

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 are required to show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination, except for passengers aged 5 years and below.
- Fully vaccinated passengers do not need to test for Covid-19 before traveling to Uganda, unless it's a requirement of the carrier airline.
- Passengers with partial or no vaccination will be required to present a negative PRC done within 72 hours of travel.
- All arriving passengers will be screened for Covid-19 symptoms by Airport health workers.

Departing passengers

- All departing passengers who are fully vaccinated don't need to test for Covid-19 before departure from Entebbe International Airport unless it's a requirement of the destination country or the carrier airline.
- Passengers with partial or no vaccination will be required to present a negative result of a PRC test done within 72 hours of travel.
- Passengers aged 5 years and below are exempt from presenting proof of full vaccination or a negative PRC test result.
- All passengers need to arrive at the airport 4 hours before departure.
- Some countries require an Antigen test 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.

Testing information

This is applicable to non-vaccinated or partially vaccinated passengers.

- 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 travellers 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.
- For departure tests taken at **Volcanoes Safaris Lodges**:

- Bwindi Lodge - \$55 per person tested at the lodge by Bwindi Community Hospital.
- Gahinga Lodge - \$255 for one person. An additional \$55 is charged for every extra person in a group being tested.
- Kyambura Gorge Lodge - \$300 for one person. An additional \$55 is charged for every extra person in a group 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.
- Testing at Kyambura Gorge Lodge and Gahinga Lodge must be booked and paid for 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 28th April 2022