

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



12 DAYS - THE MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Mountains of the Moon Explorer takes you on a once-in-a-life-time climbing adventure of this mythical mountain range in western Uganda. The Rwenzori Mountains National Park was gazetted as such by the government of Uganda in 1991 and has been listed as an important UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994. Covering almost 1,000 square kilometers over its entire length of 220 kilometers, the mythical Mountains of the Moon are higher than the Alps and feature the third highest mountain in Africa, Margherita Peak on Mount Stanley, with a height of 5,109 meters. Located in southwestern Uganda along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and with 70 percent of its area above an altitude of 2,500 meters, Africa's fourth and fifth-highest peaks (Mount Speke and Mount Baker) can also be found in the Rwenzori mountains.

In principle, the mountain range facilitates five vegetation zones, from grasslands in the foothills, montane and bamboo forests, and a heather zone on the lower elevations, with a moorland zone just below the snowfields and glaciers of the higher elevations. The flora of the moorland zone alone, fringed with swamps and rivers, is unique to alpine regions where some of the montane plant species, such as lobelia and groundsel, grow extraordinarily large, providing for surreal landscapes and 'out of this world' hiking experiences.

□ Day 01 - Arrival in Entebbe.

Arrival and transfer to your accommodation.

□ Day 02 - Entebbe to Kasese.

Scenic drive to Kasese in northwestern Uganda.

Meet & Greet Rwenzori Trekking Service (RTS) & Climbing Guides.

□ Day 03 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Day 1 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Trek to Base Camp Kilembe at 1,450 meters.

Climb to Sine Camp at 2,596 meters.

□ Day 04 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Day 2 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Climb to Mutinda Camp at 3,688 meters.

□ Day 05 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Day 3 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Climb to Bugata Camp at 4,100 meters.

□ Day 06 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Day 4 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Climb to Hunwick's Camp at 3,974 meters via Bamwanjara Pass.

□ Day 07 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Day 5 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Climb to Margherita Camp at 4,485 meters via Scott Elliot Pass.

□ Day 08 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Day 6 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Climb Mount Stanley to Margherita Peak at 5,109 meters.

Descend to Hunwick's Camp at 3,974 meters.

□ Day 09 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Day 7 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Descend to Kiharo Camp at 3,640 meters via Oliver's Pass.

□ Day 10 - Rwenzori Mountains NP to Kasese.

Day 8 Climbing Rwenzori Mountains:

Return to Base Camp Kilembe at 1,450 meters.

Transfer to Kasese.

□ Day 11 - Kasese to Entebbe.

Return drive to Entebbe.

□ Day 12 - Departure from Entebbe.

Visit Entebbe Botanical Gardens. Visit Entebbe Crafts Market.

Airport transfer and departure from Entebbe.

Activity Options *Mabamba Bay Wetlands • Ngamba Island Chimp Sanctuary • Uganda Reptiles Village.*



Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Rwenzori Mountains NP: *Climbing Rwenzori Mountains.*

Includes: All Meals & Mountain Accommodation.

Includes: Skilled Climbing Guides & Porters.

Includes: Climbing Equipment Except Crampons.

Entebbe - *Entebbe Botanical Gardens.*

Entebbe - *Entebbe Crafts Market.*

English-speaking driver and tour guide.

Road transfers with 4 x 4 safari vehicles, including fuel.

National park and conservation fees listed in this itinerary.

Gorilla, chimp and other wildlife permits listed in this itinerary.

Meals as specified in this itinerary and mineral water.

Meal plan index: BB-Bed & Breakfast, HB-Half Board, FB-Full Board.

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 1 night @ Airport Guesthouse - FB.

Day 02 1 night @ Hotel Margherita - FB.

Day 03 - 09 7 nights @ Mountain Cabins - FB.

Day 10 1 night @ Hotel Margherita - FB.

Day 11 1 night @ Airport Guesthouse - FB.

Safari Activities & Services Not Included In Safari Price

Cost of international/local flights not listed in this itinerary.

Cost of mandatory visas and health certificates.

A valid **Yellow Fever** certificate is mandatory for Uganda.

A **Tourist Visa** for Uganda can be obtained online here:

<https://visas.immigration.go.ug/#/help/visa>

Cost of medical, travel, and any other personal insurance.

Cost of personal expenditures such as gratuities and tips.

