
2018 Pan-Africa Mountaineering Meet

Dear MCs of Africa, let's put African Mountaineering on the map! Well, it's on the map already, but let's build it up a bit more. Several African clubs have already established reciprocal membership and I am sure many of you have benefitted, as I have, from the warm welcome of other clubs. The MCU, in cooperation with MCSA, would like to invite all clubs to attend a meet in Uganda in January of 2018. Uganda has quite possibly the finest mountains in all of Africa, the famous Rwenzori in the west, the dramatic Virungas of gorilla fame in the southwest, the much heralded Mt Elgon in the east and the little known, wild, and unspoiled peaks of Karamoja in the northeast. Uganda's got something for every type of mountaineer, glaciated uplands, technical pitches, gorgeous hikes and peace in some of the most beautiful and remote parts of East Africa.

Rwenzori

There are seven major peaks in this range that runs about 120km long by 65km wide. Most famous is Margherita Peak (5109m) on Mt Stanley. Other mountains include Speke (4890), Baker (4843), Emin (4798), Gessi (4715), Luigi di Savoia (4627). Nobody recently has summited all the major peaks and the MCU hopes to do so soon! The top three peaks all contain glaciers. Baker is probably the most technical. Trekkers must hire guides.



Heading Up Stanley

Elgon

Probably the most popular hike in UG! At 4321m with one of the largest extinct and intact volcanic craters in the world, Mt. Elgon is certainly famous! The trails are well kept and all visitors hike with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) guides. Treks usually take three days.

Uganda's Virungas

These three beautiful volcanoes are within in Mgahinga National Park in the southwest. This is real rainforest jungle you might expect to see in the DRC! Muhabura at 4127m borders Rwanda. Sabyinyo (3645m) straddles the border of Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC and Mt. Gahinga (3474m) is a real gem. All these have great vegetation and pristine sections of bamboo. If you're lucky, you may even spot a rare mountain gorilla or golden monkeys. Gorilla tracking can easily be arranged here or in nearby Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Karamoja

Until just a few years ago, tourism and mountaineering was non-existent in this part of the country. Hikers and climbers are slowly making inroads and we've discovered some great stuff. The mountains of Moroto, Kadam, Morungole, and Napak all lie here from 2500-3100m. These are outside UWA territory meaning they are much cheaper, but trails and trained guides don't yet exist. We have summited these peaks and thoroughly enjoyed all of them.



Karamoja's Mt Kadam

Rock Climbing

If climbing is your thing, you can find about two dozen bolted routes in and near Kampala, another 15-20 near Elgon, and a handful of existing trad routes and lots of potential for first ascents in Karamoja and neighboring Acholi.

Costs

Summitting Margherita costs 1300 USD plus. Adding peaks costs about 100 USD each. This is through RTS and includes food, huts, porters, etc. You must use a company like RTS to enter the park. Elgon is 75 USD per day through the UWA and the trek can take 2-4 days. Supply your own food. The Virungas are all day hikes at 80 USD per day. The climbing and hiking in Karamoja and Acholi are free. Just bring your own gear and agree on payment for local guides/porters if you choose to hire some. Usually about six USD per day is paid for such work. Hope to see you in 2018 in UG!

Sincerely,
Matt Battani
MCU Secretary
info@mcu.ug

