

# TOURISM IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Overview

Leading Sub-sectors

Opportunities

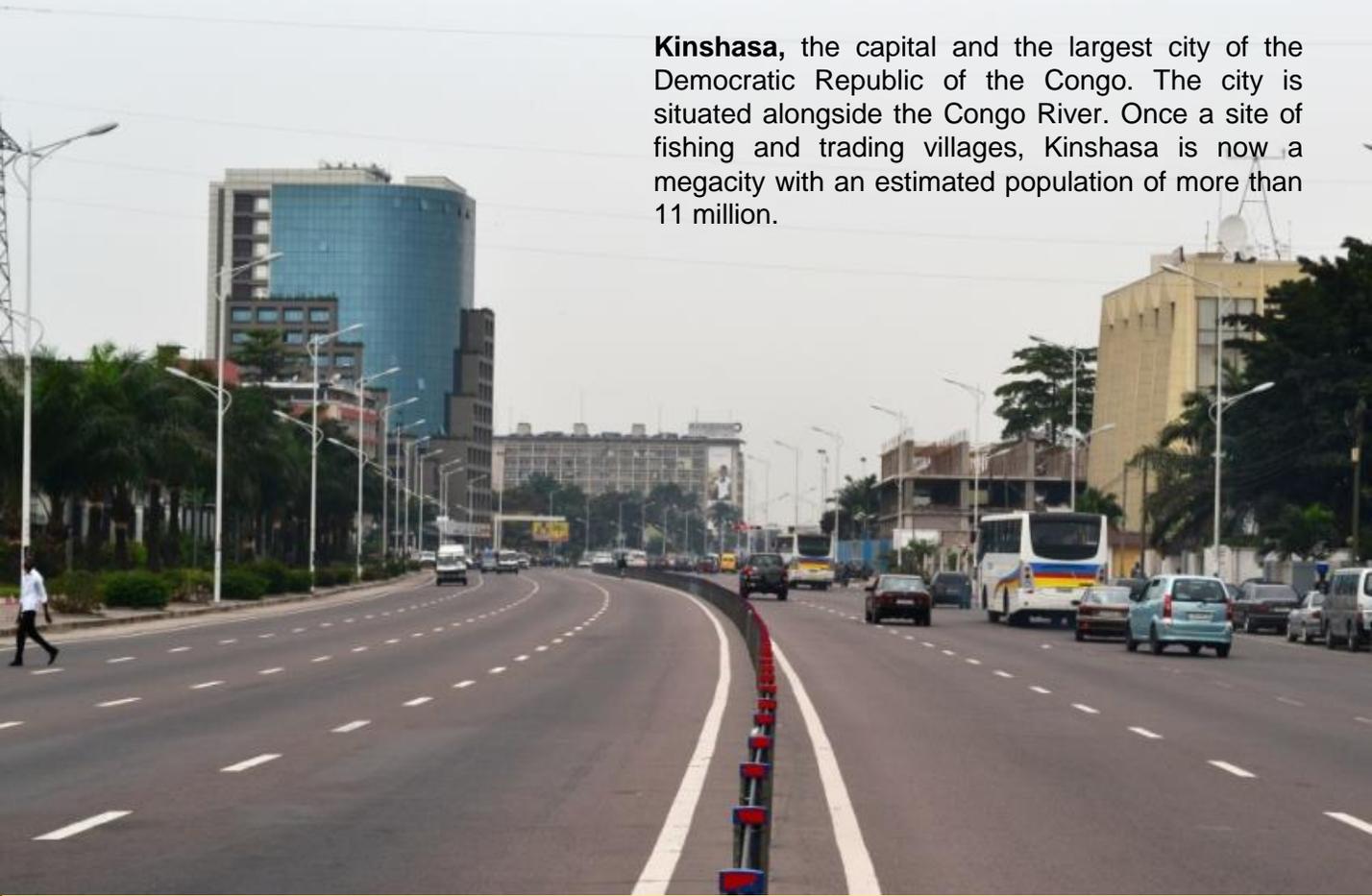
a beautiful Country,  
in the Heart of  
Africa



Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
B-3/61 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 10029, India Tel.+91 11 4166 0976  
Website: [www.ambardc-india.com](http://www.ambardc-india.com)

 DRC in INDIA

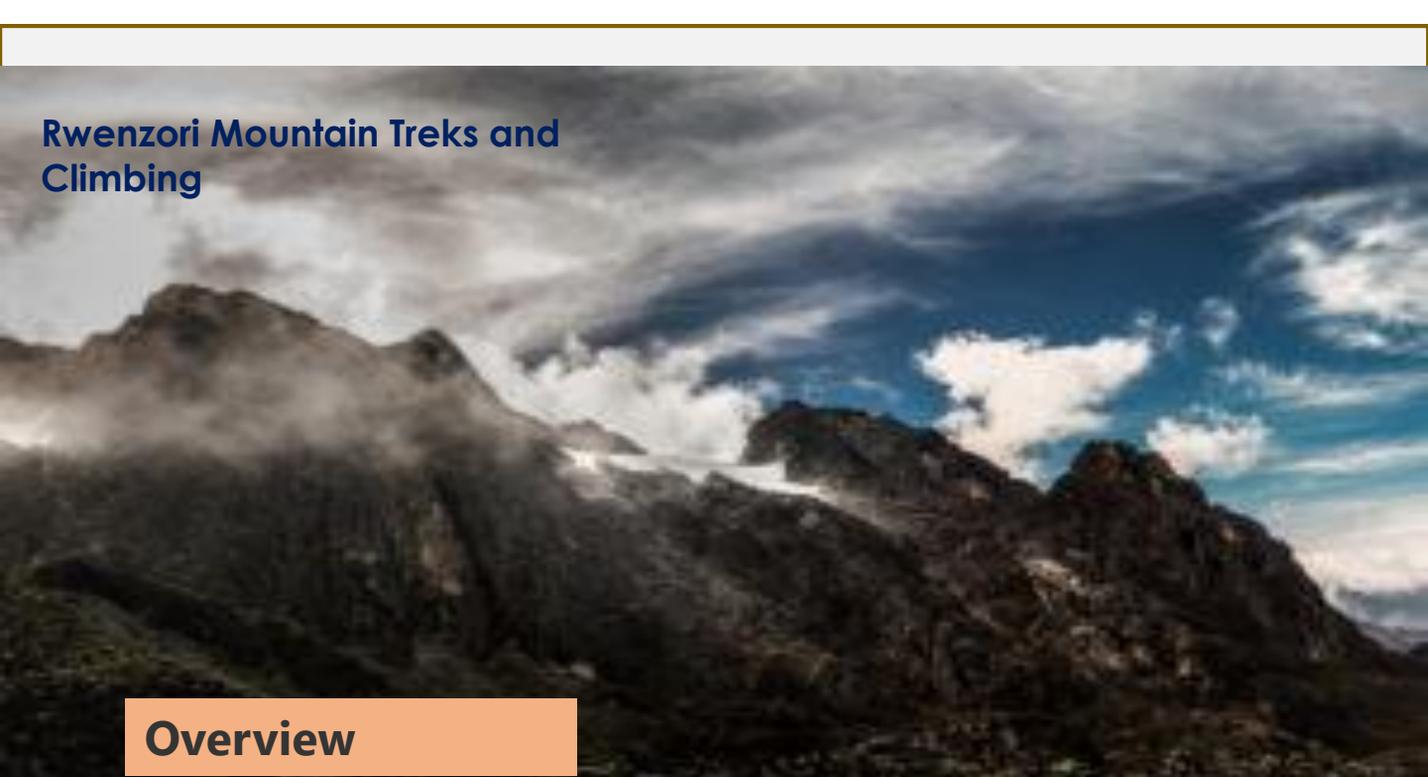
**Kinshasa**, the capital and the largest city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The city is situated alongside the Congo River. Once a site of fishing and trading villages, Kinshasa is now a megacity with an estimated population of more than 11 million.



General view of Inga hydroelectric dam, west of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's capital, Kinshasa.



# Rwenzori Mountain Treks and Climbing



## Overview

The DRC has a number of unique tourist opportunities, including wildlife reserves, indigenous cultures, and geological wonders not found easily or anywhere else in Africa.

Twelve percent of the country is made up of protected areas including 7 national parks and 57 reserves areas, with great ecotourism potential.

The DRC has four endemic species including Mountain Gorillas, Okapi, Bonobos, and the Congolese peacock. Moreover, the country has a unique variety of species in its ecosystem covering almost 145 million hectares.

## Leading Sub-sectors

- Adventure Tourism and Recreation
- Attractions Events
- Food and Beverage
- Tourism Services
- Transportation
- Travel Trade
- Accommodations

## Opportunities

In the sector of tourism and travel, the investment opportunities are myriad including in the rehabilitation and construction of hotels, restaurants, protected areas and other tourism infrastructure.

Furthermore, the creation of seaside resorts with beaches, and shorelines access camping, as well as river-side tourism development are opportunities available to investors and businesses.

# Popular Destinations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



- Places to Stay - Hotels - Accomodations
- Places to Visit
- Restaurants

# Tourist Attractions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

## ● Congo River



The Congo River is the world's deepest river and is the second largest river in the world by volume of water discharged after the Amazon River. Scientists have calculated that the entire Congo Basin accounts for thirteen percent of global hydropower potential.

Currently there are about forty hydropower plants in the Congo Basin. In terms of aquatic life, the Congo River Basin has over 700 fish species, crocodiles among others.

## ● Zongo Falls

Zongo Falls, formerly Livingstone Falls, are a succession of enormous rapids and cataracts on the lower course of the Congo River in west equatorial Africa, downstream from Malebo Pool in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was named for the explorer David Livingstone.

## ● **Virunga National Park**

Created in 1925 by King Albert I of Belgium as the first national park on the continent of Africa.

It was founded primarily to protect the mountain gorillas living in the forests of the Virunga Mountains, but later expanded north to include the Rwindi Plains, Lake Edward and the Rwenzori Mountains in the far north,

it has over 480 gorillas.

## ● **Lake Kivu**

Lake Kivu is one of the African Great Lakes, The world's tenth-largest inland island, Idjwi, lies in Lake Kivu, as does the tiny island of Tshegera, which also lies within the boundaries of Virunga National Park. Lake Kivu has recently been found to contain approximately 55 billion cubic metres of dissolved methane gas at a depth of 300 metres.