Cost of hotels and lodges listed as **Lodge Options** in this itinerary.

Cost of activities listed as **Activity Options** in this itinerary.

SAFARI PRICE OPTIONS

Our tours include all major activities, park and conservation fees, permits required for viewing gorillas, chimpanzees, and other wild-life, and a full-board meal plan as specified. The group price options in the following tables are based on high-season hotel/lodge rates and may be subject to change without prior notice.

Other hotel/lodge options are listed in the **Detailed Safari Program** below in this document. Please ask our reservations staff for additional lodge options and available activity rates by location and based on your specific requirements. All prices listed here are **Per Person Sharing in a Double / Twin Room**, and **Single Traveler Supplements** are available on request:

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Price Per Person Sharing (PPS) in a Double / Twin Room

<i>2 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 4,783
<i>3 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 4,497
<i>4 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 4,354
<i>5 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 4,268
<i>6 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 4,210

4x4 Vehicle Included In Safari Price: 7 Seater Safari Minibus

LONG SAFARI PROGRAM

Day 01 - Arrival in Entebbe.

Arriving in Uganda, your appointed driver/guide will transfer you from Entebbe International Airport to your accommodation. Then, you will receive a briefing on your upcoming tour.

4 Star Lodge Options

The Boma Hotel

2 Friends Beach Hotel



PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)

Airport Guesthouse Karibu Entebbe

□ Day 02 - Entebbe to Kasese.

Today, your driver/guide will collect you from your hotel and take you on a scenic drive to Kasese, situated in southwestern Uganda on the border to the DRC and just below the Rwenzori Mountains National Park (RMNP). On arrival, you will be met by representatives and Mountain Guides of the Rwenzori Trekking Service (RTS) for a briefing on your upcoming climb of the Rwenzori Mountains.

The Rwenzori Mountains National Park was gazetted as such by the government of Uganda in 1991 and has been listed as an important UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994. Covering almost 1,000 square kilometers over its entire length of 220 kilometers, the mythical Mountains of the Moon are higher than the Alps and feature the third highest mountain in Africa, Margherita Peak on Mount Stanley, with a height of 5,109 meters. Located in southwestern Uganda along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and with 70 percent of its area above an altitude of 2,500 meters, Africa's fourth and fifth-highest peaks (Mount Speke and Mount Baker) can also be found in the Rwenzori mountains.

In principle, the mountain range facilitates five vegetation zones, from grasslands in the foothills, montane and bamboo forests, and a heather zone on the lower elevations, with a moorland zone just below the snowfields and glaciers of the higher elevations. The flora of the moorland zone, fringed with swamps and rivers, is unique to equatorial alpine regions where some of the montane plant species, such as lobelia and groundsel, grow extraordinarily large, providing for surreal landscapes and 'out of this world' hiking experiences.

Encountering fauna in the park varies by elevation and includes wildlife typically found in the Albertine Rift Valley, such as 90 species of tropical birds, including the unique Rwenzori turaco, 18 species of butterflies, and a range of other wildlife, such as the forest elephant, chimpanzee, and the black and white colobus monkey.



PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)

**THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**



Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Please see the Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in Rwenzori Mountains National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Climbing Rwenzori Mountains - US \$ 2,200 Per Person

Our trusted partner for climbing adventures in the Rwenzori Mountains National Park is the Rwenzori Trekking Service (RTS), whose shortest tour is an 8-day climb of the main 'Kilembe Circuit' to conquer the tallest peak, Margherita (5,109 meters) on Mount Stanley. Margherita is Africa's third-highest peak, and the Kilembe route allows you to see the wildlife wonders of the park as you proceed on your climb. RTS will provide all the equipment necessary for the climb, like crampons, ropes, harnesses, and carabiners; you must bring good hiking boots, warm clothing, a warm sleeping bag, and rain gear. RTS will rent sleeping bags and crampons for those who require them. For the higher elevations of the mountain, RTS now recommends that climbers have technical knowledge of ropes, crampons, ascenders, and how to use an ice axe since many ice sections now feature 60% steepness due to rapid changes occurring as a result of global warming.

