

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



9 DAYS - THE MOUNT ELGON & SIPI FALLS EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The **Mount Elgon & Sipi Falls Explorer** takes you to Mount Elgon, which is the 4th highest mountain in East Africa and the 8th highest in Africa and is situated in eastern Uganda, straddling the border with Kenya. The Mount Elgon National Park was established in 1992 and covers 1,110 square kilometers of primarily afro-montane forest on its lower elevations. Initially an extinct volcano that first erupted over 20 million years ago, Mt. Elgon rises from the broadest base of any freestanding mountain in the world. It covers over 4,000 square kilometers of surface area, with its peaks forming a jagged volcano caldera, more than 8 kilometers wide. Its tallest peak, Mt. Wagagai, stands at 4,321 m and is located on the Ugandan side of the border. The other significant peaks forming the massive caldera are Kiongo (4,303 m), Mubiyi (4,210 m), Masaba (4,161 meters) and Jackson's Summit (4,160 m).

The first European to explore the mountain was Joseph Tomson, who traveled there from neighboring Kenya in 1883. He named it Mount Elgon, which is basically the English adaptation of a name Maasai tribes in that region had previously given to the mountain. Today, Mount Elgon National Park presents the hiking and climbing enthusiast with an exciting selection of day trekking trails or extended mountain climbing adventures. As the mountain is relatively easy to climb, compared to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya, or the Rwenzori Mountains, visitors only need to be reasonably fit but require no specialized equipment or skills to reach any of the primary peaks surrounding the caldera.

Day 01 - Arrival in Entebbe.

Arrival and transfer to your accommodation.

Day 02 - Entebbe to Mount Elgon National Park.

Scenic drive to Mount Elgon National Park.

Day 03 - Mount Elgon National Park.

Half-day **Hiking Sipi Falls Trail** and cave complex.

Activity Options **Abseiling Sipi Falls**.

Day 04 - Mount Elgon National Park.

Climbing Mount Elgon - Sasa or Piswa trails to reach Wagagai.

Day 05 - Mount Elgon National Park.

Climbing Mount Elgon - Sasa or Piswa trails to reach Wagagai.

Day 06 - Mount Elgon National Park.

Climbing Mount Elgon - Sasa or Piswa trails to reach Wagagai.

Day 07 - Mount Elgon National Park.

Climbing Mount Elgon - Sasa or Piswa trails to reach Wagagai.

Day 08 - Mount Elgon NP to Entebbe.

Return drive to Entebbe.

Day 09 - Departure from Entebbe.

Visit **Entebbe Botanical Gardens** and **Entebbe Crafts Market**.

Airport transfer and departure from Entebbe.

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

Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Mount Elgon NP - **Hiking Sipi Falls Trail**.

Mount Elgon NP - **Climbing Mount Elgon**.

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 @ Karibu Entebbe - FB.
Day 02 - 03	2 nights @ Rafiki River Lodge - FB.
Day 04 - 07	4 nights @ Mountain Tents - FB.
Day 08	1 night @ Karibu Entebbe - 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 wildlife, 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.

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 2,120
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 1,895
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 1,782
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 1,715
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 1,670

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

Other hotel/lodge options are listed in the **Detailed Safari Program** below in this document. Please ask our reservations staff for addi-

tional 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.

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 Entebbe

The Boma Hotel

2 Friends Beach Hotel

Airport Guesthouse

Karibu Entebbe

5 Star Lodge Options Entebbe

Lake Victoria Serena Hotel

Hotel No. 5

❑ Day 02 - Entebbe to Mount Elgon National Park.

