

**Uganda and Mount Nyiragongo
10 days – 9 nights
Entebbe, Mweya, Ishasha, Bwindi, Rumambago, Nyiragongo, Kisoro
Gorillas, Chimps, Tree Climbing Lions, Wild Beauty and Bubbling Lava**

**This program may be operated for individual or for small groups
This is a suggested itinerary – Please call us to customize**

One of the most incredible experiences you will ever encounter awaits you on this trip of a lifetime that combines Uganda - the Pearl of Africa – with active volcano Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Come explore this wild and beautiful region of Africa. Discover the stunning Queen Elizabeth National Park, renowned for its tree climbing lions, and the Bwindi National Park, home to endangered Mountain Gorillas. Have an option to trek for Chimpanzees in Kyambura Gorge. Once you've seen the Pearl of Africa in all its glory, hop over the border to the Democratic Republic of Congo to climb an active volcano and sleep on its ash slopes. Some of our team in Uganda have personally climbed Nyiragongo with their family and will confirm what an incredible adventure it was for them all!

Day 1: Entebbe

On arrival at Entebbe International Airport you will be met by a Wild Frontiers representative and transferred to your hotel. Entebbe is a small, quiet town located on the shores of Lake Victoria and is easy to explore on foot, boda- bodas (local motorbike) or taxis. Soak up the local markets filled with clothes and crafts, shop for souvenirs in curio shops, or explore the Botanical Gardens on Lake Victoria. Enjoy the wide variety of restaurants serving many different cuisines as well as several bars and clubs where you can sample the local beer, catch a game of football and chat with the local Ugandans, known for their open, friendly nature. Overnight at Boma Lodge, a small family run guest house.

Day 2: Entebbe, Mweya

Early morning departure for our drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park – it's a long day on the road and you'll enjoy a picnic lunch enroute. We start in the 'Mweya' sector of the National park and enjoy a leisurely boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel. Kazinga's shores are a haven for numerous birds, including many migratory species as they make their way south to warmer climates. The cruise also provides a spectacular view of the beautiful Mweya Peninsula and life in local fishing villages set along the banks. Overnight at Mweya Safari Lodge, located on a peninsula overlooking the Kazinga Channel on one side and the Rwenzori Mountains on the other. [B/L/D]

Day 3: Mweya, Ishasha

Today we depart to Ishasha in the Queen Elizabeth National Park. En route, we find Chamburu (Kyamburu Gorge), where chimp trekking is an optional extra (so be sure to pre-purchase your permit if you are keen!). The forest is alive with noise - chimpanzees can be quite active and may move quickly through the forest canopy...or, if you're lucky, you may find them resting or eating near the forest floors. It's an exhilarating walk in beautiful scenery. Located in a pristine area where one large troupe of habituated chimpanzees reside, the walk down into the gorge is steep in places and can be slippery, so it's important to wear proper hiking shoes/boots. A small stream runs along the gorge and the sides have incredible vegetation. The chimpanzees can move rapidly, so the hike often includes following them as they move along the trees and shrubs along the sides of the gorge. Sightings are not guaranteed but the area is beautiful and wild so, even if you don't see the chimps, it's a lovely walk with plenty of birdlife and other species to look at. Spread over 488,775 acres in the western arm of the Great Rift Valley, the park is home to a wide variety of wildlife including elephants, leopard, lions, hippos, buffalo, Uganda kob, baboon, and many species of birds. With both a riverine and savannah habitat, the park includes the southern Ishasha area with the massive Maramagambo, one of the largest surviving natural forests in Uganda. Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp. This exclusive 10 tented camp offers the only luxury accommodation in the remote southern sector of Queen Elizabeth. [B/L/D]

Day 4: Ishasha

Day at leisure to enjoy game viewing in Queen Elizabeth National Park, looking out for huge herds of buffalo, elephant and of course the famous tree-climbing lion typically found in the area. Overnight at Ishasha Wilderness Camp. [B/L/D]

