



NOMADIC SKIES

VIRUNGA : JOURNEY THROUGH STUNNING
& DIVERSE EQUATORIAL LANDSCAPES

DISCOVER TRAVEL WITH MEANING

DISCOVER THE DIVERSITY OF THE GORILLA HIGHLANDS

Explore the incredible wildlife,
landscapes, cultures and people of
the stunning remote Virunga region
of South West Uganda.

Exclusive small group accompanied expeditions through one of the most stunning and diverse areas of East Africa.

Nomadic Skies is founded on the principle of promoting travel that deepens links with and economic benefits for fragile mountain, remote and marginalised communities.

Our journeys are small group expeditions involving a 17 day journey crossing lakes, trekking through equatorial and cloud forests, ascending soaring volcanoes in ways that connects with the people, landscapes and habitats in one of the most beautiful and diverse areas of Africa.



“With local guides, a deep appreciation for place, and an unhurried pace, Nomadic Skies bring a new dimension to travel.”

LINDA BEHNKEN



A TREKKING JOURNEY UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

- Travel through the villages and across the stunning mountains, lakes, and forests of SW Uganda.
- Explore huge diversity - villages, forests, volcanoes, gorges, rivers, waterfalls, caves and more.
- Experience and view stunning wildlife and birdlife from forest, lakes to Savanna and rivers alive with Africa's iconic big game.
- Track chimpanzee and golden monkey, with an option to undertake iconic mountain gorilla trekking.
- Be hosted by local communities and experience the hospitality of rural Uganda and exploring their cultures.
- Be led by local guides of the Abukiga (mountain) and Batwa (indigenous forest people).

17 days / 16 nights, starting in Kigali (Rawanda) and finishing in Entebbe (Uganda).

SLOWER & EXPERIENTIAL TREKKING:

Nomadic Skies focuses specifically on trekking in remote but populated areas. Unlike many other companies that merely pass by local communities, we focus on building our treks around a meaningful and mutually beneficial relationship with local communities and locals with unique skills and insights who can add to our journeys.

In Uganda we are linking with traditional herbalists, forest guides of the Batwa people (the indigenous forest people), local elders, craftspeople, musicians, and farmers explaining local growing and processing techniques.

We will not only be guided, hosted and entertained by local communities but we will have a chance to hear their stories and experiences of life, culture and history.

This 'slower and experiential' journey is unique. We will not be following an established trekking route but exploring the village, forest, mountain trails in a way that others do not. Other tourism in this area tends to focus predominantly on the single day mountain gorilla trekking, with visitors whisked in by airconditioned 4WD, staying in foreign owned luxury lodges and leaving the next day. We, in contrast, will be experiencing the cultural, habitat and landscape changes

through slow trekking and by local boat. A journey which will provide time and space to undertake a deeper exploration in this stunning and fascinating corner of Africa.

TRAVEL THAT BENEFITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Nomadic Skies founder, Gavin Anderson, has over 30 years of experience working in international development and rural development. 'Developmental travel' is therefore at the heart of Nomadic Skies with the aim that travel benefits local communities economically, socially and culturally.

Our trips work with truly local guides (those that live in the Southwestern Uganda). We have prioritised staying in community and locally owned accommodation and using local services and food. We are working with Twa guides to not only provide income but to link to younger generations to help maintain the forest wisdom of these indigenous forest people. As our journeys develop we will continue to listen to communities and seek ways of maximising the developmental benefit of our journeys.



OUR BACKGROUND IN UGANDA

This journey has been developed based on our experience and knowledge of this part of Africa. Gavin Anderson (Nomadic Skies' founder) first visited Uganda in the early nineties, he returned to work and live in the country for 9 years between 2007 and 2005 and has continued to work as a development adviser in this area since that time. Also, while living in Uganda and as the expeditions secretary and then chair of the Mountain Club of Uganda, Gavin led expeditions and accents across Uganda and East Africa in the nineties including pioneering routes in the SW of Uganda.

“The summit regions... of the dormant volcanoes boast luxuriant groves of giant tree-groundsels, along with bold, open clusters of spike-tipped lobillias. when they all burst into flower, the groundsels set the upper mountain slopes ablaze with their tiny yellow florets”

GORDON BOY
FROM SNOWCAPS ON THE EQUATOR
(VITRUNGA VOLCANOES)

FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS:

- Start the journey in Kigali, Rwanda and ascend to the to the 'Gorilla Highlands' of South Western Uganda exploring 3 forests areas, multiple lakes, the high Virunga Volcanoes.
- Descend to the savanna of Queen Elizabeth National Park and finish on the beaches of vast Lake Victoria.
- Explore the cultures of local Abakiga (literally 'people of the mountains') and Batwa (indigenous forest people) who will be our forest guides.
- Experience vastly varied habitats from crater lakes by boat, lush rain and cloud forest, African high Alpine habitats, forested gorges and the rivers and savanna of Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Track chimpanzee in the Kyambura Gorge and have the option of viewing rare Golden Monkeys.
- Encounter numerous species of monkeys in the forests and stunning, mammals amphibian, insect and birdlife.
- In the savanna and on the Kazinga channel of Queen Elizabeth National Park we will encounter big game - numerous elephant, buffalo, crocodile and hippo as well as waterbuck and antelope.
- As an optional extra for those that wish to, time has also been included to track and spend an hour with the endangered mountain Gorillas of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest



A scenic view of a forest with tall, moss-covered trees and a blue sky with clouds. The text "YOUR JOURNEY" is overlaid in the center.

