



NOMADIC SKIES

WESTERN UGANDA

JOURNEY TO THE COFFEE GROWING COMMUNITIES
OF THE RWENZORI MOUNTAINS



DISCOVER THE COFFEE GROWING COMMUNITIES OF RWANDA & THE FOOTHILLS OF THE RWENZORI MOUNTAINS OF UGANDA

Gain deep insight into specialty smallholder coffee cultivation, from growing and harvesting to processing, while experiencing the remarkable landscapes, wildlife, cultures, and people of equatorial East Africa.

This journey not only immerses you in the world of coffee, but also contributes directly to local water and sanitation projects.

Exclusive small-group, fully guided journeys with Ugandan and coffee experts through one of Africa's most stunning and diverse regions.

This 12-day journey to the coffee-growing communities of the Rwenzori Mountains is a collaboration between Glen Lyon and Nomadic Skies, combining Glen Lyon's expertise in sourcing exceptional Kalingwe coffee with Nomadic Skies' extensive experience in Western Uganda, working closely with local and indigenous guides and communities.

Glen Lyon Coffee Roasters is a B Corp-certified company committed to high social and environmental standards. It supplies specialty coffee that is fully traceable and ethically sourced, paying fair prices and building long-term relationships with producers at origin.

Nomadic Skies Expeditions promotes travel that deepens connections with remote communities while delivering meaningful local benefits.



SLOWER & EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL

This journey invites you to explore the world of specialty coffee at origin, while experiencing the stunning biodiversity, wildlife and landscapes of Equatorial Africa.

As you travel, you will connect in truly meaningful ways with the local communities and the people who bring this region to life.

You will bridge the gap between your role as a coffee lover or professional and the African source of high-quality arabica beans, gaining a deep understanding of why ethical sourcing is essential.

By the end of your trip, you will see first hand how these practices align with smallholder farming and sustainable agriculture to protect both the land and the livelihoods of those who tend it.

TRAVEL THAT BENEFITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Your participation in this journey will do more than just connect you to growing communities; it will allow you to directly support vital local development initiatives in water and sanitation throughout the Rwenzori area.

By traveling with us, you'll contribute to the well-being of the very people who cultivate the coffee you love.

You will be led by expert local guides who live in the regions you explore, offering you an authentic perspective that only a resident can provide. During your stay, you will be hosted by the community in a traditional camp, granting you a rare and deeply immersive experience that few travellers ever get to encounter.





A UNIQUE COFFEE-ORIENTED JOURNEY

- **Explore the Bean-to-Cup Journey:** Visit coffee growers in Uganda's stunning Rwenzori region to understand the cultivation process and how coffee sustains local livelihoods.
- **Taste at the Source:** Sample world-class specialty coffees directly from the farms where they are grown.
- **Immersive Cultural Exchange:** Be hosted by coffee-growing communities to learn firsthand about their unique traditions and daily way of life.
- **Island Life on Lake Bunyonyi:** Relax on a locally owned island and explore the serene waters by traditional boat or dugout canoe.
- **Wildlife & Wilderness:** Stay in the iconic Queen Elizabeth National Park to witness African savannah big game and track chimpanzees in their natural habitat.
- **Hike the Mountains of the Moon:** Walk through the lush foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains—Africa's third-highest peak—to see how this unique environment supports sustainable agriculture.

12 days / 11 nights, starting in Kigali (Rwanda) and finishing in Entebbe, Uganda.



YOUR JOURNEY



YOUR FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN KIGALI

Your journey begins in Rwanda's relaxed, cosmopolitan capital. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport and whisked away to a high-quality hotel in the city centre. If you arrive early, you can spend your afternoon exploring local markets, museums, and galleries. In the evening, you'll join your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner at a premier restaurant specializing in authentic African cuisine to kick off your official itinerary.

.....

DAY 2: KIGALI TO LAKE BUNYONYI

Today you will head north to the border and cross into Uganda, stopping in the highland town of Kabale to soak in the local atmosphere. You will then ascend to your stunning lakeside hotel at Lake Bunyonyi. After a fresh lunch, you can spend your afternoon exactly how you like—spotting otters and rare birds from the resort, exploring lakeside settlements, or hiking to a vantage point for a panoramic view of the islands. You will then fall asleep at the Birdnest Resort to the peaceful evening sounds of the lake.

.....

DAY 3: EXPLORE LAKE BUNYONYI & A BOAT TRIP TO STAY ON TOM'S ISLAND

Your morning begins with a boat trip across the water for a guided walk through local villages. You will meet a traditional healer to learn about ancient spiritual and medicinal practices before being hosted for lunch by a cooperative of local basket makers. Later, you'll head deeper into the lake to Tom's Island—the last locally owned island in the area. Here, you'll be hosted by a local family and stay in a specially prepared camp of safari tents, sharing stories around a campfire under the stars.