Native fish include species of Barbus, Clarias, and Haplochromis, as well as Nile Tilapia, Limnothrissa miodon and Tanganyika sardine

## ● **Lola ya Bonobo**

Lola ya Bonobo is the world's only sanctuary for orphaned bonobos located just south of the suburb of Kimwenza at the Petites Chutes de la Lukaya, Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo established in 1994 by Claudine Andre and is a home to over 60 bonobos.

## ● Boyoma Falls



Boyoma Falls, formerly known as Stanley Falls, consists of seven cataracts, each no more than 5 m high, extending over more than 100 km along a curve of the Lualaba River between the river port towns.

A 1000m portage railway bypasses the series of rapids, connecting Kisangani and Ubundu.

## ● Mount Nyiragongo



One of the few volcanos in the world with nearly permanent lava lake in it, often the largest lava lake in the world located in Nord-Kivu. Volcano is very active, with frequent eruptions. Eruptions produce very fluid lava of rare type.

## ● Mount Nyamuragira



Mount Nyamuragira is Africa's most active volcano situated in Nord-Kivu about 25 km from Lake Kivu has erupted over 40 times since 1880 and produces major part of sulphur dioxide pollution of the world. Volcano has created lava fields.

# I. About Congo River



Matadi Bridge in the Congo River at the port of Matadi

The great **Congo River** (French: *Fleuve Congo*; Portuguese: *rio Congo*; Kongo: *Nzâdi Kôngo*), formerly known as the **Zaire River** under the Mobutu regime, is the second longest river in Africa, shorter only than the Nile, as well as the second largest river in the world by discharge volume, following only the Amazon.

It is also the world's deepest recorded river, with measured depths in excess of 220 m (720 ft). The Congo-Lualaba-Chambeshi River system has an overall length of 4,700 km (2,920 mi), which makes it the world's ninth-longest river. The Chambeshi is a tributary of the Lualaba River, and *Lualaba* is the name of the Congo River upstream of Boyoma Falls, extending for 1,800 km (1,120 mi).

Measured along with the Lualaba, the main tributary, the Congo River has a total length of 4,370 km (2,715 mi). It is the only river to cross the equator twice. The Congo Basin has a total area of about 4,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>(1,500,000 sq mi), or 13% of the entire African landmass.

Sunrise on the Congo river, between the Rep. of Congo and the DRC, near Mossaka.



The beginning of the Zongo Falls (Lower Congo Rapids) near Kinshasa



## II. About Zongo Falls



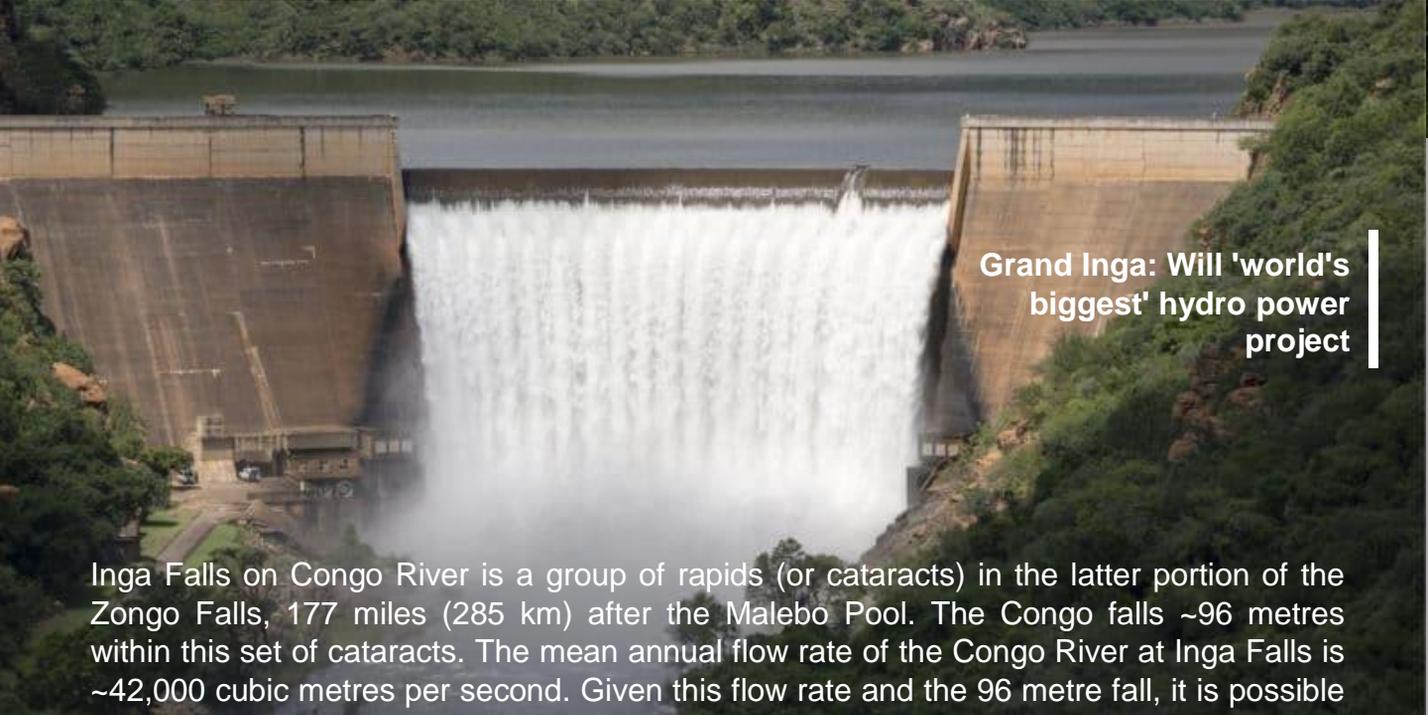
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa: Livingstone Falls

Zongo Falls consist of a series of rapids dropping 900 feet (270 m) in 220 miles (350 km). They start downstream Malebo Pool and end in Matadi in Bas-Congo. The Congo River has the second largest flow rate in the world after the Amazon, which has no falls or rapids (except near its sources).

The lowest rapids of Livingstone Falls, therefore, are the world's largest waterfall in terms of flow rate-provided one accepts these rapids as being a waterfall.

An interesting aspect of the 220-mile (350 km) long Livingstone Falls is the width of the channel. The channel is very narrow: in several stretches the channel width is less than 300 metres and for the majority of the length the channel is less than 800 metres wide. This is an extraordinarily narrow channel since the river flow rate typically exceeds 42,000 cubic metres per second (1,500,000 cu ft/s).

## Zongo Falls-Grand Inga Hydroelectric Project



**Grand Inga: Will 'world's biggest' hydro power project**

Inga Falls on Congo River is a group of rapids (or cataracts) in the latter portion of the Zongo Falls, 177 miles (285 km) after the Malebo Pool. The Congo falls ~96 metres within this set of cataracts. The mean annual flow rate of the Congo River at Inga Falls is ~42,000 cubic metres per second. Given this flow rate and the 96 metre fall, it is possible to calculate that the Inga Falls alone has a power potential of ~39.6 GW.

In 2014, Inga Falls was the site of two large hydro-electric power plants and is being considered for a much larger hydro-electric power generating station known as Grand Inga. The Grand Inga project, if completed, would be the largest hydro-electric power generating facility on Earth. The current project scope calls for the use of a flow rate ~26,400 cubic metres per second at a net head of ~150 metres; this is equivalent to a generating capacity of ~38.9 GW. This hydro-electric generator would be more than double the current world record holder, which is the Three Gorges facility on the Yangtze River in China.

# III. About Virunga National Park

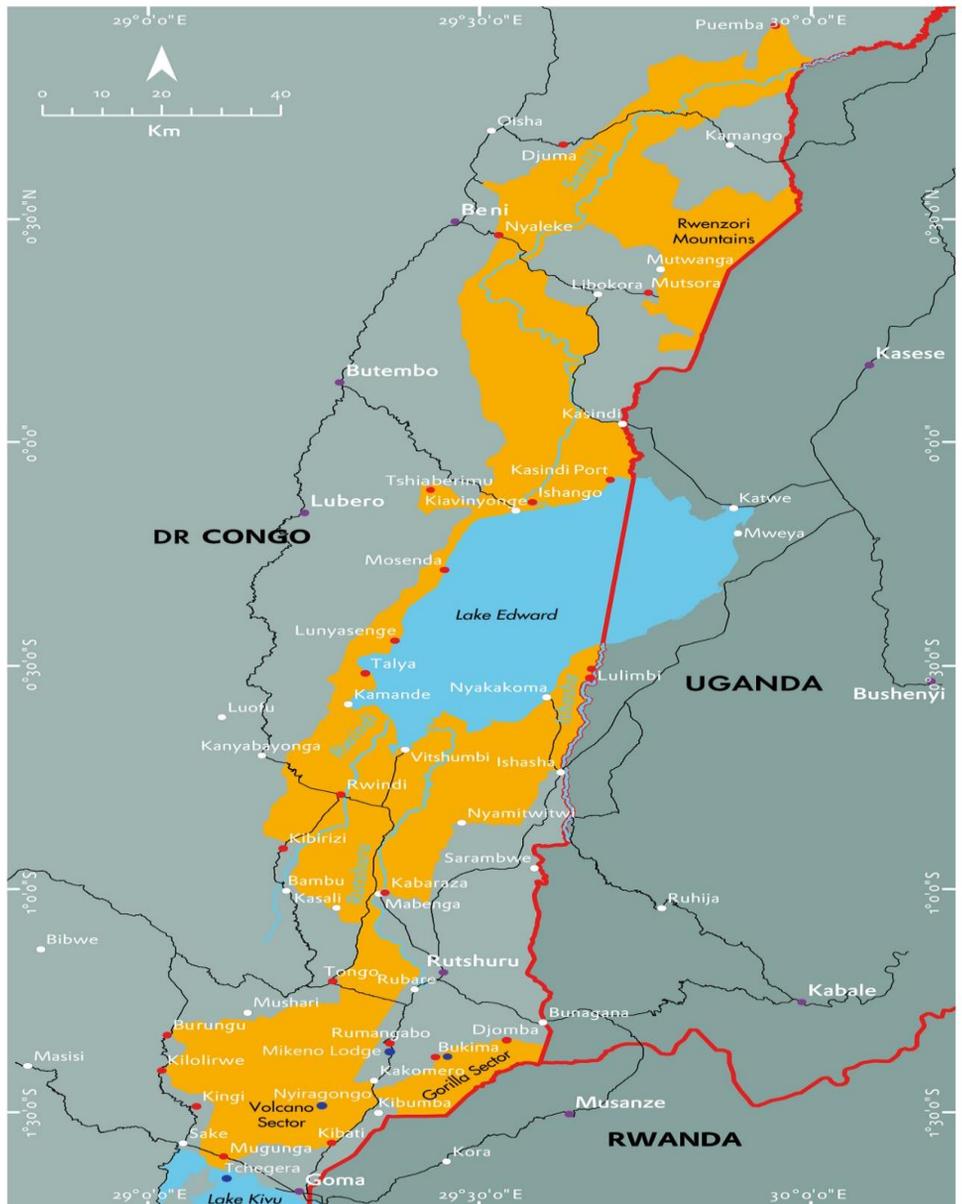
Virunga National Park is one of the most biologically diverse protected areas on the planet. Half of all the biodiversity in sub-Saharan Africa can be found in Virunga. The park is also a geologic wonder and contains two of the world's most active volcanoes.



## VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK

Established in 1925  
Africa's Oldest National Park

The park was founded in 1925 by King Albert I of Belgium and originally known as Albert National Park. Virunga was the first national park on the continent of Africa. The park was founded primarily to protect the mountain gorillas living in the forests of the Virunga Massif that were controlled by the Belgian Congo. Later, Virunga was expanded north to include the Rwindi Plains, Lake Edward, and the Rwenzori Mountains.





Foreign investment helped improve the park's infrastructure and training facilities, and the park became a popular destination for tourists.

During this period, Virunga welcomed an average of 6500 visitors per year. In 1979, UNESCO designated the park as a World Heritage Site.

When President Mobutu began to take a personal interest in conservation, that the park was revived. In the process, it was renamed Virunga National Park and the first Congolese Wildlife Authority was established.

Institut Congolais pour le Conservation de la Nature or ICCN, is still in charge of Congo's protected areas to this day.

Until now day the park is in the hands of the ICCN and enjoying the greatest resurgence of tourism and development in its history.

International donors are investing in the development of the park's infrastructure at unprecedented levels. Virunga's management is efficient and transparent, and morale among the rangers is at an all-time high.

## WHAT VIRUNGA CAN OFFER

### Mountain Gorilla Treks

---

A visit with a mountain gorilla family is a life changing experience. Mountain gorillas are highly intelligent, good natured, and fascinating to observe. The silverback's powerful presence is awe-inspiring, yet his calm clearly earns him the title, "gentle giant". People are equally struck by the tenderness and care that mothers show their young. And then, of course, there are the juveniles who spend most of every waking hour at play and never cease to make visitors smile. We believe your time with Virunga's mountain gorillas will leave you feeling changed for the better.



Mountain Gorilla family in Virunga National Park

All treks are led by park rangers and usually depart from Bukima patrol post. Treks usually require 1-2 hours of hiking in each direction, depending on where the mountain gorillas spent the previous night and the difficulty of the terrain.

To safeguard the health of Virunga's gorillas, visitors will be required to wear surgical masks (provided) when in the presence of gorillas. *Children must be 15 years of age or older to go on a gorilla trek.* Time with the gorillas is strictly limited to one hour.

If you don't feel well at the time of your scheduled trek (i.e. you have a cold, fever, diarrhea, or persistent sore throat) – *please cancel.* Mountain gorillas are extremely susceptible to human illnesses. Gorillas have died after being exposed to human respiratory viruses and other common ailments.

---

## Nyiragongo Volcano Treks

---

Nyiragongo is a beautiful stratovolcano that features the world's largest lava lake.

The volcano's forested lower slopes are home to a variety of animals, including chimpanzees, monkeys, and bushbuck. Nyiragongo's summit rim is largely devoid of vegetation and is sometimes dusted with snow. From the rim, visitors can peer down into a churning lava lake and see and hear hot gases exploding up through a mosaic of molten lava.

Although predictable and therefore safe for tourists, Nyiragongo is greatly feared during eruptions. Because of the low silica content of its lava,

Nyiragongo's lava flows are extremely fluid. During the 2002 eruption, some of Nyiragongo's lava flows were clocked at 100 km/hr (62 mph) and reached all the way to Lake Kivu.



Treks to the summit of Nyiragongo volcano begin at the Kibati patrol post. Park rangers lead all treks and porters (unaffiliated with the park) are available for hire. The time required to reach the summit depends on the average fitness of each group, but typically takes 4 – 6 hours.

All climbers overnight in the summit shelters because the best viewing is after dark. For this reason, Nyiragongo climbs are a two day affair. Most groups make it back down before noon the following day. Altitude sickness can be an issue for some because the climb begins at 1989m (6,525 ft) and ascends to 3470m (11,382ft) in a short time. Proper hydration is the best way to adapt to the change in altitude.

People prone to Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) should speak to their physicians about taking preventative measures before making the climb. It is possible for fitter people to climb up and descend in one day, but the vast majority choose to overnight in the basic accommodations available at the top (included in the permit fee) because the best time to view the lava lake is at night.

---



## Chimpanzee Habituation Walks

---

In February 2014, a Congolese team trained by Frankfurt Zoological Society began habituating a group of chimpanzees living in the forests around park headquarters in Rumangabo. Guests staying at Mikeno Lodge can join this team on their daily visits to the chimpanzees. The day begins when a group of local trackers leave their camp at 4:30 am to locate where the chimpanzees spent the previous night. Lodge guests set out at 6:00 am to find the chimpanzees. Groups are limited to 4 people and time with the chimpanzees is restricted to one hour. Bookings are made in person at Mikeno Lodge.

## The History Behind Habituating Virunga's Chimpanzees

In 1987, Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) developed an 80 km network of trails inside the Tongo forest and began a two-year process of habituating chimpanzees to the presence of humans. By 1989, approximately 50 chimpanzees had been habituated. Treks soon began, and for the next three years, provided an important source of tourism revenue for the park and the small community of Tongo.

---

If you don't feel well at the time of your scheduled walk (i.e. you have a cold, fever, diarrhea, or persistent sore throat) – *please cancel*. Like the gorillas, chimpanzees are extremely susceptible to human illnesses. Chimpanzees have died after being exposed to human respiratory viruses and other common ailments.

## Rwenzori Mountain Treks and Climbing

---

Virunga National Park also offers spectacular trekking and climbing trips to the Rwenzori mountains in the north of the park. Known also as the “Mountains of the Moon,” the Rwenzoris reach a height of 5,109 m (16,761 ft) and contain the largest glaciers left on the African continent.

Those who trek and climb in the Rwenzoris will experience a stunning variety of landscapes, including bamboo forests, alpine meadows, lakes, and snow capped peaks. The flora and fauna of the Rwenzoris is equally diverse. Forest elephant, Okapi, chimpanzees, and numerous bird species make the Rwenzoris their home. The best weather in the Rwenzoris usually happens from January through mid-March and June to late August

### Getting there

Most people fly into the town of Beni and then take a local taxi to Virunga's Mutsora ranger station. Flights from Goma can be arranged through local tour operators. Visitors also travel overland to the Rwenzoris by coming through Uganda and crossing into the DR Congo at the Mpondwe/Kasindi border.

The cost of a climb or trek in Rwenzoris is based on the number of days spent on the circuit. Each multi-day option includes use the park's four rustic backcountry huts. Trekkers wanting only to reach the summit hut will need good hiking boots, rain gear, and a warm base layers. Those wanting to climb Margherita Peak or any of the other summits, will need to bring their own climbing hardware, crampons, and ice axes. **Bivouc** gear is also a good idea.

A Virunga ranger accompanies all trekkers and climbers and independent porters are available for hire. Porters negotiate their prices on the spot, but the cost is typically less than a dollar per kilogram with a maximum of 15 kg/porter.

---

## Tchegera Island

Tchegera Island Camp is the perfect way to escape the hustle and bustle of Goma or to relax after climbing Nyiragongo volcano.

Situated off the northern shore of Lake Kivu, Tchegera camp offers spectacular views of the lake and four volcanoes. On clear nights, Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira volcanoes add to the drama by turning the night sky red with their glowing lava.

There is also an abundance of birdlife on the island, including African eagles, cormorants, herons and gulls. Whether one chooses to relax on the beach or explore other parts of the island in a sea kayak or by paddle board, Tchegera is the perfect place for rest and relaxation.

Definitely one of a kind, this excellent tented camp sits on the exposed ridge of a collapsed volcanic caldera in the middle of Lake Kivu.

The handful of safari-style Meru tents lie directly on the black sandy shores, with small verandas under canvas. From here you can sit back and admire the view or watch birds and butterflies amongst the trees, which help provide shade and privacy. Inside the tents are simple, spacious and clean, with flushing loos, bucket showers and power from a generator.

Like most safari camps, communal meals are served in the main mess tent - a light and airy canvas room, surrounded by wooden decking, beyond which lies the beach. At night the camp really comes into its own, as hurricane lamps add atmosphere. A campfire on the beach is the perfect place to watch the glow of the Nyiragongo volcano in the distance, under a full moon reflected in the lake.



# ACCOMODATIONS

## 1. Mikeno Lodge

*"Mikeno Lodge is a hidden gem within Virunga National Park that will not take long to be discovered. The bungalow accommodation is spacious, luxurious & very private, each with fabulous tree or valley views. Each bungalow has it's own fireplace, which the staff light every evening while you are out enjoying the scrumptious dinner [...] We thoroughly enjoyed our stay at Mikeno Lodge. It was hard to leave & we will be back next time we're in Africa!"*

*– Visitor Review*



The Mikeno Lodge is at 90 minutes drive from Goma and offers beautifully appointed bungalows and fine dining. The lodge, restaurant, and bar are located within a forest and offer beautiful views of the rift valley and Nyragongo and Mikeno volcanoes. Nature walks and visits to local places of interest can be arranged. There is an abundance of bird life, as well as resident blue monkeys, colobus monkeys, and baboons. Chimpanzees are also frequent visitors to the area.