YOUR JOURNEY



INDICATIVE FULL ITINERARY:

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN KIGALI

Our journey will start in the Rwandan capital, Kigali. Expedition participants will be picked up from the airport and taken to a high-quality local Hotel where they will meet the other group members, international group leader and Ugandan group leader.

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DAY 2: TRAVEL FROM KIGALI TO LAKE BUNYONYI IN SW UGANDA

We will have a leisurely start to the morning with breakfast and then board a small bus for a 3-hour drive to the shores of Lake Bunyonyi in Southwestern Uganda.

We will pass lush green fields and banana plantations in this highly populated corner of Africa. We will pass through the land border at Gatuna and enter Kabale district - the home of the Abakiga people - literally meaning people of the mountains.

From Kabale town we will ascend to the high Lake Bunyonyi (1962M), a crater lake studded with islands and crisscrossed by local boats and dugouts.

We will have a night of relative luxury before our trek begins and we'll stay at the high quality Birdsnest hotel on the shores of Bunyonyi. We will have lunch at the hotel and have a chance to explore the shores of the lake and ascend to spectacular viewpoints over the lake for potential sundowner drinks.

This part of the Bunyonyi has a number of tourism developments and this will be our staging point for heading off the beaten track.

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DAY 3: BUNYONYI AND A BOAT EXPLORATION OF THE LAKE

Our first short trek (8.6 km / 5.3 miles) will take us around the Northern edge of Lake Bunyonyi where we will pass farmsteads and local lakeside communities.

We will meet a local herbalist and healer in Kyabahinga Village and find out more about the local plants and their medicinal usage and the herbalist traditions of the Abakiga people. We will have a homestay lunch with Anna Kyomukama who is part of a local women's craft group.

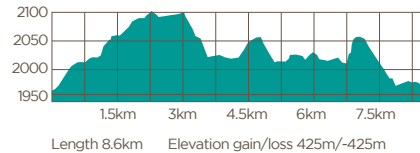


After lunch we will descend to the local pier to board wooden motor launches for a boat based exploration of the Lake and it's Northern Islands. Noisy Crested Cranes (Uganda's national emblem) are common as well as various kingfisher, cormorants, Ibis and storks.

Otters are also common on Lake Bunyonyi which has few fish but abundant crayfish. With luck, some will be landed for our evening meal.

Later in the afternoon we will land on 'Tom's Island' - a family owned island managed by the elderly Tom who is patriarch, caretaker and warm host.

Our luggage and tents will have already been taken to the island and our camp will have been pitched for the night. An evening meal prepared collaboratively by Tom's family and our camp cooks will be served in front of an evening bonfire where we will hear more from Tom's family about the lakeside life of Bunyonyi.



DAY 4: LAKE BUNYONYI CROSSING BY LOCAL DUGOUT CANOE AND TREK TO ECHUYA FOREST

After breakfast we will be met by local dugout canoes for a 1 hour leisurely crossing of Lake Bunyonyi. Lifejackets will be provided and a support boat will follow us on the crossing - and for those who are perhaps concerned about the dugout option.

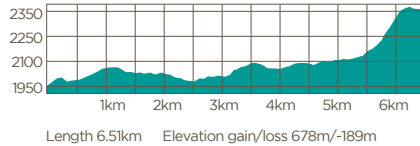
The canoes are carved from the trunk of a large tree and are common on Bunyonyi and other crater lakes in SW Uganda. They are surprisingly stable in the water and we will take turns in paddling the boat to the much less visited Western shores. On the crossing, we can will keep an eye out for otters and the ubiquitous lake bird life.

On landing on the eastern shore we will begin a relatively short trek (6.5km / 4.1 miles) and ascend to the eastern edge of the Echuya Forest reserve (2350M).

We will be walking through mixed fields and forest along local paths. Local people will be surprised to see foreigners on this side of the lake and we will become accustomed to the local greetings and exchange.

As we ascend we will encounter smallholder tea plantations on the edge of the Echuya Forest Reserve. We will meet the unsurfaced road and walk to our second community camp hosted by a local Abakiga family where we will find our tents and luggage.

Our camp cooks will prepare food with some local dishes added and we will eat with the family and gain a deeper understanding of the culture and history of this area and the local forest.



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DAY 5: TREK THROUGH ECHUYA FOREST AND TO LAKE KAYUMBU

A day of fantastically varied trekking (16.6km / 10.3 miles). We will be met by local Echuya Batwa (indigenous forest people) whose ancestral home was the deep Echuya Forest before they were evicted in the early nineties as part of an arguably misfocused conservation effort.

