



East Africa Safari Tours Inc.,

788 N 2150 W Circle, Cedar City, UT 84721, USA

Email Address: info@eastaficasafaritours.com

Tel. No.: +250783337094

Mobile No.: +250788969263



4-Day Nyiragongo Volcano, Gorilla Trekking & Lake Kivu Adventure

This **4-day tour** is the perfect combination of **wildlife, adventure, and relaxation**, featuring **gorilla trekking in Virunga National Park**, a **hike to the Nyiragongo Volcano summit**, and a **relaxing stay at Lake Kivu**.

Location: Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) & Lake Kivu (Rwanda/DRC)

Difficulty Level: Moderate to Challenging

Success Rate: ~90%

Accommodation: Luxury Lodge at Lake Kivu & Mountain Shelters

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Goma & Check-In at Lake Kivu Lodge

- **Morning:** Arrive in **Goma, DRC** via:
 - **Kigali International Airport** (Rwanda) → 3-hour drive to Goma via Gisenyi border crossing.
 - **Goma International Airport** (if arriving directly in DRC).
- **Border Crossing:** Obtain your **DRC visa** (if not pre-arranged).
- **Midday:** Transfer to **Lake Kivu**, a beautiful freshwater lake on the border of **Rwanda & DRC**.
- **Afternoon:** Check into your **luxury lodge** at **Lake Kivu**, and enjoy a **boat cruise, kayaking, or swimming**.
- **Evening:** Sunset dinner with views of the lake.

Accommodation Options:

- **Luxury:** Lake Kivu Serena Hotel

- **Mid-Range:** Paradise Malahide 🌴
 - **Budget:** La Joie Plaza Hotel
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Day 2: Gorilla Trekking in Virunga National Park

6:00 AM: Early breakfast & transfer to **Bukima Patrol Post** in **Virunga National Park**.

- **7:30 AM: Briefing & gorilla trekking orientation** with expert guides & armed rangers.
- **Trekking Duration: 1 to 4 hours** (depending on gorilla family location).
- **Time with Gorillas:** Spend **1 magical hour** observing a **mountain gorilla family**.
- **Midday:** Return to Bukima for **lunch & relaxation**.
- **Afternoon:** Transfer back to Goma or Lake Kivu for a **leisurely evening**.
- **Evening:** Enjoy **lakeside dinner** and prepare for the next day's adventure.

Accommodation Options:

- **Luxury:** Lake Kivu Serena Hotel
 - **Budget:** La Joie Plaza Hotel
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Day 3: Nyiragongo Volcano Hike & Overnight at Crater Rim

6:30 AM: Breakfast & transfer to **Kibati Ranger Post** (starting point for Nyiragongo hike).

- **8:00 AM: Pre-hike briefing** with guides & porters.
- **8:30 AM:** Start the **Nyiragongo Volcano trek** with rest stops every **1-2 hours**.
- **Trekking Duration: 5-6 hours** through forests, lava fields, and steep slopes.
- **Mid-afternoon:** Reach the **Nyiragongo crater summit (3,470m)**.
- **Evening:** Watch the **world's largest lava lake glow at night** – a truly surreal experience.
- **Overnight stay in summit shelters** under the **stars & volcanic glow**.

Accommodation: Basic Summit Shelters (Simple Cabins)

Day 4: Descend Nyiragongo & Relax at Lake Kivu

- **6:00 AM:** Enjoy a spectacular sunrise at the summit.
- **7:30 AM:** Start the **descent back to Kibati Ranger Post** (~4 hours).
- **Midday:** Arrive at **Kibati & transfer to Goma/Lake Kivu**.
- **Afternoon: Relax at Lake Kivu** – options include:
 - ✓ **Swimming, kayaking, or boat rides**

- ✓ Exploring coffee plantations
- ✓ Visiting local fishing villages
- **Evening:** Enjoy your **last lakeside dinner** before departure.

Accommodation Options (Optional for Extra Night):

- **Luxury:** Lake Kivu Serena Hotel
- **Budget:** La Joie Plaza Hotel

Departure Options:

- **Transfer to Kigali International Airport** (Rwanda – 3-hour drive).
 - **Fly out from Goma International Airport.**
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Tour Inclusions

- ✓ Gorilla trekking permit (\$450–\$600)
- ✓ Nyiragongo hiking permit (\$300)
- ✓ Luxury Lake Kivu lodge accommodation
- ✓ Summit shelter at Nyiragongo crater
- ✓ Park entry fees for Virunga National Park
- ✓ Professional trekking guides & armed rangers
- ✓ Roundtrip transportation from Goma/Gisenyi
- ✓ Packed meals & bottled water during treks

Tour Exclusions

- ✗ Congo Visa (\$105 – can be arranged separately)
 - ✗ Porter fees (\$25 per day, optional)
 - ✗ Sleeping bag rental (\$10, optional)
 - ✗ Personal expenses & tips
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Best Time to Visit

- ✓ **June–September & December–February (Dry Season):** Best for hiking & gorilla trekking.
 - ☁ **March–May & October–November (Wet Season):** Fewer crowds, but trails can be muddy.
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Packing List

Essentials:

- ✓ Waterproof hiking boots

- ✓ Warm clothes (temperatures drop below freezing at Nyiragongo summit)
 - ✓ Rain jacket & gloves
 - ✓ High-energy snacks & water
 - ✓ Headlamp (for night views of the lava lake)
 - ✓ Camera with extra batteries
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Why Choose This Adventure?

The Ultimate African Experience – gorilla trekking, an active volcano, & a scenic lake retreat.

🔥 **Watch the world's largest lava lake glow at night** from the summit.

🦍 **Encounter endangered mountain gorillas up close** in their natural habitat.

🌊 **Relax at the pristine Lake Kivu** after an exciting adventure.