---



## 2. Kibumba Tented Camp

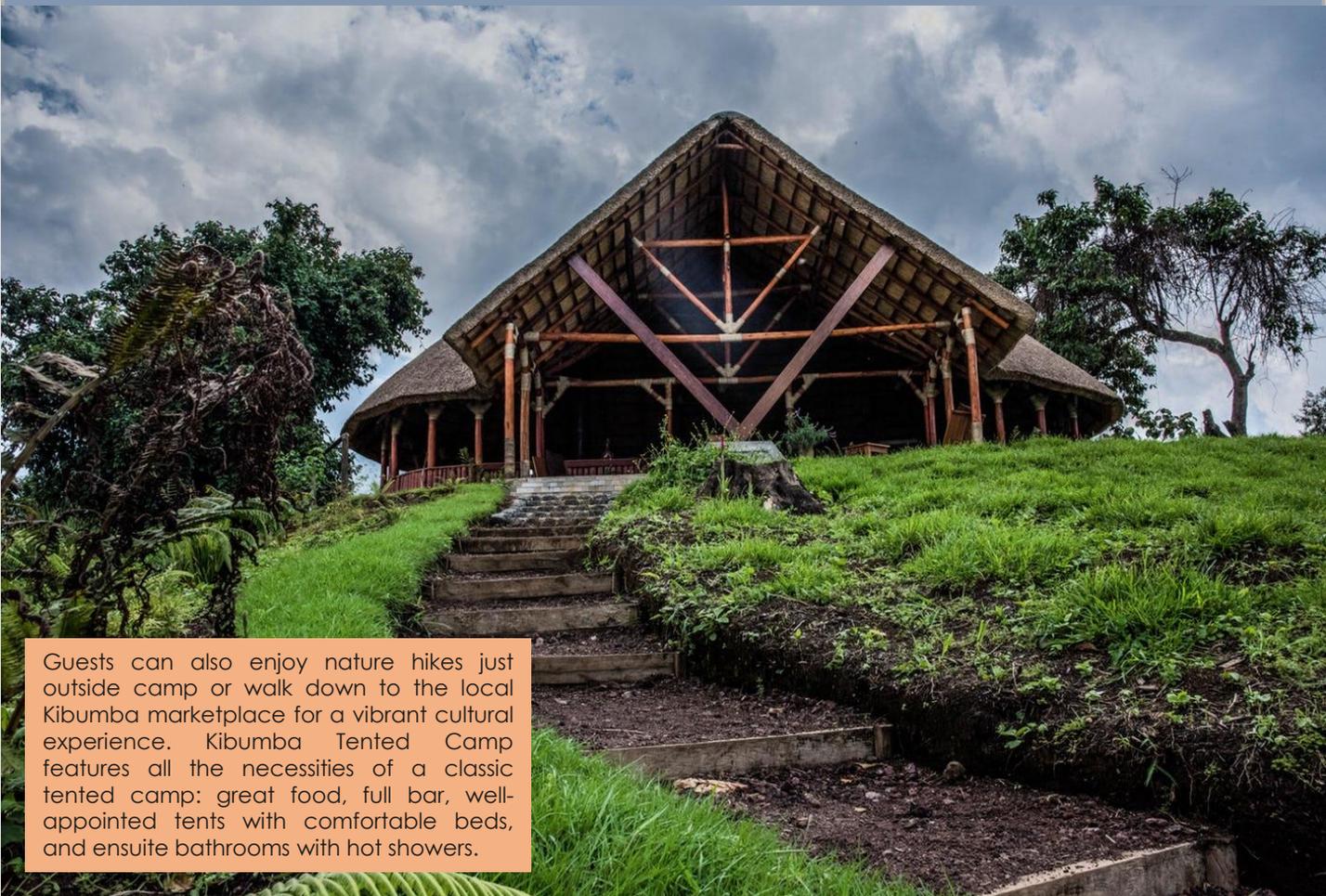


Opening in October 2017, this tented camp is the newest accommodation option for travellers to **Virunga National Park**. Kibumba is a great choice for those wanting to stay within the park's borders, offering an authentic camping experience amidst Virunga's flora and fauna with the added benefit of not having to drive long distances to begin your trek. Two permanent lodges provide a warm and welcoming space for guests to gather and share stories of their time in this wonderful UNESCO World Heritage Site.



**IF YOU'RE A FOREST-LOVER WITH A TASTE FOR THE TRADITIONAL, KIBUMBA IS THE CAMP FOR YOU.**

Kibumba Camp is an excellent choice for those seeking a more affordable way to experience the mountain gorillas in Virunga National Park. The camp is conveniently located near the trailhead for Nyragongo volcano, which makes it the perfect place to stay for those wanting to experience both gorillas and the world's largest lava lake.



Guests can also enjoy nature hikes just outside camp or walk down to the local Kibumba marketplace for a vibrant cultural experience. Kibumba Tented Camp features all the necessities of a classic tented camp: great food, full bar, well-appointed tents with comfortable beds, and ensuite bathrooms with hot showers.

### 3. Bukima Tented Camp

Just outside the Virunga National Park boundary lays the Bukima tented camp, which is the main starting point for Virunga mountain gorilla treks. The camp was originally built for researchers, but is now used primarily by trekkers.

Every few years, Nyamulagira volcano erupts and steals the nighttime show by spewing hot lava hundreds of feet into the air. Occasionally, the mountain gorillas themselves wander into the Bukima tented camp. Although this is highly frowned upon by park staff, it never ceases to impress the guests.

The views from anywhere in camp are spectacular. To the south, the view is dominated by Mt. Mikeno, whose 4437m (14,560 foot) summit towers over the gorilla sector. Across the valley is Nyiragongo volcano.



Everything about Bukima, from the tents to the food is simple yet comfortable. Each of the camp tents features a suited bathroom with running cold water, flush toilets and hot bucket showers. Lighting is provided by solar panels. The beds are great and after dinner you are likely to find a hot water bottle warming the sheets for you, important as the nights at more than 6500 feet are cool! English language skills among the staff are somewhat limited but that doesn't stop them from being warm and welcoming.

As the name suggests, overnight guests at Bukima sleep in platform tents, but by camping standards they are quite plush. Each tent features an adjoining bathroom with running water and a nicely appointed bed and dresser for clothes. The views from the tent sites – or anywhere in camp for that matter – are spectacular. To the south.

---

## 4. Nyiragongo Volcano Summit Shelters

Nyiragongo is just one of the reasons that Virunga is an active travellers dream.

Imagine hiking up and then overnight next to the world's largest lava lake. The volcano's forested lower slopes are home to a variety of animals, including chimpanzees, monkeys, and bushbuck.

Nyiragongo's summit rim is largely devoid of vegetation and is frequently dusted with snow. From the rim, visitors can peer down into a churning lava lake and see and hear hot gases exploding up through a mosaic of molten lava.

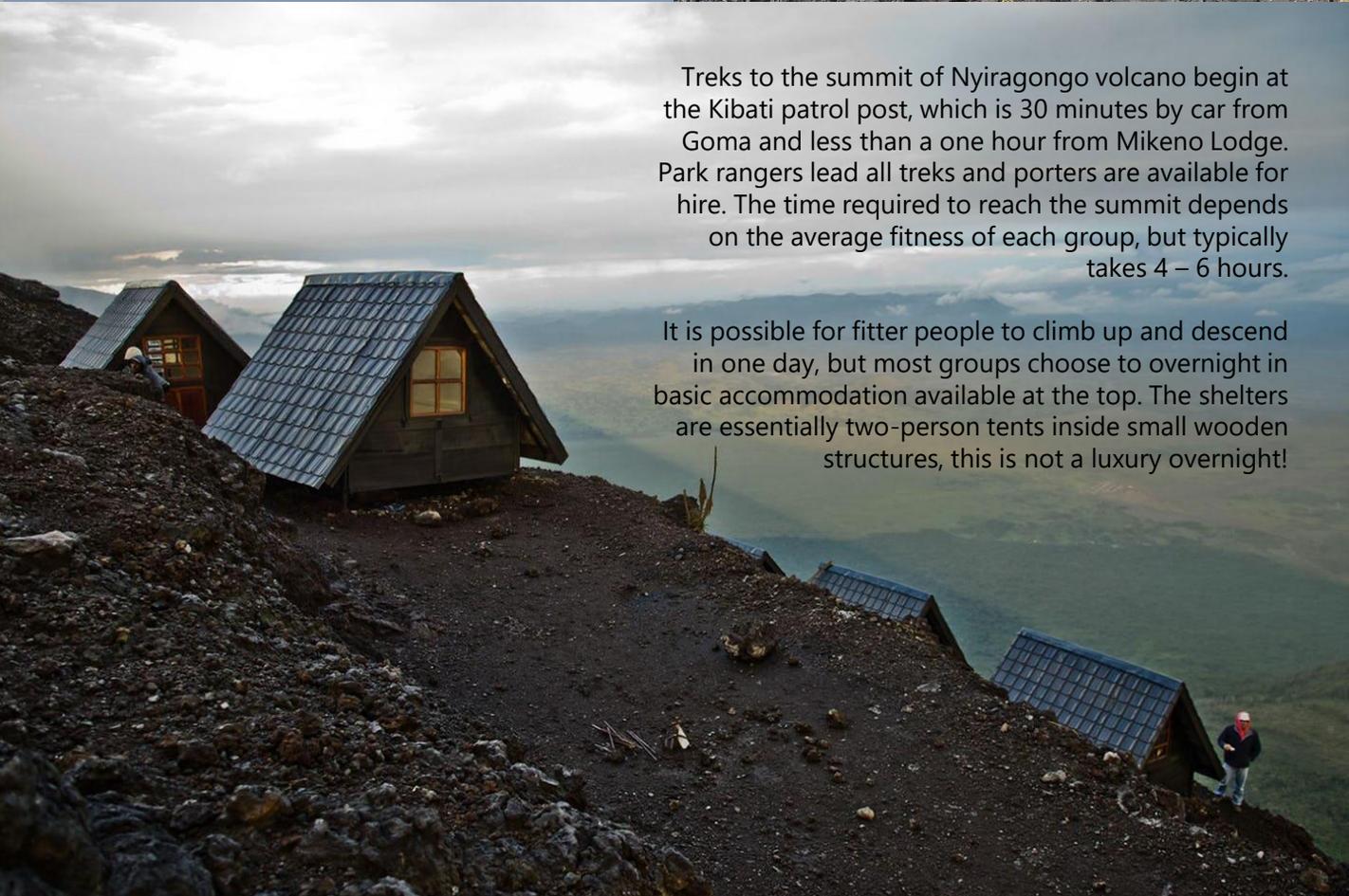
Nyiragongo's eruptions are predictable making it safe for tourists and a once in a lifetime opportunity for active travellers.

