

## **Information on COVID19 Protocols for Travel to Uganda**

### **1. Protocol for COVID19 at Entebbe Airport**

#### **Arriving passengers**

- All arriving passengers from countries that require a visa to enter Uganda must have applied for a visa and obtained a visa approval letter before departure to Uganda. Applications should be made on this link <https://visas.immigration.go.ug/>
- All arriving passengers (including fully vaccinated passengers) are required to present a valid negative PCR test certificate issued within 72 from the time of sample collection to boarding the aircraft leaving the country of origin.
- Effective 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2021, all travelers (including fully vaccinated passengers and children) must take a PCR Covid test on arrival at Entebbe International Airport. Before travel, visit this link and fill in the Passenger Locator Form [https://testandfly.co.ug/place\\_order.php?d=general](https://testandfly.co.ug/place_order.php?d=general) (click on Tourism order). On arrival at the airport present this form to the Uganda Tourism Board help desk in the arrival lounge just before exiting the terminal. The help desk will locate your Volcanoes Safaris driver who will transport you from the testing facility. If you have accommodation booked in Entebbe, you may leave the testing facility and wait for your results from one of the designated hotels in Entebbe. Tests done through the UTB help desk are at a discounted price of \$55. Payment can be made in US\$ cash or by credit card, results are expected in 2 to 4 hours.
- If a passenger tests positive for Covid they will be taken to the Covid treatment center, or will be repatriated for treatment in another facility outside Uganda at their own cost in accordance with Entebbe International Airports' Covid medical evacuation.

The Ministry of Health will observe countries showing a rapid increase in number of cases every 7 days and will advise on any further restrictions.

#### **Departing passengers**

- All departing passengers (including vaccinated passengers) are required to present a valid negative PCR test result taken within 72 hours prior to departure from Entebbe International Airport. All Covid19 PCR test certificates for departing passengers MUST indicate TRAVEL as the intended purpose of the test.
- The departure test costs USD 150. The departure test is taken at a laboratory in Entebbe, approximately 20 to 30 minutes' drive from the airport. The testing centre is open between 6am to 10pm.
- Please allow sufficient time for the test to be completed and results confirmed before your departure flight. We recommend an overnight stay in Entebbe for all departing travelers from Uganda. We advise that clients allow 24 hours from the time of the test to when the results are confirmed and received to allow for any unexpected delays.
- Covid results are shared on email or WhatsApp with passengers.

- If a traveler tests positive for Covid he/she is taken to the Covid treatment center, or is repatriated for treatment in another treatment facility outside Uganda at their own cost in accordance with Entebbe International Airports' Covid medical evacuation protocol.
- There is currently no exemption for fully vaccinated travelers from the covid departure test. A PCR test is required as outlined above.
- All passengers need to arrive at the airport 4 hours before departure.
- Some countries in Europe require an Antigen test done 4 hours before departure. The cost is USD 50 and results are issued 30 minutes to 1 hour from the time of testing. Check with your airline the requirements of your next destination.

## **2. Protocol for COVID19 at Volcanoes Safaris Lodges**

The wellbeing of our guests, staff, and communities is of paramount importance. We have introduced health and safety standards on cleaning and sanitising, social distancing and food to deal with Coronavirus, including the following:

- Rooms are deep cleaned before and after any guests' stay at the lodge. Public areas and commonly used surfaces are regularly cleaned and sanitized. Please sanitize and wash your hands regularly.
- We have reorganised the public areas so guests and staff can follow social distancing rules of 2 meters. Please ensure you help us to maintain these rules at all times.
- During meals, food and drinks will be placed on a service table to be collected and returned by guests. Drinks service in the lounge is provided at the bar only.
- Only food and drinks purchased on site are allowed to be consumed at the lodge.
- Please enter your personal details in our registration book in case required by the government for contact tracing. Please sign the cover letter confirming you have read and understood the protocols.
- Volcanoes Safaris reserves the right to close the lodge or cancel a booking at any time, if considered necessary for reasons of health and safety or if required by government. These procedures may be updated without notice as we understand more about COVID19.
- If you are showing symptoms or test positive for COVID19, or have been in contact with anyone suspected to have had COVID19 or shows symptoms of COVID19, within 14 days of your arrival date at the lodge, please do not travel to the lodge and inform your VS sales consultant.

## **3. Protocols for Primate Tracking**

Clients/agents should be aware that COVID19 not only poses risks for human beings but also for great apes given the close genetic relationship between them. Gorilla and chimpanzee tracking has resumed and it's essential that clients who go tracking play their part in safeguarding the health of the great apes.

- Please ensure you are familiar with IUCN [Best Practice Guidelines](#) for great ape tourism.
- Please follow all current rules and protocols for gorilla and chimpanzee tracking, including any COVID19 testing requirements, hand washing and sanitising, maintaining a 10 metre distance from gorillas and from the rangers, wearing masks and gloves, not sneezing or coughing in the presence of gorillas.
- Please do not go tracking if you are not feeling well and report any symptoms to your guide and seek medical advice.
- Please speak to the duty manager at the lodge if you have any questions or concerns about these procedures.

## **4. Uganda Gorilla and Chimp Tracking Guidelines from Uganda Wildlife Authority:**

- At the briefing points, visitors and staff shall wash hands or sanitise and have their body temperature taken.

- Briefing and debriefing shall be done in small groups of eight (08) tourists after they have been assigned gorilla families for tracking.
- Tourists, staff, and porters who, during the briefing, are observed to be sick shall not be allowed to track. These include anyone with signs of flu, and those who report to have diarrhoea, stomach upsets and malaria among others.
- All the visitors, staff and trackers must wear masks.
- A maximum of eight (8) tourists shall be allowed to track a gorilla group per day.
- A maximum of six (6) tourists shall be allowed to track a chimpanzee group at a time.
- The tourists must keep a distance of not less than 10 metres away from the gorillas and chimpanzees during this period.
- The assigned UWA guides shall ensure there is social distancing of 2 meters among the tourists while tracking, where practical.
- Before the gorilla and chimpanzee viewing commences, all people in the group shall sanitise their hands again.
- The tourists shall carry light equipment to minimise the need for porters while they undertake the tracking. This information shall be communicated to potential tourists through the tour operators and other UWA communication platforms such as the UWA website and social media platforms.
- Due to the reported side effects of wearing masks for long periods and in high altitudes, visitors shall take frequent breaks during the tracking give themselves time to breathe fresh air.
- During these breaks, social distancing shall be strictly observed.
- In case a tourist or accompanying members of the team experiences a health-related problem, UWA staff shall apply the established evacuation and first aid guidelines to move the affected individual from the field.

### **General rules for Uganda protected area/national parks from Uganda Wildlife Authority**

- Mandatory temperature screening using non-contact infra-red thermometers at the key tourism gates of the different protected areas.
- Mandatory hand washing / sanitizing at the entrances of all UWA premises and protected areas.
- Wearing a face mask while inside the protected area.
- Observing social distance.
- All tourists going for primate tracking activities should carry at least two N95 masks or surgical masks or double layered cloth masks with filters.
- Government guidelines of carrying half capacity in order observe social distance shall apply to the use of vehicles and boats in the parks. These include concessionaire delivery vehicles.
- Saloon car vehicles shall not be permitted to carry out game drives activities in the protected areas.
- Visitors going to the parks are encouraged to carry their own hand sanitizer.

### **Volcanoes Safaris 31 Aug 2021**