Day 5: Ishasha, Bwindi

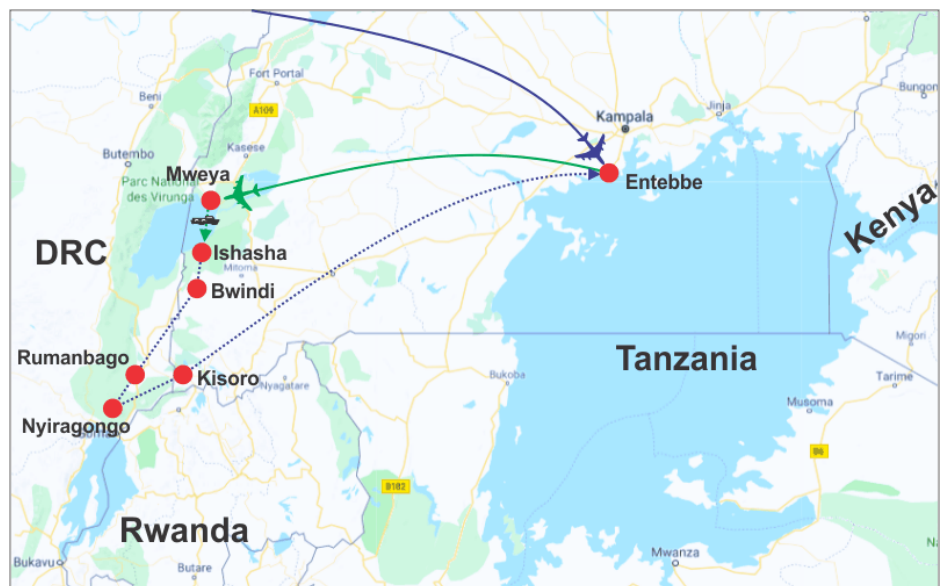
A 2, 3-hour drive through scenic country brings you to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. The National Park, located in southwestern Uganda on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, is considered the most diverse forest in Uganda. Home to over 120 mammals, 345 species of birds, 200 species of butterflies and 160 species of trees, Bwindi is one of the richest ecosystems in East Africa. The park contains almost one half of the world's population of the endangered Mountain Gorilla, making it an extremely valuable conservation site. Overnight at Buhoma Lodge. Situated on the slopes of the forests of Bwindi, this intimate lodge offers uninterrupted views of the pristine rain forest canopy. It's the perfect, tranquil base from which to visit Bwindi. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Bwindi (Gorilla Tracking, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park)

Today will be a lifetime experience! Coming face to face with mountain gorillas is a rare wildlife encounter. Experienced guides and trackers will accompany your party on an early morning trek into the dense rain forest on the mountain slopes. The opportunity to come within yards of these magnificent apes, sharing in their daily lives and experiencing their day-to-day activities, is an experience you won't soon forget! Mountain gorillas are extremely rare with only an estimated 880 remaining in the wild. Please note that gorilla tracking may be fairly strenuous with treks ranging from 30 minutes up to six hours or longer, at high altitudes. Mountain gorillas are wild animals and, as such, sightings cannot be guaranteed. However, viewing success rates are over 95%. Following the trek, return to your accommodation. Other optional activities that may be enjoyed in and around the park include forest walks, visits to a local school or orphanage or Batwa pygmy village, and curio shopping. Overnight at Buhoma Lodge. [B/L/D]

Day 7: Bwindi, Rumambago

Today we head across the Bunagana border post into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The drive from Buhoma to Mikeno Lodge in the DRC will take roughly 7 hours – excluding border crossing time which varies and is hard to estimate. At the border you will be handed over to the guides of the Virunga National Park, who will be your hosts for this section of the safari. All transport is provided by them in DRC. Mikeno Lodge offers large bungalows and a good restaurant and is located within a forest offering beautiful views of the rift valley and Nyiragongo and Mikeno volcanoes. There is an abundance of bird life, as well as resident blue monkeys, colobus monkeys, and baboons. Chimpanzees are also frequent visitors to the area. Overnight at Mikeno Lodge including dinner and breakfast. [B/L/D]



Day 8: Rumambago, Nyiragongo

Today is the day! Make sure you have excellent quality climbing/hiking shoes as you set off on your Nyiragongo Volcano climb. [B/L/D]

Nyiragongo is a beautiful stratovolcano that features the world's largest lava lake. The volcano's forested lower slopes are home to a variety of animals, including chimpanzees, monkeys, and bushbuck. Nyiragongo's summit rim is largely devoid of vegetation and is sometimes dusted with snow. From the rim, visitors can peer down into a churning lava lake and see and hear hot gases exploding up through a mosaic of molten lava. Although predictable and therefore safe for tourists, Nyiragongo is greatly feared during eruptions. Because of the low silica content of its lava, Nyiragongo's lava flows are extremely fluid. During the 2002 eruption, some of Nyiragongo's lava flows were clocked at 62 mph and reached all the way to Lake Kivu. Treks to the summit of Nyiragongo volcano begin at the Kibati patrol post. Park rangers lead all treks and porters (unaffiliated with the park) are available for hire at an additional cost. The time required to reach the summit depends on the average fitness of each group, but typically takes 4 – 6 hours. Altitude sickness can be an issue for some because the climb begins at 6,525 ft and ascends to 11,382 ft in a short time. Proper hydration is the best way to adapt to the change in altitude. People prone to Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) should speak to their physicians about taking preventative measures before making the climb. It is possible for fitter people to climb up and descend in one day, but the vast majority choose to overnight in the basic accommodations available at the top (included in the permit fee) because the best time to view the lava lake is at night.

Summit Shelters – Each of the twelve summit shelters contains two single beds on which visitors can put their sleeping bags. Although these shelters aren't plush, they offer a welcome escape from the elements.

Porters – Can be hired at the base of the climb to carry loads for \$24 round trip (gratuity not included). The maximum weight that porters are authorized to carry is 15 kg. Porters can be arranged by speaking with a Virunga National Park ranger at the Kibati station.