---



Treks to the summit of Nyiragongo volcano begin at the Kibati patrol post, which is 30 minutes by car from Goma and less than a one hour from Mikeno Lodge. Park rangers lead all treks and porters are available for hire. The time required to reach the summit depends on the average fitness of each group, but typically takes 4 – 6 hours.

It is possible for fitter people to climb up and descend in one day, but most groups choose to overnight in basic accommodation available at the top. The shelters are essentially two-person tents inside small wooden structures, this is not a luxury overnight!



## 5. Tchegeera Island Tented Camp

Tchegeera Island Camp is the perfect way to escape the hustle and bustle of Goma or to relax after climbing Nyiragongo volcano. Situated off the northern shore of Lake Kivu, Tchegeera camp offers spectacular views of the lake and four volcanoes.

On clear nights, Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira volcanoes add to the drama by turning the night sky red with their glowing lava.

There is also an abundance of birdlife on the island, including African eagles, cormorants, herons and gulls. Whether one chooses to relax on the beach or explore other parts of the island in a sea kayak or by paddle board, Tchegeera is the perfect place for rest and relaxation.

**FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR TENT, YOU'LL HAVE A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO A SPECTACULAR LIGHTSHOW.**

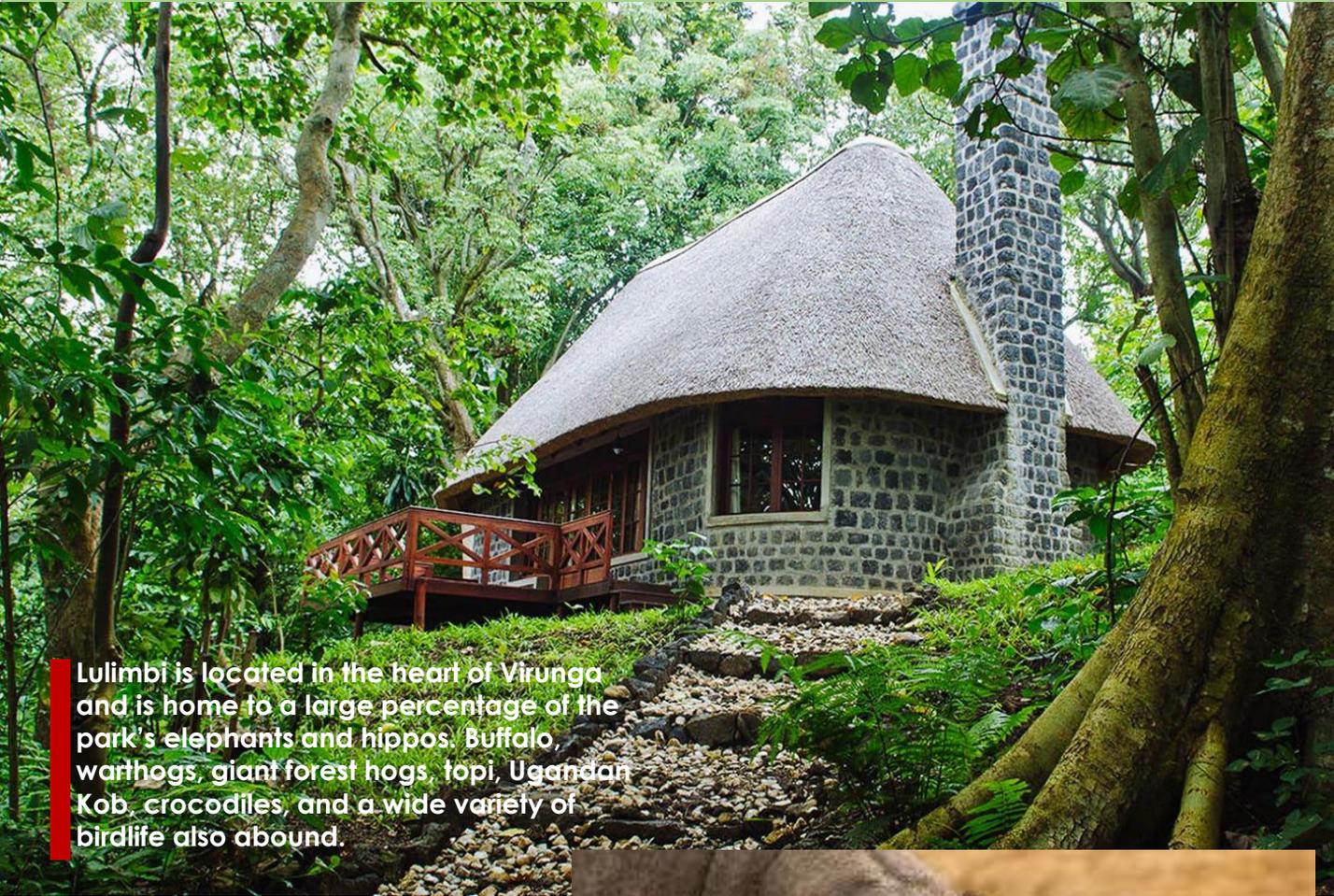
If you've ever dreamed of owning your very own private island, this tented camp offers a slice of that lifestyle at a fraction of the price! Tchegeera is a crescent-shaped island blanketed in greenery, which offers the perfect place to unwind after a long day of trekking in Virunga National Park, just across the water.

On a clear day you'll have views of four volcanoes rising above the landscape, and as night falls, the lava lake within Mount Nyiragongo will set the sky aflame.



## 6. Lulimbi Tented Camp

A classic safari in the most extraordinary of destinations



Lulimbi is located in the heart of Virunga and is home to a large percentage of the park's elephants and hippos. Buffalo, warthogs, giant forest hogs, topi, Ugandan Kob, crocodiles, and a wide variety of birdlife also abound.

The Lulimbi Tented Camp is nestled into the shoreline of the Ishasha river, which winds through Virunga's vast savanna plains.

Lulimbi is the first such camp in this area of the park and was created for two main reasons: to showcase Virunga's spectacular savanna wildlife and to give visitors the chance to actively participate in conservation.



The nature experience in Lulimbi starts at the steps of one's tent. Hippos wallow away their days in the Ishasha river, which is just meters away. Nearby, elephants can be seen wandering slowly through the bush.

## IV. About Lake Kivu

Lake Kivu is one of the African Great Lakes. It lies on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, and is in the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the East African Rift. Lake Kivu empties into the Ruzizi River, which flows southwards into Lake Tanganyika.

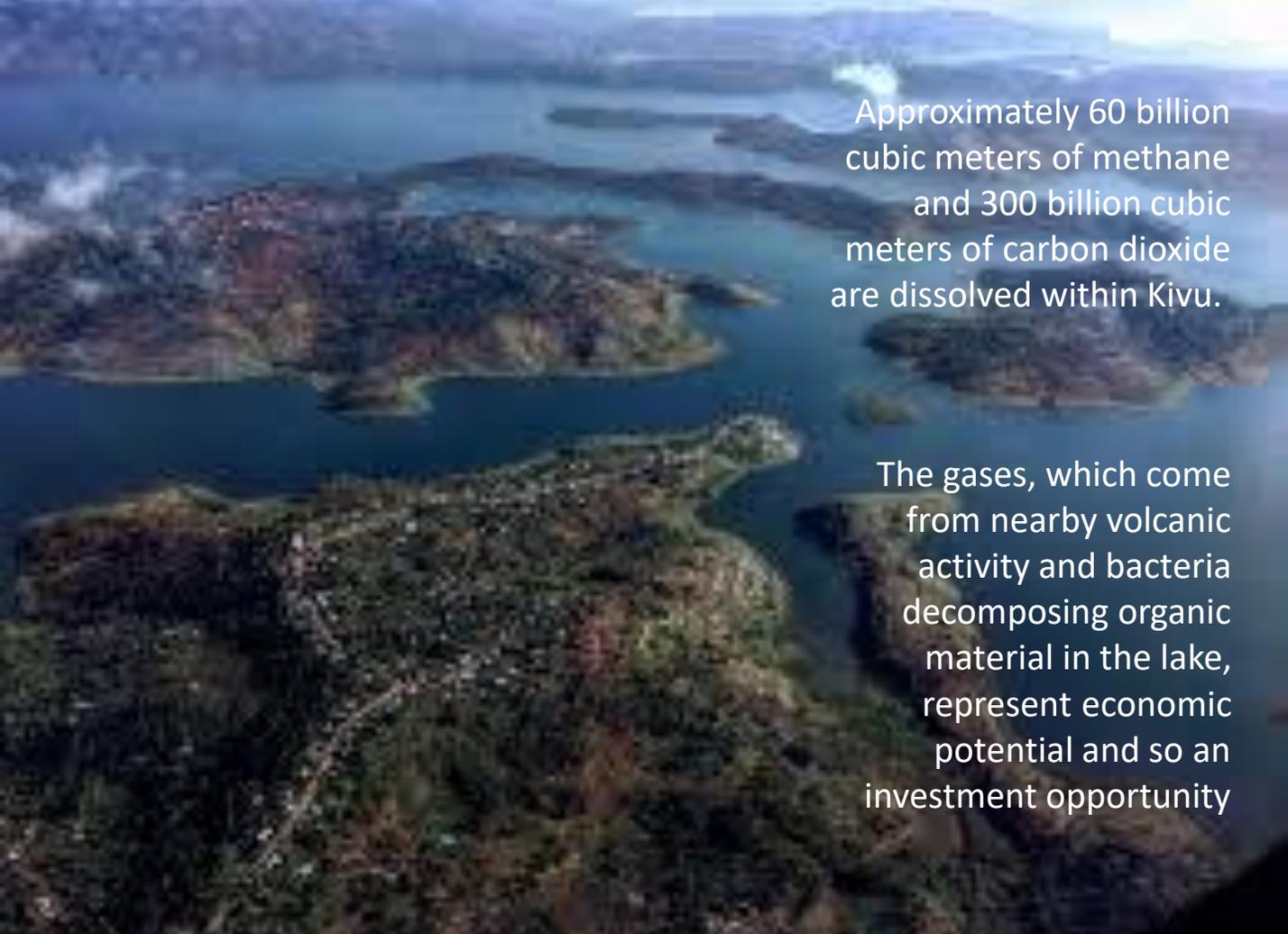


**Lake Kivu, Nice to see and a real  
Investment opportunity**



# Lake Kivu's Great Gas Gamble

In a first-of-its-kind endeavor, electricity-starved the Democratic Republic of the Congo is trying to get power from a lake.



