



12th -21st February 2024

To the mountains of the moon, Africa's 3rd highest point, Margherita Peak, Rwenzori, climb Africa's most beautiful glaciers and almost untouched rain forest. Below is a brief description of the trek and itinerary.

Day 1: Leave Nairobi for Entebbe (for those driving leave the night before to arrive in Kampala in the morning and proceed to Kasese)

Drive from Kampala in the morning and proceed to the western part of the country by using Mityana-Fortportal Kasese road which is 372km drive that takes 6-7 hour drive to Kasese. On reaching Fortportal, we will stop for a lunch and then proceed to Kasese and to our hotel for an overnight.



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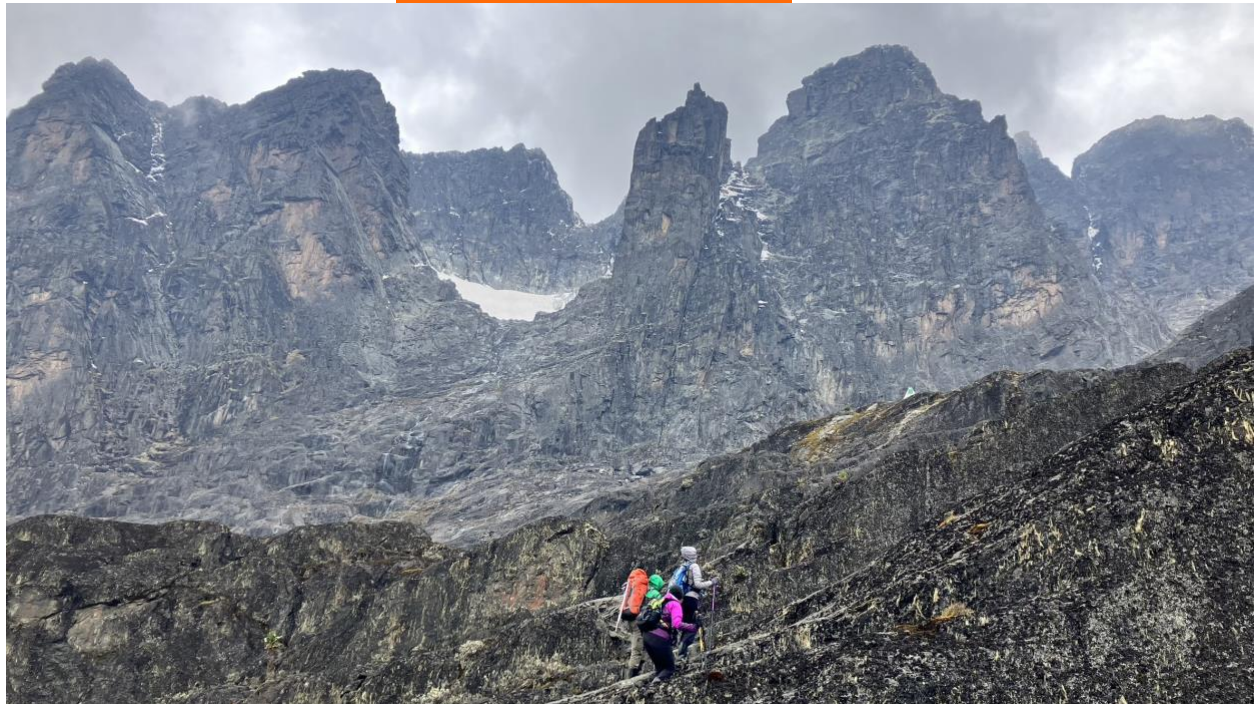


Day 2: Nyakalengija to Nyabitaba Hut, 2.652 m.

In the morning after breakfast, we will be picked by our local contacts and then head to the Rwenzori Mountains National Park Head Quarter at Nyakalengija, 1.646 m. At this point we receive briefing from our local guide or the tourism officer. The hike starts through the plantations and homes of the Bakonzo, the people of the mountain, gradually reaching garden plots and elephants grass and then join the forest zone. We follow the Mubuku river, until crossing the Mahoma river. The trail passes through an open bracken fern slopes and a beautiful Forest canopy, up to Nyabitaba Hut, 2.652 m. which is the arrival point for the day. From the location, we are facing on the North the Portal Peaks 4.627m, in front Mount Kinyangoma. During the day, we might see monkeys, the Rwenzori Turaco, three horned chameleons which is endemic in the Rwenzoris, common bulbul birds, yellow eyed tinkle birds, wood pecker, mountain elephants and hearing the voices of the chimpanzee, Kasese town. This hike takes between 5-6 hours.

Day 3: Nyabitaba Hut to John Matte Hut, 3.414 m.

From Nyabitaba Hut we cross the Kurt Shaffer Bridge, through a muddy area. Then the trail climbs up through the bamboo forest. During this day, it takes we to the forest zone up to Kurt Shaffer bridge and then we start the bamboo/memolopsis zone up to Nyamuleju camp which is the old hut before John Maate camp. This point marks the start of the heather zone where we will see the Ericaceous trees, everlasting floours, giant lobelia and groundsel and its at this point where we can see red duikers, rock hyrax and white Columbus monkeys. The way proceeds through a bog full of typical plants along the Bujuku river. The final point is John Matte Hut, 3.414 m. for spending the night. From Nyabitaba Hut to John Matte it can take approximately 6-7 hours. Enjoy the view of Mount Stanley and snow-capped Margherita and Elena Peaks if the weather is clear.



Day 4: From John Matte Hut to Bujuku Hut, 3.962 m.

