Maps and Satellite Images of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park (World Heritage Site)

Map showing the location of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in southwest Uganda

Map of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park showing the extent of the protected forest, drainage patterns, road access and selected wildlife attractions (from Lonely Planet’s Guidebook ‘Watching Wildlife East Africa’).
Topographic map (US Navigation Chart) of South-West Uganda, showing the location of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park on the eastern flank of Africa’s Rift Valley.
Map of forest trails in the Buhoma and Ruhizha Areas of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. (from the Uganda Tourist Board booklet ‘Where to Watch Birds in Uganda’ by Jonathan Rossouw and Marco Sacchi).

For narrative details of these trails and the birds that are likely to be seen download the guide from www.AfricanNaturalHeritage.org
Satellite image of the western branch of Africa’s Rift Valley, flanked by a series of isolated protected forest ‘islands’ on its eastern side (including Uganda’s Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest) and the extensive (and relatively intact) Congo Basin rainforests to the west (left side of image). Three of the main Rift Valley Lakes can be seen (from top, Lake Albert, Lake Edward and Lake Kivu), as well as the extent of Lake Victoria (right), and the location of Mount Elgon and the drainage of Lake Kyoga (top right).

Google Earth satellite image of the western Rift Valley between Lake Edward and Lake Kivu, with Bwindi Impenetrable Forest lying on a prominent rocky ridge on its eastern flank (centre).
The characteristic shape of Bwindi Impenetrable forest, with two sections joined through a narrow 'neck' of forest at Kitahurira. The tectonic origins and folded geology of this area can be clearly seen, and accounts for significant differences between this area and the chain of volcanoes that lie a short distance to the south (the Mgahinga, Parc des Volcans and Virunga National Park complex)

Satellite view from the east looking across the Rift Valley with Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (foreground, right of centre) and the Mgahinga/Volcanoes park complex (left of centre). The lava fields arising from recent eruptions of Mount Nyamulagira in Virunga National Park can be clearly seen in the floor of the valley between Lake Kivu (left) and Lake Edward (right).
The high altitude part of Bwindi-Impenetrable National Park, with small areas of bamboo visible (light green) near the highest summits. Outside the forest the land drops away steeply on all sides and is intensively cultivated.

Satellite view of Ruhizha, showing the forest boundary, the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC) complex, and the winding road which passes through the forest.
Google Earth image of Mubwindi swamp, a prime location for many rare and endemic species within the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Satellite view of the forest boundary, showing the stark contrast between protected forest and adjoining farmland.
Satellite view of a controversial area known as the ‘Mbwa River Tract’ (between the road and forest) which should be incorporated into the national park, thereby extending the range of suitable habitat available to mountain gorillas.

A narrow corridor of lowland forest links the two parts of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest at Kitahurira.
Satellite view of the Buhoma area, where the park headquarters is located and gorilla tourism is centred.

Satellite view of the southwest corner of the forest from Nteko, looking north towards the park headquarters at Buhoma (visible at top centre). The international border with Congo marks the edge of the forest (left). This is the area where groups of mountain gorillas have been habituated and gorilla tourism is undertaken.