Described by some as 'conservation refugees' the Batwa were relocated to areas beside the forest, but they have often struggled for their survival and identity.

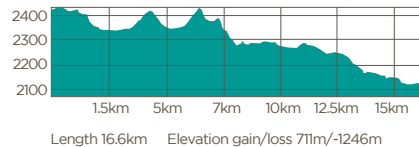
Our Batwa guides will take us through the deep forest and it's wetlands ringed by high forest canopy. They will explain more to us about their culture, beliefs and wisdom in using local plants and herbs.

The forest is the home of an estimated 152 bird species and is dominated by moist montane forest and bamboo, while the swamp vegetation is dominated by sedges, tussock vegetation and giant lobelias. It will be cool in the forest and the walk led by our guides will be a fantastic first introduction to the forests of this region - albeit the smallest of the three that we will trek through.

Breaking out of the forest and into high fields will provide a viewpoint down to our afternoon destination of Lake Kayumbu. We should see the soaring silhouette of the high Muhavura (4127M) towering in the distance.

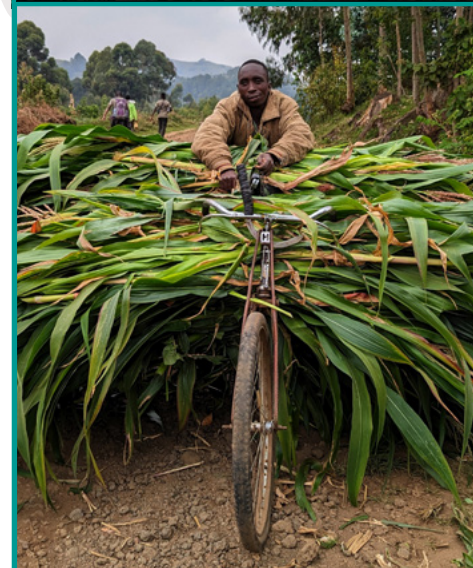
Our easy descent takes us along village paths beside fields and small trading centres and we will be greeted in a new language - for the people here, despite living in Uganda, are ethnically Rwandan (Banyarwanda). We will arrive at the shores of the small beautiful Lake Kayumbu where our third community camp will have been pitched beside a local church.

We should see the sun set spectacularly behind the high Virunga and our hosts will join us for an evening meal and campfire.



"It's as if we were part of a BBC documentary. An amazing experience."

JEANETTE ARNOTT



DAY 6: TREK LAKE KAYUMBU TO MGAHINGA PARK BOUNDARY

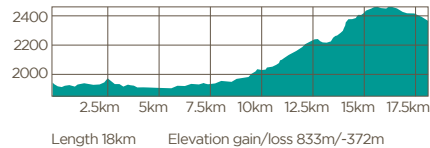
The trek today (18.0 km / 11.2 miles) will be along local paths and lanes and take us from the shores of Lake Mutanda to the slopes of the deeply forested MgaHINGA National Park. We will slowly ascend to over 2400M drawing close to the towering Virunga Volcanoes.

We will pass between lakes Kayumbu and Chahafi and trek through small trading centres and beside fields of maize, banana plantain and vegetables which thrive on the rich volcanic soils. Fields have been carved into steep hillsides and even into and within the many craters punctuating the landscape. Trekkers are pretty much unknown here and we will be met with friendliness but also a degree of puzzlement – some offering to find us transport, thinking we must be poor ‘Wazungu’ (foreigners) to not be travelling by car or at a minimum by boda-boda (the ubiquitous motorcycle taxis).

Walking provides us with a chance to savour the atmosphere, stop and talk to people or even join in on local events or ceremonies. We will cross the main road crossing between Rwanda and this part of Uganda and begin a slow ascent to the MgaHINGA park boundary.

We will find our fourth (and last) community camp site with our tents

pitched. We will have dinner as the sun sets on the Virunga and we will learn more about the local communities who live beside the National Park and effectively with Mountain Gorilla – for Mountain Gorillas often come out of the forest to graze in local fields.



DAY 7: TREK THE BATWA TRAILS THROUGH MGAHINGA FOREST AND NATIONAL PARK

Our short trek today (6.9km / 4.3 miles) will be a slow exploration of the MgaHINGA Forest with local Batwa guides. The Montane forest is home to golden monkeys, olive baboon and of course Mountain Gorilla. It is also home to forest elephant, cape buffalo, leopard, spotted hyaena, giant forest hog and bushpig and we will therefore also be accompanied by armed park rangers for protection from larger wildlife.

Our trek will take us through reclaimed forest (previously encroached by farming and timber collection) and into virgin forest.





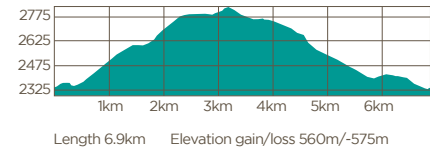
We will learn more about the Batwa of this forest and visit the Garama Cave – an ancient abode of the forest dwelling Batwa. We will spot birds with Mgahinga having many endemic species including crimson wings, sunbirds, shrikes, flycatchers, warblers, apalis, honeyguides, broadbills, nightjars, turaco and francolins. We will also pay attention to insects and small amphibians.