Your safari starts with a scenic drive to the Mount Elgon National Park in eastern Uganda. Mount Elgon is the 4th highest mountain in East Africa and the 8th highest in Africa and is situated in eastern Uganda, straddling the border with Kenya. The Mount Elgon National Park was established in 1992 and covers 1,110 square kilometers of primarily afro-montane forest on its lower elevations. Initially an extinct volcano that first erupted over 20 million years ago, Mt. Elgon rises from the broadest base of any freestanding mountain in the world. It covers over 4,000 square kilometers of surface area, with its peaks forming a jagged volcano caldera, more than 8 kilometers wide. Its tallest peak, Mt. Wagagai, stands at 4,321 m and is located on the Ugandan side of the border. The other significant peaks forming the massive caldera are Kiongo (4,303 m), Mubiya (4,210 m), Masaba (4,161 meters) and Jackson's Summit (4,160 m).

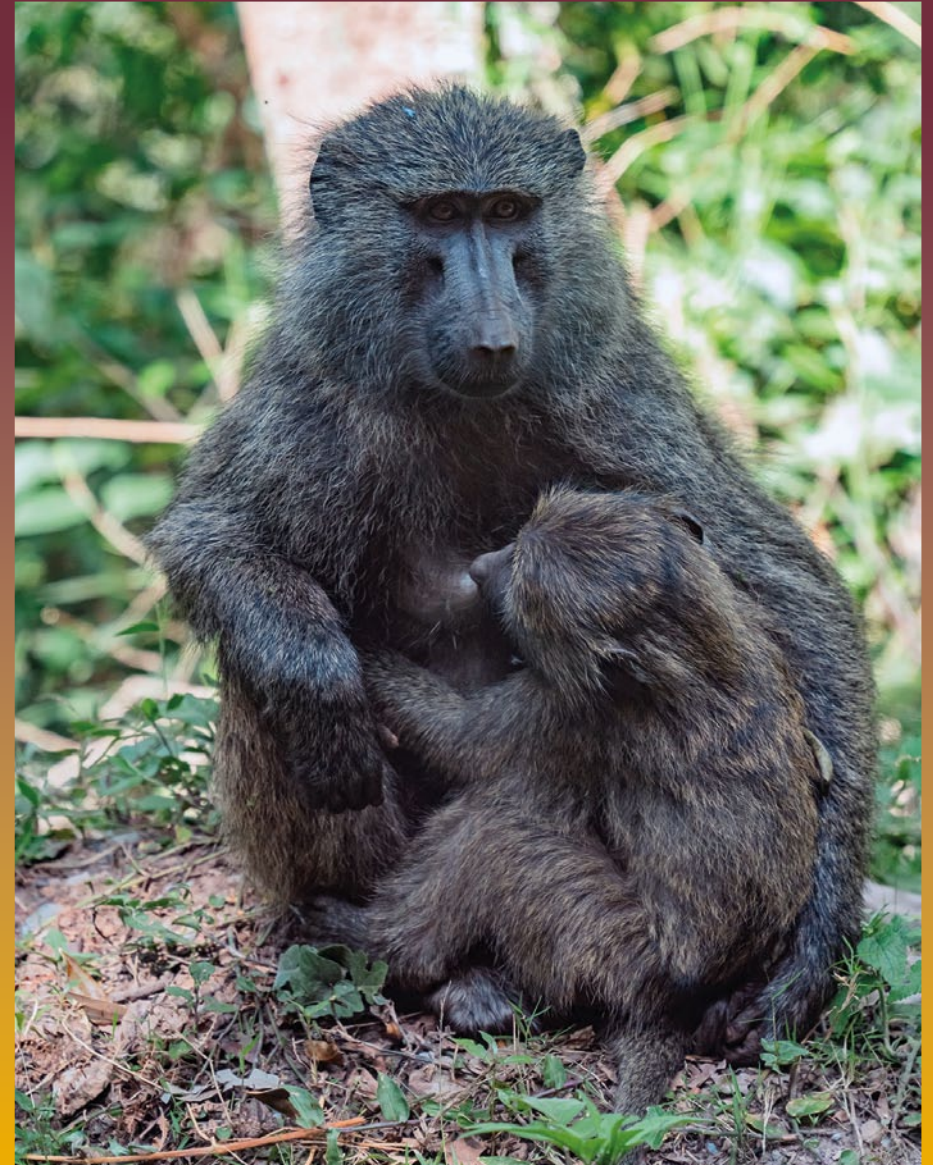


The first European to explore the mountain was Joseph Tomson, who traveled there from neighboring Kenya in 1883. He named it Mount Elgon, which is basically the English adaptation of a name Maasai tribes in that region had previously given to the mountain. Today, Mount Elgon National Park presents the hiking and climbing enthusiast with an exciting selection of day trekking trails or extended mountain climbing adventures. As the mountain is relatively easy to climb, compared to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya, or the Rwenzori Mountains, visitors only need to be reasonably fit but require no specialized equipment or skills to reach any of the primary peaks surrounding the caldera.

Climbing adventures on Mount Elgon utilizing any of its main trails, starting from their respective trailheads of Budadiri, Kapkwata, or Kapkwai, can be arranged at the Mount Elgon Tourist office in Mbale. Of the main hiking trails, the most popular 3 to 6-day venture taking climbers to the Wagagai peak are the 'Sasa Trail' out of Budadiri and the 'Piswa Trail' out of Kapkwata. It is, however, recommended that you hire porters who are available on location to carry equipment, food, and cooking utensils.

Half or full-day hiking adventures ranging from 5 to 10 km allow you to visit breathtaking waterfalls and hot springs, explore ancient caves, and trek through dense montane forests and mountain gorges. Situated just a few kilometers from the Forest Exploration Centre are the majestic Sipi Falls, which rise on the higher elevations of the mountain as the Sipi River and cascade down the lower elevations over four more minor falls before dropping over a cliff for 100 meters at an elevation of 1,775 meters.

