

Bwindi lives and livelihoods guided trails

These guided trails offer a unique understanding of this culturally rich region of Uganda, close to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Bwindi Specialist Guides take you on a tour of traditional ways of life and local culture, as well as the beautiful surrounding scenery and wildlife.

Your experience

Discover the breathtaking Rubuguri hills, just outside Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, on a guided trail with an experienced and knowledgeable local Bwindi Specialist Guide. Learn all about the lives of local people as you meet farmers, weavers and beekeepers.



Starting at the Bwindi Honey Shop in Rubuguri, your guide will take you out of town and show you how local people earn a living – including a **market gardening enterprise** established as an alternative to poaching, a **coffee experience**, and a **banana plantation**.



Look out for the pied kingfishers and grey crowned cranes at the **Kashasha Wetlands**, and spot the beautiful hidden pond at **Bereta and Banyara Waterfalls**. Meet and learn the craft of the **highly skilled women who weave baskets**, designed to reflect the beautiful landscape in which they live.



Along the way you will have opportunities to see how people process coffee beans and make local gin. You can also buy local honey, baskets and other handicrafts. See inside for more about the unique experiences this guided trail has to offer.

About the trail

The trail starts and ends at the Bwindi Honey Shop in Rubuguri town. It takes **3.5 – 4 hours**, and covers **5.5 km** in the Rubuguri hills to the south of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. This is a guided tour only. Please see 'How to book' for more information.

The **Reformed poachers trail** is one of several new tourist products and services that have been developed to **support poor people living close to Bwindi Forest** under the 'Local economic development through 'pro-poor' gorilla tourism in Uganda' project (www.iied.org/pro-poor-tourism-uganda), funded by the UK Government's Darwin Initiative.

The fee you pay for the trail is all retained locally and includes payments for the local people you will meet on the trail as well as for the guides.

How to book

Please book via your **tour operator, lodge manager** or directly with the **Bwindi Specialist Guides Group**. Contact **Paul Ahimbisibwe** via email on ahimbi.paul@gmail.com or phone: +256 789 617 334 / +256 755 924 885.



Important information

The trails are intended to be guided by a Bwindi Specialist Guide only and are not self-guided trails. The trail image given on this flyer is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be used as a map or guide. You are responsible for your own safety while on the guided trail. IIED, Responsible Tourism, ITFC, International Gorilla Conservation Programme and Darwin Initiative are not liable for any injury or accident that may occur on the trail, or for the content of the trails. The visits and activities offered on the guided trails are subject to the availability of the local participants and may be subject to change. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

This project was funded by the UK Government's Darwin Initiative. However, this does not imply endorsement and the content of this flyer does not necessarily reflect opinions of the UK Government.



GUIDED TRAIL

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Reformed poachers



Experience the cultural treasures of the Rubuguri hills

Reformed poachers trail



Coffee experience

Here you will see how coffee is roasted, packaged for sale, and prepared. You can taste a freshly brewed cup and buy packaged roasted beans.

Reformed poachers gardens

This market garden is owned by former poachers, who have since learned how to grow fruit and vegetables. The crops are sold locally to lodges and campsites.



Water spring

This protected water spring is the source of the water for the Bereta and Banyara waterfalls. The spring provides secure, clean potable water for surrounding villages.



Bereta and Banyara waterfalls

The waterfalls end at a hidden and beautiful pond where a variety of aquatic life can be observed, such as mud-fish, crabs and water beetles. Local legend attests to the aphrodisiac qualities of the water.



Local bar

Here you can have a taste of the local gin and meet members of the community.



Quality basket weavers

Highly skilled local women regularly meet at the Honey Shop & Craft Corner to socialise and weave baskets. You may even be invited to learn how they ply their trade.



Honey processing centre

Local beekeepers will here describe the art of bee husbandry and explain how honey is made, collected and processed. See the plants that attract bees and the hives where they live.



Bwindi Honey Shop

The trail ends back at the Bwindi Honey Shop, where you will have the opportunity to buy some souvenirs.



The Bwindi Honey Shop & Craft Corner

The trail starts here. Local honey and honey products are on sale, along with apiculture tools, locally-produced baskets, and other handicrafts.



Banana plantation

A common food crop for local people, banana types include yellow sweet banana and green cooking banana, used to make matoke. They can also be used to make juice, wine and gin.

Kashasha wetlands

This amazing wetland is a home to a huge variety of bird species, including pied kingfishers, haddada ibis and cinnamon chested bee-eaters. The wetland is an important provider of roofing and weaving materials.



Bird hide

This hotspot for bird watching provides an opportunity to observe various bird species, take photos, draw, or just generally relax.



Gold mining

Rubuguri's historic gold mining activity continues on a small scale today, providing income for a few residents. By prior arrangement, you can meet the gold miners, hear their stories and learn how to pan.