Approximately 60 billion cubic meters of methane and 300 billion cubic meters of carbon dioxide are dissolved within Kivu.

The gases, which come from nearby volcanic activity and bacteria decomposing organic material in the lake, represent economic potential and so an investment opportunity

If extracted, Kivu's methane could be used to add up to 960 megawatts of electricity-generating capacity, more than six times what Rwanda has now. For both Rwanda and the eastern DRC, which face crippling power shortages and limited options for expanding their electric grids, that could be an economic game changer, supporting new industries.

---

## V. About Lola Ya Bonobo

Founded by Claudine Andre in 1994, Lola ya Bonobo is the world's only sanctuary for orphaned bonobos. Since 2002, the sanctuary has been located just south of the suburb of Kimwenza at the Petites Chutes de la Lukaya, Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Bonobo mature male aged 17 years feeding ...

Bonobos are more closely related to humans than chimps, study that could rewrite our family tree.



Bonobo's family in Lola Ya Bonobo sanctuary

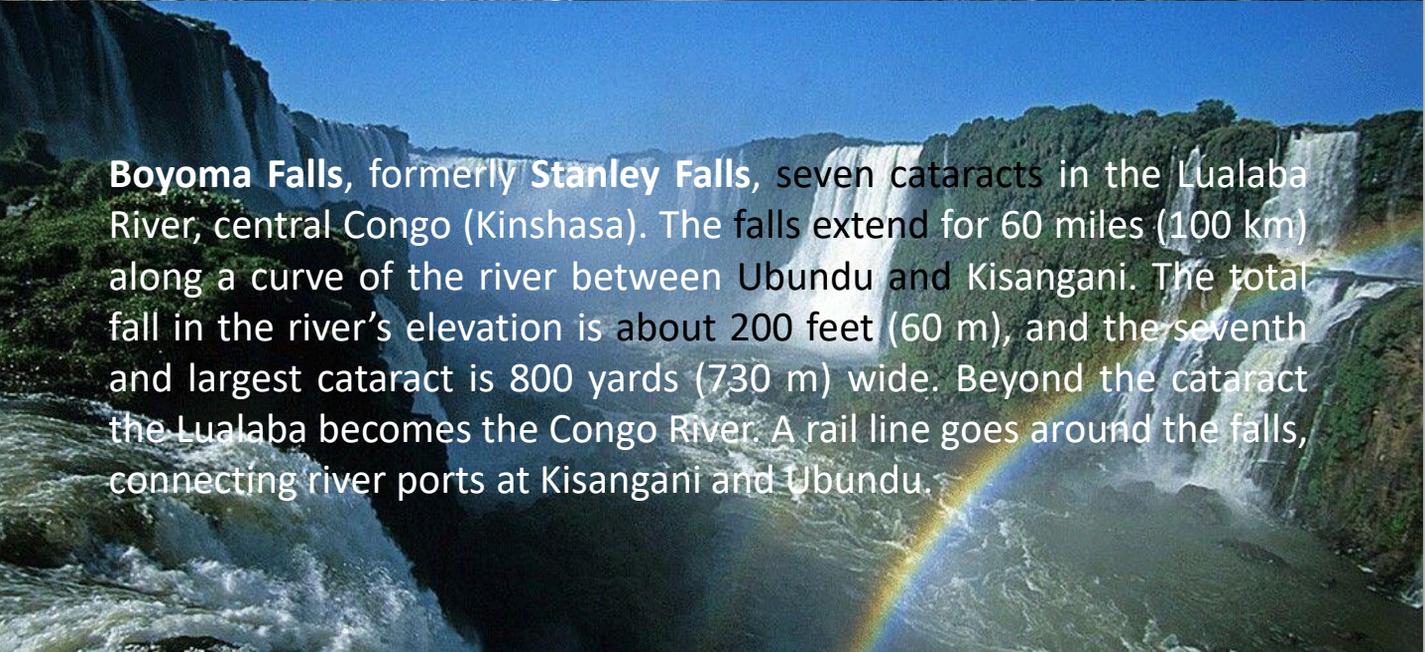


**Study finds bonobos may be better representation of the last common ancestor with humans than common chimpanzees**

April 29, 2017, [George Washington University](#)

## VI. About Boyoma Falls

One of the largest **waterfalls** by volume in the world.



**Boyoma Falls**, formerly **Stanley Falls**, seven cataracts in the Lualaba River, central Congo (Kinshasa). The falls extend for 60 miles (100 km) along a curve of the river between Ubundu and Kisangani. The total fall in the river's elevation is about 200 feet (60 m), and the seventh and largest cataract is 800 yards (730 m) wide. Beyond the cataract the Lualaba becomes the Congo River. A rail line goes around the falls, connecting river ports at Kisangani and Ubundu.

## Boyoma Falls,

Experience 200-year-old fishing methods practiced by the local Wagenia fishermen.



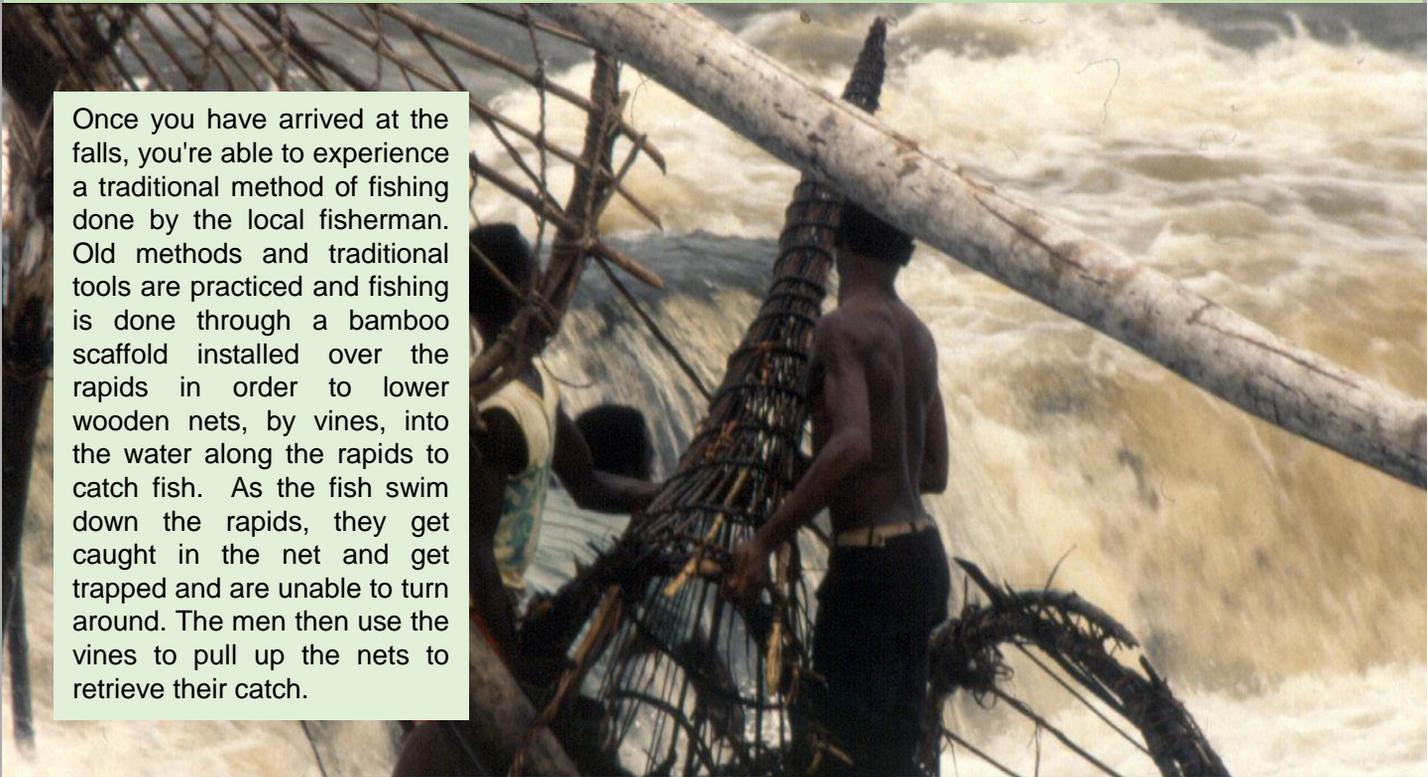
From Kisangani, about 70 kilometers away are the **Boyoma Falls** often times referred to as Wagenia Falls or Kisangani Falls, and formerly known as Stanley Falls. Boyoma Falls are often referred to as Wagenia Falls because of the local group of fishermen called **Wagenia** who live in the village of the same name. Perhaps the most incredible aspect today and the area of Kisangani is the visit to the village of Wagenia and the local fishermen who practice 200-year-old fishing methods.

There are approximately seven waterfalls in total that stretch along a 200-miles of the Lualaba River, which is the greatest river source of the Congo River. The falls are world renowned for their sheer volume of water and width.