With night rain we may encounter the giant Africa Earthworms (microchaetus rappi) that abound in this area – as thick as your thumb and on average 1.4m in length (but reported to sometimes be several metres long). Lines of safari ants will often crisscross our path and we will keep a watch for chameleons, the finest being Jacksons three horned chameleon – almost like a miniature dinosaur.

We will break into clearings and to ascend a viewing platform from where we will see the high Virunga – 2 of which are our potential goals over the next 2 days.

We will break out of the forest to the Gahinga (western) park gate of the National Park and walk a short distance to the Amajambere Iwach Community Camp where we will have the opportunity to stay in small community owned huts (with beds, fresh linen and either en-suite or nearby hot showers and toilets).

The camp overlooks the forest with abundant bird life and the community camp will prepare our evening meal in a dining room with a log fire. The sound of the night forest rings in our ears as we retire for the night. This will be our home for two nights.



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DAY 8: OPTIONAL ASCENT OF SABINYO (DIFFICULT) OR ALTERNATIVE GOLDEN MONKEY TRACKING OR GUIDED BIRD/WILDLIFE TREK

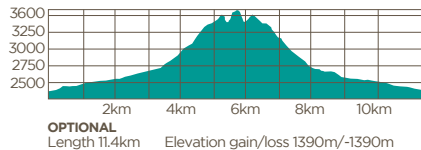
Today there will be an option to undertake a climb of spectacular Mount Sabinyo (3634m), a difficult ascent taking 7 to 8 hours over 3 peaks and involving the ascent of several wooden ladders - some stop at the first peak.

The rewards for the ascent are significant – we will pass through various vegetation zones from bamboo forest, through virgin forest and into giant heather and lichen zones and at the high peaks into high African Alpine vegetation of giant grousell, lobelia and African alpine flowers – a botanical wonderland. The ascent provides superb views towards the other peaks.

For those who would prefer an easier day there is an opportunity to trek to a habituated group of Golden Monkeys that will continue their foraging in surprising proximity to human presence.

The trek (of around 2 hours with 1 hours with the monkeys) will also include wildlife and bird spotting and be accompanied by a park ranger and park guards. Alternative treks also include a lower gorge trek to the foot of Mount Sabinyo or a more focused bird walk - or even a rest day by the community camp!

Our second night will be spent at the Amajambere Community huts.



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DAY 9: ASCENT OF MOUNT GAHINGA (MODERATE) AND TRAVEL TO LAKE MUTANDA

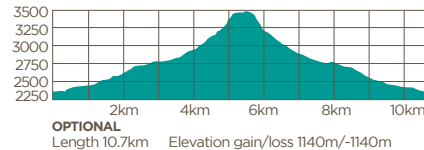
We will pack early and have our bags ready for departure in the afternoon. Our day will be spent ascending the second and slightly lower Virunga volcano - Mount Gahinga (3474m) - a 6 to 7 hour journey. A perfect

volcano that involves a relatively steep but steady ascent of 1140 metres.

This is a much easier ascent than Sabinyo - with no ladders - and similarly takes us through thick bamboo and virgin forest to a superb wetland and moss laden crater punctuated by giant lobelia. It is a very different peak from Sabinio - a crater area rewards time spent watching sunbirds flit between flowers and marvelling at the multicoloured mosses carpeting the crater.

It is a highly recommended ascent which provides magnificent views. We will return to our community camp by mid afternoon and board a vehicle which will drive us North through Kisoro town to the Southern shores of beautiful Lake Mutanda (around 45 minutes). A wooden motor boat will pick us and transfer us to a lakeside camp.

We will be staying in furnished and en-suite permanent tents overlooking the lake. We will hope for clear weather and to watch the suns rays lighting the Virunga - a spectacular view. We will have an evening meal at our camp beside a campfire - the sound of frogs and cicadas ringing in the air.





"A truly shared experience with a community. Not just a hike through a wonderful landscape"

JEANETTE ARNOTT

DAY 10: BOAT JOURNEY UP LAKE MUTANDA AND TREK TO RUSHAGA, BESIDE BWINDI FOREST.

Today will start with a spectacular boat journey (1 hour) the length of Lake Mutanda weaving between islands and, in clear weather, with views south to the mighty Virunga. It is a lovely relaxing and leisurely way to view the lake and spot bird life. We will alight at the very North of the Lake into lush tropical forest to begin our trek to Rushaga at the edge of Bwindi Forest (13.7km / 8.5 miles).

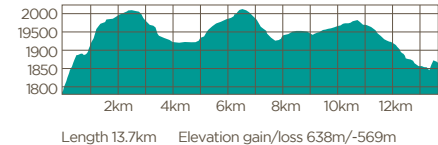
We will first ascend Chameleon Hill through forest and arrive at the superbly located Chameleon lodge where we will savour the views and bird life and have an early buffet lunch. We will then begin the main part of our trek ascending on village paths and lanes, beside a local school and through fields and stands of tea plantation and forest.