Activity Option - Hiking Rwenzori Mountains - US \$ 400 Per Person

Our trusted partner for climbing adventures in the Rwenzori Mountains National Park is the Rwenzori Trekking Service (RTS), which offers short hiking sessions in the lower elevations. The 2-day version of this hike takes you from the Trekkers Hostel Kyanjuki to the Sine Camp at 2,596 meters, with an altitude gain ranging from 1,450 to 2,596 meters and a distance of about 10 kilometers covered. Your trekking time for the day will be 7 to 8 hours. At Sine Camp, the Rwenzori Trekking Services (RTS) operates wooden huts set between tall forest trees on a narrow ridge. Enjoy the fantastic views while watching a long set of rapids and a waterfall crashing over the rocks below. On your return to the park entrance the next day, you will hear the calls of the Rwenzori Turaco nesting in the Giant Heathers, which are abundant in this area.

4 Star Lodge Options

Equator Snow Lodge

Hotel Margherita

Sandton Hotel

Day 03 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Transfer from your accommodation to Kilembe Base Camp at 1,450 meters. After a meeting and briefing with climbing guides and porters, you proceed to your first climbing session, which will take you to the Sine Camp at 2,596 meters. The overall climbing gain for this day will be 1,146 meters.

Mountain Accommodation

Mountain Cabins

Day 04 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Today's climbing session takes you to Mutinda Camp at 3,688 meters, with an overall climbing gain of 1,092 meters. Time permitting, you can also try to climb your first excursion to reach the Mutinda Lookout at 3,975 meters, where you can enjoy amazing views of the lands below the mountain range.

Mountain Accommodation

Mountain Cabins

Day 05 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Today's climbing session takes you to the Bugata Camp at 4,100 meters and an overall climbing gain of 412 meters. The limited height gain is due to the steep ridges, muddy sections, and high steps. This climb will also take you through a valley of unique montane plant species, mountain streams, and waterfalls.

Mountain Accommodation

Mountain Cabins

Day 06 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Today's climbing session requires lateral trekking to reach Hunwick's



Camp at 3,974 meters. On your way, you will pass through the Bamwanjara Pass at 4,450 meters, offering fantastic views of all the main peaks.

Mountain Accommodation

Mountain Cabins

Day 07 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Today's climbing session takes you to Margherita Camp at 4,485 meters by first passing down and across the valley of Lake Kitandara, with its beautiful high-altitude flora and vast moorland fringed with swamps and rivers. On your way to Margherita Camp, you will also pass through Scott Elliot Pass.

Mountain Accommodation

Mountain Cabins

Day 08 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Today's climb will be the longest and is the ultimate highlight of your mountain adventure. Starting at two in the morning for an early breakfast, you set off to climb Mount Stanley across various glaciers to reach the summit of Margherita Peak at 5,109 meters. After reaching the summit, you descend to Hunwick's Camp at 3,974 meters for the night.

Mountain Accommodation

Mountain Cabins

Day 09 - Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Today's venture is a further descent to the Kiharo Camp at 3,640 meters, passing through Oliver's Pass along the way.

Mountain Accommodation

Mountain Cabins

Day 10 - Rwenzori Mountains NP to Kasese.

The final descent of your mountain adventure takes you past moun-

tain rivers fringed with moss-covered rocks and beautiful mountain forests back to the Kilembe Base Camp at 1,450 meters. From there, you transfer to Kasese town for dinner/overnight at your chosen hotel.

4 Star Lodge Options

Equator Snow Lodge

Hotel Margherita

Sandton Hotel

Day 11 - Kasese to Entebbe.

It is time to say farewell to the fabled 'Mountains of the Moon' and enjoy a scenic drive back to Entebbe.

4 Star Lodge Options

The Boma Hotel

2 Friends Beach Hotel

Airport Guesthouse

Karibu Entebbe

Day 12 - Departure from Entebbe.

Today, you will visit the **Entebbe Botanical Gardens** and the **Entebbe Crafts Market**. Your driver/guide will then transfer you to the Entebbe International Airport for your scheduled departure from Uganda later that day.



With our love for Africa, our knowledgeable team of expert safari consultants is ready to personalize your safari adventure to your travel needs. Curated and delivered with attention to detail, quality, and innovation, promoting sustainable tourism, supporting local communities, and respecting wildlife conservation and the preservation of the environment.

Continued on page 09.





PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)

 **THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**



Our comprehensive approach to customized cross-border tour developments means you can enjoy the very best 'Bucket List' experiences East Africa has to offer, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rwenzori mountains to the golden savannahs of the Serengeti and on to the sandy white beaches of Zanzibar and Mombasa.

We can provide you with a unique and responsible exploration of the breathtaking vistas along the 'Great Rift Valley', which is the heart of East Africa.

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER

Bucket List Adventures Into The Heart Of Africa

BOOKING TERMS

Trekking With Rwenzori Trekking Services (RTS)

Mountain Guides: RTS has trained guides with extensive experience in high and low altitude climbing/trekking, knowledge of flora and fauna, first aid, abseiling, and general house keeping/cooking.

Porters: RTS climbing/trekking tours come with porters who will be carrying your luggage during the hike to a maximum weight of 23 kg per bag. It is advisable that you carry a large backpack, which the porters will be carrying for you and a day pack for your personal equipment which you will carry yourself. Backpack covers are a must have as the Rwenzoris are always wet even in dry seasons. RTS provides 2 porters per client, one for the main luggage and the other takes care of food supplies. Additional porters can be hired at an extra fee of US \$ 15 per day.

Meals: RTS prides itself in providing good food on all their mountain treks and their guides are trained to do the preparation and cooking. Meals are designed to keep you healthy throughout your trek and RTS will be happy to receive information about special food requirements or allergies. Please note that RTS does not supply bottled water on their treks as all water is purified from streams. It is therefore advisable that climbers carry water purifiers to cater for at least 3 liters a day. Boiled water is available for tea and coffee, so some climbers might chose to fill up their water bottles the night before with boiled water.

Accommodation: During the trek, mountain accommodation is available in huts with dormitory style bunk beds and mattresses. Unfortunately RTS cannot provide twin or single beds during the hike as the conditions of building mountain huts are tough, combined with our policy of maintaining a low environmental footprint. All major huts have wood stoves and hence provide for cosy interiors. In addition, Hunwick's and Kiharo camps have solar power connected to inverters providing 240 Volt power.

Insurance: RTS requires a mandatory insurance before arrival covering Medivac and evacuation services at an altitude of 4,000 meters and above. Please note that no trek shall depart without insurance coverage for all participants in place. In addition, all RTS huts are equipped with stretchers and RTS trekking teams are equipped with a first aid box and a satellite telephone. Other emergency procedures are in place and climbers will be briefed in detail before departing on their trek/climb.

Gear & Equipment: For all treks summitting Margherita peak, RTS will provide the following gear: harnesses, carabiners, ice axes, helmets, rubber boots, ropes and ice screws as part of the hiking package. Other equipment requirements must be catered for by all climbers. Please do carry your own pair of crampons if possible, although these can be hired from RTS at a cost of US \$ 20. Below is a list of gear and equipment you need to carry though you can adjust the lists to fit in more equipment which may make your hike more comfortable.





PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)

 **THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**



☐ Low Altitude Trekking

Essential Low Altitude Clothing:

Summer shirts and shorts for hotter low altitudes.

Warm long sleeved shirt for colder high altitudes.

Warm long walking trousers, not jeans.

Fleece jacket and/or a down jacket for additional warmth.

Alternatively a warm anorak jacket which should not be too heavy.

Cheap plastic poncho or rain jacket.

A warm hat and a sun hat, preferably one that has both a beak and shades at the back.

Two pairs of gloves, one pair of thin liners and another of warmer material.

Essential Low Altitude Footwear:

Hiking shoes of good quality and well-worn in.

Good trainers can also work for a few days.

Walking shoes of lighter weight or trainers for the start of the climb (Optional).

Several pairs of warm, cushioned socks so you always have a dry pair to change into.

Rubber boots for children. RTS provides these to adults free of charge.

Essential Low Altitude Equipment:

Good quality sleeping bag with a minimum rating of 4 seasons.

Soft bag/hold all or rucksack, framed or unframed and large enough to hold your personal gear on the mountain. This will be carried by a porter.

Day sac with a minimum capacity of 8 kg that you will carry.

This should be big enough for you to carry your daily water ration of 3 liters, a lunch box, camera, wet weather clothing and fleece jacket.

External protective cover for rucksack & day sac.

Alternatively you can pack all contents in plastic bags for water-proofing.

Lip salve and sunglasses.

Head Torch or normal torch and a set of spare batteries.