## Boyoma Falls.

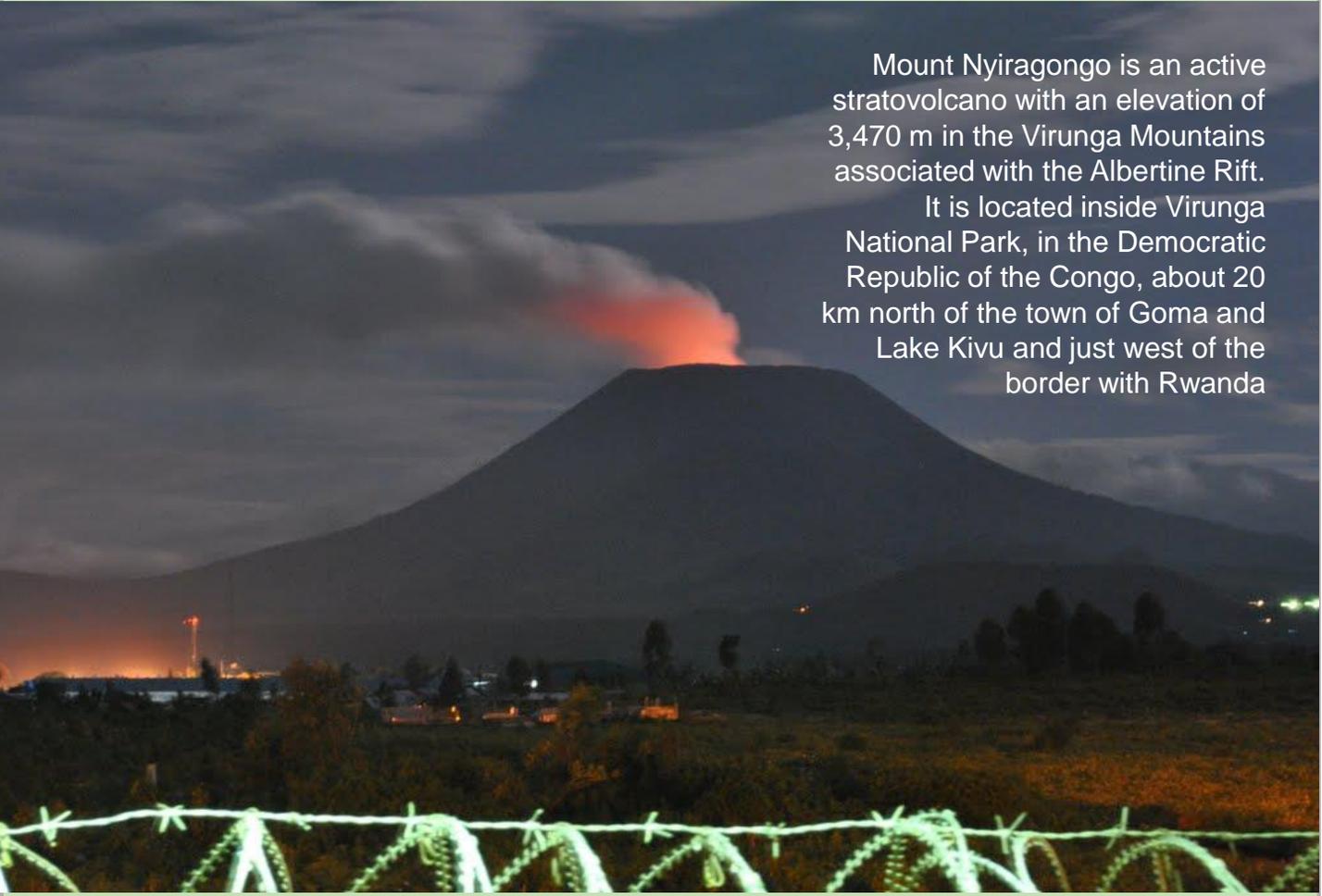
The drive to Boyoma/Wagenia Falls today is very scenic and offers plenty of great photo opportunities.

Once you have arrived at the falls, you're able to experience a traditional method of fishing done by the local fisherman. Old methods and traditional tools are practiced and fishing is done through a bamboo scaffold installed over the rapids in order to lower wooden nets, by vines, into the water along the rapids to catch fish. As the fish swim down the rapids, they get caught in the net and get trapped and are unable to turn around. The men then use the vines to pull up the nets to retrieve their catch.



Fishermen remove a giant carp from one of their baskets, at Boyoma Falls

## V. About Mount Nyiragongo



Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m in the Virunga Mountains associated with the Albertine Rift.

It is located inside Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, about 20 km north of the town of Goma and Lake Kivu and just west of the border with Rwanda

Not more than 20,000 years ago Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira emerged at the western end of the chain, both with extensive craters. The main crater of Nyiragongo is about three-quarters of a mile (1.2 km) across and contains a liquid lava pool. The lava field of these two volcanoes has remained active, with notable eruptions occurring in 1912, 1938, 1948, the 1970s, and 2002. On several occasions a lava stream reached the shores of Lake Kivu. The 2002 Nyiragongo eruption destroyed much of the nearby city of Goma, Congo, leaving thousands homeless. Many lesser cones flank the major volcanoes.

The first maps resulted from the major expedition of Adolf Friedrich, duke of Mecklenburg, which was undertaken in 1907–08. Modern access to the western volcanoes is from Goma and Gisenyi (Rwanda); the remaining mountains are located within the circuit of roads connecting Goma and Rutshuru (Congo), Kisoro (Uganda), and Ruhengeri

# CLIMBING MOUNT NYIRAGONGO: A HIKE TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST LAVA LAKE

Mount Nyiragongo has a 3470m elevation. It is located in Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The main crater, which contains lava lake, is about two kilometers wide.



**Virunga Mountains**, Virunga also spelled **Birunga**, also called **Mufumbiro Mountains**, volcanic range north of Lake Kivu in east-central Africa, extending about 50 miles (80 km) along the borders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda. The range runs east-west, perpendicular to the rift valley in which lie Lakes Kivu and Edward. Of its eight major volcanic peaks, the highest is Karisimbi, at 14,787 feet (4,507 metres). The name Virunga (“Volcanoes”), probably of Swahili derivation, has prevailed over the earlier Mufumbiro (“That Which Cooks”), which is still used in Uganda. Individual volcanoes bear Rwandan descriptive names, such as Sabinio (Sabinyo; “Old Man with Large Teeth”) and Muhavura (“Landmark,” or “Guide”).

## Climbing Mount Nyiragongo



Virunga offers a meal package to hikers, where you can pay for a cook to climb the volcano with you, hand out snacks and drinks at rest stops, and then put together an three course meal in a toasty-warm cabin when you reach the top.

## V. About Mount Nyamuragira



Nyamuragira, also known as Nyamulagira, is an active shield volcano in the Virunga Mountains of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, situated about 25 km north of Lake Kivu.

The name is derived from the Kifuru and kishi verb Kuragira ngavu, meaning to herd cows; ngavu means cow or cows.

## Nyiragongo and Nyamuragira Volcanoes



This pair of volcanoes is responsible for 40% of Africa's historic volcanic eruptions.

**Nyiragongo** hosts one of the largest lava lakes in the world. Its immediate neighbor, **Nyamuragira** (Nyamulagira) no longer has a lava lake, but has had one in the past.

**Nyamuragira** includes a lava field that covers over 1,100 km<sup>2</sup> and contains more than 100 flank cones

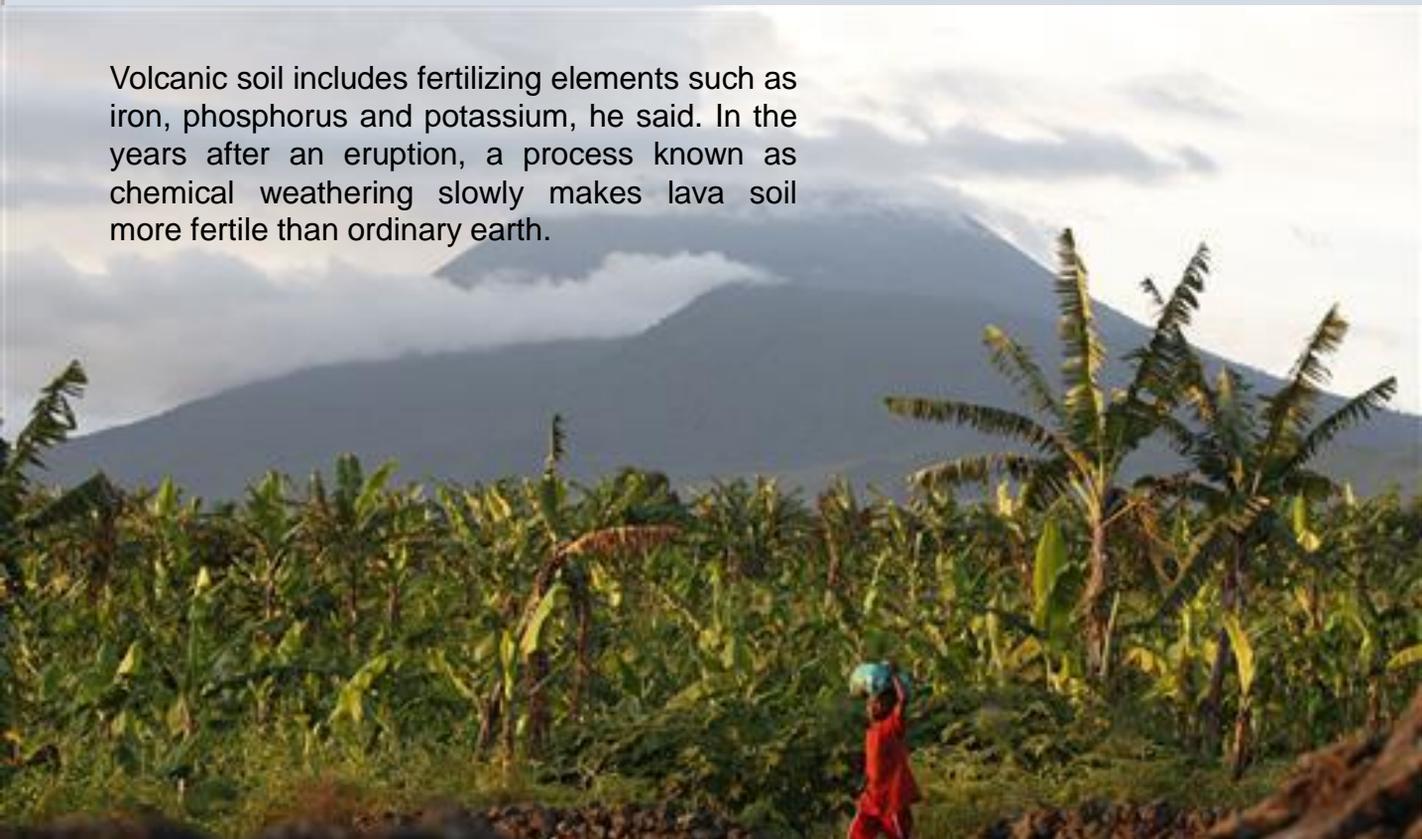
The volcanoes are located on the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the East African Rift Valley system.