We may encounter occasional safari vehicles shuttling people to and from lodges and the Bwindi Forest. Most tourists spend only one or two nights in the area staying cocooned in luxury lodges and air conditioned vehicles.

Our journey will take us slowly through homesteads, villages and small trading centres - we are now back in the land of the Abakiga. We will begin to view the thickly wooded hills of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and the last part of our journey will be a shortcut through the edge of the forest and to the locally owned Nshongi Camp, a group of huts and rooms overlooking forest and wetland.

It is common to see red colobus monkeys in the trees as well as diverse bird life. Forest elephant also frequent this area and gorilla have been known to enter and graze in the clearing.

A local women's group is likely to welcome us with local song and dance beside a warming camp fire. Expect local handicrafts to also be displayed. Our accommodation will be in self contained huts and rooms with en-suite showers and toilets. Music and dance will be a feature of this trip.



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DAY 11: POTENTIAL GORILLA TRACKING OR GUIDED FOREST NATURE AND BIRDING WALKS

This is the day that those who have opted in to gorilla trekking will be taken on a once in a lifetime gorilla experience. There are eight habituated gorilla families in Rushaga and a maximum of eight people are taken to visit one of the families so spend one hour with these highly endangered primates.

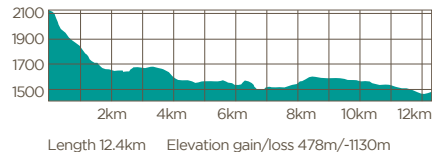
We will collect at the park entrance (a short walk from Nshongi camp) and be given a briefing before being led towards the gorilla group who will have been tracked by local spotters. Some groups are located close to the park entrance, others will be a one or more hour walk away through the forest. Most groups will return by lunchtime.

Those who decide not to undertake the gorilla trekking can relax at the camp, explore the neighbouring village or undertake a guided walk in the forest.

This will be our third forest, but Bwindi feels different from the other forests we will have visited. As its name suggests (Impenetrable) it is a large area of very thick forest. Composed of 321 square kilometres (124 sq mi) of both montane and lowland forest, it is accessible only on foot. It is the home to an array of primates other than mountain gorillas - red-tail, L'Hoest's, blue, guereza colobus, black and white colobus

monkeys, olive baboons and eastern Chimpanzee.

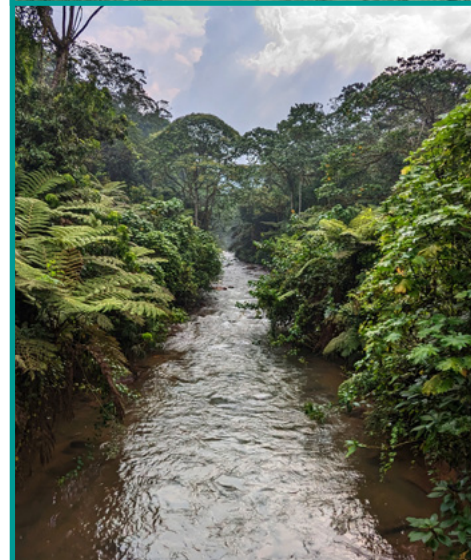
Other large mammals include side-striped jackal, golden cat, serval, wildcat, civet, genet, African elephant, aardvark, giant forest hog and bushpig. It is also home to many endemic bird species. Spending time within and beside the forest is time well spent.



DAY 12: TREK FROM NKURINGO TO BUHOMA THROUGH BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST

We will arise early and jump onto safari vehicles which will have joined us for the next stage of our journey.

We will be driven North west around the perimeter of Bwindi Forest to the national park gate of Nkuringo (45 minute drive). Here we will meet local guides, park guards and local Batwa who will take us on a route through Bwindi Forest travelling from the South to the North of the park (12.4km / 7.7 miles).



This is a stunning journey unlike others that we have taken through the forests of SW Uganda. We will start at a high viewpoint overlooking the forested hills of Bwindi and descend through fields to the perimeter of the forest. We will cross lush rivers thick with ferns and with a high canopy of trees.

Our Batwa guide will spot the native species important to their past forest lives and explain the lives of the Bwindi Batwa. We will follow deeply forested, but very good, trails diverting away to visit the sacred Munyaga waterfalls – a series of three separate cascades deep in the forest. A place which had particular relevance to the forest dwelling Batwa.

We will emerge from the deep forest and find ourselves soon at the Buhoma Community Village bandas (huts). Our accommodation is overlooking the lush forest where monkeys and birds abound and where even local gorilla groups sometimes appear.

Our evening meal will be in the dining room overlooking deep forest. Accommodation is in self contained bandas (with hot showers and en-suite toilets).

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DAY 13: COMMUNITY EXPLORATION AND DRIVE FROM BUHOMA TO QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK.

In the morning we will visit the Buhoma villages and smallholder coffee, tea and banana plantations. We will visit Eliza Tudyomurugendo who will take us through the process of coffee growing and allow us to de-husk, pound and roast local coffee and prepare our morning beverage.

