

## inAfrica

A round-up of travel news from Brussels Airlines' long-haul network



Engagi Lodge looks out on a forest teeming with life

### Hotel with a view THE ENGAGI LODGE, UGANDA

**Where is it?** Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, tel. +256 (0)414 321552, kimbla-mantanauganda.com

**What's the view?** There are just eight custom-built cottages here, and each has its own private veranda that looks out over Bwindi's forest canopy.

**What to expect** The cottages are built out of local wood while the main lodge is made entirely of rocks and eucalyptus, thatched with banana fibre. Rooms are furnished in warm, spicy colours and light, rough-hewn woods.

**Need to know** Staff are drawn from surrounding communities,

so they know the area inside out. Electricity is supplied by solar power and hot water will soon

go the same way. The on-site restaurant caters for both vegetarians and vegans.

**Why go there?** The main draw here are the 300 gorillas who inhabit Bwindi's Impenetrable Forest. The rare tree-climbing lions of Isasha live nearby. Bwindi's brilliant for bird watching too, with more than 340 species calling the area home.

**How much does it cost?** From €168 per night.



### Look out for... Breakfast in the Rainforest

by Richard Sobel

If you don't actually manage to get up close and personal with Uganda's gorillas while you're there, this is the next best thing. Sobel's photographs have previously appeared in the *National Geographic*, *Time* and *Newsweek*. His latest book shows mountain gorillas tucked away in some of Uganda's densest forests, meditatively eating their morning meal, a sight rarely captured on camera. Leonardo DiCaprio liked it so much, he even wrote the afterword. [candlewick.com](http://candlewick.com)



### Getting it together

Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania have been in talks to pool their marketing efforts, selling themselves as a single destination rather than five separate countries – which will mean big changes for tourists. For a start, the countries' policies on wildlife conservation will have to be brought into line with one another, and they've started co-ordinating their efforts to prevent poaching. But it also means that you should soon need only one visa to visit all five countries – the Common Tourist Visa – so that seeing more of East Africa won't require quite so much rigid preparation. That can only be a good thing.



Hop on a quad bike for an unusual cultural tour

### Cultural exchange

If you're heading near Lake Mburo, make time to go on the latest All Terrain Vehicle (quad bike) tour: the cultural safari. The trail, devised in collaboration with Mburo Eco-Cultural Village, takes in local homesteads and gives visitors the opportunity to mix and mingle with the Ankole tribe – and try some *mwenge*, a potent banana brew. Best of all, the proceeds are split between protecting the area's wildlife and funding community projects.

[atadventures.com](http://atadventures.com)

**Info** To find out more about Brussels Airlines' long-haul destinations, visit [bspirmagazine.com](http://bspirmagazine.com) or the airline website [brusselsairlines.com](http://brusselsairlines.com)