



### **8-Day Volcano Hiking by Road**

**8 Days START** ENTEBBE, UGANDA **END** ENTEBBE UGANDA

The Virunga Mountains, which are a chain of volcanoes along the northern border of Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda. The mountain range consists of eight major volcanoes. Most of them are dormant, except Mount Nyiragongo 3,462 meters (11,358 ft) and Mount Nyamuragira 3,063 meters (10,049 ft), both in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Recent eruptions occurred in 2006 and in January, 2010. Mount Karisimbi is the highest volcano at 4,507 meters (14,787 ft). The oldest mountain is Mount Sabinyo, which rises 3,634 meters (11,923 ft.) above sea level.

Nkuringo Walking Safaris arranges day treks to the peaks of the Virunga Volcanoes along the border of Uganda. These include Mt. Muhavura, Mt. Gahinga and Mt. Sabinyo.activity. All treks are led by a National Parks Ranger and one of our Nkuringo Walking Safaris guides.

#### **Highlights:**

- Scale the heights of majestic Virunga Volcanoes.
- Unforgettable encounter with the Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park
- Meet, explore and learn from the local communities
- Support sustainable tourism initiatives

#### **Specially created for:**

- Nature lovers
- Primates lovers
- Walking enthusiasts
- Adventure travellers

#### **Your Safari at a Glance.**



<b>Days</b>	<b>Routes/activities</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Meal Plan</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Arrival in Entebbe and transfer to the Guest House - Optional Exc. to Mabamba Swamps	Papyrus Guest House	Bed & Breakfast
<b>Day 2</b>	Drive Entebbe Kisoro via Equator and Mbarara	Gahinga Lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 3</b>	Hike Mt Sabinyo	Gahinga Lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 4</b>	Hike Mt Gahinga	Gahinga Lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 5</b>	Hike Mt Muhavura	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 6</b>	Hike & canoe on Lake Mutanda or community walk, batwa experience	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 7</b>	Gorilla trekking- Nkuringo or Rushaga gorilla groups	Nkuringo Bwindi gorilla lodge	Full Board
<b>Day 8</b>	Drive to Entebbe, Outbound flight	Papyrus Guest House	Day-use

### **Detailed Safari Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Arrival in Entebbe & Mabamba Swamps**

Arrival in **Entebbe** as per your international flights and transfer to Papyrus Guest House.

**Optional Extra:** In the afternoon (departure from the hotel must be max at 14.30/15.00 hours) departure by car and local canoe to Mabamba Swamp, one of the best places for spotting the rare **shoebill storks**. Of course some fortune is needed but



rarely does one leave the swamp without seeing one! Many other water birds have chosen this area as their home so birding is always very interesting.

Enjoy a relaxing sundowner on **Lake Victoria** and then return to the Guest House.

- Accommodation: Papyrus Guest House (Garden room)
- Meal Plan: Bed & Breakfast basis; Lunch & Dinner on own's account

### **Day 2: Travel to Mgahinga National Park**

Enjoy an early breakfast travel to **Western Uganda** across the beautiful landscape of central Uganda: rolling hills, cultivated terraces, tropical rainforest and towards the end the majestic chain of the Virunga Volcanoes. Stop-over en-route at the **equator**, at Mbarara (for lunch) and at Igongo Cultural Center.

*The drive takes about 8-10 hours.*

- Accommodation: Travellers Rest
- Meal Plan: Full Board

### **Day 3: Mount Sibinyo Climb - 3669m**

After breakfast proceed to Mgahinga National Park headquarters for briefing to the start a Volcano climb of Mount Sabinyo. Sabinyo with its five jagged peaks is the oldest of the volcanoes here. With two distinct vegetation zones Forest and Alpine it is an exhilarating one day trek with some very steep inclines aided by the assistance of eucalyptus ladders to reach the goal of Sabinyo peak. From the summit, amazing views can be enjoyed of this volcanic chain of mountains into Rwanda that includes Mt. Karisimbi, Mt. Mikeno and the often snow covered Mt. Visoke.

Mt. Sabinyo, at 3,669m, takes about eight hours to cover the 14km round trip, following a steep ridge up to the peak this trek will be conducted in the company of your Nkuringo Walking Safari guide. Physical fitness is a necessity for this climb.

- Accommodation: Travellers Rest
- Meal Plan: Full Board



#### **Day 4: Mount Muhavura Climb - 3400m**

Mt. Muhavura and its enormous conical shape looms high into the darkness. Good weather is critical to reach the peak of Muhavura, this youngest in the chain of volcanoes and its status is noted as being still dormant. The surrounding countryside shows evidence of volcanic activity everywhere with giant volcanic vents very obvious after the land has been cleared of vegetation for agriculture. Muhavura peak will drain the last bit of energy out of you as you fight for air in the rarefied atmosphere but you will be rewarded with stunning views through the cloud and mist as it rolls in and out. The Crater Lake is only a mere 20m in diameter and the area of the summit not much bigger than a golf course. This is a 1200m ascend in 7 hours, very steep with few switch backs in the trail to give your legs the relief they are screaming for. Physical fitness is a necessity for this climb.

- Accommodation: Travellers Rest
- Meal Plan: Full Board

#### **Day 5: Mount Gahinga Climb - 3400m**

Mt. Gahinga at 3400m is a perfectly formed volcano. On the lower reaches of the volcano the route passes through former cultivated land, reclaimed and reincorporated back into the National Park as late as 1986. A vast area of enormous bamboo forest creates an elaborate labyrinth of passages to wander through where the trail is picked up that leads to Gahinga summit. Many bird species can be observed here with sunbirds being the most obvious. This trek is usually completed in six hours up and down so offers an excellent introduction to acclimatize to the altitude. Physical fitness is a necessity for this climb.