We will understand the methods of planting, maintaining and harvesting tea and visit Lydia Twinomugisha who will show us how banana juice, wine and spirit is made in local wooden presses. The warmth and hospitality of local villagers will be on full display.

Our slow walk through the villages will end back on the road where we will be picked up by our safari vehicles. We will then begin the journey north by car descending from the gorilla highlands towards the new environment of the savanna of the Albertine Rift Valley.

The drive (around 4 hours) will take us through the Queen Elizabeth National Park with the potential of seeing game as we pass the Ishasha sector of the park. We will arrive at the Kazinga Channel, a river that connects Lakes George and Albert.





“A slow trip through the more unvisited corner. Taking time to connect with the local people and understand the world from their perspective.”

JASON SCOTT

Our accommodation is a locally owned Safari Lodge with self-contained rooms overlooking the Kazinga Channel. Our evening meal will be in an open-air restaurant above the channel with the sounds of hippos reverberating in the air.

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DAY 14: QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK: CHIMPANZEE TRACKING IN KYAMBURA GORGE, WILDLIFE LAUNCH ON THE KAZINGA CHANNEL AND POTENTIAL SUNSET GAME DRIVE

Arising early we will take a short 20 minute drive to the edge of the Kyamburu Gorge – a deep forested river gorge carved through the flatlands of Queen Elizabeth. Here we will collect a park ranger and descend by foot into the forested gorge to track chimpanzee.

We will find rivers abounding with hippo and have the potential to spot monkey and birds. The sound of chimps will often reverberate around the gorge and due to the tight confines of the gorge we are almost guaranteed to find chimps who will often be feeding in the trees or even travelling across the forest floor.

The chimps have become used to human presence so are often oblivious to our advance.

The chimp tracking will take around 3 hours and when we emerge from the gorge we may spot elephant and other game. We will then be taken back to the Kazinga channel where we will board a community boat for a 3 hour cruise down the Kazinga channel.

We can expect that in the heat of the midday we will see dozens of elephant, hippo, buffalo and antelope and waterbuck as well as crocodile and numerous bird species. The Kazinga channel cruise allows us to get surprisingly close to the game and is truly one of the best ways to view elephant and hippo.

By mid-afternoon we will return to our Safari lodge. For those who are still interested to see more game, the safari vehicles and drivers will be available for a sundowner drive through Queen Elizabeth. We will spend our second night at the Safari Lodge.

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DAY 15: DRIVE FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH TO ENTEBBE

We will leave Queen Elizabeth National Park and the West of Uganda and begin our journey to Central Uganda (6-7 hours). We will begin an ascent from the Albertine Rift Valley into large tea plantations and past lakes and forests. We will arrive in the Ankole uplands, famous for their long-horned cattle, and travel west through the towns of Mbarara and Masaka stopping for lunch on the way.

Within an hour of our destination we will pass and stop at the equator for tea/coffee. We will arrive at the Buwaya landing site on Lake Victoria where our luggage and ourselves will be loaded onto a ferry that will take us across the short channel to the Entebbe peninsula.

Our hotel will meet us and take us the short distance to our lakeside hotel for our last 2 nights of the journey. We will stay in a hotel beside Lake Victoria and eat an evening meal overlooking the lake as the sun drops.

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

DAY 16: EXPLORATION OF LAKE VICTORIA AND ENTEBBE

Today will be a fairly leisurely last day. A boat will be available to take us onto Lake Victoria to view the bird life and take us along the papyrus laden banks of the lake to spot nesting Shoebill storks.