Visitor Safety in Virunga National Park - Virunga National Park is located in a region that is often troubled by unrest. The management of Virunga National Park is dedicated to ensure the safety and security of all its visitors. Park management does, however, emphasize the importance of all visitors making themselves aware of the current security situation at the time of their visit. Virunga National Park cannot take responsibility for any accidents or incidents. If any signs indicate a security issue, management may decide to temporarily close one or more of its attractions. All bookings for these attractions will be refunded in full. Before organizing a trip to Virunga National Park, we advise that you check with the State Department about any travel alerts. It is also a good idea to confirm whether or not your insurance covers travel in this region. If not, we recommend acquiring additional insurance to cover your travel to Virunga National Park. Trekkers must be at least 12 years of age and are required to bring full rain and cold weather gear (moisture-wicking base layer, sweater or fleece, jacket, rain resistant pants, long underwear, warm socks, hat, and a 32°F – rated sleeping bag). Temperatures at the summit are routinely below freezing. Although most people arrive at the summit sweating from the steep climb, this sense of warmth quickly gives way to cold. A complete change of base layers is a must. Failure to bring proper gear will lead to hypothermia. Please do not endanger yourself and others by coming unprepared for these conditions.

We will arrive at the Kibati Station (trailhead for Nyiragongo) by 9:15 am on the day of the climb. Climbers typically descend the volcano at between 6:30 – 7:00 am the next morning and arrive back at Kibati station by 11:30 am.

Day 9: Nyiragongo, Kisoro

After descent from your climb, we transfer back across the border into Uganda and overnight in Kisoro. Kisoro Travelers Rest Hotel is one of the oldest hotels in Uganda. The lodge boasts an impressive list of guests including primatologist Dian Fossey, who even called this hotel her second home! It offers a quiet setting with an amazing view over the Virunga volcanoes and, in the evening,

the lounge with its cozy fireplace is the perfect spot to wind down. Travelers Rest consists of 11 en-suite rooms, tastefully decorated with a unique selection of Congo art, all overlooking a well-groomed courtyard. [B/D]

Day 10: Kisoro, Entebbe, USA

Early start and a long drive back from Kisoro to Entebbe (around 9 hours) for your flight out tonight. Optionally you may fly from Kisoro to Entebbe. [B/L]

[B] = Breakfast | [B/L] = Breakfast and Lunch | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Airport transfers (Entebbe)
- 9 nights accommodation:
 - Entebbe – 1 night
 - Mweya - 1 night
 - Ishasha - 2 nights
 - Bwindi - 2 nights
 - Rumambago - 1 night
 - Nyiragongo - 1 night
 - Kisoro - 1 night
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 7 lunches
 - 8 dinners
- Mweya game drives
- Boat ride on the Kazinga Channel
- Chamburu Gorge
- Chimpanzee tracking
- Ishasha game drive
- Bwindi Impenetrable forest
- Gorilla tracking
- Virunga National Park
- Nyiragongo and Mikeno
- Vehicle with English speaking local driver/ guide throughout
- Bottled water in safari vehicle
- All park entrance fees
- Full liability insurance cover
- 24-hour emergency contact

- Nyiragongo gear package: Water, sleeping bag, jacket, fleece top, hat and rain poncho

Tour does not include:

- International airfares
- Any taxes related to international airfares
- Gorilla Permit per trek in Bwindi
- Chamburu (Kyamburu Gorge) chimpanzee permits
- Optional extra of Forest Walk Bwindi
- Optional extra of Community Visit Bwindi
- Optional extra of Batwa Pygmies Community Visit
- Park fees and entries (listed separately with Tour Prices)
- DRC fees and permits
- Optional tours or activities listed in the itinerary
- Visas for Uganda and Rwanda
- Visas for DRC - available through the Virunga Park offices, must be done direct by guests.
- Travel Insurance
- Meals and drinks not mentioned under inclusions
- Tips to guides or drivers
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

Hotels on your Tour:

Location	Accommodation	Tripadvisor
Entebbe	Boma Lodge	4.5
Mweya	Mweya Safari Lodge	4
Ishasha	Ishasha Wilderness Lodge	4.5
Bwindi	Buhoma Lodge	5
Rumambago	Mikeno Lodge	5
Nyiragongo	Summit Shelters	5
Kisoro	Travelers Rest	4

Accommodation will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Price:

These programs can be customized for individuals and groups.

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- **Airfare**

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

- **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

- **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

- **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: UY03EBB20WF

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and long-time relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.

Important Notices:

Travel insurance: It is compulsory for all guests traveling Uganda.

Health: Yellow fever inoculations are compulsory and malaria prophylactics are recommended. For gorilla/chimp trekking it is imperative that you are healthy and free of any disease or virus – officials do have the right to refuse entry if you are found to have or show any signs of communicable illnesses.

Visas Uganda: Most nationalities require a visa to enter Uganda. All visitors who require an entry visa must apply through the online application system prior to arrival. <https://visas.immigration.go.ug>. Cost is normally \$50 for a single-entry tourist visa. Be sure to apply for a MULTI ENTRY visa.

Visas Congo: The Congolese wildlife authority, has an agreement with Direction Générale de Migration (DGM), the Congolese immigration service, to facilitate obtaining 2-week, single entry tourist visas for people visiting Virunga National Park. The cost of the visa is \$105. The visa is issued via an online system once the permit has been paid for and confirmed.