



Ruwenzori Hike

Free cancellation up to 30 day(s) prior departure, after which the tour cancellation policy applies.

- **Activities:**
 - Gorilla Trekking
 - Mountaineering
- **Travel Style:** Premium
- **Guiding Type:** Live Guide/Instructor
- **Activities:**
 - English
- **Tour Vibe:** Active
- **Guiding Type:** Live Guide/Instructor
- **Recommended For:**
 - Couple
 - Family/Kids
 - For Art Lovers
 - LGBTQ
 - Senior
 - Solo
 - Women
 - Youth
- **Country:**
 - Africa
 - Uganda
- **Routes:**
 - Nairobi
 - Entebbe
 - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest
 - Entebbe
 - Nairobi

- **Pickup:** Entebe Aiport;

From:9:00 AM

To:9:00 AM

- **Drop-off:** Entebe Aiport;

From:6:00 PM

To:7:00 PM

- **Age Range:** 17 - 65 (Years Old)
- **Tour Highlights:** Rwenzori Trekking Services offers a variety of trekking and climbing options from one day to twelve days to suit your style of adventure and schedule. The Rwenzori range is a true mountain range with many climbs and descents and making it a tough climb however the scenery and beautiful vegetation are incredible. The high rainfall per year, the moss covered rocks, the dense vegetation, the tall peaks and cliffs towering above to the moss covered valleys and meandering streams create a 'Alice in Wonderland atmosphere' which changes through several biospheres as you climb making the "Rwenzori Mountains" a truly unique experience.
- **Tour Introduction:** Trekking the mystic Rwenzori Mountains National Park in Uganda is a truly fantastic and unique experience, the wonder of the high glaciers, the beauty of the valley of nine lakes, the bearded lichen hanging from giant heathers with a backdrop of rocky cliffs, crags and snow capped peaks. The wide variety of flora and fauna with several biospheres as you ascend through different vegetation zones creates the ultimate experience for trekking. Never before has this unique and beautiful trek been available, totally untouched and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful treks in the world.

The Rwenzori Mountains is a World Heritage Site and offers the opportunity to see nature at its best. The plant life varies from heavy tropical rainforest, bamboo forests, montane cloud forests to alpine vegetation and the scenery is truly spectacular. Above 4,500 metres the snow and glaciers add that special dimension to the wondrous views throughout this pristine mountain range.

- **Itinerary:**

- **Day 1: Start at Bwindi**

Start at Trekkers at 1,450 meters and sleep at Sine Hut at 2,596 meters being a height gain of 1,146 meters, or those who are fit and want to proceed to Kalalama Camp at 3,134 metres may do so and apart from the fantastic views gives you more time at Mutinda Camp where you may climb up to Mutinda Lookout at 3,975 metres. We start by walking up the valley floor through tall forest trees of the Afro Montane Forest Zone. This is a steady climb with multitudes of birds and a chance of seeing blue monkeys scampering off through the forest. At times visitors may see troupes of 15 to 20 black and white Colobus monkeys as they swing through the tree tops. There are rare sightings of the L'Hoest monkey which are part of the Bukonzo cultural emblems and are protected by the virtue of the King or Omusinga or you may hear wild chimpanzee in the distance. There is wide variety of plant species from forest trees to bamboos thickets, low shrubs,

flowers, fungi, and with many moss and lichen covered vines hanging from the tall trees creating an awesome appeal. Enock's Falls are just 200 meters from Sine Hut and offer a splendid opportunity to capture a great screensaver for your memories. At Sine Camp 2,596 metres we have wooden huts set between tall forest trees on a narrow ridge where you may sit and enjoy the beauty of the Afro Montane forest while you look down at a fantastic waterfall crashing over the rocks far below. Some clients prefer to sit outside enjoying the warmth of the campfire and chat to the guides about the mountains and life in their community. Sine is just below the bamboo zone and the area around has many different bird species. 150 meters from the camp is Enock falls which is set in vivid green vegetation and hanging vine. Truly beautiful. Sleep at Sine, or those who are fit and want to proceed to Kalalama Camp at 3,134 metres may do so and apart from the fantastic views gives you more time at Mutinda Camp where you may climb up to Mutinda Lookout at 3,975 metres.