Special batteries are not always available locally.

Strong water bottle(s) to hold 3 liters which you will carry with you daily.

Water treatment tablets / iodine or quality filter.

Water will be boiled for you by our staff and served as tea or coffee.

Spare plastic bags to keep things as dry as possible.

Wash kit plus a small towel.

Basic First Aid kit for personal use including paracetamol and dehydration sachets

A few of your favourite sweets/chewies/dried fruit.

☐ High Altitude Climbing

Essential High Altitude Clothing:

Summer shirts and shorts for hotter low altitudes.

Warm long sleeved shirt for colder high altitudes.

Warm long walking trousers, not jeans.

Fleece jacket and/or a down jacket for additional warmth.

Alternatively a warm anorak jacket which should not be too heavy.

Thermal underwear.

Good quality waterproof and windproof outer shell consisting of jacket & trousers.

Cheap plastic poncho or rain jacket.

A warm hat and a sun hat, preferably one that has both a beak and shades at the back.

Wool hat or Balaclava.

Two pairs of gloves, one pair of thin liners and another warmer and waterproof outer gloves.

Essential High Altitude Footwear:

Mountain boots of good quality and well-worn in.

Walking shoes of lighter weight or trainers for the start of the climb (Optional).

Several pairs of warm, cushioned socks so you always have a dry pair to change into.

Crampons for the summit day. Please do carry a pair of your own crampons.

Kindly note that crampons are a must have for the summit climb to Margherita peak.





PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)

 **THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**



Essential High Altitude Equipment:

Good quality sleeping bag with a minimum rating of 4 seasons.
Soft bag/hold all or rucksack, framed or unframed and large enough to hold your personal gear on the mountain. This will be carried by a porter.

Day sac with a minimum capacity of 8 kg that you will carry.

This should be big enough for you to carry your daily water ration of 3 liters, a lunch box, camera, wet weather clothing and fleece jacket.
External protective cover for rucksack & day sac.

Alternatively you can pack all contents in plastic bags for water-proofing.

Lip salve and sunglasses preferably models with side shields.

Head Torch or normal torch and a set of spare batteries.

Special batteries are not always available locally.

Back up torch and spare batteries.

Strong water bottle(s) to hold 3 liters which you will carry with you daily.

Water treatment tablets / iodine or quality filter.

Water will be boiled for you by our staff and served as tea or coffee.

Spare plastic bags to keep things as dry as possible.

Wash kit plus a small towel.

Basic First Aid kit for personal use including paracetamol and dehydration sachets. A few of your favourite sweets/chewies/dried fruit.

General Terms & Conditions

- The prices stated in this document are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Suitable alternatives will be provided if accommodation and/or activities listed in this document are not available at the time of booking.
- The costs of gorilla permits for Foreign Non-Residents, US \$ 800 per permit and per person, or US \$1,500 per permit and per person for the gorilla habituation experience, and US \$ 250 per chimpanzee permit per person, or US \$ 300 per permit per person for the chimpanzee habituation experience, must be paid together with the 40% tour deposit within 7 days of the tour confirmation.
- According to Uganda Wildlife Authority regulations, the cost for

these permits is nonrefundable.

- The single traveler supplement applies to single travelers in groups with a minimum of 3 pax.
- Language-specific tour guides are available on request and against a surcharge.
- A baggage restriction of 15 kg in soft-sided bags applies to chartered flights within East Africa.
- Meal plan index: BB-Bed & Breakfast, HB-Half Board, FB-Full Board.
- Room index: SDR-Standard Double Room, SC-Self Contained, NSC-Non Self Contained.

Payment Terms & Conditions

Tour deposit: 40% of the tour price within 7 days of written tour confirmation.

Gorilla and chimp permits: 100% of the permit fees are required with the 40% tour deposit.

Full balance: 70 days (10 weeks) before the tour start date.

Reservations within 70 days before the tour start date require immediate full prepayment.

Cancellation fees are applicable within the following day ranges:

30 to 15 days before the safari date: 45% cancellation fee

14 to 05 days before the safari date: 75% cancellation fee

04 to 00 days before the safari date: 100% cancellation fee

Changes Without Notice

This document's prices and permit fees are valid for 2024/25 but may be subject to change without prior notice. This applies explicitly to price changes in hotel/lodge rates, vehicle rental fees, gorilla/chimpanzee permit fees, park/conservation fees, taxes, fuel price/exchange rate fluctuations, and other cost factors beyond our control.