The descend will be rapid to the warmth of the tropical climate normally associated with equatorial regions and the lush vegetation of the lower slopes. After the hike, you will then be transferred to Nkuringo.

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Garden Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

#### **Day 6: Hike and canoe across Lake Mutanda or Community walk**



This morning after an early breakfast, drive to Rubuguri Junction (10k - 1 hour) to start a nice **hike across beautiful landscapes and local communities** - a great opportunity to experience authentic village life (9km - 2/3 hours). Upon arrival at **Lake Mutanda** you then “settle” in a dugout canoe for 1.5-2 hours of gentle relaxed cruising across the lake, enjoying the beautiful panorama. Meet with your vehicle and drive back to Nkuringo.

Of course you could also drive from the lodge directly to the lake (20k - 90 minutes), enjoy the canoe ride around the lake and drive all the way back to the lodge again. Guests decide!

In the afternoon, Stroll down to the Buniga Forest Trail Walk, an informative project run by USAID and the **local Batwa community**. The Batwa tribe was forced to leave their home in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park in 1991 when it was declared a UNESCO Heritage site for gorillas only. They had been living in the forest as nomadic hunter-gatherers for millennia, in perfect balance with the flora and fauna around. Moving out and suddenly living in communities with a completely different way of life has proven to be a huge challenge. They now survive as best as they can and earn a living explaining their previous life in the forest and their rich heritage.

Continuation of the walk through the **community** to visit the traditional herbalist and the black smith.

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Garden Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

### **Day 7: Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park**

After breakfast, at around 7:45 am, with packed lunch and drinking water you will be transferred to the National Park Head Quarters for the briefing on the dos and the don'ts while with the gorillas. You then continue to the forest for the start of the actual **gorilla tracking**.

The beauty of this rain forest is spectacular. The area offers a dramatic, steeply forested landscape and is incredibly dense, but crisscrossed by numerous animal trails allowing access to tourists. The time taken and the terrain vary as per the movements of these great primates. The thrill of spending time observing these gentle and endangered giants is an awesome, exciting experience to be long savoured. Many find



it to be a rare and moving opportunity. The tracking can take place at Nkuringo or at Rushaga (1 hr drive from Nkuringo), as per the gorilla permits obtained.

Upon return, relax at the lodge and, for those who like, at 5.00 pm either stroll through the community center or drive up to the **“Top of the World”** - the name given to the football field, high up in the village which offers amazing views over the peaks and forests around Nkuringo. A great way to stretch your legs after the gorilla tracking and to enjoy a sundowner.

- Accommodation: Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge (Garden Cottage)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

#### **Day 8: Transfer to Entebbe**

After breakfast, transfer to Entebbe for your out bound flight.

- Accommodation: Papyrus Guest House
- Meal Plan: Day-use room

### **END OF SERVICES WITH NKURINGO WALKING SAFARI**

#### **Rates Includes:**

<b>PRICE IN USD PP</b>	<b>7 NIGHTS/8DAYS</b>
<b>2 Pax</b>	<b>\$ 4005 per person</b>
<b>4 Pax</b>	<b>\$ 3355 per person</b>
<b>4 Pax</b>	<b>\$ 3138 per person</b>
<b>Single Room Suppliment</b>	<b>\$494</b>

#### **Includes**

- Airport transfers where applicable.
- English speaking Guide throughout your Safari



- 3 days Volcano trekking
- 1 gorilla tracking permit in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- All accommodations and Meals as per the itinerary
- All activity fees as listed in the itinerary.
- Support of a private 4x4 vehicle with experienced English-speaking driver-guide, from the morning of day 2. (6 seater)
- AMREF Evacuation Insurance cover
- Government taxes

**Excludes;**

- Excursion to Lake Victoria and Mabamba Swamps on Day 1
- All drinks, including the drinks for the sundowner **on Day 1 and 7**
- International air flights
- Any optional activity not indicated in above program
- Laundry Services
- Gratuities and Tips
- Uganda Visa fees
- Drinks
- Personal Items and Tips

**TOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A 30% deposit of the total tour price will be required to secure a booking, the balance being due 45 days before the tour departure date.

Bookings not secured by the appropriate deposit will be released.

Cancellation between 90 and 45 days of tour departure will incur a 30% of tour price penalty charge. Confirmed bookings cancelled within 45 days of the tour departure date or no show will incur 100% of tour price penalty charge.

Availability of accommodation and activities is not guaranteed; reservations will be made after receiving confirmation of the final itinerary and the payment of the requested deposit. Should any of the quoted accommodations not be available, we



reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative suitable option, which might affect the final quoted price.

All clients who participate in this tour must be adequately covered by **medical insurance** as well as **travel insurance** to protect them in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Rates specified for this tour are subject to change without notice, however every effort will be made to maintain them. In the event of any change of Government taxes or operating conditions that affect the rates we reserve the right to pass on these charges.

**\* UGANDA GORILLA PERMIT CANCELLATION POLICY**  
**(different and separate from the tour cancellation policy)**

Gorilla Permits will be guaranteed ONLY upon receipt of the deposit (**US\$600** for permits in 2019 and **US\$700** for permits in 2020) since we need to immediately pay Uganda Wildlife Authority Offices in order to secure the permits.

Cancellations received on full payment:

- More than 90 days before the tracking date, 25% cancellation fee
- 89 to 46 days before the tracking date, 50% cancellation fee
- 45 to 9 days before the tracking date, 75% cancellation fee

8 to 0 days before the tracking date, 100% cancellation