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



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SAFARI MAP OF UGANDA

- 01 Mount Elgon National Park
Area: 1,145 sqkm • Habitat: Montane
- 02 Kidepo Valley National Park
Area: 1,442 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah
- 03 Murchison Falls National Park
Area: 3,900 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah
- 04 Semuliki National Park
Area: 220 sqkm • Habitat: Forest
- 05 Rwenzori Mountains National Park
Area: 996 sqkm • Habitat: Montane
- 06 Kibale National Park
Area: 766 sqkm • Habitat: Forest
- 07 Queen Elizabeth National Park
Area: 1,978 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah
- 08 Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
Area: 310 sqkm • Habitat: Forest
- 09 Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
Area: 33 sqkm • Habitat: Montane
- 10 Lake Mburo National Park
Area: 256 sqkm • Habitat: Savannah



Activity Option - Climbing Mount Elgon - US \$ 400 Per Person

Climbing adventures on Mount Elgon utilizing any of its main trails, starting from their respective trailheads of Budadiri, Kapkwata, or Kapkwai, can be arranged at the Mount Elgon Tourist office in Mbale. Of the main hiking trails, the most popular 3 to 6-day venture taking climbers to the Wagagai peak are the 'Sasa Trail' out of Budadiri and the 'Piswa Trail' out of Kapkwata. A hiking permit costs USD 50 per person per day; add to that rented tents, 1 or 2 porters for equipment and cooking, and your average cost for climbing is about USD 100 per person/day.

Activity Option - Hiking Sipi Falls Trail - US \$ 50 Per Person

The alternative is a half-day hiking trip to the Sipi Falls and the nearby Tatum cave complex, a few kilometers from the Forest Exploration Centre. The majestic Sipi Falls rise on the mountain's higher elevations as the Sipi River and cascade down the lower elevations over four more minor falls before dropping over a cliff for 100 meters at an elevation of 1,775 meters.

Activity Option - Abseiling Sipi Falls - US \$ 50 Per Person

You have the additional opportunity to abseil down the cliff next to the Sipi Falls. Instructors with safety gear and equipment are at hand to guide you through the adventure, which allows for amazing close-up views of the Sipi Falls while you descend over 100 meters to the bottom of the cliff.

