

## 8-DAY CHIMP AND GORILLA EXPLORER SAFARI TO RWANDA

Nyungwe and Cyamudongwe Forest, Lake Kivu and Volcanoes National Park

### Program highlights:

- Mountain gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park (Parc National des Volcans) is Rwanda's major international attraction.
- Chimp trekking is available in Nyungwe and Cyamudongwe Forest.
- You will have a private driver and 4-wheel drive vehicle throughout your time in Rwanda.

### 8-Day Chimp and Gorilla Explorer Safari to Rwanda - Classic 8-Day Chimp and Gorilla Explorer Safari to Rwanda - Luxury Option

Day	Destination	Accommodation
01	Arrive Kigali	Park Inn by Radisson or Kigali Serena
02	Drive Kigali to Nyungwe Forest Reserve	Nyungwe Top View Hill Hotel or One&Only Nyungwe House
03	Cyamudongwe Forest AM - Chimp trek / PM - Colobus walk	Nyungwe Top View Hill Hotel or One&Only Nyungwe House
04	Drive to Lake Kivu - day at leisure	Lake Kivu Serena Hotel
05	Drive to Volcanoes National Park AM – Golden Monkey Trek	Mountain Gorilla View Lodge or Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge or Bisate Lodge or Singita Kwitonda Lodge or One&Only Gorilla's Nest
06	1 <sup>st</sup> Gorilla Trek	Mountain Gorilla View Lodge or Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge or Bisate Lodge or Singita Kwitonda Lodge or One&Only Gorilla's Nest
07	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gorilla Trek Drive to Kigali	Park Inn by Radisson or Kigali Serena Hotel
08	AM – City Tour of Kigali Transfer to airport	



Parc National des Volcans in the Virunga volcanoes is home to the Mountain Gorillas to which Dian Fossey dedicated her life.

There are currently twelve gorilla groups acclimated for tourist visits. Each gorilla group may be visited by up to eight tourists per day.

### **GORILLA TREKKING**

It is estimated that there are about 170 gorillas in the park. They are very sociable animals, living in groups of three to thirty. Being sedentary, they are continually looking for food in a living space that is comparatively restricted. They are active only during the daytime and build nests in which they pass the night. The nests built in trees are occupied by the females and young ones, while the males seem to prefer nests on the ground. Their food consists mainly of leaves, buds, tubers and sorts of wild celery from the umbelliferous family.

The trek to find gorillas can be quite short, but on most days an hour or two of rough hiking is necessary. The climb begins through the lush terraced farmland of the lower volcanic slopes. As the slopes become steeper and rockier, the vegetation becomes thick and tangled; the guides must use their machetes to help clear a path. Huge trees, clinging vines and undergrowth add to the challenge of swift streams and slippery red mud underfoot.

The altitude at the Park Head Quarters is 7546ft (2300m), while the ranging of gorilla groups' locations is between 7874ft – 9842ft (2400m-3000m) at the lowest altitude (for easy and medium tourist trekking groups) and between 9842ft-12139ft (3000m and 3700m) at the highest altitude (for relatively medium and difficult trekking groups).

Usually at around 8,000 foot signs of the huge animals become apparent. Damage to the bamboo trees is an obvious sign as the gorillas relish the young tender shoots and break older stems to suck the sap. The smell of gorilla may waft by in the stray breeze or, if one is really near, it is strong and unmistakable. Sounds, which can be remarkably loud crashes or dull reverberating growls of contentment, tell the visitor that the troop is nearby.

The troop consists usually of a dominant male and up to five or more females and their young. It is basically a stable family with the young only leaving after they reach sexual maturity. Females join another group while young males remain solitary until they have an opportunity of forming their own troop.

There are few animals in Africa about which so many legends circulate. Because of the gorilla's enormous size, extraordinary strength and the fact that he lives in a mysterious forest have all contributed to his mystique. This primate is of impressive dimensions; some males (such as the silverback of Sabinyo Group that you may visit) attain over six feet in height and weigh more than 440 pounds. The head is massive and the huge jaws are equipped with powerful teeth. Far from being an aggressive animal, as the legends claim, the gorilla is gentle and peaceful in its habits. It is only when threatened that he adopts an intimidating attitude in which he howls in a most frightful way and beats his chest with his fists. Should visitors find themselves in his presence at this moment, they will be advised to assume a submissive, non-threatening attitude. Once his confidence has been restored, the gorilla goes on about his business accepting the intruder.

### Gorilla Groups:

<b>Susa</b>	18 members – including 3 silverbacks and 6 juveniles and infants.
<b>Igisha</b>	25 members – including 4 silverbacks and 10 juveniles and infants.
<b>Isimbi</b>	16 members – including 1 silverback and 8 juveniles and infants.
<b>Sabyinyo</b>	16 members – including 3 silverbacks and 6 juveniles and infants.
<b>Amahoro</b>	18 members – including 4 silverbacks and 7 juveniles and infants.
<b>Umubano</b>	12 members – including 4 silverbacks and 4 juveniles and infants.
<b>Agashya</b>	21 members – including 1 silverback and 7 juveniles and infants.
<b>Hirwa</b>	18 members – including 1 silverback and 10 juveniles and infants.
<b>Kwitonda</b>	29 members – including 2 silverbacks and 12 juveniles and infants.
<b>Muhoza</b>	7 members – including 1 silverback and 2 juveniles and infants.
<b>Isabukuru</b>	14 members – including 1 silverback and 5 juveniles and infants.
<b>Mafunzo</b>	12 members – including 1 silverback and 3 juveniles and infants.