Booking Contact

The Rift Valley Explorer
reservations@theriftvalleyexplorer.com
www.theriftvalleyexplorer.com

Next Pages: Trekking Rwenzori Mountains With RTS



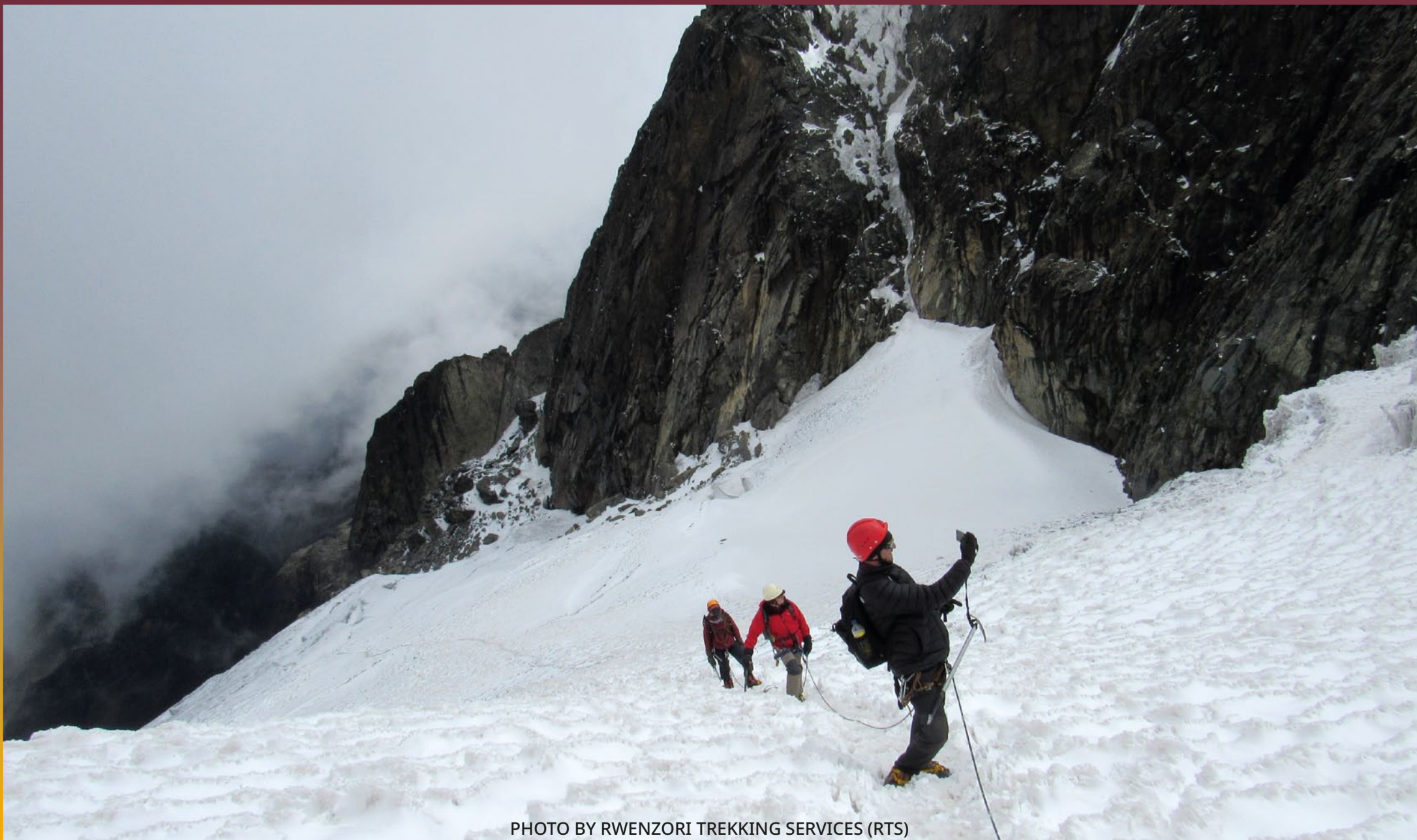


PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)





PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)

 **THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**





PHOTO BY RWENZORI TREKKING SERVICES (RTS)