4 Star Lodge Options

Sipi River Lodge

Rafiki River Lodge

Lacam Lodge

☐ Day 03 - Mount Elgon National Park.

Today, you will go on the *Hiking Sipi Falls Trail* to see the famous falls and nearby Tatum cave complex. The majestic Sipi Falls rise on the mountain's higher elevations as the Sipi River and cascade down the lower elevations over four more minor falls before dropping over a cliff for 100 meters at an elevation of 1,775 meters. Please see the

Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Sipi River Lodge

Rafiki Lodge Sipi

Lacam Lodge

☐ Day 04 - Mount Elgon National Park.

Today, you will go on the *Climbing Mount Elgon* adventure based on the understanding that climbing the highest peak, Wagagai, requires approximately 4 days, depending on the trail chosen for the summit climb, excursions to attractions along the climbing route, such as the caves, hot springs, waterfalls, the crater floor itself, and attempts to climb some of the other summits around the volcanoes extensive caldera:

Sasa Trail: This trail is accessible from Mbale and is the most direct route to any of the main peaks around the caldera. On its way, it passes through the park's largest permanent bamboo forest. Although this is the shortest and most direct trail, it is also a steep and demanding climb of over 1,600 meters on the first day. If you plan to include any additional excursions along the trail during this climbing adventure, a minimum of four days will be required.

Piswa Trail: This trail starts at Kapkwata and is another popular trail from the Ugandan side of the mountain. It is longer and less steep than the Sasa Trail, with a more gentle climb of only about 600 meters on the first day. If you plan to include any additional excursions along the trail during this climbing adventure, a minimum of six days will be required.

Sipi Trail: This comparatively new trail starts from the Sipi Falls area and includes visiting the spectacular Tatum Cave. It also offers additional excursions to Chebonet Falls. If you plan to include any additional excursions along the trail during this climbing adventure, a minimum of seven days will be required.





Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

Mountain Accommodation **Rented Tents**

□ Day 05 - Mount Elgon National Park.

This specific **Climbing Mount Elgon** adventure is based on utilizing the Sasa Trail to reach the tallest peak, Wagagai, at 4,321 meters, with minimum excursions along the route to keep the climbing effort to 4 days. Other climbing options and trails to utilize are listed above. **Please see the Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

Mountain Accommodation **Rented Tents**

□ Day 06 - Mount Elgon National Park.

This specific **Climbing Mount Elgon** adventure is based on utilizing the Sasa Trail to reach the tallest peak, Wagagai, at 4,321 meters, with minimum excursions along the route to keep the climbing effort to 4 days. Other climbing options and trails to utilize are listed above. **Please see the Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

Mountain Accommodation **Rented Tents**

□ Day 07 - Mount Elgon National Park.

This specific **Climbing Mount Elgon** adventure is based on utilizing the Sasa Trail to reach the tallest peak, Wagagai, at 4,321 meters, with minimum excursions along the route to keep the climbing effort to 4 days. Other climbing options and trails to utilize are listed above. Today, with your mission of climbing the tallest peak completed, you return to your chosen lodge at the base of the mountain. **Please see the Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options **Sipi River Lodge** **Rafiki River Lodge** **Lacam Lodge**

□ Day 08 - Mount Elgon NP to Entebbe.

It is time to say farewell to the mountain and the majestic falls of Mount Elgon National Park and enjoy a scenic drive back to Entebbe.

4 Star Lodge Options Entebbe **The Boma Hotel** **2 Friends Beach Hotel** **Airport Guesthouse** **Karibu Entebbe**

5 Star Lodge Options Entebbe **Lake Victoria Serena Hotel** **Hotel No. 5**

□ Day 09 - Departure from Entebbe.

Today, you will also 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.

Our comprehensive approach to customized cross-border tour developments means you can enjoy the very best 'Bucket List' experiences





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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

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, government 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