.....

DAY 4: TRAVEL TO QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Experience the lake like a local by opting to cross the water in a traditional dugout canoe, or simply enjoy the view from the safety boat. Once on shore, your safari vehicle will take you from the lush highlands down into the vast savannas of Queen Elizabeth National Park. This is a dramatic landscape shift where you'll settle into accommodation on the edge of the park; keep your eyes peeled, as elephants and other big game frequently wander right past the camp.

.....

DAY 5: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK - CHIMPANZEE TREKKING AND WILDLIFE VIEWING

You have a thrilling day ahead, starting with a trek into the Kyambura Gorge. Guided by an expert, you will head into the "underground forest" to track wild chimpanzees and spot hippos in the river. In the afternoon, you'll board a private boat for a cruise down the Kazinga Channel. This is one of the best wildlife experiences in East Africa, allowing you to get remarkably close to elephants, buffalo, and crocodiles as they come down to the water to drink in the heat of the day.

.....

DAY 6: TRAVEL TO THE COFFEE COMMUNITIES OF THE RWENZORI FOOTHILLS

If you didn't trek for chimps yesterday, you'll have your chance this morning before the group travels toward the fabled "Mountains of the Moon." You'll watch the landscape transform into a patchwork of small coffee farms as you arrive at your community camp in the Rwenzori foothills. Your arrival is celebrated with a traditional Bakonjo welcome featuring a bonfire, barbecue, and local music and dance.

.....

DAY 7: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COFFEE GROWING AND PROCESSING IN THE RWENZORI

Today, you follow the journey of the coffee cherry. You'll travel through village paths to visit collection centers where you can talk directly with the producers who bring their harvest in by motorbike and donkey. You'll be hosted by a local family for lunch, giving you a personal perspective on how coffee cultivation sustains the entire community, before returning to your campfire at the camp.

.....



DAY 8: COFFEE CUPPING (TASTING) & VILLAGE WALKS AND VISITS

You'll spend the morning at the washing station in Nyabirongo, learning the technical differences between washed and natural processing. You will have the unique opportunity to join the "cupping lab" to taste different varieties at their freshest. After lunch, you'll take a final trek through the coffee fields to visit with the farmers on their own land, enjoying one last evening immersed in mountain life.

.....

THE ART OF COFFEE CUPPING

Through coffee cupping, you will engage in the standardized method used by professionals and enthusiasts worldwide to evaluate a bean's true potential. This sensory experience allows you to assess a coffee's aroma, flavour, body, and acidity in a controlled environment.

By comparing different varieties and processes side-by-side, you will learn to identify specific flavour notes and characteristics unique to the region, helping you to train your palate and discover your own personal preferences in specialty coffee.





DAY 9: TRAVEL TO THE FORT PORTAL CRATER LAKES

After saying goodbye to your hosts, you'll visit a high-quality basket-weaving cooperative in Rubona, where you can try your hand at their intricate techniques. By afternoon, you'll arrive at the Lake Nkuruba Conservation Area. You will stay in traditional thatched huts tucked into a lush forest that is home to noisy, beautiful Black and White Colobus monkeys and incredible birdlife.

.....

DAY 10: EXPLORE THE CRATER LAKES AND SURROUNDING AREA:

This is your day to explore the natural wonders of the crater lakes. You can take guided forest walks with the reserve's experts, hike to the "Top of the World" viewpoint for 360-degree vistas, or visit the vibrant Mahoma waterfall. You'll return to your forest hut for a final night surrounded by the sounds of the Ugandan wild.

.....

DAY 11: JOURNEY TO LAKE VICTORIA

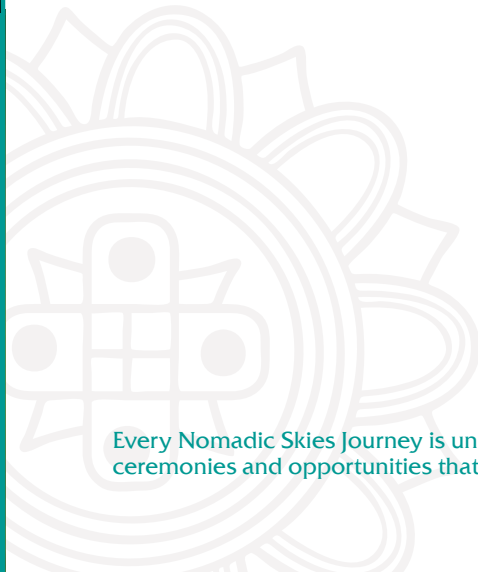
You'll leave the crater lakes behind for a scenic drive across the country toward the shores of Lake Victoria. After crossing the water by ferry, you'll arrive in Entebbe. This relaxed lakeside town is the perfect place for you to unwind and reflect on your journey as you transition back toward your departure.