There are two older stratovolcanoes in the vicinity, Baruta and Shaheru.

These are partially overlapped by Nyiragongo. The flanks of all four volcanoes have over a hundred parasitic cones mainly along radial fissures. The grouping has been called the Virunga Volcanic Field.

## Congo volcano brings farmers rich soil.

Volcanic soil includes fertilizing elements such as iron, phosphorus and potassium, he said. In the years after an eruption, a process known as chemical weathering slowly makes lava soil more fertile than ordinary earth.



"Lava actually enriches the soil that it initially burned," said Mathieu Yalira, the chair of observatory's geochemistry and environment department.



# I. Potentials

DRC offers a wide range of tourist attractions through different provinces that have multifaceted features likely to be exploited for the development of several types of tourism (seaside, cultural, leisure, discovery, business, safaris, ...). Only some of this range has been given here.

## It is about :

- 25 million hectares, or 10.47% of the country established in protected areas ;
- 7 national parks and 57 Reserves and Hunting Areas including 5 included on the World Heritage list of UNESCO (Virunga\*, Kahuzi Biega\*, Garamba\*, SALONGA\* and fauna reserve of Okapi) ;
- 4 endemic species : Mountain gorilla, Okapi, bonobo (pygmy chimpanzee), Congolese Peacock ;
- A variety of ecosystem covering nearly 145 million hectares, or the second block of tropical forest in the world after the Amazon and one of the biodiversity reserves on the planet ;
- Wilderness ((the Congo River, the Atlantic coast (37 km), the impressive waterfalls, lakes and their contours, mountainous areas of East) built (heritage monuments, religious buildings, and cultural (a rich mix of cultures and traditions around 450 ethnic groups), works of art markets, historic sites ;
- 70 million people, the Congolese population is a prime target for tourism promoters, especially youth in search of recreation ;
- Host infrastructures : 284 airport platforms including 5 international airports, 349 travel agencies in three categories including those affiliated to IATA and other local ; 2,365 hotels unclassified and classified with an overall installed capacity of 27,963 home rooms ; 4500 km of waterways ;

Several support services to the deployment of tourism activities, among which are : transportation, travel agencies, accommodation and catering

## III. Legal framework

The revival of tourism has been included among the DRC government's priorities. This sector, byproduct of the environment, was set up in the Ministry which will incessantly provided with a framework legislation being drafted.

## IV. Strengths

- Because of its strategic position on Equator in the heart of Africa, the DRC is located at the crossroads of initial or final destinations for tours of Southern Africa, Central and Eastern.
- Different provinces connection paths allow to organize inter-provincial and intra-regional circuits on various tourist routes through the 11 provinces and from 9 countries that border the DRC.
- The sharing of common tourism products with neighboring countries and the extension of regional spaces destinations are opportunities to enhance existing markets and create new tourism markets in the Great Lakes region, SADC, COMESA and ECCAS to which the DRC belongs.
- The DRC recorded an increasing migration flow, dominated by youth (over 60% of the population and the middle class), the Congolese diaspora as well as the international visitors of the business and cultural community.

## IV. Achievements

- Peace restoration process in the finals ;
- Renovation of botanical and zoological gardens of Kinshasa through the Public-Private Partnership ;
- Modernization of 4 major airports in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Goma and Kisangani ;
- Support to the approval of a hundred tourist investment projects including 85 hotel projects ;
- Strengthening the capacity with the rehabilitation and modernization of some Hotels of Congolese heritage through the Public-Private partnership, including the three 5 star hotels (Grand Hotel Kinshasa, Fleuve CongoHotel in Kinshasa ; Grand Karavia Hotel in Lubumbashi) ;
- Creation of a national airline ;
- The reduction to four of the number of public services which shall operate in the border posts (Migration Management, Department of Hygiene, Congolese Control Authority and Customs Authority) ;
- Opening the country to large events and other international forums (forums, conferences, sports, conferences, ...) ;
- Rehabilitation and construction of historical sites and creation of approval public spaces.

# V. Outlook

The DRC has revised in 2013 its master plan projected on 15 years with the following objectives to reach 1,146,962 international tourists futures and revenue of US \$ 17.300.000.00 estimated at 10% of the value of the Congolese GDP in 2012.

To generate these flows, the areas of intervention below are concerned :

- Promotion and Preservation of the flagship animal species : rehabilitation of national parks, creation of ecological niches, rehabilitation of access roads ;
- Green Tourism Promotion : Environmental conservation ;
- Valuation of reserves and natural sites : Creation of recreation sites, amusement parks ;
- Offer in Tourist transport (air, road, river and lake) ;
- Creation of hosting sites : creation of hotels and hospitality facilities and tourist animation in the perspective of decentralization, the new provinces will need to create luxury hotels ;
- Creation of services of agencies and tourist offices ;
- Support for training and promotion of Tourism (Guide, website editing, online travel agency, design and production of promotional materials).

Targeted investment projects depend on the public-private partnership and require feasibility studies.

---

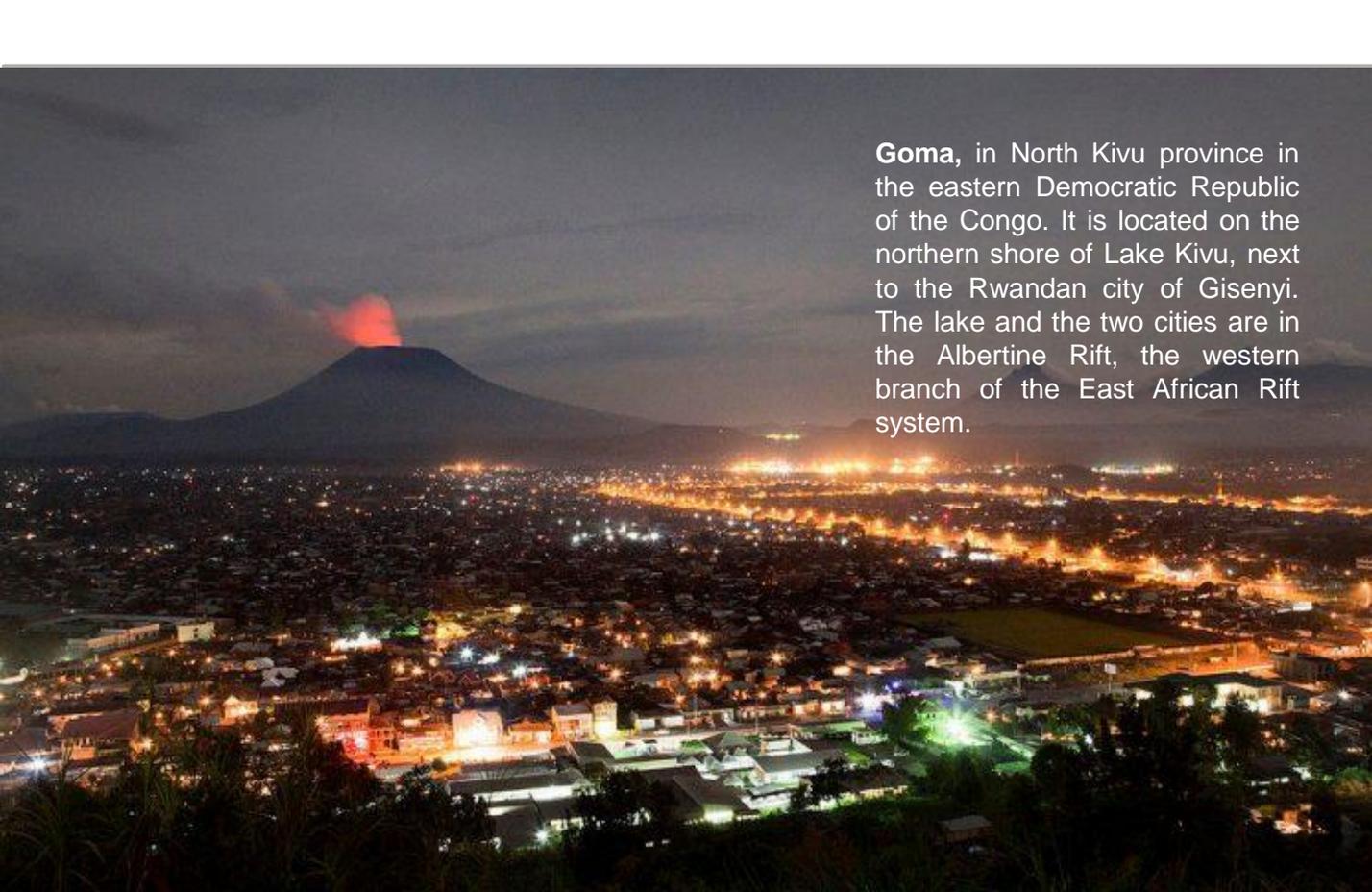
# THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



**DR CONGO**

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR  
THE PROMOTION OF  
INVESTMENT**

The National Agency for the Promotion Investment (**ANAPI**) is a public technical institution endowed with a legal personality and management autonomy.



**Goma**, in North Kivu province in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is located on the northern shore of Lake Kivu, next to the Rwandan city of Gisenyi. The lake and the two cities are in the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the East African Rift system.

This town is about 20km from the Nyiragongo Mountain, The most active volcano in Africa and home to the world's largest Caldera.

**For further details please go to  
[www.investindrcongo.com](http://www.investindrcongo.com)**

Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
B-3/61 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 10029, India Tel.+91 11 4166 0976  
Website: [www.ambardc-india.com](http://www.ambardc-india.com)  **DRC in INDIA**

# What's Mine Is Yours.

A 17-year-old  
male bonobo eats  
while his son  
watches in the  
Lola Ya Bonobo  
Sanctuary  
In the Democratic  
Republic of the  
Congo

**Bonobos May  
Resemble Humans  
More Than You  
Think.**

