

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

### **1. Protocol for Covid-19 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 hours from the time of sample collection to boarding the aircraft leaving the country of origin.
- Effective 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021, all passengers (including fully vaccinated passengers and children above 6 years) must take a PCR Covid test on arrival at Entebbe International Airport. Pre-register for the arrival test on this link <https://arrivals.healthdesk.go.ug/home/>
- Arriving passengers will pay USD 30 or the equivalent in Uganda Shillings for the Covid-19 PCR test. The Payments may be done online via <https://covidpay.postbank.co.ug/> or on arrival using Point Of Sales machines, mobile money or cash.
- Test results will be shared with passengers by text or WhatsApp. Results are expected within 2 and a half hours from the time of testing. Passengers can proceed to their destinations, the results will be sent to them.
- If a passenger tests positive for Covid-19 on arrival they will be transferred to either a public or private treatment facility, where they will be managed for 7 days and then discharged after a negative PCR test.
- The treatment for passengers in public hospitals is free of charge. The treatment for passengers in private hospitals is at their own cost.
- If a passenger tests positive for Covid-19 on arrival and is asymptomatic, they may be transferred to a designated hotel rather than a hospital, at the decision of the port authorities.

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 Covid-19 PCR test certificates for departing passengers MUST indicate TRAVEL as the intended purpose of the test.
- Covid results are shared on email or WhatsApp with passengers.
- All passengers need to arrive at the airport 4 hours before departure.
- If a traveller 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 travellers from the covid departure test. A PCR test is required as outlined above.
- 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.
- For departure tests taken at **Entebbe**:
  - 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.
- For departure tests taken at **Volcanoes Safaris Lodges**:
  - The cost of the test taken at the lodge starts from \$410 for one person. An additional \$60 is charged for every extra person in a group being tested.
  - Please allow sufficient time for the test to be completed and results confirmed before your departure flight.
  - 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. Test results are shared by email.
  - The test must be booked and paid prior to your arrival at the lodge to ensure arrangements are in place to take the test at the correct day and time.

## 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- If you are showing symptoms or test positive for Covid-19, or have been in contact with anyone suspected to have had Covid-19 or shows symptoms of Covid-19, 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

Guests/agents should be aware that Covid-19 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 Covid-19 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 to 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 12th November 2021**