- Day 2: **Heather zone**

rekking starts at 8.30am and almost immediately you enter the Bamboo-Mimulopsis Zone which is steep climb with many high steps. In the wet season the bamboo zone is rather muddy and slippery making the going slow. However the atmosphere and the forest is beautiful as you climb 551 metres altitude and a distance of 1.8km to Kalalama Camp at 3,147 meters which is in the Heather-Rapanea Zone where you can take a rest and a quick cup of tea or coffee before heading on to Mutinda Camp. The trail meanders up and over several small knolls along a ridge top then drops down the side of the valley before climbing again, and in doing so cross several small streams and pass close to moss covered waterfalls. You then climb steadily along the side of a beautiful mossy river which tumbles down over the rocks under the Giant Heather trees whose trunks are covered in green moss with old man beards (Usnea lichen) hanging from the branches. The trail twists and turns as you climb up the deep valley, which has an enormous variety of plants and flowers. This valley is unique with many Giant Heather trees creating a beautiful atmosphere often shrouded in mist. In the afternoon you may wish to climb up to the top of the Mutinda Lookout (one to two hours up and one hour down) The views are amazing as you stand on moss covered rocks at 3,925 meters with views across the Rwenzori Mountains and down to Kasese town and Lake George. For those clients who are climbing to Margherita or any of the main peaks climbing Mutinda 3,975 meters is also an excellent way to acclimatise and reduce the risk of high altitude sickness Sleep at Mutinda Camp at 3.582 metres

- Day 3: **Bugata**

The trail to Bugata Camp is boggy particularly in the wet season but with a little skill you can step from tussock to tussock to make the going easier. First you cross the Mutinda valley through the tussock grass and everlasting flowers interspersed with many Giant Lobelias before climbing a steep section up to the Namusangi Valley (3,840 meters), with sheer waterfalls and looking back you get fantastic views of Mutinda Peaks. The Namusangi Valley is wide, with many ups and downs as the trail climbs steadily to Bugata Camp at 4,100 metres.

- Day 4: **Hunwicks**

Trek to Hunwick's Camp via Bamwanjarra Pass. As you leave Bugata Camp you pass up a ridge then drop down slightly before ascending to Bamwanjarra Pass at 4,450 meters where we have a hut should the weather turn bad. From the pass on a clear day you get excellent views of the three main peaks. The trail passes down the valley and around the edge of some bogs and thick ever green vegetation, moss, giant groundsel and lobelia. Here is possibly the best place in all the Rwenzori to observe the Malachite Sunbird as it feeds on the many lobelia flowers and a known breeding site. Farther on there is some steep sections before a steady climb up and over a ridge to Hunwick's Camp which is situated on the top of a deep valley and has good views of Mt Stanley, Mt Baker, Weismanns Peak and McConnell's Prong.

- **Day 5: Margherita camp**

From Hunwick's we pass down and across the valley floor to Lake Kitendara which is very stunning with deep water and beautiful vegetation. From here you climb up Scott Elliott's pass then up the ridge to Margherita Camp 4,485 metres which is situated between some huge rocks and offering some shelter from the strong winds. This is the very spot where the Duke of Abruzzi camped when making his climb to Margherita Peak in 1906.

- **Day 6: Alexandra peak**

Wake up at 2am and catch an early breakfast before heading off to climb Mt Stanley at 2.30am. This is necessary as the weather has changed a lot and often even during the dryer season the mountain is closed in with heavy clouds and snow falls from 1 pm to 4pm and this happens within a short period of 10 to 15 minutes as the clouds rise up from the extensive Congo rainforests. During January and February 2017 clients were closed in and unable to walk during heavy snow storms which previously were not heard of during the dryer season and arrived back at Margherita camp well after dark with one group arriving back at 11pm totally exhausted. Due to this change in weather we have set a strict turn around time of 10am so if you do not reach the peak before then you must turn around regardless of the disappointment in the interests of safety. Margherita glacier has also suffered with global warming and as the outer edges of the glacier recede the ice is becoming steeper with one section of about 200 meters more than 60% grade. Combined with this much of the blacker has melted underneath causing caves under the ice and as it get thinner eventually caves in. So is necessary that clients understand and take advice of where the guides suggest to pass. For those clients with less mountaineering experience we suggest that you stay on Stanley glacier and climb up to a good vantage point on a rocky outcrop on the southern edge of Alexandra Peak to enjoy fantastic views over Congo and the lower mountain ridges After ascending the peak at 5,109 metres you then pass directly down to Hunwick's Camp at 3,874 metres.