From John Matte Hut we cross the Bujuku River and enter the loour Bigo bog, a grassy bog where we experience how to jump from tussock to tussock. Currently, there is a constructed walk board on both loour and upper bigo bogs that make a clear view of the mountain sceneries. And this is the point where we start the alpine savannah zone of little vegetation. During this day we will be able to see the beautiful gardens of giant lobelia, asanasio black berries, wild carrots, Alcamilla, lake Bujuku, sun birds, red duikers, rock hyrax and more.

Depending on the weather, we may be able to view the peaks of Mount Stanley, Mount Baker and Mount Speke. We finally arrive at Bujuku Hut, 3.962 m. From Bujuku, here starts the diversion for whom intends to climb Mount Speke. For those climbing Margherita and Alexandra peaks it is advised to proceed to Elena Hut for overnight. This day hike takes between 4-5 hours.

Day 5: Bujuku Hut – Elena Hut (4541m)

From Bujuku, the trail takes we through more bog, while climbing the steep slopes west of the lake and through the magical Groundsel Gully as it ascends to Scott-Elliot Pass at 4372m. At the head of the gully a metal ladder takes we over a steep section after which the trail is divided into two. The trail on our right leads up to Elena Hut and Mount Stanley on a steep trail over large boulders, while the trail on our left leads to Scott-Elliot Pass and down to Kitandara Lakes. During this day, we be able to see Mount Speke glacier on Victoria Emmanuel, Margerita peak on Mount Stanly and the nice view of Lake Bujuku, amazing rock path and so many others. Finally we will reach for an overnight at the Coolly & Icy Elena



Hut. This day hike takes between 4-5 hours.

Day 6: Elena Hut – Margherita peak (5109m)

For those aiming at reaching Margherita peak (5109m), continue to the base of the Stanley Glacier. To reach the summit of Margherita, the climb takes about 5-7 hours depending on the weather conditions and the pace of climbing this mountain. This tough walk takes us over three glaciers, slippery rock, ice and very exposed areas which are open on many sides. Note that this climb is for only physically fit and technical climbers. Climbing on to the glaciers, cross the Stanley Plateau and proceed with the ascent. Acclimatized to fog, altitude sickness and coolly weather, scramble up to the summit of Margherita the highest peak of the Rwenzoris. Given the high altitude and the tough conditions even if we do not reach the peak, don't get disappointed.

Reaching back to Elena hut, prepare for sloping down to Kitandara hut through Scott-Elliot pass, where there are spectacular views back to Bujuku Lake and Mount Speke, up to Mount Stanley and down to the Kitandara Lakes. After the trail that passes we through an alpine zone of sparse vegetation with beautiful gardens of flowering Asanasios, giant lobelias, and rough boulders, descend to the twins Lakes of Kitandara where we will enjoy the shores of Kitandara Lake which is worthy beach life and overnight at the Kitandara Hut. This also takes us to 2-3 hours but ascending down throughout the hut. However, based on the time reached at Elena hut after margarita, we talk with our guide to have another night at Elena hut which will lead to an extra day.



Margherita Glacier



Day 7: Kitandara Hut to Guy Yeoman Hut, 3.261 m.

From Kitandara, take on the trail that ascends steeply up the headwall, spreading out from the base of Mount Baker and continuing along the south side of the mountain to Fresh field Pass 4.282 m. At this point we can view into the Congo to the west and Mount Stanley to the north. From the pass, take on the long trail passing through boggy and slippery rocks that leads us to Bujongolo rock shelter the base



camp for the historic expedition by the Duke of Abruzzi in 1906. The hut is surrounded by a beautiful landscape of mountains, vegetations dominated by the giant lobelias and rivers. Overnight at Guy yeoman and this takes 5-6 hours.

Day 8: Guy Yeoman Hut back to Nyabitaba Hut, 2652 m.

On this day we complete the central circuit by going back to Nyabitaba Hut. The trail is attractive along the valley of the Mubuku and Kichuchu rivers, rich in plants and floours of the heather zone before reaching the bamboo forest. Time to reach Nyabitaba is about 4- 5 hours. Then to descend directly to Nyakalengija, adding 2-3 more hours where our transfer vehicle to Kasese town for an overnight stay will be waiting.

Day 9: Kasese – Kampala

In the morning, take breakfast and drive to Kampala either through Kasese-Fortportal road (372km) or Mbarara-Masaka road (422km) to reach Kampala /Entebbe for a flight/bus ride back home.

Cost;

Kenya Citizen USD. 1250/-, EA Residents USD 1550.00 Non-Residents USD.1750

Any extra Peak: USD.200.00 per Peak

Included:

- Transfers from Kampala to Kasese to Park Gate and back to Kampala
- Park Entry fee
- Guide, cook, and Porters Fee
- Accommodation in mountain huts
- Three meals a day while on the mountain
- Hotel accommodation 2 nights in Kasese (Bed and Breakfast)

Excluded;

- Training cost and purchase of mountain gear
- Flight to Entebbe or Bus fare
- Mandatory Amref Emergency rescue Cover (KES. 5500/-)



- Other Items not mentioned above.

Reservations

Book your space by sending a non-refundable booking fee of USD.500.00 through Pesapal (request for a payment link) or bank transfer **A/C no .3756860027 (USD) Kenyatta Avenue branch** by 15th January 2024 and the balance by 8th February 2024.

Cancellation Policy

- If we cancel more than 48 hours before your scheduled trip departure, 50% of the fee will be charged.
- If we cancel within 48 hours of your scheduled trip departure, no refund fees will be provided.
- No shows are responsible for 100% of trip fees.

For more information, please contact us at hike@hikemaniak.co.ke tel. +254721 51 00 57 on call or WhatsApp.