tours visit Cusco and the stunning Inca citadel at Machu Picchu, with an extension to Lake Titicaca and the salt flats of Bolivia. Alternatively, you can combine Peru with Ecuador and the fascinating Galapagos Islands.

Brazil tours combines vibrant Rio de Janeiro with the thundering Iguassu Falls, whilst tours of Argentina and Chile focus on their capital cities and the dramatic landscapes of spectacular Patagonia.

Mexico small group tours explore their pyramids and the spectacular Mayan ruins of the Yucatan, before relaxing on the warm Mayan Riviera.

Through our sister company, Auriel Holidays, we offers tours to many other destinations.





Book with confidence

Booking your holiday

When you are ready to book, we will guide you through the process. Our terms and conditions can be found on our website at www.2by2holidays.co.uk.

Through our membership of ATOL (9025), our Client Deposit Trust Account and Tour Operator Insurance, your holiday is financially protected wherever in the world you live.

Copyright and accuracy

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Worldwide Holidays

Almost anywhere in the world that 2by2 Holidays doesn't cover, our sister company Auriel Holidays does.



Auriel Holidays brings the same high standards of travel expertise and service as 2by2 Holidays, but as a retail travel agent.

Ring us to discuss a tailor-made holiday anywhere in the world:
01582 766122 or visit www.aurielholidays.co.uk

