



9-Day Volcano Primate Trekking By Road

9 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.

<u>Days</u>	<u>Routes/activities</u>	<u>Accommodation</u>	<u>Meal Plan</u>
Day 1	Arrival in Entebbe and transfer to the Guest House - Optional Exc. to Mabamba Swamps	Papyrus Guest House	Bed & Breakfast
Day 2	Drive Entebbe to Kisoro via the Equator and Mbarara	Travellers Rest	Full Board
Day 3	Hike Mt Sabinyo/ Mt Muhavura/ Mt Gahinga	Travellers Rest	Full Board



Day 4	Golden Monkey trekking	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	Full Board
Day 5	Hike & canoe on Lake Mutanda or community walk,	Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge	Full Board
Day 6	Gorilla trekking- Nkuringo or Rushaga gorilla groups	Nkuringo Bwindi gorilla lodge	Full Board
Day 7	Hike across Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to Buhoma and continuation by car to QENP	Kasenyi Safari Camp	Full Board
Day 8	Queen Elizabeth NP: Morning Chimps Trekking and boat safari in Kazinga Channel	Kasenyi Safari Camp	Full Board
Day 9	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/ Mt Gahinga/ Mt Muhavura Climb

After breakfast proceed to Mgahinga National Park headquarters for briefing to the start a Volcano climb of Mount Sabinyo or Mt Muhavura or Mt Gahinga.

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. Mikenko 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.

OR

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.

OR

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. 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.



- Accommodation: Travellers Rest
- Meal Plan: Full Board

Day 4: Golden Monkey Tracking

This morning, after breakfast, you will head to the park headquarters where you will be briefed by the park guide. You will then start the golden monkey trekking activity. You will also expect to see various forest birds that live in the forest. You will then transfer to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

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

Day 5: Hike and canoe across Lake Mutanda or Community walk

This morning after an early breakfast, drive to Rubuguri Junction 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.

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 6: 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 7: Hike across Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Queen Elizabeth National Park

After a very early breakfast, drive along the Nteko Ridge till the junction of the **Ivy River Trail** with the forest (7 km) and then start the unforgettable hike across the forest (13km - 4-5 hours).

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park is a vast unique natural reserve - monkeys, duikers, bush pigs and some of Bwindi's world-renowned bird species plus many butterflies can be sighted. If you are very lucky you may even encounter gorillas! Once part of a much larger forest that included the Virunga Volcanoes in neighbouring Rwanda, the park is nowadays an ecological island within a sea of villages and farmland, its conservation importance is immense. The emphasis of this activity is for your walking guide to share his knowledge of the forest with you, it is not simply an A to B hike. The trail is also an important footpath for local people, particularly on market days, travelling from Nkuringo and Nteko to Buhoma, on the northern boundary of the park. There is no road through Bwindi so vehicles driving between the two locations have an incredible 170 km bone jarring journey taking 6 to 8 hours.

Upon arrival at the park headquarters in **Buhoma**, meet with the vehicle and departure to **Queen Elizabeth National Park**. The southern area of Ishasha is notably recognized for its resident ‘tree climbing’ lions that are an exceptional attraction and one of the highlights of all safaris taken within the park. The lions can be spotted hanging on branches of huge fig trees whereas the Uganda Kob (which is the major food to these lions) graze on the plains below.

The drive takes about 4 hours (180 km).

- Accommodation: Kasenyi Safari Camp (Safari Tent)
- Meal Plan: Full Board



Day 8: Queen Elizabeth National Park- Chimpanzee Trekking

Morning game drive on the way to Chimpanzee trekking in the Kalinzu Game reserve, or Kyambura Gorge

In the afternoon, enjoy the boat trip on the **Kazinga Channel** - the 36 km waterway which connects Lake George and Lake Edward which allows special viewing of game and birds on the river banks, as the boat passes through pods of hippos. Crocodiles have only recently been seen in the Channel, they disappeared for 8,000 years after they were eliminated from Lake Edward by toxic ash from local volcanoes.

QENP is one of Uganda's oldest parks being formed officially in 1952. The park was initially known as 'Kazinga National Park' before it was renamed in 1954 to commemorate a visit by Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. QENP hosts 95 species of mammals, more than any other park in Uganda, and 619 bird species, the second highest of any park in Africa - the sixth highest of any park worldwide.

- Accommodation: Kasenyi Safari Camp (Safari Tent)
- Meal Plan: Full Board

Day 9: Travel to Entebbe

After breakfast enjoy another glimpse of the misty jungle then start the drive back to **Entebbe**.

Enjoy a day room use at Papyrus guest house as you wait for your departure flight at the Airport.

The drive takes about 10 hours.

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

END OF SERVICES WITH NKURINGO WALKING SAFARI

Rates Includes:

PRICE IN USD PP	8 NIGHTS/9DAYS
2 Pax	\$ 4873 per person
4 Pax	\$ 4085 per person
6 Pax	\$ 3822 per person
Single Room Supplement	\$ 701

Includes

- Airport transfers where applicable.
- English speaking Guide throughout your Safari
- 1 day Volcano trekking



- 1 gorilla tracking permit in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- 1 golden monkey permit in Mgahinga National Park
- 1 Chimpanzee permit in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- 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 6
- International air flights
- Any optional activity not indicated in above program
- Laundry Services
- Gratuities and Tips
- East Africa 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\$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