- **Day 7: Kiharo Camp**

Distance to Kiharo Camp 11km Time taken to walk 4 to 7 hours From Hunwick's Camp we start the day by climbing up a ridge towards McConnell's Prong where you get the best views of all three peaks and Scott Elliott's Pass before reaching Oliver's Pass at 4,505 metres. The distance from Hunwick's Camp to the top of Oliver's Pass is 3km The trail then cuts across below Weismann's Peak to the confluence of the Nyamwamba

River which flows down through Kilembe and Kasese to Lake George in Queen Elisabeth National Park. If you wish to climb Weismann's Peak 4,620 metres from Olivers pass you may do so at an extra cost of \$20 each. On a clear day you get fantastic views of Margherita and Mt Stanley, Mt Speke and Mt Baker. After crossing the confluence the trail meanders down the valley to Kiharo Camp at which is situated in a deep valley with high cliffs and dense vegetation. On the way down the valley after each bog you will climb over a ridge of stones and earth which seems out of place but actually was pushed there by slow moving glaciers which eventually stopped moving, melted and left a pile of rocks and debris in front of where the glacier once stood.

◦ **Day 8: Descend back to Bwindi**

The trail down the Nyamwamba Valley is mostly downhill and absolutely stunning with beautiful views, moss covered rocks along the river, cascading waterfalls, deep valleys and forests are possibly the best in the Rwenzori Mountains. This part of the trail took us six years to find a way through and a route which is easy enough for tourists to use. In 1937 the explorer and geologist McConnell tried to find a way up this valley but failed and have to turn back and search for another route up the mountain but now you can experience this truly beautiful valley. A few kilometres from Kiharo Camp the path turns off to the right to pass along the river. In the clear areas you may catch a glimpse of a Duiker quietly feeding in small clearings as you pass along the river. This area is possible the highest population of Rwenzori Red Duikers anywhere in the National Park A few kilometres down the river it becomes steeper with multitudes of stunning waterfalls. After the waterfalls we climb up and over a high ridge then down through the dense forests with stunning views of the valley below. We stop at Forest View Camp for lunch before proceeding back to Base Camp. A great experience and ending to a fantastic trek.

◦ **Day 9: Depart Bwindi**

Depart Bwindi After breakfast and drive to Entebbe for a night and relaxing.

◦ **Day 10: Fly back to Nairobi.**

Flight back to Nairobi.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Location	Nights	Type	Property Name	Rating	Occupancy
Entebbe Uganda	1	Hotel	Boma hotel	4	Shared
Bwindi	1	Hotel	Ichumbi Loge	3	Shared
Mt. Ruwenzori	1	Jungle Cabin	Cabin	Unrated	Shared
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Mt. Ruwenzori	1	Jungle Cabin	Cabin	Unrated	Shared

Mt. Ruwenzori 1

Jungle Cabin Cabin

Unrated

Shared

- **Flights**

We will book domestic return flights from Nairobi to Uganda.

Upon request, we will book international flights.

- **Pickup & Drop-Off**

- Airport Transfer
- Bus Terminal

Pick up from Airport and transferred to Hotel

- **Guide**

Professional guides are provided.

- **Meals**

- Halal
- Meat
- Vegan
- Vegetarian

All meals are provided

- **Insurance**

Clients to pay their own insurance

- **Transport**

- Jeep & 4WD

Transport is provided.

- **Extra Services**

Day room on your way back from Bwindi before flight, guiding fee, all entrance fee.

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- **Other Excluded:**

Covid Safety

Clients must have a valid COVID 19 certificate.

Tour Cancellation Policy

Free cancellation up to 30 day(s) prior departure, Or traveler will pay 50 % of the tour amount

Full or partial payment made is non-refundable upon cancellation but can be redeemed in your next service.

Good To Know

FAQs