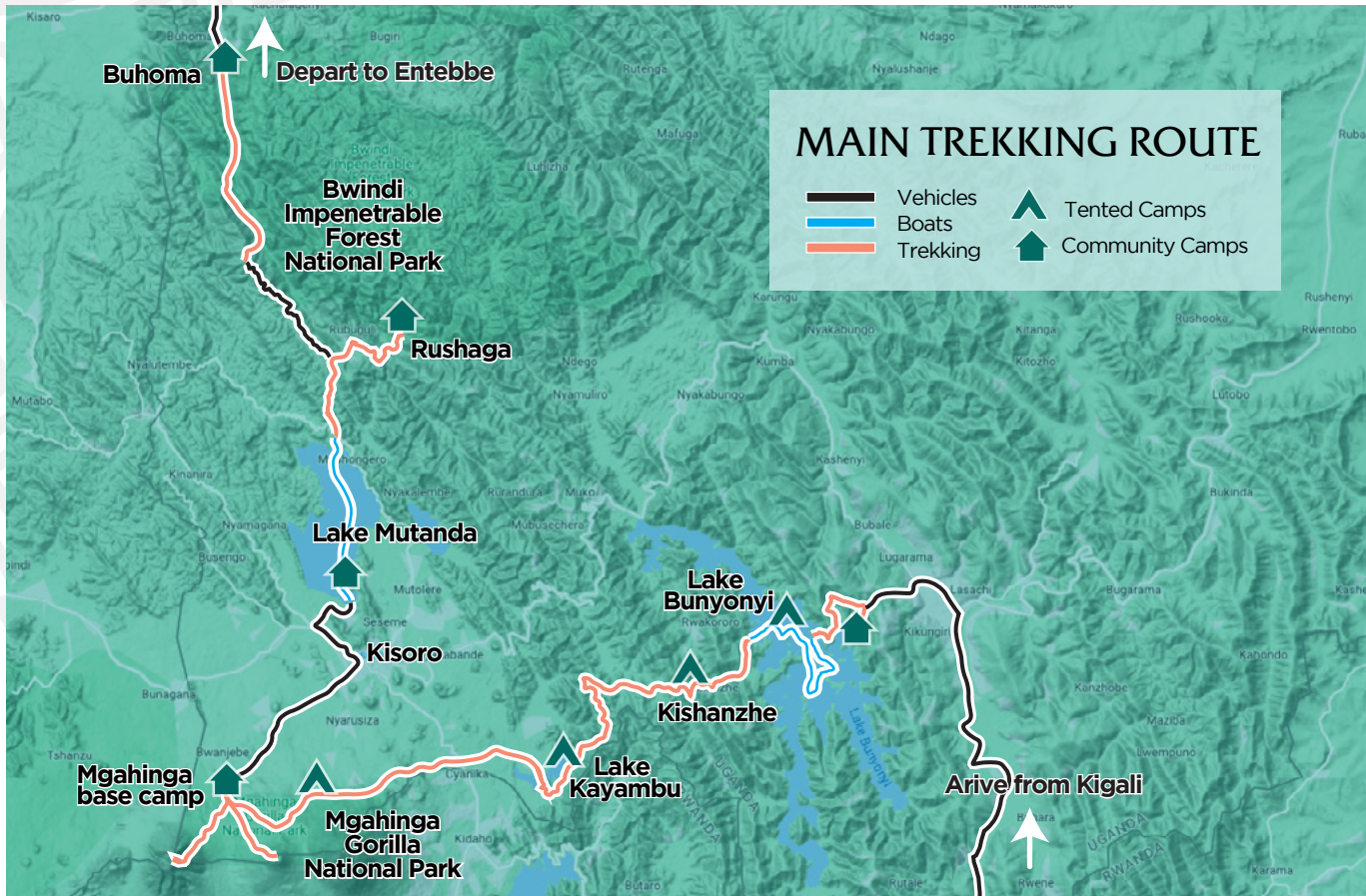
A vehicle will also be available to take people the short distance to Entebbe botanical gardens where bird life thrives in stands of deep forest and wooded clearings. This is reputedly the filming location of the first ever Tarzan film. Just relaxing by the shores of Lake Victoria is also therapeutic before our flights home.

In the evening we will have a final celebratory meal together.

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DAY 17: DEPARTURE DAY





Buhoma

Depart to Entebbe

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park

Rushaga

Lake Mutanda

Kisoro

Mgahinga base camp

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Lake Kayumbu

Lake Bunyonyi

Kishanzhe

Arrive from Kigali

MAIN TREKKING ROUTE

- Vehicles
- Boats
- Trekking
- ▲ Tented Camps
- ▲ Community Camps



JOURNEY DETAILS



TRAVEL & BOOKING INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION

- 4 nights in hotels in Kigali, Bunyonyi and Entebbe

- 1 night in Kigali on arrival

- 1 night in a very high quality lodge on the edge of lake Bunyonyi

- 2 nights in a good quality hotel near the beaches of Lake Victoria in Entebbe.

- 4 nights camping hosted by local households / communities.
- 8 nights in community and locally owned
- huts/rooms/tented camps

- 2 nights beside Mgahinga National Park: in a community camp with huts (hot showers) beside the forested slopes of the Virunga

- 1 night in a locally owned fixed tented camp on a peninsula on the lakeside of Mutanda - with an ensuite facilities. Reached by boat.

- 2 nights in a locally owned lodge within Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - with good quality rooms with ensuite facilities.

- 1 night at a community owned camp on the Northern edge of Bwindi - with good quality huts overlooking lush forest.

- 2 nights in a locally owned lodge overlooking the Kazinga Channel of Queen Elizabeth National Park - good quality rooms.

We have chosen predominantly community and locally owned accommodation as part of our philosophy to both connect with and support local communities and initiative. In many locations (Mgahinga, Lake Mutanda, Bwindi Forest) these huts provide stunning locations within forests/ beside the lakes. Our camps with local communities are in areas with very low or absolutely no tourism and offers a real authentic connection with local households and communities.

GROUP SIZE AND LEADERSHIP

Our group size will be 8 to 10 international participants (maximum), local support staff and guides and an international group leader (Gavin Anderson)

CLIMATE

Temperatures: Our trekking journey will be undertaken in altitudes above 2000M – so expect moderately hot days (20-25°C) and cool nights (10-15 degrees°C) – a perfect temperature for trekking. When we descend to Queen Elizabeth National Park and Entebbe expect hotter temperatures.

Precipitation: We will organise our treks around the driest times of year (June to August and December to February), but this is an area of rain and cloud forest, so some rain can occur at any time of year.