## **2020 LAND ARRANGEMENTS:**

### **Classic Option ~**

*(Based on Park Inn by Radisson, Nyungwe Top View Lodge and Mountain Gorilla View Lodge)*

<b>Per person</b>	<b>Jan-Dec 2020</b>
Based on 2 people traveling	\$7,975.00 per person sharing
Based on 3 people traveling	\$7,250.00 per person sharing
Based on 4 people traveling	\$6,850.00 per person sharing
Based on 5 people traveling	\$6,595.00 per person sharing
Single Supplement	\$650.00

*\* Pricing is quoted per person sharing a room*

### **Premier Option ~**

*(Based on Kigali Serena, One&Only Nyungwe House and Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge or Bisate Lodge)*

<b>Per person</b>	<b>Jun-Oct</b>	<b>Jan-Mar / Nov-Dec 14</b>
Based on 2 people traveling	\$12,650.00	\$11,650.00
Based on 3 people traveling	\$11,895.00	\$10,895.00
Based on 4 people traveling	\$11,550.00	\$10,550.00
Based on 5 people traveling	\$11,325.00	\$10,325.00
Single Supplement	\$1350.00	\$1050.00
<b>Optional Upgrades ~</b>		
Bisate Lodge	From +\$650-\$1625	From +\$1125-\$1775
Singita Kwitonda Lodge	From + \$1750-\$2895	From + \$1975
One&Only Gorilla Nest Lodge	From + \$1995	From + \$1750

*\* Pricing is quoted per person sharing a room*

April-May

Please Request

**SPECIAL OFFER ~ Deduct \$500.00 total per person for the gorilla permits (\$250 x 2) when traveling Jan-May/Nov-Dec**

### **INTER-AFRICA AIR ARRANGEMENTS (subject to change until ticketed):**

Nairobi/Kigali/Nairobi return	from \$450.00 per person
Nairobi/Kigali one way	from \$295.00 per person
Johannesburg/Kigali one way (or vice versa)	from \$595.00- \$1175.00 per person
Serengeti/Kigali one way scheduled charter	from \$795.00 per person
Kilimanjaro/Kigali one way scheduled charter	from \$325.00 per person

**Included in the above:**

- All transfers and airport assistance
- All accommodation & meals as per itinerary (Full Board)
- All land transportation in 4x4 safari vehicles
- Two gorilla trekking permits per person (*\$1500.00 each permit x 2*)
- One Chimpanzee trekking permit per person in Nyungwe
- One colobus monkey trek
- One golden monkey trek
- English speaking driver
- Mineral water while tracking
- Flying Doctor Evacuation
- Drinks and laundry at One&Only Nyungwe House and Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge, Bisate Lodge, Kwitonda Lodge and One&Only Gorilla Nest Lodge only (*Premier option*)

**Not included:**

- International & regional flights to/from Kigali
- Airport taxes
- Rwanda Visa
- Personal beverages
- Tips and all other personal expenses
- Porterage

**Notes:**

- 1) Single Supplement is based on a minimum of two people traveling.
- 2) Solo travelers – Classic Option is \$10,495.00 and the Premier Option is from \$15,695.00 based on Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge.
- 3) Easter and Christmas supplements will apply. Please ask your Safari Consultant for details.
- 4) For those looking to extend their safari in Rwanda, Akagera National Park is an ideal addition. Akagera hugs the eastern border, is only a 3-hour drive from Kigali, and gives you the thrill of Big Five game viewing. We recommend a few nights at Magashi Camp or Ruzizi Tented Lodge.

**Trip Report:**

I wanted to respond to your letter and give you my deepest thanks for setting up a fantastic trip to Tanzania and Rwanda. People generally tend to think that the choices they have made are “the best” – but after having had some time to reflect objectively on the trip, I truly think I made the best choice possible in working with you and Africa Adventure Company. I literally do not think that the trip could have been planned any better. The destinations, the lodges, the guides, and the experiences were all perfect.

- Patrick (our guide in Rwanda) – Really great. Went out of his way to do a lot of really cool extra things for us. Please see attached letter.
- Drive from Kigali to Nyungwe – Reasonable drive time. Decent lunch at stopover point. I would probably suggest passing on the museums along the way – I would’ve rather spent my time at either the Kigali Genocide Memorial or at one of the smaller local memorials on the way.
- Nyungwe Forest Lodge – Gorgeous. Probably our second favorite lodge on the trip. Excellent food, nice staff, fantastic rooms. Loved how the rain forest came right up to our room (gave us some good monkey viewing one night).

- Chimp trek – A LOT harder than we expected...we were literally running up and down muddy hills in the rain forest (with no trails) chasing after the chimps. We were not mentally prepared. Seeing the chimps was very cool though, and my wife now thinks she is an expert hiker as a result of that trek.
- Colobus Monkey Trek – very cool.
- Gorilla Mountain View Lodge – Very basic, as you said. Took some getting used to after all of the great lodges we were in, but in the end we were glad we stayed there and saved the money. The staff was really wonderful, and the views were great.
- Golden Monkey Trekking – Good stuff
- Gorilla Trekking – What more can be said, an experience of a lifetime. Just fantastic. Not enough superlatives can be said.
- Drive from Volcanoes to Kigali – very easy, only 2.5 hours or so.
- Kigali Memorial Center – Should be mandatory for anyone going to Rwanda.

**Jared Flinn**

**TOURCODE: RWANDA08**