.....

DAY 12: POTENTIAL DEPARTURE DAY

.....

Every Nomadic Skies Journey is unique and takes advantage of seasonal activities ceremonies and opportunities that arise with our local contacts and interaction.





JOURNEY DETAILS

Kyambura Gorge in Queen Elizabeth National Park

YOUR TRAVEL & BOOKING INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION

- 3 Nights in hotels
 - 1 in Kigali (Rwanda)
 - 1 in a lakeside lodge in Bunyonyi
 - 1 in Entebbe
 - 4 nights camping
 - 1 in standard tents with small fold-up beds hosted by a family on an island in Lake Bunyonyi
 - 3 in safari style tents with fold-up camp beds.
 - 4 nights in safari lodge style huts
 - 2 in a safari lodge in Queen Elizabeth
 - 2 in huts in Lake Nkuruba Conservation Area
-

GROUP SIZE AND LEADERSHIP

You will travel in a small group of up to 12 people, accompanied by a representative from Glen Lyon Coffee Roasters and an international leader from Nomadic Skies Expeditions with extensive expertise in Uganda. Throughout your journey, you will be met by coffee experts from Agri Evolve—Glen Lyon's local partner—and supported by a dedicated local team and group leader to ensure an authentic and seamless experience.

CLIMATE

We have chosen late February and March for your journey to coincide with the start of the coffee harvest. This window offers relatively dry weather before the rainy season begins in late March, ensuring you see the landscape at its most vibrant.

While you should expect occasional equatorial showers, daytime temperatures will remain comfortable, generally reaching the mid-to-upper 20s°C. You will enjoy refreshingly cool nights for most of the trip, though you can expect warmer, tropical conditions during your stays in Queen Elizabeth National Park and Entebbe.





HEALTH

Inoculations: Participants should check with their doctor/pharmacy about the advised inoculations. The yellow fever inoculation (or an exemption certificate) is essential for entry to both Rwanda and Uganda.

Malaria: Malaria prophylaxis (tablets) are recommended for this journey.

Level of difficulty of the journey: Some moderate walking is required for the visits to farmers, community visits and chimpanzee trekking. A decent level of walking fitness is recommended for this trip.

.....

EQUIPMENT:

A full packing checklist will be provided by Nomadic Skies. All camping equipment is supplied for the camping nights but a warm sleeping bag should be taken by participants for these nights.

.....

COSTS

Please check our website for the costs of the journey.

.....

BOOKING PROCEDURES

Contact us to fill in a registration form. Places are held with a deposit payable by card with the balance then due 6 weeks before departure.

Nomadic Skies is a member of the UK Travel Trust Association (TTA) and your payments are paid into a trust account and guaranteed by TTA.

.....



WHAT'S INCLUDED

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

- Part of the cost of this trip will be donated to local development initiatives in water and sanitation.

TRAVEL

- Airport transfers in Kigali and Entebbe
- Vehicle transport throughout the journey
- Transport by boat (where applicable)

ACCOMMODATION

- All accommodation for 13 nights

FOOD

- Dinner on the day of arrival in Kigali and all subsequent food up until Entebbe.
- Breakfasts and dinners in Entebbe (excluding lunch on day 13 - to give people flexibility for self-exploration on this day)

GUIDING

- Local guide and support team
- International Guide from Nomadic Skies
- Coffee Experts from Glen Lyon and Agri Evolve

PARK FEES AND EXPERIENCES

- Queen Elizabeth National Park entry fees
- Chimpanzee trekking
- Kazinga Channel Wildlife Boat trip
- Coffee area tours and tasting
- Guided tour of Lake Nkuruba Conservation Area
- Optional boat trip at Entebbe to see Shoebills and other birdlife in the area

CONSUMER PROTECTION

- 100% consumer financial protection via the UK Travel Trust Association



AND WHAT'S NOT

- International flights: To Kigali and return from Entebbe
- Country visas - Uganda, Rwanda or East African combined visas (depending on nationality)
- Lunch in Kigali on arrival day
- Drinks (other than water)
- Travel Insurance
- Tips for local guides and staff (optional)



To book or make enquiries contact:

Gavin Anderson at Nomadic Skies

E-mail

gavin.anderson@nomadickskies.com

Online

www.nomadickskies.com

 facebook.com/nomadicksiesexpeditions

Hill Cottage, Mill Street, Ullapool
Highland, Scotland IV26 2UN UK

V4-Apr26