HEALTH

Inoculations: Participants should check with their doctor and government travel advice online about inoculations required for this journey. A yellow fever inoculation is mandatory for entering Rwanda and Uganda.

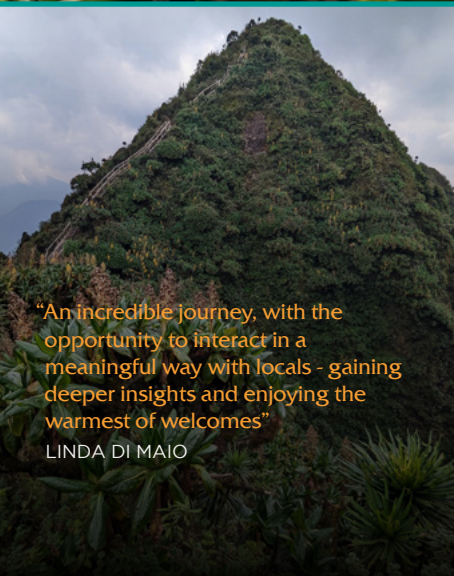
Malaria and insects: The whole trekking part of the journey is an area with low-risk for malaria due to the altitude being constantly above 2000m but Queen Elizabeth and

Entebbe are malarial areas and medical advice is recommended on taking malaria prophylactics. Mosquito nets are provided in all the huts and hotels. Despite the forest crossings, biting insects are unlikely to be a significant problem or irritation.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY OF THIS TREK

Apart from the ascent of Sabinyo, this is a moderate trek along good paths and trails. The total length is 82.7km/51.4 miles over 7 days not including the two ascents of the Virunga and the chimp and gorilla tracking days. The route through Echuya forest is likely to be more overgrown with potential of mud and wetness underfoot. The optional ascent of Sabinyo (3634m) is only recommended for those with a high level of fitness and balance (the ladders on Sabinyo can be particularly treacherous). The ascent of Gahinga is easier but involves ascending to 3474m (starting at 2360m which is 1114m of ascent).





"An incredible journey, with the opportunity to interact in a meaningful way with locals - gaining deeper insights and enjoying the warmest of welcomes"

LINDA DI MAIO

EQUIPMENT

A full kit checklist will be provided by Nomadic Skies on booking. All camping equipment (including mats) are supplied for the 4 nights of camping with the exception of a sleeping bag which we ask clients to bring. (A 3 season bag would be adequate).

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WILD ANIMALS:

In Mgahinga, Bwindi and Queen Elizabeth there are animals that could pose a possible (but unlikely) threat including forest elephant, cape buffalo, leopard, spotted hyaena, giant forest hog and bushpig. In all the trekking sections through the National Parks we will be accompanied by at least 2 armed park guards who are there only as mandatory precautionary measure.

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COSTS

Please check our website for the costs of the journey. Those who want to opt into the gorilla tracking option will be required to pay the gorilla tracking permit. Contact us for current rates for the permit. Purchasing the permit requires around 6 months' notice due to high demand.

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BOOKING PROCEDURES

Please contact us for a booking form to register interest in the journey. We confirm the journey once we have received 8 registrations. We will then require a US\$700 as a deposit to confirm a place on the journey with the balance then due 6 weeks before departure. Anyone who would like to secure a gorilla tracking permit will also need to make the payment at this time so we can purchase the tracking permits.

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:

TRAVEL

- All airport transfers in Kigali & Entebbe.
- Vehicle transport - Kigali to Bunyonyi, Mgahinga to Matanda, Bwindi to Queen Elizabeth National Park and to Entebbe.
- Boat transport on lakes Bunyonyi and Matanda.
- Support vehicle to transport luggage (and equipment) between camps and hotels/huts/lodges.

ACCOMMODATION

- All accommodation - 4 nights camping and 12 nights in hotels, huts and lodges.

FOOD

- Breakfast and dinner in Kigali and Entebbe (lunches not included).
- All food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) between Kigali and Entebbe.

GUIDING

- Local lead guide and camp support staff.
- International guide

PARK FEES AND EXPERIENCES

- National park entry and fees in Mgahinga (3 days), Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (2 days) and Queen Elizabeth National Park (1 day)
- Guided ascents of 2 Virunga Volcanoes (or alternative forest/wildlife/bird guided walks).
- Forest wildlife / bird trek in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
- 3 forest trail guided walks with Batwa guides
- Chimpanzee tracking in the Kyambura Gorge.
- Boat launch for wildlife viewing on the Kazinga Channel of Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Optional sundown wildlife drive in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

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



AND WHAT'S NOT:

- International flights to Kigali and from Entebbe.
- East African Tourist Visa (US\$100) - to be obtained before departure.
- Lunches in Kigali and Entebbe.
- Alcoholic and bottled drinks (other than water).
- Travel insurance (for ascents up to 3600m)
- Required vaccinations (please check with your medical practitioner).
Note - Yellow Fever vaccination is mandatory for entry to East Africa.
- Tips for local guides and staff (optional)



To book or make enquiries contact:

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E-mail

gavin.anderson@nomadickskies.com

Online

www.nomadickskies.com



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